

Minutes: GEC Steering Group, Thursday 28th February

Attendees: Steve Bass, Oliver Greenfield, Thibaut Portevin, Peter Poschen-Eiche, Holger Schmid, Steven Stone, Mike Wilson, Zeenat Niazi, Andy Norton, Kamal Gueye. Aban Marker Kabraji



Apologies: Peter Poschen, Juha Siikamaki

Agenda 28th February 2019:

1. December Minutes for approval.
2. UK Hub and Business strategy
3. Main strategy choices – Steve Bass 1 hour
4. AOB and outstanding actions

1. Draft – December Minutes – attached

- **SG approval. OG to post on GEC site.**

2. GEC UK Hub and Business Strategy – A draft strategy paper covering UK hub and a global business approach was presented:

- Many GEC partner are UK based. Should we make better use of the secretariat UK location to better serve these partners for UK GE policy? SG comments on this question and the paper:
 - UK dialogue and policy hubs makes sense. But, so would a Brussels hub.
 - Need to set the UK hub within the broader country growth strategy, picking up a more diverse geographical spread – low income, middle income and richer countries
 - Co-convening with some UK based partners would support buy-in and reduce costs.
 - There are some opportunities for influencing UK policy but this is well covered by other partners (such as Aldersgate Group and Green Alliance);
 - There will an opportunity for renewal after the Brexit chaos. A window will open at some point that GEC could position itself to capitalise on.
- **SG approval to investigate further, but set within broader strategy of country expansion**
- Do we need in depth engagement with business in order to achieve economic reform? If so, what engagement options do we have? SG comments on the paper:
 - Engaging business is key for our credibility and ability to achieve our economic aims
 - Need to consider added value over GGKP's industry and finance platforms
 - Our offer should be global.
 - Need to consider how this might impact our 'civil society' niche. Can the platform be separate?
 - Lots going on with business engagement. Our offer needs to be unique.
 - Ideas presented sensible.
 - Social enterprise fits well – but is a very small sector.
 - Small business approach fits best with GEC.
- **SG approval to investigate further, testing in small steps.**
- **OG to include summary with SG amendments in GEC 10 year strategy**

3. 9 main strategy issues - Steve Bass has consolidated the strategic review, the steering group comments, the inputs from the GEC global meeting into 9 strategic issues:

- General SG statements: Very useful work. All 9 points need to be addressed by GEC strategy:

1. Geographic expansion – beyond the current 7 developing countries/regions

- China a must; Europe/UK strategic; maybe North America; Amazon opportunity.
- Need to consolidate existing hubs as a priority

2. Stakeholder expansion – to marginalised groups, business, and new change agents

- Social movements and youth a priority
- Private sector – a coalition of the good
- Work with SWITCH

3. Stretch ambition – develop complementary agenda on brown economy and economic reform

- China's Belt & Road very important as is the financing of it – green finance, green bonds
- Brown economy critique important – GEC as a brown economy observer
- Positive Green economy is GEC niche
- Need to ramp up on planetary boundaries/limits/biodiversity/ecosystem – natural wealth management

4. Building GE leadership – raise debate and passion on GE, and the profile of GEC

- More profile for GEC member organisations is a priority
- More visibility of our country leaders

5. Forging GE conceptual coherence – aligning green, blue, circular, bio, just transition, etc

- GEC work on principles is useful contribution here. Important to continue this work.

6. Improving learning – monitoring GE successes and communicating them

- Important to increasingly demonstrate impact, particularly for funders

7. Activities on the ground – adding visible action to GEC's dialogue, policy and advocacy work –

- Useful case study – 'California Greening' book

8. GEC funding – increasing its volume, longevity and resilience

- Pursue distributed delivery and hub sustainability

9. Positioning the Coalition – a key player at the centre of major change to 2030

- GEC to connect better to EC Switch to Green, and PAGE policy processes
- Work with new partners e.g. OECD in Indonesia
- Need more media work

ACTION: OG to address all 9 points with the SG amendments in GEC 10 year strategy

4. AOB

- Institutional collaboration meeting in hand.

NEXT GEC Steering group MEETING: Wednesday, 1st of May, 12.30pm-2pm, UK.