

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE

The undersigned national government entities (collectively referred to as “the Partners”) set forth the following Terms of Reference for the Global Methane Initiative (referred to as “the Initiative”). The Initiative serves as a framework with the goal of achieving global reductions of anthropogenic methane emissions through partnerships among developed countries, developing countries, and countries with economies in transition in coordination with the private sector, researchers, development banks, and other relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations.

1. Purpose

To create a voluntary, non-binding framework for international cooperation to reduce methane emissions and to advance the recovery and use of methane as a valuable clean energy source to increase energy security, enhance economic growth, improve air quality, and improve industrial safety. The Initiative will focus on the development of strategies and markets for the abatement, recovery, and use of methane through technology development, demonstration, deployment and diffusion, implementation of effective policy frameworks, identification of ways and means to support investment, and removal of barriers to collaborative project development and implementation. The Initiative will serve to complement and support Partners’ efforts implemented under the United Nations’ Framework Convention on Climate Change.

2. Functions

The Partners will seek to:

- 2.1 Identify and promote areas of bilateral, multilateral, and private sector collaboration on methane abatement, recovery, and use in the areas of agriculture, coal mining, landfills, oil and natural gas systems, and wastewater treatment, and in other areas as agreed to by the Partners.
- 2.2 Develop improved emissions estimates and identify the largest relevant emission sources to facilitate project development.
- 2.3 Identify cost-effective opportunities to recover methane emissions for energy production and potential financing mechanisms to encourage investment.
- 2.4 Identify and address barriers to project development and improve the legal, regulatory, financial, institutional, technological and other conditions necessary to attract investment in methane abatement, recovery and utilization projects.
- 2.5 Identify and implement collaborative projects aimed at addressing specific challenges to methane abatement and recovery, such as raising awareness in key industries, removing barriers to project development and implementation, identifying project opportunities, and demonstrating and deploying technologies.

Partners will also work together to share lessons learned from these cooperative activities.

- 2.6 Foster cooperation with the private sector, research organizations, development banks, and other relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- 2.7 Integrate and coordinate Initiative activities with related activities and initiatives.
- 2.8 Support the identification and deployment of best management practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane.
- 2.9 Work to improve scientific understanding in relation to the abatement, recovery, and use of methane.
- 2.10 Develop and implement action plans that outline a series of concrete activities and actions that directly support the core goals and functions of the Initiative. Action plans can be useful tools in advancing project implementation, facilitating investment, and creating appropriate policy frameworks that support methane abatement, recovery, and use.
- 2.11 Communicate their progress and accomplishments in implementing action plans and undertaking other activities to support the Initiative's goal.
- 2.12 Periodically assess the effectiveness of the Initiative's efforts to achieve its goal.

3. Organization

- 3.1 A Steering Committee, Administrative Support Group, and Subcommittees are to be formed. The Subcommittees will focus on the following focal areas: Agriculture, Coal Mining, Landfills, Oil and Gas Systems, and Wastewater Treatment. The Steering Committee may establish additional Subcommittees, working groups, or enlarge the scope of existing Subcommittees in other focal areas as agreed. Each Subcommittee will create and support a Project Network.
- 3.2 The Steering Committee will govern the overall framework, policies and procedures of the Initiative; annually review progress of the Initiative; and provide guidance to the Administrative Support Group and Subcommittees. The Steering Committee should meet at least once per year, at times and locations to be determined by its appointed representatives. The Steering Committee will make decisions by consensus.
- 3.3 Appendix A lists those Partners that may appoint up to two representatives to the Steering Committee. Appendix A may be amended by consensus of the Steering Committee.

- 3.4 The Subcommittees will be responsible for guidance and assessment of area-specific activities and engaging representatives of the private sector, development banks, researchers and other relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations. Each Subcommittee will work to implement its program of action, offer assistance to Partners in the development and implementation of their action plans, provide guidance on project identification, identify and address key barriers and issues for project development, address market assessment and reform issues, facilitate investment and financing opportunities, and report on progress. Subcommittees will report to the Steering Committee. Subcommittees will meet as often as necessary to fulfill their responsibilities, making use of electronic media (including email, teleconference and videoconference) as appropriate in order to minimize travel. Each Subcommittee will make decisions by consensus.
- 3.5 The Subcommittees will be comprised of representatives from interested Partners. Each Partner may appoint up to three members to each Subcommittee. Each Subcommittee will select two Partners as co-chairs, ideally one from a developed and the other from a developing country or country with an economy in transition. At their discretion, Subcommittees may select one additional co-chair. Every three years, Subcommittees should review their leadership to provide other Partners the opportunity to act as co-chair.
- 3.6 A Project Network will be created under each Subcommittee to serve as an informal mechanism to facilitate communication, project development and implementation, and private sector involvement. The Project Network will be key to reaching out to and organizing the efforts of the private sector, governmental and non-governmental organizations. The Project Network will be comprised of representatives from local governments, the private sector, the research community, development banks, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations. Those interested in becoming partners in the Project Network will sign and submit a Project Network Membership Agreement.
- 3.7 The Administrative Support Group will serve as the principal coordinator of the Initiative's communications and activities. The focus of the Group will be administrative. The Group will not act on matters of substance except as specifically instructed by the Steering Committee. Specifically, the Group will:
- 3.7.1 Organize the meetings of the Initiative,
 - 3.7.2 Arrange special activities such as teleconferences and workshops,
 - 3.7.3 Receive and forward new membership requests to the Steering Committee,
 - 3.7.4 Coordinate communications of Initiative activities, progress, and accomplishments,
 - 3.7.5 Act as a clearinghouse for information for the Initiative,
 - 3.7.6 Provide support for activities related to the Project Network, and
 - 3.7.7 Perform such other tasks as the Steering Committee directs.

- 3.8 The Administrative Support Group will be supported and hosted by the United States, at the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington D.C. Another Partner's offer to support and host the Group will be accepted by the consensus of the Steering Committee.
 - 3.9 Each Partner will designate an Administrative Liaison to serve as its principal point of contact to the Administrative Support Group. The Group will work with the Liaisons to ensure an adequate flow of information between the Initiative and individual Partners.
 - 3.10 The Administrative Support Group may, if appropriate, involve personnel employed by the Partners to assist in specific activities undertaken by the Group. Such personnel will be remunerated by their respective employers and will remain subject to their employers' conditions of employment.
4. Membership
 - 4.1 These Terms of Reference establish a framework for voluntary cooperation and do not create any legally binding obligations between or among the Partners. Each Partner is expected to conduct the activities contemplated by these Terms of Reference in accordance with the laws under which it operates and the international instruments to which it is a party.
 - 4.2 The Steering Committee may invite other national governmental entities to join the Initiative through endorsement of the Terms of Reference.
5. Funding
 - 5.1 Participation in the Initiative is on a voluntary basis. Each Partner may, at its discretion, contribute funds, personnel and other resources to the Initiative subject to the laws, regulations and policies of the Partner. Any costs arising from the activities contemplated in these Terms of Reference are to be borne by the Partner that incurs them, unless other arrangements have been made.
 - 5.2 These Terms of Reference do not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity against the Partner, their officers or employees, or any other person. No Partner should submit a claim for compensation to another Partner for activities it carries out under these Terms of Reference. These Terms of Reference do not direct or apply to any person outside of the governments of the Partners.
6. Commencement, Modification, Termination, Extension, and Withdrawal
 - 6.1 Commencement, Modification and Termination

6.1.1 These Terms of Reference commence on 1 October 2010 and will continue in effect for 5 years unless extended or terminated by the Steering Committee.^{1, 2}

6.1.2 These Terms of Reference may be modified at any time by consensus of the Steering Committee.

6.2 Extension and Withdrawal

6.2.1 By consensus, the Steering Committee may extend these Terms of Reference for additional periods.

6.2.2 A Partner may withdraw from the Initiative by giving written notice to the other Partners and the Administrative Support Group 90 days prior to its anticipated withdrawal.

¹ The Initiative was originally known as the Methane to Markets Partnership, whose Terms of Reference commenced on 16 November 2004.

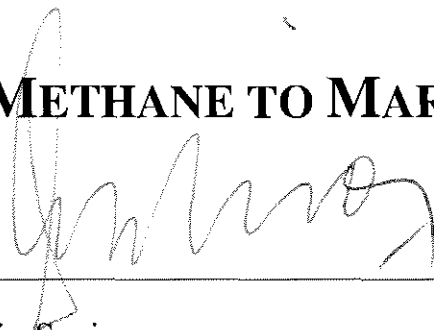
² The Terms of Reference were extended six months until 1 April 2016 by consensus of the Steering Committee on 21 November 2014.

Appendix A: Steering Committee Members

Argentina
Australia
Brazil
Canada
China
Colombia
Ecuador
Ethiopia
European Commission
Finland
Germany
Ghana
India
Italy
Japan
Mexico
Nigeria
Poland
Republic of Korea
Russia
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Atilio Savino', is written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Atilio Savino

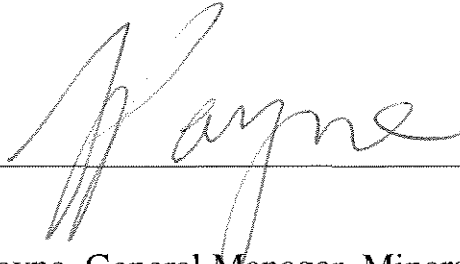
Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development

Representative for the Ministry of Health and Environment of the
Government of Argentina

Date: November 16, 2004

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Payne', is written over a horizontal line.

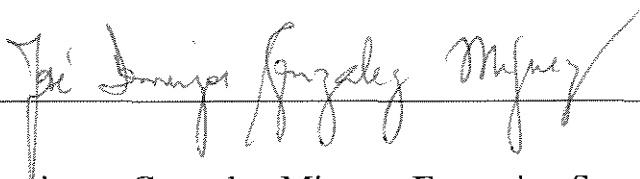
Stephen Payne, General Manager, Minerals and Fuels Branch
Department of Industry Tourism and Resources

Representative for the Department of Industry, Tourism, and Resources of
the Government of Australia

Date: November 16, 2004

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP



Jose Domingos Gonzalez Miguez, Executive Secretary
Inter-Ministerial Commission on Global Climate Change, Ministry of
Science and Technology

Representative for the Ministry of Science and Technology of the
Government of Brazil

Date: November 16, 2004

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP



Gao Feng, Deputy Director-General, Department of Treaty and Law
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Representative for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of The
Peoples's Republic of China

Date: November 16, 2004

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

MS Sandra Suárez

Mrs. Sandra Suárez Pérez
Minister of the Environment, Housing and Territorial Development
Ministry of the Environment, Housing and Territorial Development of
Colombia

m.r.p.

Date: November 16, 2004

SP

MS

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

Signature: _____

Anita Alban Mora
Minister of the Environment
Republic of Ecuador

Date: _____

01/06/06



Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

Signature: _____

Government of Finland

Date: _____

AUGUST 22, 2008

[Note: sign after July 14, 2008 – the last day of 60 day waiting period]

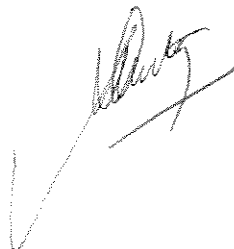
Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

Mr. Anil Kumar Kutty, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power

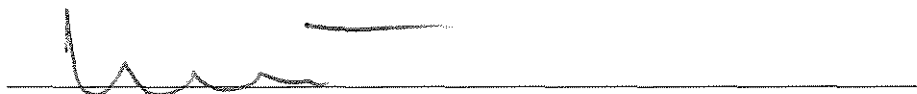
Representative for the Ministry of Power of the Government of India

Date: November 16, 2004



Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Corrado Clini', is written over a horizontal line.

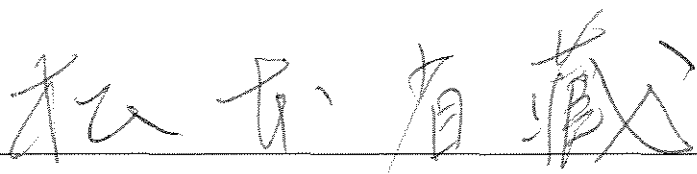
Corrado Clini Director-General of the Department for Environmental
Research and Development

Representative for the Ministry for Environment and Territory of the
Government of Italy

Date: November 16, 2004

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

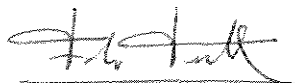
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "松本 蔵" (Matsumoto Seizo), is written over a horizontal line.

Seizo Matsumoto, Representative of the Government of Japan

Date: November 16, 2004

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP



Dr. Fernando Tudela, Undersecretary of Environmental Planning and Policy
and Alternate Chairman of the Mexican Committee for Emission Reduction
and Capture of Greenhouse Gases

Representative for the Secretariat for Environment and Natural Resources of
the Government of Mexico

Date: November 16, 2004

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above a horizontal line.

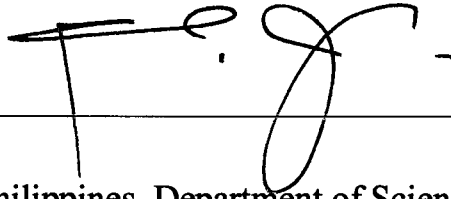
Dr. Umunna Orjaiko, Minister of Political Affairs, Embassy of Nigeria
Representative of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Date: November 16, 2004

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

Signature: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'T' followed by a large loop and a horizontal stroke.

Republic of Philippines, Department of Science and Technology

Date: _____

March 28, 2008

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mazurenko', is written over a horizontal line.

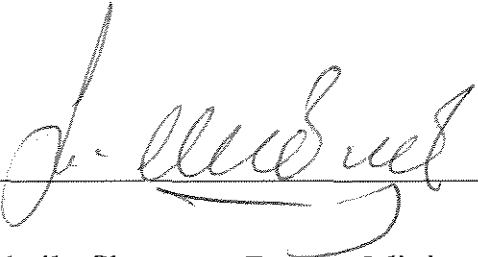
Sergey Mazurenko, Head of the Federal Agency for Science & Innovations

Representative for the Federal Agency on Science and Innovations of the
Government of the Russian Federation

Date: November 16, 2004

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Shevtsov', is written over a horizontal line.

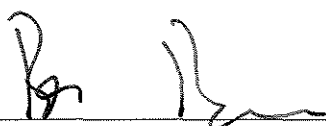
Mykhailo Shevtsov, Deputy Minister for Fuel and Energy

Representative of the Government of the Ukraine

Date: November 16, 2004

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP



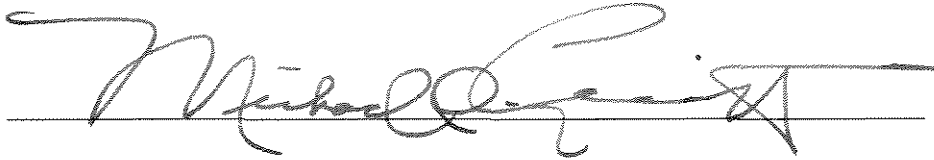
Ben Bradshaw, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Representative of the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs
of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern
Ireland

Date: November 16, 2004

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Leavitt", is written over a horizontal line.




Michael O. Leavitt, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

Representative of the Government of the United States of America

Date: November 16, 2004

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP



Sun-Sook Park, Vice Minister, Ministry of Environment

Representative for the Ministry of Environment of the Government of the Republic
of Korea

Date: May 24, 2005

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Stéphane Dion', is written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Stéphane Dion
Minister of the Environment

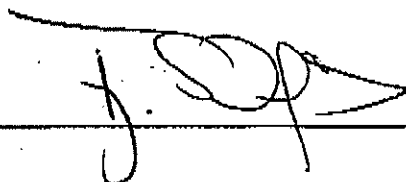
Representative for Environment Canada of the Government of Canada

Date: October 26, 2005

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

Signature: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. S. P.', written over a horizontal line.

Government of Germany

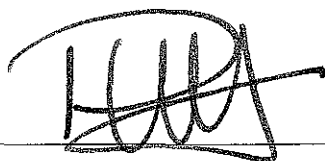
Date: _____

30. June 2006

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

Signature: _____

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several vertical strokes and a horizontal line crossing them.

Piotr Grzegorz Woźniak
Minister of Economy of the Republic of Poland

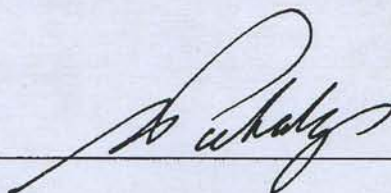
Date: _____

February 27, 2007

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

Signature: _____



European Commission

Date: _____

04. 03. 2008.

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

Signature: _____



G. GANTULGA
State Secretary
Ministry of Nature and Environment

Date: _____

22 March 2008

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

Signature: _____



National Energy Commission

Date: _____

27 / 04 / 2009

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

Signature:  _____

Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Date: _____

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

Signature: _____

S. Mosh

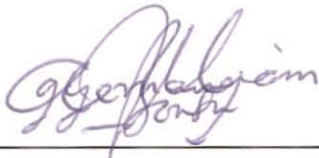
Ministry of Environment, Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia

Date: _____

7 August 2009

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

Signature: _____

Environmental Protection Agency - Ghana

Date: 30th MARCH 2010

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

Signature: _____

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. Llanos', written over a horizontal line.

**Peru's Department of Climate Change, Desertification and Water Resources of the
Ministry of Environmental**

Date: July 02th, 2010

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

Signature: _____

Bogdan



Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning

Date: _____

AUGUST 13, 2010

Terms of Reference for the

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP

Signature: _____

[Handwritten signature]



Nicaragua
Ministry of Energy and Mines

Date: _____

November 12, 2010

Terms of Reference for the

GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE

Signature:  **Dessalegne Mesfin**
Deputy Director General


Ethiopia
Federal Environmental Protection Authority

Date: **14 MAR 2011**



Terms of Reference for the

Global Methane Initiative

Signature:  _____

Alternative Energy Development Board

Date: 26 March 2011



Terms of Reference for the

Global Methane Initiative

Signature: _____



Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and
Environment instead of Department of Environment

Date: _____

15 - Apr - 2011

Term of Reference for the

Global Methane Initiative



Signature: _____ 

Bambang Dwiyanto

**Head of Agency of Research and Development for Energy and Mineral Resources
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Republic Indonesia**

28 April 2011


Date: _____

Terms of Reference for the

GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE

Contact Name (please print): Salah Azzam

Contact Title: Director of Energy Research Program

Contact Signature: 

Jordan's
National Center for Research and Development/Energy Research Program

Date: May, 15, 2011

Terms of Reference for the

GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE

Contact Name (please print): Håvard Toresen

Contact Title: Deputy Director General

Contact Signature: Håvard Toresen

Norway
Royal Ministry of the Environment

Date: Krakow, 12/10-2011

Terms of Reference for the

GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE

Contact Name (please print): **Mr. Ömer Sezgin, Mrs. Sahika Yürek**

Contact Title: **Deputy General Manager, Project Manager**

Contact Signature:



**Turkey
Turkish Coal Enterprises**

Date: **19.10.2011**

Terms of Reference for the

GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE

Contact Name (please print): Dr. A.G. Thusitha Sugathapala

Contact Title: Director General, Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority

Contact Signature: Thusitha Sugathapala

Digitally signed by Thusitha Sugathapala
DN: cn=Thusitha Sugathapala, o=University of
Moratuwa, ou=Department of Mechanical
Engineering, email=thusitha@mech.mrt.ac.lk, c=LK
Date: 2011.12.24 05:50:23 +05'30'

Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority

Date: 23rd December 2011

Terms of Reference
for the
GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE

Contact Name (please print): Ms. Enkelejda MALAJ

Contact Title: Director of Integration and Projects Directorate

Contact Signature: _____



Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration
Republic of Albania

Date: 25.01.2013