



*Biofuture Platform
1st All-Member meeting
Jan 19, Abu Dhabi.*

Facilitator's Report on the Meeting's Conclusions

Venue: IRENA Headquarters, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Attendant countries: Argentina, Brazil, Finland, France, India, Italy, Mozambique, Sweden and United States.

Attendant organizations: FAO, GBEP, IEA, IRENA, SE4ALL/below50, UNCTAD

For background on the topics and agenda items referred herein please refer to the meeting's Annotated Agenda.

INTRODUCTIONS AND MEETING GOAL

The first all-member meeting of the Biofuture Platform was opened by Mr. Renato Domith Godinho, alternate focal point for Brazil and the Platform's interim facilitator. After introductions, members shared the view that the present meeting's main objective was to decide on the specific activities that the Biofuture countries and non-government participants will be working on, in line with the mandate given by its launch statement.

It was agreed that the meeting's conclusions would be circulated by the Facilitator to participating members for adjustments and then submitted electronically for the approval of all 20 Biofuture Platform countries.

IRENA DG WELCOMING STATEMENT

IRENA's Director-General, Adnan Z. Amin, received the delegates to the 1st all-member Biofuture Platform meeting with a welcoming address, opening the expanded session of the procedures. In his statement, Mr. Amin stressed that analysis found that "among the 2030 renewables technologies, biomass is the most important source, accounting for half of the cost-effective potential for doubling the renewables share by 2030". To complete the pathway to limiting temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius or below, scenarios demand a six-fold increase in the use of bioenergy in the transport sector and a reinvigoration of bioenergy application in several forms, including advanced liquid biofuels for aviation, freight and shipping applications. Mr. Amin expressed confidence that "the Biofuture Platform has a key role to play as a pathway to a low-carbon bio-economy", and asserted IRENA's position to support and collaborate with the Biofuture initiative and governments in the effort to promote a sustainable energy transformation.

PRESENTATIONS

The three "scene-setting" presentations given complemented each other to provide a picture of the need for a much scaled-up low carbon bioeconomy; stress that "business as usual" will probably not lead to that development, and indicate the main instruments that could be mobilized to fulfill that need. It was made clear that the main purpose for the founding of the Biofuture Platform was to call attention to those aspects and share experiences and views about the path forward.

Jeffrey Skeer, Senior Programme Officer, IRENA, presented the findings of the recently published *IRENA Innovation Outlook on Advanced Liquid Biofuels*. After an overview of the developments and potential of a number of advanced biofuels technological pathways, including cellulosic hydrolysis, gasification, pyrolysis, and others, the report stated that given current oil prices, "bridging policies and business models will be needed along with technology innovation", as well as efficient feedstock supply chains, taking advantage of the fact that second generation technologies use agricultural residues.

Since different advanced biofuel pathways reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% to 95% compared to fossil fuels, that environmental advantage should be internalized (i.e., via a carbon pricing system in the fuel market) to provide quite a competitive boost.

Paolo Frankl, Head of the Renewable Energy Division, IEA, did a presentation on *the role of bioenergy and transport biofuels in energy and climate scenarios*. Reinforcing some of the same points already raised by IRENA, Mr. Frankl stated that in all present climate scenarios and models bioenergy has to play a very significant role if the rise in global temperature levels is to be kept at 2 degrees C or below. Both conventional and advanced biofuels have a key role to play in the IEA's 2DS (2 degrees scenario) for the transport sector (including for passenger, freight, and air and sea transport).

Meeting the 2DS in transport is a huge challenge, given that the sector currently has >90% dependence on oil products. The greatest challenge lies in non-OECD, where emissions could double or triple without strong policy frameworks to decarbonise transport. 70% of transport GHG emissions could come from non-OECD by 2050.

The key message was that the current disconnection between current rates of market development and the scale of deployment called for in all climate scenarios require enhanced policy support in order to enable industry expansion and deliver lower investment and production costs. Therefore, he concluded, the commitment to driving forward the Biofuture Platform from Brazil and participating countries such as Argentina, China, India and Indonesia is key to transport sector decarbonisation.

Renato D. Godinho, head of the Renewable Energy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil, and interim Biofuture Platform facilitator briefly presented the reasoning that led the government of Brazil to seek partners to launch the Biofuture Platform, which coincided with the conclusions of the preceding presentations, and recapitulated the mandate set by the Biofuture Platform's launch statement. The presentation highlighted the Biofuture Platform's unique position as a catalyzer of the collective will of its 20 founding countries, in a coalition of the like-minded, to raise the profile of low carbon bioeconomy solutions (including bioenergy, low carbon fuels and bioproducts) in the global agenda and promote an urgent dialogue on the best policies to close the gap between current rates of deployment and the necessary scale of investments to materialize the path to a low-temperature rise world, especially in transport and industry.

REPORT OF CONCLUSIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS

1. presentation of the Biofuture Platform national focal points and interim steering committee.

Brazil, Italy and the US were reconfirmed as members of the Steering Committee as follows:

- Brazil: João Genésio de Almeida Filho MRE/DE (main), Renato Domith Godinho MRE/DRN (alternate);
- Italy: Francesco la Camera Min Environment (main), Barbara D'Angelo Min. Environment (alternate);
- US: Jim Spaeth DoE/BETO (main), Elena Berger DoE/DIO (alternate).

2. workstreams for 2017

2.1 proposal to build a Biofuture "State of the Advanced Low Carbon Bioeconomy" report via an online country survey form and contributions from partner organizations

The proposal to build a Biofuture "State of the Advanced Low Carbon Bioeconomy" report as outlined in the Annotated Agenda was approved after discussion. The report will be built via (i) the collection of publicly available information; (ii) data and information to be shared by participating agencies and other actors; (iii) country responses to an online survey to be built and submitted to the 20 Biofuture Platform governments. The proposed survey and report structure were considered a good start to be further refined.

Highlighting the country-issued nature of the proposed deliverable, it was agreed that the report should be submitted in draft to the 20 Biofuture countries for review and ratification prior to its launch.

It was agreed that the scope of the report should be wisely drawn, avoiding hard to collect and usually confidential disaggregated production and investment data from commercial bioeconomy projects, and prioritizing information that would provide the most impact in terms of highlighting both strategic policy and investment gaps and success stories.

It was highlighted by a number of countries and agencies that the survey to be submitted to the countries be "pre-filled", to the extent possible, with available knowledge and information about policies, production, and investments related to the bioeconomy, to facilitate the reception and harmonization of national submissions. It was agreed that information to pre-fill the survey would be collected from multiple sources whenever it made sense, including existing works, reports and databases by IEA, IEA Bioenergy TCP, IRENA, and UNCTAD, preserving sourcing information.

The intention is to have the report finalized and endorsed by countries before UNFCCC COP23. It was recognized that pre-filling information for the survey may require more time than the initially proposed date of late February, but on the other hand it could shorten the time required for countries to submit their answers.

An open-ended working group was established to guide the preparation of the survey and report, initially composed of Brazil, Italy, United States, IEA, IRENA, SE4ALL/Below50 and UNCTAD.

2.2 proposal to build a bioeconomy and low carbon fuels vision statement for 2030 and beyond;

The proposal to build a bioeconomy and low carbon fuels vision statement was approved after discussion.

After being asked about the views of the private sector SE4ALL/below50 representative outlined the view of the private sector that a short, concise and impactful statement coming from the 20 Biofuture countries setting a clear goal and direction for the sector and its role in decarbonization of transport and industry would be "extremely helpful" to catalyze investment decisions.

Different views were expressed about the possible content and approach of the vision statement. While there was support for the mid-to-long term vision approach for 2030 and beyond outlined in the Annotated Agenda, opinions were expressed that a such a statement should also contain a strong view on intended low carbon fuel and bioeconomy policies for the next five years, which could be more relevant to guide immediate and much needed investment decisions. Suggestions were also made with regard to including references to the SDGs and a message on sustainability.

The proposal of including a short working definition of "bioeconomy" for the purposes of correctly interpreting the Biofuture Platform and the vision statement itself, was well received. The definition would, in principle, exclude too broad uses of the term and instead focus on a scope that is more in line with the Platform's mandate: the sustainable industrial transformation of biomass into energy and bioproducts as a renewable, circular, low carbon alternative to fossil feedstocks.

It was agreed that Brazil as interim facilitator would prepare and submit a draft vision statement for the review of the Biofuture countries, after consultation with key stakeholders.

2.3 discussion on linkages: Mission Innovation: Biofuels Innovation Challenge, IEA Bioenergy, GBEP, CEM, REN21 and other country-led initiatives

All ideas for linkages between initiatives proposed in the Annotated Agenda were considered positive for pursuing. Specifically:

- It was considered positive to hold a joint Biofuture/Mission Innovation conference on R&D and innovation for sustainable low carbon biofuels and the bioeconomy, in line with deliberations taken on agenda item 2.4.. India proposed to host such a conference. It was agreed that the idea will be discussed among the co-leaders of the Mission Innovation Sustainable Biofuels Challenge (Brazil, Canada, China and India).
- IEA, speaking as hosts of the CEM Secretariat, appreciated the idea of a joint Biofuture/CEM initiative related to bioenergy, to be discussed for initiation in 2018, and additionally agreed to help, in coordination with CEM partners, establishing a panel/event/liaison opportunities in the CEM8 Ministerial to be held in Beijing in 2017.
- Possible avenues of cooperation with GBEP could, amongst others, have existing second-generation plants applying the GBEP sustainability indicators with the results being shared with the Biofuture Platform. Other possibilities under discussion include the holding of a joint event in 2017 or 2018 (possibly focused, for example, on feedstock management and sustainability for the advanced bioeconomy); the mutual sharing of information; and the participation of the Biofuture Platform in the Bioenergy Week planned to be held in Argentina in 2018.
- The 2014 IEA Bioenergy National BioEconomy Strategies report will be leveraged in the building of the Biofuture State of the Advanced Bioeconomy Report (see 2.1)

2.4 tentative calendar of Biofuture Platform priority topics and events in 2017

Members approved the idea of a restricted calendar of topic-focused policy conferences, which should contain no more than two or three conferences per year. After reviewing the suggested calendar proposed in the Annotated Agenda, the meeting participants converged on three most promising opportunities:

- A conference in Brazil by October, to be held jointly with a below50 road show, which would both showcase available commercial bioeconomy solutions and discuss the needed policies for creating an enabling environment to scale up investments and production, including demand-creation and investment risk mitigation.
- A conference in Italy (exact period to be confirmed), which would include a field visit to the world's first operational cellulosic ethanol plant, and discuss policies for advanced biofuels, bioproducts and biorefining.

- A jointly held conference with the Mission Innovation Sustainable Biofuels Challenge (date tbc) focused on accelerating R&D and innovation in the advanced bioeconomy. India offered to be the host of that conference.

Future opportunities for 2018 could include a conference in Washington on the margins of a planned joint Bioeconomy2018/ABLC event.

Further to the Biofuture policy conferences, the members approved the idea of taking advantages of opportunities and space offered in a number of industry or government bioeconomy events and conferences, in which a representative for the Biofuture platform (either the facilitators, a Steering Committee country, or other willing country or participating institution) would present the initiative, its goals, and its progress so far.

3. Organizational matters:

3.1 Discussion on principles and methods of work;

After discussion, it was considered too early to spend time and effort in consolidating rules and procedures for the initiative. Caution was urged by a number of members and agencies not to excessively formalize the proceedings before the Biofuture Platform had a chance to deliver its first results and more organically develop its working methods.

To this effect, it was agreed that the US would consider preparing a draft text of broad guiding principles focusing on the most important areas of focus for the Biofuture Platform taking into consideration its added value and relationship with other initiatives and to international organizations working in this space.

A procedural document or framework could be worked on by the interim facilitator at a later stage, including on the basis of the aforementioned guiding principles.

3.1.1 Membership

After discussion, it was agreed that the entrance of new country members in the Biofuture Platform, while a positive indication of interest, could risk delaying work on deliverables in the required timeframe. However, particular cases that may arise could be discussed and considered by the Steering Committee before being submitted to the full membership.

3.2 communications strategy;

Communications was considered by several members and agencies as a critical part of the Biofuture Platform activities. The facilitator informed members and participants of the Biofuture Platform website (www.biofutureplatform.com) and the opening of specific Biofuture Platform channels in social media (twitter, youtube, facebook and linkedIn), that could be leveraged according to the wish of members.

After discussion of the topic and proposals highlighted in the Annotated Agenda, it was decided that:

- a) Biofuture countries and willing participating organizations and initiatives shall submit to the interim facilitator (via the e-mail address: drn@itamaraty.gov.br) the name and contact of a communications-specific focal point person.
- b) The designated focal point person would work with the facilitator and steering committee, within their possibilities, to implement a two-way communication procedure:
 - i. they shall inform the facilitator of bioeconomy related news, events and initiatives, that would then be retransmitted through the Biofuture website and social media channels; and

- ii. they would be ready to retransmit through their own official channels the activities and events of the Biofuture Platform upon request by the facilitator.
- c) Further to the above, the interim facilitator was mandated to explore ways to enhance communications and outreach, including via professional services.

3.3 discussion on administrative options going forward.

3.3.1 mechanism for the management of voluntary contributions

The Steering Committee and interim facilitator were mandated to look for options to set up mechanisms, such as a trust fund to be operated by an established financial institution or international organization, to receive and manage future voluntary funding for the Biofuture Platform.

3.3.2 secretariat

After discussion of the topic as outlined in the Annotated Agenda, the Steering Committee and interim facilitator were mandated to look for and report back on options for a definitive arrangement for the facilitator/secretariat function that could be put in place starting in 2018. Possible options may include a hosting arrangement within an established related international organization and the rotating of the facilitator function among willing Biofuture member countries.