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**Global Green Growth Institute**

Seventh Session of the Assembly and  
Eleventh Session of the Council (Joint Session)  
October 31, 2018; Seoul, Republic of Korea

## Update on Accession

This document provides an update on Country and Regional Integration Organization Accession to the Agreement on the Establishment of GGGI (“Establishment Agreement”). It is intended to support the Assembly in the delivery of its function to review progress in meeting the GGGI’s objectives and advising on the overall direction of GGGI’s work, as defined in Article 7.5(e) and (d) of the Establishment Agreement. It also supports the Members efforts to play an active role in influencing new membership and enhancing GGGI’s international visibility, as defined in the Refreshed Strategic Plan.

Members of the Assembly and Council and invited to discuss the update.

### Introduction

1. GGGI is a membership-based organization. Article 5.1 of the Establishment Agreement notes “The membership of the GGGI is open to any member state of the United Nations or regional integration organization that subscribes to the objectives of the GGGI”. Regional integration organizations are defined in the Establishment Agreement as “organization shall mean an organization constituted by sovereign states of a given region, to which its member states have transferred competence in respect of matters governed by the present Agreement”.
2. An expanding GGGI membership offers the opportunity for the Institute to have a stronger global voice and reach. GGGI engages with countries and regional integration organizations beyond its membership to enhance the relevance and impact its work, to increase dialogue and lessons learning from a broader pool of countries’ green growth experience. This engagement supports achievement of the GGGI’s theory of change outlined in the Refreshed Strategic Plan 2015-2020 approved by the Council at its Tenth Session that took place on October 19, 2017 [MPSC/2017/28/REV2]; and the intermediate outcome to improve multi-directional knowledge sharing and learning on green growth and the strategic output GGGI’s membership expanded.
3. Three broad guiding principles underline membership expansion, as reflected in GGGI’s Refreshed Strategic Plan 2015-2020, namely:

*Consistent with GGGI’s Disclosure Policy [C/5/DC/2], this document will be disclosed on the GGGI Website upon its approval by the Council, and its classification will be changed from “For Official Use” to “General Distribution”.*

- 3.1. Like mindedness and a commitment to green growth as key element in maintaining GGGI's uniqueness among international organizations;
  - 3.2. Mutual benefit and a willingness and capacity to effectively contribute to GGGI's knowledge sharing and governance processes; and
  - 3.3. Global considerations to ensure balance in geography and income status of countries.
4. GGGI is committed to explore membership with members of the G20 and OECD countries considering the significant role of the G20 in major global issues, and the possibility for contributions from OECD members.
  5. While GGGI hopes to deliver programmatic interventions in support of new Member's transition to a model of green growth, membership does not automatically guarantee programming. GGGI's business model necessitates that adequate earmarked resources are mobilized to support program delivery, including through a co-funding path for middle income countries. This is aligned to recommendations of recent development partner reviews of GGGI and the Independent Evaluation of Progress against the Refreshed Strategic Plan 2015-2020.

### **Current state of play**

6. Twenty-eight countries have ratified the Establishment Agreement. A further 19 countries and regional integration organizations have submitted a letter of intent to the Director-General, the Depositary of the Establishment Agreement, formally communicating their intent to accede to GGGI (Table 1). GGGI has already established programming in nine of these countries – legacy programs including those established as part of GGGI's Least Developed Country (LDC) expansion launched in 2015 (e.g. Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, and Uganda).<sup>1</sup>
7. GGGI has begun engagement with a further 27 countries and regional integration organizations (Table 2). These discussions have been initiated by the President of the Assembly and Chair of the Council reaching out to the head of state/government, as well as direct inquiries.
8. Growing membership is expected to transpire into increased demand for GGGI services. To meet growing demands on its services, GGGI is changing its funding model with greater emphasis on leveraging earmarked (restricted) funding, as outlined in the *Partnership and Resource Mobilization Action Plan* [MPSC/2018/10] and the Work Program and Budget for 2019-2020 [A/2018/10 – C/2018/10]. Actions are underway to secure the renewal of core funding and to mobilize earmarked funding and its strong resource mobilization pipeline, including (a) demonstrating GGGI's impact and the value for money of its operations through improved results-based management; (b) demonstrating GGGI's sound management systems through a Pillar Assessment to be entrusted with implementation of the EU Budget, and to qualify GGGI as a Public International Organization for USAID; (c) revising GGGI's project cycle management to ensure coordinated resource mobilization efforts aligned with the Institute's mandate; and (d) building the capacity of GGGI teams through donor intelligence and training programs.

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<sup>1</sup> At the time of the Sessions of the Assembly and Council (a) Tonga deposited its instrument of accession on October 8<sup>th</sup> and will become GGGI's 29<sup>th</sup> Member on the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the deposit of its instrument, in accordance with the Establishment Agreement; and (b) Burkina Faso's Parliament had voted to become a Member of GGGI but its Instrument of Accession had yet to be deposited with the Director-General.

Table 1. Countries and Regional Integration Organizations that have Submitted a Letter of Intent to Become a Member of GGGI or where GGGI has current operations

	Country / Regional Integration Org.	Membership letter of intent	Status of ratification	Focal Ministry(ies)	Income Level	Vulnerable Country	Region	G20, OECD
1	Burkina Faso	Sep 16, 2016	Advanced	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation / Ministry of Environment	LIC	LLDC, SID	Africa	n/a
2	Chile	Jan 31, 2017	Commenced	Ministry of Environment	HIC	n/a	Latin Am/ Caribbean	OECD
3	China	n/a	Commenced	Ministry of Ecology and Environment	UMIC	n/a	Asia	n/a
4	Colombia	Jul 6, 2015	Advanced	National Planning Department	UMIC	n/a	Latin Am/ Caribbean	n/a
5	Comoros	Apr 21, 2015	Commenced	Ministry of Production, Environment, Energy, Industry and Crafts	LIC	LDC, SID	Africa	n/a
6	Côte d'Ivoire	Sep 11, 2018	Commenced	Ministry of Salubrity, Environment and Sustainable Development	LMIC	n/a	Africa	n/a
7	Ecuador	Sep 26, 2018	Commenced	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	UMIC	n/a	Latin Am/ Caribbean	n/a
8	European Union	Jun 30, 2015	Advanced	Directorate-General for Climate Action	n/a	n/a	Europe	OECD observer, EU
9	India	n/a	Commenced	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	LMIC	n/a	Asia Pacific	n/a
10	Morocco	Oct 23, 2017	Commenced	Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment	LMIC	n/a	Africa	n/a
11	Mozambique	Sep 17, 2016	Commenced	Ministry of Economy and Finance	LIC	LDC	Africa	n/a
12	Myanmar	Feb 9, 2017	Commenced	Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry	LMIC	LDC	Asia Pacific	n/a
13	Nepal	Nov 2, 2017	Commenced	Ministry of Forestry and Environment	LIC	LDC, LLDC	Asia Pacific	n/a
14	Organization for Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)	Nov 15, 2017	Commenced	n/a	n/a	n/a	Latin Am/ Caribbean	n/a
15	Pakistan	Nov 30, 2016	Commenced	Ministry of Climate Change	LMIC	n/a	Asia Pacific	n/a
16	Sri Lanka	Jul 13, 2018	Advanced	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	LMIC	n/a	Asia Pacific	n/a
17	Sudan	Jul 24, 2018	Commenced	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	LMIC	LDC	Africa	n/a
18	Tonga	Feb 13, 2016	Advanced	Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications	UMIC	SID	Asia Pacific	n/a
19	Tunisia	Feb 11, 2016	Commenced	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	LMIC	n/a	Africa	n/a
20	Uganda	Apr 28, 2015	Advanced	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development	LIC	LLDC, LDC	Africa	n/a
21	Zambia	May 18, 2018	Commenced	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	LMIC	LLDC, LDC	Africa	n/a

Table 2. Countries that GGGI have Begun Discussion on Membership

	Country / Regional Integration Org.	Comment	Focal Ministry(ies)	Income Level	Vulnerable Country	Region	OECD / G20
1	Brazil	Letter from President/ Chair	Office of the President/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs	UMIC	n/a	Latin Am/ Caribbean	G20
2	Canada	Letter from President/ Chair	Office of the Prime Minister/ Global Affairs Canada	HIC	n/a	North America	G20, OECD
3	Caribbean Community	Regional integration organization approached GGGI	n/a	n/a	n/a	Latin Am/ Caribbean	n/a
4	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	Regional integration organization approached GGGI	n/a	n/a	n/a	Africa	n/a
5	Egypt	Government approached GGGI	Ministry of Environment	LMIC	n/a	Africa	n/a
6	Finland	Letter from President/ Chair	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	HIC	n/a	Europe	OECD
7	Germany	Letter from President/ Chair	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	HIC	n/a	Europe	OECD, G20
8	Iraq	Letter from President/ Chair	Office of the President/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs	UMIC	n/a	Middle East	n/a
9	Italy	Letter from President/ Chair	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	HIC	n/a	Europe	OECD, G20
10	Japan	Letter from President/ Chair	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	HIC	n/a	Asia Pacific	OECD, G20
11	Kazakhstan	Letter from President/ Chair	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	UMIC	LLDC	Central Asia	n/a
12	Kuwait	Letter from President/ Chair	Supreme Council for Planning and Development	HIC	n/a	Middle East	n/a
13	Liberia	Government approached GGGI	Environmental Protection Agency	LIC	LDC	Africa	n/a
14	Luxembourg	Letter from President/ Chair	Office of the Prime Minister/ Ministry for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure	HIC	n/a	Europe	OECD
15	Micronesia, Federated States of	Government approached GGGI	Department of Finance and Administration	LMIC	SID	Asia Pacific	n/a
16	Netherlands	Letter from President/ Chair	Office of the Prime Minister/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs	HIC	n/a	Europe	OECD
17	New Zealand	Letter from President/ Chair	Office of the Prime Minister/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	HIC	n/a	Asia Pacific	OECD
18	Russian Federation	Letter from President/ Chair	Office of the President/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs	UMIC	n/a	Asia Pacific	G20

Table 2. Countries that GGGI have Begun Discussion on Membership (Con.)

Country / Regional Integration Org.	Comment	Focal Ministry(ies)	Income Level	Vulnerable Country	Region	OECD / G20	
19	Saint Lucia	Letter from President/ Chair	Office of the Prime Minister/ Ministry of Sustainable Development and Environment	UMIC	SID	Latin Am/ Caribbean	n/a
20	Singapore	Letter from President/ Chair	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	HIC	n/a	Asia Pacific	n/a
21	Solomon Islands	Government approached GGGI	Ministry of Mines, Energy, and Rural Electrification	LMIC	SID, LDC	Asia Pacific	n/a
22	South Africa	Letter from President/ Chair	Office of the President	UMIC	n/a	Africa	OECD, G20
23	Sweden	Letter from President/ Chair	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	HIC	n/a	Europe	OECD
24	Switzerland	Letter from President/ Chair	Office of the President	HIC	n/a	Europe	OECD
25	Timor Leste	Government approached GGGI	Office of the President/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs	LMIC	SID, LDC	Asia Pacific	n/a
26	Turkmenistan	Letter from President/ Chair	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	UMIC	LLDC	Asia Pacific	n/a
27	United States	Letter from President/ Chair	Office of the President / Department of State	HIC	n/a	North America	OECD, G20

Notes: LIC = Low Income Country; LMIC = Lower Middle Income Country; UMIC = Upper Middle Income Country; HIC = High Income Country; LDC = Least Developed Country; LLDC = Landlocked Developing Country; SID = Small Island Developing State

Source: Adapted World Bank <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>; United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States.

**Annex 1. Framework for Accession Provided by the Establishment Agreement**

9. Article 5.1 of the Establishment Agreement notes “The membership of the GGGI is open to any member state of the United Nations or regional integration organization that subscribes to the objectives of the GGGI”. Regional integration organizations are defined in the Establishment Agreement as “organization shall mean an organization constituted by sovereign states of a given region, to which its member states have transferred competence in respect of matters governed by the present Agreement”.

10. The objectives of GGGI are elaborated in Article 2 of the Establishment Agreement

*The GGGI shall promote sustainable development of developing and emerging countries, including the least developed countries, by:*

*a. supporting and diffusing a new paradigm of economic growth: green growth, which is a balanced advance of economic growth and environmental sustainability;*

*b. targeting key aspects of economic performance and resilience, poverty reduction, job creation and social inclusion, and those of environmental sustainability such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity protection and securing access to affordable, clean energy, clean water and land; and*

*c. creating and improving the economic, environmental and social conditions of developing and emerging countries through partnerships between developed and developing countries and the public and private sectors.*

11. Further, Article 21.2 of the Establishment Agreement notes that countries and regional integration organizations should deposit their instruments of accession with the Depository. Article 18 of the Establishment Agreement defines the Depository as the Director-General.

12. Accession does not require any obligatory (annual) financial contributions from a country or regional integration organization. Article 12.1 of the Establishment Agreement notes that Member contributions are voluntary; though Article 12.2 states “Members are encouraged to support the GGGI and ensure its financial stability through voluntary annual contribution of core funding, active engagement in its activities or other appropriate means”.

13. In accordance with Article 3(a) of the Establishment Agreement, “a Member of the GGGI that has provided a multi-year financial contribution of core funding of no less than 15 million USD over three years or 10 million USD over the first two years” will be considered a contributing member; and all other Members considered participating members (Article 3(b)).

14. Article 3(a) of the Establishment Agreement provides for the possibility that the Assembly may review the level and nature of contribution required to qualify as a contributing member “to support the growth of the GGGI over time”. The Assembly has yet to review the level and nature of contribution required to qualify as a contributing member. There is no plan for the Assembly to review the level and nature of contribution required to qualify as a contributing member in the near future.

**Annex 2. Engagement with Countries in Accession**

15. The President of the Assembly and Chair of the Council may initiate engagement with non-member countries and regional integration organization, with Member countries being informed and requested to support engagement through their embassies [C/5/DC/1].
16. Membership expansion activities within the Institute is led by the Director-General with the support of the Partnerships Unit and in close collaboration with Heads of Programs and the Head of Legal. The Partnerships Unit supports the Director-General, as the Depositary of the Establishment Agreement, to (a) promote understanding among non-members of the benefits of membership and the process for accession, (b) understand the process for countries to ratify the Establishment Agreement and track accession process, and (c) engage with existing Members to play an active role in advocating membership.
17. The functions of the Partnership Unit are coordinated with the Legal Unit, which together with GGP&I, leads the negotiation of host country agreements (HCA). An HCA is required for GGGI's legal status, including privileges and immunities customarily granted international organizations, to be fully recognized in each country of operation and to facilitate and support future GGGI operations in country. GGGI's priority is to conclude host country agreements in parallel with accession; and where this is not feasible, as an interim solution, to conclude memorandums of understanding to confirm GGGI's position in the country with respect to the country authorities. The lack of signed and fully implemented host country agreements may hamper the furtherance of GGGI's mandate, as the lack of full recognition of GGGI as an international organization including privileges and immunities in each country GGGI works in may expose GGGI to unnecessary legal risks and practical hurdles, both in relation to programmatic work as well as in staff-related matters, such as visas and taxation.
18. Noting that ratification of the Establishment Agreement can take time, GGGI has several mechanisms to deepen partnerships with non-member countries that have formally expressed interest in membership.
  - a. ***Observer status to the Governance Organs.*** Countries that have submitted a letter of intent may be invited to observe the sessions of the Assembly and Council of GGGI, in accordance with the criteria for observers approved by the Assembly in September 2016 [A/2016/DC/4]. Moreover, the authorizes the Director-General to cover the travel and accommodation of observers in accordance with GGGI's Travel Rules, that limits support to low income and lower-middle income countries.
  - b. ***Engagement in knowledge sharing and capacity building activities.*** Mutually-beneficial dialogue between Member and non-Member countries is critical to fostering consensus, based on sound analytical foundations and to achieving progress in the search for solutions. Knowledge sharing will also enable GGGI to position itself as a leading institution on green growth and the implementation of green growth actions.
  - c. ***Development of earmarked funded projects.*** Consistent with the shift of GGGI's business model toward a greater reliance on earmarked resources, the Institute will commence discussions on potential joint earmarked resource mobilization efforts. Allocation of core resources is highly dependent on Membership status as approved by

the Council. This responds to concern expressed by GGGI's resource partners during the Third Joint Donor Review [C/8/8] and other bilateral assessments.

19. An option that could be explored to address the lengthy process of ratification/accession is “provisional membership”, meaning that a country intending to become a GGGI member agrees to provisionally apply the provisions of the Establishment Agreement to the fullest extent not inconsistent with the country's constitution and laws<sup>2</sup>. Subject to further legal analysis, this could provide an avenue for new countries to begin working with GGGI as a member while the domestic process for full formal accession/ratification is being completed.
20. In the case of OECD and G20 countries, discussions have focused on developing pilot projects for collaboration with the view to build deeper understanding of GGGI's value addition as a precursor to discussions on membership. For example, GGGI has begun pilot earmarked projects with the Italy (in Ethiopia and Rwanda), Luxembourg (in Vanuatu), and the Netherlands (in Uganda), as is discussing potential for earmark projects with France (in Francophone Africa) and New Zealand (in the Pacific).

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<sup>2</sup> Provisional application of a treaty or part of a treaty is referenced in article 25 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of the Treaties, concluded on May 23, 1969.