

## Minutes from the External Grant Committee Meeting on 28 April 2015

### Present:

- External Members: Alison Evans, Independent Development and Evaluation Expert  
Helle Munk Ravnborg, Senior Researcher, DIIS  
Christian Balslev-Olesen, Regional Representative, DanChurchAid  
Lene Lange, Professor, Aalborg University
- Internal Members: Martin Bille Hermann, State Secretary for Development Policy (Chair)  
Morten Jespersen, Under-Secretary for Global Development and Cooperation  
  
Jonas Bering Lüsberg, Under-Secretary for Legal Affairs
- MFA: Nicolaj A. Hejberg Petersen, Head of Department for Quality Assurance of Development Cooperation (observer)  
Tove Degnbol, Head of Department for Technical Advisory Services (observer)  
Nathalia Feinberg, Head of Department for Development Policy and Global Cooperation (observer)  
Mette Brink Madsen, Department for Quality Assurance of Development Cooperation (note taker)
- Agenda item no. 2: Ambassador Geert Aagaard Andersen, Deputy Head of Representation Kira Smith Sindbjerg and Counsellor Lotte Mindedal, First Secretary Vivian Kuijpers, Programme Officer Johan Mau, Senior Advisor Philippe Gourdin, Intern Søren Møller Knudsen, Incoming ambassador Mette Knudsen, Embassy Nairobi, Head of Department Birgitte Markussen and Head of Section Hanna Ohm Cleaver, Africa Department
- Agenda item no. 3: Head of Department Morten Elkjær, Special Adviser Flemming W. Olsen and Special Adviser Niels Egerup, Department for Green Growth
- Agenda item no. 4: Head of Department Christina Markus Lassen and Head of Section Signe Dam, Department for Stabilization and Security Policy
- Agenda item no. 5: Head of Department Nathalia Feinberg, Special Adviser Sanne Frost Helt and Thea Lund Christiansen, Department for Development Policy and Global Cooperation
- Agenda item no. 6: Head of Department Nathalia Feinberg and Chief Adviser Frode Neergaard, Department for Development Policy and Global Cooperation  
Ambassador and member of the GGGI Council Niels Pultz

### Agenda item no. 6: Global Green Growth Institute

(Development Policy and Global Cooperation – UGS)

#### *Summary:*

*In May 2014, the Grant Committee discussed support to the Global Green Growth Institute, GGGI, and recommended it for approval by the Minister. At the same time, the Committee requested to get an opportunity to assess the progress and the new strategic plan of GGGI before disbursing the 2015 instalment of the Danish contribution to GGGI.*

The External Grant Committee took note of the progress report.

The Committee recognised the progress achieved since the approval of the 3-year grant for GGGI in May 2014. The Committee also recognised the substantial amount of work that had been put into the Danish engagement with GGGI. The progress report reflected that GGGI had made considerable progress in several areas, including on organisational management and

poverty-oriented green growth. The report also reflected that GGGI was filling a gap in the landscape of international organisations by combining policy implementation, analytic work, and research in the area of green growth.

The Committee observed that while the Strategic Plan and its key principles, and focus on delivering results might not yet have trickled down to each and every corner of GGGI at HQ and in the field, country programming was on the right track and GGGI was showing progress as planned.

The Committee commented on the degree of evidence for results and found that the way in which results was addressed was often written in the future tense, rather than stating concrete achievements. The Committee also commented on the extent to which GGGI's country programmes were focusing on poor communities, including in rural areas. In addition to the examples of concrete results from Rwanda and the Philippines, mentioned in the report, the Committee was informed of GGGI's outreach to local communities and small- and medium-sized towns in Mongolia, how GGGI supported Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Strategy within agriculture and forestry and GGGI's support to address deforestation in Colombia.

The Committee noted that the strategy advisor had quickly filled out a key role regarding "poverty and social inclusion". While this was much welcome, it also reflected that there might still be a capacity gap within GGGI in this area.

The Committee noted the preliminary findings from the Value-for-Money study. An interest in seeing the final study was expressed. The findings and recommendations were found to be valuable for GGGI to help address issues where further organisational effectiveness should be pursued. Given the desire to pursue a high degree of transparency it was preferable if the Value-for-Money study would be made public. While the possibility to do so would be explored, it was also acknowledged that the study was primarily a tool for internal use of GGGI. It was noted that the study had been conducted by KPMG where the current Director General was formerly employed. At the same time it was emphasised that because KPMG was a large global service and advisory firm, consisting of a network of member firms with strong firewalls between geographic and thematic entities, the impartiality of the study could not be disputed.

The Committee was pleased to learn that GGGI had been able to broaden its funding base, which had contributed to improving the GGGI's financial situation. While underspending on the budget in 2014 reflected a need to improve on budget management, a cautious approach to spending was understandable in view of the cash flow challenges in early 2014. The Committee welcomed that funding from new donors had helped address these challenges, and was also pleased to be informed of constructive cooperation among GGGI's Council members and other members and actors contributing to GGGI's work.

The Committee emphasised that Denmark should continue to be actively engaged with GGGI, seeking influence, and being supportive of the direction which GGGI was now moving towards. Against the background of the status report, the Danish 2015 instalment to GGGI would be transferred to GGGI. The External Grant Committee was looking forward to discussing further progress on the implementation of GGGI's Strategic Plan in connection with the assessment of a new grant proposal for the Committee in less than two years, provided the Danish Government decided to continue the Danish engagement with and support to GGGI beyond the current grant period.