Advanced and Indirect Mitigation (AIM) Platform

Governing Committee Meeting Minutes | August 28, 2025

An initiative jointly developed by:

C2ES CENTER FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY SOLUTIONS

CENTER FOR GREEN MARKET ACTIVATION

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The Advanced and Indirect Mitigation (AIM) Governing Committee
August 28, 2025 | 10:00AM – 12:00 AM US Eastern Time | Meeting #25.5.2

Attendees (via Teams):

Governing Committee Members:

- Alexia Kelly (High Tide Foundation)
- Andrew Chen (RMI)
- Cynthia Cummis (Deloitte)
- Devon Lake (Meta)
- Kelley Kizzier (BEF)
- Lisa Spetz (H&M)
- Peter Skovly (Maersk)
- Silvana Paniagua (SustainCert)
- Tim Juliani (WWF)

Observers:

- Brad Schallert (Winrock)
- Nemi Vora (Amazon)
- Kai Nino Streicher (Independent Consultant)
- Ibrahim Eryazici (Dow)

Secretariat:

- Owen Hewlett (Gold Standard)
- Kim Carnahan (GMA)
- Sam Pearl-Schwartz (GMA)
- Stacey McCluskey (GMA)
- Laura Hutchinson (GMA)
- Laura Draucker (GMA)
- Michelle Kolacz (GMA)
- Andrew Alcorta (GMA)
- Dan Smith (GMA)
- Rebecca Berg (C2ES)

Discussion Topics:

<u>Recap of last Governing Committee Meeting</u>

- Sam Pearl Schwartz welcomed the Governing Committee to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda.
- Kim Carnahan introduced Laura Draucker, the new Standards Director at GMA. Kim noted that Laura will be taking a lead on a lot of work for the AIM Platform.
- Sam Pearl Schwartz gave an overview of the timeline, noting that the hope is to receive approval of the Quality, Accounting, and Reporting (QAR) and Electricity Annex today so the documents can be moved to public comment and pilot testing next week.

<u>Vote on New Governing Committee Member: Arianna Baldo</u>

- Sam Pearl Schwartz shared that Perrine Toledo, who had been previously approved to join the Governing Committee during the June 11th meeting, has decided to withdraw from the Governing Committee due to time constraints.
- Sam Pearl Schwartz noted that Elena Schmidt has decided to step back from being a Governing Committee member. In her place, Elena has recommended her colleague, Arianna Baldo. The AIM Secretariat has met with Arianna to gauge her interest and expertise. After the meeting, it is the opinion of the AIM Secretariat that Arianna should join as a Governing Committee member.
- Sam Pearl Schwartz opened up the floor to discussion on Arianna's expertise and potential participation in the Governing Committee.
    a. Support from current Governing Committee members was expressed in the chat.
- Sam Pearl Schwartz put the following motion to a vote, "Appoint Arianna Baldo to the Governing Committee for a two-year term".
    a. 8 (eight) Governing Committees voted in favor
    b. 0 (zero) Governing Committee members abstained or opposed
        i. Note: One Governing Committee member joined the call after the vote concluded.
    c. 1 (one) Governing Committee member voted in favor via email prior to the meeting.
    d. With 12 Governing Committee members as of 8/28/2025, and the Terms of Reference requiring ¾ approval (i.e., 9 affirmative votes), the motion passed.
    e. The AIM Secretariat noted it will follow up with the remaining members not present to record their votes.

Quality, Accounting, and Reporting (QAR) Review

- Laura Hutchinson opened up the review, stating that the goal is to make sure everyone feels comfortable with the changes that have been made to the Quality, Accounting, and Reporting (QAR) Standard since the last call. Laura clarified that she would only be covering chapters that did not receive substantive feedback.
    - Laura Hutchingson shared that The Secretariat has kept a log of the adjustments for Governing Committee reference.
- Laura Hutchinson reminded the Governing Committee that the pilot process for the QAR Standard is on September 3 and the public stakeholder comment period will commence September 10.
- Chapter 1: Assurance Outcomes and Other Impacts
    - There were four areas of feedback. Laura Hutchinson shared the Secretariat Response.
        - Changed validation from a “shall” to “should”
        - Acknowledged that the pilot can focus on coverage
        - Revised auditing parameters
        - Moved product vs project intervention nuances to Chapter 7
    - Laura Hutchinson asked if there was any additional feedback or thoughts on the changes that were made.
        - No further comments received from the Governing Committee.
- Chapter 2: Accurate Emissions Outcome
    - There were three main areas of feedback. Laura Hutchinson shared the Secretariat Response.
        - The cradle-to-grave requirement was highlighted as a focus for pilot testing
        - Added text around free attribution
        - Implemented clarification around terminology details regarding mass balance
    - Laura Hutchinson asked if there was any additional feedback or thoughts on the changes that were made.
        - A Governing Committee member stated that they like the text added, but thinks more guidance on free attribution related to carbon removals/CCS is needed.
- Chapter 5: System of Record

    - There was one main area of feedback. Laura Hutchinson shared the Secretariat Response.
        - Clarified that basic requirements apply to all interventions (including those conveyed with a physical product).
    - Laura Hutchinson asked if there was any additional feedback or thoughts on the change that was made.
        - No further comments received from the Governing Committee.
- Chapter 7: Record Creation Timing
    - There were three main areas of feedback. Laura Hutchinson shared the Secretariat Response.
        - Will highlight reversals for consultation in reference to Chapter 9.
            - A Governing Committee member suggested explicitly stating that the interventions result in a permanent reduction or removal, and then worry about how to operationalize that later
                - Laura Hutchinson would suggest that we put it into Chapter 2 if we were to incorporate it. Kim Carnahan agreed.
                    - No Governing Committee member objected.
            - A Governing Committee noted the phrase "system of record" felt a like a vague term. They asked if it was clear in the document that a system of record could be a company's own internal system.
                - Kim Carnahan confirmed a company can use its own internal system and will check to ensure this is reflected in the document.
        - Changed timeline start (for 24-month requirement) to first intervention outcome occurrence where that is known, otherwise timeline starts at intervention occurrence
        - Moved the product vs project intervention nuances about audits and intervention record creation timing from Chapter 1 to this chapter.
    - Laura Hutchinson asked if there was any additional feedback or thoughts on the change that was made.
        - No further comments received from the Governing Committee.
- Chapter 8: Value Chain Association Limit
    - There were three main areas of feedback. Laura Hutchinson shared the Secretariat Response.
        - Changed and clarified in text and added equations to help clarify how companies should determine this further recommended limit.

        - Clarified specific references to basic association test, including that association can be assessed on an (sub)component or emissions volume basis.
        - Clarified that the value chain association limit requirements and recommendations are applicable per reporting year. As per Chapter 13, there is no limit to reporting additional outcomes across multiple years.
    - Laura Hutchinson asked if there was any additional feedback or thoughts on the change that was made.
        - No further comments received from the Governing Committee.
- Chapter 9: Removals and Avoided Emissions Accounting
    - There were two main areas of feedback. Laura Hutchinson shared the Secretariat Response.
        - Removed removals exclusions, allowing removals to reflect net negative outcomes. Maintained system boundary and CCS safeguards.
        - Reframed chapter to broaden to avoided emissions and removals, initial exclusions for removals now apply to avoided emissions.
    - Laura Hutchinson asked if there was any additional feedback or thoughts on the change that was made.
        - An Observer asked for clarification on avoided emissions, mentioning that a definition in ISO states the benefit of your products in the use phase.
            - Kim Carnahan expressed that there are other definitions, and the Secretariat will confirm that the intended definition is included in the document for reference.
        - A Governing Committee asked for clarification on why we are allowing carbon removals to be net negative.
            - Another Governing Committee responded saying the purpose is to show true and accurate reporting. The goal is not to unfairly penalize those that are doing net negative.
- Chapter 12: Appropriate Co-claiming
    - There were two main areas of feedback. Laura Hutchinson shared the Secretariat Response.
        - Clarified language and added a figure to help describe the value chain layers concept.
        - Acknowledged, and will highlight this as a key focus for pilot testing and public consultation.

- Laura Hutchinson asked if there was any additional feedback or thoughts on the change that was made.
  - A Governing Committee brought up double-counting when reflected in energy data, inquired if that was adjusted for in the guidance.
    - Laura Hutchinson said the physical disclosure issues is tackled in 15-2.
    - Kim Carnahan asked if their view was that it was okay for that energy data to be used, or if they wanted more specificity in how a company could write about how that data was used.
      - The Governing Committee member thinks double-counting should be permissible, but is concerned about the auditors' thoughts.
        - Kim Carnahan, mentioned that, based on discussions from previous Governing Committee meetings, you can't do an intervention and then take credit for the outputs forever, there has to be a limited time.
        - Kim Carnahan suggested asking a question about double counting in the pilot and public stakeholder comment period.
    - There was general disagreement amongst multiple Governing Committee members and Observers over double-counting and how it should be addressed in the QAR.
      - An agreement amongst the Governing Committee was made to leave the double-counting language as is, pose a question to pilot testers on how to best address the issue, and set another meeting at a later date to discuss double-counting.

- Chapter 13: Record Claim Timing
  - There was one main area of feedback. Laura Hutchinson shared the Secretariat Response.
    - Removed best practice recommending companies claim the oldest vintage intervention outcome first.
    - They also updated the recommendations
  - Laura Hutchinson asked if there was any additional feedback or thoughts on the change that was made.
    - No further comments received from the Governing Committee.
- Chapter 14: Separate Reporting

- There was one main area of feedback. Laura Hutchinson shared the Secretariat Response.
    - Retained current draft ledger titles for consistency with current and draft GHGp frameworks and other initiatives. Will further consider title options in consultation and as external frameworks shift.
- Laura Hutchinson asked if there was any additional feedback or thoughts on the change that was made.
    - A Governing Committee member inquired if it was for a public disclosure or more internally and towards auditors.
        - Kim Carnahan said public disclosure was what we had in mind, but that we could also ask for feedback in the consultation.
        - Discussion was raised on publicly disclosing detailed project-level information.
            - In response, it was noted that reporting requirements will be refined post-consultation and piloting, with the development of templates to balance transparency and data aggregation at an appropriate level.
            - The Governing Committee member highlighted the need to aggregate data at a higher level to protect sensitive information, and Kim Carnahan agreed to document this and include a related question for further discussion.
- Laura Hutchinson asked if there was any additional feedback or thoughts on the change that was made.
    - No further comments received from the Governing Committee.

- Chapter 15-2: Transparent Disclosure for Host
    - There were two main areas of feedback. Laura Hutchinson shared the Secretariat Response.
        - Reframed to make it a requirement for reporting companies, not intervention hosts.
        - Discussed in depth in follow-up meeting, and decided to clarify the draft text and further mechanisms for alignment, but not fundamentally change the requirement.
    - Laura Hutchinson asked if there was any additional feedback or thoughts on the change that was made.
        - It was reiterated that due to disagreement on how to treat double-counting, the double-counting language will remain as is, pose a

    - question to pilot testers on how to best address the issue, and set another meeting at a later date to discuss double-counting.
    - Kim Carnahan reiterated that the Secretariat will hold another Governing Committee meeting to discuss double-counting.

Electricity Annex Review

- Sam Pearl Schwartz noted that the Secretariat has already presented material on the Electricity Annex to the Governing Committee. As such, Sam noted that he would revisit some previously discussed topics and then highlight recent changes.
  - For context, Sam reminded the group that piloting companies encountered repeated challenges when using the main document for electricity-related topics. These challenges resulted in the Secretariat drafting an Annex distinct for electricity.
- Sam Pearl Schwartz noted that the revised approach to the Electricity Annex mirrors the structure of the main Association Test but is adapted to reflect sector-specific considerations. This structural alignment is one of the key updates.
- Sam Pearl Schwarz emphasized that if the goal is to encourage companies to pursue electricity-related interventions, there must be a mechanism for them to identify, or at least reasonably estimate, the locations of electricity subcomponents.
  - Sam provided an overview of the Estimation Method for electricity.
    - Kim Carnahan added that once companies estimate the countries to which their electricity use should be assigned to, they may aggregate emissions as long as they have a project located within the same region as those countries. This approach provides a flexible mechanism for companies to address supplier electricity emissions directionally. The flexibility was intentionally introduced to encourage more interventions.
      - An Observer noted that this method is well-suited for downstream use-phase emissions but raised concerns about its applicability upstream, suggesting there may need to be defined limits to its use.
        - The Secretariat acknowledged the concern and noted that the Electricity Annex interacts with the main Association Test and includes some safeguards.

Vote on QAR Standard

- Before opening the vote, Sam Pearl Schwartz invited any final comments, concerns, and questions.

    - A Governing Committee Member inquired whether there would be a conversation on how to frame discussion questions on the QAR for pilot testers.
        - Laura Hutchinson offered to set up a one-on-one call, which the Covering Committee Member accepted.
- Sam Pearl Schwartz put the following motion to a vote, "Move the draft Quality, Accounting, and Reporting Standard forward to pilot testing and stakeholder consultation period, and enable the AIM Platform Secretariat to make any necessary editorial, non-substantive edits prior to the draft being released".
    - 8 (eight) Governing Committees voted in favor
    - 1 (one) Governing Committee member opposed
        - The Governing Committee member who voted "nay" indicated they would follow up with specific feedback on desired changes.
    - 0 (zero) Governing Committee members abstained
    - 1 (one) Governing Committee member voted in favor via email prior to the meeting.
    - With 12 Governing Committee members as of 8/28/2025, and the Terms of Reference requiring ¾ approval (i.e., 9 affirmative votes), the motion passed.
    - The AIM Secretariat noted it will follow up with the remaining members not present to record their votes.

<u>Vote on Electricity Annex</u>

- Sam Pearl Schwartz noted that the vote on the Electricity Annex has been postponed until the Governing Committee has a chance to do a deeper review of the Annex. Noted that the Secretariat would schedule an optional meeting for September 4th to continue the review of the Electricity Annex.

Meeting concluded at approximately 11:57PM US Eastern Time.