

Advanced and Indirect Mitigation (AIM) Platform

Governing Committee Meeting Minutes | January 22, 2025

An initiative jointly developed by:



Gold Standard[®]

The Advanced and Indirect Mitigation (AIM) Governing Committee
January 22, 2025 | 10:00AM – 12:00 PM US Eastern Time | Meeting #19

Attendees (via Teams):

Governing Committee Members:

- Alexia Kelly (High Tide Foundation)
- Charles Hernick (Amazon)
- Cynthia Cummis (Deloitte)
- Derik Broekhoff (SEI)
- Devon Lake (Meta)
- Elena Schmidt (RSB)
- Kai Nino Streicher (SustainCert)
- Kelley Kizzier (Bezos Earth Fund)
- Lisa Spetz (H&M)
- Peter Skovly (Maersk)
- Tim Juliani (WWF)
- Jordan Faires (EDF)

Observers:

- Candace Vinke (Verra)

Secretariat:

- Owen Hewlett (GS)
- Verena Radulovic (C2ES)
- Sam Pearl-Schwartz (GMA)
- Holly Lahd (GMA)
- Stacey McCluskey (GMA)
- Dan Smith (GMA)

Discussion Topics:

Recap of last Governing Committee Meeting

1. Holly Lahd reviewed what was discussed at the December 11th meeting. This included the draft AIM Association Test and subsequent vote, a preview of the Association Test pilot program and timeline, and the need for a governance update in 2025.

New AIM Platform Website

1. Stacey McCluskey reviewed the new AIM Platform website. Noted that this website refresh was needed to enhance governance and standard progress transparency.

AIM Platform Governance Refresh

1. Owen Hewlett introduced the topic of a governance refresh to the Governing Committee.
 - a. One Governing Committee member asked if this refresh to make sure we are “ticking all the boxes” and to position the AIM Platform for future workstreams. Owen Hewlett confirmed that is the case.
2. Sam Pearl-Schwartz walked through the AIM Platform’s current governance structure and revisions the Secretariat is now proposing. The initial governing committee terms began in early 2023, and officially ended in January 2025. He reiterated that today’s meeting is a discussion of governance update options, and that all Governing Committee members will have a chance to provide feedback before voting on an updated structure at a future meeting. Sam Pearl-Schwartz walked through the overarching proposed governance roles and responsibilities, updates to the Governing Committee appointment and terms, updates to the quorum and voting model, and proposed conflict of interest policy.
 - a. One Governing Committee member wanted clarification on if final decisions sit with the Governing Committee.
 - i. Sam Pearl-Schwartz confirmed that Governing Committee members have final approval over AIM Platform publications. This is unchanged from the original governance structure. The Secretariat consulted the revised GHGP and SBTi governance documents in drafting the governance revision proposal.
 - b. One member noted that having final approval sit with the Governing Committee makes sense. The member then asked clarifying questions on the roles and responsibilities of the Governing Committee versus the Secretariat and Organizers. Suggested additional clarification on the role of

the Organizers, particularly if decisions around HR, financials are under the Organizers.

- i. Holly Lahd agreed and asked for more feedback on how to strengthen documents. Noted that the AIM Platform is not its own legal structure (i.e., an organization) and therefore placing legal and oversight responsibilities into the governing committee is likely unworkable.
- c. One Governing Committee member asked if the AIM Platform wanted to become a Standard Setting Body.
 - i. Kim Carnahan noted that this goes back to Holly Lahd's point about what a Standard Setting Body is. Noted that the AIM Platform would like for our work to be adopted by GHG Protocol and SBTi. If the work is not adopted and there is still a need for AIM Platform publications, then the AIM Platform may need to become a stand-alone organization. Currently the AIM Platform is operating in an uncertain environment.
- d. One Governing Committee member commented that a general goal of having balanced representation on the governing committee is not sufficient. The member recommended that we need to write who the AIM Platform stakeholders are, and the AIM Platform's participation goals.
 - i. Sam Pearl-Schwartz asked that if other Governing Committee members agreed with this idea to please include that in stakeholder feedback.
- e. One Governing Committee member noted that revising governance that can serve different future scenarios is valuable. Good governance is needed regardless of what the AIM Platform ends up being, especially when it comes to being third-party assurable.
 - i. Holly Lahd noted that, in terms of being assurable, the Secretariat has written a concept note to seek expert review of the draft Association Test to assess its assurability.
- f. One Governing Committee noted that regardless of the path GHGP and SBTi take, companies desperately need guidance in this landscape. Noted that getting the final standard out should be the priority for this year.
 - i. Three other Governing Committee members voiced their agreement with this sentiment.
- g. One Governing Committee suggested we review and clarify the mission and goals of the AIM Platform as well.

- i. Holly Lahd noted that the Secretariat spent time reviewing the current mission, vision, and goals earlier this year, with the hope to make the language clearer and more specific.
 - h. Two members asked what the AIM Platform meant by quorum and noted it probably wasn't needed if votes are allowed to be collected electronically. The member recommended adding proxy voting.
 - i. One Governing Committee member noted that we need to be clear in the AIM Platform's Conflict-of-Interest to make clear that practitioner voices are needed but that inherently heads to COI. Being a practitioner should not be a restriction.
 - i. One Governing Committee member agreed with this point
- 3. Sam Pearl-Schwartz reviewed that, as a next step, the Secretariat is asking Governing Committee members to review governance documents and be prepared to vote at next meeting.

Readout of First Pilot Testing Meeting

- 1. Stacey McCluskey provided a readout of the pilot kickoff meeting. Reviewed the pilot testing timeline and the call for action to participants in terms of the AIM Association Test press release.
 - a. No questions from the Governing Committee.

Next Steps

- 1. Stacey McCluskey reiterated next steps for the Governing Committee, including reviewing the governance documents and checking out the new AIM Platform Website.
 - a. No questions from the Governing Committee.
- 2. Holly Lahd reiterated that updates to GHGP's timeline does not need to change our 2025 timeline, though opened this up for discussion if people have comments. Noted that the AIM Secretariat is speaking with GHGP staff in the coming weeks to walk them through the AIM Association Test.

Meeting concluded at approximately 11:30AM US Eastern Time.