Advanced and Indirect Mitigation (AIM) Platform

Governing Committee Meeting Minutes | August 6, 2025

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The Advanced and Indirect Mitigation (AIM) Governing Committee
August 6, 2025 | 10:00AM – 11:00 AM US Eastern Time | Meeting #25.5 Follow-Up

Attendees (via Teams):

Governing Committee Members:

- Kelley Kizzier (BEF)
- Peter Skovly (Maersk)
- Silvana Paniagua (SustainCert)
- Tim Juliani (WWF)

Observers:

- Jon Alcock (Verra)
- Laura Draucker (Ceres)
- Brad Schallert (Winrock)

Secretariat:

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

Discussion Topics:

Recap of last Governing Committee Meeting

- Sam Pearl-Schwartz welcomed the Governing Committee to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda.
- Sam Pearl-Schwartz provided a recap of the prior Governing Committee meeting, as well as an update on the AIM Platform timeline. As part of this, it was announced that the QAR and Electricity Annex vote will be held on August 28th.

Discuss Chapter 16, Appendices

- Laura Hutchinson commenced with an overview of Chapter 16, which is on the topic of assurance to the AIM platform Standard and Guidance.
    - Laura Hutchinson noted that Chapter 16 is currently written as a recommendation (a "should") but opened up discussion on whether it should be a requirement.
        - A Governing Committee member requested clarification on the use of "GHG emissions report" and if that was the annual sustainability report.
        - An Observer leans towards shall, but thinks it is okay to leave it as a should.
            - The Observer also added to the Governing Committee member's question, saying that they have heard the term GHG Inventory Report used.
- Laura Hutchinson gave an overview of the introduction and appendices and how they provide context and further details for the Chapters.
    - Laura Hutchinson shared that the Secretariat is finishing the development of a few items and are hoping to circulate with the Governing Committee in the next few weeks. Laura noted that the Secretariat is still unsure about the placement of the electricity appendix.
        - A Governing Committee member suggested that including the intended audience in the introduction for clarity would be helpful. Another Governing Committee member suggested including how the QAR interacts with existing and emerging standards.
            - Stacey McCluksey noted that both are included in the introduction already but can be further fleshed out.

Revisit Chapter 15-2

- Laura Hutchinson gave an overview of Chapter 15-2, which is on transparent disclosure for the host.
    - A Governing Committee member raised concerns about the timeline for sole claims and the potential for erroneous double-counting.
        - Laura Hutchinson responded that the QAR covers timelines in Chapter 13. She clarified that Chapter 15-2 covers how intervention hosts can discuss intervention and its outcomes, how they can speak with specific buyers of intervention attributes (also in Ch 5 and 6), and what they can say to everyone else in a product sale context.
- Laura Hutchinson dived further into the thought process for options on transparent disclosure. She shared that of the four options for considerations on the spectrum, the Secretariat does not think #1 and #4 are ideal and instead noted a strong preference for #3. Laura noted that #1 has a potential free riding problem and #2 doesn't prevent erroneous double counting, therefore creating complex contracting complications that are not enforceable or auditable. For #3, Laura noted that not everyone was in agreement with this option during previous calls. Still, a concern that had been expressed was that a physical product's claims do not necessarily reflect its specific emissions profile. Laura noted option #4 may promote inaccuracy.
    - A Governing Committee member expressed that they felt that both options #2 and #3 need to be available.
        - Kim Carnahan clarified on their comments, saying it felt like the member is actually saying we need #3 plus a contractual requirement. Kim also raised a question about whether the crediting period for one-time project deals could help address some of the related concerns.
        - Dan Smith observed that concerns about inaccurate physical emissions representation may be overstated, noting that even existing high-integrity standards in use today do not provide exact physical representations. Dan gave the example of cargo-related greenhouse gas intensities, which often do not reflect the actual ship carrying a customer's cargo. Most current practices already involve low-resolution data, so the proposed approaches (#3 and contractual elements of #2) would not be degrading a "gold standard" of accuracy, as such a standard does not currently exist.

- A Governing Committee noted that some rules may be more applicable to certain intervention types than others, citing examples from the apparel sector. They highlighted that suppliers often cannot manage EACs directly and that data transparency varies by sector and region, with some sectors having established platforms to trace information. Double-counting is likely unavoidable, but enforceability could be strengthened through contractual requirements. They suggested recommending that products outside the intervention scope use regional emissions factors or other practical defaults. They also noted that overcounting is likely unavoidable, depending on the sector, and that the standard will need to acknowledge and account for this reality.
    - Kim Carnahan asked for clarification on their comment on organizations that collect data on behalf of the suppliers.
    - The Governing Committee member mentioned HIGG and other NGOs.
    - Another Governing Committee member mentioned that they want places to be encouraged to use factories that use renewable power and encourage long-term thinking.
- An Observer noted that their thoughts aligned with those of the Governing Committee member who mentioned the HIGG index. They were also curious if the legal implications of #3 had been looked into.
    - Laura Hutchinson responded that the Secretariat has looked into the legal implications and that the position of the Secretariat is that these are discrete rights to claim things that are discrete instruments, but don't take the role that securities might in the traditional commodities markets. However, some have taken that position, and the jury is still out on how that will play out. Position on EACs is that they are not there yet, but the Secretariat is watching it closely.
- In the chat, one Governing Committee member and an Observer had an exchange on whether decoupled EACs could be considered standalone assets. One suggested that such classification would make them subject to stringent financial regulations beyond the current scope. The other noted that, while EACs are not currently legal assets, their market value suggests they may need some form of legal

status to support market development, a challenge similar to what the carbon credit market is facing.
    - Laura Hutchinson did not hear anyone making a strong case between #1 and #4, so she said that for the next draft, the focus will be more on #2 and #3.

Summary of Planned Changes to Chapters

- Laura Hutchinson provided an overview of the feedback already received that the Secretariat plans to include in the next draft.

QAR Pilot Update

- Laura Hutchinson reviewed additional key dates, including the pilot kickoff and pilot meetings.
- Laura Hutchinson invited Governing Committee members and Observers to share the pilot participation call with companies they believe would be a good fit.

Next Steps

- Laura Hutchinson encouraged written comments and redlines to be shared ahead of the next meeting on August 28th for the vote.

Meeting concluded at approximately 11:00AM US Eastern Time.