Advanced and Indirect Mitigation (AIM) Platform

Governing Committee Meeting Minutes | October 22, 2025

An initiative jointly developed by:

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The Advanced and Indirect Mitigation (AIM) Governing Committee
October 22, 2025 | 10:00AM – 12:00 AM US Eastern Time | Meeting #26

Attendees (via Teams):

Governing Committee Members:

- Alexia Kelly (High Tide Foundation)
- Andrew Chen (RMI)
- Peter Skovly (Maersk)
- Tim Juliani (WWF)
- Devon Lake (Meta)
- Kerry Constabile (Amazon)
- Kelly Kizzier (BEF)
- Lisa Spetz (H&M)
- Derik Broekhoff (SEI)
- Jordan Faires (EDF)

Observers:

- Brad Schallert (Winrock)
- Kai Nino Streicher (Independent Consultant)
- Patric Puetz (SFC)
- Cynthia Cummis (Deloitte)
- Nemi Vora (Amazon)
- 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)
- Rebecca Berg (C2ES)

Discussion Topics:

Introduction

- Stacey McCluskey welcomed the Governing Committee and Observers to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda.
- Stacey McCluskey provided a recap of the last two Governing Committee meetings. Stacey shared that Arianna Baldo was approved to join the Governing Committee. Stacey confirmed that the QAR and Electricity Annex have been approved for pilot testing and/or stakeholder consult.
- Stacey McCluskey provided a timeline update. Stacey shared that the Secretariat has pushed the publication timeline for the AIM Platform Standard and Guidance out to March 2026. This was done partly to give the Secretariat time to process and incorporate feedback from the pilot and stakeholder comment periods, and also to give the Governing Committee the opportunity to review the updated drafts and weigh in before the finalization of the documents.
    - Stacey noted that this is still an ambitious timeline that keeps the AIM Platform ahead of SBTi and GHGP revision processes.

AIM Platform Updates

- Stacey McCluskey shared the following milestone updates to the Governing Committee:
    - QAR Standard and Guidance
        - Pilot process kicked off on September 3rd and concluded early December.
        - QAR Standard is open for public consultation now through November 21st.
        - AIM Secretariat hosted a webinar on the QAR. Over 120 individuals registered and 60+ attended the live session.
    - Electricity Annex
        - The Electricity Annex is open for public consultation now through December 5th.
    - New York Climate Week (NYCW) Workshop
        - The workshop was well attended and resulted in a lot of useful feedback. The three discussion topics were: 1) practically assessing intervention quality as a reporting company, 2) co-claiming and safeguards, 3) physical product recipient disclosure.

        - Stacey noted that the workshop wasn't meant to be a decision-making session, but rather a way to gather input and different perspectives, which we'll now combine with feedback from the pilot and public consultation to help guide revisions.
    - Governing Committee composition
        - Stacey shared that Cynthia Cummis is stepping down as a Governing Committee member due to the AIM Platform's movement into the standard space. Cynthia will still be an Observer.
        - Stacey specified that the Governing Committee now has 12 members and, per the Terms of Reference, is maxed at 15.
        - Stacey opened the floor to the Governing Committee and Observers asking 1) if it continues to make sense for the Secretariat to continue to try and recruit new Governing Committee members given our timeline and, 2) is the current composition of the Governing Committee sufficient or is there specific expertise that is missing.
            - A Governing Committee member recommended that we still make a concerted effort, specifically in a corporate and geographic representation.
            - Another Governing Committee member agreed on the diverse representation needed and suggested we go to those that are pilot testing.
            - Sam Pearl Schwartz brought up the challenges in recruitment the Secretariat has encountered where there is a difference in potential Governing Committee Members' willingness or ability to actually be effective contributors and understand the document.
            - Multiple Governing Committee members and Observers asked if it made sense to onboard now, or wait until March 2026 when the AIM Platform moves into its next phase. As part of this, the question of the AIM Platform's future was also raised.
            - Laura Draucker noted this conversation needs to dovetail with conversations about what we're going to do once the standards are published. Laura recommended this be an agenda item for one of the upcoming Governing Committee meetings.

Combining the Association Test and QAR Standard

- Sam Pearl Schwartz reminded Governing Committee members and Observers that the Association Test and QAR were drafted independently. However, the two documents do reference one another which brings about some complications. This has already been brought up by QAR pilot testers and was a topic of discussion when piloting the Association Test.
- Sam Pearl Schwartz shared that the Secretariat is considering combining the Association Test and the QAR and outlined the reasoning behind this idea. Sam opened the proposal up for discussion.
    - Multiple Governing Committee Members and Observers noted there is value in combining them.
    - One Governing Committee Member asked if there is a case where only one component would be desired.
        - Kim Carnahan noted that only one component might be needed if the document is pointed to by another standard body.
    - A Governing Committee member recommended that this question be run by an auditor.
- Sam Pearl Schwartz summarized the general feedback seemed to be in favor of merging.

Association Test Updates

- Sam Pearl Schwartz wanted to provide a reminder of decisions made regarding the Association Test a few months ago, including Aggregation, Basic Association for non-activity subcomponents, and the Hard-to-Abate Sector approach.
- Sam Pearl Schwartz provided an overview of additional edits the Secretariat has since made that has not been previewed for the Governing Committee yet. This included challenges the Secretariat heard from pilot testers regarding the Sourcing Region hierarchy and flexibility and the Hard-to-Abate Sector Positive List.
    - Sourcing Region hierarchy and flexibility:
        - The original draft offered companies a three-pronged hierarchy for identifying a sourcing region. Feedback was that the most granular option of sub-regional boundaries was not feasible, but the most flexible option to use the 5 largest producing countries is too broad and will invite criticism. The Secretariat proposal is to make a the Sourcing Region limited to the country of origin boundary. Additionally, the Secretariat has proposed making a revision to state

that "*in cases where a sourcing and use region is unknown for otherwise matched (sub)components, companies **may** increase the size of the intervention to also cover those (sub)components rather than leave them unaddressed".* This proposal allows flexibility to companies who have no traceability, as well as those who have significant supply chain visibility but possible interventions in one country may be uneconomical or face supplier pushback.

- Hard-to-Abate Sector Positive List:
  - The Secretariat conducted a deep dive on all critical sectors on the Positive List to make the list clearer and to include process stages as well. Sam noted that this list is still under discussion for what it will include and how to best keep it updated.
  - Multiple Governing Committee Members and Observers responded with hesitancy over a previous decision made to remove the market penetration and decarbonization threshold option of the Hard-to-Abate Sector. Many noted that they worry over excluding new, novel technologies and the administrative burden (time and effort) to keep the list up to date.
    - The Secretariat noted that this topic will go back up for discussion at a later Governing Committee meeting due to today's discussion.

- Sam Pearl Schwartz noted that an experienced auditor provided an assurance review of the draft Association Test. Feedback fell into three main buckets, 1) editorial changes for clarity, 2) assurability detail, and 3) requirement conformance.
  - Multiple Governing Committee Members and Observers discussed how the AIM Platform Standard and Guidance may be referenced by GHGP or SBTi. Conversations were had over whether it would be assurable for external standards to point to only sections of the AIM Platform Standard and Guidance.
    - The Secretariat noted that this topic will need to be given more consideration as the two documents (Association Test and QAR) are merged and the future of the AIM Platform.

<u>Pilot Testing Update</u>

- Laura Hutchinson shared a brief status update of the QAR Pilot Program. Laura noted that the process is halfway through, having completed two of the four scheduled pilot calls. Most of the QAR requirements have been reviewed, and the

participants have given detailed homework assignments. Initial insights are still being reviewed due to the in-depth responses.

- Laura Hutchinson shared an overview of some of the feedback.
    - Key themes include confusion around terminology (e.g., product vs. project), a need for more examples, requests for better context and linkage across sections, and clarity around system of record requirements. Early chapters also raised some points on difficulty understanding the audit criteria. Pilot testers requested more transparency on record creation timing and crediting period options.
    - Laura Hutchinson shared that the Secretariat is continuing to explore the feedback with a deeper analysis underway.
- Laura Hutchinson proposed Governing Committee Members and Observers participate in the final pilot testing meeting for the QAR, similar to the Office Hours had during the Association Test pilot program.
    - Governing Committee Members and Observers seemed receptive to being optional invitees to the final QAR pilot meeting.

<u>Next Steps</u>

- Laura Draucker reviewed the AIM Platform timeline and reiterated that there are two more scheduled Governing Committee meetings in 2025, as well as the option for Governing Committee members and Observers to attend the final QAR Pilot meeting in early December.
- Laura Draucker noted that the Secretariat will continue to make progress on combining the Association Test and the QAR, while providing a readout of progress at the next meeting.
- Laura Draucker noted that if Governing Committee Members or Observers have any individuals they think would be a good addition to the Governing Committee or would be valuable to have review the AIM Platform Standard and Guidance, to please connect them with the Secretariat.
- Laura Hutchinson emphasized the importance of the public consultation process and asked for support in spreading the word to ensure broad and comprehensive feedback.
    - A Governing Committee Member asked if we are posting about it on LinkedIn so they can repost.
        - Laura Hutchinson responded that the Secretariat can make a new post and share it with the group.

- Another Governing Committee Member asked if there are any specific sectors, geographies, or groups that should be targeted to fill potential gaps. They mentioned efforts to engage food and agriculture colleagues.
    - Laura Hutchinson responded, saying that the application of outreach to food and agriculture communities and smaller-scale stakeholders is especially valuable.

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