WORKING PAPER

UN environment programme

A Blueprint for MRV

How countries can build OGMP 2.0-aligned reporting into MRV methane regulations

Acknowledgments

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I. About the Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0

The UN Environment Programme's International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) manages the Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0 (OGMP 2.0). Through the partnership, OGMP 2.0 member companies commit to measuring and reporting methane emissions from their activities across the supply chain, forming a robust, empirical basis for understanding methane emissions and progress towards mitigation targets.

Initially co-designed by industry and regulators, OGMP 2.0 has more than doubled its membership since launching in November 2020. It is increasingly recognised as the world's leading Measurement/Monitoring, Reporting and Verification[1] (MRV) for the oil and gas industry. A growing number of countries are demonstrating interest in using the OGMP 2.0 framework as the foundation for related methane policies and regulations.

This paper offers policymakers a guide to building OGMP 2.0-aligned reporting into the MRV component of these regulations.

II. The value of OGMP 2.0 reporting for MRV regulations

Reducing methane emissions is the fastest, most cost-effective way to slow near-term global warming while broader decarbonisation efforts advance (UNEP and Climate and Clean Air Coalition [CCAC] 2021). Regulatory methane reporting frameworks are a critical tool for driving mitigation and tracking progress.

Through a tiered emissions reporting framework, OGMP 2.0 supports the industry's shift from emission estimates that often undercount releases to the credible measurements necessary for deep reductions.

This document is not intended to prescribe how countries should develop methane regulations, but rather to guide those seeking to incorporate MRV standards inspired and informed by OGMP 2.0 into their existing or planned legal frameworks regulating methane in the oil and gas sector.[2]

MRV systems are a powerful tool for environmental governance and are used to generate reliable data across many policy domains. This report's focus is on methane MRV in the fossil fuel sector in service of methane emission reductions.

While many elements contribute to a strong and comprehensive regulatory framework, an MRV system enables regulators to track and demonstrate emission reductions aligned with the global target of cutting methane from the oil and gas sector by 75 per cent by 2030—critical for slowing the rate of warming (International Energy Agency [IEA] 2024).

[1] In this document, MRV refers to an empirically based emissions reporting system within a regulatory framework. Our focus is on the accurate, measurement-based estimation of emissions, rather than solely detecting emissions, as well as the empirically based verification of reported emissions.

[2] For a comprehensive approach to implementing methane policy, see the International Energy Agency's 2021 **methane regulatory roadmap**.

Such regulatory systems will take time to implement, but urgent action is needed. Reducing emissions from known sources, such as venting and flaring, can take place now with existing tools. To achieve deeper reductions, however, source-level measurements[3] are essential to uncover additional emission sources and develop robust mitigation strategies. Policymakers can encourage immediate action while also crafting regulations that move operators to progressively improve the quality of their data, enabling targeted mitigation.

In 2025, OGMP 2.0 membership covered 42 per cent of the world's oil and gas production, as well as more than 85 per cent of liquified natural gas flows. As a result, countries considering implementing methane regulations will likely find a share of their domestic production already under the scope of OGMP 2.0. Leveraging the availability of these emissions data, and of their structure, can substantially accelerate the impact of regulations, as well as reduce the cost of compliance for companies.

While a measurement-based MRV, such as the OGMP 2.0 framework, is a critical component for implementing and verifying the effectiveness of regulations, it is not a substitute for compliance reporting requirements related to equipment and work practices. OGMP 2.0 is a principles-based framework, so it is applicable to all operators and regulatory jurisdictions. Compliance requires more specific and rules-based requirements, also known as performance standard requirements.

Regulators can build MRV systems on top of an existing regulatory requirement. Regulatory performance standard requirements, such as equipment and work practice standards, can be rolled out even as robust MRV structures are being developed.

Building the OGMP 2.0 framework into the MRV component of a regulation can harmonise the approach to reporting obligations for companies operating across different jurisdictions. It allows governments to build on proven methods, strengthening the credibility and acceptance of their regulatory frameworks and supporting access to markets by more closely aligning with emerging methane regulations in major buying markets. An MRV based on OGMP 2.0 can also support access to financing to implement methane emission reductions (World Bank n.d.).

This is exemplified by the European Union (EU) methane rules, which highlight the importance of the OGMP 2.0 framework and adopt it as the foundation for its MRV regulation (Regulation (EU) 2024/1787). The EU regulation allows exporters to demonstrate compliance with EU standards through regulatory equivalence, meaning that operators in countries with national regulations equivalent to the EU's MRV requirements may be exempt from MRV reporting obligations and would not face penalties. Obtaining this equivalence would also support international confidence in the quality and transparency of emissions data. Alternatively, companies that meet OGMP 2.0 Level 5, the highest level of reporting, but are not operating in a country that has been granted regulatory equivalency, can also meet the EU's obligations on imported fossil fuels.

[3] Source-level measurements are those taken at the level of a single, localised source of methane emissions, such as a specific piece of equipment.

III. Accurate and robust MRV needed for effective regulation

MRV refers to the set of rules and procedures that define how methane emissions are quantified, how measurements and monitoring are carried out, how data must be reported and how reporting is verified. This regulatory component forms the backbone of regulatory transparency and accountability, and it is a necessary part of effective methane regulations.

A well-structured MRV system based on the OGMP 2.0 framework allows regulators to track emissions trends, assess operator performance, inform compliance and evaluate the overall effectiveness of the regulation. It can also inform the development and improvement of credible national inventories and help identify opportunities for targeted mitigation.

Building on this foundation, an effective methane regulation could be structured to deliver near-term emission reductions while progressively improving data quality and transparency over time. Regulators can adopt a combination of approaches—such as prescriptive and performance-based[4]—that takes into consideration their national priorities and institutional capacities. These approaches can coexist within a single regulatory framework, complementing and reinforcing one another.

Implementing initial regulatory reporting requirements based on source-type estimates (e.g. OGMP 2.0 Level 3, see Figure 1), for example, can help establish a baseline and support the development of equipment and work practice standards. By combining initial prescriptive requirements—such as technology or practice standards—with future provisions that encourage more accurate measurement and reporting over time, regulators can structure methane policies that deliver immediate mitigation outcomes while continuously improving emissions data.

This approach aligns with growing scientific evidence that direct measurements can reveal previously overlooked emission sources, ultimately enabling more effective reduction strategies (Maazallahi *et al.* 2025; Stavropoulou *et al*. 2023).

[4] Prescriptive regulations direct operators to take, or not take, specific actions or procedures, while performance-based regulations set performance standards but do not dictate how these standards must be achieved.

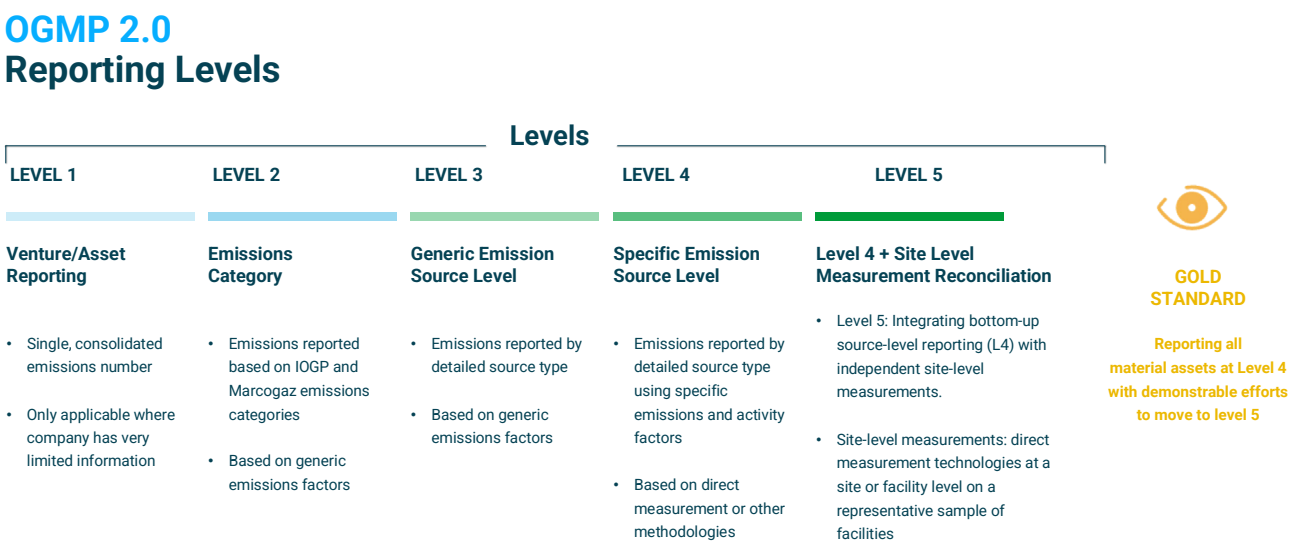

Figure 1: The OGMP 2.0 framework establishes five reporting levels that increasingly raise the accuracy and granularity of emissions reporting.

IV. Aligning regulatory reporting requirements with OGMP 2.0

OGMP 2.0 is principles-based rather than rules-based, which means that the framework provides flexible guiding principles on measurement-based methodologies to accommodate technological innovation and operational diversity across geographies, different segments of the industry and diverse legal and/or policy contexts.

The framework establishes five reporting levels that increasingly raise the accuracy and granularity of emissions reporting (see Figure 1). Measurements required for the highest reporting levels—Levels 4 and 5—allow for innovation in measurement and subsequent mitigation approaches.

The building blocks of OGMP 2.0

The five OGMP 2.0 reporting levels offer the building blocks of a regulatory MRV framework, but additional considerations are necessary to translate these principles into a regulatory context. In this section, the five reporting levels are described, as well as the components that policymakers would need to define to implement this reporting framework.

The OGMP 2.0 framework requires member companies to annually report asset-level methane emissions from their operated and non-operated[5] assets across the oil and gas supply chain. OGMP 2.0 also requires operators to report all emission types, including fugitives, venting and incomplete combustion. By progressing through OGMP 2.0's five reporting levels, operators advance their understanding of their emission sources. Estimates at each OGMP 2.0 reporting level offer value, but it is important to push for continuous improvement toward Level 5.

[5] Non-operated assets are entities of which an OGMP 2.0 member company has varying ownership but not operational control. Operated assets are entities under operational control of an OGMP 2.0 member.

- **Levels 1 and 2** consist of methane emissions reported at low levels of granularity using generic emission factors[6]. Reporting at these levels represents a first step in understanding the scale of the methane emissions challenge. However, aside from setting high-level targets and broadly estimating the emission contribution of key segments of the oil and gas industry, regulators should be aware of the limitation of these high-level estimates when creating methane regulations, as they do not provide an accurate picture of emission magnitudes or sources. An MRV regulation should focus on improving beyond these levels, to the measurement-based reporting outlined in Levels 4 and 5.
- **Level 3** involves generic emission factors, like Levels 1 and 2, but requires that factors be source specific. Reporting at this level results in foundational insight into a country's oil and gas sector, the types of equipment that may lead to methane emissions and a granular, source-level methane inventory.

  Generic emission factors do not provide an accurate picture of emissions, so regulators should be aware that they may not be able to comprehensively inform effective mitigation strategies. However, regulators can use a Level 3 inventory to prioritise and draft equipment and work practice standards that can target swift reductions. They can also use the results of this inventory to develop standardised reporting templates for tracking compliance with regulatory requirements.
- **Level 4** requires source-level, measurement-based reporting, with engineering calculations and process simulations where applicable. At Level 4, regulators could require operators to submit a methane emissions report. Where direct measurement is not feasible, operators would be expected to use specific emission factors derived from source-level quantification or representative sampling[7].

  Level 4 builds on the granular Level 3 inventory by allowing operators to use operator-specific emission factors. It also introduces the concept of "materiality", a mechanism that helps companies focus their efforts on the biggest opportunities for methane emission reductions. Under OGMP 2.0, companies are required to conduct measurements at all sources deemed material, meaning emissions that are significant in the context of their total emissions, while Level 3 generic emission factors may continue to be used for immaterial sources (see Section V.3.b).
- **Level 5** reporting consists of:

  a. Measurement-based emission estimates, at source-level (Level 4) and site-level[8];
  b. Reconciliation[9] between source-level (Level 4) and site-level measurement-based estimates to improve accuracy of emissions reporting and understanding of significant emission sources;
  c. Disclosing the methodology used for estimating emissions and providing sufficient justification of measurement protocols, selected technologies, and applicability to the different facility types within an operator's portfolio; and
  d. Internal assurance by IMEO that these requirements have been met (see Box 1).

[6] An emission factor is a unique value for scaling emissions to activity data in terms of a standard rate of emissions per unit of activity (e.g., grams of carbon dioxide emitted per barrel of fossil fuel consumed) (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC] n.d.).
[7] Article 12 (2) of the EU Methane Regulation 2024/1787.
[8] Site-level measurements are those taken at the level of an entire site or facility.
[9] **Reconciliation** is the process of comparing source-level inventories (Level 4) with independent site-level measurements to produce Level 5 emission estimates.

BOX 1. **OGMP 2.0's approach to data assurance**

IMEO undertakes a rigorous approach to data assurance, an integral part of the OGMP 2.0 reporting process. This process continues to evolve with the integration of new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence or satellites.

There are four levels of data assurance:

1. Data quality: IMEO performs an initial data evaluation, checking for completeness, consistency and conformity with OGMP 2.0 reporting requirements. This includes:

a. Completeness, for example, verifying that the company's asset list matches external databases to confirm all operated and non-operated assets are included, checking that no information is missing for any asset or source category, and reviewing excluded assets along with the rationale for their exclusion.
b. Consistency, for example, verifying that asset types and definitions are applied correctly, source categories are classified consistently across assets and companies, and units of measure (e.g. tonnes, kilograms) are used accurately and uniformly.
c. Conformity, for example, ensuring that materiality is robustly assessed at both portfolio and asset levels, that all assets reported at Level 4 have at least 90 per cent of emission sources at Level 4 (with the rest at Level 3 or higher) and that all assets reported at Level 5 include associated uncertainty estimates.

2. Data analytics: IMEO analyses reported data across the partnership to identify patterns, trends and anomalies. This includes year-on-year analysis by company, asset and source category to identify trends; evolution of source- and asset-level emissions as members move through the OGMP 2.0 framework; and benchmarking by asset type, segment and company to identify potential outliers and facilitate engagement with companies regarding emissions performance.

3. Data integration: OGMP 2.0 data assurance benefits from the integration of methane emissions data from across IMEO's operations and independent data sources, including IMEO's Methane Science Studies and the Methane Alert and Response System (MARS). These data streams can be used to verify completeness and robustness of OGMP 2.0 member-reported data. In specific cases, focused science studies or measurements to assess a specific asset may be commissioned. Further, developments in satellite technology will provide additional insight into methane emissions at the basin level and facilitate data assurance.

4. Implementation review: In addition to submitting emissions data to OGMP 2.0, companies also submit detailed implementation plans, which outline their approach to progressing through the OGMP 2.0 framework, including the proposed technologies and methodologies they will use to achieve Levels 4 and 5. Once a company reaches Levels 4 and 5, they document the approaches used to quantify their emissions. Companies are required to present the measurement technologies or methodologies that have been used, their reconciliation approach and findings, and their plans to address any discrepancies between source- and site-level measurements.

Commercial certificate: In addition to the four independent assurance levels that UNEP provides through IMEO, certain regulations or commercial transactions may require certificates provided by auditors on a commercial basis that confirm a particular asset is at Level 5. OGMP 2.0 provides an "OGMP 2.0 Level 5 assurance document" for each asset that has been confirmed at Level 5. These documents could be shared by the operator with third parties as evidence of Level 5 performance.

V. Translating OGMP 2.0's Gold Standard into MRV regulations

The remainder of this document summarises the considerations and components regulators would need to translate the principles of OGMP 2.0's Level 5, or "Gold Standard", into MRV regulations.

1. Enhancing transparency to asset-level and beyond

Regulators may consider transparency requirements that are based on disclosure of granular emissions data beyond the OGMP 2.0 requirements. While OGMP 2.0 publishes aggregated emission estimates at the operator level, disclosing the reported asset-level data is subject to company agreement.

In regulatory contexts, a far higher level of transparency on granular emissions information and verification data is expected or even legally required. Regulators could support the disclosure of OGMP 2.0 asset-level data, which can be anonymised by removing coordinates to meet national security requirements as appropriate.

Such granular data would allow for a better understanding of emission distributions across various types of facilities in different regions. This level of detail can provide a new opportunity for regulators and policymakers to develop insights for informed decision-making, assess mitigation efforts and opportunities, and continuously improve emissions reporting practices. Site- and source-level data may also help improve empirical factor-based emission estimates and assist regulator assurance and benchmarking.

Additionally, regulators may consider requiring operators to submit information relevant to the emissions reported, including a detailed description of sampling strategies, as well as measurement and quantification methods. This information is essential to understanding how operators are estimating emissions and may change in accordance with the required level of reporting. This understanding is particularly important if the regulation takes a flexible approach and allows operators to choose specific strategies, such as the temporal and spatial sampling of facilities or the selection and deployment of different kinds of technology.

2. Establishing a timeline

The OGMP 2.0 framework sets a specific timeline for operators to report all material assets at Level 5 in order to meet the Gold Standard. This timeline is three years for operated assets and five years for non-operated assets.

Similarly, policymakers could define an ambitious timeline for operators to improve their reporting and reach a high level of accuracy and granularity consistent with Level 5, while also considering the resources, knowledge and availability of equipment in place with relevant institutions and service providers.

It is worth noting that in a regulatory context, all assets within the regulated jurisdiction—whether operated or non-operated—fall under the regulation, so a distinction in reporting timelines may not be necessary.

In this case, regulators could undertake a gradual approach to implementation; equipment and work practice standards could go into effect immediately, while performance-based standards would apply when Level 5 reporting goes into effect. In the first year, regulators could require operators to report at Level 3. This would also support the development of equipment- and work-practice-based standards using estimates based on source-type-specific emission factors.

By introducing a clear timeline for reaching Level 5, regulators can combine prescriptive- and performance-based standards within a single regulation. This approach enables early action on mitigation while steadily advancing the precision of emissions data, in line with scientific findings that field-based measurements often reveal additional, previously undetected sources.

3. Technical requirements

This section discusses measurement technologies, sampling strategies, measurement uncertainty and reconciliation between source-level and site-level emissions estimates.

a. Ensuring site-level measurement technologies are fit for purpose

Site-level measurements, which are necessary to achieve Level 5 reporting, must be conducted with technology that has been verified by robust controlled release testing[10] and/or validated in operational field conditions against comparable technologies.

OGMP 2.0 sets principles and expectations for the selection and use of site-level measurement technologies without prescribing a given technology. This allows operators to use technologies that are fit for purpose and best characterise key emission sources, while also allowing the technology landscape to improve with new products' performance and access (e.g. availability and cost).

Regulators could request that operators demonstrate that their selected technology—or combination of technologies—can detect and quantify approximately 90 per cent of a given emission distribution. This would ensure that measurement-based technologies do not capture only high-emitting sources but instead characterise the full emission distribution. Regulators could also require that the uncertainty is considered in the emissions estimates. This approach would ensure accurate methane emissions reporting and incentivise operators to reduce uncertainty through more accurate measurements.

Similar requirements for fit-for-purpose technologies could be set for the measurement-based, source-level data. **OGMP 2.0 technical guidance documents** provide examples on how to define requirements for quantifying emissions from individual sources.

b. Defining pragmatic materiality thresholds

Materiality MRV thresholds are a mechanism to focus company efforts on the biggest opportunities for methane emission reductions. The OGMP 2.0 framework recognises that reducing uncertainty around the assets and sources that represent the highest portion of total methane emissions should be prioritised, while ensuring that a complete picture is built of the total magnitude of emissions.

As a result, under OGMP 2.0, operators are required to conduct a materiality analysis that ranks the significance of the emissions from all assets owned and operated by the company (at a portfolio level) and of sources (at an individual asset level). Based on this analysis, sources and assets deemed "immaterial" are not required to be reported at Level 4 or Level 5. This does not imply that sources are exempt from other standard regulatory requirements.

The OGMP 2.0 framework stipulates that assets that represent the lowest 5 per cent of total emissions of a company's portfolio and equipment sources that represent the lowest 10 per cent of total emissions of a given asset are considered immaterial. These assets are still required to be reported at Level 3.

[10] Controlled release testing refers to experiments in which known quantities of methane are released and measured in order to evaluate the capabilities and effectiveness of different measurement technologies.

Policymakers could consider adopting the OGMP 2.0 materiality thresholds for assets (such as assets in a company portfolio at a country level) and sources (i.e., equipment) within these assets to ensure that measurement-based methods are applied to the vast majority of sites and sources, while also allowing operators to focus their resources on the highest-emitting sources. It is worth noting that materiality may be assessed by the regulator based on country-specific parameters.

c. Setting sampling requirements and uncertainty thresholds

Accurately quantifying methane emissions across a population of sites requires representative measurements with sufficient frequency for each type of site. Sampling requirements are critical to ensure that spatial and temporal variation in emissions across the sites are captured. Many emissions data distributions have been shown to be skewed (i.e. heavy-tailed), which needs to be considered when defining sampling requirements.

The OGMP 2.0 framework requires that emissions are reported across all material assets. Site-level measurements are required on a sample size that is sufficiently large and follows a stratified, unbiased approach. This means that a relatively high number of measurements are needed to capture the temporal variability of emissions. It also means that sites must be selected in a random, unbiased and systematic manner so that the results are representative of all sites in a population, including sites that have not been measured.

OGMP 2.0 provides guidance on measurement sampling and campaign design. The key design parameters for successful deployment of Level 5 approaches are spatial coverage and frequency of measurements.

OGMP 2.0 does not prescribe specific methodologies for defining what constitutes a statistically representative sample to perform methane measurements. Rather, OGMP 2.0 encourages the use of scientific methods and operational information to ensure measurements are accurate and reflect the different conditions at a company's sites. Several studies have recognised that current technologies have low precision and high uncertainties when estimating emissions from individual sites; however, emissions can be characterised with sufficient accuracy when the requirement is to estimate emissions for a population of sites (Alvarez *et al*. 2018; Omara *et al*. 2022; Tyner and Johnson 2021).

To ensure that representative measurements are performed, regulators could take a prescriptive or flexible approach. These are outlined as follows:

- **Prescriptive approach:** define minimum requirements for the percentage of sites that must be measured across a given population of sites.

  To establish sampling requirements, regulators may consider parameters such as the complexity of the sources and population size of the sites. Large operators may need to perform site-level measurements on a much greater number of sites, though for an operator with a smaller number of sites, this may result in larger relative numbers (e.g. an operator with a handful of offshore platforms would have to perform high-frequency site-level measurements on all its platforms to capture temporal variability in emissions).

• **Flexible approach:** require operators to demonstrate that they have achieved sufficient coverage of sites by requesting transparent information on: (a) their coverage criteria, including the proportion and representation of site and source types and geographical coverage, (b) frequency of measurements, (c) methods and (d) use of statistical sampling. This approach allows tailoring to specific operational contexts while still ensuring robust coverage.

Regulators could require that the measurement uncertainty is robustly characterised and considered as part of the emissions estimation and reconciliation. This requirement would incentivise operators to increase the frequency, accuracy and sample size of the site-level measurements.

Studies have demonstrated that cumulative emission estimates from ground-based, source-level measurements may yield lower estimated emissions compared to aerial measurements (Schwietzke *et al*. 2018; Tyner and Johnson 2021). Site-level estimates have been shown to have higher accuracy when the following two conditions have been met (Zavala-Araiza *et al*. 2017). First, site-level measurements are performed with fit-for-purpose technologies. Secondly, emission distributions are determined for different site types based on a statistically representative sampling with sufficient measurement to capture spatial and temporal variability.

d. Reconciling source- and site-level measurements

Reconciliation is the process of comparing source-level (Level 4) inventories with independent site-level measurements to produce Level 5 emissions estimates. The reconciliation of source- and site-level measurements aims to identify all material sources of methane emissions. Measurement-based, source-level data is critical for an improved understanding of emission sources, and site-level data is used to verify that the characterisation of emissions is sufficiently accurate and complete. OGMP 2.0 recognises this is an iterative process of continuous improvement.

To implement this reconciliation, regulators could incorporate both source-level and site-level measurement-based data reporting requirements in the regulation. During reconciliation, discrepancies between source- and site-level emission measurements may arise that cannot be attributed to the source-level. As a result, regulators could initially allow operators to assign the difference to a new, separate category, such as “other”. As reconciliation improves and more data is collected, these unattributed emissions would eventually be reallocated to their correct sources. This process is similar to the empirical adjustments used in other air pollutant reporting frameworks[11].

It is important that operators provide supporting information in their reports to enable regulators to adequately review and verify that operators have applied the OGMP 2.0 methodology correctly and objectively. At the same time, operators should utilise the methodology to calculate a single best estimate of emissions from their assets (at the appropriate level of granularity).

[11] For an example of such empirical adjustments, see the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Attainment Demonstration State Implementation Plan Revision for the 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone Standard, 2010.

4. Verifying Level 5 reporting

Companies that achieve Level 5 reporting for their operated assets within three years—and for non-operated assets within five—are recognised as meeting OGMP 2.0's "Gold Standard" reporting threshold. Those actively working toward this target through detailed implementation plans are designated as on the "Gold Standard pathway".

Countries seeking to enhance transparency and reduce the burden of regulatory oversight may find it useful to recognise independent frameworks—such as those developed by UNEP through OGMP 2.0—as a means of demonstrating alignment with verification expectations. Doing so could support consistency in reporting, lessen the administrative load for regulators and lower compliance costs for companies.

5. Integrating data to assess accuracy of reporting

In many cases, baselines for regulatory reporting purposes are based upon calculations and generic emission factors, which typically underreport total methane emissions. Regulators can use regional-level, measurement-based estimates to assess the accuracy of operator reporting.

Regulators could consider incorporating such independent estimates at wider spatial scales to constrain total emissions and assess if reported emissions agree with total emissions for a given region (e.g. regional-level estimates at the basin or sub-basin level). Satellite-based data (Zhang *et al*. 2020) and airborne-based approaches (Lyon *et al*. 2021) have successfully been used to quantify and characterise oil and gas emissions from entire regions or basins. These approaches must integrate sufficient observations to characterise the spatial and temporal variability in emissions in such a way that would allow a comparison with the annually reported emissions from operators.

Integrating independent measurement-based data at different scales could also significantly improve the understanding of the different populations of emissions and identify key mitigation opportunities.

Enabling the use of independent measurements allows governments to incorporate data collected by independent entities for verification purposes. For example, data from scientific studies or systematic satellite detections of persistent sources can help verify whether a reported emission source has been accurately accounted for by the company. By integrating these external data sources, regulators can strengthen the verification process and improve confidence in emissions reporting.

IMEO is developing data products to provide unbiased emission measurements that accurately reflect regional-scale emissions. These measurements can serve as a strong foundation for implementing a performance standard and may be used by regulators to assess discrepancies with reported data.

6. Setting performance standards and emission reduction targets

OGMP 2.0 member companies are required to set company-wide methane reduction targets, which UNEP publicly discloses. These targets can be absolute or emission intensity-based and are regularly reviewed by companies to ensure the continued ambition of the targets.

Companies commit to setting individual targets reflective of broader oil and gas sector goals, with UNEP promoting goals in line with a 60 to 70 per cent reduction by 2030 or a "near-zero" emission intensity target. Companies might strengthen their methane targets during periodic reviews as necessary to stay aligned with evolving industry best practices and international climate goals.

Within the OGMP 2.0 framework, meeting or failing to meet a target is not a factor for achieving Gold Standard status, which is solely based on quality of reporting. As part of a regulatory framework, policymakers could consider an obligatory performance standard based on measured methane emissions (e.g. a methane intensity of 0.2 per cent of gas marketed in the oil and gas production segment, consistent with Oil and Gas Climate Initiative targets[12]). However, achieving Level 5 requires such a deep integration into business processes and operational excellence that, in practice, achieving this level of data will be accompanied by deep mitigation action.

Assessed methane emission intensities are likely to increase as an asset progresses from estimated to measured methane emissions reporting. As a result, regulators should establish an appropriate period with the methane emission performance standard to provide companies sufficient time to achieve this standard. Standard compliance with these targets can be assessed based on the elements of the MRV framework described in this document.

Transparent, accurate and measurement-based estimates may also provide a basis for buyers to discriminate purchasing or for regulators to levy fees.

VI. Implementing MRV regulations

In many countries, imported oil and gas products represent a substantial source of methane emissions (IEA 2025). Introducing MRV requirements for imports—consistent with those applied to domestic producers—would enhance transparency and ensure accountability across the supply chain. This approach would provide importing governments with accurate, reliable and measurement-based data to assess emissions, track reductions over time and support more informed regulatory and procurement decisions.

Whether countries are domestic producers or importers, the principles offered in this guide could be considered by regulators in the design process of any MRV regulation. However, the exact application of these considerations will look different under individual regulatory regimes and based on the capacity of different regulating entities.

For additional questions and information on the OGMP 2.0 framework, please contact **imeo@un.org**.

[12] The Oil and Gas Climate Initiative (OGCI) is a CEO-led initiative focused on accelerating action toward a net-zero emissions future consistent with the Paris Agreement.

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