

**14th Steering Committee Meeting of the
Global Donor Platform for Rural Development**
Bonn, June 6, 2007

Minutes

Participants:

Mushtaq Ahmed (CIDA), Marc Debois (EC) (items 1 +2 only), Jim Harvey (DFID), Michael Wales (FAO), Brian Boldwin (IFAD), Willi Graf (SCD), Susan Thompson (USAID), Antti Seelaff (WDR Leason at World Bank), Sonja Bartelt (Platform Secretariat), Ada Hakobyan (Platform Secretariat), Miriam Heidtmann (Platform Secretariat), Christoph Langenkamp (Platform Secretariat), Julia Rost (intern), Sebastian Homm (BMZ intern)

Agenda:

1. Platform facilitated process towards Code of Conduct,
2. Key messages on aid effectiveness for EU Forum,
3. Concept note to the work on the Platform 10 Hot Topics,
4. Specific updates: **a)** Update BBL CIDA: possible Platform participation in Accra 2008, **b)** participation at the Africa Green Revolution Conference, **c)** request from Honduras for closer collaboration, **d)** follow-up from the request from Cambodia, **e)** Platform evaluation

Topic 1: Platform facilitated process towards Code of Conduct

As agreed at the SC meeting via VC on the 23.04 the Secretariat has gathered lesson-learned out of its on-going activities and drafted '**Joint donor minimum standards for effective ARD programs**', which would constitute the basis for the Code of Conduct. Additionally the Platform Secretariat has drafted a 4-pages document called '**cornerstones for effective ARD programs within a PBA framework**', which sets the framework and describes the mechanisms and instruments how these minimum standards can be achieved in practice.

The SC together with invited FPs have discussed the drafted documents and agreed to go ahead with the proposed concept. The main points discussed related to the content were:

- rehearse more clearly why we need a special effort in ARD
- mention other harmonization efforts with relevance (i.e. the UN)
- it should be clear that the added value of such a document is the closer link with our policy branches – ongoing efforts are handled in the policy units of our organizations or in the OECD DAC, but not in sector networks.

The secretariat had noted all comments and will amend the document accordingly to present in Berlin at the European Forum.

Topic 2: Key messages on aid effectiveness for EU Forum

The Platform Secretariat has put together key messages for theme 5 'Aid Effectiveness' of the EU Forum. The messages were designed for 3 different target groups: **a) the AE key note speech, b) AE resource persons to spread through different working groups and c) the press.** The participants commented on the proposed messages and added additional points. An important message was that the agriculture is indeed the means to alleviate poverty in Africa, however, it shall be also perceived as means for sustainable management of natural resources. The participants also mentioned that the interaction between the private sector and the civil society in agricultural and rural development should be brought into focus. In this respect the Platform's work on a "tracer study" focusing on the role of civil society and aid effectiveness in ARD for the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, 2008 should also be pointed out.

The secretariat has noted the newly suggested messages and added them to the relevant documents.

Topic 3: Concept note to the work on the Platform 10 Hot Topics

Christoph Langenkamp has shortly introduced the concept note on processing the work on “10 hot topics” circulated previously by the Secretariat. He sketched the proposed process of formulating the policy briefs on the topics and outlined the main functions that the briefs are to fulfill. It was agreed that the **policy briefs will have an informative and guiding character** and will not be institutionally binding. The added value of such documents is the joint character of the papers. They incorporate the views of various institutions and do not state the standpoint of one organization only. In such a way the Platform avoids the duplication of efforts and creates a joint paper, which carries no label and is broadly available.

It was agreed to contract an external institution to do the principle formulation and gathering of information. The Secretariat will decide which think tank will be chosen taking into consideration the comparative advantage on the topic. However, **the formulation and finalization of the documents should be of participatory character involving all member organizations, focal points and beyond**. It was suggested that an editorial board should be built consisting of 2 core members and 2-3 members rotating with each topic. The editorial board should set the terms of reference and supervise the process. The policy brief drafts should be circulated to a wider group to be commented within a set timeframe.

Since the policy briefs should be living documents being updated regularly, a creative approach of dissemination has to be adopted. One of the suggestions was to create a video file, which will provide the content of the document in 10 minutes. This can be placed on the Platform website. The documents (pdfs) will be available on the website. A “blog” section for comments and interaction shall be also created. The Secretariat will follow up with the concrete concept of dissemination.

Topic 4: Specific updates

Update BBL CIDA: possible Platform participation in Accra 2008

A small delegation of the Platform comprised of Michael Wales, Nwanze Okidegbe, Christian Henckes has visited the HQ of CIDA in Ottawa on May 17 and 18. Mushtaq Ahmed has hosted the delegation and prepared a series of meetings and lunch seminar with over 50 participants. One of the main outcomes was the possibility for the Platform to participate together with CIDA at the Accra High Level Forum in 2008. Mme. Diane Vincent, the Executive Vice President of CIDA, has invited the Platform to work jointly on the “tracer study” on civil society and aid effectiveness in ARD as part of the preparatory process for the Forum.

There was a consensus among the SC members that this is a unique opportunity for the Platform to provide an active input to the HGL Accra. It was also agreed that this initiative has to have the highest priority in the Platform activity agenda. It has been noted that the role of the SCO in ARD is crucial due to its large scale participation in the sector. Mushtaq Ahmed has been asked to set the ToR for the activity and send them to the SC for final approval.

Participation at the Africa Green Revolution Conference

The Platform has been invited to nominate a speaker for the panel: "Where are we going: Solving Complex Challenges with new Resources" at the Africa Green Revolution Conference taking place in Oslo from August 29 - Sept 1. Marc Debois has agreed to take part and provide an input to the panel.

Request from Honduras for closer collaboration

The Platform Secretariat has received a proposal by the donor coordination team of the agro-forestry sector of Honduras stating the strategic activities and coordination mechanisms in Honduras to promote enhanced harmonization and alignment in the agro-forestry sector and requesting the Platform's assistance to join in the process towards a 'sub-Swap' in agro-forestry in Honduras. The connection has been established through RUTA, which should serve as a podium to scale up the Platform facilitation services in Latin America.

Discussing the proposal, the mutual benefits for the Platform and agro-forestry sector from this engagement were not clear for the participants. Questions such as how the Platform can make an intellectual input and learn from the exercise itself by contributing only financially were raised. Another concern that has been articulated was that agro-forestry was rather a project than a sub-sector and how this initiative is coordinated with other sub-Swaps. It has been agreed that the Secretariat researches more closely with RUTA and Honduras outlining which added value the Platform engagement will bring and further inform the SC.

Platform evaluation

The Secretariat reported that the World Bank independent evaluation is at the moment proceeding with the evaluation of Global Programs under the Sourcebook criteria. The Platform has been in contact with the IEG to collaborate for the Platform external evaluation and thus provide a pilot case for a Network Evaluation. The secretariat will circulate the draft ToR as soon as possible.

Follow-up from the request from Cambodia

The Secretariat informed that they had received the proposal from Cambodia for the support to set-up a Multi-Donor Trust Fund just before the VC. The secretariat will circulate the document.

Topic 5: Any other business

Jim Harvey is taking a new post in Rom and takes his leave of the SC of the Platform. His successor John Barrett will be briefed.

To Dos/Follow up:

Item	By when	lead
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Follow up on formation of an editorial board for formulation of the policy briefs on 10 hot topics	July	Secretariat/CL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify the external institution(s) to be contracted for the policy brief formulation	July	Secretariat/CL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Draft a concept for the dissemination of the policy briefs	August	Secretariat
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Circulate the draft of the evaluation ToR	July/August	Secretariat
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Finalize ToRs and contract consultants on the SCO AE Study	ASAP	MA
In-country activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Follow-up on Cambodia requestCirculate a detailed note on the value added of the Platform engagement in Honduras	July July	MH MH