



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

Platform Charter Review



Members Task team: Mushtaq Ahmed, Susan Thompson, Nwanze Okidgebe, Jim Harvey, Christian Henckes and Alicia Fernandez Lopez, formed during the Washington GM in December 2006.

New Charter reviewed and approved by SC December 2007. To be adopted by Board at the 1st Board Meeting, Paris, December 2007.

Changes and refinements to the Charter:



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

- Membership
- Focal Points
- Partnerships
- Governing bodies (SC, Board, Chairs)
- Secretariat
- Annex 1: Joint principles for working together in the Platform
- Annex 2: ToRs for Focal Points

Platform Objectives



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The ultimate objective of the Platform is to reduce poverty in developing countries and enhance sustainable economic growth in rural areas through improved donor cooperation, collaboration and coordinated dialogue with partner countries. However, it is agreed to keep immediate objectives modest in order to be practical.

Membership:



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for Rural Development

- 1. Membership** in the Platform is voluntary and open to the following entities: OECD donor countries and development agencies, multilateral organizations including international financial institutions, and foundations. Membership is composed of full members and associate members. In the case of bilateral organizations, only one organization per country can become a member.
- 2. Full members:** members contributing a minimum of 50.000 Euros per year in cash are full member of the Platform. Each full member has one seat in the Board.

Membership



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

3. **Associate members:** members which do *not* contribute financially to the platform, or contribute less than 50.000 Euros. Associate members will be invited to the Annual Meetings of the Platform and are welcome to collaborate in specific thematic areas or activities.

4. **All members** endorse the mission and objectives of the Platform, contribute actively and regularly to its activities and outputs, and adopt this Charter, including its *Joint principles of working together*.



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for Rural Development

Focal Points

- 5. Focal Points:** members (full members and associate members) will nominate one Focal Point (and an alternate) who will be the official contact person between the Platform and the respective member and represent the member during Platform meetings. The rights and responsibilities of Focal Points are defined in the Terms of Reference adopted by the Platform (Annex 2).

Partnerships



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6. The Platform may enter into **partnership** with other Platforms and networks including other donor Platforms, farmers' organizations, regional or international research organizations and Civil Society Organizations, regional networks which share common interest with the Platform.



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

Newly created: **the Board**

7. **The Board** is the central decision-making body of the Platform and consists of the Focal Points of all full members. The Board can decide by consensus to extend its membership to associate members which do not contribute in cash.

Key responsibilities include (among others):

- to provide, through election, the Platform Chair and Vice-Chair;
- to provide, through consensus, the members of the Steering Committee
- to agree upon new Platform members;
- to consider the long-term strategy for the Platform
- to approve the Platform annual budget;
- to approve the Platform annual work plan.

Steering Committee



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for Rural Development

13. The Steering Committee consists of the Vice-Chair of the Platform plus 5 Board members. The Steering Committee members are designated *ad personam* by the Board, for a three-year period. Two SC members will be replaced every other year. The membership of the SC will rotate among all Platform Board members.

Key responsibilities of the SC include (among others):

- to provide day-to-day supervision of, and guidance to, the Secretariat;
- to help raise additional resources;

Secretariat



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

The Secretariat is the central management unit of the Platform. The Secretariat's work is focused mainly on the management of the Platform partnership, executing policy advise and on ensuring financial and institutional stability to assist its members. It will also actively explore strategic partnerships to complement the work of the Platform. All Platform activities are centrally coordinated and led within the Platform Secretariat. The Secretariat reports to the Board through the SC.

Annex 1: Joint principles for working together in the Platform membership



Members of the Platform agree on the following:

- To commit to the Platform mission and objectives.
- To endorse and apply the “Joint principles for effective agriculture and rural development programs” as last updated.
- To endorse the Code of Conduct for joint principles for effective agriculture and rural development programs and to endeavor to dialogue with country offices to continuously refine the content and applicability thereof.
- To shape the Platform image as a donor group who is devoted to practice and promote Aid Effectiveness principles in ARD.

Annex 1: Joint principles for working together in the Platform membership



Members of the Platform agree on the following:

- To endeavor to foster a shift in the governance agenda from conditionality to positive incentives for change.
- To commit to coordinate and consult with local donor coordination group in case of country activities and act in accordance with the group recommendations.
- To endeavor to support members in their efforts to transparency/information-sharing.
- To avoid financing activities in countries which could be covered by either partner governments or local donors.
- To make sure that the Focal Point has the appropriate time to fulfill its role vis-à-vis the Platform.

Annex 2: Terms of Reference Platform Focal Points



The duties and responsibilities of the FPs include:

- Serve as contact point between the secretariat and the member organisations;
- Review work undertaken by other organisations on behalf of the Platform;
- Exchange data/and information with other member organisations, including providing the Secretariat with relevant data;
- Attend meetings of the Platform (1-2 per year);
- Ensure that his/her organisation meets its financial and/or human resources obligations to the Platform; and
- Will be prepared to represent the Platform at international meetings/for a.
- *Note:* (Platform member organizations may want to budget 4-5 staff weeks for the duties of the FP).