



17th Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

January 31, 2008

Minutes

Participants:

John Barrett (DFID), Christoph Kohlmeyer (BMZ), Mushtaq Ahmed (CIDA), Marc Debois (EC), Susan Thompson (USAID), Sonja Bartelt, Ada Hakobyan, Christoph Langenkamp, Yihenew Zewdie (Platform Secretariat)

Agenda:

1. **Follow-up of the Annual General Meeting in Paris Dec. 2007:**
 - a) Charter,
 - b) Secretariat annual work plan,
 - c) Proposed Platform events,
2. **International events,**
3. **Update Platform evaluation and any other businesses**

Topic 1: Follow-up of the Annual General Meeting in Paris Dec. 2007

a) Charter: The final draft of the revised Platform charter was presented at the Annual Meeting in December 2007 in Paris. The Platform members and associates discussed the main revisions of the document and made suggestions for further consideration, which were further discussed during the Board meeting in Paris. During this VC, the Board decided on the following amendments: i) introduction of §16, which illustrates the objectives of the General Assembly (former Annual General Meeting); ii) § 17; iii) introduction of Annex 3, laying down criteria for the selection and implementation of Platform future activities and joint studies. Susan and John agreed to further refine the preamble to accentuate the spirit of solidarity of the Platform membership.

b) Secretariat annual work plan

During the Board meeting in Paris, December 2007, the Secretariat presented its proposed workplan for 2008. The Board agreed on nine priority areas. During this VC, the Secretariat presented the revised workplan with identified the priorities:

- **Harvesting of experiences:** One of the priorities of the Platform and consequently for the Secretariat in 2008 will be the synthesis of lessons-learned from in-country facilitations in pilot countries, synthesis of messages from the joint studies and other products. CL, SB be working on a concept on how to derive key messages from the Platform activities and products so far. A short term expert to be joining the Secretariat will be supporting the task.
- **Dissemination of lessons learned:** The Secretariat presented a concept note for the coordination of three **regional dissemination workshops** (WS) at the end of this year. The concept for the workshops will be based on the outcomes of the harvesting exercise and further refine the Platform principles. The timeline and feasibility of carrying out all three workshops in 2008 were the subject of discussions – there was doubt whether there was sufficient capacity within the Secretariat and the Focal Points to attend the meetings. It was agreed that the WSs shall be held back to back with other regional/international events to avoid extra transaction costs. The draft note comprises: a) lessons-learned from in country activities, b) joint studies and c) joint



principles for effective aid in ARD. It was agreed that the preparation of a standard power point presentation with some important lessons-learned will be prepared, and made available to FPs.

- Coordination of Platform participation at relevant international events: It was agreed that the Secretariat will send out an email listing identified key events asking the Focal Points to indicate their participation or availability. This list will set the framework, within which dates can be identified for the planned Platform events such as regional dissemination workshops, annual meeting, brown bag lunches, etc. This list will also help to address agriculture at key international events strategically and in a coordinated manner.

- **Advocacy plan:** Developing a consolidated advocacy plan for the Platform is identified as another key priority for 2008, identifying priority targets and key policy messages. It was decided not to start the activity before the outcomes of the planning workshop in Brussels.

The participants emphasised that the most important target as identified in Poggiovalle are the member organisation themselves. So, special efforts shall be made to reach out to the right people in their organisations, which should be addressed in the plan.

- **CAADP:** Yihenew Zewdie, CAADP Task Leader in the Secretariat, introduced his draft work plan for 2008. Platform support to CAADP revolves around 4-5 major issues: a) establishing a dialogue with development partners and other networks with a view to enlisting greater support to CAADP; b) supporting the Agriculture Unit of NEPAD Secretariat in distilling lessons-learned and in disseminating them among development partners and other CAADP stakeholders; c) organising a lessons-learned workshop at the end of the year, d) formalising the core CAADP FPs groups by establishing a task force, which will meet (via telephone line or video) regularly and mainstream the communication among the relevant CAADP stakeholders. Yihenew mentioned that he will have a telephone discussion with the potential task force members to get feedback on the objectives and added value of such a formalised group. The participants also noted that the CAADP task force shall establish a communication line through Yihenew with the Platform SC. The SC shall be copied in important email communication between Yihenew and this group to keep them in loop. Other comments on the proposed work plan were that it is important to assess the necessity of the activities carried out by the Platform to avoid duplicating work and taking over the responsibilities that NEPAD Secretariat shall assume. It was also recommended that a link with CTA in connection to CAADP is established to attain synergies.

It was agreed that it is essential to have recognised task force, which will in addition try to close the existing gap between the Platform Focal Points and CAADP FPs in the Development Partners . Yihenew will discuss the draft work plan with the development partners and NEPAD Secretariat taking into consideration the comments made in this round and will submit a revised work plan shortly.

- **Policy briefs:** Christoph Langenkamp gave a short update on the state of drafting the next policy briefs. After the requests by Focal Points in Paris to revisit the Policy briefs list, the Secretariat provided an online opportunity to vote for the first three priority themes. After the voting deadline Christoph will inform the SC and FPs, which topics have been selected and ask for their proposals for who/which organisation shall draft the first priority. In this discussion round participants commented that on a first and quick assessment the policy brief “The future of smallholder agriculture” by Steve Wiggins may need to use more academic



language. The participants agreed to assess the policy brief once more keeping in mind the different possible target groups and then decide on how to move ahead.

c) Proposed Platform events

- **Joint Platform/CSO pre Accra strategic workshop** was proposed to be held on March 12-13 in Brussels. The workshop shall build up on the AGIF results and lead to the Third High Level Forum (HLF3). The objective of the workshop is to formulate a common agriculture and rural development (ARD) message for the HLF 3 in Accra to ensure that rural poverty issues and the role of rural civil society organisations are appropriately considered. The workshop shall bring together the members of the Global Donor Platform and selected representatives of northern and southern civil society organisations to strategise the preparatory work towards HLF3 in a facilitated dialogue. The participants will identify common grounds and elaborate on messages and a work plan how these messages can feed into WP-EFF Progress Reports (PR) and be possibly included in the Accra Action Agenda (AAA). The tentative budget of the workshop is estimated 100 000 USD and will invite ca. 50 participants. EC might be able to cover some travel expenses for participants from the southern CSOs. Marc Debois will follow up on the possible financial contribution. Christoph informed the participants that the 13 country consultations and the [synthesis summaries](#) are available on the Platform web page. The overall synthesis will be ready in time to be reviewed before the workshop in Brussels. After the SC confirms the date, the Secretariat will inform the Focal Points and CSO representatives about the upcoming workshop. In the meantime the Secretariat will look for a consultant to moderate the meeting.
- **Platform log-frame workshop**
The Secretariat proposed to hold the Platform logframe workshop back to back to the CSO workshop in Brussels on March 13-14. As agreed at the Paris meeting, this workshop will aim to identify short and mid-term milestones for the next 3 years based on its current objectives and goals. The FPs who will participate at the joint CSO event and will be interested in attending the longframe workshop, are kindly welcome. The Secretariat will make the first draft concept note for the meeting and circulate to the Board.

Topic 2: International events

This topic was discussed under the topic one “secretariat work plan”.

Topic 3: Platform evaluation

Sonja Bartelt gave a short update on the running evaluation of the Platform. The evaluation team composed of Gerry Cooney and Silvia Grandy from Universalia will be visiting the Secretariat during the week February 11-15. They will carry out interviews in person or via phone with randomly selected board members, FP and partner organisations for the inception phase of the evaluation. Gerry and Silvia will present the draft inception report, which shall include the focus areas of the evaluation and its timeline to the board. After its endorsement it will replace the original terms of reference. The Secretariat will send out a doodle link to identify the date for the presentation per video or telephone.



To Dos/Follow up:

Item	By when	lead
- Amend Charter as discussed.	mid February	SB
- Send out an email listing identified key events asking the Focal Points to indicate their participation or availability.	early February	AH
- Refine the CAADP work plan with the potential CAADP task force.	Shortly after 1.02.2008	YZ
- Discuss the CAADP work plan with the development partners and NEPAD Secretariat and submit a revised work plan.	end of February	YZ
- Inform the FPs on the selected topics for the next 5-7 policy briefs.	end of February	CL
- Ask for suggestions who/which organisation shall draft the first priority.	end of February	CL
- Included the topics and timeline into the secretariat work plan.	end of February	CL
- Revisit the policy brief “Future of smallholder agriculture” and decide whether it will be published in its current form.	end of February	CL, John Barrett
- Clarify the possible financial contribution from the EC for the CSO workshop.	mid February	Marc Debois
- Circulate the synthesis of the CSO study results.	3.03.3008	CL
- Send out invitations to the CSO workshop and Platform logframe workshop.	Mid February	AH, Christoph Kohlmeyer
- Look for a consultant to moderate the CSO meeting.	asap	SB, CL
- Circulate first draft concept note for the logframe workshop.	mid February	SB
- Doodle for the date of the presentation of the evaluation work plan.	asap	AH