

**9th Steering Committee Meeting of the
Global Donor Platform for Rural Development**
Via Video Conference, 17 October 2006

Minutes

Participants:

Mushtaq Ahmed (CIDA), Sonja Bartelt (Platform Secretariat), Laura Garagnani (EC), Jim Harvey (DFID), Christoph Kohlmeyer (BMZ), Nwanze Okidegbe (World Bank), Cheikh Sourang (IFAD), Michael Wales (FAO)

Visitors:

Miriam Heidtmann (Platform Secretariat), Sebastian Homm (BMZ intern), Antti Seelaff (GTZ), Stephanie Klaedtke (BMZ intern), Leonie Renwranz (BMZ intern),

Agenda:

1. December Platform meeting – setting the Agenda;
2. Intensifying collaboration with NEPAD; Geneva CAADP meeting
3. GDPRD Facility Tranche I;
4. Update on in-country activities and next steps;
5. Update on WDR collaboration and follow-up on other Platform activities; decision on use of e-Val in PRSP study
6. Miscellaneous;
7. Expression of interest for closer collaboration from UNODC and DFA Ireland.

Welcome and Miscellaneous

JH informed SC of his new appointment he will be taking up in March 2007 at the UK Representation to the UN Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome. SB welcomed back MH at GDPRD Secretariat who had been on maternal leave, and LG who represented Marc Debois (EC) at this SC Meeting.

Topic 1: December Platform meeting – setting the Agenda

SB informed SC of the progress of Secretariat preparations for the upcoming GDPRD Meeting, which will be held on December 4th-5th in Washington DC. The overall Objectives and Agenda items of the GM are:

1. Information on Progress of Platform Activities, providing lessons learned
2. Providing joint donor support for CAADP implementation – presentation of Geneva outcomes and providing space for thematic working groups to meet.
3. Open space: Sharing of information between members; presentations of innovative projects
4. Developing Strategic Partnerships: Inviting foundations, especially in regards to the CAADP process

SC endorsed the Agenda, taking into account that the exact timing of events should not collide with the CGIAR AGM and emphasised that there should be a comprehensive Agenda, streamlining all events. Secretariat agreed to send draft Agenda by next week, including draft scheduling and indication of a sufficient number of rooms for all activities and small groups meetings.

Topic 2: Intensifying collaboration with NEPAD

SB reported that at the CAADP PP meeting at the end of September the Action Plan as well as the Country Round Tables have been agreed upon. She informed that it was obvious that most of the RECs clearly lack capacity to be able to implement CAADP, apart from COMESA and ECOWAS. There has also been a strong call for donor coordination, enhanced communication and transparent mapping of donor activities supporting the implementation of CAADP, as this information is not available. Secretariat is in contact with IFPRI, who started on this activity. Richard Mkandawire approached the GDPRD, i) welcoming the initiative and ii) raising the issue of formalizing dialogue and specifying tasks and collaboration.

USAID and SIDA have agreed to financially support the GDPRD in CAADP implementation. USAID suggested the November 15/16 meeting under GDPRD coordination for donors to meet and coordinate. CKo informed that he will be attending as GDPRD Chair. SC welcomed the information, but emphasised that it is essential to ensure that the outcome of the event is a clear set of actions and activities in order to be able to monitor progress. The December meeting in Washington can be used to inform the wider donor community of the Geneva outcomes and provide US based colleagues with the opportunity to participate. Already formed groups around CAADP Pillar 4 (Research) who will be present at the CGIAR meeting, have also the chance to meet under the “GDPRD umbrella” and be part of the Agenda.

LG informed SC that the EC Commission showed an increasing willingness of engagement in the CAADP process after the Midrand meeting. She pointed out that GDPRD is ready to play a role in the process and should become operational on this.

Topic 3: GDPRD Facility Tranche I

Tranche I of the GDPRD Facility rests \$200,00 to be spent, as the funds can not be released to support the PRSP study. While the objective of the Agenda item was to decide on what to spend the funds before January 2007, MW informed the SC of a “bank raid”. \$130,000 were taken to cover a financial gap for the Committee of Food Security by the end of October. The amount left in the Facility amounts to \$80,000. SC decided to use this money asap to prevent this happening again. There was consensus that it should be used to support the WDR as quick disbursement through GTZ account. Elaborating briefs on the ten hot topics can still be done with Tranche II. AS will send ToR for the support of the WDR asap to MW to ensure clearance of funds before January 2007.

SC Members expressed their irritation given this turn as the GDPRD Facility is “ringfenced” for any other use than GDPRD related activities. They shared the opinion that further discussion and clarification was needed within AidCo. LG offered to report back on this to DG Dev.

Topic 4: Update on in-country activities and next steps

MH is in charge of In-Country Facilitation and reports:

Nicaragua:

The situation in Nicaragua is dominated by the upcoming elections. PRORURAL has been established and is perceived as a country programme now; however, it remains to be seen if it will survive the new government. Government and donors need to be pushed to have PRORURAL on the agenda. There will be an exchange visit with, *inter alia*, Honduras; moreover, the Vice Minister is to attend an informal exchange visit in Cambodia on 11-16 December, which will be partly sponsored by GTZ Cambodia. This collaboration between pilot countries is a positive development and an important step forward in the Platform’s aim to foster cross-country fertilization of experiences.

Cambodia:

In Cambodia, the national facilitator has not been appointed yet due to the withdrawal of the previous candidates. Hopefully a facilitator will be appointed in December. The tensions between the World Bank and other donors have been eased, MH reports that this might be part of Klaus continuous effort to foster dialogue and support transparent communication. She continues that there has been feedback

from several donors that CIDA is making cooperation efforts difficult. MH will discuss with MA about how to ease these tensions. SC pointed out that there is a need for a system of resolving conflicts – it was questioned whether the facilitator is the right channel in regard to this.

Tanzania:

MH informs that she has been in touch with Guy Evers to further discuss the planned visit to Tanzania. SC emphasised that this is a tremendous opportunity for the Platform to come in at an implementing stage. MH informed that she will send out a letter of interest to Johan Hesse, Head of the Sector Round Table, expressing the Platform's interest to continue dialogue and coordinate the visit. JH will not be able to participate until January, but suggested to contact Odd Arnesen. SC informed that the African Development Bank has come up with a project outside the Basket Fund, illustrating again that it is essential to get the ADB on board in order to foster greater coherence. MW mentioned a conference in April on PBAs as tailor-made to approach the Bank.

Burkina Faso:

MH informed SC that there was a new head of the donors group, Mr Antony van de Loo from the Danish Delegation.

Miscellaneous

CKo informed that the OECD DAC Task force will be meeting mid-December – while it is also essential to provide the Head of Divisions with lessons learned from the country activities and what works and what does not on the ground, these experiences shall be passed to the OECD as well.

Topic 5: Update on WDR collaboration and follow-up on other Platform activities

WDR, collection of best practices:

AS reports that NORAD is supporting the Platform with a secondment for the WDR input. Mr Stein Bie is working part-time in Bonn on this. As for the call for collection of best practices in mid-September, only a few answers have been received yet, e.g. from CIDA. He reports that he is contact with Derek to coordinate a Donor Consultation Workshop after the CGIAR meeting on December 8th in Washington DC.

AS suggested to use the remaining \$80,000 of the FAO Facility Tranche I for the GDPRD contribution to WDR (financing of three additional regional consultation workshops; evaluation of the World Bank dissemination strategy). He will come up with ToRs and send them asap to MW for fast submission to the EC.

PRSP study, led by IFAD:

At a kick-off meeting on August 31, the research group decided on the significant added value e-Val can give to the process and submitted a proposal for endorsement to SC. The additional cost would be €72,000, funds would be taken from GTZ-GPRD account. There has not been a clear consensus among SC Members on e-Val, also based on the fact not be able to take an informed decision – time was too short to fully read into what e-Val is. CKo will get in touch with research team and get back to SC; LG will wait for Marc to come back. NO and JH agreed to the proposal in principal, pointing out that the team on the ground should be the best to judge and ensure that this is a cost-effective proposal.

SWAp study:

SB informs that the country research in Mozambique and Tanzania has been finalized and Nicaragua is to start in January. As Vietnam declined the study, ODI is searching for another Asian country as research. There was consensus that instead of looking for another country, another sector in Vietnam could be analysed as comparison – i.e. Water or Infrastructure. SB suggested to apply the study in Vietnam as comparison with another sector. SC discussed on how to deal with this situation.

Expression of interest from DFA Ireland and UNODC

DFA Ireland and UNODC had expressed their interest in joining the GDPRD. CKo pointed out that given the growing weight of DFA, accepting them in the GDPRD would be more than a mere symbolic act. It is to note that the Section on Livelihoods, headed by Mr Jorge Rios would join the GDPRD, not the UNODC as such and could add value to the discussion in regards to the challenges of rural development in a drugs environment.

SC agreed by consensus on the acceptance of DFA Ireland and UNODC.

Miscellaneous

World Food Day:

As for the World Food Day, MW informed that GDPRD had a very good news coverage: Mr Diouf mentioned the GDPRD in his opening speech as important instrument to make aid more effective. The GDPRD display was prominently placed right next the red carpet. The Display as well as the Video is for use all GDPRD members. Fotos and Mr Diouf’s speech will be placed on the Website shortly.

To Dos/Follow up:

Item	By when	lead
Washington GM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Draft Agenda with indication of rooms and number of invitees ✿ Booking of rooms, logistics in DC 	October 24	Secretariat NO
Geneva: CAADP Donors meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Concept note/Draft Agenda to SC ✿ Contacts & Invitations, collection and preparation of background information ✿ Logistics in Geneva 	Asap November 8 ongoing	Jeff Hill, USAID Secretariat USAID
GDPRD Facility Tranche I: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ ToRs for WDR support to Michael for submission to EC ✿ Investigation of the situation 	October 23	AS MW, LG, CKo
In-country activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Cambodia: MH Follow-up with MA ✿ Tanzania: Letter of interest to Johann Hesse ✿ Synthesis of lessons learned on 2 pages 	October 30 October 30 Mid December for DAC Task Force meeting?	MH MH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ PRSP study, decision on use of e-Val 	October 25	SC members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ SWAp Study: Informing ODI on analysing another sector in Vietnam 	October 23	Secretariat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Informing DFA Ireland and UNODC on welcome to the GDPRD 	October 30	Secretariat
!!!Next SC meeting via VC to be confirmed!!! Suggested dates: week of November 20-25		