



**13th Steering Committee Meeting of the
Global Donor Platform for Rural Development**
Via Video Conference, April 23, 2007

Minutes

Participants:

Mushtaq Ahmed (CIDA), Christoph Kohlmeyer (BMZ), Christian Henckes (WB), Michael Wales (FAO), Antti Seelaff (WDR Liaison at World Bank), Sonja Bartelt (Platform Secretariat), Ada Hakobyan (Platform Secretariat)

Agenda:

- 1. Platform concept note on the General Theme 5 of the EU Forum “Aid Effectiveness”**
- 2. Towards a division of labour – discussing possible Platform input**
- 3. USAID member contribution through IFPRI**
- 4. Enquiry for Platform support in Cambodia**
- 5. Specific updates: Tanzania Mission called off, Platform Evaluation timeline, Indicator Study, Charter Task Force, WDR**
- 6. Any other business**

Topic 1: Platform concept note on the General Theme 5 of the EU Forum “Aid Effectiveness”

As agreed during the last SC meeting on February 28, the Platform Secretariat has developed a thematic structure for the Theme 5 for the EU Forum. It outlines i) how to address aid effectiveness as cross-cutting issue in the other four themes and ii) introduces the draft Code of Conduct for effective aid management in agriculture and rural development. The session on Thursday, June 21, will introduce the CoC, present findings from the previous days and splits the three working groups to support thematic input to the CoC: **a) SWAPs in ARD, b) Aligning donor assistance to national strategies, c) Current trends for division of labour among donors (Concept Note attached).**

Background to the Draft CoC: During the Montpellier Forum in 2002, at the same time when the need for a ‘Global Donor Platform for Rural Development was articulated, participants called for a Code of Conduct for donors supporting ARD programs in order to ensure improved coordination and more effective outputs of these programs. The current draft is based on the ‘Action Points’ of Montpellier 02, upon which Christoph Kohlmeyer (BMZ) and Jim Harvey (DFID) had proposed principles to be included in such a document. The Platform document for discussion will comprise minimum standards for donor organisations on how to plan and execute ARD development programs under the aid effectiveness principles as laid out in the OECD-DAC framework around the Paris Declaration.

SC members welcomed the initiative. I was agreed that the CoC:

- a draft should be circulated to the SC by the beginning of May.
- the document should be discussed within the Platform membership previous to the conference.
- the conference should be seen as a step towards the CoC, but not its conclusion.

It was agreed that at this stage, the Platform considers the way towards a CoC as a process, which will take a certain time. The acceptance and adherence to such a CoC represents the end of the process which actually might require years of informing, lobbying, monitoring etc., whereas the formulation process of the CoC is expected to be finished relatively soon (possibly early 2008).



Miscellaneous

- The Invitations to non-Eu participants had not been sent yet. The Secretariat informs that nominated candidates have been forwarded to the SG Secretariat and that invites should follow soon.
- The key note speech to Theme 5 will be held by Mr Bernard Petit (EC). It was stressed that the Platform should brief Mr Petit about the content of the speech and help drafting the speech.

2. Towards a division of labour – possible Platform input

On March 8 your Secretariat has send a mail to our FPs: “Your opinion wanted – study on division of labour” with the aim to test sensibilities and gain comments from our members on how they view the applicability of the suggested operational principles to the ARD sector, and what could be the implications (positive/negative). Generally, the feedback was positive and highlighting DoL as important step in the Aid effectiveness Agenda. (see attached Note).

SC members agreed that DoL is the more challenging part of aid effectiveness, doubts were raised whether there are differences between sectors in regard to this topic. There was agreement though that the discussion has to move away from the purely European view towards a more holistic approach, as for example more explicitly incorporating the UN agencies. The following issues where the Platform could add value were mentioned:

- fostering DoL in ARD programs (i.e. the CAADP process).
- Support the elaboration of criteria on how to measure comparative advantage
- Donor mapping in countries/foster institutional assessments
- Elaborating a list of collaborative partners with specific advantages

It was agreed to keep low profile for the moment but to ensure that discussion about the topic itself should be kept on the Agenda within the Secretariat and the Platform membership. If there was an opportunity to more explicitly position ourselves its should be discussed again.

Topic 3: USAID member contribution through IFPRI

USAID has programmed their 2007 in-kind contribution again through IFPRI. Discussion on the possible use of this contribution also centred around the 2006 contribution, the three policy briefs: urban-rural Linkages, Aid Effectiveness, and the future of small holder agriculture. Until now, these briefs had not been circulated. It was agreed that the Secretariat will follow up.

Regarding the 2007 contribution, it was agreed that the Secretariat will make a structured concept note listing priorities on the utilisation of the IFPRI contribution, circulate it to the SC and then approach IFPRI with suggestions. Two items as possible fields were mentioned:

- i) The start of a knowledge management mechanism around the Hot Topics
- ii) WDR 2009: geographical development approaches

Topic 4: Enquiry for Platform support in Cambodia

The Platform Secretariat has received an enquiry, presented by the Council for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) of the Royal Government Cambodia (RGC) and FAO (Steffen Johnson) regarding the following: FAO has supported the RGC to develop a national programme for household food security and poverty reduction. RGC and FAO are aware that the Platform is already supporting work on setting up a PBA in the Ministry of Land in Cambodia, and has enquired whether the Platform could provide technical assistance to support the set-up of a multi-donor basket fund within the food security program.



The SC generally welcomed the enquiry and supported a positive feedback to Cambodia. However, it was stated that a multi-donor trust fund is only a means to an end and that at this point it is not clear what the program actually is about. The following proposal and precise concept note should clarify what the aim of the program is, what the Trust Fund is used for and clearly indicate where the added value of the Platform engagement is.

MW will have a telephone conversation with Steffen Johnson (FAO Consultant Cambodia) to find out any details and will communicate with the Secretariat.

Topic 5: Specific updates

Tanzania Mission called off:

The Secretariat outlined that the envisaged exploratory mission to Tanzania has been cancelled. The Secretariat elaborated that transaction cost for getting involved are increasing with every email and phone call to Tanzania – while there are a lot of issues to learn the Secretariat discussed whether it is a useful approach to carry on with the “pilot countries” or orientate ourselves towards initiatives where we can pool experiences and lessons learned (i.e. as in Vietnam, Rwanda, etc).

SC members agreed that it would not be appropriate “to give up” as there are many interesting experiences to learn as for example how to set up a multi-donor basket fund. The Secretariat would come up with an approach on how to further engagement with Tanzania.

Miscellaneous

The Steering Committee clarified that any technical assistance or advice we can provide to countries in the programming under the new aid architecture will – after revision of a corresponding concept note – be supported.

Platform Evaluation timeline:

The Secretariat will prepare Terms of References for the external evaluation and will forward it for review by the SC in Mid May. CKo outlined that the link with the World Bank Evaluation Group should be established asap as they are searching for pilots for their Global Evaluation Program methodology. The Secretariat would follow up.

Indicator Study:

MW informed SC members that phase II and III have also been endorsed by the EC. Nicaragua, Cambodia and Tanzania (Donor Platform pilot countries), as well Senegal and Nigeria are case study countries. It was agreed that the case country approach should be centrally coordinated over the Secretariat as with the SWAP study. However, this approach was cumbersome and delayed process as well, for which reason Secretariat will come up with a “light version” and discuss with the World Bank, the FAO Statistics Division and SC.

Charter Task Force:

CH informed that the draft version of the revised Charter will be available by June to be endorsed at the annual meeting end of 2007.

Miscellaneous

The preparations for the annual meeting will start after the EU Forum in June. The Secretariat is still deciding on a location and welcomes suggestions.

Topic 6: Any other businesses

WDR: AS reports on feedback to the sub-chapter on Aid Effectiveness which the Platform has drafted to the WDR. The feed-back basically points out that a) the section of aid effectiveness restricts itself to generalities and should say more about concrete improvements in sector aid effectiveness, b) the section on SWAPs needs



more unpacking, also beyond the agriculture sector, and, c) the section on results and initiatives by donors should be more concrete. While SC members agreed that the section lacks a visionary aspect it was questioned “who has a vision” on the future of agricultural programs under the new aid paradigm?

It was agreed that the Secretariat would review the sub-chapter again and forward to the Chairs for final comments. The final version would have to be submitted to the WDR Team by May 4.

Invitation for the event "An International Workshop on Strengthening and Widening Markets and Overcoming Supply Side Constraints for African Agriculture" in Lusaka

CKo has received an invitation in his function as Platform Chair to the above mentioned event in Lusaka on June 3-5. The invitation was asking for Platform representation. SC members endorsed Christoph’s participation after ensuring that the high-level participants are confirmed. The Platform will cover the travel cost.

BBL at DFID London, April 18

CH and SB elaborated on their BBL in DFDID on April 17 to which the African Union Commissioner for Agricultures and Rural Economies and her delegation was present. The Commissioner stated explicitly the wish for more division of labour in the countries in the CAADP process. Whether the Platform could be able to play a role in supporting its members and the African partner in more effectively dividing their work will have to be analyzed over the next months. The exchange with the AE department of DFID was successful in terms of a first approach to close the gap between policy and sector departments: Participants lauded the Platform’s initiative.

To Dos/Follow up:

Item	By when	lead
EU Forum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - circulate draft CoC to SC - circulate draft CoC to members - contact Bernard Petit regarding opening speech 	Beginning of May	Secretariat Secretariat
USAID contribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contact USAID and IFPRI regarding 2006 contribution - draft concept note listing priorities for 2007 contribution 	Beginning of May	Secretariat
Cambodia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Telephone conversation with Steffen Johnson to check on proposal. Update the SC on the results. - Positive response to Cambodia asking for detailed proposal 	Beginning of May asap	MW Secretariat
WDR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - redraft sub-section, send to WDR Team 	May 4	Secretariat and Chairs
Indicator study: Coordination to Statistics Department	asap	Secretariat and MW