



**Global Donor Platform for Rural Development
6th Steering Committee Meeting and 1st Board Meeting**

**Paris, December 14, 2007
8am-2pm**

Present: Michael Wales (FAO), Christoph Kohlmeyer (BMZ), Marc Debois (EC-DG Dev), John Barrett (DFID), Nwanze Okidegbe (WB), Mushtaq Ahmed (CIDA), Florence Lasbennes (MFA), Susan Thompson (USAID), Lasse Kranz (SIDA), Garvan McCann (IrishAid),

Secretariat: Sonja Bartelt, Christoph Langenkamp Christian Henckes (GTZ oversight of secretariat)
Catherine Hill, consultant

Regrets: Brian Baldwin (IFAD), Willi Graf (Deza)

Chair: Christoph Kohlmeyer

Agenda Points:

- I. Opening**
- II. Discussion of newly revised Charter**
- III. Election**
 - a. Invitation to extend membership to the Board to associate members,**
 - b. Chair,**
 - c. SC and**
 - d. Vice Chair**

I. Opening and agenda

Platform Chair, Christoph Kohlmeyer, welcomed participants to the first Platform Board meeting. The agenda was adopted without changes. The chair confirmed the membership of the board and invited the present non-board members to join the discussions.

II. Discussion of the newly revised Charter by the Board

Discussion and agreement on possible amendments

The Chair introduced discussions on the Charter noting that the Charter had been adopted by the SC on December 8 2007, but that there was room for amendments. Particular elements of the Charter were discussed and the Secretariat and Chair appointed to edit the Charter as follows:

i) Preamble

It was felt that it is important to include wording that suggests that the Platform is guided by the solidarity of donors including “small and resource challenged donors” for the global goods and global commons.

ACTION: Introduce a paragraph to the point of being an association of solidarity.

ii) Paragraph 11

“One organization per country becoming a member”: The concern was raised that, for example, Germany would be able to have four votes, whereas others might have only one vote even though they contribute financially more.

Decision: Do not restrict to one member per country. Do restrict membership of the Board to one member per country to ensure manageability of group.

ACTION: Make revision to text accordingly re: members per country.

“Non-contributing constituencies”: Current language in paragraph 11 excludes non-OECD countries and agencies.

Decision: remove “OECD” from text.

ACTION: amend paragraph 11 accordingly. Add wording regarding the importance of including non-OECD donors and non-traditional donors in the preamble.

iii) Para 14 and link to Annex 1:

“Joint Principles”: There was confusion regarding the wording around “Joint principles of working together” (Annex 1) and the joint principles for more effective ARD programs.

Decision: Adjust some of the wording in the Charter and Annex 1.

ACTION: Delete “Joint” from text and Annex 1.

iv) Paragraph 25:

“Timeline Board commitment”: The length of time to commit to the duties of the Board and SC was considered as too long.

ACTION: Revise wording to reflect the need to have two person rotating off each year from the SC.

v) Annex 2: Last bullet point. Use same wording as Paragraph 26

“Representation of the Platform at international events by Focal Points”: Inconsistency with paragraph 26: Representation on request of Platform Chair and managed by Secretariat.

Decision and ACTION: Amend last bullet according to paragraph 26.

Miscellaneous:

- 1. Recognition of membership status:** It was noted that there is a need for the confirmation of the membership status of each organization and verification of Focal Point as well as appointment of an alternate FP by the respective institutions and its management.
ACTION: Secretariat and the Chairs will send a letter with revised Charter to respective Director Generals requesting confirmation on the membership status and focal points/alternate.
- 2. Clarify objectives of the General Assembly (previous: Annual General Meeting):** The current Charter does not mention the General Assembly as annual event where Platform members (full and associates) can learn about the progress of Platform activities and participate in the discussions.
ACTION: Introduce paragraph on the General Assembly.
- 3. Procedure of Platform communication:** The current Charter does not clarify the 10-day rule for Platform communications.
ACTION: Introduce paragraph or Annex on internal guidelines regarding communication procedures: Focal Points are requested to reply within a 10-day working limit to the Secretariat or the Board in case of non agreement to proposed activities or on comments on joint products and publications. After that deadline, issues are taken as agreed. On specific request, 10day rule might be adjusted for specific consultations.
- 4. Process documentation for conduction of Platform studies:** The current Charter does not elaborate on the procedure for selecting, implementing and approving of joint studies.
ACTION: Add paragraph to the Charter.

III. Elections

a) Invitation to extend membership to the Board to associate members

John Barrett (DFID) proposed FAO, SIDA, and Ireland to join the Board. Michael Wales accepted to join the Board on behalf of FAO. Garvan McCann of Irish Aid noted that he would like to commit,

but would need the endorsement of his director. He suggested that they join as associate member, and then follow up with an official request to their Director General. SIDA agreed on the same procedure. Invitees have the same rights and obligations as regular Board members. In the context of the day's meeting, SIDA and Ireland were welcome as participants to the meeting with full rights to contribute to the day.

ACTION: Secretariat and Chair: Contact member organisation's director generals by letter with the proceedings of the meeting and the revised Charter. Get contacts of director generals.

b) Election of the Platform Chair

The Chair of the meeting asked the secretariat to chair the process of the election of the new Chair. The secretariat did chair this sub-point of the agenda.

Nwanze Okidegbe (World Bank) proposed Christoph Kohlmeyer (BMZ) as Chair of the Board. The nomination was seconded by John Barrett (DFID), Marc Debois (EC), and Florence Lasbennes (MFA). Nominations were closed and Christoph Kohlmeyer was elected by acclamation.

Christoph Kohlmeyer thanked the group for the great trust they had shown in him. He iterated that considering his previous engagements as Chair that this will be his last term.

c) Election of the Steering Committee

Christoph Kohlmeyer asked for those to come forward who could not take the responsibilities of the Steering Committee, to which Susan Thompson, Lasse Kranz, and Garvan McCann, said they could not take on the responsibilities currently. It was also noted that Willi Graf is not able to take on the role of Steering Committee member.

Six candidates were put forward and confirmed by acclamation:

DFID: John Barrett

FAO: Michael Wales

CIDA: Mushtaq Ahmed

World Bank: Nwanze Okidegbe

France: Florence Lasbennes

European Commission: Marc Debois

d) Election of the Platform Vice-Chair

Christoph Kohlmeyer proposed Michael Wales as Vice Chair. The nomination was endorsed by acclamation. Michael Wales was welcomed as Vice Chair and therefore as Chair of the SC.

Christoph Kohlmeyer closed the discussion on elections confirming the following:

Chair: Christoph Kohlmeyer

Steering Committee: as above

Vice-Chair: Michael Wales

IV. Endorsement of Platform Work Program and Budget 2008

See draft indicative work plan 2008

Sonja introduced the work plan for 2008 and highlighted the following issues:

- **Information Secretariat Personnel:** Due to the German labour law, the secretariat can not maintain Daniel Gerecke as Consultant. However, the services he has provided need to continue (Website management and Communications). There has been no secondment coming forward for Miriam Heidtmann's position, leaving country activities currently vacant. It was suggested to hire Daniel as replacement.
- **Code of Conduct/Joint Principles:** Decision sought for further Road Map.

- **External Evaluation:** Decision sought for including or excluding pilot countries in evaluation.
- **Country requests for Platform support:** Have not been addressed (Nicaragua, Rwanda, Vietnam, Indonesia and Honduras asked for support regarding exchange of experiences towards greater Harmonization and alignment)
- **Inclusion of priority issues** raised during the AGM to be incorporated into a revised work plan, against financial scenarios.

After an initial round of discussion, nine priority areas to focus on in the coming year were agreed upon. These are:

1. **Harvest and Disseminate the lessons learned:** Compile a synthesis of lessons learned and elaborate a strategy to disseminate core messages from studies and activities on the basis of regional workshops that will then advance the debate.
2. **CAADP -** There is need to organize the information sharing in a more coherent manner, providing the link between the Platform Focal Points (ARD divisions) and the CAADP (Africa) group. There is a need to clarify the status of the CAADP group as Task Force within the Platform and develop clear milestones and work plan for Platform CAADP activities. These shall be agreed with the CAADP Task Force and the SC be informed.
3. **Continue event management and coordination of Platform participation in international events** – It is important to consider the upcoming meetings in Doha, Accra, and elsewhere in terms of what makes sense for the Platform’s objective/agenda.
4. **Strategic Alliances** – The Platform needs to pursue strategic alliances to reach its objectives (reducing rural poverty), including with new players in the international aid architecture. In this regard climate change was also named as an important issue to consider.
5. **Advocacy Plan** – Secretariat is requested to develop together with members an advocacy plan including on strategic alliances. There is a need to develop three to four core messages and identify key advocacy targets for 2008 and address them.
6. **Action Plan on the way to Accra** – Develop an action plan for the Platform to get to Accra and necessary steps on the way (i.e. post-Ottawa CSO workshop).
7. **Revisiting the Hot Topics** – The Platform Hot Topics shall be revisited with view to update themes.
8. **Refine Joint principles for more effective ARD programs** and map against Paris Declaration indicators.
9. **Results-based planning workshop for the Board** – it was agreed to organise such a workshop to develop and agree on a strategic / mid-term plan that is based on strategic goals for Platform (the Platform as a whole, not the secretariat) (in a logframe format).

ACTION: Secretariat/Steering Committee to accommodate these nine priorities with associated budgets and scenarios (incl. allocation of personal) in a revised work plan.

Secretariat/Steering Committee to decide on dates/location for strategic (RBM) planning session before March (ideally back to back with the post-Ottawa CSO meeting).

External Evaluation: inform Universalia not to include pilot countries in a revised proposal and submit until mid-January.

Miscellaneous:

1. **It was suggested** to provide a logo and endorsement on a range of products that Platform members collectively subscribe to in terms of more aid to rural development and aid effectiveness for rural development.
2. **GTZ 13%:** Christian Henckes clarified the 13% GTZ overhead cost. Participants accepted the percentage GTZ need to charge as a service provider. Participants also noted and agreed that the “cost of running the Secretariat” are not overhead. The work of the Secretariat is directly attributed to the functioning of the Network rather than to the administration. The Management and Governance component therefore constitute an operational aspect of the Network and in this sense are programming costs and not overheads.
3. **Options for operationalization of the WDR 2008:**
 - Contributing money to the World Bank’s Development Marketplace (DM) by member organisations;
 - Generating DM proposals;
 - Reviewing DM proposals;
 - Serving on the DM selection jury to assess the final proposals that will be supported.
 - Monitoring, operationalization and formulating lessons learned.

There has been no decision in which way the Platform will support the DM.

4. Christian Henckes informed the group that the GTZ will conduct an **internal evaluation** of the services provided for the Platform membership as part of its internal quality control starting January 2008.