



**18th Steering Committee Meeting of the
Global Donor Platform for Rural Development**
April 15, 2008

Minutes

Participants:

Brian Baldwin (Chair, IFAD), Mushtaq Ahmed (CIDA), Christoph Kohlmeyer (BMZ, partly), Christoph Eichen (BMZ, partly) Sonja Bartelt, Ada Hakobyan (minutes), Christoph Langenkamp, Yihenew Zewdie, Daniel Gerecke (Platform Secretariat)

Agenda:

1. Preparations towards the Accra HLF 3
2. CAADP update;
3. Platform Copyrights;
4. Platform response to the rising food prices;
5. International Secondment to Secretariat;
6. Updates: i) Information seminars in Europe: Ireland, Netherlands, France; ii) Status Membership verification; iii) status Evaluation and follow up in 2nd half 2008; iv) upcoming preparations for: General assembly, regional Platform workshops, European development Days;
7. Any other business

Topic 1: Preparations towards Accra HLF 3

The discussions on this topic were based on the "Accra HLF preparatory process" note prepared by the Secretariat. The note presents the rationale of the Platform's engagement in the Accra HLF and outlines the different preparatory processes, events and documents to which the Platform is to contribute.

a) Contribution to the Accra HLF 3 Round Table 8: The Platform has drafted a summary paper on the experiences of implementing the PD on Aid Effectiveness in the agricultural sector as requested by the co-chair of the RT. The paper was presented by Florence Lasbennes at the RT8 work stream consultation on 4 April. The Platform's Dan Vadrjal (IFAD) and Christoph Langenkamp did also participate. During the deliberations participants agreed that the current outline of the RT 8 outcome paper is focused on SWAps. Participants were requested to comment on the outline. The Platform sent its comments on the outline to the co-chairs and the RT 8 core group on 11 April.

b) Input to the WP-EFF progress report on aid effectiveness: During the plenary discussion of the Working Party Aid Effectiveness on April 2, there was a discussion on the Progress Report on Aid Effectiveness being prepared for Accra which has a section on sector applications but which doesn't include agriculture. The Platform proposed to draft appropriate text on agriculture and send it to the authors of the report. In doing so, the Platform would draw on Platform members, partner countries (as well through the CAADP Partnership Platform) and rural CSOs. The deadline of submission is 18 April (but has been extended to 25 April; CL 17 April).

It has been decided at the VC that Brian Baldwin and Christoph Langenkamp will work on the first draft, which will be then circulated to the SC/Board members asking for their input. The text will be sent to the authors on 18 April (revised date: 25 April). In the meantime



Christoph will ask the organisers for a deadline extension to allow a revised input from the Platform by the last week of April.

c) Input into the Accra Action Agenda (AAA): The first consultative draft of the Accra Action Agenda (AAA) is available. Since the draft will be substantially revised, the Platform shall not aim at making minor changes, but write a paragraph on its own underlining the links between the MDGs and agriculture. Highlighting the importance and contribution of agriculture towards achieving the MDGs, may allow for the inclusion of agriculture into the AAA. However, such an approach may result only in mentioning it in the preamble. The Platform shall identify other ways and messages how to include agriculture in other parts of the document.

d) Participation at the regional preparatory events: The regional preparatory events are organised by the regional development banks and UNDP and are an important step towards the Accra HLF and the AAA. It is important to bring the issues of agriculture and aid effectiveness into the events. In this regard the Platform shall attempt to ensure an adequate representation during these meetings. One way is to promote the participation of competent ARD personalities from the region. In addition, and if feasible, the Platform can organise preparatory meetings in the afternoon before the regional events to brief the delegates interested in ARD. This will provide a platform for discussions and information exchange.

For the Kigali meeting at the end of this month, Platform shall ensure that Richard Makandawire of NEPAD is invited and if there is space, that a representative from RECs (e.g. Chis Muynya of COMESA) takes part in the event representing ARD view point. It was agreed that Brian will contact the respective person in the African Development Bank to extend the invitation. In addition to the secretariat, he will copy Mushtaq and Yihenew into his communication. If this measure does not work, Mushtaq will follow up with the CIDA ED in the AfDB. Mushtaq noted that the core group to be participating at the meetings from the side of the Platform is composed of Brian Baldwin, Marc Debois, Mushtaq Ahmed, and Christoph Langenkamp. It was agreed that the list of possible participants at the events shall be updated and shared with the organisers of the regional events. It was mentioned that the organisers of the preparatory events do focus on regional actors and are reserved on the participation of donors.

e) Other issues:

- External support to enhance the Platform's capacity to support the Accra HLF 3 process: Brian mentioned that there are considerations to recruit Michael Wales as consultant but that he will not be available until mid May. In addition, Lidia Cabral who indicated that she could support the formulation of the agricultural section of the WP-EFF progress report and the contribution to the AAA will not be available before 21 April. He suggested that the SC/Board members identify persons in their organisation, who can dedicate time to work for the Platform preparatory process towards HLF;
- RUTA and CIRDAP should be included for their respective regional preparatory events;
- Marketplace: The World Bank is in charge of organising the marketplace at the Accra HLF 3. Next week more details concerning the marketplace are available. The Platform shall communicate as soon as possible that it is interested in having a poster. Brian will assume this task.

Topic2: CAADP update

Yihenew Zewdie gave an update on the topics below:

a) CAADP Partnership Platform (PP) meeting in The Seychelles: The Seychelles meeting (19 – 20 March 2008) had the objective to review the progress made since the last PP meeting in September 2007, identify action areas for the next 5-6 months and exchange experiences and information. Though Rwanda is the only country so far, which has signed a country compact, there are more than 10 countries that have made significant progress



towards it especially in the COMESA and ECOWAS regions. Besides the country compacts, there is a preparatory process towards regional compacts in ECOWAS and COMESA on transboundary issues. AGRA was also present at the event and expressed its interest in participating in country level round table processes. NEPAD will coordinate this. A number of areas that needed urgent action were pointed out during the meeting. These centre around (i) expediting country level Compact development including effective use of Pillar framework documents in the process; (ii) enhancing the profile of CAADP in international forums; (iii) strengthening donor coordination at all levels, especially at regional/REC and country levels; and (iv) identifying strategies for enhancing the involvement of the Private Sector in the CAADP process as part of its core business interest. During the side events/working group discussions attention was directed towards (i) the importance of holding a high level meeting in Maputo sometime in October 2008 with the view to celebrating progress with CAADP five years on; (ii) the necessity of CAADP core institutions and DPs working towards ameliorating soaring food prices and addressing other topics of current international significance such as bio fuels; and (iii) need to broaden the DP base in support of CAADP.

b) Multi Donor Trust Fund: The establishment of the multi donor trust fund to support the CAADP process was also a topic of discussion during the PP meeting. This fund, which is yet to be officially launched, is expected to be managed by the World Bank. So far, USAID is the only organisation that has confirmed allocation of financial resources for the Fund. The objective of the fund is i) to support continental and regional organisations/platforms overseeing/supporting directly the advancement of CAADP implementation, ii) support Pillar Lead Institutions in their quest for developing pillar frameworks and integrating the same into country and regional compact development processes; and iii) support the strategic management of the Fund, and this refers in the main to supporting the management and oversight involvement of the World Bank.

c) Vertical Fund: There were divergent views on the need for and operational modalities of such a Fund among the participants of the PP meeting. Over all, it was stressed that whatever support African agriculture is to have from the international community should be designed in such a way that it fully supports, not undermines, the CAADP process and ensure that high African representation in its management, and that it should acknowledge African ownership.

d) Information seminars: The Platform Secretariat is currently planning information seminars with the view to engaging Platform affiliates with the achievements of the Platform and the various activities it is engaged in and planning on engaging in support of aid effectiveness in ARD. As part of this, discussions will be held on the topics of the Platform support to CAADP in Ireland, the Netherlands, France (OECD-DAC) and eventually Germany (BMZ). On one hand these information seminars shall promote the awareness of the member organisations on the Platform support measures for CAADP. On the other hand they shall advocate for CAADP and the new emerging CAADP Trust Fund. The trip is planned from 12-22 May. Besides the Secretariat, NEPAD/CAADP representation is desired. Because of conflicting schedules, NEPAD will not be able to participate and they, instead, agreed the Platform to extend invitations of participation to ECOWAS and COMESA. Yihenew will contact the two RECs to identify an adequate representative. Brian invited Yihenew to see to it that he also visits Rome based organisations (e.g., IFAD) and engage in discussions with senior experts possibly as part of the current tour of Europe or sometime during the summer. Yihenew accepted the invitation with thanks.

e) Africa Forum: Yihenew informed the participants about the upcoming 12th Africa Forum initiated by the GTZ. Africa Forum is a platform for ARD practitioners for shared learning and information exchange. NEPAD Agricultural unit is also involved in the preparatory process of this year's event, which will take place in Addis from 29th September to 03 October 2008. Yihenew, too, is involved in the planning process of the event with the objective of forging links between Africa Forum, NEPAD/CAADP and the Platform.



Brian thanked Yihenew for this comprehensive overview on the issues of CAADP and asked him to put it into writing, which will be circulated among the Platform Board. Christoph Kohlmeyer emphasised the meaning of the multi donor trust fund as a good instrument for policy dialogue. He also pointed out that this is an excellent tool to contribute to better donor coordination and alignment behind the African partners. Christoph informed the participants that BMZ has allocated 3,3 million for CAADP. Two million went to the GTZ to support CAADP and CAADP focus in Africa Forum. According to Christoph all financial allocation for CAADP shall go through this fund in the future. He has communicated with the Minister in Germany asking for further financial commitments for this fund.

Topic 3: Platform's response to the rising food prices

The rising food prices have captured the focus of the media and the development agencies and other international actors in the last few weeks. The World Bank's spring meeting, the letter of Gordon Brown, the IFPRI studies are just a few examples. The Focal Points of the Platform are under increasing pressure to react to the situation. Christoph Kohlmeyer suggested that the Platform reacts to the situation jointly as a network instead of leaving each of the members' institution to deal with the issue single handed. Taken the large work load of the Secretariat connected to the preparations for Accra, Christoph Kohlmeyer proposed that a colleague of his, Christoph Eichen will volunteer to work on the preparation of a joint paper (Platform Policy Brief) on the rising food prices. Christoph Eichen will make the first draft of this paper based on materials already available. If Focal Points do have further material or position papers, this should be sent to Christoph Eichen (Christoph.eichen@bmz.bund.de) with a copy to the Secretariat (Christoph.langenkamp@donorplatform.org). Christoph Kohlmeyer and John Barrett will support him in this task. A first draft shall be available for discussion on a VC. Experts like Joachim von Braun, Alexander Müller, and all Focal Points interested shall be invited to this VC. The paper will be finalised after the VC in early May as a Platform Policy Paper.

Due to the small representation of the SC at this VC, it was suggested that Christoph Kohlmeyer circulates this proposal in a written form among the SC/Board allowing the members to voice their opinion on it. The communication will also mention the need of prioritisation of the Secretariat activities due to the large work load. The Secretariat has expressed its readiness to assist in this matter.

Topic 3: Opportunities of appointing a secondment to the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the opportunity for an international secondment into the Secretariat. Two core areas of activity could be envisaged: Firstly manage the Platform in finalisation and dissemination of the Joint Principles or secondly, advance the position of agriculture in the international climate change debate. It was decided that the member organisations shall be informed about this opportunity and to encourage them to identify persons within their organisations.

Topic 4: Any other businesses

- Focal Point gap at FAO: Christoph Kohlmeyer is in contact with Alexander Müller in FAO with respect to appointing a new Platform Focal Point. So far the Platform had its Focal Point at the FAO investment centre since EU funding was channelled through it. Now it is important to establish a good link with the FAO policy branch. Brian will assume this task and contact the policy group informally having in vision Costas as a Focal Point.
- The next SC VC will be held in the week of 5th May and will particularly focus on the progress of the Accra preparations.
- Brian will be in Bonn on 16 May during the HLF Capacity Development Days.



- The agenda items not discussed during this VC will be transferred to the next SC VC.
- The Secretariat will follow up on the agenda item "copyright of the Platform publications" by email.

To Dos/Follow up:

Item	By when	lead
Elaborate the first draft of input to the progress report on aid effectiveness	15/16.04	Brian Baldwin (BB) and Christoph Langenkamp (CL)
Circulate the draft among the Board	16.04	CL
Ask the organisers for a deadline extension	16.04	CL
Contact African Development Bank to extend the Kigali invitation to CAADP	This week	BB
Advance the list of possible invitees for the regional consultations	This week	FPs to send proposals to CL, CL to send the list to organisers
Identify persons in member organisations, who can dedicate some time to work for the Platform preparatory process towards HLF		
Communicate the interest for having a poster at the marketplace	asap	BB
Circulate the proposal of preparing a joint Platform response to rising food prices	This week	Christoph Kohlmeyer
Organise a VC of experts on food prices	asap	Secretariat
Communicate to the FP on the opportunity to appoint a secondment to the Secretariat		
Contact the FAO policy group informally on the matter of appointing a Focal Point		BB
Organise the next SC VC in the week of 5 May	This week	Secretariat