



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

19th Steering Committee Meeting via video conference

May 29, 2008, 16:00-18:00 CET

Minutes

Participants:

Chair: Brian Baldwin (IFAD)

Willem Olthof representing Marc Debois (EC), Richard Moberly representing John Barrett (DFID), Nwanze Okidegbe (WB), Susan Thompson (USAID);

Platform Secretariat: Sonja Bartelt, Ada Hakobyan (minutes), Christoph Langenkamp, Daniel Gerecke

Agenda:

1. **Status of the Platform harvesting exercise and the next steps**
2. **Platform publication layout concerning the logos and copyright statement**
3. **Upcoming Platform meetings: General Assembly and SC retreat**
4. **Membership development**
5. **Updates** (partly postponed due to time constraints)

Topic 1: Platform harvesting exercise (background and the next steps)

Christoph Langenkamp gave a short update on the content and the timeline of the harvesting exercise. The newly elected Board of the Platform agreed in December 2007 at the annual meeting to launch this exercise with the objective to consolidate the Platform's experiences and lessons learned. These experiences will be processed and disseminated to selected stakeholders in a target group oriented format.

The harvesting exercise consists of the following three sets of experiences and lessons learned: a) the Platform as an evolving and learning network, b) Platform commissioned publications and studies, and c) Platform's in-country facilitation. The Platform evaluation findings will feed into the first set. At the end a synthesis report will be drawn from all three sets of experiences. As part of the following dissemination strategy, the Platform plans to have three regional dissemination workshops to bring the findings of the harvesting exercise to its end users. The Africa workshop is planned for this year. The Latin American and Asian workshops will take place in early 2009.

The SC asked for clarification on the process of the harvesting as it was not entirely clear why the exercise had already started. It was agreed that the Secretariat would synthesise the processes to date, going back up to the Board meeting on March 14 in Brussels. The Secretariat will also circulate the ToRs and the work in progress for comments and agreement on the way forward.

Where we stand now:

Within the Secretariat, Christoph leads the overall exercise, Sonja the in-country harvesting exercise.

- The draft concept presented on March 14 to the Board has been finalised without further changes;
- Richard Anson has led the in April in Nicaragua and already presented the report on April 10 to the Secretariat;
- Klaus Talvela (working under his existing Platform contract) was asked to provide information on the four pilot countries as basis for analysis;

- Sonja has started deriving the first draft analysis on the in-country harvesting report;
- ToR for the overall synthesis has been drawn up. Michael Wales has agreed to lead this exercise. His contract is arranged for a 45-day period, including extra time to support our work around the policy briefs and Accra.
- In terms of output to date therefore, only the in-country harvesting exercise has got underway; there has been no progress on either the Annex 2 TOR (Platform publications/studies) or annex 4 (the dissemination package).

Topic 2: Platform publication layout concerning the copyright and logos

Copyright: The participants agreed on the copyright statement for the Platform commissioned studies, which the Secretariat had drafted. It states that the Platform publications are joint analysis and are not copyright protected. The Platform encourages duplication of its materials for non-commercial purposes when proper citation is placed on the first page.

In addition, the participants decided to have a disclaimer stating: "the views expressed in the publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the individual organisations". The disclaimer shall be put on the content page.

Placement of the logos: The Platform currently prepares to publish some of the studies it has commissioned over the last year. It has been discussed how the logos of the lead-organisations shall be posted on these publications. In his mail of April 24, Daniel Gerecke provided three possible options and asked the SC for their decision. The suggested options were:

- 1. Place the Platform logo alone on the front cover** of publications and recognise the various contributing member organisations by placing their logos on the back cover with the text "produced by", "financed by", and more explicitly in the preface.
- 2. Place the Platform logo in the upper right corner and the logos of the various actively contributing member organisations in the lower left corner of the front cover.**
- 3. Place all logos** - the Platform's and the contributing member organisations' ones - **on the same level at the top of the front cover.**

The summary of the discussion was that having the logo of the Platform alone on the front cover supported the view that the publication was a JOINT Platform product and all the member organisations, contributing or otherwise, were 'de facto' part of the Platform and therefore inherently "part" of the Platform logo and therefore need no further attribution on the front cover. The other view expressed for having the logos of actively contributing member organisations on the front cover as well (at the bottom left) was based on the need of the main contributors to be identified and visibly associated with the respective study. An opinion was expressed that this could potentially give a misleading impression of the role of any one member in the Platform.

The SC decided to exclude Version 3 and, after a wide ranging & useful discussion, it was agreed that the decision concerning version 1 or 2 would be postponed until two missing SC members (Mushtaq Ahmed and Florence Lasbennes) give their opinion, to ensure that we had a consensus decision.

Subsequently, both Mushtaq (email June 2) and Florence Lasbennes (email June 10), have agreed that version 2 be accepted as Platform layout. The decision has therefore been taken to utilise this format for the CSO & other publications that are pending. It was agreed that the discussion however shall not end here but should be revisited periodically.

The proposed back cover was accepted without any changes.

Topic 3: Upcoming Platform meetings:

General Assembly: Sonja Bartelt introduced shortly two different concepts for the upcoming General Assembly, which is to be hosted by the Swiss Development Cooperation in Geneva. The concept A sees the main objective of the General Assembly in information sharing and facilitated discussions on some key topics. In this framework, selected

organisation would be able to present and discuss their responses to the current trends in political agenda concerning ARD. The concept B suggests a more result-oriented meeting, which focuses on jointly advancing Platform activities. Concept B also foresees a short report on the progress and evaluation results shall also find their place at the two-day meeting.

The participants confirmed that the presentation of the evaluation results should be a central topic at the meeting. Based on that, it would be necessary to reflect a little bit on the further development of the Platform activities. A short update on the harvesting exercise and other major activities should also be part of the meeting. However, the General Assembly shall not be limited to the Platform activities only.

It was suggested to use the meeting to reflect on the policy measures and investment decisions that had been taken at the recent high level forums. The questions such as what it means to have the agriculture in the middle of political attention and how these decisions influence the technical implementation level could be discussed at the meeting. Another suggestion was to make a stock-taking on the progress of donor coordination and collaboration. In this context the bottlenecks and possible ways for further improvement the could be identified. The Platform evaluation can feed into these discussions. It was proposed to come up with a communiqué after the meeting, which will outline how the Platform goes ahead with the points mentioned above. The participants also advised not to have a crowded agenda and leave more space for substantial discussions and networking.

Dates: The proposed time for the meeting is late October or early November. The preference was given to early November. The Secretariat will check with the other major events in order to avoid date collision. It should be avoided to start the meeting on Monday.

It was agreed to build a task force to guide the preparation process. The task force currently consist of Willi Graf (host), Nwanze Okidegbe, Sonja Bartelt and Ada Hakobyan. Other SC members are welcome to join.

Next steps: the Secretariat will revise the concept of the meeting according to the proposals made and discuss it with the task force. Sonja Bartelt will contact Willi Graf to coordinate the timing of the meeting.

SC Retreat: Brian Baldwin suggested having a SC retreat in early July to do a mid-term review of the Platform work plan and start planning the second half. This meeting will also give an opportunity to discuss the results of the evaluation in detail and to reflect in which ways decisions need to be taken before the General Assembly. The participants agreed to have a 1,5/2 day meeting. The location shall be central for easy reach. Possible cities are Brussels, Paris and London. The Secretariat will set a doodle for voting the date.

Topic 4: Membership development

Brian Baldwin gave an update on the further development of Platform membership. At the Capacity Development meeting in Bonn on May 15th/16th JICA expressed its interest to receive more information about the Platform and its activities. Sonja Bartelt followed up with this request and sent a package of materials and a letter detailing membership opportunities. Spain also expressed its interest through Mark Cackler to become a member. The SC welcomed JICA's and Spain's interest and agreed to accept the membership request if they decided to become a full member.

Topic 5: Update on the policy brief "rising food prices"

Christoph Langenkamp informed the participants that the deadline for comments on the policy brief "rising food prizes" has passed. The comments will be consolidated and the revised version will be circulated for final endorsement. The paper will put more emphasis on the policy recommendations and less on the analytical part.

The participants took the opportunity to provide some more comments and suggestions for the paper. It was mentioned that the recommendations three (agrofuels) and four (fast impact programmes) were not clear enough. Another suggestion was to split the recommendation eight into two different recommendations: one on risk management and one on social protection.

Christoph Langenkamp will forward the comments received at this VC to the drafting team.

To Dos/Follow up:

Item	By when	lead
Send the ToR, contracts and a short note about the harvesting exercise to the SC	asap	SB/CL
Ask Florence and Mushtaq for their views on the logo question	asap	BB
Send a Doodle for the date for the SC Retreat	asap	SB
Revise the concept for the General Assembly based on the comments received	13.06	SB/AH
Coordinate with Willi for possible dates for the General Assembly	13.06	SB/AH
Pass the comments on the policy paper "rising food prices" to the drafting team	9.06	CL