



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

# MINUTES INFORMAL BOARD MEETING

DATE: 16 JUNE 2022

## PARTICIPANTS

### Board Members:

- Ammad Bahalim, Gates Foundation
- Boris Büchler, GIZ (as observer)
- Bruce Campbell, Switzerland
- Chris Penrose-Buckley, United Kingdom
- Conrad Rein, European Commission
- Fabrizio Moscatelli, Gates Foundation
- Federica de Gaetano, Italy
- Manon Bellon, France
- Ron Hartman, IFAD
- Sanna-Liisa Taivalmaa, Finland
- Sung Lee, United States
- Tristan Armstrong, Australia
- Wilma van Esch, the Netherlands

### Other participants:

- Stefanos Fotiou, FAO
- Nadine Gbossa, IFAD

### GDPRD Secretariat:

- Maurizio Navarra
- Michelle Tang
- Alessandro Cordova
- Lise Saga
- Luca Passacantilli
- Sierra Diane Berardelli
- Jim Woodhill

## AGENDA

| Issue | Item  | Details                        |
|-------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1.    | Welcome and Introduction  | Co-Chairs, GDPRD Secretariat   |
| 2.    | Strategic conversation on future orientation of the Donor Platform, including knowledge, advocacy, consensus-building | GDPRD Secretariat              |
| 3.    | Stocktaking report on country-level coordination for national pathways  | Jim Woodhill                   |
| 4.    | Progress update on Food Systems Coordination Hub  | Stefanos Fotiou, Nadine Gbossa |
| 5.    | Updates on GDPRD, Communications  | GDPRD Secretariat              |
| 6.    | AOB and closing   | GDPRD Secretariat              |

# KEY HIGHLIGHTS/ISSUES

## 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

## 2. STRATEGIC CONVERSATION ON FUTURE ORIENTATION OF THE DONOR PLATFORM, INCLUDING KNOWLEDGE, ADVOCACY AND CONSENSUS-BUILDING

### Purpose of section:

The Secretariat aims to take stock of the Board's view on the evolution of the Platform over the last few years, the Platform's current work and its direction moving forward.

### Issues discussed:

- The AGA demonstrated the Platform's ability to convene and provide opportunities for discussion around donor coordination and the current global food security hot topics. **[European Commission, Finland, GIZ, IFAD, Switzerland]**
- The Platform has made progress over the years, becoming increasingly active with IFAD as the host. **[Australia, European Commission, Finland, IFAD]**
- The Platform must continue to add value – there is a need for the continued role of a safe space for informal sharing and maintaining the Platform's niche, while not duplicating efforts of others. **[Australia, European Commission, France, Gates Foundation, Switzerland, United Kingdom]**
- The Platform plays an important role in making data and information digestible and consolidated to inform different actors and facilitate coordination. **[Australia, Finland, GIZ]**
- The Platform should maintain a food systems lens and long-term oriented goal while also responding to and informing about current crisis. **[European Commission, France, Switzerland, Netherlands]**
- The current crisis is accelerating the need for action by donors and the importance of the Platform. **[Finland, IFAD]**
- The Platform's ability to facilitate coordination should be piloted at the country-level and the Platform should support work on national pathways, by identifying and sharing information on good practices. **[Australia, Finland, Italy, the Netherlands]**
- The exercise of the Stocktaking Report on Donor Contributions to Food Systems could be repeated on a regular basis. **[Gates Foundation, Jim Woodhill]**
- The Platform could consider the AGA as a space for convening with other stakeholders, but the Platform should maintain its informality to ensure it doesn't duplicate other existing processes, such as CFS. **[Australia, Finland, France, Gates Foundation, Switzerland]**
- A new web-based recommendations database was presented. The database presents recommendations of key global reports around food systems and sorted by thematic areas. These are then synthesised into higher-level clustered recommendations. One can search by thematic areas, keywords or by report. The Secretariat staff will maintain the database. The initial work has been done and new reports will be added before being launched. There was a small cost related to the development of the software, which was reflected in the budget of this year. A calendar for report launch dates was suggested. **[Jim Woodhill, Maurizio]**

### Action Point:

- Share information about the food systems recommendations data base.

### 3. PRESENTATION ON STOCKTAKING REPORT ON COUNTRY-LEVEL COORDINATION FOR NATIONAL PATHWAYS

#### **Purpose of section:**

The Platform has focused on analytical work at the country-level. Stocktaking on good-practices/guidelines on coordination at the country level and levers for taking forward the national pathways, including Member's roles and key policy issues will be conducted.

#### **Issues discussed:**

- The national pathways should be the thematic or strategic guidance for stocktaking, within a food systems lens, without becoming too broad. **[France, GIZ, Netherlands]**
- The framing should be on donor coordination at the country level, but can open up dialogue between countries, bringing back a menu of ideas for donors to listen to. Attention should be on demand-driven approaches to understand what countries need and how donors can support processes of national pathways for food systems transformation. The stocktaking will be an opportunity for Platform members to make greater connections with their country-level staff. **[Finland, Netherlands]**
- The Platform must consider others' perspectives while forming a strategic position, including actors that donors are not in contact with and being aware of other development projects happening. There needs to be a consideration for how the donor recipient relationship dynamic has transformed and is continuing to change and adapt. **[Australia, France]**
- County-level projects have been explored by the Platform in the past (such as CAADP) and should be considered when deciding how to move forward. **[European Commission, France, Netherlands]**
- It will be important to consider the regional level, when analysing the country level, because of the centrality of programmes such as CAADP and other regional mechanisms. **[Netherlands]**
- After initial scoping, Platform Members should discuss emerging challenges, issues, directions and the significance for future strategies. A webinar series could bring the information from the stocktaking into rounds of discussion on specific country experiences. **[GIZ]**

#### **Action Point:**

- An updated plan for stocktaking of country-level coordination considering these proposed elements will be shared, including criteria for country-selection.

### 4. PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE FOOD SYSTEMS COORDINATION HUB

#### **Purpose of section:**

A presentation of the Food Systems Coordination Hub [Annex 1] was made to inform Board Members of its development and possible synergies.

- The Platform needs to find its niche in cooperating with the Hub, since there are not enough resources to be involved in everything. **[Finland]**
- There are a lot of synergies with the Platforms' work regarding data and country-level coordination, with regards to food system investments at national level and in general on taking forward the agenda of the Hub at the country-level. **[Jim Woodhill]**
- The Hub interacts with the CFS and the science group of the Food Systems Summit as well as other relevant actors. The Hub is putting together the Stakeholder Engagement and Networking Advisory (SENA) Group, which will include representatives from the private sector, farmers, youth, women, indigenous people and the scientific technological community. **[Nadine Gbossa, Stefanos Fotiou]**

## 5. UPDATES ON GDPR, COMMUNICATIONS

### Purpose of section:

The Secretariat provided updates on different work streams, including on coalitions, communications work, and future dialogues for consideration.

- A hybrid Senior Managers Meeting will be held in October, back-to-back with the CFS50. In-person participation is highly welcomed and encouraged. **[Maurizio]**
- The Zero Hunger Coalition held meetings during the AGA, and Board Members were asked about their engagement. There was agreement that the Coalition is an important component to the post-Summit puzzle, and the Platform could play a role in ensuring efforts are not duplicated and to avoid redundancy. Board members are following a number of Coalitions and some do not have resources to participate in the Zero Hunger Coalition as well. **[European Commission, Finland, France, GIZ, United States, Switzerland]**
- Before the war in Ukraine, focus areas moving away from the food systems agenda, such as agroecology, territorial and rural development, were discussed. The future focus of the Platform on food systems, using the White Paper as a guiding framework, will be discussed as part of the horizon scanning in the Senior Managers Meeting. **[Maurizio, United Kingdom]**
- As an ongoing effort to collaborate with others, the Platform has been opening channels with the CFS, the Zero Hunger Coalition, and the Food Systems Coordination Hub to inform about the Platform's work. It is important to stay connected with all these entities in an informal way. **[Maurizio]**
- A series of E-dialogues have been proposed on the topic of inclusion and equity in food systems. This presents an opportunity for the Platform to partner with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and a group of partners. This would be a set of online dialogues on issues around youth and gender. **[Jim Woodhill]**
- The "Foresight4Food" initiative will focus on scenario analysis for food systems transformation, including analytical work in five countries. **[Jim Woodhill]**
- The Platform will launch a special program on financing, as discussed in the February Board Meeting. IFAD has requested to have a conversation together with the World Bank on financing in a crisis environment, potentially in the form of a closed roundtable. **[Maurizio]**
- The Communications Strategy was finalized last month, shared with all Board Members and is published online. The new website will be released in the next two months, as a go-to place for the donor community on issues of rural development and food systems. **[Michelle]**
- The payment of membership fees is ongoing. **[Maurizio]**

### Action Points:

- Share information about the Senior Managers Meeting in October.
- Share information on a series of E-dialogues on inclusion and equity of food systems.
- The "Foresight4Food" initiative should be presented further in a future Board Meeting.
- A proposal regarding a roundtable on financing will be shared with Board Members.
- A detailed concept note on the European Development Days event organized by France on 22 June from 9:40-10:40 CET on food security in times of crisis and the role of development partners will be shared with Board Members.
- Members can provide feedback on the Platform's new website following its launch.

## 6. AOB AND CLOSING

- Agreement by Board Members that Conrad Rein will continue the Chairmanship position Co-Chair. **[Secretariat]**

- The next meeting will be in conjunction with the Senior Manager's Meeting in October. If the Board feels it will be necessary, the Secretariat can arrange another. **[Secretariat]**

## **ANNEX 1: PRESENTATION BY STEFANOS FOTIOU AND NADINE GBOSSA ON THE FOOD SYSTEMS COORDINATION HUB**

### **[Stefanos Fotiou]**

- The architecture of the follow-up to the UN Food Systems Summit (FSS) is based on country-level platforms led by governments, which will be multi-stakeholder. Each country involved has a trial group including a UNFSS convenor (high-level government official, usually from a Ministry), a UN food systems coordinator and a country team from FAO or WFP. The oversight is led by the Rome-Based Agencies (RBA) Unit. The Hub will attempt to serve as a coordination function to the ecosystem of support including coalitions, partners of action areas, the science community and other stakeholders.
- The Hub completed country surveys to map country needs for the proceedings of the national pathways, which underlined the need for differentiated support in the short- and long-term. The short-term milestone is the 2023 stocktaking in November/December. The long-term milestone is to achieve the Agenda 2030.
- For the short-term support the countries need (1) funding and financing; (2) monitoring; (3) communication and advocacy; and (4) knowledge and technical expertise:
  - (1) The Hub will not become a funding agency, but encourage a diversified resource mobilisation, including existing institutions and seed funding to maintain food system structures that are established in the country. At the country-level there is an expectation to develop financing investment plans for their pathways.
  - (2) The countries requested the establishment of national baselines for tracking mainstreaming in SDGs through food system transformation.
  - (3) Countries have requested the Hub's guidance on creating a global framework to measure milestones, which will keep the momentum on food systems transformation. The Hub will advocate for the concept of food systems as more understandable and popular to the general population.
  - (4) The countries have requested a peer-to-peer exchanges to connect country needs with expertise support by maintaining active dialogues with the UN system, the Hub, and other stakeholders involved.

### **[Nadine Gbossa]**

- Introducing Nadine Gbossa, the Director of the Food Systems Summit Coordination at IFAD, working on the means of implementation and specifically the financing in the Food Systems Coordination Hub.
- IFAD made four commitments to the Food Systems Summit follow-up: (1) To contribute to the setup and functioning of the Hub by allocating resources and providing grants. (2) To lead on anything related to finance for food systems transformation by leveraging the resources of other agencies. (3) Lead the Public Development Bank Coalition and the Coalition on Decent Work and Living Incomes and Wages. (4) Mainstreaming food system transformation in terms of loans and grants.
- The Hub has three objectives for finance; (1) to make sure there is a common framework to ensure proper allocation of financing for food systems transformation; (2) to work towards the same targets as identified by countries; and (3) to work with selected funders to ensure their involvement.