

Board Meeting

Berlin, 15 June 2018, 9:00hrs – 13:45hrs CEST

Minutes

Participants

Board members: Patrick Herlant (EC), Shantanu Mathur (IFAD), Bernhard Worm (BMZ), David Hegwood and Meredith McCormack (USAID), Oriane Barthélemy (MEAE France), Marjaana Pekkola (Finland), Ammad Bahalim (BMGF), Ueli Mauderli (SDC), Marco Platzer and Emanuela Benini (IADC), Edson Mpyisi (AfDB)

Platform Secretariat: Reinhild Ernst, Marion Thompson, Laura Barrington, Romy Sato, Jedi Bukachi

Apologies: Julie Delforce (DFAT Australia), Iris Krebber (DFID), Monique Calon (MFA Netherlands)

Agenda

1. Welcome and action points of Berlin AGA and Agenda for the day
2. Presentation of the decisions and action points of the last Board meeting
3. End of assignment report, Shantanu Mathur
4. Strategic Plan implementation and work streams – highlights 2018 (presentation by Secretariat)
5. Strategic discussion on way forward for SDG 2 roadmap and Rural Youth engagement at the Platform
6. Budget and finance issues, Secretariat staffing
7. Membership and partnership requests
8. Election of co-chair
9. AOB and closing remarks

Agenda item	Discussions, Decisions and Agreements
1. Welcome and action points of Berlin AGA Agenda of the day	<p>The co-chairs opened the meeting commenting on the positive messages from the AGA that have given the Board an opportunity to reflect about the future work of the Platform.</p> <p>The agenda for the Board meeting was agreed without any changes.</p>
2. Presentation of the decisions and action points of the last Board meeting	<p>An update was given on the previous Board meeting action points as follows: <u>Draft work plan 2018:</u> Decision on whether to establish a youth work stream. The decision on this can be found under agenda point 5 of these minutes. Members to elaborate G7 and G20 collaboration, after which a line will be added to the Work Plan Output 4.</p>



	<p>The Secretariat did not receive input from any Board member. In case Board members would like a follow-up, they would have to indicate how they want to approach this issue.</p> <p><u>Budget and finance issues:</u></p> <p>Secretariat to initiate an invitation for members to join the Budget Group:</p> <p>Oriane Barthélemy (MEAE France) and Meredith McCormack (USAID) joined Iris Krebber (DFID) as members of the budget group.</p> <p>Secretariat to distribute the 2017 external audit report to Board members:</p> <p>The audit report was sent to all Board members in the last week of May 2018.</p> <p>Members to contact secretariat about their 2018 contributions:</p> <p>Overview of the status of contributions was shared with Board members and discussion held under agenda topic 6 of these minute “budget and finance issues”</p> <p>Secretariat to review and, if required, adjust 2018 indicative budget pending result of contributions by 31 March, communicate result to 1) Budget Group 2) Board:</p> <p>Secretariat provided update on the status of contributions, budget, and communication with the budget group under the agenda topic 6 “budget and finance issues”</p> <p><u>AOB:</u></p> <p>Request to include the support to the SDG2 roadmap initiative into Output 1 of the Platform Work Plan: BMZ to work with the secretariat in clarifying the scope of support requested. A follow up meeting with the Board to be planned once this is done.</p> <p>Discussion on this can be found under agenda point 5 of these minutes “strategic discussion on way forward for SDG2 roadmap and Rural Youth engagement at the Platform”.</p> <p>The secretariat has taken over the role of facilitator for the SDG2 Roadmap Group. Physical meetings have taken place in Washington DC on 24 April 2018 and in Berlin on 12 June 2018. Additionally, a teleconference took place on 18 May 2018. USAID also informed the membership during the members’ session at the AGA on 14 June 2018 about the initiative.</p>
<p>3. End of assignment report, Shantanu Mathur. Board considers suggestions for improvements in the Platform</p>	<p>Outgoing co-chair Shantanu Mathur of IFAD gave his end of assignment reflections, stating that over the last couple of years, more people have learned what the GDPRD is, as we have been present at high-level events and took on the Strategic Initiative Agenda 2030 very quickly. There are few places where donors come together to develop strategic ideas and coherence on the rural/development transformation agenda and this is the value of the Platform.</p> <p><u>Ideas for the future:</u></p> <p>The Platform now has more diversified members (e.g. foundations), and the question is, what will the profile of the Platform look like as it continues to grow? Identifying the benefits and costs of diversifying the membership is important, and one major benefit is the increased funding sources but there is a need to also maintain coherence and not completely restructure the way the Platform works.</p>



	<p>Co-chairmanship should continue be made up of an established member of the Platform alongside a focal point with less exposure to the Platform, so that there is continuous learning and coaching and also institutional memory with long-term experience embedded within the co-chairmanship role.</p> <p>GDPRD could do even more to bring coherence and action to Agenda 2030 beyond discussions. SDG2 roadmap initiative is good example of going forward in a practical way.</p> <p>The Platform could sharpen its focus, so that there is a shared theme or red thread in the different products and activities taking place.</p> <p>The youth agenda cannot be left at AGA level, and needs to be followed up explicitly.</p> <p>On the financing side, members are honoring their contributions, which saw predictability for the Platform. It would be ideal if members could keep this trend going and secure multi-year funding, as a normal modality of engagement.</p> <p>It is foreseen that Torben Nilson, IFAD will take an active role in the Platform on behalf of IFAD after Shantanu leaves his role as co-chair, though he will continue to engage in a personal capacity, from time to time. He wishes the Platform well as coherence of donor collective policy/strategy assumes greater importance, in the delivery of the 2030 Agenda.</p>
<p>4. Strategic Plan implementation and work streams – highlights 2018 (presentation by secretariat)</p>	<p><u>Decisions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regularly share a table with updates/upcoming Platform activities and relevant events with all members, so that they can get engaged in activities, mobilise relevant colleagues in their institutions and exchange expertise even before the activity/event takes place. 2. Board requested that definitions and criteria (markers) for the different forms of Platform’s activities and actors, e.g. working groups and partners, be established to ensure more clarity for the development of the Platform’s work plan. 3. The nutrition topic will no longer be a work stream at the Platform since the SUN network is covering this. 4. USAID proposed that they would become the interface (information point) between the Development Partners Coordination Group (DPCG) on CAADP and the Platform, therefore the role of the secretariat will be limited to updating the information on CAADP on the Platform website and share the most relevant information with the Platform members. 5. The Platform should discontinue its analysis on financial commitments and instruments on ARD finance, as the topic has already been sufficiently documented. When GIZ publishes their report on this topic it should be made available for the members. 6. The work on climate finance will continued with MEAE France in the lead, with the idea to hold an expert consultation at an upcoming climate summit. Decision on this work stream to be made after this event. France also suggested to compile a compendium on donors’ activities on climate finance, comparable with the one on Rural Youth.



Discussion

The Board was informed of the activities of the current thematic working groups and other member activities. The co-chairs asked the Board members which work streams to continue. Several Board members called for limiting the number of thematic working groups (BMZ) to focus resources and recommended that the Platform should only share meeting information and reports from other networks focusing on rural development topics (DPCG, SUN, SAFIN etc.), but not conduct related Platform activities.

In addition the Board requested that definitions and criteria for the different forms of the Platform's activities and actors, e.g. working groups and partners, be established to ensure more clarity for the development of the Platform's work plan. Finland referred to the Platform's Strategic Plan 2016-2020, which is the outcome of a comprehensive external evaluation and consultation process, pointing out that the Board should be careful not to contradict previous decisions.

The EC commented that the Platform needs a new narrative, going beyond agriculture and having new elements like youth and food systems. IADC agreed and added that the aspect of social responsibility is important, and there is the need to look at how poor people are reinventing their way of living by going back to agriculture, and stated that picking up on those interesting voices is within the scope of the Platform. It was also felt that the youth approach, as well as territorial and value chain approaches could be more visibly addressed. AfDB agreed and mentioned that agriculture has to be seen as a profitable business or agribusiness as part of the youth topic. Additionally, the topic of financing the food system (including finance for youth and women farmers) should be addressed.

USAID and BMZ agreed that the sharing exercise on current and future programs during the members' session was very helpful. They recommended that having more such strategic meetings would enable donor coherence and potential collaboration opportunities. France reiterated, and explained that the compendium exercise is also a good example of members sharing about their work.

SDC felt that there is a need to stay broad as the policy environment changes and evolves quickly. Thus, the work plan needs to remain flexible enough to respond accordingly.

BMZ and EC shared their interest in the topic of territorial approaches and their ongoing collaboration on this issue will continue the initiative takers (CIRAD, BMZ, FAO, EU) are finalizing a white paper and future events will be used to present the paper to various stakeholders (both internal and external to the organization) to further develop the paper with concrete examples. By end of 2018 the platform would then be in the position to assess whether it should play a more active role in promoting/developing territorial approaches.



<p>5. Strategic discussion on way forward for SDG2 roadmap and Rural Youth engagement at the Platform</p>	<p>Decisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. SDG2 roadmap initiative is to remain an informal ‘workstream’ under the Platform’s Strategic Initiative Agenda 2030.2. The topic of rural youth will be covered at the Platform initially through a collaboration between AfDB and IADC with USAID and NORAD. These donors should define the scope of the topic and propose activities/strategies to pursue. The group will later inform the Board of the level of interest such that it can be reviewed to grow into a work stream if needed. <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>Youth</p> <p>For the topic of Youth, the Board members discussed several options, combining it with another working group (BMZ, IADC), introducing it as cross-cutting topic like gender (IFAD, AfDB, MEAE France) or creating a working group (USAID). It was recognised that the topic of youth does not have a dedicated platform or network in the development community yet.</p> <p>SDG2 roadmap initiative</p> <p>The agenda of the SDG2 Roadmap developed from discussions between the group members on topics for immediate collaborative action. The agenda will evolve over time with any member able to propose new SDG2-related activities, to be managed by different constellations of members (subgroups). The group is informal, with no formal group description nor governance structure and intends to continue to work this way, but will be glad to share group outputs with all members. The group is meeting sporadically. The secretariat was asked to provide logistical support and has officially started to support the group since January 17th 2018. There are no requirements nor obligations to participate in all activities, although to be considered a member active participation is expected in at least one SDG2-related activities USAID hopes to supplement annual contribution to the Secretariat for their support work by about USD 50.000 – i.e. doubling their current contribution.</p> <p>SDG2-related activities are initiated and led by the group members. Current activities include Research (EC), Productivity and Sustainability (BMZ), Data gap (USAID) and agricultural programme mapping (DFID). The Productivity and Sustainability subgroup is working on identifying highest impact interventions and the “Theory of Change”. The data gap subgroup is currently assessing the possibility of a high-level event at UNGA (funding by Gates Foundation). The agricultural programme mapping subgroup plans to commission a scoping exercise before the summer break. USAID suggests awaiting the outcome of the scoping exercise before the Board makes a decision on whether the Platform should host the map on its website. Not all subgroups have background documents. The Data gap subgroup does and USAID can send it to the Board.</p>
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<p>6. Budget and finance issues, secretariat staffing</p>	<p>Note: Board members have been provided detailed overviews regarding agenda item 6.</p>
<p>(i) Financial Contributions 2018 and outlook</p>	<p>(i) Financial Contributions 2018 and outlook</p> <p>Regarding 2018, there are currently 10 signed contributions (AfDB, DFAT Australia, Bill and Melina Gates Foundation, DIFD, EC, BMZ, France-MEAE, NL-MFA, SDC, USAID) while 3 agreements in the pipeline: Finland-MFA, IFAD and IADC.</p> <p>Global Affairs Canada (GAC) has informed the Secretariat in May that at this time they are not in a position to contribute financially, however, GAC expresses hope that they will have more clarity about possible future contributions within the next few months. Regarding the World Bank, there still is no indication if and when they will re-establish contributing financially to the Platform. Both, GAC and WB have last provided a financial contribution regarding Platform member year 2015.</p> <p>Provided that the 3 aforementioned agreements come to signature, the Board would be comprised of 13 members in 2018.</p> <p>Regarding 2019, thus far 4 members have signed a contribution: DFAT Australia, EC, BMZ and SDC. One agreement is in the pipeline with Finland-MFA.</p> <p>The EC and the BMZ continue to render significantly higher contributions to the Platform than the yearly minimum, which the majority of Board members contribute (min. € 50.000 p.a.). In order to break with old patterns and for improved financial dynamic, the BMZ requested that Board members consider and check with their respective institution if they can increase their yearly financial contribution to the Platform and report this to the secretariat.</p> <p>The Secretariat cited the 2016-2020 Platform Strategic Plan (Annex 3) regarding core and supplemental funding. Board members are further encouraged to mobilize supplemental funding to support a specific work stream. USAID indicated that they intent to provide supplemental funding towards the SDG2 roadmap initiative. Finland-MFA recommended that in case of in-kind contributions (i.e. contributions provided without direct financial flow through the secretariat) the actual final amount of the in-kind contribution should be reported in the overall Platform progress/annual reporting.</p>
<p>(ii) 2018 indicative budget, costs and commitments, proposed adjustments</p>	<p>(ii) 2018 indicative budget, costs and commitments, proposed adjustments</p> <p>The 2018 Platform indicative budget ceiling (approved at the January virtual Board meeting) was reflected against the current status of contributions and roll-over budget from 2017 and further against costs and commitments incurred per accounting status 30 April 2018. This included highlighting several consulting activities amongst others. The Secretariat further informed that to improve the allocation method of project costs, GIZ has introduced in 2018 a new cost allocation method following the causality principle. This foresees that staff pension costs be booked directly to the project (i.e. the Secretariat) where the staff costs are</p>



<p>(iii) Secretariat staffing</p>	<p>incurring instead of distributing them evenly to all GIZ projects as GIZ administrative overhead costs. Thus, overall GIZ administrative overhead costs will at the same time be slightly reduced.</p> <p>Taking current contributions, costs and commitments into account, the budget ceiling envisaged in January 2018 requires a < 1% overall adjustment, reducing the total budget ceiling accordingly.</p> <p>The Secretariat informed that proposed adjustments to the 2018 Platform indicative budget estimates had been previously shared with the Platform Budget Group (France-MEAE, DFID, USIAD) with no objections to the adjustment proposal.</p> <p>Decision taken: The Board approved the proposed adjustments to the 2018 indicative budget. Members will be provided with the adjusted 2018 indicative budget with these Board minutes.</p> <p>(iii) Secretariat staffing The Secretariat presented an overview of current secretariat staffing. It was reported that Christian Mersmann will leave his post as ARD advisor at the end of June. The Board welcomed Laura Barrington as his successor. Also, Martina Karaparusheva, the communication junior advisor, has left the Secretariat and a communication intern has taken over interim her tasks. Due to career development, there will most likely be further changes in staff occurring. The Board recommended to recruit senior advisors to ensure continued highly professional advice and services provided by the Secretariat. It was particularly pointed out that there should always be an international recruitment process for advisor positions at the Secretariat.</p>
<p>7. Membership and partnership requests</p>	<p>Decisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The co-chair (Shantanu Mathur) placed on the table the case of CIHEAM who has expressed interest in closer collaboration with the Platform. Since it is not a donor in the conventional sense it can only be accepted as a partner. The Secretariat to develop and send potential partners a template to fill – expressing an interest to join while articulating their mandate and operational content, and demonstrating that they are responsive to the GDPRD-partner criteria. 2. On the MasterCard Foundation, the Secretariat was asked in a first step to prepare a background information package on the foundation, including their non-profit status, to be shared with Board to provide a better basis for the decision-making process. The Board shall exchange on possibility to extend an offer of membership and dependent on their decision, Ammad Bahalin (BMGF) shall get in touch with Lindsay Wallace from the MasterCard Foundation informally to invite her to become a paying Board member, before in a final step an official letter on behalf of the co-chairs with an invitation to Mastercard to join the Platform as member will be send.



	<p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>The Secretariat informed the Board about the different ways in which partners are involved in the work of the Platform. They usually join working groups on an ad hoc basis, for certain phases of the working group's work plan or even specific activities. They can be considered operational partners. The recommendation is not to limit ourselves with a narrow definition of partners and their role in the Platform, nonetheless, a definition would better clarify their role and benefits. It was pointed out that in addition to defining 'membership', the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan includes in its Annex 4 Partners' engagement principles.</p>
8. Election Co-chair	<p>David Hegwood (USAID), with unanimous support, was prosepctively nominated at as co-chair to succeed Shantanu Mathur (IFAD). David is to consider and discuss internally in the next 2 weeks if he takes up the role of co-chair. His decision will be shared with the Board via email. In case David decides not to take over this position the Platform has to open up the process again and approach other Board members looking for a sucesor.</p>
9. AOB and closing remarks	<p>There was no AOB and the co-chairs closed the meeting thanking the Board members for their participation.</p>

Action Points see next page

Action Points

Agenda Point	Task	Responsible	Timeline
4. Strategic plan implementation and highlights.	Regularly share a table with updates/ upcoming Platform activities and relevant events with all members at an early stage, so that they can get engaged in activities	Secretariat	Continuous
4. Strategic plan implementation and highlights	Create definitions and criteria (markers) for the different forms of the Platform's activities and actors, e.g. working groups and partners	Secretariat and Board members	Asap
5. Strategic discussion on way forward for SDG2 roadmap and Rural Youth engagement at the Platform	AfDB, IADC, USAID and NORAD will work together and define the scope of the youth topic and propose to the Board activities/strategies to pursue.	AfDB, IADC, USAID and NORAD	Ongoing
6. Finances	Following a request by the BMZ, Board members are asked to consider providing increased contributions in the future instead of the yearly minimum of Euro 50.000,00	Board members and secretariat	Initial responses by Board members to the secretariat sought by 20 July 2018
6. Finances	Provide Board members with adjusted 2018 indicative budget	Secretariat	To be forwarded with Board minutes
7. Membership and partnership requests	Secretariat to follow up with MasterCard foundation to gather more information about them and share this with the Board.	Secretariat	Asap