

## Virtual Board Meeting Minutes

15-16 July 2020

### **Participants – Day 1**

**Platform Co-Chairs:** David Hegwood (USAID), Conrad Rein (EC).

**Board Members:** Ammad Bahalim (BMGF), Fabrizio Moscatelli (BMGF), Bernhard Worm (BMZ), Oriane Barthélemy (MEFA France), Ron Hartman (IFAD), Sanna-Liisa Taivalmaa (MFA Finland), Tristan Armstrong (DFAT), Iris Krebber (DFID), Meredith McCormack (USAID), Federica de Gaetano (IADC Italy), Paolo Enrico Sertoli (IADC Italy), Pietro Pipi (IADC Italy), laouali Garba (AfDB), Wijnand van Ijssel (The Netherlands).

**Guests:** Dr Agnes Kalibata, Martin Frick and Adam Gerstenmier (Food System Summit Secretariat), Jim Woodhill (Consultant), Mandakini Devasher (Consultant).

**Observer:** Mr Joerg Lohmann (GIZ).

**Platform Secretariat:** Maurizio Navarra and Sylvia Otieno (IFAD)

**Apologies:** Paul van de Logt (The Netherlands), Ueli Mauderli (SDC), Chris Penrose-Buckley (USAID), Willem Wefers Bettink (IFAD), Atsuko Toda (AfDB).

### **Participants – Day 2**

**Platform Co-Chairs:** David Hegwood (USAID), Conrad Rein (EC).

**Board Members:** Ammad Bahalim (BMGF), Fabrizio Moscatelli (BMGF), Bernhard Worm and Martina Metz (BMZ), Oriane Barthélemy (MEFA France), Sanna-Liisa Taivalmaa (MFA Finland), Tristan Armstrong (DFAT), Meredith McCormack (USAID), Federica de Gaetano (IADC Italy).

**Guests:** Joerg Lohmann (GIZ).

**Apologies:** Paolo Enrico Sertoli (IADC Italy), Wijnand van Ijssel (The Netherlands), Marco Platzer (IADC Italy), Ron Hartman and Willem Wefers Bettink (IFAD).

**Secretariat:** Maurizio Navarra and Sylvia Otieno (IFAD).

### **Agenda Day 1**

1. Introduction and welcome.
2. Presentation by Dr Agnes Kalibata, UN SG's Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit.
3. Open dialogue and Q&A on the Food Systems Summit.
4. Presentation on the Strategic Plan 2021-2025, by Jim Woodhill, Senior Consultant.
5. Q&A on the Strategic Plan.

### **Agenda Day 2**

1. Remarks by Martina Metz, Head of Rural Development, Land Rights & Forests, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ).
2. Discussion on the 2020 Virtual AGA (theme, format, duration etc.) and on the Platform's engagement in the Food Systems Summit.
3. Quick updates from the Secretariat, including:
  - a) Update on transition;
  - b) Staffing and timeline for recruitments;
  - c) Budget update and status of contributions;
  - d) Thematic Working Groups – update on the main three WGs.
4. COVID-19 Task Force objectives and next meeting – scope, outcomes, engagement.
5. AOB

Day 1	
Agenda Point	Overview, Discussions, Decisions, and Agreements
1. Introduction and welcome	<p><b>The Co-chair (EC)</b> opened the meeting and welcomed Dr Agnes Kalibata, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit (FSS). He then pointed out that GDPRD members consider the FSS as a key contribution to the delivery of SDG2 by 2030 and are looking forward to deliberating on how best GDPRD can contribute to it.</p>
2. Presentation by Dr Agnes Kalibata, UN SG's Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit.	<p><b>Dr Agnes Kalibata</b> noted that the aim of the presentation was to give an overview of FSS state of play and have a discussion on the way forward, especially in the context of COVID-19, which continues to impact countries' ability to deal with hunger. She also stressed the relevance and importance of the Summit, especially with regards to eliminating hunger.</p> <p><b>Martin Frick (FSS Secretariat)</b> presented a status update on the preparation for the Summit, as well as the related support structures, as approved by their Advisory Committee. The FSS team has endorsed a very ambitious vision for the FSS, with two key approaches in mind: a people's summit and a solutions summit. In his presentation, he highlighted: The summit objectives; envisioned outcomes; the preparatory process, together with an overview of the five work streams; the Summit approaches and phases, roadmap and milestones, resource mobilization process and upcoming priorities.</p>
3. Open dialogue and Q&A on the Food Systems Summit	<p><b>The Co-chair (EC)</b> inquired whether a pre-Summit will be organized, and how the Platform can be involved, apart from the AGA. He also stressed the importance of staying in touch and keeping each other updated on subsequent developments.</p> <p><b>Dr Kalibata</b> clarified that the organization of a pre-Summit is being considered; it will probably be virtual and take place six months before the Summit. In terms of the Platform's participation, GDPRD can contribute to the different action tracks by coming up with tangible solutions and game-changing ambitions; engaging in some of the planned dialogues; mobilizing resources and partnerships; and identify and supporting some of the planned initiatives.</p> <p><b>DFAT</b> inquired about the ministerial representation that the Summit is aiming for.</p> <p><b>Dr Kalibata</b> stated that the FSS Secretariat is still at a preparatory stage; the role of eminent persons and of ministers and Heads of State is yet to be defined.</p> <p><b>DFAT</b> pointed out that to achieve SDG2, there is a need to reimagine the food systems, especially in the current context, when they are being challenged like never before.</p> <p><b>Martin Frick (FSS Secretariat)</b> added that the novelty of this Summit is that it will feature Heads of State and governments, under the aegis of the UN Secretary-General. In particular, he specified that the pre-Summit will be at the ministerial level and will see the participation not only of Agricultural ministers but also Ministers from other sectors, while the Summit itself will be at a Heads of State level.</p> <p><b>USAID (and Platform Co-Chair)</b> thanked the FSS Secretariat for their presentation and impressive progress made so far. He then pointed out that some donors might be in a better position to fund specific activities, rather than making general contributions to the trust fund.</p>

	<p><b>The Netherlands</b> inquired how the FSS will balance the diversity of food systems across regions and countries and whether the FSS Secretariat has a strategy to engage partners from the Global South, as they are crucial for the success of the Summit.</p> <p><b>Martin Frick (FSS Secretariat)</b> clarified that they recognize this diversity and are planning to have dialogues at both the country and regional level, to ensure all voices are heard.</p> <p><b>MFA France</b> inquired whether the civil society will be involved, asking about the nature and extent of their involvement. France also inquired about how the country dialogues will be organized and which partners the Food System Summit team will be working with on the ground.</p> <p><b>Martin Frick (FSS)</b> clarified that the civil society will be part of the process, and they are currently initiating talks with various civil society groups. He also pointed out that the civil society is represented in the Advisory Committee.</p> <p><b>The Co-chair (EC)</b> thanked the Dr Agnes Kalibata and the entire Food System Summit team for their time and insightful presentation.</p>
<p><b>4. Presentation on the Strategic Plan 2021-2025, by Jim Woodhill, Senior</b></p>	<p>The Co-chair introduced Jim Woodhill, Senior Consultant in charge of the preparation of the Strategic Plan 2021-2025.</p> <p><b>Jim Woodhill</b> provided an overview of the state of play with regards to the Strategic Plan and focused on the following points: ToRs; key deliverables for both the Stock-taking analysis and the Strategic Plan 2021-2015; overall approach; methodology to be used; activities and timelines; and key considerations. The methodology will build on the activities, achievements and successes of the Platform and will adopt a consultative, inclusive, and participatory approach that seeks to build ownership of the process and achieve results through interaction with the Board and other Platform members.</p>
<p><b>5. Q&amp;A on the Strategic Plan</b></p>	<p><b>The Chair (EC)</b> thanked Jim for the overview and the work that has so far gone into the process. He then noted the importance of outreach at the global level to share information, best practices and experiences as an important area of work for the Platform, that should be strongly considered in the development of the Strategic Plan.</p> <p><b>USAID</b> noted that the presentation aligns with previous discussions held at the Board sessions in February and May. He also pointed out that a key issue will be to reexamine the Platform's value added, and how to strengthen the role of the Platform to respond to various issues, such as COVID-19 and Food Systems Summit as a group, the diverse Members' backgrounds notwithstanding.</p> <p><b>DFAT</b> pointed out that, given the current increased focus on agriculture due to the COVID-19 crisis, there is an opportunity to develop compelling narratives that will help donors secure the required funding for SDG2. The Strategic Plan should be an important vehicle for reinvigorating donor interest and focus on the rural development space, to reimagine food systems. DFAT also added that the timing is great for bold thinking and concrete actions and directions that the Board Members can coalesce around at the Summit and beyond.</p> <p><b>BMZ</b> added that the Strategic plan should identify niches where the Platform really can add value. He also emphasized how the Platform should move beyond regular donor coordination and consider the involvement of other relevant partner governments and key institutions.</p> <p><b>MFA France</b> stressed the need of better linking agriculture, food security, and nutrition with other sectors to maintain the current momentum post-COVID-19. France also added that even though</p>

	<p>challenging, there is a true interest in finding an added value of the Platform, where its work will be most efficient.</p> <p><b>IADC Italy</b> raised three important issues from their standpoint requiring attention: Services to members; membership contributions; and the role and function of the Thematic Working Groups.</p> <p><b>The Netherlands</b> added that the Strategic Plan should consider the changing donor architecture and context, and emphasized that it should identify and focus on niches that the Platform can really make a difference in.</p> <p><b>IFAD</b> pointed out that there is a real opportunity to look at the global architecture, including challenges and opportunities emerging in the COVID-19 context, and examine the role the Platform can play to ensure that different actors within the food space act as a system. The Strategic Plan should also reflect on the governance and financial aspects, together with the opportunities for change, innovation, and rethinking.</p> <p><b>MFA Finland</b> emphasized the need for outreach and awareness raising on links between food systems and other sectors, to get the much-needed funding. Secondly, it should encourage peer support and knowledge sharing amongst GDPRD members and other actors working in agriculture and rural development sectors.</p> <p><b>Secretariat</b> pledged their continued support to the Platform and its members as they rethink about the Platform’s mission, vision, and rebranding. He added that in future the Platform should be better positioned to respond to needs and emerging issues, such as the Food System Summit and engage in such processes with like-minded approaches.</p> <p>In response to the issues raised by the board, <b>Jim Woodhill</b> stated that with regards to balancing the knowledge agenda, they will seek to investigate the services offered to members. Another important area will be looking at the resources that the Platform is operating with and its strategic influence role (examining how the Platform is helping to develop a common agenda in a broader context beyond the agricultural space, with who and in what way). With regards to membership, the Strategic Plan team will seek to investigate the upsides and downsides of either broadening or restricting it and examine how this may work.</p> <p><b>IADC Italy</b> inquired about the target audience for the planned surveys. <b>Jim Woodhill</b> explained that they plan to have two versions of survey: One targeted at the Platform members who are/have been involved in the operation of the Platform and a second version to other people who have somehow been involved in one of the Thematic Working Groups or in other knowledge sharing exercises, such as previous AGAs.</p> <p><b>Decision point:</b> The methodology and approach for the Strategic Plan presented by the Senior Consultant were approved by the Board.</p>
--	--

Day 2	
Agenda Point	Overview, Discussions, Decisions, and Agreements
<p>1. Remarks by Martina Metz, Head of Rural Development, Land Rights &amp; Forests, Federal Ministry for</p>	<p><b>The Co-chair (USAID)</b> introduced Ms Martina Metz and thanked Germany for the financial, logistical, and organizational support provided to the GDPRD since its establishment in 2003.</p> <p><b>Martina Metz</b> gave a quick introduction and stated that she is looking forward to collaborating with the Platform Board. She further reflected on the 17 years that BMZ has hosted the Platform through</p>



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

<p><b>Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ)</b></p>	<p>GIZ and stressed that BMZ remains committed to the Platform and to its Vision and Mission. She also noted that the Platform could play a very important role towards 2030 and beyond.</p> <p><b>The Co-chair (USAID)</b> thanked Martina Metz on behalf of the Board, and took note of the accomplishments and challenges that lie ahead for the Platform.</p>
<p><b>2. Discussion on the 2020 Virtual AGA (theme, format, duration etc.) and on the Platform’s engagement in the Food Systems Summit</b></p>	<p><b>The Co-chair (USAID)</b> stated that a reflection on the discussions on the Food System Summit needed to be undertaken in the context of the AGA, to deliberate on how best the Platform can contribute to the FSS. He then invited the Secretariat to give introductory remarks.</p> <p><b>Secretariat</b> recapped that an AGA Planning Committee had been formed in March (USAID and EC, with BMZ as observers) and that a draft proposal for the 2020 AGA had already been prepared and shared with the Board. However, the process was interrupted by COVID-19. He proposed that this year’s AGA be held back-to-back with World Food Day on 16 October. Since it will be in a virtual format, he further proposed that the AGA be spread across 3-4 days with several short, targeted sessions lasting no more than 1-2 hours. One of the sessions could be designed as a “high-level segment”, with participation of ministerial-level speakers (ministers, DGs, Associate Vice-Presidents, etc.), together with two or more informal, operational sessions. The theme of the next AGA can be designed in such a way that it makes a substantial contribution to Food System Summit.</p> <p><b>The Co-chair (USAID)</b> proposed that the Planning Committee reconvene to develop the theme and format for the AGA. He also suggested that the AGA be linked to the Food Systems Summit.</p> <p><b>MFA France</b> stated that it would be good to have one high level event. France also inquired whether the operational session will be held before or after the high-level session, and whether the AGA should focus on a specific or broad topic.</p> <p><b>MFA Finland</b> inquired about the target group for the operational level, and on the level of seniority of the participants of the high-level session (whether at director or ministerial level).</p> <p><b>DFAT Australia</b> pointed out that the AGA will be a good opportunity to launch the draft Strategic Plan being prepared by Jim Woodhill.</p> <p><b>IADC Italy</b> inquired whether the AGA would be an opportunity to follow and develop some specific definitions of agriculture, agroecology and biodiversity.</p> <p><b>Co-chair (USAID)</b> recapped the five action tracks of the Food System Summit and suggested that the AGA discussions be somehow aligned with these themes. He also noted that for the operational sessions, the AGA does not need to follow all the five streams of work, but rather focus on a few relevant ones.</p> <p><b>BMZ</b> stressed that the Board should identify the added value of this AGA, for instance by focusing on food systems and innovation, or food systems and natural resources. He seconded the idea to break down the AGA in 1-2-hour sessions, for 2-3 days. He also stated that the question of targeting is also relevant and inquired whether the AGA should target Ministers or the directors’ level.</p> <p><b>USAID</b> inquired how the Platform will forward their inputs and ideas to the Food System Summit.</p> <p><b>The Co-chair (USAID)</b> in response noted that it is very clear that the FSS organisers want this to be a very inclusive process. He stressed that it is imperative for the Platform members to figure out how to make their voices heard and think about their added value to the process. He noted that a Platform high-level statement will get noticed but it is more challenging to prepare, both logistically and substantively. The Platform should start aiming for more senior level discussion and an AGA presents an opportunity to do so. He further added that in terms of the sequencing, it could go either way, for instance having the operational sessions that targets practitioners feed into the high-level</p>

session, and the other way around. The Chair further noted that it makes sense to look at the launch of the Strategic Plan as part of the Platform's contribution.

**MFA France** inquired whether the AGA should be used as a convening dialogue for inputs to the preparation process of the FSS or whether its outcome should be the next step after the Summit.

**Co-chair (USAID)** stated that the Platform can aspire to an ambitious contribution and also noted that the contribution to the Summit should not be limited to the AGA alone, but members should also consider holding subsequent events over the course of 2020 and 2021 to follow up on it.

**BGMF** inquired whether the Board already has a consensus on Jim Woodhill's deliverables in terms of the Strategic plan, and how it will feed into the AGA. **The Chair** responded that hopefully the Board will have one by October.

**DFAT Australia** suggested that the Board or the AGA planning committee have a conversation in advance with Jim Woodhill to request him to consider various options ahead of the AGA, so that the AGA can be used as a mechanism to distil those ideas into something tangible.

**BGMF** inquired whether the Board can have another follow up call with Jim Woodhill.

**DFAT Australia** also stated that the Board should have a second call to figure out what contribution GDPRD will make to the Summit and noted that the Platform should focus on its key strategic strengths.

**Secretariat** noted that the Platform has a great opportunity of contributing to the agenda of the Summit. He noted that the Food System Summit team is looking forward to involving the donor community, and they are keen on exploring opportunities to give the GDPRD a relevant role in the Summit.

**The Co-chair (USAID)** expressed the need to consider a high-level session during the AGA and reimagine what the Platform can really do. He noted that organizing the AGA will require a lot of communication and work and urged the Board Members to communicate in case they have any ideas and concerns as early as possible.

**BMGF** inquired whether the Platform has been involved in contributing to high-level meetings such as the Food System Summit in the past, and how this played out. **Co-chair (USAID)** stated that the closest was the Climate COP, in Copenhagen where they planned to work on a GDPRD Statement, but this proved quite challenging in the end.

**BMZ** stated that while figuring out GDPRD's contribution to FSS, the Platform needs to work from a strategic angle. He proposed that the various working streams within the Platform contribute to different Summit action tracks.

**Co-chair (EC)** added that a high-level session will get noticed and will be a good exposure for GDPRD.

**USAID** emphasized that the Platform needs to ensure that the right people are in the discussions and at the same time start thinking whether the Platform needs an ongoing workstream devoted to the Summit. He noted that there needs to be a link between AGA planning and the Summit discussions. He also proposed that a channel of communication be opened with the Summit planning secretariat.

**Secretariat** suggested that the AGA planning committee (USAID and EC, with Germany as observer) schedule a meeting, so that they can put together some initial ideas to guide the preparation of the concept note.

	<p><b>The Co-chair (USAID)</b> noted that the Platform Co-chairs will consult with the FSS Secretariat and come up with a proposal to the Board on how the Platform can contribute to the Summit. He also encouraged inputs from members that will be fed into that proposal.</p> <p><b>Decision point:</b> Planning committee to reconvene and develop a new AGA 2020 concept note</p> <p><b>Action Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Platform Chairs will consult with the FSS Secretariat and come up with a proposal to the board on how the Platform can contribute to the summit</li> <li>• Secretariat to send out a doodle invite for next AGA Planning committee meeting</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Quick updates from the Secretariat, including:</b></p> <p>a) Update on transition</p> <p>b) Staffing and timeline for recruitments</p> <p>c) Budget update and status of contributions</p> <p>d) Thematic Working Groups – update on the main three WGs</p>	<p><b>a) Update on transition</b></p> <p>The transition has been completed. All communications, social media handles, website and other instruments are now under IFAD. IFAD has also recruited the IT specialist and Intern (Sylvia Otieno) who previously worked with the GIZ Secretariat. All working groups have also been informed about the transition and the potential implications of the new Strategic Plan. Currently liaising with the Working groups to deliberate on the way forward.</p> <p><b>b) Staffing and timeline for recruitments</b></p> <p>The Platform Coordinator position (at the P-4 level) has been advertised and the recruitment process is expected to be finalized by September. The remaining two positions will be advertised soon, depending on availability of financial resources.</p> <p><b>c) Budget update and status of contributions</b></p> <p>Secretariat thanked the Board for their good feedback received. So far, DFAT, MFA France, IFAD, IADC, SDC and USAID have provided and disbursed their contributions. Discussions are ongoing with the remaining members and is quite advanced with DFID, Germany and Finland.</p> <p><b>BMGF</b> confirmed that they will be working on a three-year letter of agreement.</p> <p><b>The Co-chair (USAID)</b> appreciated the members’ contributions and inquired about the closure of project at GIZ and disbursement of the remaining funds.</p> <p><b>GIZ</b> stated that they are waiting for the final financial audit to know the remaining funds. The remaining USAID contribution will be transferred directly to IFAD, while for the core funding from BMZ and EC will be transferred back to the respective members. BMZ is in the process of transferring their membership contribution through another GIZ project.</p> <p><b>EC</b> confirmed that they will be working on a 4-year agreement.</p> <p><b>a) Thematic Working Groups</b></p> <p>Secretariat gave an update on the three active working group (Land, SDG2 and Youth TWG). Secretariat has had a discussion with the leads of the GDWGL and Youth Working group. GDWGL will be electing a new Vice-chair shortly. Youth working group is working to build their identity and one of the members has expressed interest in taking the lead.</p>
<p><b>4. COVID-19 Task Force objectives and next meeting – scope, outcomes, engagement</b></p>	<p>The Co-chair informed the meeting that the Platform has hosted two discussions on COVID-19: one on analytical tools, and another on country deep dives. The Task force is planning to have a third meeting on scalable actions in September. He noted that new information is coming out about the scope and scale of the impacts of the pandemic and anticipates that there will be further discussions among different groups on how to manage this crisis. He stressed on the need of the Platform to position itself in such a way that it can contribute to such discussions now and in the future.</p>
<p><b>5. AOB</b></p>	<p>No AOB</p>



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

## Action Table

Agenda Point	Task	Responsible	Timeline
<b>Discussion on the 2020 Virtual AGA (theme, format, duration etc.) and on the Platform’s engagement in the Food Systems Summit</b>	Platform Co-chairs and Secretariat to develop a proposal to the Board on the Platform’s contribution to the Summit	Co-Chairs & Secretariat	ASAP
	Secretariat to send out a doodle invite for the next AGA Planning committee meeting	Secretariat	ASAP
<b>COVID-19 Task Force objectives and next meeting – scope, outcomes, engagement</b>	Co-chairs & Secretariat to organise the 3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting on scalable actions.	Co-Chairs & Secretariat	September