



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

Management Meeting

Wednesday, 6 April, 2016, 15:00 – 16:20h CET

Minutes

Participants

Members: Annelene Bremer (BMZ), David Hegwood (USAID), Joseph Coompton (AfDB), Mauro Ghirotti (IADC, chair), Petra Jacobi (GIZ)

Secretariat: Marion Thompson, Romy Sato, Martina Karaparusheva, Jedi Bukachi, Luisa Prior

Apologies: Shantanu Mathur (IFAD), Marjaana Pekkola (MFA Finland), Felix Fellmann (SDC), Jorge Rios (UNODC), Julie Delforce (DFAT-Australia), Nikita Eriksen-Hamel (Global Affairs Canada), Iris Krebber (DFID), Hyojung Lee (KOICA), Ida Christensen (FAO), Odd Arnesen (NORAD), Monique Calon (MFA-The Netherlands), Marie Paviot (MFA France)

Agenda*

1. Administration
 - 1.1. Status of contributions
 - 1.2. Budget Group
 - 1.3. External Audit
2. Work Programmes
 - 2.1. Clarification of next steps
 - 2.2. Consultancies
 - 2.3. Budget Process
3. Upcoming events of interest
4. Board meeting and high level meeting hosted by BMZ
5. AOB

*It was agreed to start the meeting with a discussion on the **work programmes**. And also try to arrange for any future Management meetings, if technically possible, a way to share documents instantly on the screen of all computer users, who dialled in.

1. Work Programmes

This item referred to the implementation of the work plans 2016 by the different work streams. IADC stressed the need to encourage the commitment and the active engagement by members in discussions, preparation calls, activity definition and implementation.

The Secretariat confirmed that the DRAFT work plans 2016 were shared with members on 31 March. Some of them are based on intensive discussions with members, while others still need more discussion to ensure the buy-in from all members. For this reason and given occasional changes of priority within work streams, many of the plans will most probably change. There are no accurate budget estimates yet because at this point the work plans are still under consideration and not all contributions to the



Platform have been signed yet. Once there is more clarity about the priority actions and the overall budget in 2016, the work streams budget estimates will be included. However, on the basis of present information summarised in the Draft, the Secretariat, supported by the Budget Group (BG), will produce some budget estimates and, at a later stage will advise the Board. **It was agreed to proceed, until the different work stream budgets are submitted (approx. May/June), on first come, first serve basis. If the required funding for a particular activity is more than 20.000€, special consultation with the BG will be required. Requests below 20.000 € will be covered within the scope of the available 2016 budget.**

IADC stressed the fact that there are already consultancies commitments in certain work streams that are over the threshold of 20.000€ which, de facto, already influence the overall budget and should be taken into consideration if another request comes from the same work stream to ensure coherence and that the priorities set during the last Board meeting are followed through. **It was agreed to set a deadline in June to submit estimates for activities.**

AfDB enquired if the consultancies commitments for 2016 will be factored in the budget of the work streams. The Secretariat confirmed that many of the activities planned in the work plans are part of the ToR deliverables of the consultants and, therefore, consultants fees are also factored in the overall work stream budget. **IADC stressed that all work streams should be treated equally, according to the priorities set by the Board in Geneva, and not penalised if activity budget submission comes at a later time than others.**

IADC proceeded to report on planned activities for the Agenda 2030 work stream. The work stream is led by BMZ (GIZ), IADC and IFAD. Currently, IADC is organising a meeting with the Rome-based agencies (RBAs) to formulate some concrete activities and agree on a budget estimate. The meeting will also include a discussion on nutrition-sensitive agriculture. Regarding the G7 engagement, IADC suggested an extensive discussion and involvement the whole membership. The Japanese Presidency will probably offer another opportunity, in July, for the Platform to present itself and identify common issues and collaboration areas. An opportunity not to be missed and GDP/ RD should adequately prepare for.

2. Administration

The Secretariat reported that as of now, all contractual commitments made to consultants are within the limits of the approved indicative budget for 2016. Some of the work streams are still discussing the possible activities for 2016. Once all budget requests are available and submitted to the BG, the group can make an assessment and provide feedback to the Board regarding the relation of budget demands and budget availability.

2.1 Status of contributions

Currently, there are six signed contribution agreements regarding member year 2016 as follows: AfDB, BMZ and DFID each with a multi-annual agreement until 2018, DFAT-Australia with a multi-annual agreement to 2017 and EC and SDC each for 2016. Since the last review of contributions in early March, USAID and France have indicated their respective financial commitments for 2016, draft agreements are in processing. Still in processing are also the agreements with MFA-Finland (2016), MFA- the Netherlands (2016-2018). The scope and duration of the respective contributions for 2016(+) for IADC, Global Affairs-Canada and IFAD still need to be determined. It was noted that if additional members were to join the Board and thus become financially contributing members, the status/outlook of contributions would be affected accordingly. Indications are that if all agreements which are in processing for 2016, are signed



and if yet outstanding commitments for financial contributions for 2016 are made, the 2016 Platform plan indicative budget will be met in terms of available funding.

IADC recalled that in the past, planned activities have always been rather optimistic and some activities were not carried out. The extensive planning process this year, with the separate work plans and budget allocations, seeks to ensure that a higher proportion of planned activities is implemented.

2.2. Budget Group

The Secretariat informed that there have not yet been any responses to the invitation sent on 16 March to all members to join the BG, which is currently comprised of DIFD and Finland-MFA and assisted by the Secretariat (until incl. 2015, World Bank was also member of the group). The BG's upcoming tasks include: review the first quarter budget data and the then available budget-need estimates which continue to be submitted by the work streams. The Secretariat will organise and propose dates for an online-conference of the BG for early May. The Secretariat indicated that some work-stream budget demands will likely be available in the course of April (but not all) – what is available can be shared with the BG. **AfDB requested that the Secretariat share the ToRs of the Budget Group; it was decided to re-send the invitation, including the ToR, to all members.**

2.3. External Audit

The yearly external audit over the Platform costs and contributions will be conducted by PwC during the entire last week of April for calendar year 2015. The costs for the audit are within the scheduled budget line in the indicative budget for 2016. The final audit report will be submitted by PwC to GIZ, addressed to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will forward the audit report including the financial statement accompanied by a cover letter elaborating on relevant highlights in the course of May 2016.

3. Upcoming events of interest

IADC invited the Secretariat and Platform members to inform about the intended participation in upcoming events in order to ensure coordination and support in such meetings, taking also the opportunity offered by the MM.

The next events the Secretariat plans to cover include 11-15 April “12 CAADP Partnership meeting” in Accra, Ghana. Jedi Bukachi and Christian Mersmann of the Secretariat will represent the Platform there as the engagement of the Platform is part of the agenda of the meeting. The Secretariat will also attend two side events organised by Global Affairs Canada, UNDP and AU on “Experience sharing workshop on agrifood value chains in Africa” and a high level roundtable on “Food safety in the African Continent”. From 26-29 April Christian Mersmann will attend a GACSA meeting in Rome and in June the “Annual Forum of GACSA” also in Rome. There are several other meetings of interest to the Platform. One of them is the “Food security forum” organised by ADB in June in Manilla, where the Platform is invited to participate actively. The Secretariat has been in contact with the organisers to acquire some more information to publicise on the Platform website.

IADC suggested using more actively the members attending the events to provide information on outcomes and contacts. It was also noted that until budget for priority activities is cleared, the Platform must be careful with spending, which includes events participation. A discussion of planned participation during Management meetings could facilitate more support from members and ensure the provision of



information. IADC suggested possible co-sponsorship of members, who attend meetings and represent the Platform. GIZ noted that members would usually be seen as representatives of their organisations and as participants been expected to represent the views and opinions of their individual institutions, positions could differ. The Secretariat has a more neutral representation role of the Platform as a whole. The dialogue continued after the MM and this issue is going to be updated in the next meeting

The Secretariat will share monthly the planned travels and events attendance with the co-chairs. The planned travels and events will continue to be shared and discussed within the work streams, as well as with the whole membership via the eUpdate (newsletter). The Secretariat will also draft a reply to the ADB regarding their invitation to the Food Security Forum in Manila, in June.

4. Board meeting and high-level meeting hosted by the BMZ

BMZ reported that discussions have been taking place with the Secretariat and the BMZ director of the Special Initiative, Stefan Schmitz, to host a high-level meeting and a Board meeting in the second half of September in Bonn (is it the one planned in June?). The event will include one day for a high-level meeting on strategic topics regarding agriculture and rural development, trends, SDGs and rural transformation and one day for the Board meeting. BMZ opened the floor for date suggestions and welcomed the logistical support of the Secretariat. IADC suggested not strictly limit the invitation to members but also to partners (developing countries and institutions. BMZ will also host in January 2017 a ministerial meeting on agriculture in the frame of the German presidency of G20, so it was suggested that the September meeting be kept rather at director level.

It was agreed that, as CFS43 is taking place 17-23 October, the meeting in Bonn should take place possibly in the second half of September. The Secretariat will follow up with BMZ on the preparations and inform members.

6. AOB

The Secretariat reported that the networking opportunity that the AGA presented, brought KOICA and GrowAsia together. On the 15 April both organisations will sign and Memorandum of understanding.

IADC expressed appreciation for the secretariat active role in such development and thanked its and members support in the presentation of the Platform during the last G7 food security and nutrition working group, Tokyo, and in the future dialogue with such very important forum.

Activity	Dates	Responsible
Submit work stream budget estimates to Budget Group	June	Secretariat + work stream leaders
Re-send invitation, incl. ToR, to all members to join the Budget Group	asap	Secretariat
Review first quarter budget data and the (thus far) available budget-need estimates of the work streams	early May	Secretariat (organise and supply data), Budget Group
Accompany audit and submit 2015 external audit report	May	Secretariat



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to Board members		
Share monthly plan of travels and events with co-chairs	monthly	Secretariat
Draft reply to ADB about invitation to Forum in June	18 April	Secretariat
Follow up with BMZ on preparations for the September meeting	In April	Secretariat