



## Virtual Board Meeting

17 May 2017 15:00hrs – 17:00hrs CEST

### Minutes

#### **Participants**

**Board members:** Patrick Herlant (EU), Shantanu Mathur (IFAD), Annelene Bremer (BMZ), David Hegwood and Meredith McCormack (USAID), Marie Paviot (MFAID France), Monique Calon (MFA Netherlands), Joseph Coopson (AfDB), Marco Platzer (IADC), Marjaana Pekkola (Finland)

**Platform secretariat:** Reinhild Ernst, Marion Thompson, Christian Mersmann, Romy Sato, Martina Karaparusheva, Jedi Bukachi

**Apologies:** Julie Delforce (DFAT-Australia), Felix Fellmann (SDC), Iris Krebber (DFID)

#### **Agenda**

1. Welcome and agreement on Agenda of the meeting
2. Presentation of the decision and action points from the last Board meeting
3. Budget and finance issues
4. Update on Annual Work Plan 2017 and next AGA
5. Textual change in Strategic Plan 2016-2020, section 5: Partnerships
6. AOB

Agenda item	Discussions, decisions and agreements
1. Welcome and agreement on Agenda of the meeting.	Platform co-chair Patrick Herlant (EC) introduced the board meeting agenda, which was thereafter accepted by the board members.
2. Presentation of the decision and action points from the last Board meeting.	<p><u>DPCG cooperation with Platform</u> At the last board meeting, the secretariat communicated that some members of the Development Partners Coordination Group on CAADP are interested in a much closer link with the Platform, potentially by the Platform hosting the DPCG secretariat. The board suggested that a proposal be drafted by the interested DPCG members. The proposal was drafted and it was presented to the wider DPCG during their physical meeting in March which took place in Bonn.</p> <p><b>Outcome</b> <b>The DPCG eventually decided not to link their secretariat to the Platform</b></p>

	<p><b>secretariat, but to continue the close cooperation that has been ongoing since 2015.</b></p> <p><u>Staffing of the secretariat</u></p> <p>The staffing of the Platform secretariat was discussed at the Brussels board meeting, where the board agreed that in order to keep the secretariat team well-functioning and enable it to fulfil its tasks in continuity, the secretariat staff should be maintained at least until the end of the year 2018. As such, it was agreed to request GIZ as administrative host of the secretariat to extend the contracts of the staff, including the policy advisor beyond his official retirement age on 30 November 2017 until 31. December 2018. The co-chairs written request to GIZ was positively accepted and GIZ re-confirmed its willingness to prolong these contracts at a physical meeting with the co-chair Patrick Herlant before the virtual Board meeting.</p> <p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p><b>The proposal was accepted by GIZ and the secretariat’s team will remain with the current staffing until the end of 2018, which will allow the Platform to continue with the current products and work streams at the highest quality. GIZ will only have to undertake the necessary administrative steps to prolong the contracts.</b></p> <p><u>Procedures of Platform governance</u></p> <p>During the Brussels board meeting, it was decided to prepare cumulative and incremental procedure for the board. USAID committed to contribute to that process of compilation.</p> <p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p><b>Due to other priorities the secretariat has not yet tackled this issue. The issue will be addressed right after this meeting.</b></p> <p><u>Communication strategy development</u></p> <p>The drafting of a communications strategy by a consultant was agreed at the Brussels board meeting, pending available finance for this activity.</p> <p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p><b>The current financial situation has not allowed for this activity to take place yet.</b></p>
3. Budget and finance issues	<p><u>(i) Financial contributions</u></p> <p>Nine contribution agreements have been signed for 2017 to date (AfDB, DFAT-</p>

Australia, DFID, Finland-MFA, France-MFAID, BMZ, NL-MFA, SDC, and USAID) and two are currently in the pipeline (IFAD, IADC-Italy). Due to extensive internal EC procedures, the EC contribution is likely to come to fruition early in 2018 and not late in 2017, contrary to earlier indications. While the financial contributions for 2017 are core-funding, DFAT-Australia additionally contributes Euro 30.000 supplemental funding towards the Inclusive Agribusiness work group. It was pointed out that thus far, DFAT is the only member who had thus responded to a recent call-for-funds letter sent to all members by the Platform Budget Group.

(ii) Status Indicative budget 2017

Mainly as a consequence of the delay in contractually formalizing the significantly large EC contribution (total funding Euro 1,5 mio with a duration of 2 years) the 2017 indicative budget endorsed in Brussels which was based on signed contributions, roll-over budget and on contribution forecast needs to be adjusted to correspond the actual current contribution status.

It was pointed out that contributions signed, roll-over budget and two contributions currently in the pipeline (not counting EC) are only sufficient to accommodate costs already incurred in 2017 and further demands placed on the budget until years' end such as contractual obligations, secretariat staffing and other running costs (Euro 1.031.495, preliminary!).

In addition, a budget adjustment will include € 30.000 DFAT supplemental funding towards the Inclusive Agribusiness work group.

Further, to ensure a minimum budget as a buffer towards unforeseen circumstances and to enable to dedicate some budget estimate towards smaller measures such as current activities with regards to the 2016 Annual Report, CAADP and preparations for the next AGA, it was agreed to make the already received 2018 SDC-funding (Euro 50.000) available in 2017 under the prudent monitoring of the secretariat (the SDC contract framework makes this possible).

It was agreed that the secretariat adjusts the 2017 indicative budget estimate accordingly. Following determining the status of accounting per 31 May 2017, Board members will receive the adjusted 2017 indicative budget in June.

(iii) Consultancy contracts 2017

An overview regarding the nature and scope of 2017 consultancy contracts was provided to Board members. The secretariat elaborated briefly on the various consultancy measures that have been concluded and/or are ongoing in 2017. This includes contracts relating to the past AGA Brussels, a contract regarding a study on 'Womens' economic empowerment and agribusiness' as well as consultancies regarding maintenance and support work of the

Platform website. All contractual obligations are covered by the current contributions.

(iv) Resource mobilisation strategies

In addition to the call-for-funds letter addressed to all members on 19 April and again on 5 May by the Platform Budget Group, the secretariat has been in communication with members including the various work groups in an effort to mobilise additional funds. Canada has indicated that they are interested in re-establishing their contribution in 2018. There is also an indication that talks with the World Bank can pick up again for 2017.

A decision was requested on a [proposal](#) for increased board engagement in the mobilisation of funds.

**Discussion**

MFAID France commented that the Platform still needs to show its work despite the financial situation and asked which activities are up-coming. The secretariat confirmed that indeed a number of activities are ongoing and foreseen (these are summarised in the next agenda item on the work plan update.). Moreover, supplementary funding may be coming in from NORAD on the issues of nationally determined contributions (NDC's) and finance. Also, the secretariat continues to serve in its capacity to support the membership in knowledge- and information sharing, organizing webinars and telcos updating the website, amongst others, thereby ensuring smooth day to day operations overall.

MFA Finland inquired whether other non-paying members are considering supplementary funding beyond Norway. The secretariat responded that the focus so far has been to request members to supplement via in-kind activities rather than supplementing funds as this may be more feasible for some organizations.

BMZ confirmed that it intends to extend the current phase in which the BMZ has commissioned GIZ to host the Platform secretariat by one year until the end of 2019. This extension will accommodate the expected duration of the EC contribution which will go in duration into 2019. The BMZ further indicated that it intends to increase its overall contribution in order to cover additional costs for VAT and indirect support costs which will incur due to increased co-financing, mainly but not only due to the expected EC contribution.

BMZ also asked the EC if there are any risks regarding their intended financial contribution for the purpose of the Platform. The EC responded that there are no risks with regards to the funding and the process is moving forward internally. The aim is that at the beginning of December 2017 or January 2018, the Delegation Agreement will be signed at which time a first payment

	<p>instalment will be transferred.</p> <p><b><u>Decision</u></b></p> <p><b>The Board members agreed on the <a href="#">proposal</a> to increase their role in the mobilisation of funds</b></p>
<p>4. Update on Annual Work Plan 2017 and next AGA</p>	<p><u>Strategic Initiative Agenda 2030 and Rural Transformation:</u> The AGA and the high level forum were successful. The engagement of the Platform secretariat in the open-ended working group on urbanisation and rural transformation of CFS on this issue is continuing. What still needs to be determined is if the leaders of this group remain IADC, IFAD and BMZ. The analytic paper started by John Barrett is being further developed with current trends of development finance (ODA and other sources) in support of rural transformation to be made available at the end of the year. Information notes and webinars will also be carried out.</p> <p><u>Land Governance:</u> This year the Land group continues to be driven on the topic of advocacy around the SDG land indicator, particularly coming up with a methodology that countries can use to report against this indicator.</p> <p>The group is also preparing for their next physical meeting back to back to the CFS and is also deciding on whether to hold a side event there.</p> <p><u>Trade and Inclusive Agribusiness:</u> The inclusive agribusiness group is still establishing and selecting its priority topics which so far include impact assessment of inclusive agribusiness and the enabling conditions of inclusive agribusiness. The trade group is continuing the work on policy coherence and trade, including how to integrate this into inclusive agribusiness.</p> <p><u>Climate resilient agriculture:</u> There is an analysis to be completed in September on donors and international financing reactions in agriculture. There is also continued engagement in the investment action group of the Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture as well as the newly founded FAO unit on agriculture climate finance. Thanks to support of MFAID France, an expert consultation is being prepared on financing the nationally determined contributions (NDC) through blended financing and innovative market based instruments.</p> <p><u>Gender:</u> The secretariat has received the pre-final version of the scoping study on Women’s Economic Empowerment and agribusiness which has been circulated for review. A tool which was developed as part of this work is already readily available on the Platform website. The final paper will be shared more widely once feedback and comments to the pre-final version have been received. A Platform information note is also available on the opportunities for gender in the transformation of the rural space.</p>

	<p><b>CAADP:</b> A small consultancy is ongoing to map the CAADP landscape synthesising the various programmatic, institutional and cooperative aspects of CAADP and its implementation. GIZ CAADP support programme is contributing most of the budget. The secretariat is participating in the CAADP Partnership Platform in June in Kampala, Uganda to enhance the cooperation with the CADP team and the DPCG.</p> <p><b>Communications:</b> The website is regularly being updated and information notes, newsletters, webinars and other cost neutral activities are being pursued. The annual report will also be provided next month.</p> <p><b>Next AGA</b></p> <p><b>The EC communicated the proposal that the topic of the next AGA be on youth employment, touching also on off farm employment and the financing of the youth agenda.</b></p> <p><b>Agreements: It was agreed that youth is a timely topic for the donors if there is also the context of migration as well as that of agribusiness. The discussion on the possible host will be revisited.</b></p>
5. Textual change in Strategic Plan 2016-2020, section 5: Partnerships	The board agreed on the <a href="#">suggested changes</a> to the strategic plan on the topic of partnerships.
6.AOB	Annelene Bremer (BMZ) announced that she is going on maternity leave, and as such she will no longer be involved with the Platform. A successor will be found to represent BMZ. The board congratulated her and thanked her for her work with the Platform.

## ACTION BOX

Agenda point	Task	Responsible
Update on Annual Work Plan 2017 and next AGA	Potential hosts of the next AGA will be contacted by the Co-chairs during June. MFA Netherlands will get back to the secretariat on whether or not it would be possible to hold it in The Hague.	Platform co – chairs and secretariat
Textual change in Strategic Plan 2016-2020, section 5: Partnerships	Change the text in the strategic plan on the section of partnerships by end of May.	Secretariat
2017 Indicative Budget	Adjust 2017 indicative budget	Secretariat



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

	following May accounting and sent to Board members in June	
Procedures for the Board	Prepare cumulative and incremental procedure for the board. USAID committed to contribute to that process of compilation	Secretariat – supported by USAID