

# Global Donor Platform for Rural Development Virtual Board Meeting

14<sup>TH</sup> – 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS:

### MEMBERS

- Paul van de Logt, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands, Board Co-Chair
- David Hegwood, USAID, Board Co-Chair
- Conrad Rein, European Commission, Board Co-Chair
- Chris de Nie, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands
- Ueli Mauderli, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)
- Stephanie Piers, SDC
- Bruce Campbell, SDC
- Manon Bellon, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France
- Federica de Gaetano, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
- Maurizio Bonavia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy

- Tristan Armstrong, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia
- Sung Lee, USAID
- Jennifer Chow, USAID
- Boris Buechler, German Cooperation Agency (GIZ)
- Ron Hartman, IFAD
- Shantanu Mathur, IFAD
- Fabrizio Moscatelli, Consultant, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Sanna-Liisa Taivalmaa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland

### GDPRD Secretariat

- Maurizio Navarra, Coordinator
- Jim Woodhill, Independent Consultant
- Kristal Jones, Independent Consultant
- Alessandro Cordova, Administrative Assistant
- Petronilla Wandeto, Intern
- Lise Saga, Intern

## DAY 1, 14 JUNE 2021

**Chair:** Paul van de Logt, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands

### AGENDA

1. Introduction
2. Update on membership
3. Election of Co-Chairs
4. Recap by Secretariat on FSS process
5. Stock-taking report, presentation by Jim Woodhill
6. Q&A on stock-taking report and finalization
7. End of day 1

Agenda Point Day 1	Discussion
<b>1. Updates on membership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Starting from June 2021, Manon Bellon is the new Board member for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, replacing Oriane Barthélémy.</li> <li>• Starting from June 2021, Ueli Mauderli of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) will be replaced by Stephanie Piers and Bruce Campbell.</li> <li>• David Hegwood will be stepping down from his role as Board member and co-chair for the United States at the end of July 2021. Sung Lee will replace him as Board member.</li> <li>• Paul van de Logt will also be stepping down from his Board membership &amp; chairmanship starting end of July 2021. He will be replaced by Chris de Nie.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Election of co-Chairs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The above changes will leave two (2) Co-Chair seats open.</li> </ul>

Agenda Point Day 1	Discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was decided that the secretariat will collect expressions of interest by email starting today (14 June 2021), and will circulate the new list of proposed Co-Chairs to the Board, to allow the rest of the members to review the list and then have an email-based approval, which will happen on a no-objection basis.</li> <li>Board members can reach out to the Secretariat until the end of the week for clarifications about the Co-Chair role and for nominations. A list of proposed Co-Chairs would then be circulated the following week (starting 21 June 2021).</li> </ul>
3. FSS Process: Recap by Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Secretariat provided a recap on the process leading to the development of the Platform's inputs to the Summit.</li> <li>One of the objectives of this Board meeting is to discuss and endorse the Stocktaking Report. After the Board, members will have an additional week to provide further comments before the report goes into design and production phase.</li> <li>The white paper will be developed on the basis of the stocktaking report and the outcomes of the Pre-Summit, through a comprehensive consultation process with all members of the Donor Platform, which will ensure endorsement at the highest possible level.</li> <li>In June, the Secretariat convened a couple of sessions of the SDG2 Roadmap Working Group to discuss and review the stocktaking report, prior to its review and endorsement by the Board.</li> <li>A high-level launching event prior to the pre-summit in Rome is being planned for July.</li> <li>Member-led inputs to the Food Systems Summit will be shared with the Secretariat to build a page on the Donor Platform website that collects and highlights the members' individual contributions to the FSS, for broader visibility. This information will also be circulated to all members through a newsletter. The information needed to this end are the planned events/actions/reports/proposals that each individual member is planning to develop in the lead-up to the Summit.</li> </ul>
4. Stocktaking Report: Presentation by Jim Woodhill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The stocktaking report reviews the scale and type of current donor investments related to food systems (see PowerPoint Presentation).</li> </ul>
5. Q&A on stock-taking report and finalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The Donor Profiles:</b> Members should review their respective profiles, as these will be published together with the Stocktaking Report.</li> <li><b>Emergency food assistance.</b> There needs to be a clear-cut distinction between emergency and non-emergency food assistance, as these items are differentiated by distinct DAC codes. More precision and consistency in language is required throughout the report [ITALY].</li> </ul> <p><b>Answers:</b></p> <p>→ The Report uses the DAC coding on 'Emergency Food Assistance' &amp; 'Non-Emergency Food Assistance'. Caution will be taken to ensure consistency between the terminology used in the report and the OECD DAC codebook.</p> <p>→ This also raises a key question on how countries use the DAC coding in their portfolios and whether there might be finer-grained distinctions that should be noted.</p> <p><b>Suggestions.</b> The following points were suggested to be added to the report:</p> <p>[FRANCE]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Add a definition of food systems.</li> <li>○ Add more topics to the list of action areas, e.g. family farmers, youth &amp; women for broader donor recognition.</li> <li>○ Add a mention of the Committee of World Food Security (CFS) under 'Food Systems Governance Platforms &amp; Networks' as it is central in the global food systems architecture.</li> <li>○ Replace "Climate-smart agriculture" with "climate change adaptation &amp; mitigation".</li> <li>○ Inclusion of agro-ecology should also be considered.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The food systems approach</b> should not entirely replace "food security &amp; nutrition"; these two should remain at the core of the food systems approach.</li> <li><b>Governance:</b> A food systems governance architecture already exists, with the Rome-based UN agencies and the CFS at the core of it. The conclusion that we need to reform this global architecture does not quite fit with what is demonstrated in the report.</li> <li><b>Coordination:</b> It would be interesting to include the geopolitical aspects of ODA since this is often a salient factor for most countries.</li> <li><b>The list of recommendations from the 28 reports:</b> while agreeing with the recommendations, the list's added value was discussed, together with its inclusion of very different</li> </ul>

Agenda Point Day 1	Discussion
	<p>recommendation sources (e.g. multilateral organizations, private sector, etc.) in the same table. Sources could be hierarchized, or this section could be excluded, given the Report's length.</p> <p><b>Answers:</b>  → The above recommendations will be included in the report.  → The members should pay particular attention to the key messages that the report conveys to ensure that it highlights the main issues the Donor Platform would like to place on the FSS agenda and how it would like to shape the dialogue around donors' roles in food systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Feedback on Donor Profiles:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ [FRANCE] The Profile should include broader categories of activities to better reflect France's portfolio.</li> <li>○ [ITALY] Data accuracy on funding numbers included in the donor profiles should be checked.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Answers:</b>  → All numbers included in the report were sourced directly from the donor organizations' websites, interviews, or OECD DAC data.  → The Donor Profile's goal is to give an overview of the donors' activities rather than focus on micro-level data points.  → Members were asked to carefully check whether their profiles in the report reflect what their organizations are doing.  → An additional data check will be carried out by the Secretariat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ [UNITED STATES] In agreement with the profile &amp; the report. Feedback has already been submitted to the Secretariat.</li> <li>○ [SWITZERLAND] Currently in discussion with the Secretariat on the inclusion of the SDC's portfolio analysis.</li> <li>○ [AUSTRALIA] Feedback will be communicated shortly. There needs to be deeper critical reflection on how the donor community has performed.</li> <li>○ [EUROPEAN COMMISSION] In agreement with the profile. Further feedback will also be shared. The Stocktaking Report's outcomes, together with the Food Systems Summit's outcomes, will feed into the Commission's planned strategic review of its partnerships as well as its 2021-2027 budget cycle.</li> <li>○ [GERMANY] Members need to also pay attention to the Report's implications beyond the FSS in guiding donor' actions. Feedback on Germany's profile will be shared shortly, as there are some unfolding developments on BMZ's strategy on hunger &amp; development.</li> <li>○ [THE NETHERLANDS] Appreciates how thorough the report is and is happy with the statistics and recommendations presented. Further feedback will be shared.</li> </ul>

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS			
	ACTION	TIMELINE	ACTION OWNER (S)
1.	Feedback on the donor profiles	Friday, 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	Members
2.	Final comments on the Stock taking report (one final round will be granted following this)	Friday, 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	Members
3.	Board members interested in the co-chair positions to reach out to the secretariat during the week for clarifications about the roles (if needed) and nominations.	Wednesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2021	Members
4.	The secretariat to circulate a list of proposed/nominated co-chairs for a no-objection voting by members.	Starting 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2021	Secretariat coordinator
5.	Donor-led inputs to the food systems summit.	Friday, 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	Members

**DAY 2, 15 JUNE 2021**

**Chair: David Hegwood (USAID)**

**AGENDA**

1. Updates on Stocktaking Report launching event
2. Brainstorming on White Paper
3. Discussion on Donor Platform’s concrete contribution to the Summit in September - declaration
4. Organization of GDPRD Senior Managers Meeting
5. Discussion and decision on AGA 2021
6. Closure of meeting

Agenda Point Day 2	Discussion
<p><b>1. Updates on Stocktaking Report launching event</b></p>	<p>The launching process for the stocktaking report will take place in two phases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dissemination, promotion, and awareness raising activities that go beyond the launching event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the report on different avenues such as the GDPRD website, newsletter, social media as well as referencing it in dialogues.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. A <b>launching event</b>, whose objectives will be to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the elements of a donor perspective in response to the summit,</li> <li>• Discuss and seek agreement on key priorities for future donor focus, and</li> <li>• Ensure the donor community plays a key role in taking the outcomes of the FSS forward to achieve specific outcomes.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While the initial plan was to organize the launching event as an Independent Food Systems Dialogue, after consultations with the SDG 2 Roadmap Working Group and the FSS Secretariat, an independent event organized by the GDPRD and <b>affiliated</b> to the FSS would be a better option.</li> <li>• The event will be co-sponsored by the European Commission, IFAD and USAID. Other members who wish to co-sponsor are welcome.</li> <li>• <b>Date:</b> Week of the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, ahead of the pre-Summit. Respective national holidays &amp; members’ availability will be taken into account.</li> <li>• <b>Title:</b> “Leveraging change: The role of donors in food systems transformation”</li> <li>• <b>Structure:</b> Keynote Speaker, High-level Panel, Launching Segment.</li> <li>• The list of proposed panellists and high-level speakers will be shared for members’ review and approval.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [UNITED STATES] It is important for the Donor Platform to have a strong presence in the lead up to the FSS and pre-summit. Other members are highly encouraged to join the launching event.</li> <li>• [FRANCE] Will the event include a Q&amp;A session to encourage broader participation, especially from farmers’ organizations?</li> </ul> <p><b>Answers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Yes, there will be room for interaction. The keynote speaker will also be chosen with farmers’ organizations in mind.</li> <li>→ The event should be principally organized as a dialogue among the donors involved, as well as the countries they work with.</li> <li>→ Inputs from the Board Members on the launching event’s concept note are highly encouraged to have as much participation from the Platform Members as possible. Members will also be periodically appraised on the concept note’s development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Brainstorming on White Paper</b></p>	<p>Jim Woodhill introduced the main highlights of the white paper (see related PowerPoint)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [UNITED STATES] The paper will reflect the views of the Platform members on options for the future of food systems.</li> <li>• [AUSTRALIA] For the paper’s substance, a critical analysis of key donor conversations may be useful to nuance or change the dialogues that may not be heading in very meaningful directions, are too broad, or are ignoring the key areas that need attention. This is, however, a significant undertaking and it is necessary to have a discussion around such endeavor. The Platform and its members should dare to challenge conventional thinking and raise issues that may be also controversial.</li> <li>• [EUROPEAN COMMISSION] The paper should be short, concise, straightforward, and ambitious.</li> </ul>

Agenda Point Day 2	Discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The paper’s intention is to formulate a clear set of responses going forward. We need to be selective of the specific issues we would like to engage in and that are feasible.</li> <li>• [FRANCE] The paper should be very focused. A broader document would necessitate the validation of Ministries of Agriculture and UN Agencies, which would limit our level of ambition.</li> <li>• [SWITZERLAND] The Platform needs to use the Board sessions to start prioritizing the issues to be included in the paper.</li> <li>• Key questions to ask when prioritizing issues to be included in the paper: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What are some of the high-level processes that donors can support to catalyse resources for the needed outcomes?</li> <li>○ Is the Platform trying to develop a short, sharp report for the FSS or a longer report to push the GDPRD’s work forward after the summit?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• [AUSTRALIA] We need to think about what is the GDPRD’s niche in the food and agriculture ecosystem in order to properly address the above questions.</li> <li>• [UNITED STATES (AS CHAIR)] The white paper will represent the donors’ views and will therefore need to be cleared by the respective donor organizations. This will have an implication on the time of its release i.e. it will not be ready for the Food Systems Summit. As such, the paper will need to reflect on the Summit’s conclusions and its implications for donors.</li> <li>• The Platform needs to think about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The paper focus,</li> <li>○ The level of approval in each of the organization, and</li> <li>○ The views the Platform can present given the members’ collective advantage.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• [THE NETHERLANDS] It would be a wasted opportunity if we, as Platform, do not grasp the chance to make a statement at the FSS. the option of drafting a brief paper to be presented at the Summit should therefore be explored. Donors have a responsibility to inspire their partners in addition to contributing to the FSS.</li> <li>• [GERMANY] There will be plenty of white papers that will be produced around the FSS. The Platform should focus on its unique value added. The paper should be short, catchy and should pay attention to contents that do not need to get into lengthy approval processes by the respective donor organizations.</li> <li>• [SECRETARIAT] The GDPRD could be the only partnership platform related to agriculture and food security that brings together all the major OECD donors as well as multilateral and bilateral agencies on a single platform. This is, therefore, a unique opportunity to send strong messages.</li> <li>• The Platform should also need to craft a proper timeline to build its narrative in the lead up to the FSS and until the end of the year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [AUSTRALIA] The Platform’s name offers some clues on the direction that the white paper can take, i.e. rural development.</li> <li>• [IFAD] The paper provides an opportunity for the GDPRD to shape the follow-up actions to the FSS, to keep up the momentum afterwards. The success of the Summit will also be pegged on the concrete actions that will be formulated post-Summit to prioritize sustainable food systems.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>3. <b>Discussion on Donor Platform’s concrete contribution to the Summit in September - declaration</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [UNITED STATES (AS CHAIR)] It was proposed that a declaration statement on behalf of the GDPRD indicating the importance of the FSS to the donor community and the donors’ post-summit intentions would be presented during the FSS.</li> <li>• It was advised to wait for the outcomes of the pre-Summit and then start drafting the declaration (end of July/beginning of August). Afterwards, it would be presented at the Senior Managers’ Meeting for discussion and approval.</li> <li>• Doubts were raised around the level of seniority at which the Declaration of Intent would need to be endorsed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ [GERMANY, AUSTRALIA] Not much time is available to get approval from higher levels → The challenge that members foresee in getting higher-level approvals within their respective bureaucracies presents an opportunity for the GDPRD to solidify its own voice.</li> <li>→ [AUSTRALIA] Doubts were raised whether it is imperative to get senior sign off e.g. at the Ministerial Level on the Declaration of Intent.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>4. <b>Organization of GDPRD Senior Managers Meeting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The GDPRD’s 2021-2025 Strategic Plan envisages to host an annual meeting of senior managers responsible for food systems, agriculture, and rural development. This year’s meeting was planned in early September, to build consensus around the potential role of the GDPRD in informing and influencing discussions at the FSS.</li> <li>• [UNITED STATES] This session could be used to sign off on the Declaration of Intent, to shorten its approval process.</li> </ul>

Agenda Point Day 2	Discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The approval of the Declaration of Intent is hinged on how high up in the respective bureaucracies the members would like the statement approved. This situation also raises a principle question on whether the Platform, in its own right, can say something independently from its members.</li> <li>• The Board agreed to organize the Senior Managers Meeting before the FSS.</li> <li>• The Board will map out the series of actions needed in the coming months, including possible dialogues after the FSS on the way forward.</li> <li>• Procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Secretariat will send out an email for the Board Members to nominate the Senior Managers they would like to be involved in the meeting.</li> <li>○ A formal invitation from the GDPRD would then be sent out to those nominated.</li> <li>○ A provisional agenda and the tentative time for the Senior Managers' meeting would also be sent out in the next 2-3 weeks.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5. Discussion and decision on AGA 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was proposed to skip the 2021 edition of the AGA, given the long list of events and activities the Platform will be engaged in before and after the FSS. It would instead be organized in early 2022. In this case, it would be the first in-person AGA of the platform in 2 years.</li> <li>• Conrad Rein (EUROPEAN COMMISSION), Tristan Armstrong (AUSTRALIA) expressed their interest in participating to the AGA Preparatory Committee, together with the Platform Secretariat.</li> <li>• There is the possibility that travel will still not be feasible in/out of Australia in January/February 2021. It was proposed to plan for both an in-person and a virtual AGA.</li> <li>• The Secretariat will assess the circumstances regarding travel restrictions at around September/October 2021 and incorporate these in its planning processes.</li> </ul>

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS (DAY 2)			
	ACTION	TIMELINE	ACTION OWNER (S)
1.	Feedback on the list of proposed panelists and high-level speakers for the launching of the Stocktaking Report.	TBD	Members.
2.	The senior managers' meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Send an email for the Board members to nominate the senior managers they would like to be involved in the meeting.</li> <li>ii. Send a formal invitation from the GDPRD to those nominated.</li> <li>iii. Send a provisional agenda and the tentative time for the senior managers' meeting.</li> </ol>	Next 2-3 weeks.	Secretariat