

SDG2 ROADMAP GROUP MEETING – 17/05/2021

Chair: David Hegwood, USAID

Attendees:

- Sung Lee, USAID
- Shantanu Mathur, IFAD
- Oriane Barthelemy, AFD, France
- Manon Bellon, AFD, France
- Ammad Bahalim, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Fabrizio Moscatelli, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Paul van de Logt, the Netherlands
- Maurizio Bonavia, MFA Italy
- Federica de Gaetano, AICS, Italy
- Alison Cairns, UN FSS Secretariat
- Jennifer Chow, USAID
- Odd Arnesen, NORAD
- Iris Krebber, FCDO, UK
- Lise Albrechtsen, MFA Norway
- Maurizio Navarra, Secretariat Coordinator, GDPRD
- Alessandro Cordova, Administrative Assistant, GDPRD
- Jim Woodhill, Independent Consultant, GDPRD
- Kristal Jones, Independent Consultant, GDPRD
- Sylvia Otieno, Independent Consultant, GDPRD

Objectives

A meeting of the SDG2 Roadmap Group was convened to:

- Have an initial conversation on the stocktaking report that the Platform is planning to present ahead of the pre-Summit and which will form the basis of the white paper later this year.
- Understand the process we have ahead, as well as areas and entry points for cooperation with the Summit

Briefing by the secretariat

Maurizio Navarra provided background information on the Platform's discussions on the engagement process in the Food Systems Summit.

In February, the Board discussed and endorsed the Platform's contribution to the FSS, consisting of two main deliverables:

1. A **stocktaking report**, a preliminary analysis of donor trends in food and nutrition security, outlining areas of focus and processes of engagement at the global and national level; and
2. A **white paper** on donor coordination, whose preparation will start in parallel with the preliminary paper. Its aim is to develop a framework for thinking about the food systems agenda from the donor perspective, looking at the future, and providing a clear set of options and priorities for donors to engage.

The recommendations of the report will be developed on the basis of the outcomes of the pre-Summit and the preliminary paper. The chairs of the SDG2 Roadmap Group have agreed to use sessions of the SDG2 WG to discuss and review the stocktaking report prior to its review and endorsement by the Board. The Platform is planning a launching event for the stocktaking report on 5 July, in the form of a high-level **Independent Food Systems Dialogue on “Leveraging change: the role of donors in food system transformation”**. The Dialogue will be co-hosted by the GDPRD, the EU Commission, and IFAD, and it is open to more co-sponsors. The launching event will have 4 objectives:

- Developing a donor perspective on the food and nutrition agenda in response to the summit,
- Seeking agreement on future donor focus;
- Identifying the most effective modalities for donor operations; and
- Ensuring the donor community plays a key role in taking forward the outcomes of the FSS.

A tentative timeline of the engagement process was provided:

- **28 May**: second meeting of SDG2 Roadmap Group, where the actual content of the report will be discussed.
- **Beginning/mid-June**: Board meeting, with review and approval of the report.
- **5 July**: launching event/Independent Food Systems Dialogue.
- **26 July**: UN Food Systems Pre-summit.

Briefing on the stocktaking report

Jim Woodhill provided a general outline of the stocktaking report.

- The source of information for the report were, among others, interviews with approximately 20 donors, donor websites, DAC data, and recommendations coming from other key reports on food systems.
- The stocktaking will frame a **food systems perspective**, outlining the global food systems **architecture** and recognizing the key role of donors in keeping it in place. It will also provide an overview of donor **investments** and **strategies** in food systems, highlighting key areas of donor contribution.
- The report will provide **recommendations** for alignment with Food Systems Summit Action Tracks and past reports on Food Systems. The analytical framework of the report looks at how areas of donor contributions relate to Food Systems Summit Action Tracks, in order to analyse the distribution of donor funds, strategies, and flagship programmes.

Kristal Jones explained how the analysis of funds has been carried out with **OECD/CRS Data**.

- The analysis highlighted how the portion of food systems aid over the total aid flow has remained consistently around 8%, from 2010 to 2019.
- Data also show how the majority of funds dedicated to food systems aid are purposed toward agricultural development and food security. The report also analyses aid flows, outlining where resources pools and where they split, both in terms of projects and geographical distribution.
- The stocktaking also features **profiles of key donors**, highlighting strategies, food systems approach, areas of investment, and flagship programmes.

Jim Woodhill mentioned how the report analyses past recommendations related to food systems from 28 different reports. These recommendations provide a clear “**what**” needs to be done to bring about food systems transformation, with the challenge being figuring out “**how**” to

achieve it. The stocktaking report also provides **key messages** about donor food systems investments, addressing the following themes:

- **Food systems framing:** it is becoming more popular, but it needs more time to be embedded deeply into the system. The past categories do not always align with the new food systems framing.
- **Scale of funding:** it is significant but not huge, especially when compared to that of other players.
- **Scope of funding:** it is very broad, with no obvious big gaps. This poses the challenge of understanding how to best direct limited resources.
- **Role in global response:** mainly enabling global coordination and influencing the food systems architecture.
- **Resilience:** an increasingly emerging theme, especially in relation with climate change and COVID-19. It needs to be integrated into programming, placing a special focus on emergency preparedness rather than emergency relief activities.
- **Catalysing systemic change:** a balance is needed between projects and creating enabling conditions for global food systems transformation.

The outcomes of the pre-Summit and Summit, together with the findings of the stocktaking report, will feed into the white paper, which will address three key questions:

- How FSS outcomes align with the current donor investments portfolio;
- What are the options for donors to align their investments to the FSS outcomes; and
- How donors can optimize their catalytic role to ensure global coordination.

Presentation by Alison Cairns, FSS Secretariat

Alison Cairns provided an update on the status of the Food Systems Summit.

- The Summit's main outcome will be a **statement of action** by the **UN Secretary General**, with an annex containing actions and commitments emerging from the Summit. Member States, civil society, and private sector entities will also make commitments as an outcome of the Summit. There will also be provisions for a follow-up and regular feedback mechanism.
- All ideas emerging from the Summit will be clustered into 100 Quality Game Changers, which will be later integrated under **15 Action Areas**, cutting across the 5 Action Tracks. Action Areas are co-led by individuals in the Food Systems Champions Network, and Platform members could express their **interest to co-lead an Action Area** or a group of them.
- A given Action Area will be tackled more in detail by a **Solution Cluster**, which will have to provide a joint agreement on an overall solution, indications on how to support existing efforts and processes, a menu of actions to be taken, and follow-up commitments.
- The pre-Summit will be shifted to the **last week of July**, and will be a multi-day event, with a small in-person participation, from 30 to 300 people. The main meeting modality will be virtual.
- **Coalitions** will be catalysed by this process, with circa 5 of them being announced at the pre-Summit.

Main questions and comments raised by the Group (specifically on the FSS)

- All Countries represented in the Group will participate the Summit on an individual capacity, and will individually decide which Coalition to join and which Action Area to support. The contribution made to the Summit as a donor group will rather reflect how the donor community intends to carry forward the FSS Agenda, and what particular strengths

it can bring into this process. The Platform is still working on the outline of such message, and a side event to the Summit or pre-Summit would be the perfect opportunity to communicate it.

- It is unclear how could the Group be helpful to the FSS Secretariat running up to the pre-Summit and the Summit.
 - ➔ Through the **stocktaking report**; by leaning into the **Governance and Planning Action Area**; and through a **side event**, which would be very helpful to launch the Platform's products.
- The GDPRD is a very heterogeneous group, and each donor has its own focus areas. The Platform can build coherence across donor community in order to look at important and critical parts of food systems transformation that may fall through the cracks during follow-up actions to the Summit.
 - ➔ What the donor community, with its significant influence, can signal is the need to look at food and agriculture from a **holistic** and **systemic perspective**. The Platform's diversity of views is its very strength.
- It is unclear how many side events to the pre-Summit are envisaged to take place, what would be their design and application process, and if side events to the Summit are also envisaged.
 - ➔ There is a **form** to complete and submit. The FSS secretariat will make an assessment on the proposed side events based on where additional debate and engagement is needed. The FSS secretariat will share with the Group the latest information regarding side events.
- It is unclear when and how the registration to the pre-Summit will open, and how in-person attendance is organized.
 - ➔ In-person participants will be from **30 to 300**, mostly from member States, plus 10 to 15 people from each constituency. The registration platform is not confirmed yet, but the Secretariat is already taking submissions on the side events. Side events will also be hybrid, but this info needs to be confirmed as such level of detail is still unavailable.

General Discussion and Q&A

Main comments raised by the Group on the FSS Secretariat Presentation:

- It is unclear whether side events will be available at the Summit itself. Such information is relevant, since the bulk of the Platform's contribution will be the white paper. If side events at the Summit are envisaged, it would be better to keep such an opportunity to present the white paper, reaching a broader audience, and presenting the stocktaking report in the FSS Independent Dialogue as planned.
- The Platform could have **its own side event to the UNGA** to launch the white paper.
- FSS Independent Dialogues are a good platform to put our best foot forward, because of their **strong legitimacy** in the FSS process.
- There is still room to design what precisely the Platform's next steps could be. The Platform secretariat suggests sticking to the proposals made in the beginning – presenting the stocktaking report at the FSS Independent Dialogue on 5 July.
- The Group needs to have a conversation to understand if the white paper will be launched at the Summit or at the next AGA. If a decision to launch the stocktaking on the FSS dialogue can be made, it already would be an important achievement.

Main comments raised by the Group on the Stocktaking Report Presentation:

- It is unclear what the difference is between the stocktaking report and the work done by Ceres2030.
 - ➔ There is indeed a significant overlap with Ceres, but their work is mostly focused on hunger and agriculture, whereas the stocktaking report broadens the horizon adopting a food systems perspective.
- As the multilateral system could be pushed to do more in terms of promoting and adopting the holistic approach and integrated programming needed for food systems transformation, would it be possible to disaggregate bilateral donors from multilateral donors and foundations in the analysis?
 - ➔ The stocktaking report highlights the distinct role of multilaterals in the food systems architecture. However, further disaggregation is possible under multiple options.
- It is unclear whether the stocktaking report assumes that a food systems perspective is the only suggested donor strategy direction.
 - ➔ The report does not want to suggest that everything has to be seen from a food systems perspective. More clarity is needed on when the food systems perspective adds value or not. The analysis will make sure to take an agnostic view on the matter, rather than assuming it is the only way to go.

Closing, action areas and next steps

1. The stocktaking report will be presented in the FSS Independent Dialogue of 5 July.
2. Going beyond the stocktaking report, an ambitious goal for the Platform could be to develop a collective donor statement issued by the respective Ministers.
3. There is a need to think about what concrete contribution donors can make to the FSS process. Governance and management to trigger change would be an area to go back more explicitly to the FSS secretariat.
4. The minutes of meeting and the draft Concept Note of the FSS Independent Dialogue will be shared with the Group.
5. The Group will have a second conversation focusing on both the stocktaking report and on the FSS Independent Dialogue, to be scheduled for the end of May.