



Management Meeting

Wednesday, 19 July 2017, 15:00 – 16:00h CEST

Minutes

Participants

Co-chair: Patrick Herlant (European Commission)

Members: Amrane Boumghar (Global Affairs Canada), Marie Paviot (MFA-France), Meredith McCormack (USAID), Alexander Jones (FAO) and Vincent Glaesener (LuxDev), Torben Nilsson (IFAD), Aidan Fitzpatrick (Irish Aid)

Secretariat: Reinhild Ernst, Marion Thompson, Romy Sato, Martina Karaparusheva, Christian Mersmann, Jedi Bukachi

Apologies: Julie Delforce (DFAT-Australia), Iris Krebber (DFID), Monique Calon (MFA-NL), Shantanu Mathur, co-chair (IFAD)

Agenda

1. Administration
2. Governance
3. Thematic Work
4. AOB

1. Administration

Co-chair Patrick Herlant welcomed the participants to the Management Meeting and gave the floor to the secretariat to report on the administrative items.

The secretariat acknowledged the efforts of the members to provide supplementary funding and reported on the current **status of contributions**. To date, nine members have signed a contribution agreement regarding core-funding for member year 2017. Two additional agreements regarding 2017 core-funding are in the pipeline (IFAD, IADC) while the next agreement with the EC continues to be in very close collaboration. Supplementary funding has been provided by way of amending existing agreements by DFAT towards the Inclusive Agribusiness working group and SDC towards the Global Donor Working Group on Land.

Board members have been provided with an **adjusted 2017 indicative budget**, which is in accordance with a review and discussions during the virtual Board meeting held in May 2017. This will also be reflected and briefly elaborated in the semi-annual progress report 2017, which the secretariat will provide Board members with in the near future. Besides informing about the status of contributions and accounting, the upcoming progress report will inform on the Platform achievements and activities during the first half of 2017.



Regarding **additional resource mobilization**, the secretariat continues to be in contact with a number of members regarding any possibilities of additional funding and, in the spirit of a decision taken at the virtual Board meeting held in May, reminded of the important role of the Board members in the realm of funds mobilization.

Further, the secretariat pointed out that it informed the co-chairs recently regarding several proposals made by various working groups for activities in 2017 which would require additional funding, for example via more core- and supplemental funding and/or via in-kind contributions. The proposals were made by Trade for ARD, Climate-resilient Agriculture as well as by Agenda 2030 and finance, totalling in approximately Euro 72.000 to Euro 95.000 for which funding sources have yet to be identified.

2. Governance

Co-chair Patrick Herlant informed that the majority of Board members have agreed with the proposal to move the next Annual General Assembly (AGA) to late Spring/early Summer 2018. It still remains open as to whom will host the AGA. With the postponing of the event and the positive thematic discussion of possible topics, the co-chairs are confident that the hosting will be clarified by the end of October, which will give 6 months at least for organising a successful general assembly.

The secretariat and the co-chairs have been in touch with Monique Calon (MFA-NL) to discuss the possibility for the Dutch Ministry to host the AGA. In general, there is a lot of interest to host it, but since 2017 was an election year, they will have to wait for their new government to decide on it. With regard to the topic, the secretariat has prepared an initial draft concept note on youth in rural areas, which was shared for comments with the co-chairs and some partners. The secretariat will share the concept note once the official host of the AGA has been confirmed and has approved the topic.

The next item on the agenda was the membership requests from International Trade Centre (ITC) and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). Since the membership of BMGF was already once discussed during the Board meeting in Brussels (Feb 2017), the co-chairs made the decision to reach out to specific Board members to better understand their reasoning for questioning a possible membership of BMGF. This was welcomed by USAID and MFA-France. It was agreed to await the bilateral discussions with the co-chairs to make a decision. With regard to the ITC membership, the coordinator made reference to the Strategic Plan in which the governance structure is spelled out. Only organisations that pay the annual membership-fee will be “Full Members”, meaning that they are part of the Platforms’ Board, and as such they are part of the decision-making body, which is in charge of the long-term strategy of the Platform. Since ITC indicated that they are currently not in the position to make a yearly financial contribution to the Platform, they are requesting to become a “normal” member (previously called “Associated Members” now called “Members”). They want to engage even closer with Platform on rural development and trade and food systems related projects. There were no objections, it was agreed to invite ITC to become officially a member of the Platform.

2. Thematic work

The **Global Working Group on Land** has submitted a proposal for a side-event at the CFS in October. The event was jointly proposed by USAID and EC on the topic of “Impact of increasing capital flows to rural areas”. It will focus on the impact of domestic investments in land governance and follows on the discussions that took place in Brussels in June during the EC workshop on the same topic. The Group is



organising two other meetings back-to-back to the CFS. One of them is a workshop to design the Group's Road Map 2017-2020, which will serve as strategic guidance for the annual work plans. The second is the physical meeting of the Group, which traditionally takes place in conjunction with the CFS.

There was a webinar held on 11 July to share the results of a report commissioned by DFID that looked at mapping of development partners and **agribusiness** networks in Sub-Saharan Africa. The response was quite positive from members of several working groups of the Platform. The webinar also confirmed the added value of the Platform as it shared the results of a rather internal donor-commissioned report which is not normally discussed in other fora. The secretariat is engaging on bilateral discussions with members to draft the work plan of the workstream for the next 12 months. Some of the focus areas so far are: 1) pProblems and obstacles to IAB in particular places, 2) Approaches to improve the enabling environment for IAB and 3) Impact assessment of IAB initiatives and policies. Once the work plan is finalised with the leading members of the group, the secretariat will share it with the full membership.

The **gender workstream** is happy to announce that the pre-final version of the study on Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) in agribusiness has received positive feedback, and the final version of the work will be shared with the members and partners within the next few days. The secretariat is planning a webinar to discuss WEE in agriculture after the release of the study, and has reached out to Canada and FAO to present alongside Clare Bishop who drafted the Platform report. The Platform co-chairs have been contacted to offer the opening and wrap up of the webinar. The EC offered to provide the contact of a specialist on the topic of women's economic empowerment that could represent the EC in the webinar. The secretariat will share information about the webinar once it is clear when it will take place.

The secretariat was present the Global Aid for Trade Review, where participants strongly linked inclusive agribusiness approaches with **trade** standards and agreements. Furthermore, many of the discussions circled around the fact that beneficial agribusiness environment strongly depends on trade connectivity and facilitation. For more information on the event and the discussions, the secretariat will share the back to office report. One of the highlights nevertheless was the launch of the German "Aid for Trade" - Strategy, that confirms the diversification the German government is going to pursue by investing not only in infrastructure, but also in digital connectivity, policy making and capacity building for cross-sectoral programmes and inter-ministerial coordination. The trade working group in cooperation with ECDPM will finalise the Paul Engel study on policy coherence between agriculture and trade funded by the EU.

Additionally, the secretariat is actively looking for additional funding to build on the outcomes of this study. With the growing importance of **Aid for Trade** and the active involvement of private sector, the interlinkages and coherence issues between agriculture, trade and business will have to be explored in more depth in 2017. The secretariat also made the proposal to organise a series of webinars that will focus on certain aspects of agricultural trade policies – trade development policies, intra-regional trade, standards and enhanced integrated frameworks etc.

EC raised the question of **possible duplicity and closer cooperation** between the inclusive agribusiness work stream and the trade working group. MFA-France also asked about the possible synergies in their work. The secretariat is actively engaging with the members on this issue. There is still reluctance to fully merge the two groups, but both groups are looking into ways to coordinate closer and build on each other's work. The specific goals of both groups, as depicted in their work plans, are closely connected and the secretariat is exploring the synergies and complementarity, while avoiding duplicity.



The engagement of the secretariat with **CAADP and more specifically with the Development Partners Coordination Group** (DPCG) is ongoing. The Platform in partnership with the GIZ CAADP Support Programme in South Africa commissioned a paper that maps the CAADP programmatic and institutional landscape and offers a clear overview of CAADP policy framework, implementation, financing among others. This is seen as a living document that can be used as an outreach document to re-engage a number of donors. The first draft will be shared with Ibrahim Mayaki, Head of NPCA/NEPAD for comments and following his input, the document will be shared with the members and published on the website. The mapping exercise of the Platform is focusing on the continental level, while the DPCG is currently conducting a mapping of national and regional level bilateral engagement of donors. The secretariat will also publish a list of relevant CAADP documents on the website.

The secretariat met with several members in Rome to discuss the topic of **climate resilient agriculture**. While in Rome, the secretariat participated in the steering committee meeting of GACSA. Information on the outcomes are outlined in the back to office report. Additionally, IFAD has informed that the executive Board of IFAD has endorsed the concept ASAP2. The secretariat will share further information on the new ASAP2 goals and processes in an InfoNote. FAO established a new climate-resilience team that will support countries to develop agricultural projects to be funded by the Green Climate Fund. The secretariat is re-engaging with MFA-France on the possibility to host a side-event at the Fiji COP, which will be held in Bonn in November.

The secretariat is further working on an analysis of the **financial trends for agriculture** in the new development assistance framework. The information gathered by Marc Paquin in 2016 will be complemented by new data delivered by OECD and put in a perspective by a comparison to new instruments used to finance agriculture and rural development. The secretariat is also in discussion with IFAD and GIZ to organise a telco to present their new programmes for financing smallholder farmers.

The topic of **youth empowerment** under the Platform's *Strategic Initiative Agenda2030 for Rural Transformation* is further pursued as part of the activities under the preparation for the AGA. One of the objectives of the workplan of this initiative is the further analysis of rural transformation trends. In this regard, the secretariat is following closely the CFS open working group on Agenda2030, rural-urban linkages and migration in close cooperation with GIZ Project Territorial Landscape Management.

The secretariat is also preparing several **InfoNotes**. One of them will focus on the interlinking connection between agriculture and water, another will explore the private sector investments in the SDGs and more specifically the attractiveness of SDGs1 and 2. BMZ and GIZ have shared several documents on the G20 outcomes, which the secretariat will summarise in an InfoNote and a web story. IFAD has shared a [report by IFAD and World Bank on youth employment](#) and a [report on the link between remittances and development](#).

3. AOB

The Platform welcomes three new Focal Points. Felix Fellman will be moving to China and the new Focal point for SDC will be Mr. Ueli Mauderli. Joseph Coomson has also moved to another position in AfDB and will be replaced by Mrs. Atsuko Toda. Annelene Bremer from BMZ is on maternity leave and our new focal point is Mr. Bernhard Worm.

Next steps

Activity	Dates	Responsible
Provide Board members with semi-annual progress report	early August	secretariat
Send an email to ITC to confirm their membership	July 2017	secretariat
Discussions with members on the issue of BMGF membership	on-going	secretariat and co-chairs
Share the AGA concept note, once host is confirmed	as soon as possible (asap)	secretariat
Share the agribusiness working group's work plan	August	secretariat
Organise a webinar to launch the gender and inclusive agribusiness study	asap	secretariat
Organise a series of webinars that will focus on certain aspects of agricultural trade policies	Starting after the summer break	secretariat
Prepare a story or/and share the BTOR from Geneva	asap	secretariat
Publish CAADP relevant documents on the website	asap	secretariat
Share CAADP mapping document	asap	secretariat
Share information on ASAP2	asap	secretariat
Publish InfoNotes on SDGs interlinkages, private sector investments in SDGs and G20 outcomes	asap	secretariat