



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

MINUTES BOARD MEETING

DATE: 22 FEBRUARY 2022

PARTICIPANTS

- Anna Befus, FAO
- Boris Büchler, Germany
- Bruce Campbell, Switzerland
- David Hegwood, United States
- Fabrizio Moscatelli, Gates Foundation
- Federica de Gaetano, Italy
- Frank Bertelmann, GIZ
- Gemma Betsema, the Netherlands
- Karol Boudreaux, United States
- Liz Kirk, United Kingdom
- Manon Bellon, France
- Peter Wobst, FAO
- Ron Hartman, IFAD
- Sung Lee, United States
- Sven Braulik, GIZ
- Tristan Armstrong, Australia
- Willem Olthof, European Commission

GDPRD Secretariat:

- Maurizio Navarra
- Michelle Tang
- Alessandro Cordova
- Lise Saga
- Monique Elizabeth Amar
- Luca Passacantilli
- Kristal Jones
- Jim Woodhill
- Mandakini Devasher Surie

AGENDA

Issue	Item	Details
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Tristan Armstrong/Australia
2.	Update on White Paper + Q&A	Jim Woodhill Kristal Jones
3.	Work Plan 2022 + Q&A	GDPRD Secretariat
4.	Presentation of 2021 Annual Report	Mandakini D. Surie
5.	Update on GDPRD Communications + Q&A	GDPRD Secretariat
6.	Dialogues with Thematic Working Groups + Q&A	TWG Chairs

KEY HIGHLIGHTS/ISSUES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

[Australia]

- Welcomed Board to the first meeting of 2022

2. UPDATE ON WHITE PAPER

[Kristal Jones]

- The White Paper is the Platform's latest engagement with the food systems agenda, which started with the Annual General Assembly (AGA) in 2020. The Platform engaged in the Food Systems Summit, launched the Stocktaking Report and developed the Declaration of Intent last fall.
- Stakeholders have already worked extensively to underline *why* there is a need for a food systems transformation and *what* is needed, covering topics of climate, hunger, equality and more. The White Paper will therefore look at *how* such transformation can be accomplished.
- Research for the White Paper included a review of the Summit outputs, and interviews with 20-25 stakeholders who contributed to the Summit. Three key messages arose about what is needed:
 - 1) Coordination, alignment and integration of objectives on the ground;
 - 2) Tackling the structural barriers to change; and
 - 3) Adopting a systemic approach.
- The action areas from the Declaration of Intent became the framework for the White Paper:
 1. Strengthening coordination among donors
 2. Mobilizing responsible investment in food systems from the public and private sector
 3. Investing in research and data systems
 4. Supporting policy innovation at national and global levels
 5. Strengthening the governance architecture for food systems
 6. Promoting engagement of private sector actors and value chain innovation
 7. Strengthening social protection mechanisms, disaster preparedness and emergency relief programmes.

[Jim Woodhill]

- Members gave their feedback on the draft, refining language and the use of concepts.
- The importance of power relations has been underscored, but is an important area that might require further work.
- Regarding the formality or the scope of the Platform's role in liaising with the UN FSS Coordination Hub, there were differing opinions between Platform members, which will need to be discussed further.
- For follow-up, the Platform will:
 - develop work streams with particular focus on analytical work around country-level coordination for national pathways, financing and data for policy making;
 - advocate for embedding the systems approach into food systems programming;
 - link to the horizon scanning process for stock taking on post-Summit activities.

[Maurizio Navarra]

- A communication action plan will be developed for the White Paper use beyond the launching event. The report will be used to inform the Platform's action plan
- For the White Paper process, comments have been received since 6 January and the layout and production phase will now begin.
- The launching event is planned for 29 March. It will consist of a keynote and a panel conversation, based on the themes of the paper.

- The White Paper crosses paths with the work of the SDG2 Roadmap Working Group. The policy and strategy work from the White Paper blends with the analytical work of Ceres2030, which is a key area of the SDG2 Group.
- The Paper will be very useful for the first horizon scanning exercise, which will be held back-to-back with the Senior Managers Meeting in September 2022. The Platform has many tools to use including the White Paper, Ceres2030, the dialogue on SDG2 and the post-Summit agenda.

[USA]

- USAID is still in the process of reviewing the White Paper.
- Mentions of agroecology and right to food are two sensitive items to the US and may raise concerns. The internationally agreed language on these topics would be of preference.

[European Commission]

- Question of whether the White Paper will be considered a living document, and if it will be closed off now or used as a basis for future discussions.
- A key activity of the work plan should be to follow up with the FSS Coordination Hub.
 - Donors are waiting for developments in the Coordination Hub and coalitions, guidance on the use, assistance and development of national pathways and engagement with the private sector.

[Maurizio Navarra]

- The Secretariat welcomes additional comments and will hold off production to accommodate the comments.
- The White Paper is a living document which will be an instrument for future endeavours, but must be cleared to be released for public consumption and posted on the website.
- With IFAD hosting the Platform, there are some obvious connections with the Hub. In the White Paper, there was a proposal for an informal interfacing role of the GDPRD Secretariat to the Coordination Hub, which is concerning for some Board members. The aim was to ensure the opportunity for interaction to help inform the GDPRD Board on the developments in the Hub.

[France]

- France is reviewing the new version of the White Paper and will be reverting with comments in the coming weeks.
- The quotes in the White Paper now have some indication of the affiliation of the interviewees being 'contributors to the Summit'. However, it is not clear whether these contributors are from the Summit organization team or if they are member states etc., since all stakeholders have contributed to the Summit process.
- On the role of GDPRD in liaising with the Hub, France is in favour of an informal relationship. The structure of the Hub is complex, so there should not be too high ambitions for the relationship.
- France will need to consider the plan for creating a new work stream on finance, and on catalysing and re-risking finance, as well as the links with the Public Development Bank Coalition.

[Maurizio Navarra]

- The point about the Hub is well recognised and understood, and is why an informal relationship is proposed, with no obligations to take place, but to allow for some connection between the GDPRD Board and the Hub.

[Switzerland]

- With differing priorities of donors, it is important to consider how the document is positioned. It is good that it will be a living document. For example, agroecology is a primary pillar for Switzerland in this area.
- To reach agreed language for the White Paper, there needs to be agreement on the right reference. All countries have contributed strongly to the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, which could underpin the White Paper.

- The level of clearance needed should depend on how binding the document is. The document should be seen as a set of options for donors.

[France]

- A reflection on the diversity of donors inside the Platform and beyond should be better emphasized in the White Paper.

[Jim Woodhill]

- The suggestions in the White Paper are not binding to anyone, but rather a menu of options for donors. If this is not clear enough in the document, the language can be adjusted.
- There needs to be some clarity within the Board around the language of agroecology and right to food. Some members have been strong in their requests to include the terms agroecology and right to food, while others request the opposite.

[Australia]

- It is worth emphasising the status of this document, which is a shared and living document, and not a formal representation of individual donors and their formal policy positions. A relaxed and conversational approach was encouraged, to ensure a workable process with a tangible endpoint.

[Jim Woodhill]

- There are a few terminology issues which must be agreed upon to ensure all members are comfortable with the document.

[Maurizio Navarra]

- In terms of process, there are still comments pending and modification of language will be evaluated to ensure that positions from the diversity of donors are well featured and to make clear that the document does not present commitments.
- There will be a new draft next week, to move to production for the first version of the report.

3. WORK PLAN

[Maurizio Navarra]

- The work plan has emphasized a results-based approach since 2021, with a vision and mission and outcome areas well defined.
 - Outcome Area 1 focuses on the Platform's contribution to the SDG2 agenda and strategic influencing capability, including two deliverables; (1) the White Paper; and (2) a Stocktaking Report on country-level coordination.
 - The Secretariat proposed to launch a programme on financing options for food systems transformation, with a Donor Roundtable to be held in April. The aim would be to understand the role of donors in catalysing and de-risking finance from various sectors, including the private sector, increasing finance from SMEs and to create linkages with climate finance. This could also link to the overall issue of Public Development Banks.
 - A horizon scanning exercise is planned to coincide with the Senior Managers Meeting in September.
 - The proposed dates for the AGA are 21 - 22 June.
 - For increased resource mobilisation, new members will be identified and mobilised.
 - A new communication strategy and action plan will be developed, along with a revised website and visual identity.

[European Commission]

- Proposed relabelling SDG2 to SDG2+, to reflect the more holistic food systems framing coming from the UNFSS and interactions with other elements of rural development.
- The wording of item 5 suggests that the membership base should be extended solely to increase funding. It should be made clear that it is important to increase membership to strengthen the representation of donors.

[France]

- Question about whether the work plan is based on the annual budget.

- Question about if the high-level event on financing has interactions with the SDG2 TWG; since both topics are relevant to Agenda2030, perhaps some coordination with the UNFSS follow-up mechanisms would be appropriate.
- Question about the proposed participants for the financing and country-level coordination events. Suggestion to invite beneficiary countries to ensure wider perspectives.
- Requested more details on the informal newsletter proposed in the work plan.

[Maurizio Navarra]

- The budget was not shared because the past years' budgets have not been executed due to Covid-19. However, the budget can be sent to all board members on request.
- Linkages between a financing event and Ceres2030 are being discussed as the SDG2 group decides how they want to proceed. The conversations on SDG2+ must be holistic, and the AGA can be an arena for this discussion.
- The financing event will be a closed donor dialogue, with similar structure to the Donor Roundtable which was held in December.
- The informal newsletter will be similar to the Food Systems Summit newsletter of 2021, but the topics have not been decided yet.

[USAID]

- Question of whether principals and senior managers usually attend the AGA.

[Maurizio Navarra]

- The senior managers meeting is separate from the AGA to give it proper breadth and scope.

4. ANNUAL REPORT

[Mandakini D. Surie]

- 2021 was an eventful year for the Platform, both at an operational level within the Secretariat and with external engagement.
- Secretariat highlights:
 - New strategic plan and results-based work plan
 - Australia and EU Commission as Co-chairs
 - Membership steady at 40, with a focus on more engagement
 - Fully staffed Secretariat
 - Senior managers meeting and TWG chairs meeting
- Platform highlights:
 - High level food systems event on The Role of Donors in Food Systems Transformation
 - Donor roundtable on Supporting country-level food systems transformation pathways
 - Launch of Stocktaking Report and Declaration of Intent
 - White Paper to be released in March, AGA to be held in June
- Thematic Working Group highlights:
 - SDG2 Roadmap WG:
 - Ceres2030 provided critical inputs to the UNFSS
 - Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL):
 - Work on a land tenure policy paper
 - Concept note for a land tenure and governance report
 - Joint event with RYE-TWG
 - Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment:
 - Engagement in the UNFSS and the Committee on World Food Security
 - Stocktaking exercise and publication on Youth Networks
 - Multiple webinars and meetings
- The year in numbers: 5 board meetings, 2 high level events, 16 TWG meetings, 6 TWG special events

[Maurizio Navarra]

- The Annual Report will be published in March so that donors have the report and financial statements when making their yearly contributions to the Platform.

5. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

[Michelle Tang]

- A situational analysis was conducted to ensure that the Platform's communication tools are fit for purpose and that key audiences are reached. It was determined that the communications networks would be adjusted to facilitate knowledge exchange and increase engagement. It is also good timing as the Platform shifts from the UNFSS toward an SDG2+ agenda.
- A communications theory of change was developed for a results-based approach. The overarching communications objective is to be recognizable for:
 - Strategic influencing
 - Work is visible
 - Value and relevance are demonstrated
 - Awareness building
 - Proactive and engaged
 - Knowledge sharing
 - Platform is central for donor-led discussion
 - Updates on relevant dialogues and policies
 - Networking for building partnerships and synergies
 - Community hub
 - Investments are captured within membership
 - Builds credibility and usefulness
 - Strong linkages to international development community
 - Advocacy and outreach
- The visual identity is currently being revised to be more current and modern
- A new website is being developed, in an open-source industry standard format, WordPress, for easier navigation and a more dynamic and responsive communications channel.
- Social media, online knowledge hub, and the newsletter are all ongoing communications work which will incorporate the new identity.
- Communications will build momentum around the 20th anniversary of the Platform in 2023.

6. THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL)

[Karol Boudreaux]

- Karol introduced herself, as a Senior Land Resource Governance Advisor at USAID and chair of the Land Governance TWG. She was joined by co-chair Gemma Betsema, from the Netherlands Enterprise Agency
- The 2008 global food crisis launched conversations on how land tenure and governance is critical to food systems. Policy documents and frameworks were established, such as the The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) in 2012. Land is integrated in the SDGs and land governance is recognized as critical for all development objectives. However, 20% of rural people still feel tenure insecure.
- TWG focuses on promoting inclusive land resource governance in order to increase food security, particularly through encouragement of SDG land-related indicators. Main achievements of the past years are:
 - 29 members
 - Regular group meetings, currently virtual but normally 2 annual in-person meetings
 - Strong engagement with leading land organizations, and UNFSS engagement through a policy paper on land tenure and sustainable agri-food systems
 - Joint event with the RYE TWG on youth access to land
 - Supported a consultancy to begin developing the State of Land Governance Report
 - New website launch
- 2022 will feature the 10-year anniversary of the VGGTs, engagement in the CFS meetings, facilitating country-level coordination amongst members, and an Evidence Summit for sharing multiple land-related impact evaluations.

Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment (TWG RYE)

[Frank Bertelmann]

- Frank works in GIZ and is the co-chair of the Rural Youth Employment TWG. He was joined by co-chairs Sven Braulik (GIZ), Anna Befus (FAO) and Peter Wobst (FAO)
- G20 and G7 summits have called for strong youth engagement in food systems transformation. The topic is urgent and relevant policy frameworks are being developed.
- The TWG participates in policy processes (e.g., CFS, UNFSS), and focuses on supporting youth organizations and coalitions
- The group re-launched last year and has 16 active members, most focusing on or participating from Africa and Asia. In 2021, regular calls and 15 events were held.
- The co-chairmanship between FAO and GIZ is productive, and the full-time Secretariat support, partly funded by NORAD, was highly beneficial.

[Anna Befus]

- In 2021, the TWG ToRs, work plan, and strategic directions were developed. Accomplishments of the year include:
 - A webinar on inclusive pathways of structural transformation for rural youth employment
 - An independent dialogue on African youth as drivers for decent job creation in sustainable food systems,
 - Concept note and brainstorming workshop on a coalition for boosting youth engagement and employment in agri-food systems
 - Engagement in the CFS policy convergence process on promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems
 - Joint session with the Land Governance TWG
- 2022 plans include a green jobs webinar, an AGA session, continued engagement with the CFS policy convergence process, and UNFSS follow-up processes.

SDG 2 Roadmap Working Group

[David Hegwood]

- No extensive presentation on this TWG was held as most board members are already involved in the SG2/Ceres2030 work.
- TWG is discussing Ceres2030 follow-up, engagement with the UNFSS and national pathways, and potential collaboration with the Gates Foundation on inequalities in agriculture. A more precise work plan is being developed for 2022.

[Maurizio Navarra]

- A proposal is being developed on the future of the TWG and Ceres2030, including discussions of ODA trend analysis, a holistic view of SDG2 with climate and nutrition, and country-level coordination.
- Reminder that the TWGs are independent groups, unsupervised by the Platform.

[Peter Wobst]

- It would be helpful if the TWG work (e.g., seminars, webinars) were shared more widely within and outside the Platform in order to be catalytic and bring the issues into the broader development community. The TWG-RYE would be happy to be more involved in and provide input to other donor work, and foster more interaction in the future.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Agenda item	Action	Timeline	Responsible Person(s)
2	Comments and revisions will be integrated to a last draft of the White Paper	Week of 7 March	GDPRD Secretariat
2	Organise the Launch of the White Paper	29 March	GDPRD Secretariat
3	Organise a Donor Roundtable on Financing	April	GDPRD Secretariat
3	Share budget for 2022 with the Board	TBD	GDPRD Secretariat
4	Publish Annual Report	March	GDPRD Secretariat