



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

MINUTES INFORMAL BOARD MEETING

DATE: 21 OCTOBER 2021

PARTICIPANTS

-
- Tristan Armstrong – Co-Chair, Australia
 - Conrad Rein – Co-Chair, European Commission
 - Bruce Campbell - Switzerland
 - Chris de Nie - The Netherlands
 - Fabrizio Moscatelli – Gates Foundation
 - Geoffroy Savet - France
 - Maria Tekülve - Germany
 - Nicolas Fairise - France
 - Sanna-Liisa Taivalmaa - Finland
 - Shantanu Mathur - IFAD
 - Sung Lee – USA
- GDPRD Secretariat:
- Maurizio Navarra
 - Michelle Tang
 - Jim Woodhill
 - Kristal Jones
 - Alessandro Cordova
 - Petronilla Wandeto
 - Lise Saga
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AGENDA

Duration	Item	Details
30'	Discussion on the outcomes of the Food Systems Summit and their implications (+ Q&A)	Jim Woodhill
20'	Follow-up and roadmap for the next months (+ Q&A)	Maurizio Navarra
20'	Development of the white paper (+ Q&A)	Jim Woodhill
10'	Next Annual General Assembly (+ Q&A)	Maurizio Navarra
10'	AOB and closure	

KEY HIGHLIGHTS/ISSUES

1. DISCUSSION ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS

[Jim Woodhill]

presented his reflections on the Food System Summit, which can also be found in a [blog post](#) on the GDPRD website. He highlighted the positive outcomes of the Summit, focusing on how the whole food systems agenda was advanced and how strong links were made between the issues of poverty and food security and the wider agenda on global food issues, such as climate change and global health.

- The background work and stakeholder mobilization has been significant, with food systems dialogues unleashing much discussion and engagement, along with the game changing-solutions and coalitions.
- The summit did not lead to much commitment. There was much discussion on what needs to be changed, but not necessarily on how this should be achieved.

[European Commission]

- We as a platform need to follow up and stay engaged, and ideally drive the agenda by making our voices heard. We did it with the declaration of intent and will continue with a discussion on how we follow up. The White Paper will be important here.

[Australia]

- The biggest takeaway from the Summit and the work leading up to it is the regained focus on food and its complexities, and the momentum that was built around this. We have opportunities as members here and in our own organizations to maintain the momentum. It is important not to get bogged down by the details but to lift the conversation.

[France]

- The Summit put food and food systems high on the political agenda, but the process was difficult to follow. The summit format, with the succession of numerous interventions and announcements of coalitions was confusing, and the menu of options for coalitions was too broad. France has supported two of the coalitions on school meals and on agroecology.
- France was happy that the Secretary-General did not ask for a restructuring of the food systems architecture. The role of CFS is important to France, and they appreciated the mentioning of CFS and HLPE in the Statement of Action.

[Switzerland]

- The Summit will probably not be as memorable as envisaged, mainly due to the virtual format and the sequence of video messages. The important points for the follow-up will be how we can tie it to upcoming events, such as COP26.
- The second important takeaway is the building of coalitions. With an extensive list to choose from, we are happy to see that agriculture and the link between production and consumption is prominently placed.

[The Netherlands]

- The momentum of the Summit has lifted the broad variety of complicated aspects of food systems on to the political agenda. The question now is how to use the momentum. We are focusing on how the Netherlands can support national pathways, and that is something that should be central to the Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs) as well. The Netherlands are part of 6 coalitions, and are therefore eager to find ways to combine efforts to shift to action.

[IFAD]

- The Summit was a qualified success, aiming to be a Peoples' Summit, with few institutions leading the agenda. The high-level messages were to work in a systemic manner, with intersectoral and interdisciplinary approaches. The architecture of how we follow up is still to be defined, but the RBAs are going to be key and the CFS will have a central role, as a multistakeholder mechanism that can provide policy products. An important role that the GDPRD could have in the formulation of national pathways, is to use their leverage to

increase the inter-ministerial dialogues on food systems. IFAD is happy with the Summit outcomes, with key messages that match our inclusive and sustainable rural transformation agenda. With COP26 coming up, it can reinforce the role of environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation.

[USA]

- The process leading up to the Summit could have been better, but it did bring an important momentum, elevating food security and nutrition to the front and center of the international agenda. President Biden announced a \$10 billion commitment to promote food systems transformation, and we will continue to build the momentum through our global food security strategy. The GDPRD could play a leading role into 2022, as Germany takes on the leadership of G20. The question will be how we coordinate our joint collective resources. USA will share their global food security strategy with whomever is interested after it is launched this week.

2. FOLLOW-UP AND ROADMAP FOR THE NEXT MONTHS

[Secretariat – Maurizio Navarra]

- The Secretariat presented a plan for a post-Summit action agenda:
 - Since the Platform was transferred from GIZ to IFAD, milestones such as the special Board session with the Food System Summit Secretariat in July 2020, and the 2020 Annual General Assembly have created a basis for our engagement in the food systems agenda.
 - The Strategic Plan (2021-2025) was endorsed in February 2021, and in September the GDPRD launched several deliverables: the Stocktaking report on Donor Contributions to Food Systems, the Declaration of Intent and the High-Level food systems event on 9 September.
 - The declaration identified 7 key areas for how to reorient donor programmes.
- Based on the findings from the report and the declaration, we are working towards the development of a White Paper. The questions we will attempt to answer is how we can optimize the catalytic and enabling role of donors and ensure coordination.
 - Our proposal for developing an action agenda is therefore to **select some targeted areas of work in which we want to focus our attention**. We would like to promote the establishment of dedicated task teams based on the topics for the White Paper, and use the paper as a springboard to move our conversation forward on food systems. An important milestone for these task teams will be the AGA 2022. We were thinking of promoting the development of **three to four initial task teams**, but this will of course be adjusted according to your interests.
 - The first step would be to develop ToRs for the task teams, to ensure that they are thematically focused and outcome oriented.

[Finland]

- Finland appreciates the amount of work put into this plan, but is hesitant to get involved in too many issues. We have the coalitions and several other multistakeholder initiatives going on, so the value added and the potential workload will have to be carefully considered.
- If the task teams will be result-based and is only going to continue for 2-3 months, it might make a difference.

[France]

- We are reluctant to join any task teams or working groups at the moment. This would need more preparation and discussion to make a decision.
- The process of creating working groups for then to close them after some time, does also seem idealistic, because usually such informal structures do continue in some form.

[Switzerland]

- Overall, Switzerland welcomes the initiative. We have to make sure we are not creating task groups for the sake of being active, and it might also depend on how the coalitions settle. Switzerland is open to the idea of task teams as a test drive, and see how they could develop.

It is worthwhile seeing which of these themes would interest us, and have a timebound engagement to see if it is worth continuing.

[IFAD]

- The themes that have been suggested are all compelling areas of work.
- There is a need for substantive discussions in the GDPRD, to increase its influence and coherence. These task teams would add value to the work of the Platform.
- The task teams would not require much time, but could build on the vast amount of existing work on policies, written work and existing positions. We could develop a short think piece to be representative for the coherent view of GDPRD.
- There are already 2-3 topics that IFAD could join a task force on.

[Jim Woodhill]

- We will be careful to proliferate a whole lot of groups that do not deliver enough. The key outcome of this would be to create a clear position on what donors could be doing differently to take forward the agenda that is emerging.
- An example of what a task group could be working on is the need for coordination at the national level.

[Secretariat – Maurizio Navarra]

- We realize the proliferation of working groups and coalitions is a key problem here and in development in general. We insist on the fact that these task teams only make sense if they are really outcome bases.
- We would like to have the possibility to shape the follow up agenda to the summit with clear actions and clear outcomes. We see a need for the development of an action agenda. This will depend on Board members to step up and develop this agenda.
- If we stay focused and limit the task teams to a minimal number, we can achieve important contributions for the Platform and the community.

[Australia]

- These task teams have to be something of real value to us individually and collectively. We need to open up for people to identify key questions that they are interested in answering.
 - The task teams could be structured to do some thinking on a relevant question and present some analysis of what these areas could offer to us and the donor community.
 - People will probably need more time to decide on this, and a follow up discussion might be useful.

[European Commission]

- We need to work together on key issues, but we will not come to an agreement today, so maybe we give some time to reflect on this action agenda. The Secretariat can come up with a specific proposal on how to move forward.

[Secretariat – Maurizio Navarra]

- We will follow the lead of the Chairs and the Board members. There is a value in developing a proper action agenda that is output- and outcome oriented.

[The Netherlands]

- This discussion is very relevant, also reflecting on the added value and role of the GDPRD. A proposal for a process would be to consider our role as stakeholders in the food system and our dependency on national actions and the national pathways that are underway.
 - The national pathways will bring clarity about the themes and the actions needed. We could bring them back to our platform to create a more coherent substantive role on the research and policy vacuums that need to be filled.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHITE PAPER

[*Jim Woodhill*]

- The idea of the White Paper is to be specific about a menu of things that donors could be doing differently.
- We intend to interview the members of the Platform and a whole group of other key players. We will be asking about the plans of our members and how they see the way forward.
- The outline of the White Paper will look at the outcomes of the Summit and carry out an analysis of the pathways, dialogues, commitments and coalitions.
- Next step will be to look at the different perspectives from stakeholders and to formulate a theory of change to take forward the whole food system transformation agenda.
- What is it that donors can most effectively be doing to try to catalyse the change that has been called for?

[*Germany*]

- Going back to the task teams, we should not have too many groups, and they have to be highly focused for us to agree on certain priorities for maybe one or two groups.
- Secondly, regarding the white paper, we have to be thinking about how we will be disseminating this paper. Who are the people it will be addressing?
- Questioning if we should really be focusing on the term food systems – the topic of food systems was chosen based on its relatability to the Summit, but now the Summit is over. We should rather focus on where we can add value on regional rural development, agroecology, systemic progress and landscape approaches.

[*Jim Woodhill*]

- The need to link back to the broader rural development agenda is critical. The food systems agenda has tried to bring in the equity, environmental, health and nutrition issues, and to understand how all of this fits into a broader vision around rural development, which will be important for the framing of the white paper.
- The White Paper's intention was to be GDPRD's response to the Food System Summit.

[*Australia*]

- In response to the comment about rural development, I do not think we have to choose one or the other, but rather represent both of these domains in the White Paper.

[*France*]

- We need to keep in mind where we came from and what our initial focus was. Rural development does not preclude us from working on the rural-urban linkages and intersections, and taking a full systems approach to the rural development is in itself relevant.
- Regarding the length of the white paper, what are your intentions?

[*Jim Woodhill*]

- The White Paper is intended to be an elaborated version of the statement of intent that picks up on the outcomes of the Summit.
- We imagine it to be around 20-30 pages, depending on what we find in the research, but we might add appendices.

[*Switzerland*]

- Development and ecology are important topics, and making links between these are an important job for the Platform, and especially making links where the links are not already made.

4. NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*Secretariat – Maurizio Navarra and Michelle Tang*]

- The conversation on the AGA will depend on what we decide for the action agenda. In June we established an AGA prep committee with European Commission and Australia. We will develop a concept note.

- The aim is to launch the White Paper at the AGA, as a follow up session to the AGA in 2019, diving deeper into the issues of the Food System Summit.
- We want to build the AGA agenda on the action areas that we decide for our post-Summit agenda, with one session per action area. The thematic working groups will also be in charge of sessions.
- The AGA should be a hybrid meeting, and we have started the process to plan this by booking meeting rooms and plenary halls in the IFAD headquarters in Rome. We would like to have in-person participants and virtual speakers come together in plenary. The combined maximum capacity would be 57 people + additional conference rooms for side events, holding max. 27 people. These numbers can be adjusted according to covid-measures.
- The event will be held over 2-3 days, and the potential dates are: **7-8-9 March or 14-15-16 March** (both Monday to Wednesday). Travel restrictions may be eased by March next year, allowing for more people in the IFAD building.

[Secretariat – Maurizio Navarra]

- We are having advanced conversations with two new potential Board members; Canada and Norway. Canada is interested in rejoining the Board, as they left in 2016. The proposal is therefore to invite them as observers **to our next board meeting in December**. Opposition to this proposal can be sent by email.

[Germany]

- Maria Tekülve had her last Board meeting today, as this is her very last day at work before she retires.
- The GDPRD Board and the Secretariat expressed their gratitude for her role as a Board member and wished her the best in her future endeavors.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Agenda item	Action	Timeline	Responsible Person(s)
2	Develop and refine a concept for the post-Summit action plan of the platform	ASAP	Secretariat
3	Develop and share outline for White Paper	Until next board meeting	Jim and Secretariat
4	Develop concept note for the AGA and start sending out invitations	Until next board meeting	Secretariat
<u>4</u>	<u>Decide on dates for the AGA 2022. Board members inform about their availability for 7-8-9 March or 14-15-16 March.</u>		All

Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

Informal Board meeting

21 OCTOBER 2021



Summary of our FSS engagement

Transfer of
secretariat
to IFAD

Special **Board**
session with A.
Kalibata and FSS
Secretariat

JULY 2020



FEBRUARY 2021



SEPTEMBER 2021

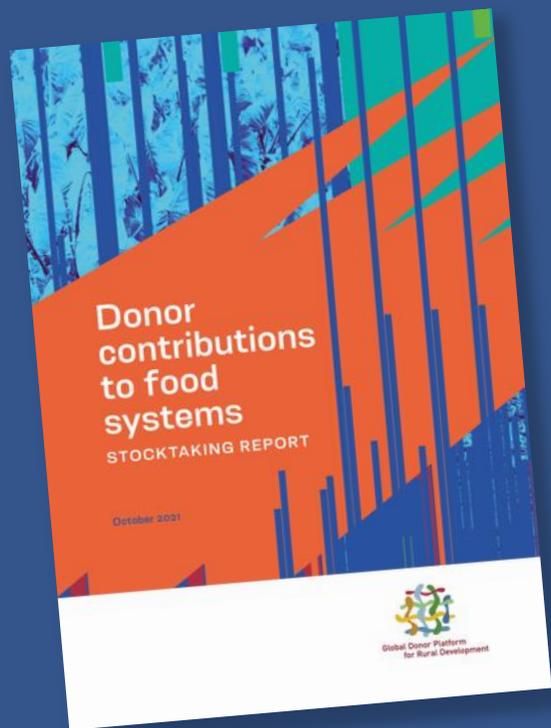


NOVEMBER 2020



2020 **Annual**
General Assembly





Stocktaking Report





Declaration of Intent

Re-orienting donor programmes

Strengthening coordination among donors

Supporting policy innovation

Mobilizing responsible investment in food systems from the public and private

Strengthening governance architecture

Investing in research and data systems

Promoting engagement of private sector actors and value chain innovation

Strengthening social protection mechanisms, disaster preparedness and emergency relief programmes



Coming up: White paper

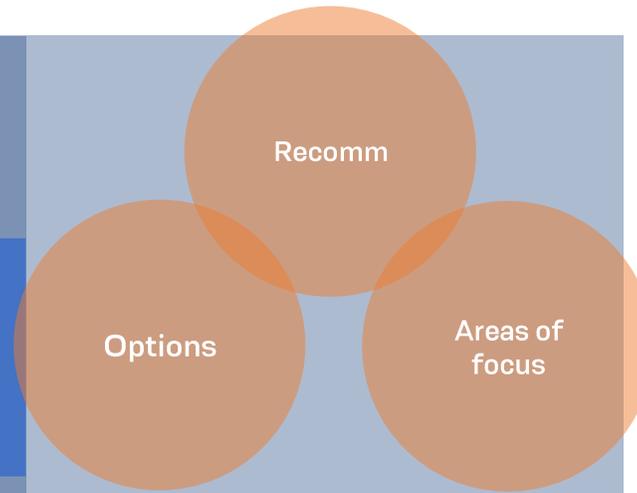
Food Systems Summit Outcomes



GDPRD Stocktaking Report



GDPRD Declaration of Intent



How do FSS outcomes align or misalign with the current portfolio of donor investments?

What are options and priorities for donors to align future investments with FSS outcomes?

How can donors optimize their catalytic and enabling role and ensure coordination?

GDPRD White Paper

Future Donor Policies and Programming

Next steps at the Donor Platform

1

Selecting **areas** of work

2

Establishing **task teams** based on topics from the white paper

3

Using white paper as a **springboard** to move our conversation forward on food systems

4

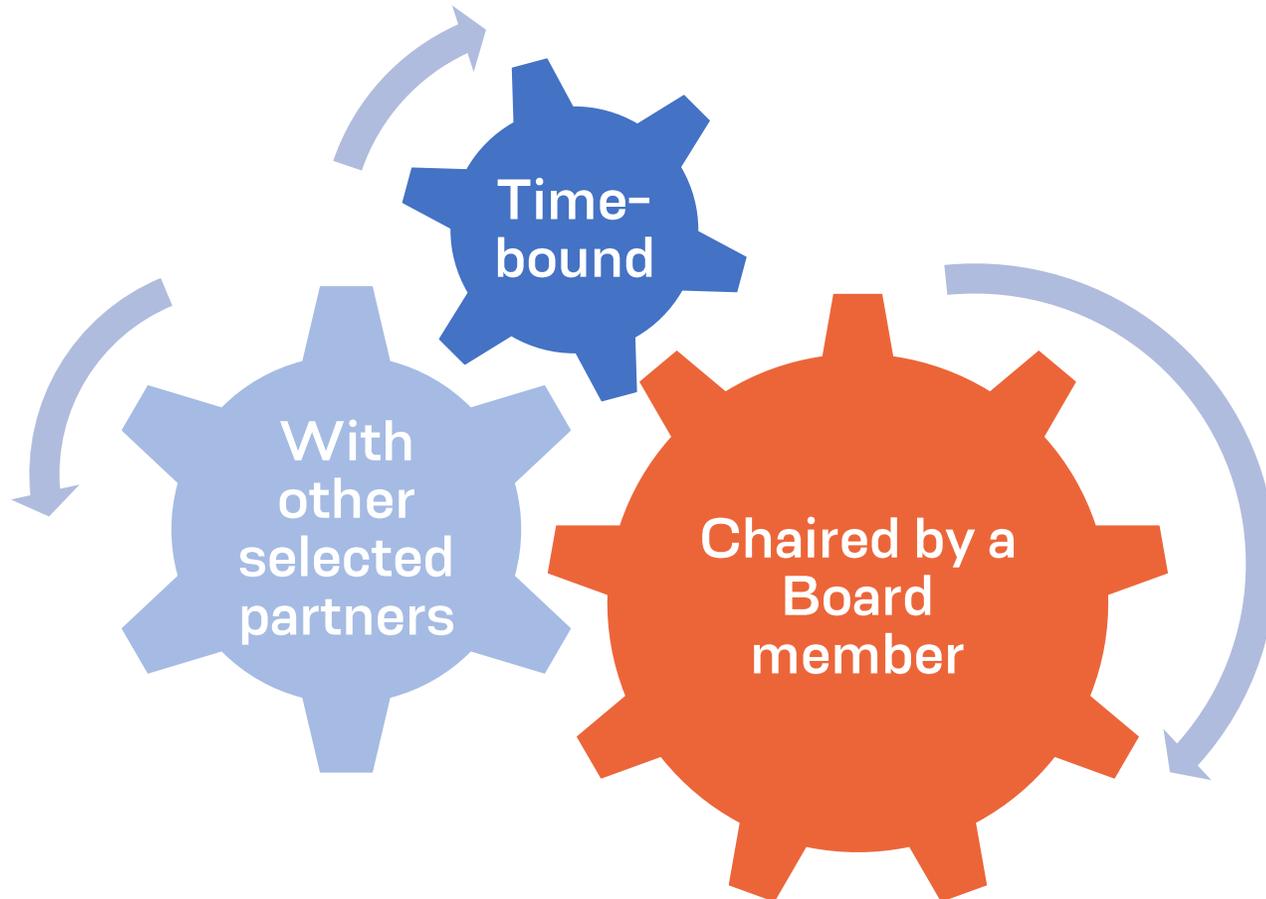
Annual General Assembly 2022

Selecting the areas of work

1. Donor **coordination** (at global and country level)
2. Supporting **policy innovation**
3. **Data** and research
4. Strengthening **governance** and food systems architecture
5. Promoting **private sector** engagement
6. Strengthening **social protection** mechanisms
7. Mobilizing **responsible** investment in food systems from public and private sectors



Establishing task teams



- Thematic
- **Outcome-based**
- Clear outputs
- Meet regularly
- Shape the Donor Platform follow-up to the Summit

From the white paper to the follow-up



What we need

1. **Endorsement** of approach
2. **Validation** of themes to take into task teams
3. Expressions of interest to **chair task teams**
4. **Institutions/organizations** involvement in each task team
5. **Roadmap** for task teams
6. Organization of **AGA**



The 2022 AGA



AGA Theme

- AGA **prep committee** (Australia, European Commission)
- Launching of the **white paper**
- Building our **Action Agenda** on Food Systems:
 - Deep dive into the issues of the FSS and the task teams
 - One session per task team
 - Thematic working group sessions



Annual General Assembly 2022

- **Hybrid meeting at IFAD HQ** bringing together in-person and remote Zoom participation
- **Two or three** days
- Event dates to be decided: **7-8-9 March or 14-15-16 March**
- **Moderated panels and discussions** in the Italian and Oval plenary halls at IFAD
- Combined maximum capacity of **57** people
- **Special session** in three additional conference rooms, combined maximum capacity of **27** people.

(Maximum capacity numbers as of today and are subject to change)



Next steps

- **White paper** development
- Development of ToRs for the **AGA**
- Development of ToRs for **task teams** and first meeting
- Development and organization of AGA sessions
- Invitations



Thank you



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development