



Management Meeting Minutes

22 October 2019, 15:00hrs – 15:30 hrs CEST

Participants: David Hegwood (USAID), Ueli Mauderli (SDC), Torben Nilsson (IFAD), Willem Olthof (EC), Bernhard Worm (BMZ), Meredith McCormack (USAID), Patrizia Labella (FAO), Kidest Teklu (ITC)

Platform Secretariat: Manuel Urrutia, Oliver Hanschke, Octavio de Araujo

Apologies: Marc Nolting (GIZ)

Agenda

1. Update on Secretariat hosting arrangement
2. Update on Transition Task Force recommendations
3. Update on Secretariat project close and transition plans
4. Update on Platform Activities
5. Member exchange on activities and events

Agenda Point	Overview, Discussions, Decisions, and Agreements
<p>1. Update on Secretariat hosting arrangement</p>	<p>IFAD, per a decision by its Executive Management Committee, has accepted to host the Platform’s Secretariat starting January 1st, 2020. The transition coincides with the strategic repositioning of the Platform that was initiated at the Platform’s 2019 Annual General Assembly in June as a response to the shifting development agenda under the Agenda 2030 and related changing donor landscapes.</p> <p>The EC informed that they would most likely go for multi-annual support and would have to see how they specifically do that. They also asked how IFAD will deal with staffing to run the new Secretariat office that they will be hosting.</p> <p>IFAD responded that they would allocate their staff and contribution for a smooth start of the new Secretariat office. The idea would then be to recruit people for the new office so that it will have its own staff, while still keeping it as an integral function of IFAD. This allows the new Secretariat office to benefit from IFAD’s services, such as its communication department, and also to take advantage of IFAD’s convening power. IFAD stated the plan for now is to proceed with the transition phase with IFAD staff, since it will take a little while before IFAD mobilizes the resources from the other partners and to find the right people to staff the new office.</p> <p>The Co-Chair welcomed the Secretariat team who joined the meeting late due to technical issues in GIZ’s IT system.</p> <p>SDC asked IFAD to reiterate the dates of the Secretariat transition phase.</p>



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

	<p>IFAD responded that while the current Secretariat office, hosted by GIZ, had been granted with an extension until the end of June 2020, IFAD would start the set-up of the new office in Rome from 1 January 2020. This IFAD will therefore work hand-in-hand with the current Secretariat team. IFAD and the Secretariat Coordinator met the previous week to discuss about how they could jointly plan the transition, avoiding any disruption of activities due to the change of the Secretariat host. IFAD also mentioned that they could perhaps start this year realizing the financial contribution agreement so that they would actually be able to mobilize some funds from 2020 already.</p>
<p>2. Update on Transition Task Force recommendations</p>	<p>The Co-Chair briefed the participants on the latest Board meeting discussion on the Transition Task Force (TTF) recommendation. He summarized that in general there was a consensus that the Platform is moving in the right direction. There is a number of issues that need further discussion within the TTF. A follow-up call with the TTF members, organized by the TTF consultant, is underway.</p> <p>The Co-Chair stated that one of the key points of the discussion was the level of contributions and the distinction between contributing members and non-contributing members. Those are two points that the Board members need to continue to discuss. It's clear that the majority of those participating in the October Board meeting did not think that it was wise to see an increase in the current €50,000 contribution requirement at this point. However, there was a lot of sentiment in favour of looking at how to generate more revenue from non-paying members. According to Co-Chair, this sentiment had been frequently discussed in the past and the Board Members will need to continue consider the issue.</p> <p>Co-Chair also highlighted that another emerging topic from TTF discussions is that the Platform members see a lot of value in Platform's convening power. He reaffirmed that it is through this convening power that the Platform can engage with a broad range of stakeholders who are interested in working on SDG 2, for example. The convening power seems to be the kind of core function that members are interested in moving forward. Acknowledging it as one of the core strengths of the Platform, he emphasized the need to build up that strength.</p> <p>The Co-Chair also stated that there is a clear understanding that the Platform will most likely have a smaller budget than it has had up to now. While expressing a great appreciation for the large contributions that both BMZ and EC have made in the past, he emphasized that the contributions need to be shared equally going forward. He also added that since a clear implication of the smaller budget is that the Platform will have smaller Secretariat, there is a need to really focus on what the core activities of the Secretariat should be in order to make sure that there are optimum resources available to the Secretariat that serve the Platform.</p>



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

	<p>Co-chair also added that he had talked to IFAD and the Secretariat Coordinator last week after the Board meeting about a way forward, in terms of the process. In the October Board meeting, the need for an extended physical Board meeting in late January or early February was agreed to. It was also agreed that there may also be a need for another virtual Board meeting in early December after IFAD has addressed more of the transition issues that need reviewing so that the Board can make a final decision on some of those questions. In anticipation of that, they would like to accelerate the preparation of the TTF recommendation by a couple of weeks so that the paper will be ready by mid-November, rather than end of November. More about this process is to be communicated through the TTF consultant.</p>
<p>3. Update on Secretariat project close and transition plans</p>	<p>The Secretariat reported that as the commission comes to an end in June 2020, they are starting the final reporting processes. The Secretariat has several responsibilities in term of reporting, namely internal reporting, EC reporting, and BMZ reporting. The Platform’s Annual Report is to be finalized in mid-December 2019 (instead of spring 2020 as normally done). The Annual Progress Report is also to be finalized in mid-December 2019 and submitted to Board members ahead of the extended Board meeting in late January/early February 2020.</p> <p>Regarding the Secretariat’s transition plans, they will be waiting word from the extended Board meeting in January to finalize planning of the Secretariat’s activities for the first half of next year. The Secretariat will be working closely with IFAD who will be gradually taking over the Secretariat functions and are looking forward to a regular exchange with IFAD for the transition. They welcome any comments or questions on this topic.</p>
<p>4. Update on Platform Activities</p>	<p>The Secretariat reported that activities to support other thematic areas have been reduced so that the Secretariat can focus predominantly on the Global Working Group on Land (GDWGL), the SDG2 Roadmap, and the Rural Youth thematic working groups. The reduction of activities will also help the Secretariat prepare for the end of the commission and transition to the new host.</p> <p><u>The GDWGL</u> had several conference calls this autumn and informal physical meeting at CFS 46 in Rome. The Group will have their second annual physical meeting at the African Union’s Land Policy Conference in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on 25 November. The group is planning to have a side-event and physical meeting at the World Bank’s Land and Poverty conference in March next year.</p> <p><u>The SDG2 Roadmap</u> had a physical meeting at CFS 46 in Rome last week and is planning its next physical meeting either in December 2019 or in the beginning of 2020.</p>



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

	<p>The Rural Youth group, the newest of the Platform’s working groups, had several conference calls and a physical meeting last week at CFS 46. It is currently working on an assessment of youth networks in Africa and is planning a side event at the YES (Youth Entrepreneurship) Forum during the World Export Development Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 19 November.</p> <p>In terms of Communications, the Secretariat launched the Autumn Webinar Series with a successful turnout. The first session was in September on <i>Rural producer agency and agricultural value chains</i> featuring Lorenzo Cotula from IIED, while the second webinar was in October with Bruce Campbell from CGIAR-CCAFS on <i>Indicators for climate adaptation in agriculture</i>. The next webinar on 6 November will be featuring the Secretariat’s intern, James Kyewalabye, who will be presenting his assessment on youth networks in Africa. In early December, the Secretariat will conclude the series with the potential topic of <i>Climate change mitigation in agricultural value chains</i>.</p> <p>The Secretariat also decided to reduce the number of e-updates due to limited resources. The previous e-update was released at the end of August while the next release will be at the end of October and then again in December.</p> <p>The Secretariat’s next member toolbox will be released next week. The Secretariat will continue soon publish web stories featuring an extensive reporting on CFS-46 and on activities of several working groups.</p> <p>The Platform’s webpage has generated positive web stats, continuing to maintain a positive trend over the last months. Currently, it has around 20% more users and site visits in comparison to last month.</p> <p>Co-Chair took the opportunity to thank the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for co-hosting the Members’ Reception at CFS 46, an event which was well received and attended. He also signalled that there will be an additional contribution of around \$50,000 from USAID to support the work of GDWGL starting next year. This additional contribution reflects how important the members of this group thinks the Secretariat support is.</p>
<p>5. Member exchange on activities and events</p>	<p>The EC informed that they will have a meeting of the European Heads of Agriculture and Rural Development. They and IFAD, who will also be at the meeting, will provide an update to the Heads on what is happening at the Global Donor Platform. They will work together to advertise the Platform.</p> <p>Co-Chair encouraged EC and IFAD to recruit more members from the meeting if possible.</p> <p>SDC suggested that the Secretariat circulate the webinar invitations a few weeks in advance. The Secretariat confirmed that two of the webinar series</p>



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

	<p>already took place and that the invitation for the upcoming webinar is forthcoming.</p> <p>Co-Chair concluded the meeting with an additional announcement that there will be more updates on the Task Force recommendations, as well as on the upcoming Board members meetings.</p>
--	--