



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

Virtual Board Meeting

29 January 2018, 16:00hrs – 18:00hrs CET

Minutes

Participants

Board members: Patrick Herlant and Conrad Rein (EC), Shantanu Mathur and Torben Nilsson (IFAD), Birgit Gerhardus and Heike Henn (BMZ), David Hegwood and Meredith McCormack (USAID), Oriane Barthélemy and Sebastien Subsol (MFAID France), Sanna Liisa Taivalmaa (Finland), Iris Krebber (DFID) Ammad Bahalim (BMGF) Amrane Boumghar (GAC), Ueli Mauderli (SDC)

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

Apologies: Julie Delforce (DFAT-Australia), Marco Platzer (Italy), Atsuko Toda (AfDB)

Agenda

1. Welcome and agreement on Agenda for the meeting
2. Review of action points from the last Board meeting
3. Progress report 2017 highlights
4. Draft Work Plan 2018
5. Budget and finance issues
6. Updates on the AGA preparation
7. AOB and closing remarks

Agenda Item	Discussions, decisions and agreements
1. Welcome and agreement on Agenda for the meeting	Platform co-chair Patrick Herlant (EC) introduced the Board meeting agenda, which was thereafter accepted by the Board members.
2. Review of action points from the last Board meeting	An update was given on the action points of the previous Board meeting as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. At the last Board meeting, it was agreed that co-chairs and secretariat begin the process of finding a potential host for the AGA. Update: The host of the 2018 AGA is confirmed as BMZ (Germany).2. At the last Board meeting, it was agreed that the strategic plan section on partnerships should be updated in line with the following suggestion.

	<p>Update: The strategic plan was updated in line with the suggestion, and the updated version was published on the Platform website, and printed for circulation.</p> <p>3. At the last Board meeting it was agreed to adjust the 2017 indicative budget following May 2017 accounting and send to Board members in June.</p> <p>Update: The indicative budget was adjusted and shared with the Board in timely manner.</p> <p>4. At the last Board meeting, it was agreed that the secretariat and USAID prepare cumulative and incremental procedure for the Board.</p> <p>Update: Discussions have taken place and will be continued in due course.</p>
<p>3. Progress report 2017 highlights</p>	<p>Decision: The Board endorsed the Progress Report 2017</p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>The secretariat highlighted 3 areas of the progress report:</p> <p>The secretariat reported that the AGA, which was held on the topic of rural transformation, and the high level forum which followed were very well attended. The panels had a wide global representation leading to broadened perspectives. The AGA paved the way for further discussions on rural transformation and territorial approaches. The EC commented that the AGA had an impact on how the EC think about rural transformation, and they subsequently had a workshop in Maputo on the subject, as well as in their “hot topics seminar”, an annual training for EC country delegations staff.</p> <p>The secretariat also highlighted the Platforms analysis on Women’s Economic Empowerment and Inclusive Agribusiness, which was a collaboration of the gender and inclusive agribusiness work streams. The results have been discussed during webinars and used by a number of Platform members such as the EC and Canada to brief their gender staff. MFA France commented that Platform studies are relevant instruments and appreciated the publication on Women’s Economic Empowerment and Agribusiness. MFA France also requested an update on the ongoing study of the donor engagement in climate smart agriculture. The secretariat reported that the work was on pause, however with the improved financial situation in 2018, the work will be resumed.</p> <p>Finally, the secretariat highlighted that the land group established the friends of the custodians committee to support the custodian agencies of the SDG indicator 1.4.2 which refers to land tenure security. This offers an example of how the Platform actively engages with partners, as the committee involves non-traditional donors like Omidyar Network and the International Land Coalition.</p>
<p>4. Draft Work Plan 2018</p>	<p>Decision: The Board endorsed the Annual Work Plan 2018</p> <p>Output 1 - Agenda 2030 priorities in ARD and rural transformation issues addressed</p> <p><u>Main Activities</u></p>

	<p>The focus for 2018 is the analysis of agricultural financing trends, looking at ODA availability for Agriculture and Rural Development. This is also including new and innovative instruments like blended finance arrangements.</p> <p>A number of donors are also discussing an initiative called “SDG2 roadmap” part of which might include mapping donor programmes which are working towards achieving SDG 2. In terms of format, they are considering a comparable map to the Platforms Land Governance Map. BMZ elaborated on this point in the AOB section of the Board meeting and the minutes can be found in the corresponding section. Activities resulting from this would be applicable to Output 1 of the Platform work plan.</p> <p>Output 2 - Strategic thematic work conducted</p> <p>The secretariat elaborated that work streams are decided based on member’s interest and participation and that as a small secretariat, adding on new areas of work also means having to scale back on some work streams to dedicate time to the area most important to the members.</p> <p><u>Core working groups</u> Land governance, Inclusive agribusiness and trade, Gender (crosscutting), Climate resilient agriculture, Trends of ARD finance and CAADP observatory and outreach function within the DPCG.</p> <p><u>To be determined working groups</u></p> <p>Youth - Given the prominence of Rural Youth discussions and the fact that the Platform AGA will be on this subject, Youth has been included as a possible work stream. It will likely become clearer after the AGA how members would like to carry the topic forward and so it is likely that in mid-year we have a better idea.</p> <p>Nutrition - Listed as to be determined because there are other avenues offering donors a similar opportunity to exchange and discuss these issues, in particular the Scaling Up Nutrition movement, also because the members are not driving forward this thematic area as they did in the past.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> The Board discussed the possibility of a work stream on territorial approaches. It was suggested that rather than each work stream operating as a silo, the work can be combined such as territorial approaches and youth, in order to be covered more holistically in line with the SDGs.</p> <p><u>Agreements</u> It was agreed that after the AGA, the Board will make a decision on whether to establish a youth work stream. It was also agreed that having nexus work streams, for example on youth and territorial approaches, would be encouraged, and final decisions would be made in the middle of the year, after the AGA.</p> <p>Output 3 - Strengthen communication of Platform Knowledge, lessons and products</p> <p><u>Main activities</u> Communication strategy 2018 – 2020 was on the work plan once again, following the Board decision in 2017 that the activity can only take place when the financial situation</p>
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	<p>allows for it. Given the improved financial situation in 2018, this activity is anticipated in the first half of the year.</p> <p>The Platforms flagship event, the Annual General Assembly (AGA) will take place on the topic of Rural Youth Empowerment. Board discussions on AGA were held under agenda point 6.</p> <p>Output 4 - Strategic partnerships will be formed with a diverse range of institutions, developing country networks and the private sector to enhance development results through studies, joint advocacy and links with regional networks and the private sector</p> <p><u>Discussion</u> MFA France would like the Platform to engage more with the G7 and G20 and requested that a sentence be added to elaborate on this. The secretariat suggested that it would be best if the donors explain how they would like to engage with the G7 and G20 and then the requested changes can be applied.</p> <p><u>Agreement</u> It was agreed that the members elaborate how they would work closer with G7 and G20, after which a line will be added to the Work Plan output 4.</p> <p>Sound governance of Platform and Secretariat</p> <p>Amongst others, in 2018 the secretariat will continue to engage with the budget group in requesting timely member contributions and will as usual consult with the budget group regarding finance matters where called for. Since 2 of 3-budget group members have laid down their post in 2017 due to change in focal point, there will be a call for members to join the group in the course of February/March.</p>
<p>5. Budget and finance issues</p> <p>i) Report on finances 2017</p> <p>(ii) Status of financial contributions</p>	<p>Decision: The Board approved the report on finances 2017 and endorsed the 2018 indicative budget</p> <p>(i) Report on finances 2017</p> <p>On behalf of the Platform budget group, the secretariat presented the report on finances 2017 per accounting status 31 December 2017. The financial report including the 2017 costs and contributions is subject to external audit end of March 2018 into April. The secretariat will forward the external audit report to Board members in the course of May 2018.</p> <p>(ii) Outlook contributions 2018 and beyond</p> <p>The significant contribution of the EC was signed in the amount of Euro 1.500.000,00 in December 2017 and is valid for use in 2018 and 2019. The first installment from the EC has been received in GIZ bank account. Regarding 2018, there are 7 signed contributions as of January 2018 (AfDB, DIFD, EC, BMZ, NL-MFA, SDC, USAID) while 3 agreements are in the pipeline, these are: Bill and Melina Gates Foundation (ready to sign), Global Affairs Canada, and DFAT Australia (close to signature). Provided that the remaining steady</p>

<p>(iii) Draft 2018 indicative budget and secretariat staffing</p>	<p>Board members contribute in 2018, there are 4 further potential contributions for 2018, these would be with Finland-MFA, France-MFA, IFAD and IADC.</p> <p>Regarding 2019, the following members have signed a contribution thus far: EC, BMZ (extension commission in the works) and SDC.</p> <p>(iii) Draft 2018 indicative budget</p> <p>Considering the aforementioned outlook on contributions 2018, the potential 2018 indicative budget was presented. It was pointed out that this years' initial budget is off to a more solid start in terms of signed contributions than was the case one year ago with the 2017 budget. This is mainly due to the aforementioned EC contribution.</p> <p>Regarding the overall distribution of estimated costs for the various budget positions, it was pointed out that while the BMZ has agreed to host the upcoming AGA, due to the ongoing forming of the German government and related budget restrictions, the usual host costs will need to be covered by the overall Platform budget which is reflected in the 2018 indicative budget under the AGA position accordingly. It was further elaborated that the 2018 indicative budget foresees a higher amount for consulting assignments than was the case in 2017. This is to enable the implementation of actions which were on hold in 2017 due to limited resources such as the introduction of a communication strategy amongst others.</p> <p>As the presented 2018 indicative budget is based on signed contributions as well as on a contribution forecast, the scope of the 2018 indicative budget is subject to review end of March which marks the time when Board members yet without a signed contribution for 2018 are requested to communicate their 2018 contribution to the secretariat in accordance with Annex 3 of the Strategic Plan.</p> <p><u>Secretariat staffing</u> Christian Mersmann will leave his post as ARD advisor in the middle of the year. The secretariat is in the process of recruiting a replacement policy advisor collaborating closely with the co-chairs in the hiring process. The secretariat further informed that it seeks to hire an intern and, temporarily, a student assistant in 2018 to support various actions including AGA.</p>
<p>6. Updates on the AGA preparation</p>	<p>The BMZ announced that they are very happy to host the AGA in Germany in the late Spring/ early Summer. The dates are to be confirmed by the deputy director however two dates were put forward, the third week of May or the first week of June. It was felt that any later might go into the summer holidays. The location will be either Bonn or Berlin and will be confirmed as soon as possible.</p> <p>The secretariat also reported that a consultancy is ongoing which is looking at donor programmes on rural youth, and the results will be used to shape the upcoming AGA.</p>
<p>7. AOB and closing remarks</p>	<p>Request to include the support to the SDG 2 roadmap initiative into Output 1 of the Platforms Work Plan.</p> <p>BMZ reported that a group of core leaders - all members of the Platform - want to align to achieve SDG 2. They want to push forward a number of action areas namely:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Productivity/Sustainability – identifying highest impact interventions2. Strengthening national data systems3. Research and Innovation4. Mapping donor programs5. Adoption/Going to Scale <p>The SDG 2 roadmap fits well with the Platforms Agenda 2030 Strategic Initiative and a request was put forward for the secretariat to work closely with the initiative to plan a mapping similar to the land group but in the context of SDG 2, and also to help put together a high level launch event.</p> <p><u>Agreement</u> The Board requested a further meeting to clarify the estimate of the resources and secretariat time needed for this initiative. BMZ volunteered to work with the secretariat to clarify the scope of the work needed before the AGA.</p>
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ACTION POINTS

Agenda Point	Task	Responsible	Timeline
4. Draft Work Plan 2018	Decision on whether to establish a youth work stream and nexus work streams.	Board members and secretariat	AGA 2018 Board meeting
4. Draft Work Plan 2018	Members to elaborate G7 and G20 collaboration, after which a line will be added to the Work Plan Output 4.	Board members and secretariat	
4. Draft Work Plan 2018	Secretariat to initiate invitation for members to join Budget Group	Secretariat	16 March 2018
5. Budget and finance issues	Secretariat to distribute the 2017 external audit report to Board members	Secretariat	31 May 2018
5. Budget and finance issues	Members to contact secretariat about their 2018 contributions	Board members	31 March 2018
5. Budget and finance issues	Secretariat to review and if required adjust 2018 indicative budget pending result of contributions by 31 March, communicate result to 1) Budget Group, 2) Board	Secretariat	6 April 2018
6. Updates on the AGA preparation	Share the dates and location of the AGA with the Board	BMZ and Secretariat	asap
7. AOB Request to include the support to the SDG 2 roadmap initiative into Output 1 of the Platforms Work Plan.	BMZ to work with the secretariat in clarifying the scope of support requested. A follow up meeting with the Board to be planned once this is done.	BMZ and Secretariat	asap