



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

MINUTES SENIOR MANAGERS MEETING

DATE: 11 OCTOBER 2022

PARTICIPANTS

Senior Managers and Board members:

- Tristan Armstrong, Australia
- Conrad Rein, European Commission
- Titta Maja, Finland
- Sanna-Liisa Taivalmaa, Finland
- Nicolas Fairise, France
- Manon Bellon, France
- Neil Watkins, Gates Foundation
- Sebastian Lesch, Germany
- Boris Büchler, GIZ (observer)
- Satu Santala, IFAD
- Federica Cerulli Irelli, IFAD
- Federica de Gaetano, Italy
- Chris de Nie, The Netherlands

- Marie Laure Crettaz Corredor, Switzerland
- Bruce Campbell, Switzerland
- Iris Krebber, United Kingdom
- Mike Michener, United States
- Sung Lee, United States

GDPRD Secretariat:

- Maurizio Navarra
- Michelle Tang
- Alessandro Cordova
- Sierra Diane Berardelli
- Jim Woodhill, Senior Advisor
- Mandakini Surie, Senior Consultant

AGENDA

Issue	Item	Details
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Co-Chairs
2.	Update on the Global Donor Platform	GDPRD Secretariat
3.	Segment I: Reorienting donor approaches in times of crisis	Jim Woodhill
4.	Segment II: Optimising the role of the Donor Platform	Conrad Rein
5.	AOB and closing	Co-Chairs/GDPRD Secretariat

KEY HIGHLIGHTS/ISSUES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

2. UPDATE ON THE GLOBAL DONOR PLATFORM

Purpose of section:

The Secretariat provided a summary of highlights and achievements of the Platform over 2020-2022 and the Platform's current workstreams.

Issues discussed:

- Since the transition of the Platform Secretariat to IFAD in 2020, the Platform has been engaging in the food systems agenda through two Annual General Assemblies (AGA), the Strategic Plan 2021-2025, Declaration of Intent on Food Systems Transformation, and various advocacy initiatives.
- Two notable flagship reports recently published include the [Stocktaking Report on Donor Contributions to Food Systems](#) and the [White Paper on Transforming Food Systems: Directions for Enhancing the Catalytic Role of Donors](#), both resulting from consultative processes within the Board. The reports laid the foundations for engagements within the three Thematic Working Groups, helped outline the 'how' of sustainable food systems transformation for donors, and the need for catalysing systemic change.
- The White Paper provides options and recommendations on seven action pathways for food systems transformation, including: (1) strengthening coordination; (2) mobilizing responsible investments; (3) engaging the private sector and value chain innovation; (4) supporting policy innovation; (5) investing in research and data systems; (6) strengthening governance for food systems transformation; and (7) strengthening universal social protection mechanisms, disaster preparedness and emergency relief programmes.
- The Platform held high-level events, donor roundtables and special sessions on donor approaches in times of crisis, including the Special High-Level Session at this year's AGA on current crisis response initiatives, as well as two donor roundtables on the food, fuel and fertilizer price spikes and on the food financing architecture. The Platform will continue the workstream on financing in food systems in the coming months.
- Recent highlights of the Thematic Working Groups (TWG) include:
 - Land Governance: drafting of the TORs for the State of Land Tenure and Governance Report;
 - Rural Youth Employment: a webinar series on green jobs for rural youth, provided feedback to the recently endorsed CFS policy recommendations on "Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems";
 - SDG2 Roadmap: a new phase of work is being launched on Ceres2030, to be announced in the near future.
- The 2022 AGA was successfully held in a hybrid format at IFAD HQ after two years of COVID-19 restrictions. The AGA was entirely dedicated to supporting national food systems transformation pathways, with the participation of many UN Resident Coordinators and food systems national convenors. The TWGs held sessions on optimizing the use of data in decision-making, responsible land-based investing, and rural youth employment in food systems. The [2022 AGA report](#) is published on the website, and a hard copy was shared at the meeting. **[Maurizio Navarra]**
- The Secretariat also provided some communication highlights, including the new Platform [Communications Strategy 2022-2025](#), which was finalized earlier this year, in line with the Strategic Plan. Communications foundations were also completed, including a new visual identity and a user-friendly [website](#) (launched at the beginning of October) with up-to-date knowledge tools, including "[Knowledge Hubs](#)" for each TWG. The Platform is increasing its social media presence and has increased members' [interviews and podcasts](#), to showcase

recent work and increase dialogue. **[Michelle Tang]**

- A new web-based [Food Systems Recommendations Database](#) was launched alongside the website. The database collates recommendations of key global reports around food systems sorted by thematic areas such as climate and gender. These are then synthesised into higher-level clustered recommendations. One can search by thematic areas, keywords or by report. **[Maurizio Navarra]**
- The Platform has initiated a review of good practices on donor coordination for food systems and rural development and will develop a packet of research, communication and learning materials to guide members and the broader donor and development community on how coordination can be optimized, given past experiences and emerging challenges. This work will involve country case studies, a seminar series with key donors and actors, key informant interviews and discussions with donors, experts and practitioners working on food systems issues, and an analysis of best practices on donor coordination. Board and Platform members will be asked to participate via interviews in the coming weeks and the first seminar series will be held in the second half of November, date TBC. **[Jim Woodhill]**

Action Point:

- Members are invited to provide feedback on the new website and food systems recommendations data base.
- A workstream proposal on food systems financing will be presented to Board Members in the next Board Meeting.
- Members can share their interest and availability to participate in an interview on issues related to donor coordination in food systems with the Secretariat.

3. REORIENTING DONOR APPROACHES IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Purpose of section:

Horizon scanning discussion on emerging needs and challenges for agriculture, rural development, and food security in the context of the global ramifications of the Ukraine crisis.

Issues discussed:

- Three long-term challenges were identified in the agriculture sector moving forward: Increasing agriculture productivity during crises, while supporting and sustaining food systems transformation; maintaining high-level political engagement, by utilizing international forums such as the Platform to leverage coordinated, proactive response; and building climate resilience. **[United States]**
- Achieving a balance between short-term emergency aid and long-term structural investment is a significant challenge; resources must be allocated appropriately. **[Australia, France, The Netherlands, Switzerland, United States]**
- Political awareness surrounding food systems and the food agenda has increased due to the multiple crises. Political leaders' comprehension that the current crises are added layers to an ongoing structural problem is essential; it must not be overlooked as a short-term emergency. Donors must keep food systems transformation and nutrition high on the political agenda. **[Finland, France, Gates Foundation, IFAD, United Kingdom]**
- The Platform can be a place for donors to discuss long-term focused rural development in a world where emergency support is increasingly becoming the main focus of governments. Creating a sense of urgency on the food agenda and food crisis, which is not a new problem, is essential to address underlying vulnerabilities rather than moving from crisis to crisis. **[Gates Foundation, France, IFAD]**
- An emerging challenge is ensuring sufficient funds and additional resources in agriculture and rural development. Strengthening resilience and ensuring producers have the tools and technologies to produce sufficient, nourishing food in a changing climate environment is

essential. **[Australia, IFAD, The Netherlands]**

- The ramifications of the war in Ukraine will continue to worsen in the foreseeable future and future crises are inevitable. Specifically, farmers are not receiving substantive returns on crops due to skyrocketing fertilizer costs; this is a glaring issue in Africa. **[Australia, Gates Foundation]**
- Climate, gender, youth, and Indigenous Peoples must remain high on the donor agenda. A nexus approach and co-benefits are essential for breaking silos and leveraging the development agenda. **[European Commission, Finland, France, IFAD, The Netherlands]**
- The numerous coalitions and initiatives created out of the multiple crises can create diverging interests and priorities for policymakers; there is a need to leverage existing mechanisms and scale up to avoid further fragmentation. **[Finland, France, Gates Foundation, Switzerland, United Kingdom]**
- Priorities for Switzerland include agroecology, nutrition, inclusive markets and responsible investments, youth, women, and small-holder producers. Maintaining a 1/3 emergency and 2/3 long-term budget is politically challenging but effective in ensuring a long-term focus for food systems transformation. **[Switzerland]**
- It is important to keep political dialogue open and engage with Southern countries. **[Finland]**
- Private sector engagement and mobilization is needed immediately. **[Finland, The Netherlands]**

4. OPTIMISING THE ROLE OF THE DONOR PLATFORM

Purpose of section:

To continue to discussion of Segment I, on how the Platform could respond to emerging issues and what the Platform should prioritize in the context of the Platform's current Strategic Plan and work on financing and donor coordination for food systems transformation.

Issues discussed:

- The Platform should continue to add value as a safe space to network, convene and discuss emerging global topics in an informal manner, while not duplicating the efforts of others. IFAD as the host of the Secretariat has been a positive transition. **[Australia, European Commission, Finland, France, Gates Foundation, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States]**
- The Platform should maintain a food systems lens and long-term oriented perspective. The Strategic Plan can be a guiding framework for the future focuses of the Platform, particularly considering rural/territorial development. **[European Commission, France, Gates Foundation, The Netherlands, Switzerland]**
- Donor collaboration on the White Paper was a beneficial joint effort to discuss lessons learned and review where the Platform added value. Collective exercises like this can be useful moving forward. **[Italy, The Netherlands]**
- The Platform could do a mapping exercise of the various initiatives and coalitions created from the crises to help donors navigate the differences, synergies and values and how to leverage and maximize them, but should not duplicate other existing processes. **[European Commission, Finland, France, Gates Foundation, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States]**
- Donor coordination and harmonization at the country level remains highly relevant; this year's AGA was an important continuation of this topic. The Platform should continue to engage in the work of the national pathways and identify and share information on good practices. **[Finland, France, Italy]**
- The Platform can play a role in making data and information digestible and consolidated to inform donors and facilitate coordination. as done previously with the 50x2030 initiative and Ceres2030. While data are abundant, it is not always appropriately allocated, which can pull donors and policymakers in different directions. Streamlined and up-to-date data can enhance

donor coherence, credibility and evidence-based decision-making. The Platform is organizing regular calls to coordinate donor asks on research to IFPRI. **[European Commission, Finland, France, Gates Foundation, Maurizio Navarra, United Kingdom]**

- Data can complement the Platform's workstream on financing. The Platform should not duplicate the efforts of others, but can facilitate informal dialogue and knowledge sharing on data regarding financing, food security, and nutrition. **[European Commission, France, Maurizio Navarra, United Kingdom, United States]**
- Risk management and de-risking are an increasingly relevant topic; conversations regarding such would be of interest. **[France]**

6. AOB AND CLOSING

- Increasing the membership and the relevance of the Platform is an ongoing priority. **[European Commission]**

Action Points:

- Board Members will be notified in due course of the next Board Meeting date.

Annex 1: MURAL LINK FOR NOTES TAKEN DURING AGENDA ITEM 3: REORIENTING DONOR APPROACHES IN TIMES OF CRISIS

- <https://app.mural.co/t/textspace6697/m/textspace6697/1665500427879/9754767c5d446e87748905ab885b6ef5471a481a?sender=u774edb1df8056085117b0567>