



# Minutes Informal Board Meeting

## Participants

### Board Members

- **Conrad Rein**,  
*European Commission (Co-Chair)*
- **Jan Brix**, *Germany*
- **Manon Bellon**, *France*
- **Fabrizio Moscatelli**, *Gates Foundation*
- **Ron Hartman**, *IFAD*
- **Patrick McManus**, *Ireland*
- **Federica De Gaetano**, *Italy*
- **Naomi Sterk**, *The Netherlands*
- **Bruce Campbell**, *Switzerland*
- **Sung Lee**, *United States*

### Guests

- **Carin Smaller**, *Shamba Centre*
- **Oshani Perera**, *Shamba Centre*
- **Lysiane Lefebvre**, *Shamba Centre*
- **Kamal Elharty**, *Shamba Centre*
- **Brian Baldwin**, *Senior Advisor to the Platform*

### GDPRD Secretariat

- **Maurizio Navarra**
- **Michelle Tang**
- **Alessandro Cordova**
- **Monique Amar**
- **Nicole Burch**
- **Jim Woodhill**

## Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM	DETAILS
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Co-Chair
2.	Highlights from the workstream on Donor coordination for food systems transformation (High-Level dialogue and draft paper) + Q&A	Jim Woodhill
3.	Summary and updates on the innovative financing workstream + Q&A	Shamba Centre
4.	Updates on Annual General Assembly 2023 + Q&A	Secretariat
5.	Platform Co-Chairmanship	Secretariat
6.	AOB	Secretariat
7.	Closing	Co-Chair

# Key Highlights/Issues

## 1. Highlights from the workstream on Donor coordination for food systems transformation (High-Level dialogue and draft paper) + Q&A

### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*Jim Woodhill, Senior Advisor to the Platform, and Monique Amar, Platform consultant, gave an overview of the 27 June event.*

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- High-level participation during this event included a Minister, Senior representatives from international organizations and donor countries. There were 50 people online throughout the day and approximately 20 in person.
- Some of the key takeaways from this event include:
  - Widespread agreement that coordination is more important than ever, and all development actors need to do better.
  - We are in a fundamentally different environment than in the past, the urgencies that we see now are multiplying and overlapping and give us an opportunity to change and innovate approaches for coordination and collaboration.
  - Data are critically important, in terms of collection and usage.
  - There are areas where donors have completely different priorities, and areas where incompatibilities between donors and governments might make collaboration complicated.
  - It was proposed for the Platform to continue conversations further and showcase good examples of country-level donor coordination. **[Jim Woodhill]**
  - Incentives for enhanced collaboration were also discussed. The risks of not coordinating are much greater than the risks of simply disagreeing on these issues. **[Monique Amar]**
  - The importance of a proper and articulated negotiation process was recognized, particularly at the country level. Donors have their own political priorities, and an honest conversation about what is feasible in terms of country-level coordination should take place.
- As geopolitics are making coordination increasingly difficult, donors must engage with other actors (e.g., the private sector) at country and global levels. Some Board members asked whether the GDPRD could potentially act as a facilitator between various actors.
- During the event, a critical point was raised on donors' alignment with the Aid Effectiveness agenda. Over the last years, donors' engagement has witnessed increased fragmentation, which sometimes translated also into "competition" at the country-level. For example, the "Team Europe" mentality of European at country level could be a helpful tool to get inspiration from, in improving coordination. **[Ireland, France]**
- Examples of good coordination in other sectors (e.g., health, education) could be explored for replication in food systems. However, incentives for coordination are still a critical issue. **[France]**

- The food systems transformation pathways are tangible, authoritative reference points for donors to engage in country-level coordination.
- The discussion on accountability to taxpayers in donor countries, which was raised during the event, is critical.
- The GDPRD could consider possible mechanisms (e.g., joint funds) to facilitate coordination on particular transformation pathways. **[Switzerland]**
- Platform members must decide on how to follow-up to the recommendations in the report. One example could be to pilot an initiative of collaborative planning, in particular focus countries. This would be a large undertaking, and approval from the Senior Managers would be needed. **[European Commission, Jim Woodhill]**
- Donors must attempt to engage with non-traditional donors, the private sector, and partner countries to facilitate further coordination. **[The Netherlands]**
- The Platform invited the African Union to participate in the event, but did not receive a response, which brings up the possible challenges of working at country and regional levels. However, after the event, several IFAD Regional Directors expressed interest in the follow-up to this work. **[Jim Woodhill, Maurizio Navarra]**
- The Board must consider the GDPRD's positioning on non-traditional donors. **[Jim Woodhill, France]**

#### **ACTION POINTS:**

- An event report, along with the final report of the country-level donor coordination workstream will be produced. Further conversations on aid effectiveness and beyond will be held during the Annual General Assembly (AGA).
- During the coming 2023 Senior Managers Meeting (October) this event and a follow-up to the workstream on country-level coordination will be discussed, to assess whether there is support for actionable ways to bring this conversation forward.
- The Platform and the Board will need to properly formulate guiding questions and options for the Senior Managers, essentially asking whether there is appetite to pilot country-level coordination mechanisms.

## **2. Summary and updates on innovative financing workstream + Q&A**

#### **PURPOSE OF SECTION:**

*The Shamba Centre presented updates and findings on the finance workstream, which was proposed at the December Board meeting.*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- The workstream is a stakeholder inquiry into how donors are working to make their funding innovative and catalytic. Thus far, there have been interviews with donors, multilateral development banks, funds, independent experts, and philanthropic organizations. More interviews will take place over the coming months.
- Some of the topics being discussed are:
  - Addressing market failures
  - Opportunity costs
  - Financial and development additionality
  - Can thematic funding on climate, biodiversity, gender, etc. make a larger allocation to food?

- Mobilizing funding from the private sector
- Experimentation of new instruments: funds and pay-for-performance
- Salient points in the business case for patient capital
- Screening of grantees
- Exit strategy for patient capital
- Some findings thus far:
  - Every entity in agriculture and food system value chains must be bankable.
  - Investing in one part of the value chain, without understanding its interactions higher or lower on the value chain leads to more market failures.
  - There is appetite from donors to look at long-term funding with very low returns, but there must be consistent patient technical assistance to build markets and capacities.
  - Donors may need assistance in building contractual relationships between small producers, farmers, SMEs and larger entities.
- Some funds and donors are beginning to look at lending and grants related to performance outcomes; for example, a valuable performance outcome is a contractual relationship with an entity that is higher on the value chain. [**Shamba Centre**]

#### **ACTION POINTS:**

- Board members to suggest experts to participate in future interviews. Please contact Oshani Perera ([oshani@shambacentre.org](mailto:oshani@shambacentre.org)) and Nicole Burch ([nicole.burch@donorplatform.org](mailto:nicole.burch@donorplatform.org)) for more details and to arrange an interview.
- Board members to provide the Shamba Centre with introductions to their colleagues working on blended finance, and if possible, with the G20 Sustainable Finance working group.

### **3. Updates on the Annual General Assembly 2023 + Q&A**

#### **PURPOSE OF SECTION:**

*The Secretariat provided an update on the 2023 Annual General Assembly (AGA) and logistical details were discussed.*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- This year's Annual General Assembly (AGA) coincides with the Platform's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a milestone reflected in the theme "20 Years of Rural Development and Aid Effectiveness: Where are we now and where are we going?". The AGA will reflect on the Aid Effectiveness Agenda and chart donor directions for the future. The AGA will be held on 26 and 27 October at IFAD HQ and on Zoom.
- The AGA will be built around the themes of balancing emergency responses and long-term sustainability and resilience measures, donor approaches, and stakeholder engagement.
- There will be high-level sessions on the two workstreams (i.e., country-level donor coordination and sustainable finance), and a space/session for each of the three GDPRD working groups.
- The Platform is developing a background paper which will reflect on 20 years of the GDPRD and the Aid Effectiveness Agenda. The paper will help guide conversation of the AGA and is being developed by Brian Baldwin, former IFAD staff and GDPRD Senior Advisor who had been involved in the Platform for a long time, including as Co-Chair.

**[Maurizio Navarra]**

- It will be a forward-looking paper, considering the Platform's 20 years of experience, which will explore the evolution of principles (the 5 Busan Principles, the Mexico Meeting in 2014 and the Paris Agreement) that have affected the work of donors and the Platform over the past two decades. The background paper will examine past and current issues and discuss how the Platform can best contribute to development agendas. **[Brian Baldwin]**

**ACTION POINTS:**

- The Platform will reach out to all Board Members via email to mobilize speakers for the AGA.
- The paper will be sent to Board Members before the AGA for review and comments.

## 4. Platform Co-Chairmanship

**PURPOSE OF SECTION:**

*Announcement that the current Co-Chairmanship of the Platform is ending shortly.*

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Conrad Rein is leaving the European Commission at the end of July and will thus give up his role of Co-Chair of the GDPRD.
- Australia will continue to Chair the Platform until the end of the year,

**ACTION POINTS:**

- The Secretariat will follow up with an email requesting Board Members to consider Co-Chairmanship of the GDPRD

## 5. AOB

**PURPOSE OF SECTION**

*A brief synopsis of membership changes, the 2023 Senior Managers Meeting, Preparations for the UNFSS+2 Stock taking moment, CFS51 side event, membership contributions update, communications update and the SDG2 Roadmap working group meeting.*

**ISSUES DISCUSSED**

- Sanna-Liisa Taivalmaa, current Board Member from Finland is relocating, and a new appointee will take over after the summer. The Platform wishes Sanna-Liisa all the best in her future career and thanks her for her strong engagement in the Donor Platform.
- The Senior Managers meeting will be hosted back-to-back with the AGA, potentially during one of the evenings of the CFS51. A save-the-date invitation will be sent out shortly.
- The GDPRD is preparing for the UNFSS+2 Stocktaking Moment. The Platform is assisting Nadine Gbossa, IFAD's Director of Food Systems Coordination, on supporting the sessions on financing.
- A side-event on Innovative Finance is being organized in cooperation with the Shamba Center. It will be virtual, from 18.00-19.00 CEST, on Monday 24 July.
- The Platform has applied for a side-event also at the CFS51.
- There is now a dedicated space on the Platform website for workstreams. Further, the

Food Systems Recommendations database is currently expanding into a microsite with new features.

- The report from the data event in February has been designed, shared with the participants and posted online.
- The Platform Instagram's account was launched. **[Michelle Tang]**
- The next SDG2 Roadmap working group meeting will be held during the UNFSS+2 Stocktaking Moment. The agenda will focus on Hesat 2030, 50x2030, and Global Data, possibly to promote a conversation on artificial intelligence related to agriculture and rural development. **[Maurizio Navarra]**

**ACTION POINTS:**

- Follow the Platform's Instagram account for opportunities to engage with the GDPRD at @donorplatform.