



Informal Board Meeting

Minutes

Participants

Board Members

- **Nick Goetschalckx**, *European Commission*
- **Jouko Eskelinen**, *Finland*
- **Manon Bellon**, *France*
- **Ammad Bahalim**, *Gates Foundation*
- **Fabrizio Moscatelli**, *Gates Foundation*
- **Jan Brix**, *Germany*
- **Federica de Gaetano**, *Italy (Co-Chair)*
- **Elisa Pettinati**, *Italy*
- **Bruce Campbell**, *Switzerland (Co-Chair)*
- **Naomi Sterk**, *The Netherlands*
- **Radio Save**, *United Kingdom*

Guests

- **Julia Davidson**, *GIZ*
- **Elisenda Estruch Puertas**, *ILO*
- **Ji-Yeun Rim**, *OECD*

GDPRD Secretariat

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

Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM	DETAILS
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Co-Chairs
2.	Updates on 2024 AGA and Donor Coordination workstream	Jim Woodhill
3.	Reflections on Global Coordination Gatherings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback on pilot G7 Gathering (March) - Informal proposal for G7 Canadian Presidency - Discussion for next Coordination Gathering 	Co-Chairs/All
4.	Updates on Sustainable/Blended Finance workstream	Secretariat
5.	Updates on Thematic Working Groups activities and future engagements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL) - Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment (TWG RYE) - SDG2 Roadmap Working Group 	TWG Chairs/Secretariat
6.	Updates from Secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senior Managers Meeting potential date - Food Systems Architecture Database 	Secretariat
7.	AOB and closing	Co-Chairs

Key Highlights/Issues

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Federica de Gaetano (Italy) co-chaired the call for the first time.
- Manon Bellon (France) joined for the last time, as she will move onto a different position.

2. Updates on 2024 AGA and Donor Coordination workstream

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

Jim Woodhill provided updates on the 2024 Annual General Assembly (AGA) and donor coordination workstream.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The 2024 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report, to be released in July, is entirely dedicated to financing for food security and nutrition. It has become apparent that there would be significant overlap between the SOFI and the Platform's planned scoping review on **complementarity of funding modalities**. The funding modalities work will therefore be undertaken after the SOFI launch. The GDPRD Secretariat has been in contact with the SOFI team to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication. The SOFI team will contribute to the Platform's workstream.
- Effort has now pivoted to preparing for the **2024 AGA, "Financing Food Systems Transformation and Rural Revitalization: Opportunities and Challenges" (28 – 29 November, at IFAD Headquarters and online)**. A series of virtual seminars will be held leading up to the AGA, including: (1) Decoding the Fundamentals of Development Financing (on 26 June); (2) a Virtual Briefing on the 2024 SOFI and the implications for donors (in September); and (3) an introductory session on key issues for discussion during the 2024 AGA (in October).
- A **briefing paper** will be developed to provide a synthesis of current issues and directions in financing food systems and rural development, highlighting issues of relevance to the GDPRD and integrating the work on donor funding modalities. A draft report will be produced before the AGA and a final report will integrate the AGA outcomes. *[Mandakini Surie, Jim Woodhill]*

Discussion and Q&A:

- Can more details be provided on the action plan discussed in the AGA agenda? *[Germany]*
 - The action plan will discuss how donors can take forward the financing agenda (along with proposed recommendations), as well as how the Platform itself can contribute to this critical topic in the coming years. *[Jim Woodhill, Maurizio Navarra]*
- Will the World Bank's financial flows work be included in the briefing paper? *[the Netherlands]*
 - Yes, all relevant work on financing development and food systems will be included, to help AGA attendees understand the financing landscape. *[Jim Woodhill]*

ACTION POINTS:

- The Board endorsed the AGA concept note.

3. Reflections on Global Coordination Gatherings

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For the Board to provide feedback on the pilot G7 Coordination Gathering and discuss future Platform Coordination Gatherings.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- On 26 March, the pilot global coordination gathering was convened to discuss the 2024 G7 process under the Italian Presidency. Platform Board members of all G7 members, non-G7 Platform Board members, and non-Platform Board G7 members (i.e., Japan and Canada) all attended the gathering. Overall, attendees found significant areas of alignment between the 2024 Presidency and their own country/organization priorities.
- While the discussion was useful, the gatherings would be even more valuable if they occurred significantly in advance of events (i.e., if the pilot gathering took place before Italy assumed the Presidency rather than during the Presidency).
- The Secretariat reached out to colleagues from Global Affairs Canada, who are, in theory, open to holding a G7 Global Coordination Gathering in the fall, ahead of their 2025 Presidency. Since no priorities have been set for their Presidency yet, Canada will not be able to confirm their interest or availability for this gathering until after the summer. The Secretariat will follow up with Canada in late August.

Discussion and Q&A:

- Italy very much appreciated the excellent opportunity to showcase the priorities of the Presidency, particularly on innovative finance, as it aligns with the Platform's current focus. The G7 Leaders' Summit took place on 13-15 June, and the Apulia G7 Leaders' Communiqué is now [online](#). **[Italy]**
- Given that G7 members already have many meetings around each Presidency, it would be much more helpful to have the next G7 gathering significantly ahead of each Presidency and separate it from other G7 meetings to maximize participation. **[European Commission, France]**
- It would be of added value to coordinate ahead of the G20, as we do not have as close relationships with G20 countries and have less opportunities to meet with them. **[European Commission]**
 - The G20 is increasingly discussing food security, so the GDPRD should actively try to engage with this process. **[France]**
- As the Brazilian G20 Presidency is well underway with the Summit in November, would there be interest in a listening session from the Presidency, rather than a coordination gathering? **[Maurizio Navarra]**
 - No, it would be better to target the next G20 Presidency in South Africa. **[European Commission]**

ACTION POINTS:

- GDPRD Secretariat to coordinate with Canada on a G7 Gathering and coordinate with South Africa on a G20 Gathering.

4. Update on Sustainable/Blended Finance workstream

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

The Secretariat provided an update on the Sustainable/Blended Finance workstream.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The inaugural meeting of the Thematic Working Group on Sustainable/Blended Finance for Food Systems took place virtually on 3 April 2024, with over 25 attendees from bilateral and

multilateral agencies, DFIs, impact investors and academia.

- The working group's objectives are to promote data and knowledge exchange, collaborate on co-financing opportunities, advocate for increased blending in agriculture and rural development and conceptualize tools to improve donor decision-making. Members agreed that the group must have a results-driven agenda over an initial two-year timeline, with the goal of helping donors and investors mitigate risk and enhance returns.
- Members identified **four focus areas** which will be highlighted in the Terms of Reference:
 1. Conduct deep dives into specific topics (e.g., decision-making processes, risk appetite and influencing investors to better position food security) to bridge the knowledge gap between donors and partners;
 2. Facilitate conversations on data for donors and decision-making (e.g., on data harmonization, including breaking down silos on existing data and harmonizing taxonomies, modelling and consistent integrated M&E, and benchmarking and data sharing to understand impact and additionality of investment);
 3. Host events such as webinars or roundtables (for project information sharing and to present key reports on blended finance/impact investment);
 4. Establish a regular communication channel with the DFI Working Group on Blended Concessional Finance for Private Sector Projects.
- Songbae Lee (USAID) and Tuleen Alkhoffash (IFAD) will serve as Co-Chairs of the working group for the first two years, with academic guidance by Sabine Desczka (Wageningen University and Research).
- The group will be financially self-sustaining on a voluntary basis by the members.
- A new [Technical Note](#) was recently published, presenting the detailed research, findings and recommendations from the enquiry into sustainable finance in agrifood systems conducted in 2023 by the Platform and the Shamba Centre for Food & Climate. [**Maurizio Navarra**]

ACTION POINTS:

- The next call of the group will take place on **3 July 2024 from 15:00-17:00 CET**, focusing on research and data on financing flows and the performance of agrifood SME loans.

5. Update on Thematic Working Groups activities and future engagements

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

The Co-Chairs of the Thematic Working Groups provided an overview of recent work, current priorities and upcoming events.

Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment (TWG RYE)

- The TWG RYE focuses on integrating youth perspectives in policy processes and ensuring rural youth employment is part of broader donor coordination and multi-stakeholder discussions. Last year, the TWG RYE underwent renewal to bring in new members and improve its effectiveness. Members include international organizations, donors and youth networks.
- The group prioritizes creating a safe space for members to discuss technical issues, brainstorm new ideas and advance the policy agenda on topics like green jobs for rural youth. The group is particularly focused on RYE in sub-Saharan Africa and communicates with the African Union.

- The 2024 Work Plan was structured to align with the Platform's priorities. The TWG holds quarterly meetings that include in-depth presentations on members' tools, approaches and recent projects. The group also holds various public webinars on relevant topics throughout the year, organized strategically ahead of significant events like UNFCCC COP.
- The group seeks to move beyond knowledge sharing to form joint positions on important issues. Currently, members are contributing to the post-Malabo discussions and the CAADP framework, aiming to ensure that youth remains a focus. **[Elisenda Estruch Puertas]**

Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL)

- The GDWGL met in-person on 15 May during the World Bank Land Conference in Washington D.C., where they established three broad objectives/activities for the next two-year work plan:
 1. **More exchanges between members:** to maximize impact, members should improve use of the GDWGL platform to better align their activities.
 2. **Global advocacy:** to put land higher on the policy agenda through various frameworks (i.e., CFS, UNCOP, CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC), and by having three GDWGL members on the steering committee of the Global Land Observatory and Global Land Agenda.
 3. **Country-level coordination:** prioritization of in-country coordination in specific countries, and establishment of an up-to-date online tracker of all GDWGL land projects.
- Ward Anseeuw (FAO) assumed the role of GDWGL Chair, taking over from Gemma Betsema (the Netherlands). Vice-chairmanship of the GDWGL is still to be decided. **[Monique Amar]**

SDG2 Roadmap Working Group

- The SDG2 Road Map Working Group was founded shortly after the SDGs were established nine years ago. The group is now updating its Terms of Reference in alignment with current political and sectoral concerns, particularly emphasizing climate change and the 1.5°C target, which has become a more prominent issue since 2015.
- The group will meet next on 8 July, receiving an update from Hesat 2030, which initially focused on cost modeling to achieve SDG2 within the Paris Agreement commitments, and is now producing reports on nutrition, climate, and gender. The nutrition report is expected by this fall, the climate report by mid-next year, and the gender report in the following year. The TWG will also consider the agricultural development architecture through a presentation on governance and food security needs, developed in collaboration with partners from the global South and North. **[Ammad Bahalim]**

6. Updates from the Secretariat

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

The Secretariat proposed a potential date for the 2024 Senior Managers Meeting and gave a preview of upcoming Platform products.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Italy will host the next HARDS meeting (tentatively scheduled for **14-15 October**) and has asked the GDPRD to host at IFAD Headquarters. The GDPRD Secretariat, with IFAD support, would organize the arrangements and logistics. The European Commission is currently reviewing such proposal and will revert in due course. **[Italy]**
- The 2024 Senior Managers Meeting could be held alongside the HARDS meeting on **16 October** at IFAD Headquarters. **[Maurizio Navarra]**

- The Secretariat is developing an online Food Systems Architecture Database, which will serve as an interactive mapping tool to show the wide range of food systems-related organizations, initiatives, research groups, platforms, and their functions. The database is near completion and will soon be published on the Platform’s website.
 - The 2023 Annual Report is now [online](#). All new GDPRD publications will be 100% digital.
 - The [website](#), [Food Systems Recommendations Database](#) and social media channels, in particular [LinkedIn](#), are all increasing in the number of followers and user interactions.
- [Michelle Tang]***

7. AOB and Closing

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The Senior Managers Meeting will be scheduled in due course.