



Management Meeting

Tuesday, 25 April, 2017, 15:00 – 16:00h CEST

Minutes

Participants

Co-chairs: Patrick Herlant (European Commission), Shantanu Mathur (IFAD)

Members: Amrane Boumghar (Global Affairs Canada), Iris Krebber (DFID), Marie Paviot (MFA-France), Meredith McCormack (USAID), Alexander Jones (FAO) and Vincent Glaesener (LuxDev)

Secretariat: Marion Thompson, Romy Sato, Martina Karaparusheva, Reinhild Ernst, Christian Mersmann

Agenda

1. Administration
2. Thematic work
3. AOB

1. Administration

Co-chair Shantanu Mathur welcomed the participants to the Management Meeting and gave the floor to the secretariat to report on the administrative items.

The secretariat shared prior to the meeting an overview of contributions from members. With status middle of April there are eight signed contributions for 2017 – African Development Bank (AfDB), DFAT-Australia, DFID, MFA-Finland, MFA-France, BMZ, MFA-The Netherlands and Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC). There are also indications from four additional members that contributions will be signed as well – European Commission, IFAD, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and USAID.

As some contributions and particularly one major contribution are coming to fruition likely only later in the year, the secretariat informed that the total amount of contributions is currently not sufficient to meet the 2017 indicative budget as it was endorsed at the Brussels Board meeting. The secretariat pointed out that the Budget Group has sent a letter to all Platform members on 19 April in informing them about the to date unprecedented limiting financial situation in 2017 and encouraging all members to consider providing and/or increasing the core-funding of their respective organization and also to investigate possibilities to provide supplementary and/or in-kind funding in line with Annex 3 of the Strategic Plan.

Members were asked to indicate additional contributions to the secretariat by 5 May. While contributions are appreciated all throughout the year, the status of contributions per 5 May will serve to inform at the upcoming Platform virtual Board meeting on any implications the current contributions status may have on the 2017 indicative budget. The secretariat has additionally forwarded the Budget Group letter to the work group leaders encouraging mobilization of funding through the respective groups.



The European Commission confirmed once again that the process to agree on the EC contribution is on-going, but cannot foresee at this time exactly when the contract will be signed and funding thus made available. Nevertheless, the EC informed that there may be a possibility to allow for retroactive financing through the EC contribution, however, this is not clear at this time.

The secretariat further briefed members that the yearly external audit is being conducted in April and that Board members will receive the audit report including the financial statement over the 2016 Platform costs and contributions by end of May.

2. Thematic work

The secretariat informed that the Annual report 2016 will be shared with them, as planned, by the end of May.

As for 2017 the **Global Working Group on Land** will focus its activities mainly on the joint advocacy to reclassify the SDG land indicator, for which the World Bank and UN-Habitat are the custodian agencies. In October the indicators will be re-assessed and, as of now, the land indicator is considered endangered, as there is no clear methodology to track the progress made on it. The Land Group has committed to support the custodian agencies in their efforts to establish such methodology. The role of the Platform as a convening space for like-minded actors has once again being praised and used in the international discussion at highest level.

In early March, the Platform co-organised in Brighton-UK a workshop on **inclusive agribusiness** together with the Seas of Change Initiative (University of Wageningen) and BEAM Exchange. During the workshop, there was a clear signal from the present donors that the topic will be interesting to pursue in the year. The European Commission has taken the lead of the working group and, together with other donors, have agreed to merge the EU working group on private sector with the Platform's work stream. The group is at the stage of establishing topics, priorities and activities for the year. Currently there are two topics that captured the members' attention – one is the financing of smallholder farmers and the other is the integration of gender issues in inclusive agribusiness projects.

The secretariat participated in an event (workshop and conference) organised by the International Trade Centre (ITC) dealing with interlinkages between trade and inclusive agribusiness. **The trade working group** would like to continue the analysis of Paul Engel on policy coherence issues between agricultural and trade policy priorities. The WTO is taking the lead on issues such as trade facilitation, phyto-sanitary standards and enhanced integrated framework that will be further pursued in 2017 in close cooperation with the work stream on inclusive agri-business.

The engagement of the secretariat with **CAADP and more specifically with the Development Partners Coordination Group (DPCG)** is on-going. In order to engage more members in the CAADP process, the secretariat is preparing with GIZ SA programme "*Support to CAADP and Pan-African Institutions*" a mapping study of all CAADP initiatives, institutional settings, major documents and contributions by countries, African Union Commission and international donor community. The secretariat had a productive meeting with OECD DAC representatives on the current ODA reporting methodology and data analysis 2016 of **financing flows to agriculture and rural development**. Given the almost finalised discussion around the modernisation of ODA reporting and the engagement of private sector, the secretariat is



planning a Discussion Note on the new financing architecture relevant to ARD, including blended finance instruments, direct foreign investments and remittances, as these are regarded innovative financing instruments of the future development cooperation. This activities falls under the work stream Agenda2030, where members will shortly meet to agree on specific activities for the year.

The topic of **climate resilient agriculture** is strongly supported by the MFAID-France and FAO. The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and their prominent mentioning of agriculture are driving the current debates in the various global and regional alliances, the NDC Partnership and the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) created by AMCEN, as well as the Adaptation of Agriculture in Africa Initiative (AAA) created mainly by Morocco. MFAID France is organising with the secretariat an expert consultation on finance for NDCs as a follow-up of the side event held in Marrakesh during FCCC COP22. For these activities MFA-France has also made supplementary funding available.

3. AOB

The Platform welcomed several new Focal Points in the beginning of the year. Amrane Boumghar will take over this role from Mushtaq Ahmed for Global Affairs Canada. Alexander Jones (FAO) is taking over Guy Evers, who retired in January. And Marco Platzer will be the new Focal Point for the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, taking over from Mauro Ghirotti.

The secretariat informed the participants that the next Board meeting will most probably take place on 17 May 2017.

Next steps

Activity	Dates	Responsible
Send external audit report to the Board members	May 2017	Secretariat
Identify possible members interested in providing supplementary funding	on-going	Secretariat