



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

Agenda2030/Rural transformation First call

Thursday, 12 May 2016, 15:00-16:30 CET

“Minutes”

Participants

Platform co-chairs: Mauro Ghirotti (IADC)

Platform members and guests: David Hegwood (USAID), Bettina Prato (IFAD), John Barrett (alumni DFID), Boris Büchler and Petra Jacobi (GIZ), Marjaana Pekkola (MFA-Finland), Bettina Prato, Torben Nilsson and Shantanu Mathur (IFAD), FAO representatives, Jim Tanburn, Annelene Bremer (BMZ), Felicity Proctor, Maria Ketting (EC), Mushtaq Ahmed and Christoph Kasi (Global Affairs Canada), Jürgen Fechter (KFW), Marie Paviot (MFA-France) and one unidentified Call-in users

Platform secretariat: Christian Mersmann, Martina Karaparusheva

Agenda:

- 1. Short overview of the work on Platform's Strategic Initiative Agenda 2030 and initiatives of various institutions** (conferences/outcomes, platforms, publications etc.)
- 2. Concept note of the Platform on Agenda 2030 and Rural Transformation** - introduction, discussion and agreement
- 3. Work themes of the Platform and Agenda 2030** - how to link Platform's work streams with the Strategic Initiative Agenda 2030
- 4. Work programme Agenda 2030 for 2016**
- 5. Next steps**

Outcomes

- The secretariat will circulate the summary (hyperlink) of the meeting between GDPRD and RBAs on Agenda2030 and nutrition;
- Policy brief, InfoNote and/or an interview with FAO representatives in charge of the indicators report;
- Adapt the Concept note, following the comments from the participants – include the aspect of climate change and natural resources management more explicitly;
- Follow-up with IFAD on the Rural Development report and possibility of holding a workshop;
- Form a group to discuss the topic of the flagship report;
- Clarify the correlation between flagship report and the financial flows analysis;
- Create a concept note that focuses solely on dynamics of rural transformation – definition, relations between workstreams, priorities for donors;
- Secretariat will propose a timeline for the activities in the Workprogramme;
- Schedule a call in two weeks, for a more focused discussion on activities, timeline and responsibilities;



Introduction

Mauro Ghirotti (IADC) welcomed the participants. He stressed the complexity of Agenda2030 and rural transformation discourse and the need for the Platform's workstream to support the members with concrete analysis and common advocacy that will bring forward their development strategies. It was recognised that it is fundamental to create the link between Agenda2030 and the process of rural transformation, as both offer an insight into the complexity of factors such as economic, social and environmental that influence the successful implementation of the agenda. Members were invited to identify the possible benefits from the workstream's activities and contribute with own resources to strengthen the network.

He continued with a brief summary of the meeting between the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD) and the Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs). At the meeting the participants discussed the stronger involvement of RBAs in the Agenda2030 workstream, but also the nutrition workstream, on the topic of nutrition-sensitive agriculture. The three major issues that were identified as entry point to the Ageda2030 workstream for the RBAs were: (i) analysis and reporting on progress in the development of indicators for the SDGs, related to food security and sustainable agriculture, (ii) further scientific analysis of the different targets that relate to food security, throughout all SDGs and (iii) analysis of development models that address the complexity of factors that influence agriculture and rural development. On the topic of indicators, FAO confirmed that there are already quite advanced with a report on the issue. A suggestion was made to create a policy brief and make an interview with the FAO colleagues in charge of this report. Regarding the target analysis and application, the reaction was mixed, so no activities were discussed. There was a great interest for a combined analysis of different models vis-à-vis food security and sustainable agriculture.

Short overview of the work on Platform's Strategic Initiative Agenda2030 and initiatives of various institutions

Christian Mersmann (Secretariat) offered an overview of the latest events and publications. John Barrett's study on the "Implications of Agenda2030 on the Global Donor Platform" was finished and uploaded on the website. His analysis paid special attention to SDG2 and SDG8. The secretariat is continuing the work on identifying which are the most important SDGs and targets related to ARD. Secondly, members of the Platform and the secretariat participated in the discussions on the new FAO, UNCDF and OECD publication on "Territorial approaches to food security and nutrition policy". An article, BTOR and the publication will be made available on the website. The secretariat is also involved in the CFS working groups on urbanisation and rural transformation (second meeting on 7 June, in Rome), it also observes the working groups on nutrition and smallholder farmers access to markets. All the working groups will contribute to a debate at the CFS in October. The secretariat is also in close contact with Mr. Rob Vos (FAO), who is organising a meeting on rural transformation prior to the CFS on 19-20 September. Furthermore, the BMZ is organising a meeting in Bonn in the middle of September that will feed into the discussions on rural transformation at the FAO meetings. The secretariat is also currently working on a trend analysis of investments, programmes and initiatives of the members of the Platform that will lead to a study, to be published early July. All the activities will feed into the Flagship report, planned for 2017. The secretariat reiterated the importance of the Special initiative Agenda 2030, which coordinates the work of all workstreams and focuses the activities on donors' needs and perspectives. IADC urged the members to give indications to the workstreams, on how and what they can do to fit into the goals of the strategic initiative.

Concept note of the Platform on Agenda 2030 and Rural Transformation

The secretariat presented the Concept Note of the workstream. The paper mainly serves to present the flexibility and openness of rural transformation and summarise the status quo on the on-going



discussion on how to define and influence the process. But also it seeks to establish the link between Agenda2030 and the implications of the SDGs on policy level with the practical impacts of rural transformation. Therefore, the Concept note presents two objectives. Objective1 is the knowledge sharing about the progress in implementation of Agenda2030 with regard to food security and sustainable agriculture. The work under this objective will serve as the basis for the flagship report. The second objective looks into the current dynamics of rural transformation. The work will look into the opportunities for better economic, social and environmental development of the rural space. The concept note also offers examples of elements from the different workstreams that could be considered.

Global Affairs Canada raised the issue of climate change and the impacts it has on agriculture and rural space and the efforts to increase their resilience. IADC welcomed the point made by Global Affairs Canada, but he also urged the participants to extend the focus to include management of all natural resources, while recognising all environmental factors.

Felicity Proctor noted that under Objective 2, activity A.1 there is a plan to conduct a literature review on transformation dynamics in rural space and then under B.2 to identify basic priorities in dealing with the issues of rural transformation. She suggested going further than only conducting a literature review. The paper should rather focus on creating a framework document, to be used by the members of the Platform to reach a consensus on what transformation means. This will serve as a basis to help identify what would and can be the priorities to be taken by the donors into consideration, while designing policies and investment projects. Not only focusing on current donor activities, but also identifying key gaps in development debate, where policy discussions need to be held. Torben Nilsson informed the participants that IFAD is close to publishing their Annual Rural Development report, which will focus exactly on the issue of inclusiveness of rural transformation. IFAD suggested using this report as a reference, presenting it at a call of the group and possibly inviting for a workshop to discuss with the members of the Platform.

USAID warned the participants that there is already a lot of work done on the financial accountability of donors. As the agenda now is broader, it was suggested to look at how donors account for domestic resource mobilisation and private sector involvement to achieve the Agenda2030. Donor financing should not be at the focus, furthermore discussion on what needs to be done to finance the Agenda2030 is missing from the concept note, and should therefore be also added. It was suggested to add the topic of developing functioning financing framework, to which the Platform can contribute by facilitating donor discussions on the topic. IADC agreed with the comments of USAID and urged the secretariat to include the broader issue of financing for development in the Concept Note.

EC agreed with the comments made by Felicity Proctor and urged the secretariat to refine the concept note, adapting to the comments. It should be seen as a living document, which will be adapted and refined, following the gathered knowledge and change in priorities. It was reported that EC finished their second report on food security and agriculture commitments. Quantitative data was used as an entry point and this approach was criticised, as member countries felt it is missing the results part of the commitments made. So the question was raised, how the flagship report will correlate with the financial trend analysis. The secretariat reported that as of now, there is no clear vision of what the report will be about. The trend analysis on availability of finance will provide an overview from the members on the current trends and future investments. This analysis provides the baseline and will feed into the report, but will not be the main focus.

The RBA's agencies are releasing in the near future each a report that in some ways looks into the rural transformation dynamics. The workstream should facilitate closer exchange amongst the members on the topics, in order to identify entry points for higher level of coherence between the objectives outlined in the Concept Note.

The participants agreed with the concept note and with the objectives. The secretariat will adapt the second part of the concept note, following the comments made in the call.



IADC warned the participants that guidance will be needed to support the effort of creating a note on rural transformation dynamics.

Workprogramme of the Agenda2030 and rural transformation

EC raised the question of timeline and deadlines for delivering the outputs on all activities. Due to time pressure, the secretariat will propose a timeline and share it with the members of the group via email.

GIZ asked the secretariat to also suggest some more concrete responsibilities to each activity. IADC suggested taking the responsibility, with the RBAs to guide the work under Objective 1, focusing on the SDGs indicators and targets. BMZ also raised the issue of responsibilities and volunteered to take the lead on the Objective 2. IADC agreed with the “separation”, but warned the participants that future teleconferences need to facilitate the communication and ultimately link between the objectives. It was agreed to focus the next telco on the activities distribution and timeline.

IFAD suggested sharing the concept note and revised workplan beforehand with all the members to provide written comments. The secretariat will accumulate the comments from IADC and RBAs on Objective 1, BMZ and all interested parties on Objective 2 and share the revised versions.

The RBAs will develop, due in the fourth quarter of 2016, a paper on the agencies’ joint strategies to deliver on Agenda2030. This paper will in a way deliver on the Objective1 A1 and A2.

EC also stressed the need to start implementing the plan. There are four InfoNotes planned for 2016, with only seven months to write them and coordinated action will be required. The secretariat will look into possible topics. Further discussion will follow in the next meeting.

Next meeting

The participants agreed that the next meeting will take place in the next two meetings.

AOB

EC reported that the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands is inviting to an event at the EDD on 15 June on the topic of “The European contribution to global food and nutrition security”. More information will be shared in due time.