Tenth Meeting of the Global Steering Committee (GSC)
Summary Record

DATE, TIME, VENUE

DATE: 12th March 2015
TIME: 18:00-19:30 Hrs. (Rome Time)
VENUE: Video Conference

GSC MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVES

AfDB: Oliver Chinganya
BMGF: Stanley Wood
Brazil: Flavio Bolliger
DFID: Kenny Bambrick
ERS-USDA: Mary Bohman – Co-Chair
ESCWA: Juraj Riecan
Eurostat: Maria João Santos
FAO: Carola Fabi
Mexico: Arturo Blancas Espejo
PARIS21: El Iza Mohamedou
UNECA: Ibrahim Mamma
UNESCAP/SIAP: Margarita Guerrero
World Bank: Haishan Fu– Co-chair

Two members who could not join the meetings have sent prior to the meeting written agreement on the proposed decisions: CISSTAT (Andrey Kosarev) and The Philippines (Romeo Recide)

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

AfDB: Vincent Ngendakumana
Global Office: Christophe Duhamel (GSC Secretary, Consuelo Señoret and Leslie Lai
FAO: Veronica Boero and Velda Nylander

AGENDA

1. For information: AGENDA ITEM 1 Follow-up on decisions taken by the GEB on behalf of the GSC.
2. For endorsement: AGENDA ITEM 2 Revision of the integrated budget
3. For endorsement: AGENDA ITEM 3 Global Office workplan 2015
4. For endorsement: AGENDA ITEM 4 Allocation of funds 2015
5. For endorsement: AGENDA ITEM 5 Mid-term evaluation
6. For endorsement: AGENDA ITEM 6 Revision of the M&E framework
7. For information: AGENDA ITEM 7 Mid-term conference
OUTCOMES

1. **AGENDA ITEM 1 – for information**: Follow-up on decisions taken by the GEB on behalf of the GSC.

   The chair informed members about the two decisions taken by the 6th GEB meeting. More concretely, during the 6th GEB members endorsed the African workplan for 2015 under the condition that the GSC endorses the revision of the integrated budget. In addition, the regional workplan for Asia and the Pacific in 2015 was also endorsed.

   Hence this agenda item was for information, no decisions were taken.

2. **AGENDA ITEM 2 – for endorsement**: Revision of the integrated budget

   This agenda item was presented by the Global Office and the Regional Office in Africa. The purpose was to explain the reasons that lead the Regional Office in Africa and the Global Office to request the revision of the integrated budget of the Global Strategy in order to increase the efficiency of the programme. The proposed changes have no impact on the total budget.

   **Discussion**: members welcomed the alignment between the global office, regional budgets and the integrated budget. They particularly appreciated that the revision enabled incorporation of the suggestions made by countries during regional meetings and welcomed the standardization of tools to be used across regions, such as the advocacy tools.

   **DECISION 1**: The GSC endorsed the revision of the integrated budget. As a result, the regional workplan for Africa, which was previously conditionally endorsed by the GEB, is now officially endorsed by the GSC.

3. **AGENDA ITEM 3 – for endorsement**: Global Office workplan 2015

   The Global Office presented its workplan for 2015 including the calendar of deliverables in 2015. The workplan was presented in the following set of documents: the narrative workplan including the detailed budget and the calendar of deliverables.

   **Discussion**: Members appreciated the transparency and the level of detail in which the information was presented. They reiterated the importance of coordinating the training component and the transfer of know-how at regional level. Members found the workplan very ambitious, particularly its research agenda. In this respect they requested whether partnerships could be broadened in order to increase the efficiency. The Global Office clarified that they feel confident about the proposed workplan as the basis for its development was the workplan and good results achieved in 2014. It was also clarified the research topics were selected based on the emerging needs and the experience gathered through the implementation of the research agenda in 2013-2014. The Global Office also mentioned its willingness to continue to work in partnership with specialized institutions.

   During the last part of the discussion, it was suggested to develop a communication strategy to promote and increase the visibility of the outputs and materials produced by the GS. In this connection, it was also suggested to consider the support that can be provided by the GSC to increase this visibility.

   The efforts on aligning the GS with CAADP were acknowledged and it was suggested that AfDB needs to strength its position. It was also recommended to place additional efforts on defining which will be the role of the GS to the Sustainable Development Goal number 2 (SDG2).

   **DECISION 2**: The GSC endorsed the Global Office workplan for 2015.
4. AGENDA ITEM 4 – for endorsement: Allocation of funds 2015
Following the endorsement of the workplans Africa, Asia and the Pacific and at Global level, the Global Office presented the proposed strategic allocation of funds and the associated first disbursement of funds for 2015.

Discussion: There was a brief discussion regarding lack of funding in some regions. It was clarified that it is expected to mobilize additional resources in the upcoming donor conference in June 2015 and that the Global Office will support the organization of regional steering committee meetings in order to validate their regional action plans.

DECISION 3: The proposed allocation for 2015 and disbursement of funds was endorsed by the GSC.

5. AGENDA ITEM 5 – for endorsement: Mid-term evaluation
In connection with the Global Action plan and donor agreements, the mid-term evaluation of the GS is planned to start in April 2015 and will be undertaken in a period of approximately 26 weeks. The Global Office proposed that FAO’s Office of Evaluation (OED) manages and supervises the midterm evaluation as the office has an independent status and it remains separate from FAO’s technical units, more concretely it remains separate from the Global Office, Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific and the Fund Administrator.

Discussion: Members welcomed that OED manages and supervises the evaluation.

DECISION 4: The GSC endorses the proposed approach for undertaking the mid-term evaluation.

6. AGENDA ITEM 6 – for endorsement: Revision of the M&E framework
Following the recommendations made by the consultancy team presented during the 9th GSC, the Global Office presented the revision of the M&E, including the revised consolidated logical framework. It was explained that this new tool enables the harmonization and aggregation of the results across regions and the new reporting templates will be applied for the next reporting period.

Discussion: Members welcomed the revised framework and suggested that the regional framework for Africa includes the ASCI indicators. It was clarified that the revision of the framework was done through a participatory process with the regional offices and therefore ASCI indicators were taken into consideration by the regional office in Africa. Members also asked about the recommendations which have not been adopted. It was clarified that the consultancy team recommended introducing quarterly monitoring exercise.

Instead, the Global Office considered that it would be more appropriate to introduce six-month monitoring exercises to allow partners to report more significant progress. In addition, the recommendation for raising the budgetary allocations for M&E was not adopted as the M&E activities are performed by the Global Office and Regional Offices staff. A detailed assessment of the recommendations made by the consultancy team was included as Annex 2.

DECISION 5: The GSC endorses the revision of the M&E framework.
7. AGENDA ITEM 7 – for information: Mid-term conference

The Global Office proposed to the GSC members to organize a midterm conference during the week 22-26 of June to highlight the achievements of the Global Strategy at the program’s mid-term point. The midterm conference (2.5 days) will be followed by a donor conference. In addition the 11th GSC meeting will be organized prior the conference.

**Discussion:** The Global Office invited members of the Global Steering Committee to volunteer for the program committee that will provide feedback on the organization of the conference. As result, Mr Stanley Wood from BMGF and Mr Kenny Bambrick from DFID volunteered to be part of the programme committee. PARIS21 also indicated their interest however they would like to receive the draft agenda prior confirming its interest. The Global Office will contact the potential members on a bilateral basis.

8. Next meeting of the GSC: The date has been fixed on the Monday 22nd of June in Rome