First Meeting of the Global Executive Board (GEB)

Summary Record
DATE, TIME, VENUE

Date: 17 June 2012  
Time: 16:00-17:30 Hrs. (Rome Time)  
Venue: The meeting was carried out through telephone conferencing.

LEAD PARTICIPANTS

AfDB: Oliver Chinganya (Mr.)  
DFID: Franziska Kohler (Ms.)  
Ethiopia: Samia Zekaria (Ms.)  
FAO: Pietro Gennari (Mr.) - Chair  
Philippines: Romeo Recide (Mr.)  
UNESCAP: Haishan Fu (Ms.)

AGENDA

1. Nomination of the Chair of the GEB  
2. Allocation of funds received  
3. Mechanism for disbursement of funds

OUTCOMES

1. Nomination for the Chair of the GEB

Introduction: As agreed among Global Steering Committee (GSC) members, the Chair of the GEB will be a country representative.

Discussion: The availability of two country representatives who are GEB members.

Conclusions: Ms. Samia Zekaria from Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia was nominated as the Chair of the GEB for the first 2 years.

2. Allocation of funds received

Introduction: As specified in the ToRs of the GSC and GEB: the GSC will decide at strategic level the allocation of funds between global and regional activities based on the integrated budget and expected resources; while the GEB will allocate the funds received and give instructions to the Fund Administrator (FA) for disbursement.

Clarifications and discussions:
- It is essential to distinguish between the funds expected and funds received (actually in the account).
- The GEB will be entitled to allocate the additional resources received by the Trust Fund after the last and before the next meeting of the GSC. This allocation will be endorsed at the next meeting of the GSC.

Conclusions: The allocation of funds received up to now (2 million pounds from DfID) will need to be approved by the GEB. Hopefully this will occur at the next meeting.

3. Mechanism for disbursement of funds

Introduction: The Participating Partners (PPs) at global and regional level will need to follow different approaches in order to receive the funds.
Clarifications and discussion:

- It is essential to distinguish between the allocation of funds received that will be approved by the GEB and the disbursement of funds which will have to follow the mechanism described below.

- For the PP at global level:
  - A work-plan (including budget) needs to be prepared and submitted to the GEB;
  - After the GEB endorse the work-plan, the GEB will give instruction to the FA;
  - FA proceeds to transfer the funds.

- For the PP at regional level:
  - A work-plan (including budget) needs to be prepared and submitted to the Regional Office (RO);
  - The RO combines all work-plans into a Regional Plan and submits it to the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for approval;
  - The RSC reviews and approves the annual regional workplan, then submit it to the Global Executive Board (GEB) through the RO and Global Office (GO);
  - After the GEB ensures that the Regional Plan is aligned with the Global Plan, the GEB will give instructions to the FA;
  - In parallel with the endorsement, a MoU should be signed between the PP and FAO;
  - FA proceeds to transfer the funds.

Conclusions:

- For the case of Asia, due to time constraints and the need to have a Regional Plan prepared, a portion (based on Asia’s request) of the sum allocated to Asia will be transferred to FAO Regional Office in Asia to simplify the process. Asia will only have to submit a simple workplan in order to receive this amount.

- The regions will have to prepare a work-plan based on the amount allocated and follow the process described above in order to receive funds.

4. Conclusion remarks

- Another meeting of the GEB will be held, as soon as possible, to endorse the allocation of funds received up to now.
- Regions can start forming the work-plan based on the template provided.
- Partners and FAO should start or speed up the signing process of MoUs.