DATE, TIME, VENUE

DATE: 24 April 2013
TIME: 17:00-18:30 Hrs. (Rome Time)
VENUE: The meeting was carried through telephone.

LEAD PARTICIPANTS

AfDB: Oliver J. M. Chinganya (Mr)
BMGF: Stanley Wood (Mr)
DFID: Frances Harper (Ms)
Ethiopia: Samia Zekaria (Ms) - Chair
FAO: Naman Keita (Mr)
Philippines: Romeo Recide (Mr)
UNESCAP: Haishan Fu (Ms)
Fund Administrator: Maria Magdalena Heinrich (Ms), Clare Sycamore (Ms)

AGENDA

1. AGENDA ITEM 1 – for endorsement: Regional 2013 workplans for the 4 following regions: CIS, Near East, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), Asia and the Pacific (AP);
2. AGENDA ITEM 2 – for endorsement: The updated reporting templates;
3. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM – for discussion: Current status of the implementation of the Global Strategy in Africa.

OUTCOMES

1. AGENDA ITEM 1 – for endorsement: Regional 2013 workplans for the 4 following regions: CIS, Near East, LAC and AP

Introduction:
• The three workplans for CIS, LAC and Near East have the same 3 objectives: finalise the Regional Action Plan, starting the Country Assessment (CA) and mobilising resources. The work in these three regions will be carried out by the FAO Regional Offices.
• The Regional Action Plan for the CIS has been drafted and will be reviewed this July in Budapest while the one for LAC will be validated in June in Trinidad and Tobago.
• The CA has also been started in CIS.
• The workplan for AP has been prepared by FAORAP and SIAP and it was validated in Bangkok on the 9-10th April 2013 during the 1st RSC meeting.
• The RSC for AP has been established and functioning with Philippines as chair and Sri Lanka as vice-chair. The Regional Office (RO) has been also set-up.
• Three countries have been selected as pilot-countries for the implementation of the Global Strategy are: Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

Discussion:
• There were three questions raised regarding the workplans for AP in 2013:
  - As Asian Development Bank (ADB) is doing some activities under the umbrella of the Global Strategy with their own funds, is it necessary to have an integrated workplan for the whole region or they can be separated?
  - As the workplan has a lot of activities and the RO has only limited number of staff, will the outputs indicated be delivered?
  - Is there any flexibility in choosing the pilot countries?
• Answers were given as follow:
- The activities of ADB were planned before the regional plan was developed, thus developing an integrated workplan is complicated; however, coordination will be pursued. At its fourth meeting, the GSC decided that the reporting should be improved, in order to be able to report on contributions in support to activities and interventions that are not funded through the Global Trust Fund but are of significant relevance to the implementation of the Global Strategy.
- At the moment, there are two additional vacancies to be announced for the RO and the posts are expected to be filled by July. So the total staff will be 4 who work full time to deliver the outputs.
- Regarding flexibility in the choice of pilot countries, there were 12 countries showing their interest of being part of the programme. Three countries were selected based on the CA criteria.
  - UNESCAP has already requested the waiver to operate at 5% PSC cost to the UN controller. The MoU between FAO and ESCAP will be concluded upon waiver approval, so that the funds can be transferred afterward.

**DECISION 1:** *The workplans for the 4 regions have been endorsed and funds can be transferred accordingly.*

2. **AGENDA ITEM 2 – for endorsement:** The updated reporting templates;

**Introduction:** The reporting templates have been revised based on the request of former GEB meeting (Decision 1.3).

**Discussion:**
- There was an agreement among GEB members that it is still in learning process, so reporting templates should be used as they are now. They will be reviewed or improved if necessary in the future.
- Clarification was given that templates were designed specifically with the purpose of reporting against the Global Logical Framework.

**DECISION 2:** *The reporting templates were endorsed.*

3. **ADDITIONAL POINT ON THE AGENDA – for discussion:** Current status of the implementation of the Global Strategy in Africa.

**Introduction:**
- The MoU has not yet been signed between FAO and AfDB, so the funds for 2012 still cannot be transferred. However, the MoU between FAO (FA) and UNECA has been signed and instructions have been given to FA to transfer funds agreed to UNECA in the workplan of 2012.
- The workplan for Africa 2013 is not yet ready. Before endorsement by the GEB it should be endorsed by the RSC.

**Discussion:**
- Some members expressed their concern about the fact that workplan 2013 for Africa was still not ready and also with the delays in signing the MoU.
- GO expressed its willingness to support the preparation work with AfDB and UNECA in order to finalise it.
- AfDB confirmed that the workplan should be finalised by the end of May 2013 and that MoU is at final stages for approval and should also be signed by this time.
- BMGF and DFID representative expressed their interest in visiting FAO and AfDB in a near futures. This was welcome by FAO and AfDB.