AGENDA ITEM 1 (for endorsement)

REPORT OF THE GLOBAL EXECUTIVE BOARD (GEB) ON ACTIONS AND DECISIONS MADE ON BEHALF OF THE GSC

The GSC is requested to endorse the actions and decisions made by the GEB on its behalf during the reporting period.
REPORT OF THE GLOBAL EXECUTIVE BOARD (GEB)

PERIOD COVERED: June to December 2012

MEMBERS OF THE GEB:
AfDB: Oliver Chinganya (Mr.)
BMGF: Chris Gingerich (Mr.)
DFID: Frances Harper (Ms.)
Ethiopia: Samia Zekaria (Ms.): Chair
FAO: Pietro Gennari (Mr.): Secretariat
Philippines: Romeo Recide (Mr.)
UNESCAP: Haishan Fu (Ms.)

MAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE GEB:
(detailed Terms of Reference of the GEB is available in Appendix D of the Action Plan)
- The GEB exercises functions delegated to it by the GSC. The GEB will give instruction to the Fund Administrator (FA) in line with the strategic allocation decided by the GSC.
- The GEB will decide, if necessary, on the allocation of additional funds received by the Global trust fund, consistent with the strategic guidance of the GSC regarding expected resources.
- The GEB will be entitled to allocate the additional resources received by the Global 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.

MAIN DECISIONS AND ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE GEB

During the reporting period, the GEB had two meetings that were organised through teleconference.

1. FIRST GEB MEETING ON 17 JUNE 2012

The first meeting was organized after the nomination of the seven members by the Global Steering Committee. The main purpose of this first meeting was to select a Chair and discussing how to proceed with the functions of the Board, specifically on allocating available funds to Participating Partners in conformity with the strategic allocation of expected funds decided by the Global Steering Committee and disbursement mechanism.

MAIN OUTCOME AND DECISIONS

1.1 Chair: Ms. Samia Zekaria, Director General, Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia was nominated as the Chair of the GEB for the first 2 years.

1.2 Respective roles of GSC and GEB for funds allocation: It was clarified that, in conformity with the ToRs of the GSC and GEB: the GSC will decide, at strategic level, on 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 FA for disbursement. Therefore, the allocation of funds received at that moment (2 million pounds from DFID) will need to be approved by the GEB.

1.3 Mechanism for disbursement of funds

- **Africa**: Regional Action Plan is available, Regional Governing Bodies are in place and MoUs between FAO and Participating Partners - PPs (AfDB and UNECA) are in the process of being approved. The region will have to prepare a work-plan based on the amount allocated by the GSC and follow certain process in order to receive funds.

- **Asia and Pacific**: Focus will be on preparation of Regional Plan and setting-up of Regional Governing bodies: An advance will be provided to the Region to support these key initial activities. Since no MoU is in place, as a temporary solution, the advance funds will be transferred to the account of FAO Regional Office in Bangkok to support the activities in 2012.

- **Latin America and Caribbean, Near East and CIS regions**: Focus will be on preparation of Regional Plan and setting-up of Regional Governing bodies: These regions are not focus regions for DFID funding. However, the last meeting of GSC agreed on some seed money to be allocated to the regions in order to support key initial activities. As for Asia, no MoU is in place, and the temporary solution is to transfer the amount of the seed funds to the account of FAO Regional Offices to support the activities in 2012.

2. SECOND GEB MEETING ON 19 JULY 2012

Since the 1st GEB meeting on 17 June 2012, the following actions had been taken:

- The Secretariat prepared a detailed manual of procedures for disbursement of funds to PPs which includes standard templates for workplanning, budgeting and reporting for discussion and endorsement. This manual will be the reference document for all parties for receiving funds and reporting on their use.

- The Secretariat has also worked with various PPs in order to prepare annual workplans and corresponding budgets for the period July to December 2012 using the standard templates. Since all regions are not at the same level, the focus of the activities in 2012 will vary according to regions.

DETAILED AGENDA:

1. Approval of draft Manual of Procedures for disbursement of funds to PPs;
2. Endorsement of annual workplans and budgets submitted by PPs for 2012;
3. Approval of allocation of funds available (based on decisions from the last GSC meeting);
4. Instructions to FA to disburse funds to PPs to support activities in 2012.

MAIN DECISIONS:

2.1 Approval of draft manual of procedures for disbursement of funds to PPs: The GEB endorsed in principle the procedures and steps described in the Manual with a provision to add a more robust M&E framework. It was also agreed that the Manual should remain open to further adjustments that the GEB considers necessary.
2.2 Endorsement of annual workplans and budgets

- The workplans and budgets for Asia and the Pacific, and the Near East were endorsed subject to minor adjustments; and additional information on cost of outputs/activities, and a description of the inputs.
- The workplans for CIS, LA and the Caribbean and the Global workplan were endorsed subject to corrections of the calculation of the Project Support Cost (administrative cost) and additional information on cost of outputs/activities, and a description of the inputs.
- Two workplans were submitted for Africa region: for AfDB and for UNECA. These were to be resubmitted. A consolidated workplan is to be prepared and approved by the RSC. This approved workplan is then to be resubmitted to the GEB. It was decided that the GEB can approve this revised plan electronically by email.

2.3 Following these decisions, the allocation of available funds to PPs (based on decisions from the last GSC meeting) was approved as indicated in Table 1 in the Annex.

2.4 Instructions to Funds Administrator to disburse funds to PPs to support activities in 2012

The GEB decided to give instructions to the FA to disburse funds only to the PPs whose workplans and budgets were approved, and/or for the preparation of regional action plans and setting up of regional governing bodies (initial phase) as indicated in Table 2 in the Annex.

In respond to the above decisions, the following actions have been taken:

- The necessary corrections were made in the workplans for Asia and the Pacific; the Near East; Latin America and the Caribbean, CIS and the global activities according to the suggestion mentioned above.
- The disbursement instructions, as indicated in Table 2 in the Annex, were formally sent to the FA by the GEB through the Global Office on 9 August 2012 (together with the approved workplans and budgets).
- The available funds were disbursed to PPs by the FA accordingly.
- A revised workplan taking into account the comments received was prepared by AfDB and submitted electronically to the GEB for approval. After it is approved, the instructions will be given to the FA to disburse the amount specified in Table 1 in the Annex (870,071 $).
ANNEX

**TABLE 1: HARD COMMITMENTS AND 1ST TRANCHE OF DFID**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Allocation between Global and Regional Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Global Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hard commitments for 2012</strong> (funds expected for 2012 from signed agreements with DFID)</td>
<td>5,078,125</td>
<td>2,109,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GSC DECISION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Available funds (1st tranche from DFID)</strong></td>
<td>3,164,557</td>
<td>1,236,416</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Amounts of workplans and budgets for 2012</strong></td>
<td>2,109,375</td>
<td>1,488,365</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Amount approved for disbursement</strong></td>
<td>1,236,416</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>

**TABLE 2: FUNDS DISBURSED BY THE FUND ADMINISTRATOR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funds disbursed to</th>
<th>Approved allocation (US$)</th>
<th>Disburse funds (Yes/No)</th>
<th>Funds transfer to</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global level</td>
<td>1,236,416</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>FAO/ESS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>AFD &amp; UNECA</td>
<td>One workplan and two budgets need to be revised and endorsed by the RSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia &amp; the Pacific</td>
<td>375,140</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>FAORAP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS</td>
<td>48,000</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>REUT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA and the Caribbean</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>FAORLC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near East</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>FAORNE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,799,556</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: the Fund Administrator will charge 2% when disburses funds to a PP other than FAO. PSC of 7% will be charged to PPs at FAO headquarters or FAO regional offices.*