Fifth Meeting of the Global Executive Board (GEB)

Summary Record
DATE, TIME, VENUE

DATE: 13 December 2013
TIME: 17:00 – 18:00 (Rome time)
VENUE: teleconference

GEB MEMBERS ATTENDING TO THE MEETING

Ethiopia: Samia Zekaria - Chair
AfDB: Oliver Chinganya and Vincent Ngendakumana
BMGF: Lesley Lai
DFID: Neil Jackson
UNESCAP: Margarita Guerrero
FAO Regional Office in Africa: Eloi Ouedraogo
FAO Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific: Allan Nicholls
FAO Regional Office in LAC: Veronica Boero
FAO HQ: Pietro Gennari, Josef Schmidhuber
Global Office: Christophe Duhamel, Elisabetta Carfagna, Nancy Chin and Consuelo Señoret

AGENDA

1. AGENDA ITEM 1 – for approval: Provisional workplan Global Office 2014
2. AGENDA ITEM 2 – for discussion: Provisional workplan Asia-Pacific 2014 ;
3. AGENDA ITEM 3 – for information: Regional activities in LAC, Near East and CIS plans in 2014;
4. AGENDA ITEM 4 – for information Staffing at Global Office level;
OUTCOMES

1. AGENDA ITEM 1 – for approval: Provisional workplan for the Global Office 2014 (GO ITEM1 including the four annexes)

The programme coordinator presented the proposed workplan and budget for the Global Office in 2014 including the estimated value of activities carried forward from 2013. In addition, a complete overview of activities to be implemented until the end of 2017 and the funding gap at global level were presented.

Discussion:

- The need to expedite the research activities and the importance of building strategic partnership were acknowledged. Participants agreed on the proposal to sign letters of agreement with specialized institutions in 2014, whereas a longer selection procedure (expression of interest) will be conducted for those research topics planned to be implemented in 2015. The expression of interest will be especially relevant for identifying research institutions from developing countries.
- It was clarified that workshops planned for each research topic are required for validating research results and differ from the workshops conducted at regional levels by the implementing partners.
- Participants agreed on the importance to strengthen the delivery of guidelines and training material.
- Participants welcomed the overview of activities until 2017.

DECISION 1: The GEB approved the proposed workplan for 2014 at Global Level

2. AGENDA ITEM 2 – for discussion: Implementation of the GS in Asia-Pacific and Africa (ITEM2)

The Representative from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (A&P) presented the report showing the main orientations for the workplan 2014, including the estimates of the budget carried forward from 2013.

Discussion:

- The participants welcomed the main orientations of the workplan in A&P. The calendar of in depth country assessment activities in A&P and the strengthened collaboration with ADB were particularly appreciated.
- During the meeting clarifications on the main orientations for the workplan in Africa were requested. AfDB clarified that they have not finalized the workplan for 2014 yet. However it will be prepared for endorsement by the regional steering committee soon and the submitted to the next GEB meeting.

DECISION 2: It was agreed that another GEB meeting for approving the regional workplan for Africa will be held before the end of February 2014.

3. AGENDA ITEMS 3– for information: Implementation of the GS in LAC, Near East and CIS.

The Programme Coordinator updated the GEB on the major areas of work in LAC, Near East and CIS.

Discussion:

- Remaining activities in 2014 will be funded by carried forward funds and will be focused on finalizing the regional action plans.
- It was clarified that none of these regions will be receiving additional funding and strong advocacy efforts will be made during 2014 for raising funds.
4. AGENDA ITEM 4 – Staffing at Global Office level - for information.

The Director of the FAO Statistics division updated the GEB members on the staffing situation of the Global Office. It was clarified that the Research Coordinator position will be temporary filled by Naman Keita while a VA for the long-term replacement of Elisabetta Carfagna will be issued in January. The GEB members were also informed that the selection processes for the recruitment of the other vacant positions in the Global Office were already completed and that the offers of appointment to the selected candidates had been delayed by FAO’s internal redeployment exercise.

Next meetings: The next GEB will be held before the end of February. The GSC meeting is planned to take place in the margins of the 45th session of the UNSC (5 March 2014)