Seventh Meeting of the Global Executive Board (GEB)

Summary Record

21 January 2016
DATE, TIME, VENUE

DATE: 21 January 2016
TIME: 16:00 – 17:00 (Rome time)
VENUE: Videoconference

GEB MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING

Ghana: Dr Philomena Nyarko - Chair
AfDB: Vincent Ngendakumana
BMGF: Stanley Wood
DFID: Kenny Bambrick
FAO: Carola Fabi
Philippines: Romeo Recide

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

BMGF: Tuu-Van Nguyen
Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific: Allan Nicholls
Global Office (Secretary): Christophe Duhamel, Flavio Bolliger and Consuelo Señoret.

AGENDA

1. AGENDA ITEM 1 – for endorsement: Workplan Asia-Pacific 2016;
2. AGENDA ITEM 2 – for information: Workplan Global Office 2016;
3. AGENDA ITEM 3 – for information: Management Response (Mid-term evaluation)

OUTCOMES

Upon introduction of the agenda, the chair asked GEB members to provide their comments on it. In this regard, members questioned why the regional workplan for Africa had not been submitted to the GEB for endorsement. AfDB clarified that they were facing some internal problems and that a draft will be sent to the Global Office soon, prior to submission to the Regional Steering Committee and the Global Executive Board.

1. AGENDA ITEM 1 – for endorsement: Regional Workplan for Asia and the Pacific 2016
   Allan Nicholls (RO) presented the workplan and budget for A&P for 2016 including the estimated value of activities carried forward from 2015. In addition, he provided information concerning the composition of the regional office in 2016 and presented an overview of the major activities to be implemented in 2016, particularly the scale out of the SPARS.

   Discussion: Members welcomed the presentation delivered by the Regional Office in A&P. Gates’ representatives enquired about the possibility of applying the ASCI methodology in India as they consider ASCI as a metric for measuring performance and are keen to have a baseline in three States. The RO responded that before starting to use ASCI indicators, strong advocacy efforts need to be conducted at country level, particularly in India.
In addition, members asked about the composition of the technical working group that supports the RSC in A&P. It was clarified that the group is composed by a series of members coming from different backgrounds. Since RSC members are not all statisticians the technical working group has been formed to advise the RSC on technical solutions to implement activities at country level.

**DECISION 1:** The GEB endorsed the 2016 workplan for Asia and the Pacific.

2. **AGENDA ITEM 2 – presentation of the Global Office Workplan 2016**

   Christophe Duhamel (Global Office) presented the workplan and budget for 2016 to inform the GEB. During the presentation, the large scale of the research programme for 2016 was highlighted, including the development of the AGRIS methodology and its implementation in one country. The implementation of these activities will be possible thanks to the additional funding received from DFID.

   **Discussion:** Members asked the Global Office how they will proceed to incorporate the recommendations made by the evaluation team. It was clarified that most of the recommendations have already been taken into consideration. Should any additional major recommendations emerge after the GSC meeting, the workplan of the Global Office and other implementing partners for 2016 will be revised.

   Members also expressed their concerns regarding the ambitious research agenda. It was clarified that most of the necessary human resources for its implementation have been already secured and that the Global Office expects to finalize the core research topics by 2016 (crops, livestock, administrative data, use of remote sensing).

   Members asked how specific research activities planned by the Global Strategy will be integrated, particularly those related to the SDG agenda to be carried out in collaboration with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data. It was clarified that the Global Office is currently working in close coordination with the FAO Statistics Division, which is a member of the Global Partnership and an active partner in the UN system of the Modernization of Food & Agriculture Statistics to support the SDG2. Efforts will be put forth to ensure a good coordination process with other initiatives and avoid overlaps.

3. **AGENDA ITEMS 3– finalization of the mid-term evaluation**

   Christophe Duhamel (Global Office) informed the GEB members about the finalization of the mid-term evaluation process. It was clarified that the draft evaluation report had been circulated to the GSC members for comments and that the GS implementing partners are currently preparing a management response to the recommendations, which will also be submitted to the GSC for endorsement.

   **Discussion:** Members enquired about the timeline of the midterm evaluation. It was clarified that the evaluation team is in the process of finalizing the report, which will be circulated 10 days prior to the GSC meeting along with the proposed management response. The GSC meeting will be organized in mid-February.