



# Seventh Meeting of the Global Steering Committee (GSC)

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## Summary Record

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## DATE, TIME, VENUE

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**DATE:** 22 October 2013

**TIME:** 13:30-17:30 Hrs. (Rio de Janeiro Time)

**VENUE:** Rio de Janeiro – Hotel Windsor Guanabara

## GSC MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVES

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AfDB: Charles Lufumpa

BMGF: Stanley Wood

Brazil: Roberto Sant'Anna

DFID: Neil Jackson (by videoconference)

ERS-USDA: Mary Bohman - Chair

Ethiopia: Samia Zekaria

Eurostat: Johan Selenius

FAO: Pietro Gennari

Jordan: Fuad Irteimeh

Mexico: Arturo Blancas Espejo

World Bank: Grant Cameron (by telephone)

## AGENDA

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1. **AGENDA ITEM 1 – for approval:** Chairmanship of the Global Steering Committee;
2. **AGENDA ITEM 2 – for information:** Overall update on the GS implementation;
3. **AGENDA ITEM 3 – for information:** Implementation of the GS in Africa;
4. **AGENDA ITEM 4 – for information:** Implementation of the GS in Asia/Pacific;
5. **AGENDA ITEM 5 – for approval:** Revision of integrated budget and request of no-cost extension;
6. **AGENDA ITEM 6 – for information:** Main orientations of Global Office activities in 2014;
7. **AGENDA ITEM 7 – for approval:** Concept note on the M&E framework

One additional item was added to the agenda upon request of the BMGF:

8. **AGENDA ITEM 3bis – for information:** Presentation of the aide-mémoire of the joint DFID-BMGF mission to AfDB (after ITEM 3)

## OUTCOMES

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### 1. AGENDA ITEM 1 – for approval: Chairmanship of the Global Steering Committee

The Chair reiterated that the GSC needed to nominate one of the two co-chairs following the retirement of Mrs Badiie and communicated that her own mandate would also expire after the next GSC meeting. It was proposed to maintain as co-chair the World Bank (the Director of the Development Data Group of the World Bank) considering i) the important role that World Bank has played and is playing in the field of statistical capacity building; ii) the fact that the World Bank is not an implementing partner. This solution would also guarantee a certain continuity provided that another co-chair representing a country should be appointed during the next GSC meeting, in the margins of the UNSC in March 2014. Preference should be given to a country which does not heavily benefit from the Global strategy and to a different region from the one chairing the Global Executive Board.

#### Discussion:

All members agreed on the proposal made by the Chair to have the Director of the Development Data Group of the World Bank as new co-chair from the next GSC meeting. The appointment of a country representative as co-chair of the GSC will be discussed during the next meeting in New York.

**DECISION 1: The GSC approved the proposal to nominate as new co-chair the Director of the Development Data group of the World Bank**

### 2. AGENDA ITEM 2 – for information: Overall update on the GS implementation (Annex ITEM2)

The GO Secretariat presented the report on the update on the GS implementation.

#### Discussion:

- AfDB representatives raised some questions related to specific points in the overall report. They clarified that the Regional Action Plan for Africa shall not be “revised” but adapted to the emerging needs of the programme. In addition, clarification on the notion of the funding gap in Africa was provided. It was explained that the perspective of the regional action plan for Africa is broader than the Global Action Plan and the budget for the regional action plan for Africa is larger than the budget assigned by the Global action plan.
- The World Bank representative insisted on defining the linkages foreseen between the GS activities and the post-2015 MDG process. Some coordination was suggested.
- There were some questions related to the lack of funding for the LAC region. It was clarified that during 2014 strong advocacy efforts will be made. Members acknowledged the resource mobilization efforts with the European Commission in Africa.
- DFID representatives reiterated the importance of completing the recruitment processes at global and regional levels and asked the GO to provide an organogram of existing staff and plans for 2014.

### 3. AGENDA ITEMS 3-4 – for information: Implementation of the GS in Africa and Asia-Pacific (Annex ITEMS 3-4)

Representatives from AfDB for the Africa region and the FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific presented two reports showing the status of implementation of the GS in the two regions.

After the presentation on Africa, the representative from BMGF introduced the aide-mémoire prepared with DFID following a joint mission to AfDB in mid-October. The objective of this mission was to openly discuss ways of improving coordination and communication between the African partners and the Global Office. Improved mechanisms of coordination were recommended and suggestions

such as the existing coordination mechanism in place for the ICP (International Comparison Program) were proposed.

Discussion:

- Various participants highlighted the need to increase communication and coordination between global and regional levels. In addition, the coordination on thematic issues between implementing partners at regional level and across regions should be enhanced. The Secretariat mentioned that systematic meetings between GO, AfDB and UNECA were already planned on a regular basis at technical level in 2014 and that meetings with regional coordinating offices will also be held with effect from 2014. The need for improving communication and coordination will be one of the main areas of improvement for 2014.
- The use of the ICP model as a model of coordination mechanism was acknowledged by the participants, however it was highlighted that the Global Strategy is a far more complex programme which covers different implementing levels and types of activities.

**DECISION 2: The GSC recommended that coordination meetings are to be held between global and regional levels.**

**4. AGENDA ITEM 5 – for approval:** Revision of integrated budget and request of no-cost extension (Annex ITEM 5)

The Secretariat presented a report related to a proposal of revision of the integrated budget (the presentation was done according to outputs and 10 proposed points of revision) and a request of no-cost extension for one year (up to the end of 2017) due to delays in the implementation kick-off.

Discussion:

- There was a common agreement of GSC members on the justification and proposed changes which have no impact on the overall budget and distribution of budgets amongst regions.

**DECISION 3: The new integrated budget and the request of no-cost extension until December 2017 were approved by the GSC members**

**5. AGENDA ITEM 6 – for information:** Main orientations of Global Office activities in 2014 (Annex ITEM 6)

The Secretariat presented the main orientations for the Global Office workplan for 2014 in 7 points: (i) improving dialogue and communication; (ii) more efficient M&E framework; (iii) establishing the IAEG; (iv) enhancing resource mobilization efforts; (v) better prioritization and coherence of the research topics based on urgent needs; (vi) use of the GS as an umbrella for other capacity development initiatives and (vii) ensuring better access to research results and materials for users and countries.

Discussion:

- The proposal was welcomed by GSC members, particularly the prioritization of research topics. The need for establishing the IAEG was also discussed and the FAO representative reminded the importance of having such a forum for discussing issues which are not debated at international level (e.g. rural statistics, food consumption).
- The GSC members insisted on the importance of having GO and regional annual workplans prepared in advance so that they can be endorsed rapidly by the GEB. The Secretariat mentioned the possibility of having a GEB organised before the end of 2013 and reminded that the GO annual workplan was to be endorsed by the GSC. The Chair proposed that the endorsement of the

GO annual workplan could be entrusted to the GEB for 2014. This proposal was accepted by the GSC members.

**DECISION 4:** The GSC recommends that all annual workplans for 2014 are endorsed by the GEB before the end of 2013. The GSC exceptionally entrusts the GEB with the further responsibility of endorsing the GO –annual workplan for 2014 before its final approval by the GSC via written consultation.

## 6. AGENDA ITEM 7 – for approval: Concept note on the M&E framework (Annex ITEM 7)

The Secretariat introduced the concept note proposing a process for improving the existing M&E framework. The main proposed tasks are: (i) an assessment of the existing framework; (ii) a revision of the Global Logical framework; (iii) improving the existing templates; (iv) preparing ToRs for the evaluation part; and (v) improving the overall narrative component of the M&E framework. The secretariat proposed to recruit high-level consultants to have a first draft proposed for the next GSC meeting.

### Discussion:

- The proposal was welcomed by the GSC members and the need for an improved and more detailed M&E framework recognised.
- DFID and BMGF representatives particularly insisted on the feasibility of the new monitoring framework at regional level considering that the initially planned M&E staff positions are now replaced by consultants. The Secretariat indicated that the new and increasingly detailed M&E framework will propose a system consistent between the regions and between the regions and the global level. Monitoring tasks could be therefore integrated into daily activities of regional offices staff, hiring external consultants only when needed.
- Concerning the budget allocated to M&E and the transfer from staff positions to consultancies the Global Office indicated that this process will be adequately monitored, reported and re-evaluated if necessary.

**DECISION 5:** The GSC approved the concept note and asked the Secretariat to proceed with the recruitment of high-level consultants for carrying out the proposed tasks.

7. **Next meeting of the GSC:** The next GSC meeting is planned to take place in the margins of the 45th session of the UNSC (4-7 March 2014)
8. As it was the last time Mr Naman Keita (FAO) took part to the GSC, all members thanked him for his strong commitment and efforts for the implementation of the Global Strategy from its beginning and wished him all the best for his retirement years and the new challenges he would be taking on.