



# Eighth Meeting of the Global Steering Committee (GSC)

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## Summary Record

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## DATE, TIME, VENUE

**DATE:** 5 March 2014

**TIME:** 8:30-9:45 Hrs. (New York Time)

**VENUE:** New York – UNSC side event

## GSC MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVES

ADB: Douglas Brooks  
AfDB: Charles Lufumpa  
BMGF: Leslie Lai  
Brazil: Denise Silva  
CISSTAT: Vladimir Sokoline  
DFID: Neil Jackson  
ERS-USDA: Mary Bohman – Co-Chair  
ESCWA: Juraj Riecan  
Ethiopia: Samia Zekaria  
Eurostat: Maria João Santos  
FAO: Pietro Gennari  
Ghana: Philomena Nyarko  
IaDB: Mariko Russell  
Italy: Simonetta di Cori  
Jordan: Fuad Irteimeh  
Kazakhstan: Zhasser Jarkinbayev  
Mexico: Arturo Blancas Espejo (by telephone)  
PARIS21: Johannes Jütting  
Philippines: Romeo Recide  
SPC: Gerald Haberkorn  
UNECA: Joseph Ilboudo  
UNESCAP/SIAP: Margarita Guerrero  
UNSD: Eszter Horvath  
World Bank: Haishan Fu – Co-chair  
Yemen: Ali Abdullah Saleh

## OTHER PARTICIPANTS

AfDB: Oliver Chinganya  
CISSTAT: Andrey Kosarev  
FAO: Christophe Duhamel (*GSC Secretary*)  
FAO: Eloi Ouedarogo  
PARIS21: El Iza Mohamedou  
SESRIC: Zehra Zumrut Selcik  
USDA-NASS: Cynthia Clark  
USDA-NASS: Michael Steiner  
USDA-NASS: Sarah Hoffman  
Yemen: Hassan Thabit  
Yemen: Redhwan Ali Yahya  
World Bank: Gero Carletto

## AGENDA

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|---------------------|---------------|---|
| 1. For discussion:  | AGENDA ITEM 1 | Follow-up on decisions taken during the 7 <sup>th</sup> GSC     |
| 2. For information: | AGENDA ITEM 2 | Decisions taken by the 5 <sup>th</sup> GEB on behalf of the GSC |
| 3. For approval:    | AGENDA ITEM 3 | Allocation of funds 2014 for Global Office and Asia-Pacific     |
| 4. For information: | AGENDA ITEM 4 | Preparation of workplan 2014 in Africa                          |
| 5. For information: | AGENDA ITEM 5 | Situation in other regions: CIS, LAC, Near East                 |
| 6. For discussion:  | AGENDA ITEM 6 | Focusing on country support through the GS                      |

## OUTCOMES

### 1. AGENDA ITEM 1 – for discussion: Follow-up on decisions taken during the 7<sup>th</sup> GSC (**Annex ITEM 1**)

Mary Bohman (co-chair) confirmed that her own mandate would expire after this 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting. The chair of the Global Executive Board Samia Zekaria also indicated her wish to terminate her mandate with the GEB. It was agreed that they would both continue their current function until new chairs are appointed.

#### **DECISION 1: The Global Office will submit proposals for new chairs within one month.**

The GO Secretariat confirmed that meetings are planned in 2014 for **coordinating activities** with the regional partners in Africa and Asia-Pacific. Face-to-face meetings will be organised with each of the regions in the margins of the regional steering committee meetings and regular video conferences will be held with all implementing on a quarterly basis. GSC members were also informed that telephone conference meetings between the Fund Administrator and the financial services of each implementing partner have been organized in order to coordinate the financial reporting for 2013.

The GO Secretariat also indicated that contracts with the **M&E** experts are to be finalised with the objective to present a draft monitoring and evaluation framework to be discussed during the next GSC meeting (possibly in September 2014). The Global Office will regularly inform the GSC on the progress of the work.

### 2. AGENDA ITEM 2 – for information: Decisions taken by the 5<sup>th</sup> GEB on behalf of the GSC (**Annex ITEM 2**)

The GEB chair (Samia Zekaria) briefly introduced the main points of discussion and decisions taken during the 5<sup>th</sup> GEB meeting on 13 December 2013; the approval of the provisional workplan of the Global Office, the presentation of the provisional workplan for Asia and the Pacific, and information on the replacement of the Research Coordinator with Naman Keita on a temporary basis. The chair also indicated that the GEB had approved the Asia-Pacific workplan for 2014 via electronic consultation.

### 3. AGENDA ITEM 3 – for approval: Allocation of funds 2014 for Global Office and Asia-Pacific (**Annex ITEM 3**)

The GO Secretariat introduced the paper presented in Annex 3, pointing out that one of the requisites for disbursing the funds to the participating partners is the endorsement of the annual workplan, as in the case of Asia and the Pacific and the Global Office.

The proposed allocation of funds for 2014 is based on the amount indicated in the approved workplans while the first disbursement for 2014 will be limited to 30% of funds allocated by region since the carried forward funds cannot be estimated yet. The representative of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) asked to clarify in the document that ADB is also an implementing partner in the region

although its activities are not funded through the Global Trust Fund . In this respect, the sentence to be read is: *This is the amount allocated to two of the three partners implementing the Global strategy in the region, namely, the FAO Regional Office and UNESCAP.*

**DECISION 2: The proposed allocation and disbursement of funds is endorsed by the GSC with an amendment regarding the number of implementing partners in the Asia-Pacific region.**

#### **4. AGENDA ITEM 4 – for information:** Preparation of workplan 2014 in Africa

The AfDB (represented by Oliver Chinganya) reminded the tasks that have already been carried out and the on-going ones related to the implementation of the Global Strategy in Africa - the 1<sup>st</sup>-stage country assessments concluded with the final workshop in Rabat at the end of 2013. The first activities planned for 2014 will be the finalisation of In-depth country assessments related to the BMGF grant in collaboration with FAO, the preparation of joint missions to Senegal and Burundi, and the preparation of guidelines by UNECA. He also mentioned the need for a new approach in terms of governance for the implementation of the GS in Africa, based on the ICP model.

##### Discussions:

- The UNECA representative (Joseph Ilboudo) mentioned the importance to remain engaged in providing support to the African Training Centres;
- The UNESCAP/SIAP representative (Margarita Guerrero) explained that they will invite the Africa region to take part to their Network meeting in April for fostering coordination between the two regions;
- The FAO representative (Pietro Gennari) asked AfDB for clarifications concerning the progress made in receiving EU funding (about 10 million USD). The EU had initially contacted FAO to contribute directly to the Global Trust Fund but later found out that the conditions under which the Fund was established were not acceptable for the EU. For this reason the EU was advised to contact AfDB. AfDB replied that this was still under negotiation, particularly the issue of redirecting funds to UNECA

#### **5. AGENDA ITEM 5 – for information:** Situation in the other regions (LAC, Near East, CIS)

The GO Secretariat presented the situation in the three other regions where there is no funding at the moment. The three regions have almost completed their 1<sup>st</sup> stage country assessments and the 3 regional action plans are to be finalised soon. In the CIS region the regional action plan has been validated by the CISSTAT and adaptations to the Global Action Plan are still pending. The most important remaining issue is to mobilize funding in 2014. The Global Office will support the three regions in organising appropriate donor conferences, starting with the Near East region in close collaboration with ESCWA.

#### **6. AGENDA ITEM 6 – for approval:** Focusing on country support through the GS

The co-chair (Mary Bohman) briefly introduced this item requesting members to provide ideas on joint initiatives for investing in agricultural statistics, using the momentum of the implementation of the Global Strategy. Due to time constraints, these discussions will be postponed to the next Steering Committee meeting. The last recommendation to regions was to communicate achievements at regional level, following the example of the Global Office e-bulletin.