



Ninth Meeting of the Global Steering Committee (GSC)

Summary Record

DATE, TIME, VENUE

DATE: 10th September 2014

TIME: 9:00-12 Hrs. (Rome Time)

VENUE: New York – UNSC side event

GSC MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVES

AfDB: Oliver Chinganya
BMGF: Stanley Wood
CISSTAT: Irina Goryacheva
DFID: Kenny Bambrick
ERS-USDA: Mary Bohman – Co-Chair
ESCWA: Juraj Riecan
Eurostat: Maria João Santos
FAO: Pietro Gennari
Ghana: Philomena Nyarko
IaDB: Janine Perfit
IFAD: Alessandra Garbero
Mexico: Arturo Blancas Espejo
PARIS21: El Iza Mohamedou
Philippines: Romeo Recide
UNECA: Joseph Ilboudo
UNESCAP/SIAP: Margarita Guerrero
UNSD: Sabine Warschburger
World Bank: Grant Cameron– Acting co-chair

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

AfDB: Vincent Ngendakumana
AfDB: Estella Addiko
BMGF: Leslie Lai
CISSTAT: Kazina Liubor
DFID: Joanne Mcfadden
FAO: Christophe Duhamel (*GSC Secretary*)
FAO: Allan Nicholls
FAO: Veronica Boero
FAO: Naman Keita
FAO: Michael Rahija
FAO: Angela Piersante
FAO: François Fonteneau
FAO: Nancy Chin
FAO: Carola Fabi
FAO: Piero Falorsi
FAO: Norah de Falco
FAO: Consuelo Señoret

UNODC: Chloé Carpentier
UNODC: Angela Me
SESRIC: Zehra Zumrut Selcik
World Bank: Gero Carletto

World Bank: Michael Lokshin
 World Bank: Alberto Zezza
 World Bank: Zurab Sajaja
 WTO: Hubert Escaith
 M&E consultant: Brian Ngo
 M&E consultant: Andrew Flatt

AGENDA

1. For information: : AGENDA ITEM 1 Follow-up on decisions taken during the 8th GSC and decisions taken by the GEB on behalf of the GSC.
2. For discussion: AGENDA ITEM 2 Proposal for a revised Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
3. For information: AGENDA ITEM 3 Recent developments of the research component
4. For information: AGENDA ITEM 4 Implementation of the training component
5. For information: AGENDA ITEM 5 Implementation of activities in the countries: Africa and Asia and the Pacific
6. For information: AGENDA ITEM 6 Synergies with other initiatives: CARDS- AGRIS and CAADP
7. For information: AGENDA ITEM 7 Demonstration of the CAPI software

OUTCOMES

1. **AGENDA ITEM 1 – for discussion and decision:** Follow-up on decisions taken during the 8th GSC and decisions taken by the GEB on behalf of the GSC.

Mary Bohman (co-chair) provided an overview of the decisions taken during the 8th GSC meeting and the decisions taken by the Global Executive Board (GEB) via electronic consultation during February – August 2014. Furthermore, the GSC electronically approved the new organization of the African regional office and allocation of funds for Africa. The GEB endorsed the 2014 workplans for Asia/Pacific and for the Global Office (GO), the reimbursement of expenses incurred by the African Development Bank (AfDB) prior to the establishment of the regional trust fund, the 2014 workplan for Africa, and the revised regional governance framework for Africa.

Thereafter, the co-chair confirmed that her own mandate expires soon after the next GSC meeting. She also commented that changes in the GEB chairmanship are to be made and that the membership of the Global Steering Committee should be partly renewed.

DECISION 1: The GSC members endorsed the decisions taken by the GEB on behalf of the GSC and asked the GO to submit proposals for a new chair and for new members of the GSC. GSC members are invited to provide input to the GO and the co-chairs.

2. **AGENDA ITEM 2 – for discussion and decision:** Proposal for a revised Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

The consultants responsible for revising the existing monitoring framework presented their proposal during the meeting. The new design allows reporting at a more detailed level and, at the same time, allows aggregation at global and regional levels, including the reporting of the activities at country level.

Discussion started with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) inquiring about the optimal level of harmonization between regional and global frameworks and on how this new framework would monitor the complementarity of funding received outside the Global Trust Fund (GTF). It was

clarified that the harmonization will be done through the aggregation of frameworks at global, regional and country level and the complementarity of funding will be captured in templates for narrative reporting.

The Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID) proposed that the M&E framework reflect the catalytic aspect of the GS. In addition, the difficulty of establishing baseline and benchmarks was recognized. This is particularly challenging due to the fact that all the results of the 1st stage country assessments carried out in 2013 are not available yet. In this connection, the measurement of the use of agricultural statistics for policy making was also discussed. It was questioned whether the GO should be responsible for undertaking additional work on a scoring system on the use of statistics with a more specific focus on agricultural and rural development. Considering that a similar indicator is currently produced by PARIS21, it was suggested that the GO liaises with PARIS21.

The World Bank pointed out the difficulties for establishing benchmarks. Furthermore, the World Bank mentioned that next year's midterm evaluation will assess the feasibility of the design of the programme.

The ESS Director informed the members that ESS is working on creating an indicator to better understand the policy use of agricultural and rural statistics based on a survey in 80 countries.

DECISION 2: The GSC members welcomed the revised M&E framework and will provide their comments to the GO within three weeks (1st October 2014). The GO is required to contact PARIS21 to discuss a possible collaboration on the impact indicator of use of statistics.

3. AGENDA ITEM 3 – for discussion: Recent developments of the research component

The GO delivered a presentation providing an overview on the status of the implementation of the research activities. Emphasis was placed on the fact that the delivery of research results has accelerated considerably since the beginning of 2014. This process was facilitated by adopting new delivery approaches such as Letters of Agreement with research institutions and the WB. With the signature of these Letters of Agreement a substantial component of the research agenda is being delegated to partner institutions.

The major part of the discussion was centered on how to ensure the delivery and uptake of research outputs at country level. It was clarified that the GS plays a key role at country level, particularly when defining the priorities of the strategic plans for agricultural and rural statistics (SPARS). This enables the coordination of funding and better leveraging of other initiatives.

Members perceive the Global Strategy as the framework that may capture most of the initiatives at global, regional and country level. In this respect, more consultation on the results of the research methodologies at regional and country level was requested. It was clarified that consultations are taken with the members of the Scientific Committee, in which all the regions are represented. The possibility of collaborating with regional partners for conducting the field tests and receiving feedback on research publications was welcomed.

The GO made reference to the fact that the Global Strategy is becoming a brand for ensuring the quality of the research methodologies. The technical work of the GO is organized in two major lines. On the one hand, there is the methodological work on sampling that is implemented through research topics such as remote sensing and master sampling; and on the other hand, there is the methodological work on data collection such as the LSMS work (conducted with the LSMS team) or the crop estimates (conducted with IASRI in India). Next to these two lines of work there is strong coordination with other research programmes, such as AMIS.

In addition, the need to ensure that countries receive proper training in order to implement these new methodologies was reiterated. It was agreed that guidelines will be shared with the regions and countries in order to ensure that their inputs are taken into consideration. It was also agreed that members will be informed about the timeline for publications through the e-bulletin and the GS website.

4. AGENDA ITEM 4 – for discussion: Implementation of the training component

This session commenced with a brief presentation from the GO describing the status of the technical assistance (TA) and training component. This presentation was followed by an update from UNECA and UNESCAP/SIAP which provided an overview of the implementation of the training activities at regional level.

During the discussion, many ideas were shared for ways to implement the training component and monitor its impact. However it was noted that the stage of implementation of training activities varies across the regions. In general, there is a need for trainers, short term and specialized one-year training activities for agricultural statistics, additional resources for scholarships, upgrading training centers, and other capacity building tools including e-learning where there are no specialised regional training centres. Furthermore, in order to monitor the impact of training activities it is important not only to measure the number of trainees, but monitor post-training institutional capacity with respect to turnover of skilled staff.

5. AGENDA ITEM 5 – for discussion: Implementation of activities in the countries: Africa and Asia and the Pacific

This session commenced with a presentation from the Regional Office in Africa and was followed by a presentation from the Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific. The purpose of the presentations was to present the progress to date at regional and country level.

The discussion was mostly centered on the implementation of SPARS in order to identify countries' needs. The GO reiterated that the philosophy of the GS is to strengthen countries' statistical capacity and not to fund data collection. In this respect the GS needs to support the development and finalization of SPARS, including the establishment of coordination mechanisms between governments and development partners at country level. Notably, it was agreed by participants that improvements to address urgent needs of data collection systems can be started in parallel to the development of the SPARS.

6. AGENDA ITEM 6 – for discussion: Synergies with other initiatives: CARDS- AGRIS and CAADP

During this session the Global Strategy presented two concrete examples of synergies and linkages between the GS and other initiatives. The linkages with AGRIS and the USAID CARDS initiative were presented. This was followed by a presentation of the synergies between the GS and the African Union's CAADP initiative (Comprehensive Agricultural African Development Programme).

This session was welcomed as an example of how to capitalize with other initiatives and build capacities in the long term perspective. In addition, reference was made to the possibility of including AGRIS as a survey option into the SPARS process was briefly discussed.

7. AGENDA ITEM 7 – for discussion: Demonstration of the CAPI software

A presentation was given by the World Bank which demonstrated the features of the CAPI software whose development was partially funded by the GS. This new software maximizes data collection efficiency by using innovative data and survey management techniques as well as mimizes cost through a user friendly survey design which alleviates the need for specialized training or the hiring of professional programmers. After 3 years of development, the software is undergoing field tests and features such as GPS land measurement, and local language integration are scheduled for next year.

8. Next meeting of the GSC: The date of the next GSC meeting will be discussed between the GO and the co-chairs. GSC members will be informed soon.