



Twelfth Meeting of the
Global Steering Committee (GSC)
23 February 2016, Teleconference
Summary Record

DATE, TIME, VENUE

DATE: 23 February 2016

TIME: 16:00-18:30 hrs (Rome Time)

VENUE: Teleconference

GSC MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVES

AfDB: Oliver Chinganya
BMGF: Tuu Van Nguyen
Brazil: Octavio Costa de Oliveira
DFID: Kenny Bambrick
EAAF: Stephen Muchiri
Eurostat: Veronica Radermacher
FAO: Velda Nylander
Ghana: Dr. Philomena Nyarko
IADB: Janine Perfit
Jordan: Fouad Irtemieh
Mexico: José Luis Hernández Rodríguez
Philippines: Romeo Recide, **Co-chair**
Tanzania: Dr. Albina Chuwa
UNECA: Issoufou Seidou
UNESCAP/SIAP: Margarita Guerrero
UNESCWA: Juraj Riecan
WFP: Arif Husain
World Bank: Haishan Fu, **Chair**

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Brazil: Leonardo Maya
Global Office: Christophe Duhamel (*GSC Secretary*), Flavio Bolliger and Consuelo Señoret.
FAO: Charlotta Oqvist (Fund Administrator) and Arwa Khalid (Evaluation Office)
Mid-term evaluation consultant: Hubert Paulmer

AGENDA

- **AGENDA ITEM 1** – Decisions taken by the GEB on behalf of the GSC
- **AGENDA ITEM 2** – Presentation of the main findings from the mid-term evaluation
- **AGENDA ITEM 3** – Management response to the mid-term evaluation
- **AGENDA ITEM 4** – Proposed Global Office workplan for 2016
- **AGENDA ITEM 5** – Proposed revision of the Integrated Budget and logical framework
- **AGENDA ITEM 6** – Proposed allocation of funds for 2016
- **AGENDA ITEM 7** – Establishment of Task Team for preparing the second implementation phase of the Global Strategy

OUTCOMES

During the opening session, the chair introduced the agenda of the meeting and invited members to comment on it. In this respect, DFID expressed its disappointment regarding the fact that the workplan for Africa had not been endorsed yet. In addition, Jordan inquired whether any reference would be made to regional activities in the Near East. It was decided that these comments should be addressed by the agenda item “Global Office workplan 2016”.

- 1. AGENDA ITEM 1 – for information:** Decisions taken by the GEB on behalf of the GSC
Dr Nyarko presented the decisions taken by the GEB on behalf of the GSC during the 7th GEB meeting, which took place on the 21st of January. During the meeting, the 2016 workplan and budget for A&P were presented and endorsed. In addition, the Global Office workplan for 2016 and the procedure for endorsing the mid-term evaluation report were presented for information.
- 2. AGENDA ITEM 2 – for endorsement:** Main findings from the mid-term evaluation
Hubert Paulmer, team leader of the evaluation team that conducted the mid-term evaluation, presented the key findings and the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation, conducted during the period June- November 2015. The purpose of this mid-term evaluation was to assess the progress made towards the achievement of the Global Strategy outcome and outputs at global, regional and national/country level. The presentation aimed at informing GSC members on the key technical, financial, operational and organizational findings made by the evaluation team, including the key recommendations and main conclusions.

3. AGENDA ITEM 3 – for endorsement: Management response to the mid-term evaluation

Christophe Duhamel (Global Office) presented the implementing partners' management response to the seven recommendations made by the evaluation team as illustrated in the mid-term evaluation report. In addition, the follow up actions to each of these recommendations were also presented.

Discussion (Items 2 and 3): Members acknowledged the relevance of the seven recommendations made by the evaluation team, particularly recommendations 2 and 3.

Members welcomed the recommendation regarding the improvement of the SPARS process (recommendation 2) and reiterated the importance of following the PARIS 21 methodology, and the need to ensure the full integration of the SPARS within the NSDS. With regard to the SPARS, members also recognized the progress made in A&P, particularly the approach followed by the Regional Office in A&P for engaging countries. They recommended to follow the same approach in Africa.

With respect to the scope of recommendation 2, members believed that the recommendation should not only try to accelerate the process and increase the number of countries undertaking SPARS, but also ensure that countries establish and use the methodologies developed by the Global Strategy. In this connection, it was suggested that follow up actions should also take into account the uptake of the research results by countries.

Members strongly suggested to ensure the full implementation of recommendation 3 (improve vertical coordination and communication), particularly in Africa. They acknowledged that the follow up actions suggest to strengthen the involvement of Regional Economic Commissions. They also recommended to review the capacities of the implementing partners, with a particular emphasis on their coordination capacities and ability to disburse funds, especially to the training centres in Africa.

Members also requested additional clarifications on how the follow up actions would be implemented and reported. It was clarified that a specific coordination meeting will be organized to discuss the follow up actions and progress will be reported through the narrative progress reports.

With regard to the recommendation of alternative models for funds mobilization (recommendation 7), members suggested to improve the dissemination of results produced by the Global Strategy and to take advantage of the data revolution momentum to mobilize additional resources.

DECISION 1: The GSC endorsed the mid-term evaluation report (agenda item 2) and the management response to the mid-term evaluation (agenda item 3)

4. AGENDA ITEM 4 – for endorsement: Proposed Global Office workplan for 2016

Christophe Duhamel (Global Office) presented the workplan and budget for 2016. 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.

Discussion: Members welcomed the Global Office's workplan for 2016, and the fact that the funding gap at Global Level was filled by DFID. They also appreciated the Global Office's support to the organization of donor conferences in the LAC and Near East regions and they emphasized the necessity to mobilize additional funding to support the implementation of the action plan in Latin American and Caribbean Region.

Regarding the implementation of output 5, it was clarified that the country responsible for fully implementing AGRIS proposal had not been selected yet due to the fact that the Global Office was waiting for the approval of the workplan.

Members reiterated the importance of incorporating the results of the training component of the Global Office in the training curricula prepared by the regional implementing partners. It was clarified that this matter will be also discussed during the coordination meetings between implementing partners.

In connection with the questions raised during the opening session, the Global Office clarified that the workplan for Africa had been recently finalized and that it will be submitted to the RSC and later to the GEB for endorsement.

DECISION 2: The GSC endorsed the Global Office workplan for 2016

5. AGENDA ITEM 5 – for endorsement: Proposed revision of the Integrated Budget and logical framework

Following the endorsement of the Global Office workplan for 2016 and in light of the additional funding received from DFID, the Global Office's budget for 2013-2017 needed to be revised. In addition, during the 11th GSC meeting, the new output 5 was endorsed therefore, the logical framework of the Global Strategy also needed to be revised in order to be able to assess the performance of this new output. Members were informed as well that these changes would only affect the implementation of the programme at the Global Office level.

DECISION 3: The GSC endorsed the revision of the Integrated Budget and the new logical framework.

6. AGENDA ITEM 6 – for endorsement: Proposed allocation of funds for 2016

Charlotta Oqvist (the Fund Administrator) presented the allocation of funds for 2016 and the associated disbursement process for the Global office and the Asia-Pacific region.

Discussion: Members inquired about the procedure for allocating funds to Africa. It was clarified that GSC members will be required to endorse the allocation of funds for Africa, once the workplan is endorsed by the RSC and GEB. It was also explained that, similarly to the other implementing partners, AfDB and UNECA will receive the funds in separate instalments, with the first instalment being a maximum of 40% of the total budget.

DECISION 4: The GSC endorsed the proposed allocation of funds for 2016

7. AGENDA ITEM 7 – for information: Establishment of the Task Team for preparing the second phase of the Global Strategy

Christophe Duhamel (Global office) presented the aim, objective and proposed working methods of the task team that will be set up for preparing the second implementation phase of the Global Strategy.

Discussion: Members recognized the relevance and appropriateness of establishing this Task Team and welcomed the proposal of receiving a report by October 2016. The Global Office will prepare draft terms of reference to be circulated to the GSC members. It was confirmed that at least one country in Africa would be member of the task team.

DECISION 5: The GSC endorsed the establishment of the Task Team for preparing the second phase of the Global Strategy