Thirteenth Meeting of the Global Steering Committee (GSC)

8 February 2017

Summary Record
DATE, TIME, VENUE

DATE: 8 February 2017
TIME: 16:00-18:30 hrs (Rome Time)
VENUE: Video -Teleconference

GSC MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVES

AfDB: Fessou Lawson
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: Tuu Van Nguyen
Brazil: Octavio Costa de Oliveira
DFID: Kenny Bambrick
Eurostat: Veronica Radermacher
FAO: José Rosero Moncayo
Jordan: Fouad Irtemieh
Mexico: José Luis Hernández Rodríguez
Tanzania: Dr. Albina Chuwa
UNECA: Joseph Ilboudo
UNESCAP/SIAP: Margarita Guerrero
UNESCWA: Juraj Riecan
World Bank: Haishan Fu, Chair

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

AfDB: Vincent Ngendakumana, Estella Addiko, Arnaud Lath, Abdoulaye Adam
Brazil: Jacqueline dos Santos Manhães
INEGI: Eduardo Vázquez
Global Office: Christophe Duhamel (GSC Secretary), Valerie Bizier, Consuelo Señoret, Norah de Falco and Weronika Forowicz.
FAO: Charlotta Oqvist (Fund Administrator)
FAORAP: Mukesh Srivastava, Dalip Singh and Andrew Sobey
UNECA: Issoufou Seidou, Ibrahim Mamma
AGENDA

- AGENDA ITEM 1 – Decisions taken by the GEB on behalf of the GSC
- AGENDA ITEM 2 – Proposed Global Office workplan for 2017
- AGENDA ITEM 3 – Revision of the Integrated Budget
- AGENDA ITEM 4 – Proposed allocation of funds for 2017
- AGENDA ITEM 5 – Proposal for strengthening the Results Framework
- AGENDA ITEM 6 – Establishment of a Task Team for preparing the 2nd phase of the Global Strategy
- AGENDA ITEM 7 – New Chair of the Global Executive Board (GEB)
- AGENDA ITEM 8 – Progress towards follow-up actions following the mid-term evaluation

OUTCOMES

1. AGENDA ITEM 1 – for information: Decisions taken by the GEB on behalf of the GSC

Mr Tuu-Van Nguyen from the Gates Foundation presented the decisions taken by the GEB on behalf of the GSC during the 8th GEB meeting, which took place on 8 February, prior to the GSC meeting. As a result of the meeting, the 2017 workplan and budget for Asia-Pacific and Africa were presented and endorsed.

2. AGENDA ITEM 2 – for endorsement: Proposed Global Office workplan for 2017

Christophe Duhamel (Global Office) presented the 2017 workplan and budget for the Global Office. The workplan was prepared taking into account the no-cost extension of the programme until the end of 2018. The presentation started with an introduction of the 2016 achievements and was followed by the presentation of the Global Office workplan for 2017. The presentation concluded with an introduction of the remaining challenges, which are mostly related to the finalization of key research topics and the preparation of guidelines and training material.

Discussion: Members requested the Global Office to translate some of the guidelines and technical reports in Arabic. It was clarified that due to lack of funding in the Near East region, this has not been possible yet.

Members also expressed their concerns about the lack of funds mobilized in the underfunded regions, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean. It was clarified that the Global Office will support the organization of regional donor conferences to mobilize additional funding in 2017.
UNESCAP-SIAP requested clarifications on the countries in the CIS region that have received training through a separate World Bank grant. It was agreed that this information will be forwarded to UNESCAP-SIAP separately.

Finally, additional information was requested regarding the activities of the Global Office in the field of technical assistance in Africa. It was pointed out that these activities fall under the African plan, which had already been endorsed by the Global Executive Board.

**DECISION 1:** The GSC endorsed the Global Office workplan for 2017.

3. **AGENDA ITEM 3 – for information:** Revision of the Integrated Budget

Consuelo Señoret (Global Office) presented the procedure for revising the integrated budget of the Global Strategy. The main reasons for this revision are the recently approved no-cost extension of the Global Strategy until December 2018 and the new implementation approach in Africa.

Because the regional workplan and budget for Africa were endorsed on 29 January 2017, the RO for Africa did not have sufficient time to prepare the revision of the integrated budget. In this respect, the revision of the integrated budget will be submitted for endorsement via written consultation within the next two weeks.

4. **AGENDA ITEM 4 – for endorsement:** Proposed allocation of funds for 2017

Charlotta Oqvist (Fund Administrator) presented the allocation of funds for 2017 and the associated disbursement process by implementing partners. It was clarified that neither UNECA nor SIAP were eligible for receiving funds from the first disbursement due to the high percentage of funds carried forward from 2016.

**DECISION 2:** The GSC endorsed the proposed allocation of funds for 2017

5. **AGENDA ITEM 5 – for endorsement:** Proposal for strengthening the Results Framework

Consuelo Señoret (Global Office) presented the proposed changes regarding the revision of the results framework. Through the revised framework, the activity report will now incorporate three new indicators and will be supplemented by the technical assistance matrix. Furthermore, the financial monitoring of the GS will be complemented by a financial set of 5 financial ratios. These ratios will be submitted at the same time as the financial reports through a separate report that will not be certified by the FAO financial services. Finally, the targets of the programme will be adjusted according to the funds mobilized at regional level.

**Discussion:** Some of the members stressed the importance of harmonizing the submission of financial reports with the preparations of the annual workplans, as it would provide them
with a better understanding of the overall financial implementation of the programme. This is an issue that will need to be addressed in the preparation of the second phase of the Global Strategy.

Members also requested additional clarifications regarding the adjustments of targets, particularly in the underfunded regions. It was clarified that the logical framework targets need to be adjusted to the funds actually mobilized. Nevertheless, the resource mobilization efforts conducted in the underfunded regions will be reported on through the narrative report under the coordination output.

Finally, members also inquired about the possibility of reporting on the level of funding that has been disbursed at country level. It was explained that this is very difficult, as the existing financial report does not allow to distinguish this level of information.

**DECISION 3:** The GSC endorsed the proposed proposal for strengthening the new results framework

6. **AGENDA ITEM 6 – for endorsement: Establishment of a Task Team for preparing the second phase of the Global Strategy**

Christophe Duhamel (Global Office) presented the objectives, the set up options, the working methods and reporting system of the Task Team that will be responsible for preparing the second phase of the Global Strategy

**Discussion:** it was suggested to clarify the country representation of the task team to ensure that the main regions are represented in the task team. It was also suggested to redefine the first objective of the Task Team to better define its scope. Finally, it was suggested to emphasize the lessons learnt from the first phase. A revised version of the Terms of Reference will be sent to the members.

**DECISION 4:** The ToRs of the Task Team for preparing the second phase of the Global Strategy are endorsed

7. **AGENDA ITEM 7 – for endorsement: New Chair of the Global Executive Board (GEB)**

The Chair asked the GSC members to propose a new chair of the GEB. Josef Ilboudo, UNECA, suggested Dr Albina Chuwa, Director General of the Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics and member of the GSC. Following Dr Chuwa’s acceptance to become a new member of the GEB, Tuu-Van Nguyen, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, proposed her as a new Chair of GEB. Dr Chuwa was pleased to accept.
DECISION 5: Dr Albina Chuwa was appointed as new member and new chair of the GEB

8. AGENDA ITEM 8 – for information: Progress made towards follow-up actions following the mid-term evaluation

As a result of the follow-up actions associated with the recommendations that emerged from the mid-term evaluation, the Global Office (Christophe Duhamel) presented the progress made against these recommendations. Throughout the past year, significant progress was made on 20 of the 23 follow-up actions, particularly under the coordination aspects of the programme. The progress towards these follow-up actions, will be systematically monitored and reported to the GSC on an annual basis.

Discussion: it was agreed to share the Terms of Reference of the final evaluation in advance with the GSC members.

Next GSC meeting:
The Global Office will propose dates and venue for the next GSC meeting, planned in September 2017.