Fourteenth Meeting of the
Global Steering Committee (GSC)

12 October 2017

Draft Summary Record
DATE, TIME, VENUE

DATE: 12 October 2017  
TIME: 15:00-17:00 hrs (Rome Time)  
VENUE: Video - Teleconference

GSC MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVES

AfDB: Fessou Lawson  
Paris21: Johannes Jutting  
Eurostat: Veronica Radermacher  
FAO: José Rosero Moncayo  
INEGI Mexico: Jose Luis Hernandez Rodriguez  
Bhutan: Chencho Dukpa  
Lao PDR: Savanh Hanephom  
UNECA: Joseph Ilboudo  
World Bank: Haishan Fu, Chair

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

AfDB: Vincent Ngendakumana  
Bhutan: Mr Jamyang  
INEGI Mexico: Susana Perez Cadena, Mauricio Rebolledo Loaiza, Eduardo Vasquez Andrade  
World Bank: Gero Carletto, Alberto Zezza  
UNECA: Ibrahim Mamma, Oumar Sarr  
Global Office: Christophe Duhamel (GSC Secretary), Valerie Bizier, Norah de Falco, Weronika Forowicz

EXCUSED

IADB: Janine Perfit  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: Julianna Drinan, Tuu Van Nguyen  
DFID: Carol Ann Munn, Neil Jackson  
Tanzania: Dr. Albina Chuwa
AGENDA

- AGENDA ITEM 1 – Progress report and 2018 perspectives
- AGENDA ITEM 2 – Report and recommendation of the Task Team

OUTCOMES

1. AGENDA ITEM 1 – for endorsement: Progress report and 2018 perspectives

Christophe Duhamel (Global Office) presented the document “Orientations for the 2018 final workplan”. The objective of the document was to provide a global overview of the progress made in the implementation of the Global Strategy (GS) and help set the basis for the preparation of the workplans for 2018. He started by illustrating the summary progress report as well as the status of the overall financial delivery up to June 2017. This was followed by an analysis of the status of delivery and residual funds including a proposed envelope for the 2018 budget. The presentation concluded with a risk analysis concerning the implementation capacity of partners in 2018 and a set of proposed recommendations for the GSC.

Discussion: As the donors had communicated they would not be able to participate in the meeting, they sent a letter endorsing the plan and proposal and including some comments and queries on the two agenda items. Before opening the floor for discussion, the Chair summarized the main comments provided by the donors.

José Rosero (FAO) made three main comments: 1) he requested some clarifications on the budget delivery of the Global Office; 2) he suggested that the 2018 workplan should take into account the fact that it covers the last year of implementation of the programme and should therefore provide an orientation on the transition of GS activities; 3) he provided a clarification on the new rules implemented by FAO for hiring consultants, and pointed out that the FAO’s Statistics Division is working towards making the process as smooth as possible. In this respect, the GS requested a waiver for not having to comply with the new procedures. He mentioned however, that if the waiver is not approved, GS consultants will still be able to apply for an upcoming call of interest and be included in the organization’s new rosters during the 6-months’ transition period set by the organization.

Alberto Zezza (World Bank) made two comments: 1) in response to José Rosero’s second comment, he suggested that the transition of activities should be reflected in the 2018 workplan; 2) he asked the Global Office whether there would be a final evaluation of the programme.

Christophe Duhamel (Global Office) responded to José Rosero’s first comment by explaining that the Global Office’s delivery structure remains unchanged: 40% for the first semester, 30% for the second, allowing the use of carried forward funds to cover the first months of expenditure in 2018. As a response to the World Bank’s query, he also clarified that there
will be a final evaluation of the GS and that the ToRs will be submitted to the GSC between June and September.

Lawson Fessou (AfDB) had several comments on the document presented by the Global Office. He pointed out that some elements of the report were not up to date and he therefore wanted to provide the GSC with an updated picture of the situation, particularly in the following areas: governance meetings, staffing, advocacy/communication, output 4/accelerated TA plan and the financial delivery/risk analysis and proposed recommendations. He also requested to organize the next Regional Steering Committee meeting in Rwanda in December instead of November, as AfDB usually schedules the meeting at that time of the year.

Christophe Duhamel (Global Office) responded that the Global Office would take their comments into account and address each point that was raised in writing (see document in Annex 1). With regards to the Regional Steering Committee, he pointed out that the meeting should be organized in November so that all the workplans can be endorsed by the end of the month and the funds allocated by end of the year. Therefore, he strongly recommended to organize the meeting in November via teleconference.

The Chair also encouraged AfDB to schedule the meeting in November and concluded by endorsing the 5 recommendations proposed in the document “Orientations for the 2018 final workplan”.

DECISION 1: The GSC endorsed the five recommendations related to the preparation of workplans for 2018. Upon suggestion of FAO and the World Bank, the GSC recommended that the Global Office include, in its 2018 workplan, some specific activities for transitioning AGRIS to FAO.

2. AGENDA ITEM 2 – for endorsement: Report and recommendation of the Task Team

The Chair gave the floor to Johannes Jutting (Task Team Chair), who presented the report of the Task Team. He provided an overview of the document “Preparation of the 2nd phase of the Global Strategy Report of the Task Team” and briefly went through the five proposed recommendations. He pointed out the clear intention of the Task Team to go ahead with a second phase of the programme and concluded by illustrating the proposed next steps for the preparation of a plan for phase 2.

Discussion:
Members expressed their support for the proposed recommendations.

Joseph Ilboudo (UNECA) suggested revising the wording of the third line under recommendation 4 to reflect the fact that the unique programme suggested for phase 2 should take into account the regions’ progress made during the first phase and specific needs.
Savanh Hanephom (LAO PDR) noted that while the first phase of the GS mainly centred on country assessments and SPARS, phase 2 should focus on TA and training capacity development in the Asia-Pacific region.

José Rosero (FAO) commented that although FAO believes that the second phase should focus on TA and training, it should also consider the institutional set up in order to avoid duplications with other existing initiatives. In particular, he suggested slightly amending the text of recommendation 2 to reflect this. In this respect, he also mentioned that the GSC should recommend that the 2018 workplan takes into account a transition scenario for the GS. This last point was also reiterated by Gero Carletto and Alberto Zezza (World Bank).

Christophe Duhamel (Global Office) explained that the mandate of the Global Office was to transfer its know-how to regional implementing partners and that any additional unplanned activities aimed at providing a specific transfer of know-how to hosting agencies would imply the use of additional resources.

The Chair thanked all members for their interventions and asked the GO to amend the report by integrating UNECA and FAO’s comments. She concluded by endorsing the report and the recommendations of the Task Team.

**DECISION 2:** The GSC endorsed the report and recommendations of the Task Team on the preparation of the 2nd phase of the Global Strategy.

**Next GSC meeting:**
The Global Office will propose dates and venue for the next GSC meeting, planned tentatively on 14 December 2017.