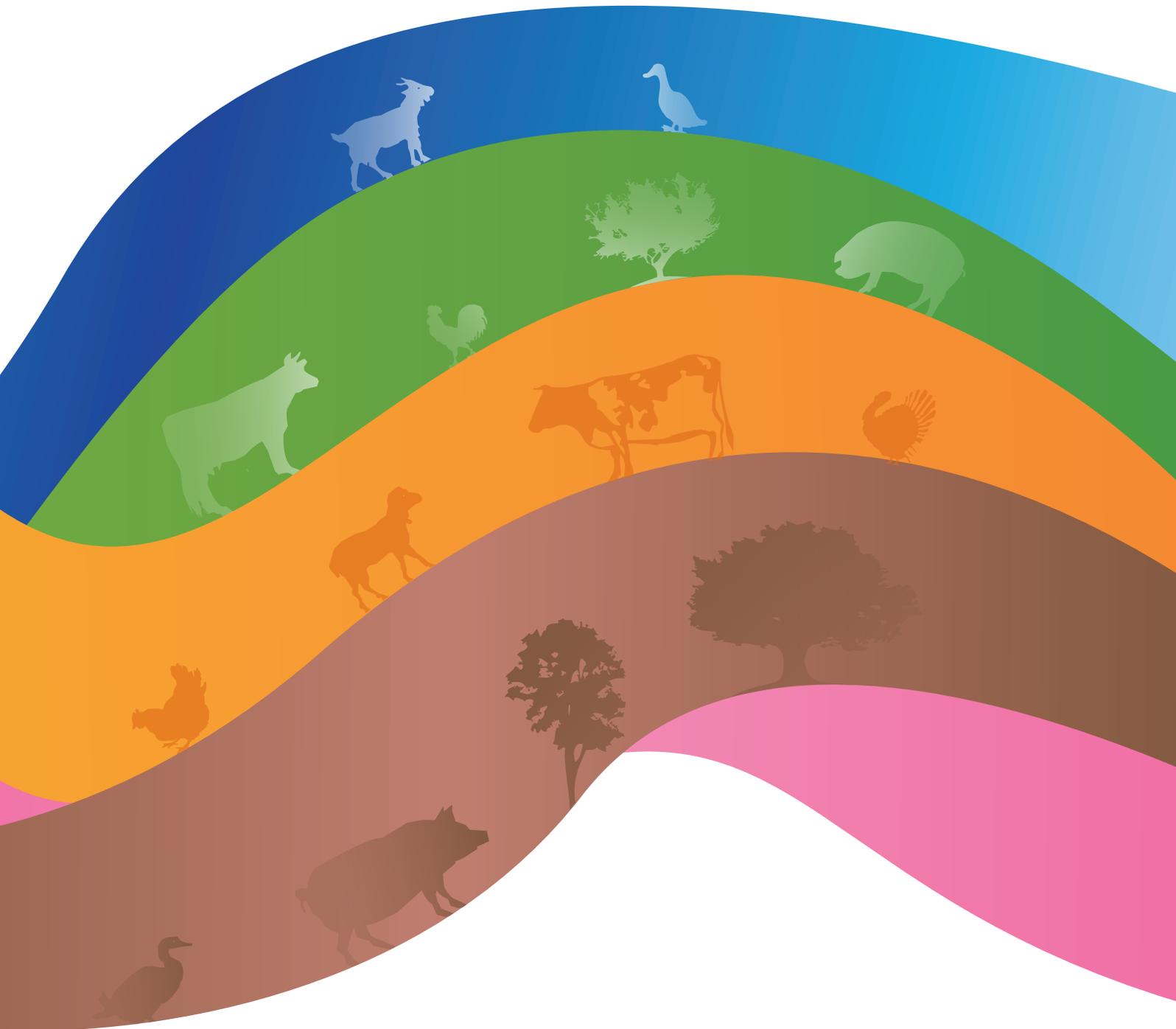




GLOBAL AGENDA FOR
SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK



4TH GLOBAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM
OTTAWA, 15-17 OCTOBER 2013

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE GUIDING GROUP:

The 4th MSP meeting in Ottawa proved to be another positive step in the development of our conceptual thinking and in the sharing of knowledge and experiences concerning sustainable livestock sector development. I detected a clear sense of satisfaction with the degree of progress from the broad range of stakeholders present at the meeting. All participants contributed to the animated, positive and productive nature of the meeting.

WHAT WERE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS?

First, there was an enhanced recognition and endorsement of the need for all facets of ‘sustainability’ to be incorporated and integrated into the work of the Global Agenda, particularly in the Focus Area groups. To ensure this, all stakeholders will need to be fully engaged in the process, to ensure their particular ‘voice’ is heard and included. Clearly, the diversity of interests, systems and contexts, requires targeted and context-specific responses. This diversity of interest and representation was recognised as a strength of the MSP, and not an encumbrance to an integrated and synergistic approach to common concerns. The multi-directional nature of the global-national-local flow of ideas and experiences was stressed.

Various speakers, on the panels, from the floor, or in the Presentation Space, stressed the value of – some say essential need for – shared goals and vision, whether at the global level, the national level or at a more local or sector-specific context. From this, shared targets and actions will flow. Suggestions were also made for giving future attention to the development of targets and indicators as an aid to measuring and reporting progress.

Practice change was seen as the clear basis for producing the kind of local and global results that the Agenda was initiated to deliver. Indeed, ‘practice change’ was seen as the leit-motiv for the meeting. Four key elements of practice change identified were:

- Knowledge and analysis
- Dialogue
- Tools
- Continuous improvement.

Participants at the meeting were in accord on the need to catalyze more actions at the national level to be initiated. The Guiding Group is fully supportive of this desire and as well as being keen to hear of initiatives at a national or sectoral level will also be exploring ways of encouraging and supporting such initiatives. National-level multi-stakeholder partnerships, pilots and ‘twinning’ are initiatives that will be worthy of support.

The importance of innovation and incentives in initiating, and encouraging practice change was expressed. The primary role of producers in implementing the required practice change was recognised, as was the need for capacity building and awareness raising.

I take it as a good sign that participants are very keen – almost impatient – to see action on the ground. Rightly so. It was very encouraging that at this meeting the Focus Area group Chairs were able to outline the work programmes that they have in hand, and the kinds of results emerging and where they expect their work to lead. You can see the reports delivered by these Chairs elsewhere on this website. Also, there was a general expression of the value and synergies to be gained by linkages across Focus Area groups and in developing functional linkages with other allied initiatives and organisations, at global, national and local levels.

I would like to thank Dr Sam Thevasagayam of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for his very illuminating Keynote Address in which he outlined the development approaches being taken by the Foundation, and in which he also drew attention to the alignment of interests with the Global Agenda and the potential opportunities for engagement.

We also covered some issues relating to the organisational set-up of the Global Agenda. A significant move was to change the name of the Global Agenda. Whilst endorsing the nature and focus of the Global Agenda, the MSP participants agreed to the Guiding Group proposal of shortening the name, to henceforth be the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock. The Guiding Group itself will see some changes, with a move to an enlarged body to ensure broad representation from six constituency clusters (public sector; private sector; academia/research; donors; NGOs; and social movements and community-based organisations), the Focus Area Chairs and the Chairs of any new Agenda-supported regional, national or local MSPs. A small 'executive committee' (or 'Bureau') will be appointed from the Guiding Group, to implement the issues the Guiding Group has discussed and agreed. The current Guiding group will now develop the details for transition to this new set-up within the next six months.

The guiding Group will also work on a funding strategy and action plan, and explore ways to strengthen the funding base. The MSP was informed of a contribution from an additional donor. Also, during the meeting we had three further adherents to the Consensus Document, and are hopeful that following the meeting there will be more countries or organisations that can follow suit.

The meeting was reminded of the Post-2015 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and the opportunity and need for livestock to be reflected in the Goals and as part of the outcomes from this process. Additionally, the point was made that the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock should become the 'recognised platform' for discussion and initiation of actions related to global livestock sector issues.

Besides the various concrete actions noted above, I'd like to draw attention to the intangibles that such a meeting delivers, including the networking opportunities, meeting of colleagues working in similar areas, the sharing of ideas and experiences, and the general interactive process that takes place.

Finally, I would like to offer my thanks to all participants at the meeting, for their interest and for their useful contributions. My last word goes to expressing appreciation for the work of our Canadian hosts and the FAO support team in preparing and then ensuring the meeting ran smoothly.



Neil Fraser,

Chair, Guiding Group, October 2013



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