



FROM THE CHAIR OF THE GLOBAL AGENDA



The **6th Multi-stakeholder Platform meeting** of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, held in Panama, was active, innovative, stimulating, engaging and productive – in short, a very satisfying event. An atmosphere of enhanced cohesion and commitment prevailed.

A central or defining theme of the meeting was an exploration of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and what these goals mean for the various stakeholders. The innovative and novel “pizza game” proved to be a successful and stimulating way of generating active engagement in discussing, learning and sharing different perspectives concerning the roles of livestock in implementing the SDGs, and their place in the development of the overarching sustainability framework of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock. These sessions further cemented the SDGs as a beacon for the strategic framework of the Global Agenda, and highlighted the lead role that the Global Agenda could play as the ‘recognised platform’ to help achieve livestock dimensions of the SDGs.

Further dialogue and knowledge exchange was initiated by presentations addressing three topical issues (antimicrobial resistance, animal welfare, and tracking and predicting droughts) and also by the very valuable informative and interactive sessions of the Presentation Space.

A full day themed around ‘Knowledge’ provided an opportunity to showcase the work of existing action networks (Focus Area groups, the LEAP partnership, Dairy Asia, and the Global Network on Silvo-Pastoral Systems) and to hear five proposals for potential new action networks. The Guiding Group will, in due course and with further information, give consideration to how these proposals fit into the strategic framework of the Global Agenda and how they can be accommodated.

Once again, a field trip proved to be a stimulating and enjoyable means of integrating relevant issues into the meeting, and separate groups were able to see how poultry production, dairying, and cattle production are addressed in relation to management of the Panama Canal watershed. A regional policy forum on sustainable livestock issues in Latin America attracted several Ministers of Agriculture and generated a useful dialogue on regional policy, production systems and investment issues.

As well as including many people who have been active in previous events, this meeting in Panama attracted a significant number of new participants. As well as the new experience and perspectives that they bring, I am pleased to note that the meeting stimulated further interest in the Global Agenda and in the course of the meeting at least twelve new members signed the Consensus Document, thus swelling further the total membership of the Global Agenda.

As an expression of the importance of the livestock sector in sustainable development and implementation of the SDGs, and of their commitment to the SDGs and the role of the Global Agenda, the participants to this meeting agreed on a Panama Declaration. This recognises the important contribution of livestock to the SDGs, and outlines the approaches and actions required to pursue those goals. (The Panama Declaration is posted elsewhere on this website.)



As I am stepping down from the role after three years as Chair of the Global Agenda, this 6th MSP meeting undertook the final step in a selection process, at the end of which the Guiding Group agreed to the appointment of Fritz Schneider as the new Chair. I would like to congratulate Fritz on his appointment, and offer him my best wishes for his term in this interesting and stimulating role.

Finally, in saying that this 6th MSP meeting was broadly judged to have been very stimulating and successful, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all participants for their valuable contributions to this highly participative meeting. The success of the meeting was assured by the combined efforts of our Panamanian hosts, the FAO sub-regional office in Panama, and the Rome-based FAO Agenda Support Team, and to all of them I offer my warmest thanks and appreciation.

Neil Fraser
Chair, Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock
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