

Third Meeting of the Global Agenda of Action (GAA) Interim Preparatory Committee (IPC)

Date: 28.05.2012

Participants: Alexandra de Athayde; Andrea Parrilla; Ben Henderson; Berhe Tekola; Chris Redfern; Francois Le Gall (co-Chair); Fritz Schneider; Gerda Verburg; Henning Steinfeld; Hsin Huang; Jeroen Dijkman; Jimmy Smith (co-Chair); Neil Fraser.

Participants through conference call: Richard Doyle; Ruaraidh Petre.

Apologies: Simplicie Nouala

Main Issues:

- a) COAG: The recognition by COAG that a GAA can inform, guide, and enrich FAO's inter-governmental processes and its endorsement of FAO's central current, and if so requested, future role was welcomed. A GAA was requested to update COAG on progress in two years time which gives a GAA ample time to deal with the queries about smallholder representation and the envisaged governance structures. The apparent reluctance of new member countries to come on board as well as COAG's suggestion that a GAA secretariat should be funded predominantly by extra-budgetary funds are deemed to be logical at this stage of GAA development.
- b) [Focus area status](#): The progress in the development of the three focus area action programmes (FAAPs) presented in the status updates, were thought to represent significant additional direction and clarity to the initial actions under the FAAPs. Whilst some preoccupation was voiced about the rate of progress towards 'action', it was also agreed that results achieved in establishing multi-stakeholder interaction based on trust, a common understanding, and agreement on three key areas of action are significant. The importance of moving ahead jointly and the need to continue working on clarity in respect of terms and methods, as well as the further refinement of focus and targets through scoping is another required step in this process. Notwithstanding this, it was also recognized that specific opportunities that may exist to pilot actions could be implemented in parallel.
- c) GAA Work plan: There was concern voiced about the scale of the task given to the GAA secretariat. The Secretariat assured that IPC, however, that it will be able to make some progress in all indicated areas prior to the next MSP meeting, and that there are also opportunities to share activities with partners in certain FAAPs, such as with for example with the Global Roundtable on Sustainable Beef (GRSB), which will not only relieve the Secretariat of some of its workload, but also ensure alignment with pilot activities that GAA partners are developing.
- d) GAA – Approaches, form and oversight: Whilst the underlying principles and approaches to support, sustain and achieve sector change at scale, and the identified secretariat roles were not contested, the newly proposed GAA structure raised concerns in respect of decision making and the funding of activities. In addition, doubts were raised on the acceptability of the proposed selection of stakeholder and action programme representatives on the proposed GAA advisory group. Further development of a GAA's structure and oversight mechanisms need to take account of the nature of a GAA, the need to deal with different types of funding (e.g. action programme; secretariat; central funds), potential conflicts of interest, and multi-stakeholder decision making processes. A suggested approach to facilitate this was to think through the functional requirements for each of the three 'independent' action programme clusters and to aggregate building on this.
- e) Multi-stakeholder Platform (MSP) Meeting Nairobi: The tentative draft programme for the 3rd MSP meeting and the intention to make this a constituting meeting, raised the questions whether a GAA could have a constituting meeting without agreement on its form and oversight mechanisms, what stakeholders would be signing up to, whether pledging of commitments can be expected to be made, and whether a 'MSP charter or consensus' can be agreed prior the Nairobi meeting? Opinions different in respect to the level at which a MSP consensus should be signed, and whether it was feasible to agree a sufficiently significant MSP consensus prior to the

Nairobi meeting with the main GAA stakeholders. Other proposals suggested to use the next MSP meeting in Nairobi as another intermediate step, focusing on achieving additional buy-in and consensus, whilst moving forward with the detailed planning and implementation arrangements for the component parts of the FAAPs. Moreover, there were also calls to postpone the next MSP meeting by one or two months to provide time to create additional awareness among stakeholders through a GAA 'road-show', and to negotiate and further develop a GAA structure and oversight mechanism and MSP consensus. The idea of incorporating a marketplace / matchmaking event at the next MSP meeting was welcomed, however, careful preparation and solicitation of ideas/concepts within the framework of the nascent FAAPs as well as the identification of the appropriate 'venture capital' will be required to make such an event successful.

Next steps and main actions

In light of the above indicated issues, the IPC agreed the following key actions:

- the establishment of a GAA Secretariat-facilitated IPC working group to further develop proposals for (i) a GAA's structure and oversight mechanisms, and (ii) the form and function of the next MSP meeting in Nairobi;
- The development by a GAA Secretariat of appropriate narratives for FAAPs flyers and other communication materials to create broader awareness of the current status of a GAA;
- The organization of a series of 'promotional' events – including a briefing of FAO permanent representatives – to create additional awareness and stakeholder buy-in prior to the next MSP meeting;
- The redrafting of a proposed MSP consensus for IPC comments and subsequent canvassing of GAA stakeholders for its further development and to explore the chances of finding agreement on such a consensus prior to the next MSP meeting;
- The continuation of a GAA Secretariats work on the further development of FAAPs with stakeholders through the commencement of the various knowledge management and scoping activities.