



Chair's Summary

Open-Ended Working Group meeting on responsible agricultural investments

20 November 2012 – 14.00 – 16.30 – Red Room, FAO

Agenda

The following agenda was agreed:

1. Updates
2. Proposed outline of rai Principles
3. Any other business

1. Updates

The Chair updated the WG on:

- the ongoing work by a consultant to review existing principles of relevance to agricultural investments, and to analyze these with regard to their scope, issues covered, differences and similarities, and to identify information gaps. This work would allow for a fully informed discussion in preparing the CFS rai principles.
- The CFS Chair has requested the Executive Heads of the Rome-based Agencies to nominate members for a technical support team that would support and accompany the work on the rai principles.
- funding is still an issue, and that it is planned to discuss fundraising of all ongoing and planned CFS activities separately. Some extrabudgetary funds have been promised. These should cover the upcoming work and additional expenses, such as the preparation of the Zero Draft and the attendance of upcoming meetings.
- the participants were reminded that they should provide the secretariat with information on events during which rai could be discussed/promoted as soon as possible.

2. Proposed outline of rai Principles

The main aim of the OEWG meeting was to discuss the annotated outline for the rai principles. 3 proposals were presented, the first covering issues agreed by the OEWG and endorsed at CFS39, grouped under general principles, principles addressing stakeholders and

their coordination, cooperation and partnerships, and principles on impacts of investments. The second proposal was to base the structure on the value chain approach, and the third was to group the principles to address specific stakeholders (while covering all issues agreed).

The general sentiment was that there was a need for more time to consider the proposals to allow for wider consultation. In general terms, however, the first proposal seemed to be most appropriate, but elements of the two other proposals should be integrated in it. Obtaining a good product was seen as more important than rushing into the production of a zero draft before reaching full agreement on the outline.

Next steps were agreed as follows:

- OEWG Members will continue their review of the proposed outline, conduct necessary consultations, and provide the CFS secretariat with their inputs by 27 November 2012;
- The Chair, working with the secretariat, will develop a revised annotated outline following the receipt of comments by 12 December, to be shared with the OEWG Members for their further consideration:
- The next meeting of the OEWG will be held mid January 2013, with the aim of finalizing the outline and reaching agreement on the structure of the rai principles document:
- Work on the development of the zero draft will start, under the responsibility of the CFS secretariat, immediately after agreement on the annotated outline has been reached.

3. Any other business

- To address the need to inform OEWG members directly about progress and planned meetings, a list of participants was prepared. Information and invitations to meetings will be sent directly to Members, in addition to the Members of the Bureau and the Advisory Group.
- The importance of early planning of meetings of the OEWG was emphasized. A first OEWG meeting to discuss the revised annotated outline is planned for 22 January. The following meetings will be announced as soon as the Chairs of all OEWGs and the Secretariat meet in December to propose an agenda for all CFS meetings in 2013.