

Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)

Executive Minutes

Joint Steering and Donor Committee Meeting

July 26-27, 2022

Virtual

GAFSP Steering Committee Chair

Ms. Corry van Gaal

Deputy Director, Agriculture and Development Finance

Global Affairs, Canada

GAFSP Private Sector Window Donor Committee Chair, and GAFSP Co-Chair

Mr. Nicholas Strychacz

Deputy Director, Office of International Development Policy, International Affairs

United States Department of the Treasury

Accepted for the Steering Committee

CORRY VAN GAAL

Accepted for the Private Sector Window Donor
Committee

NICHOLAS STRYCHACZ

SIGNED CvG

SIGNED NS

Corry van Gaal

Nicholas Strychacz

Chair, GAFSP Steering Committee

Chair, Private Sector Window Donor Committee

WELCOME, INTRODUCTION, AND CONTEXT

1. A meeting of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) Steering Committee (SC) and the GAFSP Private Sector Window Donor Committee was convened virtually on July 26 and 27, 2022. A list of meeting participants is provided in Annex 1.
2. The meeting discussed the Decision Note on the new Call for Proposals (CfP) associated with the GAFSP's response to the 2022 food crisis and agreed on the next steps in the CfP process. Additionally, the meeting served as an opportunity to discuss how to raise the visibility of GAFSP over the coming months, share communication tools for Steering Committee use, as well as discuss a sustainable funding modality for the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).
3. GAFSP Steering Committee Chair, Ms. Corry van Gaal, Deputy Director, Agriculture and Development Finance, Global Affairs, Canada, welcomed SC members and introduced new SC Members and Alternates. The draft agenda, circulated in advance of the meeting, was adopted without objection and is provided in Annex 2.

GAFSP'S FOOD CRISIS RESPONSE INTRODUCTION: GLOBAL CONTEXT AND GAFSP ROLE

4. In her opening remarks, the SC Chair provided context on the ongoing global food security crisis and the role GAFSP can play in the set of response mechanisms. She emphasized that the Program's principles and operating model are well positioned to complement efforts to minimize the impacts of the ongoing multiple crises. Additionally, she underlined the importance of all SC members to assume responsibility for supporting the Program, raising funds, and promoting GAFSP as a financing mechanism that focuses on smallholder farmers.

New Call for Proposals

5. After the SC Chair's introduction, GAFSP Program Manager, Ms. Kathryn Hollifield, provided an overview of actions that had been followed up since previous (April 2022) SC meeting. She also emphasized that the CU had organized meetings with all Supervising Entities in the context of the current food crisis, to discuss how lessons learned from GAFSP's Sixth Call for Proposals, and Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) recommendations from the last Call could be integrated in a new CfP. On the Decision note of upcoming CfP, she presented the approach, parameters, timeline, and the decision points that the SC members needed to agree on.
6. Decisions for SC members:
 - **Decision 1:** Approve to proceed with two new Call for Proposals that would provide additional financing/co-financing to CO-led and PO-led projects, as laid out in "GAFSP Response: New Calls for Proposals"? (yes/no)
 - **Decision 2:** Agree with the Call for Proposals parameters for the CO-led track - in Table 1, Column 3? (yes/no)
 - **Decision 3:** Establish financing envelopes for each modality? (yes/no)

Open Discussion

7. An open discussion followed the presentation by GAFSP Program Manager among SC members to reach an agreement on the three key decision points, outlined above, that will help define how to move forward with the two Call for Proposals.
8. Overall, SC members expressed their **strong support for the upcoming Call for Proposals** and the urgent need to move the process forward to support smallholder farmers in the poorest countries currently facing many challenges. At the same time, SC members posed clarification questions on various aspects of the upcoming Call related to parameters, requirements, and timeline, as well as the

available envelope for each of the modalities (Country-led (CO-led) and Producer Organization-led (PO-led)).

9. The main topics discussed during this session included the need for **flexibility** regarding requirements on governments' strategy document; **strong collaboration** among development partners (including Supervising entities) on the ground; **efficiency** of the Call process, recognizing the capacity of countries, and avoiding overburdening countries; **targeting** the Call to where the need is most urgent; and the need to **establishing funding envelopes** for each modality. Supervising Entity (SE) members welcomed the option to provide additional funding to ongoing SE projects, which will help avoid duplicating effort. On the **timeline** for project implementation, SEs indicated the need for a definition of what constitutes start of project implementation, noting that this may also require a longer and more deadline than the 3-months proposed given challenges at the country level.
10. The Coordination Unit (CU) encouraged SC members to share their suggestions and recommendations on all relevant topics and concerns in order to set up structures in the coming weeks/months.

11. Decisions:

1: SC approved the decision to proceed with two new Call for Proposals to provide additional financing/co-financing to any SE-eligible project – an early CfP for CO-led grants, and a delayed CfP for PO-led grants. The SC agreed that criteria and parameters specified in the concept note should apply to the countries only, as the modalities for the POs must be developed and discussed further.

2: SC largely agreed with the CfP parameters for the CO-led track (See Annex 3 for summary table). They noted several areas where further consultation with SC members, including for this list of eligible activities, potential targeting of a narrower set of IDA-only countries, and further articulation of the key deadlines for project approval and implementation. The SC also agreed that the call will follow a two-step process, with the introduction of a new Expression of Interest (EOI) serving as the first step. The EOI would:

- i. Be a checklist of items to be submitted with high level sign-in by the chosen SE;
- ii. Include the Minutes of at least one local donor group meetings, led by the government, indicating the attendance of active donor groups and all locally active GAFSP SEs; and
- iii. Include a summary of SE project for GAFSP additional financing/co-financing.

3: Establish financing envelopes for each modality. The SC agreed to allocate a minimum of US\$125 million. The remaining balance available will remain available for an eventual PO-led Call for Proposals. It was explicitly recognized that additional donor funds made available after the CfP could be allocated to proposals identified during the proposed country-led and producer-organization led CfPs.

12. Actions:

1. CU to consult with SEs on required content for summary of SE project. Since SC agreed that SEs would provide senior level sign-off of EOI and endorsement of final proposal, CU to consult with SEs to define signatory for each SE.
2. CU to set up a group of SC members to review and define targeting and prioritization, to report to SC in early September.
3. SC members to provide comments on indicative list of activities to CU. CU to present updated list to SC with CfP guidelines in September.
4. CU to consult with SEs and provide SC with definition of "implementation" and updated deadlines as part of CfP guidelines.

5. The CU to consult with the SEs to assess whether there is substantial demand and capacity on the part of SE-funded PO projects to absorb additional funds and submit a decision note by late September that will inform the GAFSP crisis response through the PO-led Track
13. The Program Manager also discussed the **next steps** in the Call process:
1. CU to prepare draft Call Documents for CO-led CfP and develop the Decision Note for PO-led CfP – based on SC guidance and decision, in consultation with SEs and TAC.
 2. CO-led Call Documents to include new EOI. CU to consult with SEs on EOI documents (country strategy, minutes and attendance list of country-led donors group meeting, and key project document for chosen SE project – also confirm SE signatory).
 3. CU to initiate TAC recruitment and onboarding and seek nominations from SC members.
 4. SC members to reach out to constituencies to share information on the SC decision on CfPs, including principles and parameters.
 - i. Regional representatives to reach out to Ministers of Finance and Agriculture in eligible countries.
 - ii. SEs to reach out to country teams/local SE representatives in eligible countries.
 - iii. CU to design a workshop for eligible countries and country staff to share information on the new CfP process; and target its delivery right after CfP Call.

GAFSP VISIBILITY AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

14. CU representatives shared plans for GAFSP resource mobilization (RM) and highlighted impactful communication tools while also providing an overview of plans to disseminate the upcoming CfP. The presentation included highlights from the latest communications, refreshed GAFSP website, RM, and knowledge-sharing activities, as well as opportunities for SC members to support increasing the Program’s visibility.
15. With respect to RM, the CU representative shared concrete examples of how various SC members can continue to advocate for GAFSP and strengthen strategic partnerships, as well as ideas on how to utilize the upcoming CfP as a resource mobilizing tool highlighting the inclusive, unique, and flexible nature of the Program, which has allowed GAFSP to plan and successfully launch four CfPs in the last five years in a responsive and flexible manner to meet emerging crises/challenges.
16. On the communications and knowledge agenda, CU shared the impactful and innovative actions taken to continue to step up its communication efforts, including updates on the website, social media, media engagement, etc., as well as the communication tools available to SC members for their own efforts and targeted outreach. Key performance measures and metrics over the past year were also highlighted, which included a significant and impressive increase in engagement on both the website and social media channels. Communication plans around the launch of the CfP were also discussed and included a proposal for a public CfP information session.
17. The presentation was followed by an engaging discussion where several SC members commended the CU’s efforts and expressed their interest and willingness to support communications and RM efforts.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs)

18. The CSO representative from ActionAid USA provided an overview of the role of CSOs to date in GAFSP, as well as highlighted the current status of GAFSP CSO financing, and called onto the SC members for their urgent attention and continued engagement. A number of donor community representatives expressed strong support to the GAFSP CSO representatives and underscored the importance of preserving and protecting the Program’s inclusive governance structure. They also agreed to quickly initiate conversations around the appropriate modality for supporting GAFSP’s CSO members.

19. **Action:** Donors will convene to discuss the CSO engagement within GAFSP and the way forward and the CU will discuss grant modalities with the Trustee.

AOB, NEXT STEPS AND CLOSURE

20. SC Co-Chair, Mr. Nicholas Strychacz, informed SC that he was moving from US Treasury to join the US ED's office in The World Bank and will be stepping down from his leadership position at the end of the month and added that more details would be shared about the new Co-Chair appointment in due course. GAFSP's Program Manager, Ms. Kathryn Hollifield, informed SC that she is stepping down from her position as she will be retiring. SC members expressed deep appreciation to both the outgoing SC Co-Chair and the Program Manager for their excellent leadership and hard work and bid them a warm farewell. Meeting ended with an announcement that the upcoming SC meeting in virtual format will be in mid to late September.

Annex 1

List of Meeting Participants (alphabetical order, by stakeholder group)

	Last Name	First Name	Country/Organization
Chairs			
1	van Gaal	Corry	SC Chair, Canada
2	Strychacz	Nicholas	Donor Committee Chair, GAFSP Co-Chair, United States of America, Department of the Treasury (outgoing)
Donors			
3	Bahalim	Ammad	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
4	Burgos Sainz	Fernando	Spain
5	de Nie	Chris	Netherlands
6	Doyle	Lindsey	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
7	Fougere	Shannon	Canada
8	Katayama	Shuichi	Japan
9	Krebber	Iris	United Kingdom
10	Lesch	Sebastian	Germany
11	Lynn	Fiona	Australia
12	Miriam	Golan	Germany (advisor to Germany)
13	McManus	Patrick	Ireland
14	Norsworthy	Marcelo	United States of America, Department of the Treasury
15	Watkins	Neil	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
16	Yamamoto	Shin	Japan
Regional Representatives			
17	Abdul Ghaffar	Jeehan	Middle East
18	Bello	Abdoul Salam	Africa
19	Farronato	Joel	ECA
20	Martinez	Salome	LAC

21	Mouangkham	Angkhansada	Asia
22	Prakash Pandey	Narendra	Asia
23	Pokharel	Champak	Asia
Supervising Entities			
24	Munoz	Gonzalo	IADB
25	De Salvo	Carmine	IADB
26	Monroy	Santiago	IADB
27	Martel	Pedro	IADB
28	Basu	Enika	IFAD
29	Boahen	Philip	AfDB
30	Fregene	Martin	AfDB
31	Katagami	Michiko	ADB
32	Polidori	Giulia	WFP
33	Simons	Sarah	WB
34	ToreroCullen	Maximo	FAO
35	Toe	Chris	WFP
36	Veillerette	Benoist	FAO
37	Iyer	Narayan	ADB
Civil Society Organizations			
38	Akoha	Sessi	ROPPA
39	Baguilat	Irish	AFA
40	Guerra	Alberta	ActionAid USA
41	Hertzler	Doug	ActionAid USA
42	Penunia	Esther	AFA
43	Sall	Nadjirou	ROPPA
GAFSP Coordination Unit, WB			
44	Alamzai	Amanullah	Coordination Unit
45	Calixto	Silvana	Coordination Unit

46	Chawani	Thokozani	Coordination Unit
47	Ekanayake	Indira Janaki	Coordination Unit
48	Hollifield	Kathryn	GAFSP Program Manager
49	Magarotto	Cecilia	Coordination Unit
50	Markozashvili	Darina	Coordination Unit
51	Mehdi	Tammy	Coordination Unit
52	Ramachandran	Venkat	Coordination Unit
53	Sakhuja	Davinder	Coordination Unit
54	Salman	Diana	Coordination Unit
55	Tortella	Virginia	Coordination Unit
56	Yang	Shijie	Coordination Unit
GAFSP Private Sector Window Secretariat – IFC			
57	Berman	Daphna	IFC
58	Maiztegui	Josefina	IFC
59	Shah	Niraj	GAFSP Head, Private Sector Window Secretariat
GAFSP Trustee			
60	Jacqueline Sta. Maria	Iris	WB
61	Lanza	Jorge	WB
62	Williamson	Angela	Senior Financial Officer/GAFSP WB Trustee

Annex 2



DRAFT AGENDA

Virtual Steering Committee Meeting – July 26-27, 2022

5:00 Seattle/ 8:00 Washington DC / 13:00 Abidjan, London / 14:00 Berlin, Rome 16:00 Nairobi / 20:00 Manila /
22:00 Canberra

Tuesday, July 26, 2022 (DAY 1)	
7:45-8:00 am	Steering Committee (SC) members connect and test audio and video connections.
8:00-8:05 am	1. Welcome and adoption of agenda <u>Documentation:</u> Draft Agenda
8:05-8:30 am	2. GAFSP’s Food Crisis Response Introduction: Global Context and GAFSP’s Role
8:30-9:30 am	3. New Call for Proposals (CU Program Manager) <u>Objective:</u> Present approach, parameters, financing status and funds available, and timeline of new Call for Proposals. <u>Documentation:</u> Decision Note: GAFSP Response to the 2022 Food Security Crisis
9:30-9:45 am	Comfort Break
9:45-11 am	4. Open Discussion <u>Objective:</u> Agree and decide approach and parameters for a new Call for Proposals <u>Decision Points:</u> Three Decision Points are laid out in the Decision Note
11:00	Close of Meeting
Wednesday, July 27, 2022 (DAY 2)	
8:00-8:10 am	Recap of Day 1
8:10-9:15 am	5. GAFSP’s Food Crisis Response – Continuation of Open Discussion
9:15-9:45 am	6. GAFSP Visibility and Resource Mobilization (CU) <u>Objective:</u> Update the SC on communication tools and upcoming priorities
9:45-10:15 am	7. Critical role and funding of CSOs in GAFSP <u>Objective:</u> Update the SC on next steps for continued CSOs work in GAFSP
10:15-10:30 am	8. Any Other Business
10:30am	Close of Meeting

Annex 3 – Summary of Key Call for Proposal Parameters – for Country-led CfP

GAFSP Principles/ Objectives/Focus	7 th CfP Parameters	Comments & Next Steps
<p>Country Ownership. GAFSP is a demand-driven, country-led program</p> <hr/> <p>Alignment with national climate commitments</p>	<p>Link to or copy of Strategy Documents</p> <p>Required as part of Expression of Interest (EOI)</p>	<p>flexible approach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.any recent strategic documents of Government including: broad agri/food strategy addressing PLUS 2.latest crisis response plan
<p>Development Partner Collaboration GAFSP “... improves donor alignment around country programs... ensures coordination with other efforts at the country level”</p>	<p>Minutes of local donor led by Government - where GAFSP proposal discussed & attendance list- if no active donor group, meeting of all locally active GAFSP SEs</p> <p>Required in EOI</p>	<p>SC Endorsed</p>
<p>Fill Financing Gaps. SEs are using existing and new initiatives as part of food security response: what is the remaining country-level gap?</p>	<p>EOI includes summary of SE project for GAFSP additional finance/co-finance</p> <p>Proposal to justify grant request, demonstrate additionality of grant in the proposal</p>	<p>CU to consult with SEs on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. required content for summary of SE project; and 2. SE’s to provide senior level sign-off of EOI and endorsement of final proposal – define signatory for each SE
<p>Eligible Countries. World’s Lowest Income Countries - IDA-only, and IDA-blend if adequate resources are available</p>	<p>Potential targeting and prioritization criteria within IDA-only countries.</p>	<p>Establish small group of SC members to review and define targeting and prioritization, to report to SC in early September</p>
<p>Eligible Activities. “The focus of GAFSP is on longer-term agenda to improve the income and food security of poor people in developing countries”</p>	<p>Indicative list of activities shared with SC in July Decision Note – Annex 3</p>	<p>Continued focus on longer-term agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -SC members to provide comments on Indicative list to CU; -CU to present updated list to SC with CfP guidelines in September
<p>Eligible Projects. GAFSP regularly provides grants that are implemented as part of projects financed with SEs own resources</p>	<p>Eligible projects would need to fully meet GAFSP principles and be approved by SE within 3 months of grant approval; and commence implementation in 3-6 months</p>	<p>CU to consult with SEs and provide SC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.definition of “implementation” and 2.updated deadline for CfP guidelines