



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

# **2022 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*Implementing National Pathways for Food Systems  
Transformation to Accelerate Progress Towards the SDGs  
in Times of Crisis and Conflict*

**CONCEPT NOTE**

14-15 June 2022  
IFAD Headquarters  
Rome, Italy



## I. Background

---

The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD, or “the Platform”) is a network of 40 bilateral and multilateral donors, international financial institutions and foundations that share a common vision on the role of agriculture and rural development in reducing global poverty and combating hunger and malnutrition. The Platform is committed to achieving increased and more effective aid for agriculture and rural development through evidence-based advocacy and knowledge sharing.

Every year, the Platform holds its Annual General Assembly (AGA), an event that provides Platform members, partners and invited guests with an open space to debate emerging topics in agriculture and rural development (ARD). AGA participants benefit from the core services of the Donor Platform: knowledge sharing, strategic influencing, and networking on key development issues and strategic directions that affect lives in rural spaces. AGAs are organized around specific themes. Past examples include the 2018 AGA on “Empowering the new generation in the rural space” and the 2017 edition on “Agenda 2030 put into practice: what future for rural development”. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a particular edition, held virtually and focusing primarily on shaping the Platform’s contribution to the food systems agenda, in preparation for the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit (FSS).

Given that COVID restrictions have become slightly less stringent this year, the Board Members of the GDPRD have decided to hold a hybrid AGA in 2022. It will take place over two days, between 14 and 15 June 2022, under the theme “Implementing National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation to Accelerate Progress Towards the SDGs in Times of Crisis and Conflict”.

The AGA sessions will focus on how donor coordination and alignment can be targeted to supporting food systems transformation and the achievement of the SDGs, in a context where agricultural value chains and food production are being severely hampered globally by climate change, the COVID pandemic, increased cost of inputs, and several conflicts, including the recent war in Ukraine.

## II. Rationale for selecting the 2022 AGA theme

---

Global donors have a critical role in leveraging change in agriculture, rural development and food systems, through the investments they make, the innovations they support and the international collaboration they enable. The achievement of the SDGs requires donors to adopt holistic and integrated programming, and work with partners to facilitate systemic change. It also requires donors to support better policy coherence across sectors in their partner countries.

The United Nations Food Systems Summit (FSS) held in 2021 demonstrated the critical importance of donor coordination for driving the changes necessary to make food systems more resilient. Coordination was critical during the past two years of the pandemic, but with the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, it is even more clear now that crises will continue for the foreseeable future, with massive impacts on rural development and food systems. Improving resilience in food systems is therefore essential for the health and security of people across the globe. **In both the short- and long-term, global donors can use their catalytic and leveraging potential to effectively support food systems transformation and resilience.**

The current crises highlight even more **why** food systems transformation is necessary and the need for improved resilience more evident. There is growing acknowledgement of **what** is necessary to achieve healthy diets, zero hunger, decent earnings for all food system actors, the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, and climate adaptation and mitigation.



The Ceres2030 report<sup>1</sup>, released in 2020, has provided an analysis of the scale of funding needed to realize the Zero Hunger target set in SDG2. Food systems transformation will be key to tackling rural poverty and inequality. Support for small-scale agriculture, family farming, decent employment and small and medium-sized enterprise development in sustainable food value chains needs to be solidly strengthened, while also fostering social protection mechanisms.

The GDPRD is working with the donor community and other key actors to help facilitate coordination and investments across an integrated set of pathways for action. For instance, support for food systems coalitions, national pathways and other initiatives that have emerged from the 2021 FSS process is crucial, with a focus on how these initiatives can accelerate and scale up change at local and national levels.

The 2022 AGA will take the FSS outcomes into account, contextualizing the need to accelerate progress on the SDGs - and in particular SDG2 – through the strengthening of national pathways.

To help chart a forward agenda, the AGA will also build on the GDPRD's inputs to the FSS process:

- The recent stocktaking report on “Donor Contributions to Food Systems”<sup>2</sup> and the “Declaration of Intent on Food Systems Transformation”<sup>3</sup>, both launched by the GDPRD in September 2021, recognize that food systems transformation cannot be realized through isolated sectoral oriented approaches. A food systems approach requires the articulation and integration of relevant sector policies at different scales of action. It requires donors to support better policy coherence across sectors in their partner countries.
- The white paper on “Transforming Food Systems: Directions for Enhancing the Catalytic Role of Donors”<sup>4</sup>, released in April 2022, provides global donors with a menu of options to transform food systems, to make them more resilient and sustainable, exploring the **how** in transforming food systems through the lens of donors.

**The work of food systems transformation is extremely context-specific, with no one-size-fits-all solutions. National pathways are therefore an essential piece of the food systems puzzle, and donor coordination should go beyond global hubs, with focus on strong harmonization at national and subnational levels, since pathways for change will need to be nationally developed, cross-sectoral, inclusive, and locally owned.** These efforts will require support through strong and coordinated national, regional and global policy and funding initiatives, taking into account already existing international sectoral coordination, and in collaboration with the United Nations Rome-based Agencies and UN resident coordinators.

All these issues come together at the national level, requiring more integrated and holistic approaches by both governments and donors.

### III. AGA objectives

---

The 2022 AGA will be designed as GDPRD's continued contribution to the international debate on food systems, including as a follow up to the FSS in September 2021, but also in the broader context of 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the outcomes of the Climate Change COP26 in Glasgow.

---

<sup>1</sup> Laborde, D., Parent, M., and Smaller, C. 2020. Ending Hunger, Increasing Incomes, and Protecting the Climate: What would it cost donors? Ceres2030 (Winnipeg: International Institute for Sustainable Development; Washington, D.C.: IFPRI).

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.donorplatform.org/publications-about-us-detail/gdprd-stocktaking-report-for-the-un-food-systems-summit.html?file=files/content/Media/About\\_Us/Publications/Platform-Stocktaking-Report/GDPRD\\_Stocktaking-Report.pdf](https://www.donorplatform.org/publications-about-us-detail/gdprd-stocktaking-report-for-the-un-food-systems-summit.html?file=files/content/Media/About_Us/Publications/Platform-Stocktaking-Report/GDPRD_Stocktaking-Report.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.donorplatform.org/news-about-us/declaration-of-intent-by-the-global-donor-platform-on-food-systems-transformation.html?file=files/content/Media/About\\_Us/Publications/Platform-Stocktaking-Report/GDPRD\\_FSS\\_Declaration-of-Intent.pdf](https://www.donorplatform.org/news-about-us/declaration-of-intent-by-the-global-donor-platform-on-food-systems-transformation.html?file=files/content/Media/About_Us/Publications/Platform-Stocktaking-Report/GDPRD_FSS_Declaration-of-Intent.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.donorplatform.org/publications-about-us-detail/white-paper.html>.



The **objectives** of the 2022 AGA are to:

- (i) Discuss and reflect on how donors can best support national-level food systems transformation to help achieve the SDGs and strengthen resilient food systems, particularly in this period of multiple crises.
- (ii) To explore the role of improved data systems, mobilization of finance, and continued attention for land tenure and rural youth employment in helping scale up and accelerate national progress towards the SDGs.

## **IV. Organizational arrangements**

---

### **Date and venue**

The 2022 AGA will be held over two days, **on 14-15 June 2022, at the IFAD Headquarters in Rome, Italy.**

### **Participants/Audience**

Participants will be invited to a hybrid event, allowing for in-presence participation at IFAD HQ as well as virtual attendance on Zoom. Members of the Platform, its Board and representatives from GDPRD's Thematic Working Groups, as well as other key partners will be invited to attend in-person.

Participants will include representatives from all geographic regions, including governments, international organizations, agribusiness companies, academic and research organizations, think tanks, NGOs, civil society, farmers' organizations and others. Special attention will be given to the representatives of rural youth organizations.

### **Conference organizers and core partners**

The GDPRD Secretariat will organize the AGA under the leadership of the Platform Board, contributing to the event's design and organization. This includes mobilizing participants and speakers, reviewing background documents to facilitate dialogue at the event, identifying authoritative individuals as possible speakers and panellists, and various other contributions.

The event will also provide an opportunity for Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) to design specific sessions around their theme/topic, to ensure that their work is considered in the AGA proceedings.

## **V. Format**

---

The AGA will be a hybrid event with participation both in-person and online. There will be a blend of high-level plenary sessions and technical panel discussions, along with special breakout working sessions. This format will maximize opportunities for dialogue and participation.

## **VI. Communications**

---

A communication plan will be developed for the AGA by the GDPRD Secretariat in cooperation with the Communications divisions/departments of the Board members and other partners, as appropriate. An event page and selected video recordings of the AGA will also be available on the GDPRD website.



## VII. Provisional agenda

DAY 1 – Tuesday 14 June 2022		
Time	Item	
08:30 – 09:10	Welcome coffee	
09:10 – 09:30	<b>OPENING SESSION</b>	
	10'	Opening Remarks from the GDPRD Co-Chairs
	10'	Remarks by the GDPRD Secretariat
09:30 – 12:30	<b>OVERARCHING THEME</b>	
	<b>SUPPORTING NATIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION</b>	
	<b>PATHWAYS:</b> Enhancing donor effectiveness and coordination at the country level in times of crises	
	20'	Keynote
	50'	Panel Discussion
	30'	Coffee break
	80'	Country examples break out groups
12:30 – 14:00	<b>LUNCH, hosted by the Platform Secretariat</b>	
14:00 – 15:15	Highlight messages from countries Plenary discussion and panel responses	
15:15 – 15:30	<b>Coffee break</b>	
15:30 – 17:30	<b>Optimizing the use of data in decision-making</b>	
	15'	Keynote Speech
	60'	Updates on data initiatives 4*15 minutes
	45'	Panel-led plenary discussion

DAY 2 – Wednesday 15 June 2022		
Time	Item	
08:30 – 09:00	Welcome coffee	
09:00 – 09:10	<b>OPENING OF DAY 2 AND SUMMARY OF DAY 1</b>	
09:10 – 10:40	<b>LAND GOVERNANCE AND FOOD SYSTEMS</b>	
	(Session to be designed by the Global Donor Working Group on Land, on the 10-Year anniversary of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security)	
10:40 – 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>	
11:00 – 12:30	<b>RURAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND FOOD SYSTEMS</b>	
	(Session to be designed by the Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment)	

