

**GODAN Steering Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
September 2nd, 2020**

Steering Committee Participants

| Name | Organisation | Email |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jaime Adams | United States (Chair) | Jaime.Adams@osec.usda.gov |
| Arnaud Dion | Montreal International, Canada | arnaud.dion@mtlintl.com |
| Sylvia Dietz | Government of Germany | Silvia.Dietz@bmel.bund.de |
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GODAN Board of Directors

| Name | Email |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
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Apologies

| Name | Organisation | Email |
|----------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Andres Gomez Urquiza | Government of Mexico | andres.gomez@datos.mx |
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GODAN Secretariat

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Agenda

1: Items for discussion:

1. Welcome, introductions, and adoption of the agenda
2. Review of GODAN Secretariat budget
3. Review of funding opportunities
4. Review of GODAN members notice
5. Shutdown plan
6. AOB: GODAN governance structure / selection of the new Chair
7. Conclusion and next steps

2: Summary of Key Decisions

- 1: Urgently identify donors to replace the premature end of funding by DFID (UK Government). Finance strategy for fall and winter 2020
- 2: Increase focus on alternative income during the COVID 19 pandemic – greater call in partner network or foundations and personal giving
- 3: Implementing new programmes funded by AFD, FAO and World Bank – new donors for GODAN

3: Review of funding opportunities

In light of the seriousness of the financial situation described by the Secretariat, participants reiterated their support to GODAN, pledging to review any funding opportunity in their respective organisations and share any possibility with the Secretariat in the near future. There was however, the perception that while options may be possible for 2021, a rapid injection of funding in the present calendar year may be unlikely.

The Secretariat then shared with the participants a list of more than 24 funding proposals being circulated with various possible donors, including AFD, FAO and the World Bank, expressing reasonable optimism in the potential of GODAN to expand its donors pool.

A discussion followed in relation to other possible sources of funding. The Secretariat announced is imminent launch of a private sector fund raising campaign, announcement well received by the participants.

The tax benefits to individual givers was discussed and the meeting heard that GODAN was awaiting its charity status and associated tax number.

3: Continued

The next point that was discussed, was the possibility of seeking direct funding from the members of the GODAN network, through fees or similar mechanism. The Secretariat responded that indeed this option had been under review for some time, pointing at the complexity of this issue based on the extreme diversity between GODAN members situation, ranging from small start-ups to major multinational organisations.

The Secretariat confirmed its intention to finalise the review of this possible mechanism and review available options with the Steering Committee/ Board when ready. This suggestion was well received by everyone.

4: GODAN Members notice

Members of both the steering committee and board of directors further heard about GODAN's plan to launch a facility that enabled partners and the general public to provide personal donations. A donation button was to be added to the organisation's website and the Executive Director was to send out letters to all GODAN's 3,000 contacts, alerting them to the new method of making donations.

A smaller and more targeted set of personalised letters was to be delivered to key supporters of GODAN – characterised as being in leadership roles in businesses and organisations that have traditionally supported GODAN activities.

Participants volunteered to contribute to these fund-raising letters, and committed to send to the Secretariat comments/suggestions on the proposed text.

5: Shut down plan

The participants, aware of the difficult financial situation GODAN finds itself in light of the combination of the UK funding withdrawal and of the prevailing pandemic, were explained what the GODAN shutdown plan is, in the event that no additional funding be obtained:

- Immediate information to the staff that they will be furloughed, and of the effective date under which this measure will take effect
- Mid-October: Notification to McGill that the hosting agreement with GODAN will need to be suspended
- In November: Most staff under furlough; initiation of negotiations with possible custodians of GODAN assets;
- December: finalisation of the safeguarding of physical and intellectual property (temporary storage of physical effects; securing online continuity for 1 year)
- January: Transfer of passwords, keys and materials to a GODAN Custodian
- March 2021: Liquidation of the GODAN assets and closing of the Secretariat.

Participants took note of this scenario, and suggested one more SC/Board meeting in October, to reassess the situation before most elements of the shutdown take effect.

6: AOB, Governance / Selection of the new Chair

The Steering Committee members were introduced to GODAN's new board of directors. It was reminded that as GODAN has acquired its own legal personality, the creation of a formal Board was legally required. The Board was therefore incorporated in the GODAN Governance Paper, shared with the SC during its February meeting and offering members the opportunity to propose changes or make observation to the update paper by March 31st, 2020.

As the Secretariat intends to capitalize on funding (and logistical) opportunities, GODAN has already acquired legal existence in Europe (Amsterdam), in Africa (Kenya) and in the UK. To keep things simple, the Secretariat intends to keep the same Board for all of these.

This means that over time, the GODAN Board is likely to gain more managerial/legal importance, while the Steering Committee is likely to play a greater advisory and donor facilitation role.

Then came the issue of the Steering Committee Chair: The current Chair reminded everyone that after holding this role for the first 5 years of GODAN's existence, the US has opened the possibility for others to take over. A possible candidacy has been received: Mr Sjoerd Croque, well known by the members as he represented the Netherlands in the SC since its early days. Mr Croque's nomination was unanimously approved by the members.

It was then decided to invite Mr Croque as the new chair, in the next SC meeting, planned for sometime in October.

7: Conclusion and next steps

In conclusion, the joint SC and Board meeting participants expressed satisfaction on the measures and actions taken by the Secretariat to mitigate and address the new financial reality faced by GODAN.

The members acknowledged the importance of maintaining all possible efforts, pursuing the various funding options discussed during the meeting. Participants reiterated their intention to support these efforts as much as possible, and their desire to review the situation again in October.

Finally, the members welcomed the new SC Chair by anticipation.

On this note the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting was held virtually

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