



**Provisional Agenda**  
Inaugural General Assembly of Centers

Issued: 20 January 2017

# Provisional Agenda

Inaugural General Assembly of Centers  
24 and 25 January 2017,  
The Royal Society, London, UK

**Co-Chaired by**  
Bruce Coulman (Convener, Board of Trustee Chairs) and  
Martin Kropff (Convener, Directors General)

Timing	Focus area and Purpose	Session content	Proposed Format
<b>Day 1 - Tuesday 24 January 2017, 09:00-18:00, London, UK</b>			
9:00-9:30 <i>30 mins</i>	<b>1. Opening</b>  <u>For Context</u>	Opening by Convener of the Board of Trustee Chairs and Convener of the Center Directors General	<b><u>Framed by:</u> Martin Kropff and Bruce Coulman</b>  <u>Concept:</u> Setting the scene and discussing objectives for the 2 days ahead.  <u>Format:</u> 5-10 mins each from Martin and Bruce, followed by checking and agreeing on the Agenda. Asking for volunteers for capturing main points from each session (rapporteurs).
9:30-10:30 <i>1 hour</i>	<b>2. Updating ourselves</b>  <u>For Information</u>	Providing updates from, and discussing proposed feedback to, the System Management Board, its Committees and Working Groups on work undertaken to date and lessons learned [includes report of the Interim Chair of the Board, <i>Charter – Article 5.6(d)</i> ]	<b><u>Framed by:</u> Martin Kropff</b>  <u>Concept:</u> <i>Taking note of the progress being made by the SMB's ad hoc working groups to help take critical issues forward with considerable Center engagement</i>  <u>Format:</u> PowerPoint presentation by Martin and other SMB members/working group leads – max 30 mins – with Q&A  <u>Contributors:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WG1 on RM: <b>Jimmy Smith</b> (Vice Chair)</li> <li>• WG2 on RoG: <b>Margret Thalwitz</b> (Chair)</li> <li>• WG3 on Cost sharing: <b>Michael Gerba</b> (on behalf of Chair: Gordon MacNeil)</li> <li>• WG4 on System Costs: <b>Jimmy Smith</b> (on behalf of Chair: Elwyn Grainger-Jones)</li> <li>• WG5 on Site Integration: <b>Matthew Morell</b> (Chair)</li> <li>• WG6 on Genetic Resources: <b>Ann Tutwiler</b></li> <li>• WG7 on GLDC: <b>Martin Kropff</b> (on behalf of Chair: Eugene Terry)</li> </ul>
<b>10:30-11:00 Break</b>			

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11:00-12:30 <i>1 hr 30 mins</i>	<b>3. Strengthening system-level resource mobilization</b>  <i>For input</i>	Discussing system actions to support efforts to grow and make more sustainable system-level funding, including building and delivering upon a system level resource mobilization strategy, and possible major 2017 events	<b><i>Framed by: Bruce Coulman</i></b>  <u>Concept</u> – <i>To build a greater common awareness of the importance and objectives of system level RM, and gather as much advice and many ideas as we can in this session</i>  <u>Format (with suggested Group leads- from RM Working Group):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Short introductory presentation (15 minutes) by <b>Tony Simons</b></li> <li>B. Followed a breakout session of (30 min)-participants to join choice of 5 groups on 5 issues (max. 6 persons per group):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Should we change our narrative, and how? (<b>Tony Simons</b>)</li> <li>2.How can we grow our support from foundations &amp; high-net worth individuals? (<b>Jimmy Smith</b>)</li> <li>3.How could developing countries contribute more? (<b>Shenggen Fan</b>)</li> <li>4.Should and could existing donors be encouraged to shift financing from bilateral to pooled funding? (<b>Ann Tutwiler</b>)</li> <li>5.What is the potential for ‘innovative financing’ –e.g. matching, bridging or returnable capital funds? (<b>Margret Thalwitz</b>)                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C. Each group to report back (5 min each) on 1) ideas and 2) actions (saying by who!)</li> <li>D. Open discussion on moving this forward (20 min)- <b>Chaired by Bruce</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>12:30-13:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		
13:30- 15:00 <i>1hr 30 min</i>	<b>4. Thinking as a System</b>  <i>For discussion</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 Are we now working together as an effective system?</li> <li>4.2 Do we have our messaging on the CGIAR brand name right?</li> <li>4.3 Are there strategies that we can adopt to strengthen System Council engagement</li> <li>4.4 Considering infrastructure renewal across the system</li> </ul>	<b><i>Framed by: Martin Kropff</i></b>  <u>Concept:</u> a check-in with group on how new “CGIAR System” is working and to encourage some higher level reflections on their respective responsibilities in making it a success  <u>Format:</u> Breakout groups followed by plenary conversation. 5 randomly assigned groups. Each group to (1) identify areas of progress, (2) areas for further improvement, and (3) concrete ways in which they can contribute to those improvements  <u>Suggested Group leads:</u> <b>1) Harold Roy-Macauley, 2) Aly Abousabaa, 3) Peter Holmgren, 4) Blake Ratner, and 5) Nteranya Sanginga</b>

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15:00-15:30 30 mins	<b>5. Ideas sharing space</b>  <u>For discussion</u>	5.1 Place holder for participants to put themselves forward to share a subject/idea with the group on the key strategic issues for the System in 2017	<b><u>Framed:</u> Bruce Coulman</b>  <u>Concept:</u> <i>Open call for stand-up sharing of ideas – 5 minutes or so each.</i>  <u>Format:</u> Ask participants to share e.g. Something that has worked well (or not) for them that might be helpful for other Centers, and/or a concern that they want to flag.  <u>Contributors:</u> <b>David Bergvinson</b> to facilitate
15:30-16:00	<b>Break</b>		
16:00- 17:30	<b>6. Improving system-level financing modalities</b>  <u>For Input</u>	6.1 Considering fundamental questions on the ‘Window’ funding mechanisms; 2017 funding priorities and uses of W1/W2; mechanisms for financing the genebanks; inputs into SC deliberations on the criteria for the annual allocation of funding ( <i>Charter, Article 8.1.bb</i> ); Strategic inputs into SMB’s <i>adhoc</i> Working Group on Funding System Actions, including preparation of multi-year budgets	<b><u>Framed by:</u> Martin Kropff</b>  <u>Concept:</u> <i>Ideas collection to inform policy development in 2017 (the System Council paper on financing modalities)</i>  <u>Format (with suggested Group leads):</u> Participants to join one of 4 groups (max. 7 persons per group) for 40 mins – focusing on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How should the genebanks be funded? (<b>Geoff Hawtin</b>)</li> <li>2. What changes could and should be made to the policy on funding system costs in future? (<b>Martin Kropff</b>)</li> <li>3. Is there a better mechanism to receive system financing than the current windows structure? (<b>Rodney Cooke</b>)</li> <li>4. How best should allocation decisions be made for longer-run CRP allocations and if cuts need to be made? (<b>Jimmy Smith</b>)</li> </ol> Then plenary discussion - each group reports back (max 2 mins!!) with plenary discussion after each report back.
17:30-18:00	<b>Update on AIARC</b>  <u>For Information</u>	Virtual presentation updating on AIARC (specifically aimed at Director Generals)	<b><u>Introduced by:</u> Bruce Coulman</b>  <u>Concept:</u> <i>This session will act as the AIARC General Meeting.</i>  <u>Format:</u> Virtual presentation by <b>Jeff Hungate (10 mins)</b> followed by open Q&A

Timing	Focus area	Session content	Proposed Format
<b>Day 2 - Wednesday 25 January 2017, 09:00-18:00, London, UK</b>			
9:00-9:15	<b>Day 2 Opening</b>	Check-in on progress and Day 2 agenda	<b>Framed by: Martin Kropff</b>  Opportunity to check to see if Day 2's Agenda needs adjusting based on inputs from the day before and, otherwise, to take stock of how the meeting is progressing
9:15-10:30  75 min	<b>7. Starting to frame a system-level statement on risk appetite</b>  <u>For Input</u>	<p>7.1 Gathering Center inputs to help to shape a provisional risk management framework for the CGIAR System (<i>Charter, Article 8.1.t</i>)<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>7.2 Thinking about risk and risk appetite sufficiently broadly: Taking the example of biopiracy concerns being raised within international fora regarding genomic data sharing, and related concepts. Where does the risk sit, and how should this be managed?</p> <p>7.3 Addressing the inherent risk of System-wide Conflicts of Interest – declaring and managing COIs transparently and effectively.</p>	<p><b>Framed by: Martin Kropff</b></p> <p><u>Concept:</u> <i>Charter stipulates that SMB presents to System Council for its approval, a risk management framework of the CGIAR System – they expect this in 2017. Audit chairs are meeting to discuss this on 31 January – this discussion could provide some inputs and ideas for that discussion.</i></p> <p><u>Item 7.1 - Format:</u> 5 randomly selected groups. After a short intro by Martin on why this matters, each group is asked to put together a list of the top 10 systemic risks to the CGIAR System – i.e. those risks (beyond securing funding!) that extend beyond an individual Center. Each group then reports back to plenary, with a goal of agreeing a consolidated prioritized list (by voting?).</p> <p><u>Contributors:</u> 5 Group leads: <b>1) John Lynam, 2) Nicole Birrell, 3) Don Blackmore, 4) Jim Godfrey, 5) Julia Marton-Lefevre</b></p> <p><u>Items 7.2 and 7.3 – Format:</u> Short plenary discussions on 7.2 and 7.3.</p> <p><u>Contributors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7.2: <b>Ann Tutwiler</b></li> <li>- 7.3: <b>Margret Thalwitz</b></li> </ul>
10:30-11:00	<b>Break</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Center Audit Committee Chairs (or their delegates) will come together on 31 January to help to take the work forward, bringing proposals back to the Center Boards and the System Management Board in advance of System Council consideration of a draft approach at its May 2017 meeting.

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11:00-13:00 <i>2 hours</i>	<b>8. Continuing our thinking on selected CGIAR System Entities</b>  <u>For Discussion</u>	8.1 Further elaborating a 2017 System Management Office Business Plan, and providing strategic reflections.  8.2 Reflecting on what adequate system-wide assurance might look like from the perspective of the Funders, to inform elaboration of a preliminary definition of an adequate demand driven Internal Audit Function arrangement ( <i>CGIAR System Framework, Article 6.1.i.</i> )  8.3 Feeding into the framing of the Terms of Reference for the ISPC and IEA ( <i>Charter, Art 8.1(h)</i> )	<b><u>Framed by:</u> Bruce Coulman</b>  <i><u>Concept:</u> Noting that the entities themselves will not be part of the discussion, this session could be primarily used to collect and discuss feedback on entities for SMB consideration in drawing up 2017 and beyond plans and budgets.</i>  <u>Format:</u> an entity-by-entity agenda, using either breakout or plenary format. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- System Office: advice and reactions to initial ideas on business plan</li> <li>- Internal Audit Function: identifying effective arrangements to provide sufficient system-wide assurance consistent with the risk management framework of the CGIAR System</li> <li>- ISPC and IEA: advice and feedback on their terms of reference.</li> </ul> <u>Breakout could be 4 randomly selected groups (with suggested group leads):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- System Management Office: <b>Lindsay Falvey</b></li> <li>- Internal Audit Function: <b>Eric Tollens</b></li> <li>- ISPC: <b>Yvonne Pinto</b></li> <li>- IEA: <b>Jose Campos</b></li> </ul>
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch</b>		
14:00 – 16:00 <i>2 hours</i>	<b>9. General Assembly of Centers Core functions</b>  <u>For Decisions</u>	9.1 Considering the scope of the General Assembly rules of procedure ( <i>Charter, Article 5.7</i> )  9.2 Discussing Board composition and the nominations process for new Board members with effect from 1 July 2017 (and for any adhoc vacancies arising from time to time). <i>Charter, Article 5.6(a), and 5.6(e)</i>	<b><u>Framed by:</u> Martin Kropff</b>  <i><u>Concept:</u> In addition to the broader role of the General Assembly providing a forum to discuss issues related to the CGIAR System and the CGIAR System Organization, the Charter sets out a number of core functions to be considered annually. This session could be used to address some of the more formal requirements of the General Assembly, building upon the initial work of the SMB’s Rules of Governance Working Group.</i>  <u>Format Topic 9.1</u> – potential to consider the level of detail preferred for a rules of procedure, and how to build on what may already exist through plenary or groups

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	<b>General Assembly core functions cont/d</b>	9.3 Electing a Chair of the General Assembly for the 2017 Calendar year ( <i>Charter, Article 5.6(b)</i> ) 9.4 Electing Center representatives to serve as non-voting Ex-Officio members of the CGIAR System Council for calendar year 2017 ( <i>Charter, Article 5.6.(f)</i> )	<u>Topic 9.2</u> – A conversation about the SMB’s initial 6 months; deciding on whether new members are preferred/required; and considering the proposal of the Rules of Governance Working Group on nominations committee and selection processes; <u>Topics 9.3 &amp; 9.4</u> – Deciding on an appropriate model to adopt, and considering the various linkages with the SMB, the conveners of the Board Chairs and DGs, etc  <u>Contributors:</u> <b>Margret Thalwitz</b>
<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>		<b>Break</b>	
16:30 - 17:15 45 mins	<b>10. Open Space</b>  <u>For Input</u>	Are we missing something as a group? Opportunity to put something new on the table as a follow up for a future conversation	<b><u>Framed by:</u> Bruce Coulman</b> <i>Concept: A further opportunity to identify things that may not have been covered and which are important to put on the agenda of the Centers/General Assembly for future review.</i> <u>Format:</u> Plenary session <u>Contributors:</u> <b>Jeremy Bird</b> to facilitate the conversation  <u>Potential topics may include:</u> 1) SDGs and CGIAR; 2) Any potential changes to the Charter and consideration of appropriate timing
17:15 - 18:00 45 mins	<b>11. Wrap up and Meeting Close</b>  <u>For Information</u>	Helping to stay on the same page, through a summary of key actions agreed and next steps	<b><u>Framed by:</u> Martin Kropff</b> <i>Concept: collation of agreed list out of outcomes, and actions for follow up through the General Assembly, SMB and/or other process. Also, opportunity to take stock of the meetings itself and consider strengths and lessons learned.</i>  <u>Format:</u> Potential to have rapporteurs from each session that can be collating the ‘outcomes’ so that the session is a review of what’s been agreed/what needs to be followed up.  <u>Contributors:</u> Rapporteurs from each session and <b>Bruce Coulman</b> for meeting close