Taking forward arrangements for the future CGIAR advisory bodies

**Purpose:** Taking into account the SIMEC think piece (meeting document SC6-05), this presentation sets out the key elements from within that paper as well as some ideas for how to take this forward.

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**Prepared by:** SIMEC
Content

Part A: Background

Part B: Overview of the three proposed future functions

Part C: Recommendation for Decision

Part D: Roadmap and timeline
Part A: Background - The process followed by SIMEC

The ask from SC4

“Explore a range of options on how best advisory services could now be provided to the Council, responding to key questions such as: what is the profound role that they are to play in the current system and what are the best and most efficient institutional arrangements to deliver these services?

Since SC4:

• SIMEC have met at least monthly (including 2 in-person meetings)
• Inputs from many stakeholders (including ISPC/IEA, FAO, ISPC evaluators, their final evaluation report and the management response)
• A number of options discussed and refined to one recommendation - based on feedback including SC virtual meetings, SC5 meeting, ISPC/IEA/SPIA consultations, April one-on-one SC member calls
Part A: Background - Inputs from a wide range of sources

**Reports/Papers/Documents**
- ISPC evaluation overview for August 2017 SIMEC meeting (Mary O’Kane)
- Final Report of the Evaluation of the ISPC (Mary O’Kane and Eija Pehu)
- ISPC management response, 26 October 2017
- ISPC Think Piece to inform priorities for agricultural research in the 21st century (Maggie Gill)
- ISPC Briefing No. 62: Quality of Research for Development in the CGIAR Context
- ISPC Draft Terms of Reference (post-transition, SIMEC-M2-02, Appendix 1)
- IEA Position Paper: Proposal for a cost-effective and utility-focused evaluation system in CGIAR (Rachel Sauvinet-Bedouin)
- CGIAR RBM Framework Development: Taking Stock (Julia Compton & Philippe Ellul)
- SIMEC Presentation for Virtual System Council Meeting (11 October 2017)

**Statements/outputs of meetings**
- System Council Thoughts on Advisory Bodies at System Council Meeting 4 (May 2017)
- SIMEC Paris Principles
- EIARD Position on ISPC & IEA

**Inputs during meetings and discussions**
- SPIA virtual presentation to SIMEC, 7 November 2017
- Feedback and opinions from System Council members and participants
- Consultations with ISPC (Maggie Gill, Leslie Lipper) and IEA (Rachel Sauvinet-Bedouin) October 2017, Nov 2017, February 2018
Part A: Background - 5 central principles to inform design of advisory services

i. **Improved efficiency**
   - Reduced demand on some services (proposal assessment, annual performance assessment) due to development of new stable core of business cycle
   - What would cost-effective hosting environment for the advisory services look like?

ii. **Improved communication and cohesion between the services and the system**
   - Bring various assessment and evaluation work streams in line with new business cycle requirements

iii. **Improved and systematic linkages between science and development**
    - Embed in all aspects of CGIAR’s advisory functions and reflect in staffing

iv. **Higher ownership of the advice produced by the services by the system**
    - Avoid disconnect between the CRPs/Centers and the advisory bodies and consequent failure to fully embrace advice provided
    - Formal advice to SC annually and provided to SMB for consideration

v. **Ensuring independence of the content-matter of the advice**
   - Only Secretariat co-located, reporting arrangements not changed
Part B: Overview of three proposed future functions

1. Science advisory body ("Independent Science and Development Council" or ISDC) would:
   • Report to the System Council
   • Shared secretariat hosted by CGIAR System Mgmt Office
   • Retain similar structure to current (external standing panel of experts in science and development subject matters, supported by a small secretariat that reports to and takes direction from that panel)
   • Provide: foresight work; guidance for proposal assessment process (that work then undertaken by external independent reviewers with the support of an external coordinator/moderator) and results from CRP mid-term reviews.

2. Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA)
   • No change to structure
   • Shared secretariat with ISDC hosted by CGIAR System Mgmt Office
   • Would report to System Council through SIMEC

3. Small expert evaluation team
   • The evaluation team will report to the System Council through SIMEC
   • Shared secretariat hosted by CGIAR System Mgmt Office
   • Quality assurance mechanism for regular programmatic, mid-term reviews and other on-demand evaluations
   • Evaluations themselves undertaken by externally commissioned evaluators
Part C: Proposal for Decision

- Adjustment of functions of Advisory Services according to the SIMEC Paper (SC6-05)
- Colocation of Advisory Services with the SMO
- 1-year transition year (2019, starting January 1, 2019) in Rome at Bioversity HQ to enable smooth integration
- Adequate SMO presence during the transition in Rome to ensure smooth integration and joint development of the Business Cycle Approach / interfaces with Advisory Services
Part C: Current & New Arrangements

Current Arrangement

- System Management Office
- ISPC Secretariat
- Independent Evaluation Arrangement
  - ISPC
  - ISPC Sub-group
  - SPIA
- External Experts

New Arrangement

- CGIAR System Organization (legal entity)
  - System Management Office
  - Shared Secretariat for ISDC, SPIA, Evaluation teams
- SMB, System Council, General Assembly of the Centers, and all SC, SMB and GA committees and working groups
- ISDC
- SPIA
- External Experts

Report to:
- System Council through SIMEC
## Part D: Proposed Workplan/Time Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steps</th>
<th>Expected output/result</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>2018 Timing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Develop detailed TOR and Composition for Shared Secretariat + ISDC member criteria</td>
<td>Clarity on composition of Shared Secretariat and TORs; composition of ISDCouncil and members profile; agreement on advertising strategy.</td>
<td>SIMEC (proposal) SC (decision)</td>
<td>Electronic agreement by SC by July 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Form proposed ‘Screening Group’ and ‘Selection Panel’</td>
<td>Clear TORs for the two groups, with a workplan that links to key SIMEC and SC meeting dates and decision moments</td>
<td>SIMEC (support from SMO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Call for nominations/applications for ISDC membership</td>
<td>Compilation of a long list of applicants</td>
<td>SIMEC (procurement support from SMO)</td>
<td>Applications by 31 August 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Screening of applications</td>
<td>Review candidates against agreed criteria to provide a shortlist of recommended candidates to the Selection Panel</td>
<td>Screening Group* (see following slide)</td>
<td>During September 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Selection of candidates to put forward to the System Council</td>
<td>Selection of candidates for the agreed number of panel seats to put forward to the System Council for confirmation</td>
<td>Selection Panel** (see following slide)</td>
<td>During October 2018</td>
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<td>6. Confirmation of selected members</td>
<td>System Council to confirm selected members through no-objection</td>
<td>System Council</td>
<td>During SC7 – Seattle, November 2018</td>
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Part D: ISDC - Possible composition for Screening Group + Selection Panel

**Screening Group**

Members (Total = 5/6):
- Executive Director, CGIAR ISPC Secretariat
- SIMEC Chair + member
- Representatives from Funders
- CRP/Platform Leaders’ Representative
- CGIAR System Organization representative

**Selection panel**

Members (Total = 7 to 9):
- 3 System Council members, including SIMEC Chair
- 2 SMB members (one Center-affiliated, one independent)
- 2 to 4 External persons to CGIAR (sectors beyond agriculture – including health, wider climate change, technological innovation)

Chair: SIMEC Chair, supported by SIMEC Secretariat