

Status update at May 2018: Forming the System Council's Assurance Oversight Committee

Purpose: As a complementary presentation to section 3.3 of the CGIAR Business Plan Concept presented at SC6 (titled '*A 4-point plan for an aligned assurance system*'), this presentation records the status of formation of the Assurance Oversight Committee under the stewardship of the two SC members appointed to that committee.

Process of formation of the Assurance Oversight Committee ('AOC')

Steps completed

- **On 9-10 November 2017** – Committee TOR approved at the Council's 5th meeting
- **On Wednesday 7 March 2018** – the System Council approved the appointment of Daniel Van Gilst (SC Voting Member, Norway) and Michel Gagnon (SC Voting Member, Canada) to serve as AOC members for the period until 30 June 2019 or such time as a successor is appointed. (*Decision Ref: SC/M5/EDP4*)
- **By Wednesday 2 May 2018** – applications received from 45 potential independent member candidates (targeted campaign via globally read 'Financial Times' and 'Careers in Risk/Audit')
- **On Tuesday 15 May 2018** – meeting of 2 SC 'AOC' members to review and endorse candidate shortlist

Ongoing actions

- **During end-May/early June 2018** - candidate reference checking and virtual discussions between 2 SC 'AOC' members
- **By Friday 15 June 2018** – an electronic decision will be sent to the Council to appoint three independent members (following screening/due diligence processes)
- **On 8/9 August 2018** – an induction and initial meeting, including interaction with the Audit and Risk Committee of the System Management Board is planned.
- **November 2018** – First AOC formal engagement with the System Council (SC7) in Seattle, on the status of assurance in the System

Terms of Reference of the Assurance Oversight Committee

- **Pursuant to the ‘CGIAR System Framework’ the Committee’s purpose is to:**
 - a. Provide the Council with assurance of the completeness and effectiveness of the Internal Audit Function and the independence of external audit functions;
 - b. Provide a structured reporting line between internal and external auditors and the System Council; and
 - c. Provide oversight of system-wide governance, risk management and internal controls
- **Engagement** It is anticipated that the Committee will meet annually once, and have a small number of virtual meetings
- **Relationship to the System Management Board’s Audit and Risk Committee:** The AOC’s role is high-level and strategic: providing the Council with an annual overall statement of assurance based on consideration of consolidated lessons-learned, recommendations and metrics. The Committee is supported in this work by the CGIAR System Internal Audit Function (which supports the SMB and SC), and also through the more detailed work undertaken by the SMB’s Audit and Risk Committee