



Reflections from SIMEC to the System Council on priority evaluations and recommendations

As background information, this document summarizes key inputs provided by the System Council's Strategic Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee ('SIMEC') during the Council's 7th meeting on 15-16 November 2018.

SIMEC met on Monday 12 November and reviewed 4 evaluations (those considered as Funder priorities by the group), and their recommendations. The outputs of those discussions were then delivered to the System Council during the 7th meeting session.

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1. Partnerships

- Partnerships do not constitute an objective in themselves but are only a means to an end to achieve the CGIAR's mission of contributing to development outcomes at scale.
- There is, therefore, no point in assessing partnerships removed from other processes of the system.
- Proposed that partnerships are to be assessed in the future as part of the program progress assessments (to be coordinated by the Advisory Services Shared Secretariat) as well as by ex-post Impact Assessment conducted by SPIA.
- SIMEC indicated agreement only with:
 - **Recommendation 3** (guidance for the development of PPPs); and
 - **Recommendation 6** (integration of NARS in research management).
- Proposed that the System Council demands an update from the SMB on the progress on these recommendations during 2019 and beyond.

2. Results-Based Management

- Acknowledged that much progress has been made in the past two years with regard to rolling out performance-based management approaches
- Noted that this is not exactly the same as results-based management, but felt to be a good step into the right direction
- Acknowledged that the system reacted on the 5 recommendations of the evaluation, turning down recommendation 2 (decoupling budget allocation from results) and implementing the others.
- Felt that the System can still be more ambitious in its results-orientation and should not be afraid of being held accountable to achieve development outcomes.
- SIMEC – as part of its mandate – will continue to accompany the process of further strengthening performance-based management and results-based management in the System in the future.

3A. Gender in Research

- Appreciation that the System is making significant progress in strengthening gender in research.
- Advised the System to live-up to the agreed target of spending at least 10% of W1-2 on gender research, which currently does not seem to be the case (see FinPlan).

3B. Gender in the Workplace

- The CGIAR System is still far away from achieving the targets for gender in the workplace it set for itself – not considered by SIMEC to be acceptable
- According to the evaluation, the CGIAR will not achieve the target of having 45% women across all professional roles and 50% in senior professional and management roles by 2020.
- Recommended to the System Council that the System does everything possible to at least achieve the recommended stretch goal of achieving 35% female representation by 2020.
- This should not be an aspirational target, but a non-negotiable target
- Asked that the System Council review the progress on the 35% target thoroughly in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

4. Capacity Development

- The System still has to get better in tracking and reporting on its CapDev activities
- To get a better understanding of the different types of CapDev conducted by the CGIAR on its own and in cooperation with partners, a typology of CapDev would be useful (see recommendation 1).
- CapDev as an objective of CGIAR work is highly relevant for many Funders.
- Still difficult to quickly access relevant information on CapDev carried out by CGIAR – e.g. number of PhDs or MScs were trained by a given Center in a given year
- Requested that the Program Results Dashboard makes this information available