

8th CGIAR SYSTEM COUNCIL MEETING

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA*

Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 May 2019

Hosted by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), a CGIAR Center,
at its multi-Center campus in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

* Presented as a guide, but is subject to evolving events and conversations in Addis Ababa

Prepared by: System Management Office

DAY 1: Wednesday 15 May 2019, 08:45-15:15*

(*Note: From 15:30 onwards - ILRI Campus- 'Ethiopia and CGIAR: partnering together to transform food systems')

Agenda Item 1: Opening Session**FOR ADOPTION**08:45 – 09:00 am: **Led by: System Council Chair****Supporting document:**[SC8-01 – Provisional Agenda: Provisional Agenda](#), 23 April 2019 (updated timing, 14 May)**Notes:** * As an advance item, the System Management Office will have determined whether a quorum is present to conduct meeting business according to Article 7.3 of the CGIAR System Framework ("Framework").**Elements**

- a. **Welcome:** **Juergen Voegele, System Council Chair, will open the meeting**, and welcome all System Council members, Active Observers, invited attendees and other participants. The Chair is expected to recognize the hosting of this 8th System Council meeting by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) on its multi-Center campus in Addis Ababa. The Chair will express appreciation for the support that has been provided to the organization of the 8th System Council meeting.

Introducing event following SC8 Day 1: The Chair is expected to highlight that the day's focus is on strategic engagement opportunities – both inside the Council meeting, and then **from 3:30pm onwards**, through the '**Ethiopia and CGIAR: partnering together to transform food systems**' panel discussion and Share Fair prepared by CGIAR's Centers and Partners. A separate agenda will be circulated to all in Addis.

- b. **Recognizing System Council membership changes:** The Chair will recognize new participants to this System Council meeting as follows:

AfDB – Member delegate	Bouchaib Boulanouar , Partnership Coordinator
Canada – Member delegate	Nikita Eriksen-Hamel , Deputy Director, Food Security, Global Affairs Canada Renaud De Plaen , Program Leader, Agriculture and Food Security, IRDC
Japan - Member	Motoaki Komiya , Deputy Director, Global Issues Cooperation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
West Asia & North Africa - Member	Rasoul Zare
DG Representative of the Centers - Ex-officio non-voting member	Aly Abousabaa , 2019 Convener of the Center Directors General
FAO – Ex-officio non-voting member	Hans Dreyer , Director, Plant Production and Protection Division
SPIA Chair – Invited Guest	Karen Macours
Trustee of the CGIAR Trust Fund World Bank – Invited Guest	Marizmelda Carbonell Dugayo (The World Bank)

- c. **Appointment of Co-Chair:** The Chair will call for the nomination and seconding of a Co-Chair to be elected pursuant to Article 5.2 of the Framework. Pursuant to Articles 3.1. (b) and 5.3 of the Framework, both the Chair and Co-Chair of the System Council serve as impartial, ex-officio non-voting members. The Co-Chair, upon appointment, will be invited to nominate an alternate to fulfil his/her functions as a System Council voting member during the meeting pursuant to Article 5.4 of the Framework. There is no requirement that such a nomination be made. However, if not, the voting seat remains empty during the meeting.
- ** Action:** The Chair will call for a nomination and a second for the Co-Chair role¹.
- d. **Adopting the Agenda:** The Chair will ask if there are requests for any other business, and subject to discussion, the Chair will ****call for adoption of the Provisional Agenda** as the formal Agenda for the meeting. Other business items may, on the prerogative of the System Council Chair, will be added to item of 10 of this 8th meeting.
- e. **Declarations of interest:** System Council members and Active Observers will then be asked to make any relevant declaration of interest regarding agenda items for the meeting.

**** Summary of actions requested on Agenda item 1:** The System Council is invited to:

1. **Adopt** the meeting agenda
2. **Appoint** a meeting Co-Chair
3. **Declare** any conflicts of interest

¹ System Council tradition is that the host country would typically take on this role, but it may be filled by another System Council member representative

Agenda Item 2: Implementing CGIAR Business Plan 2019-2021 with a view to 2030

09:00-09:15 am

PURPOSE: FOR INFORMATION
TO UNDERSTAND PROGRESS

Led by: System Council Co-Chair

Supporting documents:

- Meeting Paper - [Document SC8-02: Business Plan Status](#)
- Background Paper - [Strengthening the Partnership, Creating Impact: CGIAR System 3-year Business Plan 2019-2021](#)

Elements

- **The Co-Chair is anticipated to frame the session**, highlighting that during its 7th meeting the System Council:
 - **Approved** the inaugural 2019-2021 CGIAR Business Plan which represented a transformational moment – with CGIAR’s stakeholders committing to working in an increasingly aligned and far more strategic manner.
 - **Requested** that annually the System Council be made aware of the status of the 10 Actions in the 2019-2021 Business Plan as a means of understanding progress and identifying any areas where implementation support that may be required.
- **The Co-Chair is anticipated to highlight that the purpose of this session** is to provide an overall possible framework for keeping track of progress on implementation of the 10 Actions, but not to go into details on each of the individual actions during this session by reason that specified agenda items during this 8th meeting address those actions where progress was expected by end-April 2019. [A table is provided on the following page to show the relevant linkages]
- On invitation by the Co-Chair, the **System Management Board Chair, Marco Ferroni** is anticipated to share some high-level observations on how he sees the System working from the perspective of the SMB, particularly focusing on strengthened commitments to work towards implementation of the 2019-2021 Business Plan, recognizing the breadth of the ambition in that plan and the important need to maintain focus.
- The SMB Chair is then expected to turn to the **Executive Director of the CGIAR System Organization, Elwyn Grainger-Jones** who will share some observations from his perspective, including by:
 - Briefly referring to the traffic lights approach set out in the meeting paper, that sets out a possible tracking approach which could be adopted for future updates on the implementation of the Business Plan and its actions;

- Highlighting the interdependent nature of many of the actions, and thus emphasize the intent to keep a running ‘traffic light’ dashboard approach that can be supplemented at each System Council meeting by specific papers as needed;
 - Emphasizing that the natural timing of many of the items means that major progress will be reported and discussed at the forthcoming SC9 meeting; and
 - Proposing that any detailed feedback around the ‘traffic light approach’ be provided to systemcouncil@cgiar.org during or after the meeting, so that an enhanced model can be developed if needed.
- **The Co-Chair** is then anticipated to invite any high-level reflections on the overall approach – but not details. Where appropriate, the Co-Chair may call on the SMB Chair, Marco Ferroni, or Elwyn Grainger-Jones to come in briefly again before bringing the session to a close.

**** Summary of actions requested on Agenda item 2:**

1. **Take note of the progress** of the proposed reporting framework, and of the opportunities throughout the SC8 meeting to provide any guidance on topics scheduled for discussion
2. System Council members are invited to provide specific feedback on the proposed ‘traffic lights approach’ via systemcouncil@cgiar.org during the meeting or shortly afterwards, to support the evolution of the approach as a living tool.

Business Plan (2019-2021) Actions	Opportunities for update & discussion on status
ACTION1: Implement and enhance the portfolio of CRPs and Platforms	<u>SC8 agenda item: 7</u> (Additional operational elements) Anticipate substantive discussions at SC9
ACTION 2: Create financial sustainability and growth in CGIAR	<u>SC8 agenda items: 7</u> (additional elements) Anticipate substantive discussions at SC9
ACTION 3: Strengthen Program performance management	Anticipate substantive discussions at SC9
ACTION 4: Improve people management	<u>SC8 agenda item: 5</u> (Strengthening Gender Equality) Anticipate substantive discussions at SC9
ACTION 5: Pursue new cross-Center alliances	<u>SC8 agenda items: 7</u> (Special Alliance Fund)
ACTION 6: Enhance collaboration with delivery partners	Anticipate substantive discussions at SC9
ACTION 7: Align and enhance assurance systems	Anticipate substantive discussions at SC9
ACTION 8: Align high-quality independent advisory services into System-level decision-making	<u>SC8 agenda items: 4</u> (ISDC and SPIA reflections), <u>6</u> (CGIAR’s Independent Advisory Services) Anticipate substantive discussions at SC9
ACTION 9: Strengthen collective resource mobilization and communication efforts	<u>SC8 agenda items: 8</u> (SC engagement flexibilities)
ACTION 10: Prepare a longer-term plan	<u>SC8 agenda item: 3</u> Anticipate substantive discussions at SC9

Agenda Item 3:

Road map for the CGIAR 2030 Plan – Opportunities for the Strategic Roadmap

3a. Introduction to the CGIAR 2030 Roadmap and System Reference Group processes

09:15-10:30

PURPOSE: For Endorsement

(but during SC decision session item 9)

Led by: System Council Chair

Supporting documents:

- Meeting Paper - [SC8-03 Roadmap-2030Plan](#)

Elements

- **The Chair is anticipated to frame the session**, recalling the conclusions from the Council's May 2018 SC6 meeting, that there was a **sense of urgency for bold action by CGIAR** to continuously assess CGIAR's comparative advantage, requiring CGIAR to better anticipate and deliver research and innovations - the effects and impacts of which may reach well beyond agriculture - as well as develop the mechanisms to support global responses to new threats confronting the world's fragile food system.
- He is anticipated to **affirm the agreement of the Funders and the System Management Board at that meeting to form a System Reference Group** that had the mandate and vision to take on the inherently complex issues of heterogeneity and sovereignty in the System, as well as tensions arising from demands by CGIAR's Funders to prioritize and focus, and at the same time take on new tasks, **noting that the role of the SRG is not to make decisions for the System** – but to create the space to have very candid conversations on how to reduce fragmentation and increase coherence and focus.
- Further, the Chair is anticipated to recall the importance of the inaugural 2019-2021 Business Plan as an important step forward in working in a common direction on things that CGIAR is already doing – to make them more relevant, efficient and effective.
- As an additional overall framing comment, the **Chair is anticipated to highlight the essential need for the SRG members to rise to the challenge to be as bold as is possible** – and to put forward options rather than conclusions – to give the space for the SMB and System Council to then agree on what should be CGIAR's compelling forward-looking trajectory in a world that is changing incredibly quickly, and where the urgency to meet its challenges is accelerating on an exponential basis.
- **Before inviting the SRG Co-Chairs** to set out the reflections from the prior day's meeting, and take the Council through a strategic discussion on a key set of questions, the **SC Chair** is

anticipated to provide some introductory remarks to a **video of Johan Rockström’s recent presentation to the World Bank on the transformative power of food systems to tackle climate change**

[Video to be shown – approximately 20 minutes in length]

- It is anticipated that the **SC Chair** will briefly summarize how the observations of Johan Rockström have influenced the World Bank’s thinking at such a critical juncture for the world at large, in the quest to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals within planetary boundaries.
- The **SC Chair** is then anticipated to turn to **Elwyn Grainger-Jones** to briefly situate the work of the System Reference Group in the context of developing a ‘CGIAR 2030 Plan’ (Business Plan Action 10).
- **Those remarks** are anticipated to include that:
 - The CGIAR 2030 Plan sets out an ambitious forward vision for the System including new programming for the 2022-2030 period, framed in terms of CGIAR’s planned contribution to meeting the SDGs.
 - There is increasing alignment on the urgent need to address perverse incentives in the System around three core themes:
 - Research objectives and focus
 - Research delivery models
 - Institutional arrangements of the Centers
 - And, that, in session 9 of this 8th meeting on day 2, the Council will be invited to endorse the ‘Roadmap for the 2030 Plan’ (meeting document [SC8-03](#)) – being the overall consultation framework by which the System will be able to explore options to set out a more compelling agenda for the System, and one that taps CGIAR’s latent potential in a more focused manner.
 - Therefore, the introduction of the 2030 Plan document at this time is to provide an overall reference point for the strategic conversations that the Council is now invited to have, being the first of many opportunities to engage in the months and year ahead.
- The **SC Chair** is expected to **move from agenda item 3.a. to 3.b** by restating that the mandate of the SRG, and the System Council itself, is to be bold in its thinking, and focus on how CGIAR can make great strides at this meeting and beyond, to ensure its ongoing relevance and focus, to be the System that the world wants and needs.

Agenda item 3b – Gathering Inputs on Research Objectives and focus

PURPOSE: For strategic inputs

Led by: SRG Co-Chairs (the Co-Chairs will variously chair elements within this agenda item)

Supporting documents:

- Presentations on the day

- For context - It is noted that the SRG met as a group on the day prior to the System Council to achieve substantial progress around the three themes noted above. The overall approach of agenda item 3b is to have a flexible session of up to three hours (with breaks) to explore those themes, to support ongoing discussion and broader System engagement.

- To take the conversations forward, it is anticipated that the Co-Chairs of the System Reference Group will:

1. **Share information on the System Reference Group composition and meeting modalities.**
2. **Explain how the SRG is carrying out its mandate through a focus on 10 key questions and three sub-groups based on key themes, each with a theme lead.**
3. **Provide insights into of some of the discussions that have taken place over the past months.**
4. **Outline that this session is to gather inputs on the three System Reference Group themes – particularly around scope, direction, and level of ambition, and key gaps.**
5. **Strongly encourage System Council participants to be bold in their interventions during each of the sessions** – with, typically, the Co-Chairs calling on CGIAR’s Funders for initial reactions and then inviting inputs from Active Observers and Invited Guests. The sessions are intended to be interactive, with questions expected to be taken in groups, to provide an opportunity for dynamic engagement.

10:30-11:00

BREAK

11:00-11:40 (*times as guidance*)- Gathering inputs on SRG discussion themes (Part 1)

- System Reference Group theme leader Melissa Wood will provide update on the progress of **Theme 1 (Research Objectives and Focus)** and seek input and guidance from the System Council.

11:40-12:15 (*as a guide*)- Gathering inputs on SRG discussion themes (Part 2)

- System Reference Group theme leader Yvonne Pinto will provide update on the progress of **Theme 2 (Research Delivery Models)** and seek input and guidance from the System Council.

12:15-12:45 (*as a guide*)- Gathering inputs on SRG discussion themes (Part 3)

- Claudia Sadoff will provide update on the progress of the Working Group addressing **Theme 3 (Institutional arrangements)**. It is anticipated that discussion on this theme will continue after the lunch break.
- To inform reflections, Claudia **will also introduce a short video presentation** by Martin Kropff, Director General of CIMMYT (either before or after the lunch break), to provide within System reflections on the experience of demonstrating innovation in institutional arrangements from his University leadership days.

12:45-13:45

LUNCH

- **Reconvening after lunch:** and to support innovative thinking on the future of CGIAR overall, **three researchers will join the System Council meeting briefly** to provide a snap-shot on innovations from the field, as introduced by André Zandstra, Director, Funder and External Engagement of the System Organization.

13:45-14:00 - Lightning Talks demonstrating innovation from the field

Lightning Talk 1: **Sylvia Alonso (A4NH/ILRI)**

Lightning Talk 2: **Evan Girvetz (CCAFS/CIAT)**

Lightning Talk 3: **Likimyelesh Nigussie (WLE/IWMI)**

14:00-14:30 - Gathering inputs on SRG discussion themes (returning to Part 3)

- Building on reflections prior to the lunch break, Claudia Sadoff will continue to lead discussions on **Theme 3, Institutional arrangements**
- Following the three presentations and discussions on the System Reference Group themes

as facilitated by the SRG Co-Chairs, **the System Council Chair** is expected to provide a short summary of the breadth of the reflections and re-affirm the SRG’s mandate to continue to boldly explore the themes taking into account the strategic inputs shared during the Council’s deliberations.

Agenda item 3c: Understanding regional perspectives to input into the SRG process
14:30-15:15 FOR STRATEGIC INPUT

- **Before transitioning to a panel conversation** with our developing country constituency colleagues, **three other researchers will join the System Council meeting briefly** to provide a further snap-shot on innovations from the field, as introduced by **André Zandstra**, Director, Funder and External Engagement of the System Organization.

14:30-14:45 Lightning Talks demonstrating innovation from the field

Lightning Talk 4: **Carolina Sansaloni (WHEAT/CIMMYT)**

Lightning Talk 5: **Phyllis Ndung’u (CAAFS/Livestock)**

Lightning Talk 6: **Rose Komugisha Basiita (FISH)**

- **Against this background** of providing examples of CGIAR’s researchers striving to deliver cutting edge quality research that meets our stakeholders’ needs, and as a linking mechanism to the afternoon’s program on working closely within partner countries, a panel discussion will be held on the views from the developing country constituency representatives in attendance at SC8.
- **Elwyn Grainger-Jones** is anticipated to invite the following participants to join the head of the table as panel colleagues:

East Asia and the Pacific	Latin America and the Caribbean	Sub-Saharan Africa	West Asia and North Africa
Weiping Hao	Pedro Machado	Yarama Ndirpaya	Rasoul Zare

- As an important linking mechanism for the SRG process, questions and engagement with the panel will follow the three themes:
 - What would be important research objectives and focus for CGIAR? (Theme 1)
 - What would be valuable research delivery model(s) for CGIAR? (Theme 2)
 - What institutional arrangements would help CGIAR ensure efficiency, impact and value for money? (Theme 3)

- In between the interventions and at the end of the session, it is anticipated that **Elwyn Grainger-Jones**, as moderator of the Panel, will also engage System Reference Group members and the System Council on any reflections or questions they may wish to bring in to the discussion.
- To close the session on regional perspectives, **Elwyn Grainger-Jones** may provide some summary remarks highlighting key themes emerging from the session before inviting the System Reference Group Co-Chairs to share any observations they have on what was presented and how this will be integrated into the process moving forward.

15:15 - Ending Day 1 – Reflections of the SC Chair

- To bring the day to a close, it is anticipated that the **SC Chair** may provide some overview reflections from the day, including from System Reference Group Co-Chairs as required.

15:15 Close of day 1

15:30- 19:00 Ethiopia and CGIAR: partnering together to transform food systems

The ILRI Addis campus is a hub for CGIAR in Ethiopia hosting 11 centers (ILRI hosts 10 other Centers) as well as IFAD, Gates Foundation and ICIPE. This campus helps strengthen cross-fertilization of knowledge and action amongst CGIAR centers as well as share knowledge with all stakeholders in Ethiopia.

The CGIAR System Council has been invited to attend this “Agriculture Knowledge Share Fair” being organized to share experiences in an interactive and tactile way and will showcase the work that CGIAR and its partners are doing to tackle big issues related to agriculture, food security and environmental sustainability. It will bring together CGIAR centers, key national partners in Ethiopia, donors, NGOs and other stakeholders. The event will be kicked-off with a high-level panel including Ethiopian Government Ministry, CGIAR System and Center leadership and will be closed with a reception.

A separate detailed agenda is available.

DAY 2: Thursday 16 May 2019, 09:00-17:00, Lalibela Room, ILRI Campus

- The **System Council Chair** is expected to welcome all participants in the 8th System Council to the second day, expressing appreciation for and inviting reflections on the event held on the ILRI Campus which most of the System Council participated in.
 - Continuing the theme of demonstrating innovation and learning in the System, and to take advantage of the System Council's decision to hold the SC8 meeting in Ethiopia, the **SC Chair** is anticipated to invite **Jimmy Smith, Director General** of the **International Livestock Research Institute** (ILRI) to provide some highlights from the events and the evolution of work ongoing from the ILRI Campus in Ethiopia and its comparative advantage.
 - Any other announcements may be made at this time.
-

Agenda Item 4: Reflections from ISDC Interim Chair and SPIA Chair

9:30-10:30 * Note revised timing

FOR STRATEGIC INPUT

Led by: System Council Chair

- In framing the first session of the second day, it is anticipated that the **SC Chair** will draw attention to the terms of reference approved by the System Council for the Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC) and the Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA) in which stronger engagement with the System Council was detailed, including through standing agenda items in at least one System Council meeting per year.
- The Chair will likely recognize participation of:
 - The ISDC Interim Chair - Maggie Gill; and express appreciation for her valuable service to the CGIAR System Council and the System.
 - The SPIA Chair - Karen Macours; looking forward to stronger interaction with SPIA into the future so that the Council and the System can benefit more from the robust impact assessment and increased capacity across the System to carry it out that SPIA will be implementing through its workplan.

PART A: Inputs on ‘the landscape ahead’ in the context of identifying 2022-2030 CGIAR key areas of research focus by ISDC Interim Chair

Agenda Item - Elements and process:

- The **Session Chair** is expected to invite **Maggie Gill, Interim Chair of ISDC** to lead the System Council through some existing work and thinking by the ISDC that could provide guidance as key areas of research focus are being identified for the 2022-2030 period.
- She is expected to provide an overview of recent foresight work that was undertaken under the auspices of the ISPC and the insights that this provides for processes at play across CGIAR.

PART B: Awareness raising of the strategic role of impact assessment and future plans of SPIA by SPIA Chair

Agenda Item - Elements and process:

- The **Session Chair** is expected to invite **Karen Macours, Chair of SPIA** to outline for the System Council the strategic role that impact assessment can play in the CGIAR System and how this aligns with the future plans of SPIA.
- She is expected to provide a more detailed view on major activities planned over the 6-year strategy of SPIA and how this is reflected in the multi-year workplan approved by the System Council in November 2018.
- The **Session Chair** is expected to then invite reflections from the System Council and will facilitate discussion on the inputs from these two key advisory services.
- The **Session Chair** is also expected to call on the **Co-Chairs of the System Reference Group** to share their thoughts and plans on how such advice can be best made use of in the SRG process and the development of the 2030 Plan.

**** Summary of action requested on Agenda item 4**

The System Council are asked to provide any reflections they may have on the inputs provided by the ISDC Interim Chair and SPIA Chair.

10:30 – 11:00

BREAK

Agenda Item 5: Strengthening gender equality in CGIAR's workplaces

11:00-11:30

FOR INFORMATION**Supporting document:**[Document SC8-04: Update – Workplace Gender](#)**Led by: Co-Chair**

- The Session Chair is anticipated to frame the session by highlighting that the CGIAR System Business Plan 2019-2021 includes as one its 10 key actions, an action (Action 4) focused on improving people management through a commitment to designing and implementing a Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Framework. The Framework will be an overarching and high-level document that i) enshrines the System's commitment to gender equality and diversity, ii) sets forth agreed System-wide strategic objectives and high-level targets, and iii) provides an overall accountability framework.
- The Session Chair is expected to invite the representatives of Centers who are present, to provide further information on some of the good practices being adopted and how they are bringing about positive impacts in gender equality, including:
 - Nicole Birrell, 2019 Convener of the Chairs of Trustees of CGIAR Centers (Chair of the Board of Trustees of CIMMYT)
 - Aly Abousabaa, 2019 Convener of the Directors General of CGIAR Centers (Director General of ICARDA)
 - Claudia Sadoff, Gender Champion Member of the System Management Board (Director General of IWMI)
- Drawing the attention of System Council members to the briefing paper that was prepared for the SC8 meeting to provide an update on progress by CGIAR's Centers in strengthening gender equality in their workplaces, the Session Chair will reiterate the invitation to the System Council to share what key elements have been instrumental in their respective organizations in achieving gender equality transformation, to take into consideration when developing the CGIAR Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Framework.
- The Session Chair is anticipated to respond to any remarks made and emphasize the commitment required across all entities in the System to strengthen gender equality which is and should be a shared aspiration and activity.

Agenda Item 6: CGIAR's Independent Advisory services

11:30-12:30

FOR ENDORSEMENT AND STRATEGIC INPUT

Led by: System Council Chair

Supporting document:

- Presentation on the day: SC8-05_AdvisoryServices-TransitionUpdate

Agenda Item - Elements and process:

- The Session Chair is expected to introduce the session as focusing on the implementation of the recent decisions by the System Council with respect to the CGIAR's advisory services. He is expected to note that the session will be taken in two parts – first, an update on System Council advisory services transition, and then inviting System Council inputs on an interim workplan and budget for the evaluation workstream of the Shared Secretariat.
- It is anticipated that the Session Chair will invite the Chair of the System Council's Strategic Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (SIMEC) – Michel Bernhardt – to lead the System Council through this session.

PART A: Strategic priorities to support alignment of advisory services around key SC decision moments to end-2021

- It is anticipated that the SIMEC Chair will begin this session by providing some overall messages on the implementation of the advisory services transition plan to date.
- The SIMEC Chair is then expected to take Council members through the following:
 - a. Recap of System Council 2018 decisions on Advisory Services
 - b. A look at the working of the advisory bodies with focus on (i) SIMEC recommendations on 2019 priorities from a SIMEC-led 'connecting the dots' process undertaken in early April 2019, and (ii) the membership status of ISDC and SPIA.
 - c. Addressing some key elements of the Shared Secretariat Transition Plan (1 Oct 2018) including (i) Goal & status quo at end-April 2019, (ii) timetable for ensuring adequate staffing capacity, and (iii) clarity on roles for Chair of the Director Selection Panel.
- The SIMEC Chair may invite the Interim ISDC Chair, Maggie Gill, and SPIA Chair, Karen Macours, to provide additional information on the process and their involvement, before

inviting any questions or comments from the System Council and will facilitate responses to those to provide any clarifications needed.

- The Session Chair is then expected to recall for the System Council that they are requested to consider, and if thought appropriate, to:
 - **Endorse** the recommendations of SIMEC regarding strategic priorities of the advisory bodies for 2019;
 - **Provide guidance** on a preferred course to support successful delivery of advisory services priorities for 2019

PART B: Gathering inputs for an interim 2019 Evaluations workstream workplan and budget for the Shared Secretariat

- As a framing for the session, the Council will be asked to recall that at its 7th meeting in Seattle with respect to the 2019-2021 Advisory bodies workplans and budgets, the System Council, pursuant to article 6.1(u) of the CGIAR System Framework, requested further refinement of the workplan and budget of the evaluations workstream of the Shared Secretariat, with an updated workplan to be developed that takes into account the feedback provided during the System Council meeting session.
- The **SIMEC Chair** is expected to introduce this part of the agenda item as an opportunity for the System Council to consider key System Council and System evaluation needs for 2019-2020 and to provide strategic direction & inputs for an Interim Evaluation workplan which will be consulted on after this meeting with other key stakeholders across the System before returning to the System Council for formal endorsement.

**** Summary of actions requested on Agenda item 6:**

The System Council is invited to:

- a. Consider, and if thought appropriate **endorse** the recommendations of SIMEC regarding the strategic priorities of the advisory bodies for 2019; **take note** of the ISDC member recruitment transition timing; and **provide guidance** on a preferred course to support successful delivery of advisory services priorities for 2019.
- b. Provide **strategic input and guidance** on the interim workplan and budget of the Evaluation Workstream of the Shared Secretariat.

12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH

Agenda Item 7: Introducing operational elements to advance past SC decisions and discussions

13:30-15:00

FOR APPROVAL

Led by: Co-Chair

Supporting documents:

[Document SC8-07: SPIA Module](#)

[Document SC8-08: Crops to End Hunger Module](#)

[Document SC8-09: Special Alliance Fund](#)

[Document SC8-10: FinPlan 2019-2021 Guidance](#)

Agenda Item - Elements and process taking each of the Actions in turn:

- The **Session Chair** is expected to frame the session by emphasizing that the items in this session emerge from past System Council decisions and discussions and represent further elements aimed at operationalizing those, including:
 - At SC7 in Seattle in November 2018, **endorsement** the workplan and high budget scenario of **SPIA**, with the understanding that SIMEC will work with the Assurance Oversight Committee for a value-for-money review of the budget; and SIMEC will work with the System Management Office on the means of funding of the budget;
 - At SC7 in Seattle in November 2018, request for System Council members to provide inputs on the proposed implementation plan to facilitate further deliberations on the implementation of the **Crops to end Hunger Initiative**;
 - At SC7 in Seattle in November 2018, the Council discussed and provided inputs on a proposed **special funding initiative** that aims to provide a rationale and modality for Funders to support the co-financing of specific pre-alliance exploration and transition costs for these initiatives, by removing any barriers to attracting additional funding that may currently be in place; and
 - SC/M7/EDP1: System Council endorsed the **2019-2021 CGIAR Research Financing Plan**.

- It is anticipated that the Session Chair will take each of the following topics and associated decisions separately:

**** Summary of actions requested on Agenda item 7**

- On the SPIA module**, the System Council is invited approve the proposed creation of an additional module in the 'Big Data in Agriculture Platform' for impact assessment to provide the financing mechanisms for SPIA to take W2 funding, as set out in document SC8-07.
- On the Crops to end Hunger Initiative module**, the System Council is invited approve the proposed creation of an additional module in the 'Excellence in Breeding Platform' to facilitate funding of the Crops to end Hunger Initiative, as set out in document SC8-08.
- On the Special Alliance Fund**, the System Council is invited to approve the creation of the Window 1 Special Alliance Fund together with an allocation of US\$ 1 million from the Window 1 Liquidity and Stabilization Fund as the first contribution into the Window 1 Special Alliance Fund, as set out in document SC8-09.
- On the 2019-2021 FinPlan Guidance**, the System Council is invited to approve the implementation guidance as a further enhancement of the 2019-2021 CGIAR Financing Plan, as set out in Part C of document SC8-10.

PART A: Creation of an additional module in the 'Big Data in Agriculture Platform' for SPIA funding

- The Session Chair is then anticipated to invite **Elwyn Grainger-Jones** to introduce the modality of an additional module in the 'Big Data in Agriculture Platform' and how it would serve current and future funding opportunities and **Marco Ferroni** to share any reflections from the System Management Board as it recommends this course of action to the Council.
- It is anticipated that time will be allowed for any questions on this item, with the Session Chair facilitating the response to those questions by the relevant person(s).
- The System Council will then be invited to approve the proposed creation of an additional module in the 'Big Data in Agriculture Platform' for impact assessment to provide the financing mechanisms for SPIA to take Window 2 funding, as set out in document SC8-07

PART B: Creation of an additional module in the ‘Excellence in Breeding Platform’ to facilitate funding of the Crops to end Hunger Initiative

- The **Session Chair** is then expected to turn to **Elwyn Grainger-Jones** again to speak to the proposal for a creation of an additional module in the ‘Excellence in Breeding Platform’ to facilitate funding of the Crops to end Hunger Initiative.
- It is anticipated that the Session Chair will also invite any reflections from Funders who are involved in the Crops to end Hunger Initiative as well as representatives of the Centers.
- It is anticipated that time will be allowed for any questions on this item, with the Session Chair facilitating the response to those questions by the relevant person(s).
- The System Council will then be invited to **approve** the proposed creation of an additional module in the ‘Excellence in Breeding Platform’ to facilitate funding of the Crops to end Hunger Initiative, as set out in document SC8-08

PART C: Creation of a Special Alliance Fund

- On invitation by the Session Chair, it is expected that **Elwyn Grainger-Jones** will introduce the creation of a Special Alliance Fund, asking **Jamie Craig**, Director of Financial and Digital Services from the System Organization to provide some remarks as well.
- In support of this session, there will be short updates on ongoing Center alliance initiatives:
 - AfricaRice and IRRI (video)
 - Bioversity and CIAT (video)
 - CIFOR and ICRAF
- It is anticipated that time will be allowed for any questions on this item, with the Session Chair facilitating the response to those questions by the relevant person(s).
- The System Council will then be invited to **approve** the creation of the Window 1 Special Alliance Fund together with an allocation of US\$ 1 million from the Window 1 Liquidity and Stabilization Fund as the first contribution into the Window 1 Special Alliance Fund, as set out in document SC8-09.

PART D: Implementation Guidance for 2019-2021 CGIAR Research Financing Plan

- Taking note of earlier conversations on possible finance modalities which could be employed to enhance funding and use of funds across the System, it is anticipated that the Session Chair will call on **Elwyn Grainger-Jones** to introduce this item, who may also ask **Jamie Craig**, Director of Financial and Digital Services from the System Organization to provide some remarks as well.

- It is anticipated that time will be allowed for any questions on this item, with the Session Chair facilitating the response to those questions by the relevant person(s).
- The System Council will then be invited to **approve** the implementation guidance as a further enhancement of the 2019-2021 CGIAR Financing Plan, as set out in Part C of document SC8-10.

15:00- 15:30 Break

Agenda Item 8: SC engagement flexibilities for new funder opportunities -
Recognizing New/Additional Funder contributions on the CGIAR System Council

15:30-16:00

FOR APPROVAL

Led by: System Council Chair

Supporting document(s):

[Document SC8-11: SC Funder Opportunities](#)

Agenda Item - Elements and process:

- The Session Chair is expected to frame the session with a reflection on the positive and growing interests in the CGIAR System Council and shared research agenda.
- It is expected that Elwyn Grainger-Jones will be invited to introduce the rationale and possible modalities around engagement flexibilities for new Funder opportunities and to be able to recognize new and additional funder contributions on the CGIAR System Council.
- As background to this agenda item, it is anticipated that Elwyn Grainger-Jones will outline some key drivers behind this concept:
 - Funders have expressed interest in having clear levels of investments and pathways to participation in CGIAR governance between reconciliation periods.
 - A recognition that there are limited opportunities for new Funders to join the System Council.
 - A solution could be found with proposed amendments to the CGIAR System Framework to accommodate up to five temporary additional Funder voting seats on the System Council should threshold investments in W1/W2 – CGIAR’s shared research agenda – be met.

- The **Session Chair** is then expected to open the session to high-level inputs on the action item and bring the inputs to a synthesis.
- The **Session Chair** is then expected to turn to System Council colleagues to seek approval for the operational elements proposed.

**** Summary of action requested on Agenda item 8**

The System Council is requested to approve, as amendments to Article 3 and Annex B of the CGIAR System Framework, the inclusion of up to five temporary additional Funder voting seats.

Agenda Item 9: System Council decision session

16:00 – 16:30

FOR DECISION

Led by: System Council Chair

Supporting document(s):

- [Document: SC8-12: ISDC Nominations Panel](#)
- Slide on the day: Confirmation of extension of term of Daniel van Gilst as member of the System Council's Assurance Oversight Committee (AOC).

Agenda Item - Elements and process:

- The Chair is expected to frame the session in two parts:
 - First – that the Council will be guided through proposed administrative decisions arising from previous decisions taken by the Council; and
 - Second – that the Council will be asked to review and confirm a summary of decisions, formal positions and actions agreed during the meeting thus far.
- **For the first part of the agenda item** - It is anticipated that the Chair will invite the **Director, Board and Council Relations- Karmen Bennett**, to introduce the decisions documents for the first part of this item.
- The Chair is anticipated to recognize that the proposals made in this part have been informed by prior decisions of the Council and consultations and discussions that have taken place; and invite the Council to approve the decisions points set out in each document.

- **For the second part of the agenda item**, the Chair is expected to invite the **Director, Board and Council Relations- Karmen Bennett** to guide the Council through a set of draft 'Decisions Slides', which set out each of the formal decisions, agreed positions and actions to be taken forward at the Council's request.

**** Summary of actions requested on Agenda item 14:** The System Council is requested to approve the decisions/agreed positions/actions set out in the draft Decisions Slides shown on screen during this session.

Agenda Item 10: Other Business

16:30- 17:00

FOR INPUT

Led by: Chair

Supporting document(s): There are no advance documents for this session.

Agenda Item - Elements and process:

- This agenda item is intended to provide space for informal updates, and other items of business to be presented as identified at meeting start, as well as any items raised for 'Other Business' during the Council's consideration and approval of the Agenda for this meeting.
- At the date of issue of this Annotated Provisional Agenda, the following matters are already anticipated to be included in this session:
 - Update on Fall Armyworm initiative by Rob Bertram (USA), including inputs from Martin Kropff
 - 2020 System Council meeting locations, Council members are invited to propose locations for meetings of the System Council during 2020, with dates to be confirmed later in 2019.
- The Chair is then expected to again express appreciation to the host of the System Council meeting, the International Livestock Research Institute, and recognize the contributions of all CGIAR Centers and partner organizations in the event on the afternoon of Day 1. It is anticipated that he will further acknowledge the efforts by many applied to making the System Council meetings productive and successful, and officially close the meeting.

17:00 Close of meeting

***Please see overview of events for additional events that System Council members have been invited to participate in on evening of Thursday 16 May 2019 and Friday 17 May 2019 at: <https://www.cgiar.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/SC8-Tentative-overview-of-events-during-the-week-06052019.pdf> ***