

8th System Council, 15-16 May 2019
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Chair's Summary Meeting Highlights and Decisions

Dear System Council Members, Active Observers, and other attendees,

I trust you share the same sense of progress that I have as you reflect on our recent meeting in Addis Ababa. We are now having conversations that seemed unthinkable even a year ago. Due to the dedication and openness of Council members, we simultaneously addressed the regular business of the Council plus imagining the future of CGIAR. This doesn't mean that these conversations are easy, or that we have all the answers. However, we should recognize how far we have come in the last few months as the SRG brings Centers and Funders together in continuing to improve the system in light of many new challenges.

My key reflections from the productive conversations we had last week are:

- There is no doubt we have a collective ability to create a CGIAR 2030 Plan and that 2019 could be a defining year in CGIAR evolution
- CGIAR is ready to align all its efforts within the major unifying theme of tackling the food system's role in climate change with some urgency as the next decade will be critical
- Building on the momentum created by the formal alliance/mergers already underway, Council members and Centers are very interested in fully exploring increased alignment of governance across all Centers through the "common slate of Board Members" approach which we discussed in principle.
- The strong messages we heard from our emerging economy partners on the need for a much more collaborative approach between Centers within countries – and our commitment to engage on this at our next Council meeting.
- There is an opening to re-consider the longstanding yet unresolved issue of 'core' institutional-level funding to Centers

In a Council meeting that showcased many examples of how CGIAR as a System is undertaking its role as a scientific leader in global agricultural innovation, we acted purposefully by:

- **Agreeing an 'Approach Paper to the CGIAR 2030 Plan' that sets out a consultation framework to drive forward development and approval of CGIAR's next research portfolio**, – with a view to endorsing these ideas in our November 2019 Council meeting I would urge Council members to proactively engage in the CGIAR 2030 Plan conversations, through the linking mechanisms that the System Organization will shortly communicate.

- **Requesting the Chairs of CGIAR's Independent Science and Development Council ('ISDC') and our Standing Panel on Impact Assessment ('SPIA') to challenge our thinking as the CGIAR 2030 Plan is developed**
- **Approving important new initiatives to provide CGIAR Funders and programs with clarity on the most efficient means to route funding and ensure appropriate accountability.** Specifically regarding (i) CGIAR's 'Crops to End Hunger Initiative'; (ii) SPIA; and (iii) a 'Strategic Alliance Fund' to support Center-led initiatives for strategic alliances and mergers.

Of course, none of what CGIAR collectively delivers is possible without many dedicated and talented people such as: (i) leaders that inspire and challenge us to raise our game (ii) a pipeline of emerging talent that works nurtured by renowned CGIAR experts and (iii) a cadre of diverse, world class CGIAR staff who work collaboratively and innovatively to inform our strategic deliberations. We were treated to inputs from all three groups in the form of:

- **A powerful statement by one of the System Management Board's Gender Champions, Dr. Claudia Sadoff, Director General of IWMI, on the critical need for CGIAR to more clearly embrace the transformative power of gender diversity and inclusion in the workplace.** Channeling her own and other's experiences, she emphasized that women leaders in CGIAR provide for all others "*a line of sight without an end in sight*", serving as a powerful reminder that it is the responsibility of all to champion significantly more diversity in our workplaces
- **High energy 'Lightning Talks' demonstrating innovation from the field, delivered by six inspiring young scientists.** Drawn from across CGIAR's focus areas, 5 women and 1 man gave three-minute snap-shots of their achievements.
- **Reflections from a panel comprised of members of Council's five emerging economy constituencies** on the role that CGIAR can play in agricultural innovation systems, together with optimal ways to collaborate with countries as a System rather than as individual stakeholders. We noted the strong messages on the role of the National Agricultural Research Systems and the importance of partnership between them and CGIAR to truly bring about impact.

Between our two meeting days, we also attended the Agricultural Knowledge Share Fair event 'Ethiopia and CGIAR: partnering together to transform food systems', organized by the multi-Center and multi-partner stakeholders who are based at the CGIAR ILRI campus in Addis Ababa. This event showcased innovative demand-driven research based on outstanding partnerships between CGIAR centers and local and international organizations, with emphasis on how CGIAR as a system is contributing to Ethiopia's growth and transformation.

Please see the attached annex for a record of decisions taken in the meeting and the major actions we agreed upon.

I close by commending the progress made, and the openness and candor of our discussions, particularly when points of view differ. The time is now for us to make a profound difference. It's an honor to be serving as Chair of a Council that is working so consistently and passionately towards our shared goals of a more aligned, more targeted research system that delivers even greater impact.

Yours sincerely,

Juergen Voegelé, Ph.D.
Chair, System Council

Annex 1 – Decisions taken

SC/M8/DP1: Meeting Co-Chair

The System Council **appointed** Andrew Campbell, voting member from Australia as the non-voting Co-Chair for the meeting, and gave its support to the Co-Chair's alternate Mellissa Wood fulfilling the functions as a System Council member during the meeting pursuant to Article 5.2 of the CGIAR System Framework.

SC/M8/DP2: Adoption of the Agenda

The System Council **adopted** the Agenda issued on 23 April 2019 (meeting document SC8-01).

SC/M8/DP3: Roadmap for the 2030 Plan

The System Council **endorsed** the 'Roadmap for the 2030 Plan' as the agreed overarching framework for the development of the 'CGIAR 2030 Plan', noting the continuing stewardship role of the System Reference Group until the 9th System Council meeting in November 2019.

SC/M8/DP4: Impact assessment module in Big Data in Agriculture Platform

The System Council **approved** the creation of an additional module in the 'Big Data in Agriculture Platform', to provide a financing mechanism for impact assessment work to be undertaken as part of the SPIA work program.

SC/M8/DP5: Crops to end hunger module in 'Excellence in breeding Platform'

The System Council **approved** the creation of an additional module in the 'Excellence in Breeding Platform' to facilitate targeted funding of the Crops to end Hunger Initiative.

SC/M8/DP6: Window 1 Special Alliance Fund

The System Council **approved** 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.

SC/M8/DP7: Guidance on implementation of 2019-2021 CGIAR Financing Plan

The System Council **approved** the implementation guidance as a further enhancement of the 2019-2021 CGIAR Financing Plan.

SC/M8/DP8: System Council engagement flexibilities for new funder opportunities

The System Council **approved**, as amendments to Article 3 and Annex B of the CGIAR System Framework, up to five temporary additional Funder voting seats on the System Council subject to meeting agreed criteria.

[SC/M8/DP9: Interim Chair of the Independent Science for Development Council](#)

The System Council:

- i. **Extended** the term of Maggie Gill as the Interim Chair of the Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC) with effect until 20 September 2019; and
- ii. **Took note** that should a new ISDC Chair not have been appointed by that date, another current serving ISDC member will be appointed by the System Council, through electronic decision, as Interim Chair for an interim term up to and including the System Council's 9th meeting to allow for continuity in this role.

[SC/M8/DP10: Membership of the Nominations Panel for the Independent Science for Development Council appointment process](#)

Pursuant to the terms of reference of the Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC), the System Council **approved** the membership of the 2019 ISDC Nominations Panel as follows:

Member category	Appointed person(s)
<u>System Council members</u> nominated by the System Council Chair, one of whom shall be the Chair of the System Council's Strategic Impact, Monitoring Evaluation Committee ('SIMEC') or her/his delegate	Michel Bernhardt (Chair) Pedro Machado
<u>Science leaders</u> nominated by the System Council Chair	Ylva Hillbur Derek Byerlee
Persons fully external to CGIAR	Lindiwe Sibanda

[SC/M8/DP11: CGIAR Advisory Services Shared Secretariat Evaluation Workstream](#)

The System Council **approved** a 2019 budget ceiling of \$605,000 for the Shared Secretariat Evaluation Workstream for implementation of the agreed strategic priorities, with oversight by the System Council's Strategic Impact, Monitoring Evaluation Committee ('SIMEC') until the Director, Shared Secretariat is in place.

[SC/M8/DP12: Assurance Oversight Committee System Council-affiliated membership](#)

The System Council **extended** the membership term of Daniel van Gilst, System Council voting member, Norway, for the System Council's Assurance Oversight Committee ('AOC') until 30 June 2021.

Annex 2 – Agreed positions and actions

SC/M8/AP1: Progress on strengthening gender equality in CGIAR's workplaces

Agreed Position:

The System Council **took note of** the progress made and efforts underway to meet the agreed target on gender equality in CGIAR's workplaces.

Related Action(s):

- i. The System Council **requested** that a report on progress towards the target be provided to each System Council meeting until end-2020.
- ii. The System Council **requested** that the System Management Board provide information on any incentive framework or other mechanisms to be put in place to support progress towards and achievement of the target.

SC/M8/AP2: Science advice for the System Council

System Council members are **requested** to provide by end June 2019, high-level strategic inputs to inform the development of a presentation on impact assessment case studies (including priority subject areas for that presentation) for delivery by the SPIA Chair during the Council's 9th meeting in November 2019.

Annex 3 - Meeting Participants

Version: 20 May 2019

Meeting Leadership
Chair: Juergen Voegele
Co-Chair: Andrew Campbell (Australia)

Note: The symbols "" and "***" shown against a name below indicates that voting member/active observer is being represented at the meeting by the alternate ("**") or another delegated representative ("***").*

System Council Voting Members (listed alphabetically)	Member representative	Member Alternates & Other Delegation Members
AfDB	Bouchaib Boulanouar**	
Australia	Melissa Wood*	
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Tony Cavalieri	Alternate Member - Enock Chikava
Canada	Nikita Eriksen-Hamel**	Designated Alternate - Renaud De Plaen Other delegate - Jemimah Njuki (Day 2)
East Asia & Pacific (voting member China)	Weiping Hao**	Alternate Member - Syaiful Anwar (Indonesia) Other delegate - Dandan Huang (China)
Germany & Belgium	Michel Bernhardt**	
Japan	Motoaki Komiya	Other delegates - Satoru Muranaka, Naoko Oka
Latin America and Caribbean (voting member Brazil)	Pedro Machado (Brazil)	Alternate Member - Jorge Mario Diaz Luengas (Colombia)
The Netherlands	Melle Leenstra	
Norway	Daniel van Gilst	
Sub-Saharan Africa (voting member Nigeria)	Yarama D. Ndirpaya (Nigeria)	Alternate Member - Adil Abdelrahim (Sudan)
Sweden	Eva Ohlsson	Alternate Member - Philip Chiverton
Switzerland	Michel Evéquoz	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Alan Tollervey	
United States of America	Rob Bertram	Alternate Member - Eric Witte
West Asia & North Africa (voting member Iran)	Rasoul Zare (Iran)	Alternate Member - İhsan Emiralioğlu (Turkey) Other delegate - Merve Altan
The World Bank	Mark Cackler	

Non-voting Ex-officio members	Member	Other Delegation Members
Chair, System Management Board	Marco Ferroni	
Executive Director, CGIAR System Organization	Elwyn Grainger-Jones	
Center Representative 1: Convener of the Chairs of Center Boards of Trustees	Nicole Birrell	
Center Representative 2: Convener of the Center Directors General	Aly Abousabaa	
Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Hans Dreyer	
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Malu Ndavi* (Day 2)	

Active Observers	Representative	Alternate & Other Delegates
CGIAR Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC)	Maggie Gill (Chair)	

Invited attendees	Representative
France - Host Country of CGIAR System Organization	Bernard Hubert (National Institute for Agricultural Research)
Trustee of the CGIAR Trust Fund	Darius Stangu (The World Bank); Marizmelda Carbonell Dugayo (The World Bank)
CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA)	Karen Macours (Chair)

Additional participants	Representative
European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development (EIARD)	Nathalie Oberson (Executive Secretary, EIARD)
World Bank	Jonathan Wadsworth, Lead Agricultural Specialist
CGIAR System Organization (Technical inputs for sessions; meeting management; logistics support)	Karmen Bennett, System Council Secretary & Director, Board and Council Relations Jamie Craig, Director, Financial and Digital Services Olwen Cussen, Senior Associate, Board and Council Relations Nadia Manning-Thomas, Board and Council Relations Manager Kristina Röing de Nowina, Deputy Director, Funder and External Engagement Victoria Pezzi, Meetings and Events Associate Sonja Vermeulen, Director, Programs André Zandstra, Director, Funder and External Engagement

Session specific invitees	
Agenda Item 1,2 and 3	Yvonne Pinto (SRG member and theme leader)
	Claudia Sadoff (SRG member and theme leader)
	Michela Salvi (SRG Facilitator)
	Adinda Van Hemelrijck (SRG Facilitator)
Agenda Items 3b and 3c - Lightning Talks demonstrating CGIAR innovations from the field	Sylvia Alonso (A4NH/ILRI)
	Evan Girvetz (CCAFS/CIAT)
	Likimyelesh Nigussie (WLE/IWMI)
	Carolina Sansaloni (WHEAT/CIMMYT)
	Phyllis Ndung'u (CCAFS/LIVESTOCK)
	Rose Komugisha Basiita (FISH)

Apologies 8th System Council		
System Council Voting Members	Role	Name
European Commission	Member	Christophe Larose
Mexico	Member	Jorge Ruiz Rueda Souza
	Alternate	Miguel Narvaez
South Asia	Member	Sushil Kumar
	Alternate	N.A. Sisira Kumara
Active Observers	Role	Name
GFAR	Representative	Bongiwe N. Njobe