

# Towards ONE CGIAR

This is a newsletter on the transition to One CGIAR from the co-chairs of the Transition Consultation Forum (TCF). One CGIAR is a dynamic reformulation of CGIAR's partnerships, knowledge, assets, and global presence, aiming for greater integration in the face of the interdependent challenges facing today's world. It comprises (i) a sharper mission statement and impact focus to 2030, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals; (ii) unified governance under a 'One CGIAR Common Board'; (iii) institutional integration, including more aligned management under an empowered Executive Management Team, common policies and services, and a unified country presence; (iv) a new research modality; as well as (v) more, and pooled, funding. For further details, please refer to [CGIAR web page](#).



## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE TRANSITION CONSULTATION FORUM (TCF)

Dear CGIAR colleagues and stakeholders,

We hope this message finds you safe and well.

June has been an eventful month for the One CGIAR transition.

On 10–11 June, the CGIAR System Council held its [10<sup>th</sup> meeting](#). The Council recognized the strong progress made towards One CGIAR, consistent with the recommendations and target dates it had endorsed in November 2019. Looking forward, the Council underscored the importance of quickly putting in place the unified governance arrangement and One CGIAR Executive Management Team that are essential for progress on other fronts, while expressing strong support for collective action and advocacy with a view to a One CGIAR pledging moment in 2021, e.g. in conjunction with the UN Food System Summit.

The Council was able to build on a robust round of **Transition Advisory Group (TAG) reports to the TCF, provided over three calls on 2–4 June**, featuring progress, risks, and next steps across each of the six operational groups. As TCF co-chairs, we remain humbled by and grateful for the extraordinary dedication and commitment of all TAG conveners, members, co-stewards, and support teams in working through the complex questions involved in transforming CGIAR's strong partnership and excellent assets into a truly integrated One CGIAR.

Focusing on one of the most critical strands of this transition, the **2030 Research Strategy Co-creation Workshop** on 16-19 June brought together **TAG2 and the CGIAR Science Leaders** to advance the collaborative design and development of the high-level strategy for One CGIAR. The workshop achieved significant convergence on the research framework, explored the implications of COVID-19 and the climate crisis for CGIAR's future work, and developed specific components – such as integrated project principles, stage-gating, the results framework, and CGIAR's place in global AR4D delivery. The workshop paves the way for a draft strategy to be delivered by 1 August as a basis for focused consultations and ultimately System Council approval at the end of the year.

Further to our May update, **we are pleased to report that the work of the SMB Nominations Committee and the Search Committee for the inaugural One CGIAR Executive Management Team (EMT) has continued substantially on schedule.** The SMB Nominations Committee is on track to propose by mid-July, for General Assembly approval, the recommended candidates to be appointed as the voting members of the reconstituted SMB (and who will serve as the One CGIAR Common Board from 1 October). The SMB's EMT Search Committee will hold interviews for short-listed candidates in mid-July, and present its recommendation to the SMB by 20 July, for an appointment decision by end July.

Finally, the **Transition Program Management Unit (TPMU)**, provided by a consortium of consultants from Dalberg Advisors and Collaborative Impact, and tasked with coordinating the transition as a program of interconnected projects, began its work at the start of this month. Key 2020 deliverables for the TPMU include an overarching transition plan to end-2021, a transition communications strategy and function, a program monitoring and reporting framework, as well as prioritized support towards the thematic TAGs.

As a reminder, this newsletter goes directly to all TCF and TAG members and CGIAR communities of practice, as well as TAG support team members. It is also posted on the [CGIAR website](#). Please circulate it broadly among CGIAR staff, as appropriate. For any feedback and suggestions related to this newsletter, please contact us at [TCF-Support@cgiar.org](mailto:TCF-Support@cgiar.org).

With kind regards,

- Nicole Birrell, Convener, Center/Alliance Board Chairs • Tony Cavalieri, Member, CGIAR System Council
- Marco Ferroni, Chair, CGIAR SMB • Gareth Johnstone, Convener, Center Directors General



## REPORTS FROM TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUPS TO THE TCF, 2—4 JUNE

On 2—4 June, the TCF held a series of three virtual meetings to receive and discuss reports from the Transition Advisory Groups (TAG). Following a first such round of report-back conversations in mid-April, this second instalment was an opportunity to review progress and focus on the most critical, unresolved issues as the transition process enters a true 'crunch' period, with multiple decision-moments and associated TAG deadlines in the July—September time frame.

The reports confirmed significant progress across all the TAGs. The TCF co-chairs appreciated the high-quality of inputs prepared by the TAGs and the feedback provided by the wider membership of the TCF. Notwithstanding the large number of participants in attendance – more than 100 stakeholders on each call – the TCF was able to engage in an open and candid exchange of views, which surfaced important, emerging areas of convergence, as well as key challenges that the TAGs will need to work through over the coming weeks and months.

As intended, the reports and associated conversations highlighted important linkages across the various workstreams of the transition. On TAGs 2 (Research) and 5 (Country and regional engagement), members emphasized the importance of strong and diverse partnerships in delivering impacts at scale, and encouraged steps to engage early with the new partners that will be essential for achieving One CGIAR's mission. While recognizing that it was essential to reduce the fragmentation of CGIAR's funding – as per the endorsed One CGIAR recommendations – discussions across TAGs 2, 6 (Financial management and modalities) and 7 (Resource mobilization) stressed the need to clarify the role of bilateral funding and projects for CGIAR's impact and partner engagement.

With respect to TAG7, the TCF had a robust conversation on key elements of the emerging resource mobilization, communication, and advocacy strategy. Members expressed support for the proposal of a 2021 pledging moment, which could be used to enhance visibility and mobilize multi-year commitments, while underscoring the importance of a very clear, evidence-based investment case, narrative, and impact stories. Members also agreed with the need for a rebranding exercise for One CGIAR as an essential component of a successful campaign and pledging moment, particularly to attract new Funders and partners.

Looking ahead, the discussion on TAG3 (Unified governance) underscored again the critical importance of appointing a One CGIAR Executive Management Team (EMT) as soon as possible to lead the transition, taking forward the inputs of the TAGs, followed by a One CGIAR Common Board that is able to rise to a strategic oversight role, while finding ways to bring in the relevant thematic and Center-specific expertise. The TCF co-chairs, in their summary of the week, expressed their appreciation to all stakeholders for staying engaged through this critical period.

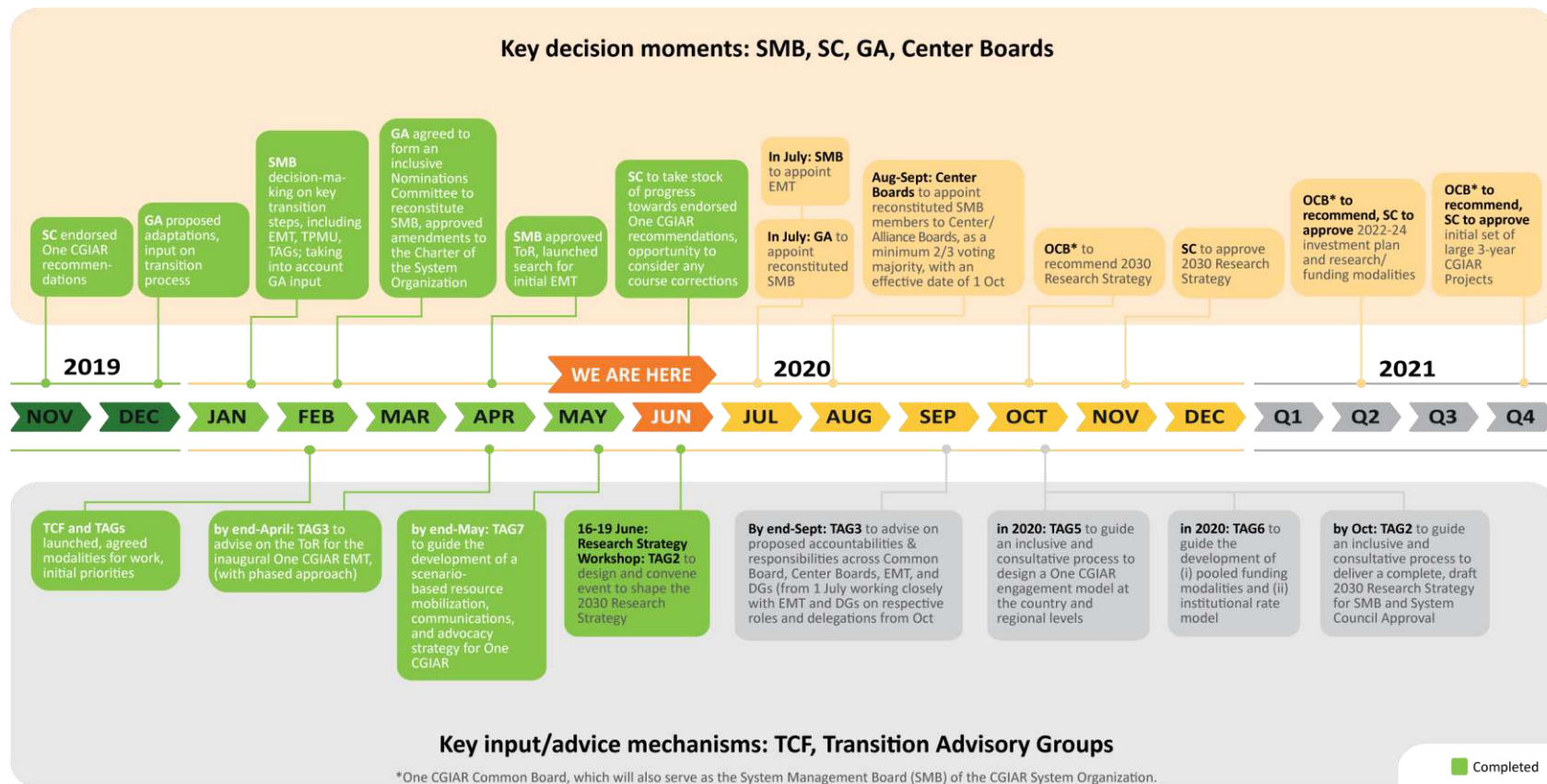
A longer overview of the week's discussions, along with materials shared, is available to TCF and TAG members on MS Teams.

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## HIGH-LEVEL TIME LINE OF DECISIONS AND INPUTS

Based on the endorsed target dates for the transition to One CGIAR, the associated key decision points and entry points for multi-stakeholder input via the TCF and TAGs, the figure below provides an overview of the current time line of transition steps in 2020–21. These steps are kept under continuous review in line with the principle of adaptive management.





## TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUPS AND MEMBERSHIP

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The Transition Advisory Groups (TAG) operationalize the advisory role of the TCF. They bring multi-stakeholder input and advice towards the implementation of the One CGIAR recommendations. The TAGs, their members, and co-stewards – as of 26 June 2020 – are available [here](#).

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## GETTING INVOLVED

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The transition to One CGIAR is everyone's opportunity to be part of delivering a more impactful, dynamic, connected, and integrated CGIAR that is best placed to help achieve the SDGs – SDG2 in particular. The world has dramatically changed, and whilst we recognize and celebrate all that CGIAR has achieved through its partnership of Research Centers – now is the moment for us to accelerate our focus, impact, and delivery. In that spirit, for CGIAR staff and stakeholders who wish to get involved in or be better informed of the transition to One CGIAR, relevant entry points are described [here](#).

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## CONTACT US

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