

General Assembly of Centers Register of in-session and electronic decisions

Purpose:

This document sets out the decisions taken by the General Assembly of the CGIAR Centers, both in formal meeting sessions and when conducting business electronically, pursuant to Articles 5.3 through 5.7 of the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization.

This document constitutes a public record of the General Assembly and is updated on an as-needed basis each time a decision is taken.

Distribution notice:

This document may be distributed without restriction.

General Assembly Decision Database Last Updated: 8 July 2020

General Assembly of Centers - Register of Decisions

Last Updated: 8 July 2020

]+	Meeting	In-session/ Electronic	Thematic Area	Agenda Item	Decision	Date(s)	Meeting Locatio
GA/EDP1	GA	Electronic	SMB Membership		The General Assembly of the Centers, subject to paragraph below, elects the following persons to the position of member of the CGIAR System Management Board for the purpose of Article 7.2 of the Charter, for the term stated or until the appointment of their successor:	27 June 2016	N/A
					Independent members (2)		
					a. Catherine Bertini, for a one year term commencing on July 1, 2016, renewable for up to two years, b. Eugene Terry, for a one year term commencing on July 1, 2016, renewable for up to two years,		
					Center Board members or Directors General (7)		
					c. Shenggen Fan (Director General of IFPRI), for a one year term commencing on July 1, 2016, d. Martin Kropff (Director General of CIMMYT), for a one year term commencing on July 1, 2016, e. Bushra Naz-Malik (ICRAF Board of Trustees), for a one year term commencing on July 1, 2016, f. Gordon McNeil (AfricaRice Board of Trustees), for a one year term commencing on July 1, 2016, g. Jimmy Smith (Director General of ILRI), for a one year term commencing on July 1, 2016, h. Margret Thalwitz (ICARDA Chair of the Board of Trustees), for a one year term commencing on July 1, 2016, i. Ann Tutwiler (Director General of Bioversity), for a one year term commencing on July 1, 2016,		
					This decision will be effective only upon the approval of the Charter as an amendment and full restatement of the CGIAR Consortium Constitution by a three-quarters majority of the Member Centers by 30 June 2016.		
GA/M1/DP1	GA1	In-session	Nominations/ Appointments	9	The General Assembly agreed to form a Nominations Committee in order to nominate for election candidate for members of the System Management Board, constituted as follows; • Two Board of Trustee Chairs: Lindsay Falvey and Nicole Birrell • Two Directors General: Harold Roy-Macauley and Matthew Morell • One independent member: To be selected by the other Nominations Committee members	24-25 January 2017	London, UK
GA/M1/DP2	GA1	In-session	Nominations/ Appointments	9	The General Assembly: • Took note that CGIAR's Board of Trustee Chairs have selected Nicole Birrell and that CGIAR's Center Directors General have selected Matthew Morell as their respective Conveners, and as co-Chairs of the General Assembly for 2017. • Agreed the practice that the Conveners of the Board Chairs and Directors General would serve as the Centers' ex-officio non-voting members of the System Council.	24-25 January 2017	London, UK
GA/M1/EDP1	GA1	Electronic	SMB Membership		The General Assembly elects the following persons to the position of member of the CGIAR System Management Board for the purpose of Article 7.2 of the Charter, with effect from 1 July 2017 for the term stated, listed by category and then in alphabetical order by family name: Independent members (2) Marco Ferroni, for a two-year term commencing on 1 July 2017; Kanayo Nwanze, for a two-year term commencing on 1 July 2017. Center Board of Trustee members or Directors General (7) Geoffrey Hawtin (CIAT Board of Trustee Chair), for a two-year term commencing on 1 July 2017; Martin Kropff (Director General of CIMMYT), for an additional one year term commencing on 1 July 2017; Gordon McNeil (AfricaRice Board of Trustees), for an additional one year term commencing on 1 July 2017; Jimmy Smith (Director General of ILRI), for an additional one year term commencing on 1 July 2017; Margret Thalwitz (ICARDA Chair of the Board of Trustees), for an additional one year term commencing on 1 July 2017; Margret Thalwitz (ICARDA Chair of the Board of Trustees), for an additional one year term commencing on 1 July 2017; Margret Thalwitz (ICARDA Chair of the Board of Trustees), for an additional one year term commencing on 1 July 2017; Margret Thalwitz (ICARDA Chair of the Board of Trustees), for an additional one year term commencing on 1 July 2017; Barbara Wells (Director General of CIP), for a two-year term commencing on 1 July 2017; Barbara Wells (Director General of CIP), for a two-year term commencing on 1 July 2017.	17 May 2017	



]+	Meeting	In-session/ Electronic	Thematic Area	Agenda Item	Decision	Date(s)	Meeting Location
GA/M2/DP1	GA2	In-session	Agenda	1	The General Assembly adopted the Agenda dated 18 January 2018	23-24 January 2018	Rabat, Morocco
GA/M2/DP2	GA2	In-session	Rules of procedure	2	The General Assembly approved the Rules of Procedure as presented in the meeting papers, with a few minor edits and the addition of the following two items: A. Adding within item C2, the submission of General Assembly papers to be: i. At least two weeks before the meeting for General Assembly 'business' items; ii. Typically, not less than one week before the meeting for strategic discussions. B. Adding within item D2, the following additional provision: "Where the Director General Convener is from an Article 15 CGIAR Center*, that Director General will also be the representative of the Article 15 Centers. If the Director General Convener is not from an Article 15 CGIAR Center, the Article 15 Centers will separately elect a Director General representative from among that group and advise the Co-Conveners of the General Assembly of the identity of that representative" * One of the 11 CGIAR Centers hosting international 'in-trust' crop, tree and forage genebanks.	23-24 January 2018	Rabat, Morocco
GA/M2/DP3	GA2	In-session	Nominations/ Appointments	Evening Program	Pursuant to item D1.ii of the General Assembly Rules of Procedure, the General Assembly elected the following two persons as conveners of the respective groups, and thus Co-Chairs of the General Assembly through to 31 January 2019: • Nicole Birrell, Convener of the Chairs of Center Boards of Trustees • Matthew Morell, Convener of the Center Directors General	23-24 January 2018	Rabat, Morocco
GA/M2/DP4	GA2	In-session	Timing and venue for next meetings		The General Assembly agreed that the standard timing for in-person meetings of the General Assembly of the Centers would be in the third-fourth week of January of the given year, and be optimally held at one of the CGIAR Centers, with Centers invited to put forward proposals to host meetings through the Co-Conveners.	23-24 January 2018	Rabat, Morocco
GA/M2/DP5	GA2	In-session	SMB Membership	3	The General Assembly agreed: A. To change the date of rotation of SMB members to 1 September of any year; B. To extend the current membership by the relevant 2 months for each of the current voting members of the System Management Board, to facilitate the implementation of the agreed new rotation date of SMB members of 1 September of the relevant year.	23-24 January 2018	Rabat, Morocco
GA/M2/DP6	GA2	In-session	SMB Membership	3	The General Assembly: A. Took note that an optimal rotation of members of the System Management Board each year could be considered to support effective operations of the Board; B. Endorsed the eligibility of the SMB members for renewal for one additional term of up to 2 years, with the specific renewal period being determined at the time of appointment to facilitate effective operations of the System Management Board	23-24 January 2018	Rabat, Morocco
GA/M2/DP7	GA2	In-session	Nominations/ Appointments	3	 Recognizing the importance of an effective nominations function in determining membership of the System Management Board, the General Assembly: A. Agreed to retain a Nominations Committee approach to System Management Board voting member selection; B. Endorsed the important principle of achieving as diverse a pool of System Management Board candidates as possible (including diversity in gender, region, skills and age amongst members, and their respective expertise and experience); C. Endorsed the 2017 Nominations Process, as reinforced by the following elements: i. Requirement of all candidates to have given consent before being nominated, to address questions of availability; ii. The continuation of the current rule that to bring diversity to the System Management Board, no two persons can be affiliated with the same Center (noting that System Management Board members work in the interests of the System, and do not represent any individual Center or stakeholder); iii. Eliminating the step of seeking endorsement from the Centers for the final list of proposed members by the Centers after all nominations have been considered by the Nominations Committee, in favor of moving directly to a vote by the Centers; and iv. The General Assembly of the Centers and its Nominations Committee should not play a role in determining the Chair of the System Management Board, with that being a decision of the System Management Board pursuant to Article 7.3 of the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization; and D. Took note that for 2018, for reasons of efficiency, the Nominations Committee would double as a standing Search Committee for Independent Member appointments if a third independent member is to be sought (subject to decision GA/M2/DP9), which would also require the Nominations Committee to identify an independent member for itself. 		Rabat, Morocco
GA/M2/DP8	GA2	In-session	Nominations/ Appointments	3	Pursuant to item D1.i of the General Assembly Rules of Procedure, the General Assembly appointed the following 4 persons to the 2018 SMB Nominations Committee, taking note that the Nominations Committee will self-select a Chair from amongst themselves and identify an independent member if required, noting that an independent member would particularly be needed if a third independent member of the System Management Board is to be appointed in 2018, subject to decision GA/M2/DP9 : • Gareth Johnstone • Jim Godfrey • Nicole Birrell • Tony Simons	23-24 January 2018	Rabat, Morocco
GA/M2/DP9	GA2	In-session	Framework/ Charter amendments	3	The General Assembly approved the proposal to change the documented composition of the System Management Board to a 6:3 model of Center-affiliated members and independent members from the 7:2 model stated in Article 7.2 of the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization, subject to subsequent approval by both the System Management Board and the System Council.	23-24 January 2018	Rabat, Morocco

]+	Meeting	In-session/ Electronic	Thematic Area	Agenda Item	Decision	Date(s)	Meeting Location
GA/M2/DP10	GA2		Framework/ Charter amendments	12	The General Assembly approved changes proposed to Article 8.1(a) and 6.1(j) of the CGIAR System Framework as approved by the System Council and System Management Board, namely: A. Amendment to Article 8.2.a of the Framework – Committee name change The System Council shall have the following standing committees: (a) An <u>Assurance Oversight Committee</u> Audit and Risk Committee , with a majority of independent members, the purpose of which shall be to provide: the System Council with assurance of the completeness and effectiveness of the Internal Audit Function and the independence of external audit functions; a structured reporting line between internal and external auditors and the System Council; and oversight of system-wide governance, risk management and internal controls B. Amendment to Article 8.2.a of the Framework – removal of Article 6.1(j): The functions of the System Council shall be to: <u>6.1(j) Review findings and follow-up emanating</u> from the 'Internal Audit Function'		18 Rabat, Morocco
GA/M2/DP11	GA2	In-session	Narrative	6	The General Assembly endorsed the overall approach to a 'CGIAR narrative' as a broad outward facing document, subject to road-testing the document in advance with CGIAR funders and recognizing that targeted products would need to be prepared to supplement the broader narrative.	23-24 January 20	18 Rabat, Morocco
GA/M2/DP12	GA2		Mobilization	6	The General Assembly endorsed the overall approach to setting out shared principles to guide the role of the System Organization and Centers respectively in resource mobilization efforts, as documented in Annex 3.		18 Rabat, Morocco
GA/M2/EDP1		Electronic	SMB Membership		The General Assembly appoints the following 4 persons to serve as Center-affiliated voting members of the CGIAR System Management Board for the respective stated periods: •Amos Namanga Ngongi – 2 years from 1 September 2018 •Claudia Sadoff – 2 years from 1 September 2018 •Gordon MacNeil – 1 year from 1 September 2018 (reappointed after serving 2 years) •Yvonne Pinto – 2 years from 1 September 2018	21 August 2018	N/A
GA/M2/EDP2	GA2	Electronic	SMB Membership		The General Assembly appoints <u>Isatou Jallow</u> as the 3rd independent member of the CGIAR System Management Board, for a two year term with effect from 1 December 2018.	27 November 202	18 N/A
GA/M3/DP1	GA3	In-session	Agenda	1	The General Assembly adopted the Agenda dated 16 January 2019.	30-31 January 20	19 Bogor, Indonesia
GA/M3/DP2	GA3	In-session	_	2		-	19 Bogor, Indonesia
GA/M3/DP3	GA3		Nominations/ Appointments	12	 Pursuant to item D1.ii of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, the General Assembly elected the following two persons as Conveners of the respective groups, and thus Co-Chairs of the General Assembly through to end of GA4 in early 2020: Nicole Birrell, Convener of the Chairs of Center Boards of Trustees Aly Abousabaa, Convener of the Center Directors General 	30-31 January 20	19 Bogor, Indonesia
GA/M3/DP4	GA3		Timing and venue for next meetings	13	The General Assembly agreed that the most optimal timing for the 4th in-person meeting of the General Assembly of the Centers would be in early February and accepted the invitation by IRRI to host the 4th General Assembly at its headquarters in Los Baños, The Philippines.	30-31 January 20	19 Bogor, Indonesia
GA/M3/DP5	GA3	In-session	SMB Membership		As a follow-up to the General Assembly decision (GA/M2/DP9) to change the documented composition of the System Management Board to a 6:3 model of Center- affiliated members and independent members, the General Assembly agreed that a preferred model for the composition of the System Management Board would be 3:3:3 across the categories of independent members: voting Center Boards of Trustees members: Center Directors General, subject to skills needs requiring a different balance and with a requirement that there be at least 2 Board of Trustees members and 2 Director General members of the System Management Board.	30-31 January 20	19 Bogor, Indonesia
GA/M3/DP6	GA3	In-session	SMB Membership	12	The General Assembly: A. Took note that for 2018 the Nominations Committee adopted the proposal from the System Management Board's Rules of Governance Working Group that all members could be renewed for up to 4 years, with Center Directors General requiring a 2-year break between their first and second 2-year terms having regard to the significant workload of Directors General for their affiliated Centers; and B. Endorsed as a preferred model, but not a formal rule, that there be a 2-year break for Directors General, taking note that efforts by the Centers' System Management Board Nominations Committee to achieve an appropriate balance in skills and membership, may require flexibility in the application of the preferred model.	30-31 January 20	19 Bogor, Indonesia

]+	Meeting	In-session/ Electronic	Agenda Item	Decision	Date(s)	Meeting Location
GA/M3/DP7	GA3	In-session SMB Membership	12	Recognizing the importance of an effective nominations function in determining membership of the System Management Board, the General Assembly: A. Endorsed the report of the 2018 Nominations Committee as presented during the 3rd General Assembly of the Centers; B. Agreed to retain a Nominations Committee approach to System Management Board voting member selection; and C. Endorsed the principles of i. maintaining some common membership in the Nominations Committee every year; ii. ensuring as much diversity of membership as possible; iii. always including one of CGIAR's key partners as an independent member in the Nominations Committee; iv. nominees needing to have consented to their name being included on a list, without raising expectations of guaranteed appointment; v. maintaining the enhanced process from 2018 of separating the Centeraffiliated member from the independent member process; vi. carrying out one voting round to enhance timeliness and clarity for independent members; and vii. continuing with the current rule that to bring diversity to the System Management Board, no two persons can be affiliated with the same Center (noting that System Management Board members work in the interests of the System, and do not represent any individual Center or stakeholder).	30-31 January 201	9 Bogor, Indonesia
GA/M3/DP8	GA3	In-session Nominations/ Appointments	12	Pursuant to item D1.i of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, the General Assembly appointed the following 4 persons to the 2019 SMB Nominations Committee, taking note that the Nominations Committee will self-select a Chair from amongst themselves and identify an independent member from the next-in-line partner organization as part of the rotation process agreed for partners: Continuing members: • Gareth Johnstone (Director General, World Fish) • Jim Godfrey (Board of Trustees member, IRRI) New members: • Shenggen Fan (Director General, IFPRI) • Martyn Jeggo (Board of Trustees member, ILRI)	30-31 January 201	9 Bogor, Indonesia
GA/M3/DP9	GA3	In-session Framework/ Charter amendments	12	Pursuant to item D5 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, the General Assembly approved the proposed nomenclature changes to the CGIAR System Framework and Charter of the CGIAR System arising from the adoption by the System Council of new terms of reference for its advisory bodies and its Shared Secretariat as set out in meeting document GA3-04.	30-31 January 201	9 Bogor, Indonesia
GA/M3/EDP1	GA3	Electronic SMB Membership	N/A	Subject to the provisions of the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization, the General Assembly of Centers appointed the following persons as voting members of the System Management Board for the terms stated: Center-affiliated members •Barbara Wells – reappointed for a second and final term of 2 years from 1 September 2019 •Matthew Morell – 2 years from 1 September 2019 •Hilary Wild – 2 years from 1 September 2019 Independent members •Marco Ferroni – reappointed for a second term until 30 November 2021 •Kanayo Nwanze – reappointed for a second term until 30 November 2021	12 July 2019	N/A
GA/M3/EDP2	GA3	Electronic Framework/ Charter amendments	N/A	Subject to approval of the System Management Board, the General Assembly of Centers endorsed the System Council's 15-16 May 2019 decision to approve, 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.	12 July 2019	N/A
GA/M3A/DP1	EGA	In-person Timing and venue for next meetings	-	Pursuant to Article 5.3 of the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization, the Centers confirmed that the 4th in-person meeting of the General Assembly of Centers would be hosted by IRRI at its headquarters in Los Baños, The Philippines, in mid-to-late March 2020, with the precise date being confirmed after consideration of the availability of the venue, and the preexisting commitments of the Co-Conveners.		Rome, Italy
GA/M3A/DP2	EGA	In-person Nominations/ Appointments	N/A	Pursuant to item D1.ii of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly regarding the respective Conveners of the Board Chairs and Directors-General and thus Co-Chairs	12-13 December 2019	Rome, Italy
GA/M3A/DP3	EGA	In-person One CGIAR	N/A	The General Assembly of Centers agreed that at the forthcoming 4th meeting, the Centers consider whether to review the role of the General Assembly within the context of One CGIAR.	12-13 December 2019	Rome, Italy

]+	Meeting	In-session/ Electronic Thematic Area	Agenda Item	Decision	Date(s)	Meeting Location
GA/M3A/DP4	EGA	In-person procedure	N/A	The General Assembly of Centers agreed to amend the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly by: (a) Adding new sub-paragraphs (iii) and (iv) in section 'D6. Approve the Center representatives to serve on the System Council' as follows: The Co-Conveners of the General Assembly of Centers: [] (iii) Participate, as necessary, in other strategic groups or processes as arepresentative of the Centers*** (iv) Are entitled to have their reasonable travel and hotel costs related to in-person attendance at the foregoing in-person events met according to the relevant policies of the System Organization, with the time commitment of the Board Chairs' Convener being compensated from the annual budget of the General Assembly of Centers****. (b) Adding in respect of item (iii), the following text in the "Additional description/explanation" column of the Rules of Procedure: **** This participation is delegable to, respectively, another Board Chair or Director General, on the prior notice to the convener of the relevant meeting absent formal terms of reference being agreed by that group in advance that determines that attendance will be personal and non-delegable. (c) Adding in respect of item (iii) the following text in the "Additional description/explanation" column of the Rules of Procedure: **** The following provisions apply: (a) Retroactive from 1 August 2019, travel and hotel costs will be reimbursed in line with the logistics information provided for such in-person events (with private preferences being at the cost of the affiliated Center); (b) Effective from 1 January 2020, appropriate contractual arrangements will be put in place between the CGIAR System Organization and the Board Chairs' Convener for covering the time commitments of the Board Chairs' convener for in-person attendance at all representative meetings other than meetings of the General Assembly of (c) Annually, the System Organization will provide a written report to the General Assembly of the Center's own rate for compensation of the in-person t	12-13 December 2019	Rome, Italy
GA/M3A/DP5	EGA	Electronic Framework/ Charter amendments	N/A	Pursuant to the amendment provisions of Article 15.2 of the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization, and subject also to approval by the System Council and the System Management Board according to their respective decision making procedures, the General Assembly of Centers approved the following amendments to the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization as set out below in "strike-out" and underlined text: 7.2 The System Management Board shall comprise the following up to ten (10) nine (9) voting members who, when taken as a collective whole, will have the skills, experience and gravitas required to enable the System Management Board to discharge its responsibilities under this Charter. Members of the management and employees of CGIAR System entities, including Centers, are not eligible to sit on the System Management Board as voting members. a) six (6) Center Board members or Directors General, as appointed by the Centers; and b) three (3) independent members, one of which should, whenever possible, be the Chair. 7.3 The System Management Board shall appoint a Chair from amongst its voting members. 7.8 All System Management Board members, Active Observers and the Chair of the System Management Board's Audit and Risk Committee shall act in good faith in the interests of the cGIAR System and shall act according to the System Management Board's policy on ethics and conflicts of interest and shall respect the conflict of interest. 7.9 The term of office of the initial System Management Board shall be three (3) years. Thereafter, new voting members of the System Management Board shall be elected by the Centers and shall be centers' Boards which are members of the System Management Board, when acting at the System Management Board. Members from the Centers' Boards which are members of the System Management Board, when acting at the System Management Board, shall be tree appointed when their term as Center Board members is expired.		N/A

]+	Meeting	In-session/ Electronic	Thematic Area	Agenda Item	Decision	Date(s)	Meeting Location
GA/M3A/DP6			Nominations/ Appointments	N/A	Pursuant to Article 5.6(a) of the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization and item D.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the GA the General Assembly of Centers: i. Took note of the determination of the System Management Board at its 16th meeting that the planned destination for unified governance for One CGIAR is that all the voting members of a reconstituted System Management Board ('SMB'), subject to Center/Alliance Board own decision making to be considered after receipt of a One CGIAR legal opinion regarding the legal considerations arising, will also serve as the ongoing 2/34 voting majority on each CGIAR Center/Alliance Board; ii. Recognized that the wording of item D.1(i) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly leaves open the option that the General Assembly appoint a Nominations Committee in a different composition from the one currently described in that item; iii. Acknowledged that in the spirit of co design and partnership, the System Council ('SC') and SMB have each endorsed the System Reference Group recommendation that the 2020 SMB Nominations Committee of a equal number of Center and SC voting member appointees; iv. Further noted the resolve expressed by SMB members at SMB16, that SMB members stand ready to take any decision, as a SMB or individually, to facilitate the reconstitution of the SMB with purpose and appropriate pace; v. Agreed to form a 2020 SMB Nominations Committee of up to 7 members to take the necessary steps to propose, for decision by the General Assembly of Centers, suitable candidates to reconstitute the voting member positions of the System Management Board (with a view to those persons, subject to Center/Alliance Board own decision making processes, also being appointed as members of each Center/Alliance Board at a future date), and further agreed that the 2020 SMB Nominations Committee: (a) will be comprised of 3 Center designated members; (b) may, at the discretion of the 2020 SMB Nominations Committee, include one independent person as the 7th member	2 March 2020	N/A
GA/M3A/DP6a	a EGA	Electronic	Nominations/ Appointments	N/A	Membership of the 2020 SMB Nominations Committee: Andrew Campbell (SC Voting Member) Daniel van Gilst (SC Voting Member) Letitia Obeng (CGIAR Center - IWMI) Martyn Jeggo*(CGIAR Center - ILRI - 2019 Nominations Committee member) Phyllis Caldwell (CGIAR Center IFPRI and formerly CIFOR) Rob Bertram (SC Voting Member)	20 March 2020	N/A
GA/M3A/DP7	EGA	Electronic	One CGIAR	N/A	Pursuant to Article 8.2 of the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization and in furtherance of the implementation of One CGIAR, a key element of which is the appointment of a One CGIAR Executive Management Team ("EMT") with, initially, three Managing Directors, the General Assembly authorized the System Management Board to: 1.Appoint the inaugural EMT pursuant to the timetable set out in the EMT Candidate Information Pack; and 2.Put in place initial delegations of authorities to the EMT consistent with part C.i of the EMT Candidate Information Pack ('Key responsibilities of the inaugural EMT commencing from July 2020'), that will remain in place until such time as the One CGIAR Common Board becomes operational and agreed delegations of authority as between the EMT and Directors General based on relevant SMB and Center/Alliance board decisions come into effect.	6 July 2020	N/A