3 MARCH 2020

Towards ONE CGIAR

This is a bi-weekly newsletter on the transition to One CGIAR from the co-chairs of the Transition Consultation Forum (TCF). One CGIAR refers to a future, more unified and integrated CGIAR, as set out in the recommendations of the System Reference Group, endorsed by the CGIAR System Council at its 9th meeting in November 2019, and adapted by the CGIAR System Management Board at its 16th meeting in January 2020, taking into account proposals made by the December 2019 Extraordinary General Assembly of the Centers.

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

Dear CGIAR colleagues and stakeholders,

Since our previous message on 12 February, the transition to One CGIAR has continued with multiple important developments and with it the need to ensure that we are all on the same page. To that end, here are a few key updates:

- On 17 February, the CGIAR System Management Board (SMB) approved six initial Transition Advisory Groups (TAG) to provide multi-stakeholder input and advice across the specific dimensions of the One CGIAR transition (see details below).
- On 18 February, a call for expressions of interest was issued for qualified Center staff to become co-stewards of dedicated TAG support teams, working alongside co-stewards from the System Organization, with the initial closing period for those expressions of interest being today for those that have yet to put forward their nomination.
- On 19 February, the TCF held its first call, which covered the membership, working modalities, and initial priorities of the TCF and TAGs, as well as a conversation about stakeholder outreach.

- On 21 February, the System Organization issued a Request for Proposals for a firm or consortium to provide a Transition Program Management Unit (TPMU) and its Program Director, with a submission deadline of 18 March.
- On 28 February, the General Assembly of the Centers, through virtual decision-making by Center Boards, agreed to form a Nominations Committee to find suitable candidates to reconstitute the voting membership of the SMB and approved associated amendments to the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization.
- Today, 3 March, the successful bidder to provide external expert legal advice to CGIAR was identified, with contracting to be completed in the coming days, so that a transparent workplan can be developed in consultation with TAG3 on Unified Governance.

Most TAGs are holding their first calls this week and we have scheduled the next TCF call for Tuesday, 17 March at 14:00 CET. A key initial task for the TAGs and the TCF will be to map the principal, upcoming decision moments in the transition and the associated, key questions that require TCF and TAG input (see preliminary thinking on this below). We continue to invite expressions of interest from TCF members to join a TAG4 on Policies and services (via email to TCF-Support@cgiar.org).

In light of the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, in the interest of prioritizing the health and safety of all partners and stakeholders, and appreciating that travel disruptions may arise from additional screening processes, we decided as the respective conveners/co-chairs of the various groups that CGIAR should cancel the planned 23–25 March in-person meetings of the TCF, TAGs, and General Assembly of the Centers. We are actively exploring ways to use that time for intensive virtual collaboration and will revert to the TCF shortly with further details. Please therefore keep these dates free in your calendar.

For ease of reference and to be updated periodically, below we provide (i) the current membership of the TAGs, (ii) a figure that summarizes the roles and responsibilities in the transition to One CGIAR, (iii) a preliminary, high-level time line of decision points and associated expected inputs, and (iv) an updated calendar of recent and upcoming meetings and events.

This newsletter has been sent to all TCF and TAG members, as well as TAG co-stewards and support staff, and it has been posted on the CGIAR website. Please circulate it broadly. For any feedback and suggestions on ways to make these communications more relevant and more useful, please contact us via email at TCF-Support@cgiar.org.

With kind regards,

Aly Abousabaa, Convener, Center Directors General • Nicole Birrell, Convener, Center Board Chairs • Tony Cavalieri, Member, CGIAR System Council • Marco Ferroni, Chair, CGIAR System Management Board

TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP

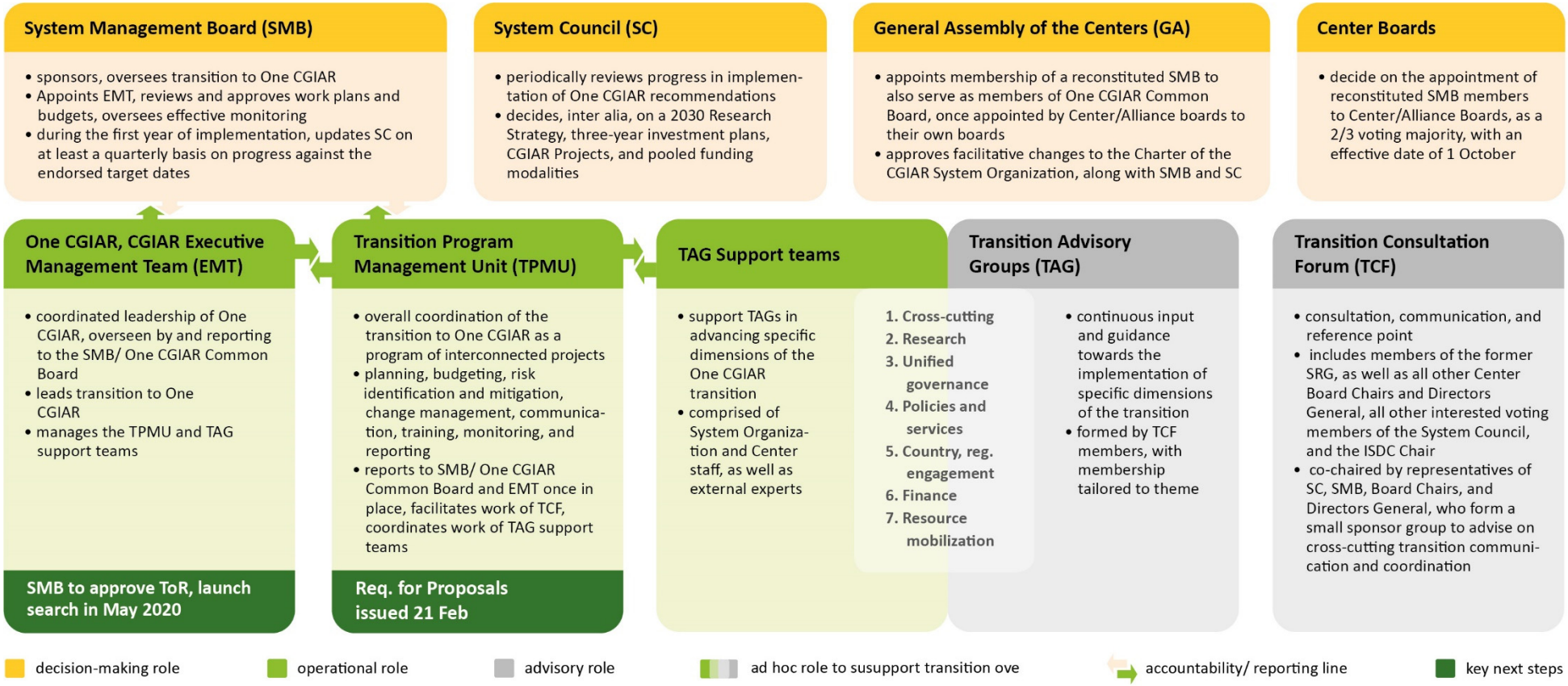
The Transition Advisory Groups (TAG) represent an extension of the advisory role of the TCF. They will bring multi-stakeholder input and advice across the specific dimensions of the One CGIAR transition. These are the TAGs, their members, and co-stewards as of 3 March, 2020.

	TAG	TOPIC	MEMBERS		CO-STEWARDS
1.	Cross-cutting communication and change management	Communication, change management – including people and culture – coordination across TAGs	Birrell, Nicole Bounjoua, Saad Cavalieri, Tony Ferroni, Marco* Grainger-Jones, Elwyn	Johnstone, Gareth Marton-Lefèvre, Julia Smith, Jimmy Van Heerden, Clarissa Wild, Hilary	To be supported by the TPMU, once in place
2.	Research	Recommendations 1 (a compelling mission) and 4 (a new research modality)	Abousabaa, Aly Bernhardt, Michel Bertram, Rob Faure, Guy Hubert, Bernard Jallow, Isatou Kramer-LeBlanc, Carol Kropff, Martin Meinke, Holger Morell, Matthew Cackler, Mark Falvey, Lindsay	Nasi, Robert Ndirpaya, Yarama Pinto, Yvonne Sadoff, Claudia Swinnen, Jo Tollervey, Alan van Ijssel, Wijnand Wells, Barbara Wood, Mellissa	Center co-steward & Sonja Vermeulen from the CGIAR System Organization
3.	Unified governance	Recommendation 2	Cackler, Mark Falvey, Lindsay Lenton, Roberto Ngongi, Amos Namanga	Nwanze, Kanayo Potter, Stephen van de Logt, Paul Wild, Hilary	Center co-steward & Karmen Bennett from the CGIAR System Organization
4.	Policies and services	Recommendation 3.b	To be launched at a later date.		
5.	Country and regional engagement	*Recommendation 3.c*	Abubakar, Yusuf Byerlee, Derek Diaz Luengas, Jorge Mario Evéquoz, Michel Machado, Pedro Ndirpaya, Yarama	Nteranya, Sanginga Restrepo, Juan-Lucas Roy-Macauley, Harold Selvaraju Ramasamy Sereme, Paco Tollervey, Alan	Center co-steward & Nadia Manning Thomas from the CGIAR System Organization
6.	Financial management and modalities	Recommendation 5, specifically on the financial management and modalities of One CGIAR	Andrews, Nancy Birrell, Nicole Godfrey, Ji	Van Gilst, Daniel Wadsworth, Jonathan Witte, Eric	Center co-steward & Jamie Craig from the CGIAR System Organization
7.	Resource mobilization	Recommendation 5, specifically on resource mobilization Biddle	Biddle, Julianne Carberry, Peter (followed in April 2020 by Chikwamba, Rachel) Cooke, Rodney	Ghezae, Nighisty Kropff, Martin Self, Rinn*	Center co-steward & André Zandstra from the CGIAR System Organization

* Denotes the convener of the TAG (as of 3 March most TAGs had yet to identify convener)

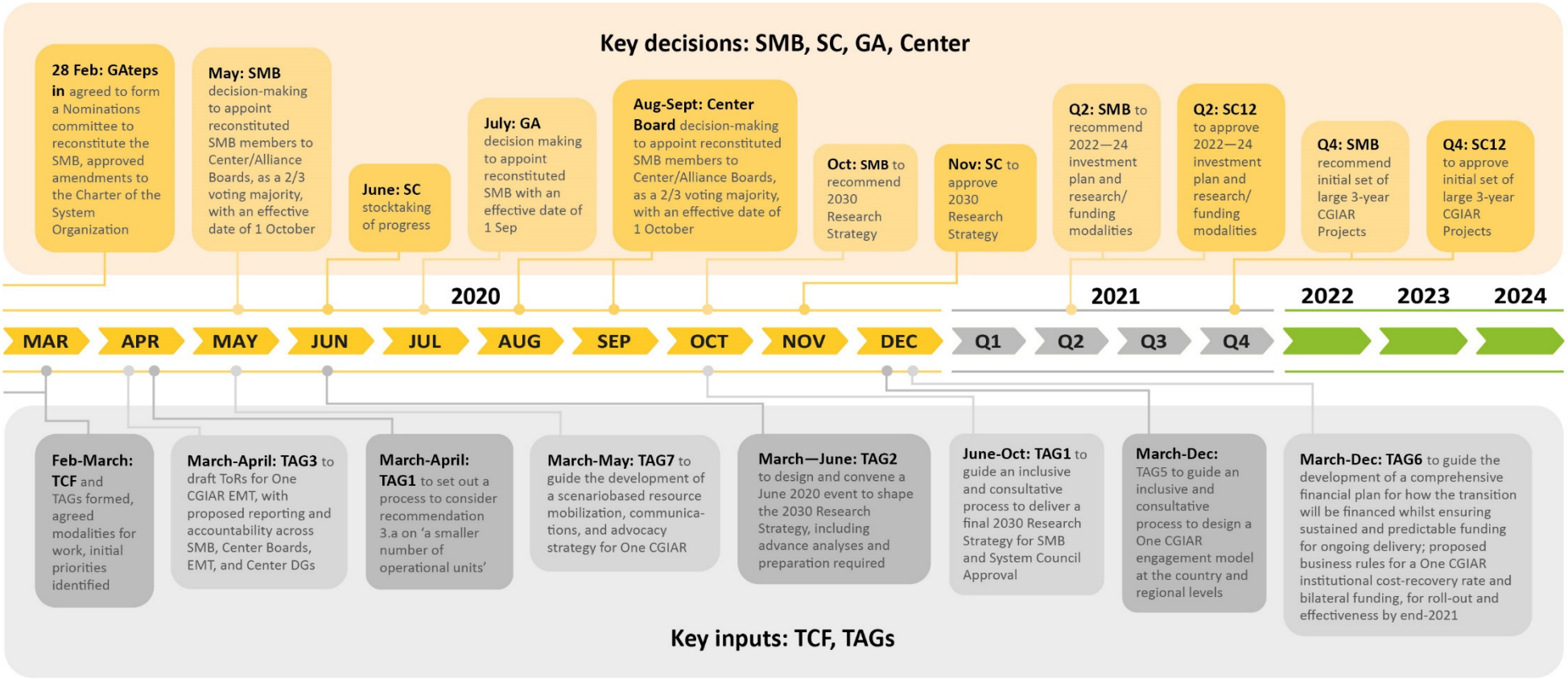
LEADING AND STEWARDING THE TRANSITION

Building on existing roles and responsibilities, and bringing in additional capacity where required to successfully lead and steward the transition to One CGIAR, the below figure summarizes the transition architecture as of 3 March 2020.



PRELIMINARY, HIGH-LEVEL TIMELINE OF DECISIONS AND INPUTS

Based on initial thinking on key decision points in the transition to One CGIAR, and the associated need for TCF and TAG input, the figure below provides a preliminary time line of transition steps in 2020–21. This will be developed in additional detail by each TAG and will remain subject to change in line with a principle of adaptive management.



MEETING AND EVENTS

This is a non-exhaustive overview of recent and upcoming meetings and events related to the transition to One CGIAR. More detailed information will be made available on the dedicated MS Teams workspace for the TCF and shared with additional stakeholders as relevant.

WHEN	WHAT	WHO
	Recent	
13–14 November, 2019	9th meeting of the CGIAR System Council in Chengdu, China. For details, see the Chair's summary and message to CGIAR staff	System Council members, active observers, invited guests, and Secretariat support
12–13 December, 2019	Extraordinary General Assembly of the Centers in Rome, Italy. For details, see the Chair's summary	General Assembly members, facilitation and Secretariat support
28–29 January, 2020	16th Meeting of the System Management Board (SMB) in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. For details, please see the Chair's summary	SMB members, active observers, invited guests, and Secretariat support (please see the Chair's summary for a full list of participants)
5–7 February, 2020	CGIAR 'Big Lifts' workshop in Eschborn, Germany, provided multi-stakeholder input towards the implementation of SRG recommendations 1 (mission) and 4 (new research modality)	Invited guests, including representatives of Funders, Centers, ISDC, and the System Organization
12 February, 2020	Virtual meeting of the General Assembly of the Centers to consider process to reconstitute the SMB and approve associated amendments to the Charter	Members of the General Assembly, Secretariat support
19 February, 2020	1st call of the Transition Consultation Forum (TCF) to discuss proposed forward directions for TCF and Transition Advisory Groups (TAGs)	TCF members, support
	Upcoming	
23–25 March, 2020	Virtual workshops of the TCF and TAGs (TBC)	TCF members, facilitation and Secretariat support
25 March, 2020	Virtual meeting of the General Assembly of the Centers (TBC)	General Assembly members, facilitation and Secretariat support
5–6 May, 2020	17th meeting of the SMB (TBC)	SMB members, active observers, invited guests, and Secretariat support
9–10 June, 2020	10th meeting of the CGIAR System Council in Berlin, Germany	System Council members, active observers, guests, and Secretariat support

CONTACT US

TCF-Support@cgiar.org

BACKGROUND: WHAT IS ONE CGIAR?

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. One CGIAR 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 stronger management, 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 the TCF web page.