

Chair's Summary¹ 13th System Council meeting Virtual meeting, 9-10 June 2021

Dear System Council Members, Active Observers, and invited guests,

With appreciation for depth and quality of conversations that remain possible through global conferencing platforms – our third virtual meeting was held in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the stark reality that there are profound inequalities in global access to vaccines that require urgent global attention. With no one safe until everyone is safe, not only did we pause to express our sincere concern on the news from India on the status of the pandemic, we recognized the major interconnectedness of the growing inequality in vaccine access and food security, with nearly 300 million people in an unacceptable situation with regards to access to safe, nutritious food. We were resolute that 'the time is now' for CGIAR to be part of the solution.

It is significant that 2021 is CGIAR's 50th anniversary year, and we are reminded that global problems are now known to be more complex and interrelated than perceived to be in 1971. Importantly, it is the moment to rise to the challenge of demonstrating the essential need for CGIAR as One CGIAR – a bolder and more operationally integrated institution – we are a stronger global, regional and local partner, and at the forefront of creating solutions.

SC13 was also held against the backdrop of the energy growing around September's 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. The System Council recognized the efforts of so many of its members engaging proactively throughout their institutions to ensure that the UNFSS presents CGIAR with a powerful stage upon which to showcase how, as One CGIAR, we are ready to move the global agenda forward.

Contextual framing of the critical need for CGIAR to continue to implement our change agenda in an increasingly climate-challenged context was expertly provided by remarks from [Dr. Shakuntala Thilsted](#). We congratulated Dr. Thilsted as the 2021 World Food Prize laureate, honored for her contribution to improving the quality, quantity, and availability of food in the world through her pioneering scientific work on nutrition, fish, and aquatic food systems. We commended the fact that this year's award to Dr. Thilsted, an active CGIAR staff member and whose work was carried out in the context of CGIAR research, represents the 25th time that an individual directly associated with CGIAR has been recognized by the World Food Prize in the award's nearly 40 years existence.

We also heard from [Dr. S.M. Bohktiar](#), Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, on the importance and impact of this work on the lives and systems in his

¹ The Chair's Summary is prepared as an early record of key messages and decisions taken, in advance of the more detailed formal meeting summary that will be shared for System Council input and approval.

country, reinforcing the value of country-level and collaborative processes that start with the consumers in mind.

We congratulated the three new Science Group Directors² on their appointments as part of the One CGIAR broader leadership team. For the first time, all CGIAR science and scientists will be brought together in three One CGIAR Science Groups under their leadership, and we recognized these appointments as a key step in establishing a fully integrated operational structure of One CGIAR.

Our deliberative sessions resulted in:

- **Resoundingly positive support for the [‘2022-2024 Investment Prospectus’](#) to be taken forward for development of an initial set of CGIAR Initiatives.** Through deliberations, it was acknowledged that at this stage of the work being undertaken to design the research initiatives to be funded during 2022-2024, ‘Investment Prospectus’ (rather than ‘Investment Plan’) better defined the evolving nature of that work. It was agreed that reframing the document in that way empowers the EMT and Science Group Directors to continue to rationalize, prioritize and refine the science of the prospectus in order to ensure a coherent and compelling portfolio. Commending the significant staff, management and partner time invested to reach this key moment in the design process, System Council members provided rich insights to assist in shaping and strengthening the research initiatives as they are developed. We took note of and appreciated the clarity of messaging from our Independent Science for Development Council on areas to strengthen the prospectus of research initiatives, and areas to watch for as work progresses. The offer for the System Council to receive periodic updates on the ongoing development of the initial initiatives, and further opportunities for engaging with the process, was welcomed.
- **Re-confirmation of the importance of the Funder side of the ‘grand bargain’ – and readiness to provide continued, more, and more pooled funding.** Many affirmed the important need to keep an equal focus on this goal as one of the 5 interconnected System Reference Group recommendations, as a key enabler of CGIAR’s delivery of 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy, recognizing the major internal transformation that Funders have strongly called for, and which is well underway, so that CGIAR operates and presents itself to its global, regional and local partners as an operationally integrated institution. Even at a time when funding is heavily strained due to the ongoing pandemic, there were important positive funding signals, including from some of the country partner members of the System Council. Members from the ‘Funder Champions’ group urged colleagues and all those involved to keep working to realize the important target of CGIAR growing its funding toward a \$2 billion annual institution, to effectively implement One CGIAR, as well as ensure funding for the 2022-2024 research initiatives investment period.[^]

² Dr Barbara Wells, Global Director of Genetic Innovation
 Dr Johan Swinnen, Global Director of Systems Transformation
 Prof Dr Martin Kropff, Global Director of Resilient Agri-Food Systems

- **Approval of additional members of CGIAR's Independent Science for Development Council, confirmation of a further term for the Chair of our Standing Panel of Impact Assessment as well as new SPIA membership, and an extension to the terms of members of our Assurance Oversight Committee.** Most of these appointments were women, with more women in attendance at SC13 as System Council members or alternates than before.
- **Unequivocal messages from System Council members on the much-needed outcome of CGIAR's internal reforms** relating to SRG recommendation no.2, unified governance and the 'checklist' of required changes to governing instruments and how boards work that was developed through the Transition Advisory Group process. There was unanimous emphasis on the need for all Center/Alliance Boards to adopt unified governance to the full extent permitted by hosting agreements and national laws, and take the required decisions to create the necessary enabling and authorizing environment for an empowered leadership team to further transform CGIAR's internal operating structure. While recognizing that change is inherently challenging, System Council members reiterated the connection between the fullest adoption of unified governance as is legally possible and forward-looking funding pipelines. Equally strong in this call for moving swiftly forward, were the voices of many of CGIAR's partner country constituencies, with strong messages of support for operating as one.

We also benefited from a 'highlights' session on the importance of CGIAR being a learning organization and leveraging valuable lessons from impact assessment, evaluation, and previous research programming to support future work and to verify the value of investment. System Council members confirmed both the appetite and need for more in-depth conversations on these key topics in future sessions.

As I close this Chair's summary – I wish to thank System Council colleagues for once again demonstrating our collective ability to hold open and honest discussions and use these to agree clear actions to move CGIAR forward. I recognize the challenges inherent in the continued virtual meeting format and thank all those involved for their tireless efforts to make our meetings as collegiate and fruitful as possible. I remain hopeful that we may be able to meet in-person by year-end, as we continue this important journey to transform CGIAR to meet the world's challenges ever more effectively.

Yours sincerely,
Juergen Voegelé, Ph.D.
Chair, System Council

^ Key messages as delivered by the Funder Champions group can be found in the presentation slides as delivered during the meeting (Day 2, slide 5).

[Link to Day 1 Presentation slides](#)
[Link to Day 2 presentation slides](#)

Appendix 1 – Decisions taken and Agreed positions and actions

DECISIONS

SC/M13/DP1: Meeting Co-Chair

The System Council **appointed** Jim Barnhart, representative from USAID as the non-voting honorary Co-Chair for the meeting, pursuant to Article 5.2 of the CGIAR System Framework.

SC/M13/DP2: Adoption of the Agenda

The System Council **adopted** the Agenda issued on 26 May 2021 (document SC13-01).

SC/M13/DP3: One CGIAR's 2022-2024 Investment Prospectus

The System Council:

- a. **Approved** the 2022-2024 Investment Prospectus for the 3-year business period, pursuant to Article 6.1 a) iii. of the CGIAR System Framework; and
- b. **Took note** of the process going forward, in which the Investment Prospectus and its set of Initiatives will be adaptively managed by the Executive Management Team, advised by the Investment Advisory Groups that are chaired by the Global Science Group Directors.

SC/M13/DP4: Assurance Oversight Committee membership extension

The System Council **approved** the extension of the terms of the following members of the System Council's Assurance Oversight Committee until 30 June 2022, unless earlier determined by the System Council:

- Saad Bounjoua
- Maurice Goddard
- Muriel Uzan
- Daniel van Gilst

SC/M13/DP5: Standing Panel on Impact Assessment membership

The System Council:

- a. **Appointed** Dr. Sujata Visaria as SPIA Standing Panel Member for a three-year term with effect 1 July 2021 unless otherwise decided by the System Council.
- b. **Appointed** Dr. Monica Biradavolu as an additional Special Initiative Member for a three-year term with effect 1 July 2021 unless otherwise decided by the System Council.
- c. **Extended** Dr. Karen Macours as current SPIA Chair for the remaining two years of the allowable six years until 30 September 2023.

SC/M13/DP6: Independent Science for Development Council appointments

The System Council:

- a. **Appointed** Dr. Fetien Abay Abera as a member of the CGIAR's Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC) for a three-year term with effect from 1 July 2021.
- b. **Appointed** Dr. Nompumelelo H. Obokoh as a member of the CGIAR's Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC) for a three-year term with effect from 1 July 2021.
- c. **Appointed** Dr. Magali Garcia as a member of the CGIAR's Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC) for a three-year term with effect from 1 July 2021.
- d. **Took note** that, pursuant to the SC-approved ISDC Member Competencies framework, ISDC members are appointed for an initial three-year term with a one-year assessment period for confirmation of continuation of the term.

ACTIONS AGREED

SC/M13/AP1: Strengthening the development of CGIAR Initiatives

The System Council asked that:

- a. The Executive Management Team **take note of and address**³ of the important inputs provided during SC13 to continue to shape the Investment Prospectus and strengthen the development of the CGIAR Initiatives to be included therein.
- b. The Independent Science for Development Council **provide advice** to the System Council on the coherence of the Investment Prospectus as it takes further shape through the development of the CGIAR Initiatives.
- c. Through System Council mechanisms, **periodic updates** are provided to members on the development of the CGIAR Initiatives and opportunities to engage with the process.

SC/M13/AP2: Supporting unified governance for One CGIAR

The System Council asked that they be **kept informed** on any ongoing challenges regarding full adoption of unified governance as one of the 5 interconnected elements of One CGIAR.

³ Note (23 August 2021): Action language amended in approved version of the formal SC13 meeting summary and thus adjusted here.

Appendix 2 - Participants

Chair: Juergen Voegelé, Vice President for Sustainable Development, World Bank

Co-Chair: Jim Barnhart, Assistant to the Administrator-Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, USAID

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

Members and Alternates

Constituency/Country	Name	Role
AfDB	Jonas Chianu**	Designated attendee
Australia	Andrew Campbell	Member
	Julianne Biddle	Alternate
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Tony Cavalieri	Member
	Renee Lafitte	Alternate
Canada	Stephen Potter	Member
	Christophe Kadji	Alternate (designated)
East Asia and Pacific	Hao Weiping	Member (China)
European Commission	Christophe Larose	Member
Germany & Belgium	Sebastian Lesch	Member (Germany)
	Carol Durieux	Alternate (Belgium)
Japan	Naoko Takasugi	Member
	Fumiaki Sato	Alternate
Latin America and Caribbean	Maria Isabel Remy Simatovic	Member (Peru)
	Pedro Machado	Alternate (Brazil)
Mexico	Adriana Herrera-Moreno	Member
	Bernardo Orozco**	Designated attendee (Day 1 only)
The Netherlands	Wijnand van Ijssel	Member
Norway	Even Stormoen	Member
	Daniel van Gilst	Alternate
South Asia	Trilochan Mohapatra	Member (India)
	Shaikh Mohammad Bokhtiar	Alternate (Bangladesh) (Day 1 only)
	Mian Sayeed Hassan**	Designated attendee Bangladesh (Day 2 only)
Sub-Saharan Africa	Garba Sharubutu	Member (Nigeria) (Day 1 only)
Sweden	AnnaKarin Norling	Member
Switzerland	Michel Evéquoz	Member
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Alan Tollervey	Member
United States of America	Eric Witte*	Alternate
West Asia & North Africa	Nevzat Birişik	Member (Turkey)
	Mohammad Reza Balali	Alternate (Iran)
World Bank	Mark Cackler	Member
	Michael Morris	Alternate

Apologies

Constituency/Country	Name	Role
East Asia and Pacific	Djati Wicaksono	Alternate (Indonesia)
Sub-Saharan Africa	Eliud Kireger	Alternate (Kenya)
United States of America	Rob Bertram	Member
Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR)	Raffaele Maiorano	Member

Non-voting Ex-Officio Members

Organization/Role	Name
CGIAR System Board, Chair	Marco Ferroni
Center/Alliance Representative 1: Convener of the Chairs of Center Boards of Trustees	Nicole Birrell
Center/Alliance Representative 2: Convener of the Center Directors General	Jean Balié
Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Ismahane Elouafi (Member) (Day 1 only)
	Selvaraju Ramasamy (Alternate)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Malu Ndavi (Alternate)

Active Observers

Organization/Role	Name
Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR)	Matthew Montavon**
CGIAR Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC)	Holger Meinke (Chair)

Invited Guests

Organization/Role	Name
Trustee of the CGIAR Trust Fund (the World Bank)	Jane Mwebi Chalida Chararnsuk Jorge Lanza Lewam Nerayo
France, Chair of CRAI (Commission de la Recherche Agricole Internationale)	Bernard Hubert
France, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation	Frederic Lapeyrie
CGIAR System Council's Assurance Oversight Committee (AOC), Chair	Saad Bounjoua
CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA), Chair	Karen Macours

Additional Constituency/Country Delegates

Constituency/Country	Name	Role
Canada	Santiago Alba Corral	Additional delegate (Day 1 only)
East Asia and Pacific	Jinjin Zhu	Additional delegate (China)
	Wenbo Liu	Additional delegate (China)
	Yuankai Jia	Additional delegate (China)
	Zhang Yahui	Additional delegate (China) (Day 2 only)
Germany & Belgium	Michel Bernhardt	Additional delegate (Germany)
	René Franke	Additional delegate (Germany)
	Sarah Schmidt	Additional delegate (Germany)
	Stefan Kachelriess-Matthess	Additional delegate (Germany)
Japan	Masa Iwanaga	Additional delegate
	Hiroshi Honjo	Additional delegate (Day 1 only)
	Shintaro Kobayashi	Additional delegate
	Miyuki Iiyama	Additional delegate
Latin American and Caribbean	Alberto Maurer	Additional delegate (Peru)
	Carlos De los Ríos	Additional delegate (Peru)
	Juan Carlos Guerrero Abad	Additional delegate (Peru)
	Noemi Marmanillo Bustamante	Additional delegate (Peru)
	Roberto Soldevilla Garcia	Additional delegate (Peru)

Constituency/Country	Name	Role
	Renee Janette Pacheco Santos	Additional delegate (Peru)
South Asia	Mustafizur Rahman	Additional delegate (Bangladesh)
Sweden	Philip Chiverton	Additional delegate
West Asia and North Africa	Hassan Momeni	Additional delegate (Iran)
	Merve Altan	Additional delegate (Turkey)

Additional Invited Observers

Organization	Name
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark	Mike Speirs
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland	Chris Somerville
One CGIAR Executive Management Team	Claudia Sadoff
	Kundhavi Kadiresan
	Elwyn Grainger-Jones (<i>ex-officio non-voting member in capacity as Executive Director, CGIAR System Organization</i>)
CGIAR Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC)	Lesley Torrance
	Nighisty Ghezae
One CGIAR Science Group Directors (agenda item 3 only)	Barbara Wells
	Jo Swinnen
	Martin Kropff

SC Secretary

Karmen Bennett, Director, Board and Council Relations, CGIAR System Organization
--

Technical resource/operational support

Organization	Name/Role
World Bank	Jonathan Wadsworth, Lead Climate Change Specialist
CGIAR Advisory Services Shared Secretariat	Allison Grove Smith, Director
	Amy Beaudreault, ISDC Senior Manager (Day 1)
	Ricardo Labarta, SPIA Senior Manager (Day 2)
	Svetlana Negroustoueva, Evaluation Senior Manager (Day 2)
CGIAR System Organization (Technical inputs for sessions; meeting management; logistics support)	André Zandstra, Director, Funder and External Engagement
	Elise Perset, Director, Legal and Office Services
	Sonja Vermeulen, Director, Programs
	Michael Gerba, Co-Coordinator, One CGIAR Business Operations & Finance
	Madina Bazarova, Head, CGIAR Internal Audit Function, CGIAR System
	Christine Larson-Luhila, Deputy Director, Board and Council Relations
	Kristina Röing de Nowina, Deputy Director, Funder and External Engagement
	Ekaterina Krivonos, Deputy Director, Programs (Day 1)
	Roland Sundstrom, Senior Advisor
	Yorgos Solomos, Senior Advisor, Risk Management
	Nadia Manning-Thomas, Board and Council Relations Manager
	Olwen Cussen, Board and Council Relations Officer
	Victoria Pezzi, Meetings and Events Coordinator
	Krishna Ravinthiren, Board and Council Relations Associate