

Chair's Summary¹ 14th System Council meeting Virtual meeting, 15-16 December 2021

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

As 2021 draws to an end, and reflecting on our meeting just concluded, I express my profound thanks to all those across CGIAR's staff, funders, advisory services and partners for the dedicated and thoughtful work during this year.

At the meeting's outset we reflected on the messaging that we heard so clearly during COP26 in Glasgow – the urgent need for us to all to step up even further than we are already doing in the face the climate emergency. What has really shifted is the increased focus on the food security and natural resources management agenda, and CGIAR – as One CGIAR – is well represented in the right conversations and the world is ready for what we can now offer.

The climate crisis cannot be solved without a fundamental change in how we produce and consume our food and manage our land- and waterscapes, and that cannot be done without the underpinning research to accelerate such a transition. Our SC14 meeting was therefore a critical moment in signaling internally and externally that CGIAR is rising to meet this challenge with a powerful and compelling portfolio of research that delivers against CGIAR's 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy.

As a Council we were resounding in our approval of the first group of 19 CGIAR Initiatives to launch from January 2022. We were guided in our decision making by the expert advice of CGIAR's Independent Science for Development Council ('ISDC') following their review of the Companion Document to the 2022-2024 Prospectus, and the ISDC moderated external independent review of the 19 Initiative Proposals. The robustness of that review demonstrated the value that strong independent advice brings to both System Council deliberations, and our scientists who are deeply committed to strengthening their work as they deliver on the research agenda. We asked that when the Council next convenes, CGIAR's Executive Management Team ('EMT') present an overall response to the ISDC's review of the Companion Document and advise how observations and learnings from the ISDC's moderated external review have been or will be taken up.

Our deliberations also considered how management, funders and stakeholders will be able to continue to engage with and derive strong reporting from the Prospectus as it is delivered. A 'deep-dive' session prior to the main System Council meeting provided an insight into the cross-portfolio analytics that will yield insightful reporting on results and impact, and the EMT committed to share by our next meeting a proposal on mechanisms to enable funders to engage appropriately with the delivery of Initiatives and Impact Area Platforms.

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.

The Council also considered reports from its standing committees, which spoke to the strength of the work being delivered by CGIAR's Advisory Services. **We unanimously supported the workplans and budgets for external advice from our ISDC, CGIAR's Standing Panel on Impact Assessment and the Shared Secretariat to support the independent evaluation function for the 2022-2024 period.** This will also enable commissioned studies by ISDC to support CGIAR work articulating comparative advantage and innovation topics – key areas of importance for many System Council members.

When we took the decision to move to a more integrated, more impactful One CGIAR two years ago in Chengdu, we were clear that scaled-up ambition in CGIAR's delivery for greater impact would need to be matched by increased pooled and longer-term funding. At this meeting we heard that the funding community is delivering on this key element of the System Reference Group recommendations², with expressions of commitments stated during the session by several System Council Funders. I was delighted to see this resolve and demonstration of confidence in how we are now delivering on the vision laid out in Chengdu.

Those commitments enabled us to approve a 2022-2024 CGIAR Portfolio and Designated Financing Plan ('FINPLAN') including allocations of funding to the CGIAR Initiatives that are to commence from 1 January 2022. We noted that as additional data points become available, an updated FINPLAN be developed and will come back to the Council in 2022. Those data points will include agreed or projected operational designations of pooled funding, with the System Council providing additional guidance on how the process of designation can be optimized, recognizing that to the extent possible, pooled funding is the option that gives greatest strategic flexibility.

There was a shared understanding that our decisions in Chengdu were premised on all five of the interconnected recommendations being implemented, as reinforced in System Council meetings and additional adhoc calls since November 2012. Against this background, we deliberated on drafting changes to embody unified governance in the CGIAR System Framework, being the document that sets out the elements and mandate of CGIAR as a system, together with nomenclature changes to the various underpinning funding agreements to be achieved via a change to the CGIAR Glossary. With consensus being our preferred modality, we agreed on all but one of the changes at SC14 and requested that a further decision will be presented to us early in the 2022 year to align System Council decision making with the agreed position from Chengdu. This session reinforced the value of even deeper engagement with the headquarter host countries of CGIAR's legal entities as key partners than present, which we committed to continue to build and strengthen. The importance of continuing to streamline governance arrangements was echoed in reflections shared by the CGIAR System Board Chair on how the System Board is overseeing transition to One CGIAR, and the System Council shared its appreciation to the System Board for its diligent work in this regard.

We received an update on how delivery of the 2019-2021 Business Plan had proceeded and appreciated the tabling of a 2022-2024 Transition Plan for the next 3-year period. We noted how the move to One CGIAR has enabled CGIAR to, in many respects, 'over-deliver' on the

² [One CGIAR: A bold set of recommendations to the System Council](#)

ambition of that earlier plan, and System Council members shared constructive inputs on priority focus areas as the EMT refines and finalizes the 2022-2024 Transition Plan.

The decisions and actions that we agreed are set out in full below, but as I close this Chair's summary, I wish to thank System Council colleagues for once again demonstrating our collective ability to reach consensus to take CGIAR forward even in the continued virtual format. While we acknowledged that sitting around a 'virtual table' had transpired to be the right course on this occasion given the current COVID-19 situation, I know that my fellow members – as well as I – look forward to gathering again in-person, ideally early in 2022.

With warm wishes for the holiday season,

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

Appendix 1 – Decisions taken and Agreed positions and actions

DECISIONS

SC/M14/DP1: Meeting Co-Chair

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

SC/M14/DP2: Adoption of the Agenda

The System Council **adopted** the Agenda as issued on 1 December 2021 (document SC14-01).

SC/M14/DP3: 2022-2024 CGIAR Portfolio approval

The System Council:

- a. **Took note** of the important observations and learnings arising from the Independent Science for Development ('ISDC') review of the CGIAR 2022-2024 CGIAR Prospectus Companion document ('Companion Document'), and the ISDC moderated external independent review of the first group of 19 Initiative proposals submitted under the framework of that Companion Document, recognizing that a further 13 Initiative proposals are scheduled for ISDC moderated external independent review during the first half of 2022;
- b. **Approved**, pursuant to Article 6.1.q) of the CGIAR System Framework and with effect from 1 January 2022:
 - i. the 19 Initiative proposals as key elements of the CGIAR Portfolio for 2022-2024;
 - ii. the indicative funding amounts for those 19 Initiative proposals and the 5 Impact Area Platforms as set out in the 2022-2024 CGIAR Portfolio and Designated Financing Plan,

with the understanding that approaches to the ongoing adaptive management of the 19 Initiatives will be further developed during Initiative implementation under the leadership and stewardship of the CGIAR Science Group Directors in collaboration with CGIAR's Executive Management Team.

- c. **Requested** that at the System Council's 15th meeting (indicatively scheduled for the week of 7 March 2022), the Executive Management Team:
 - i. provide an overall response to the ISDC's review of the Companion Document; and
 - ii. document how the observations and learnings from the ISDC moderated external review of the 19 Initiatives have been or shall be take up over which timetable, as relevant, whilst continuing to ensure an overall coherent and cohesive CGIAR Portfolio for 2021-2024.

SC/M14/DP4: CGIAR Advisory Services

The System Council pursuant to Article 6.1 u) of the CGIAR System Framework, the System Council **approved** the 2022-2024 Workplan & Budget for CGIAR's Advisory Services.

SC/M14/DP5: Aligning to One CGIAR in key governing and funding documents

The System Council:

1. **Took note** of the materials presented for deliberation at SC14 regarding the move to ensuring financial support for the new CGIAR Portfolio of Initiatives and Platforms under agenda item 6, and the discussion during the meeting on potential interlinkages with those materials and the agreements giving rise to the international organization status that Mexico grants to CIMMYT.
2. **Recorded** the time-sensitive nature of ensuring that the Initiatives and Platforms approved for pooled funding at SC14 can have access to that pooled funding.
3. **Decided to:**
 - a. **approve** the proposed amendments to the CGIAR Glossary as set forth in Appendix 1 of document SC14-06 effective 1 January 2022, taking note that the amended CGIAR Glossary will not apply to the agreements entered into between the System Organization and those Centers and organizations that have not adopted One CGIAR unified governance; and
 - b. **approve** the proposed amendments to the CGIAR System Framework as set forth in Appendix 2 (revised) of document SC14-06 effective 1 January 2022, with that decision being to retain the definition of 'Center' as agreed from 1 July 2016 until the System Council otherwise may agree
4. **Recognized** in respect of item 3.a that further amendments to the funding agreements between the System Organization and the Centers may be needed to better reflect the evolving operational modalities of One CGIAR, and that any such amendments will be carried out under the purview of the System Board.
5. **Requested** that the Secretary of the System Council bring back to the System Council by not later than 1 February 2022, a proposal for approval by the System Council to update the definition of a CGIAR Center after further consultation with Mexico.
6. **Further noted** that the System Organization has been requested by the System Board to make conforming changes to the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization to reflect the agreed amendments to the CGIAR System Framework, for presentation of the amended Charter for System Council electronic approval as soon as possible.

SC/M14/DP6: CGIAR 2022-2024 Portfolio and Designated Financing Plan (FINPLAN)

Pursuant to Articles 6.1 s) and u) of the CGIAR System Framework, the System Council:

- a. **Approved** the 2022-2024 CGIAR Portfolio and Designated Financing Plan ('2022-2024 FINPLAN'); and
- b. **Noted** that an updated 2022-2024 FinPlan will be developed and presented in Q1 2022 based on a revised budgeting exercise and to reflect additional data points gained.

SC/M14/DP7: SIMEC Membership

The System Council **approved** the appointment of the following membership of the Strategic Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee to 30 June 2022, unless earlier determined by the System Council:

- Dougou Keita (African Development Bank)
- Bethany Davies (Australia)
- Ruben Echeverría (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)
- Raphael Nawrotzki (Germany & Belgium)
- Philip Chiverton (Sweden)
- Alan Tollervey (United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland)

SC/M14/DP8: System Council Intellectual Property Group membership

The System Council **approved** the extension of the following persons as members of the System Council Intellectual Property Group with effect until 31 October 2022, noting that such persons serve in a personal capacity and not as a representative of any of the System Council's constituencies:

- Aline Flower, Member (Associate General Counsel, Global Development, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) originally nominated by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; and
- Bram De Jonge, Member (Seed Policy Advisor OXFAM/Wageningen University) originally nominated by EIARD.

ACTIONS AGREED

SC/M14/AP1: 2022-2024 CGIAR Portfolio modalities

Taking into account deliberations around delivery of the CGIAR Portfolio for the 2022-2024 period, the System Council **noted** that:

- a. a proposal will be submitted at SC15 by the Executive Management Team for the establishment of mechanisms to enable funders to engage appropriately with the delivery of Initiatives and Impact Area Platforms; and
- b. the Q1-2022 updated 2022-2024 CGIAR Portfolio and Designated Financing Plan will provide enhanced clarification on how mapping of funding to the CGIAR Portfolio will be adjusted over time dependent on Funder indications of available financing

Appendix 2 - Participants

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

Co-Chair: AnnaKarin Norling, Senior Research Advisor, Unit for Research Cooperation, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

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
African Development Bank	Martin Fregene	Member
Australia	Daniel Walker	Member
	Julianne Biddle	Alternate
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Renee Lafitte	Member
	Rinn Self	Alternate
Canada	Hong-Won Yu	Member
	Mushtaq Ahmed	Alternate
East Asia and Pacific	Hao Weiping	Member (China)
European Commission	Christophe Larose	Member
Germany & Belgium	Sebastian Lesch	Member (Germany)
	Carol Durieux	Alternate (Belgium)
Japan	Akiko Tejima	Member
	Takuma Kojima	Alternate
Latin America & Caribbean	Juan Rodo Altamirano Quispe	Member (Peru)
	Pedro Machado	Alternate (Brazil)
Mexico	Adriana Herrera-Moreno	Member
The Netherlands	Wilma van Esch** (Day 1 only)	Member
	Wijnand van Ijssel	
Norway	Daniel van Gilst	Member
South Asia	Trilochan Mohapatra	Member (India)
Sub-Saharan Africa	Garba Sharubutu	Member (Nigeria)
	Eliud Kireger	Alternate (Kenya)
Sweden	AnnaKarin Norling	Member
	Philip Chiverton	Alternate
Switzerland	Michel Evéquoz	Member
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Alan Tollervey	Member
United States of America	Rob Bertram	Member
West Asia & North Africa	Nevzat Birişik (Day 1 only)	Member (Turkey)
	İlhan Aydın** (Day 2 only)	
	Mohammad Reza Balali	Alternate (Iran)
World Bank	Mark Cackler	Member
	Michael Morris	Alternate

Non-voting Ex-Officio Members

Organization/Role	Name
CGIAR System Board, Chair	Marco Ferroni
Executive Director, CGIAR System Organization	Elwyn Grainger-Jones
Center/Alliance Representative 1: Representative of the Chairs of Center Boards of Trustees	Rodney Cooke
Center/Alliance Representative 2: Representative of the Center Directors General	Jean Balié
Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Selvaraju Ramasamy (Alternate)

Active Observers

Organization/Role	Name
Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR)	Hildegard Lingnau Ravi Khetarpal (Day 1 only)
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 Gerard Jumamil Lewam Afework Mengesha
France, Chair of CRAI (Commission de la Recherche Agricole Internationale)	Bernard Hubert
France, Director of IRD Expertise and Consultancy Mission	Jean Albergel
CGIAR System Council's Assurance Oversight Committee (AOC), Chair	<i>Vacant</i>
CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA), Chair	Karen Macours

SC Secretary

Karmen Bennett, Global Director, Governance & Assurance (a.i.)
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Additional Delegates

Constituency/Country	Name	Role
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Ruben Echeverría	Additional delegate
Canada	Kevin Tiessen	Additional delegate
	James Breithaupt	Additional delegate
East Asia and Pacific	Chao Yu	Additional delegate (China)
	Jinjin Zhu	Additional delegate (China)
	Zhai Lin	Additional delegate (China)
Germany & Belgium	Felicitas Roehrig	Additional delegate (Germany)
	René Franke	Additional delegate (Germany)
	Sarah Schmidt	Additional delegate (Germany)
	Stefan Kachelriess-Matthess	Additional delegate (Germany)
Japan	Masa Iwanaga	Additional delegate
	Shintaro Kobayashi	Additional delegate
	Takashi Kato	Additional delegate (Day 1 only)
Latin America and Caribbean	Janette Pacheco Santos	Additional delegate (Peru)
	Nery Roncal	Additional delegate (Peru)
	Noemí Marmanillo Bustamante	Additional delegate (Peru)
Mexico	Bernardo Orozco Sánchez	Additional delegate (Day 2 only)
South Asia	Mustafizur Rahman	Additional delegate (Bangladesh)

Constituency/Country	Name	Role
USA	Jerry Glover	Additional delegate
	Seema Mahini	Additional delegate
West Asia and North Africa	Fatma Sarsu	Additional delegate (Turkey)
	Merve Altan	Additional delegate (Turkey)
	Tuğçe Uslu	Additional delegate (Turkey)
World Bank	Martien Van Nieuwkoop	Additional delegate
	Sarah Simons	Additional delegate

Additional Invitees

Organization	Name
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark	Mike Speirs
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland	Patrick McManus
INTPA and EIARD	Nienke Beintema
One CGIAR Executive Management Team	Claudia Sadoff
	Kundhavi Kadiresan
CGIAR Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC)	Lesley Torrance
	Chris Barrett
	Nompumelelo H. Obokoh

Technical resources/operational support

Organization	Name/Role
World Bank	Jonathan Wadsworth, Lead Climate Change Specialist (SC Chair support)
CGIAR Advisory Services Shared Secretariat	Allison Grove Smith, Director
	Amy Beaudreault, ISDC Senior Manager (Item 3 only)
	Svetlana Negroustoueva, Evaluation Function Lead (Item 4 only)
One CGIAR and CGIAR System Organization (Technical inputs for sessions; meeting management; logistics support)	André Zandstra, Global Director, Innovative Finance and Resource Mobilization
	Barbara Wells, Global Director, Genetic Innovations (Items 3 & 7 only)
	Fiona Bourdin-Farrell, Global Director, People and Culture (Item 9 only)
	Khuloud Odeh, Global Director, Digital Services (Items 3, 4 & 9 only)
	Jo Swinnen, Global Director, Systems Transformation (Items 3 & 7 only)
	Juan Lucas Restrepo, Global Director, Partnerships & Advocacy (Items 2 & 3 only)
	Marion Barriskell, Global Director, Business Operations and Finance
	Martin Kropff, Global Director, Resilient Agri-food Systems (Items 3 & 7 only)
	Andrew Giddings, Director, Office of Ethics and Business Conduct
	Elise Perset, Director, Legal and Office Services
	Sonja Vermeulen, Director, Programs (Item 3 only)
	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
	Roland Sundstrom, Senior Advisor
	Alexandra Diakite, Project Manager (Item 9 only)
	Aly-Khan Jamal, TPMU, Dalberg Team (Item 9 only)
Olwen Cussen, Board and Council Relations Officer	
Victoria Pezzi, Meetings and Events Coordinator	
Thomas Müller, One CGIAR Transition & System Council Workflow Coordinator	