

Chair's Summary¹
16th System Council meeting
Virtual, 20 July 2022

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

The timing of the System Council coming together for an intersessional virtual meeting could not have been more apt – **a profound global shift is needed in the world's policies, systems, and practices to address the global food system and the evolving food price crisis.**

Our meeting opened with a powerful framing from the meeting Co-Chair, Professor Garba Sharubutu (voting member of our [Sub-Saharan Africa](#) constituency), **on the need for a systemic and coordinated approach that transcends any one commodity, region or discipline** – while recognizing that the impacts and issues in each country are specific, as well as interlinked.

CGIAR's Managing Director, Research Delivery & Impact (and EMT convener) and its three Global Science Directors presented an unequivocal reminder of the critical importance for the world that CGIAR's response be united in the face of unprecedented pressures on our food, land and water systems. System Council members expressed their appreciation for the high quality of CGIAR data and analysis in supporting decision-making in their own institutions, constituencies, and global partnerships – underlining the vital need to ensure that such standing capacity is built and sustained in readiness for the next inevitable global shock.

Particularly welcomed by System Council participants was the presenters' emphasis that CGIAR's response is both a 'here and now' focused, as well as one that considers medium- to longer-term solutions. Appreciating that time had not permitted the System Council to fully explore the proposal of establishing a dedicated crisis response facility, it was agreed that a technical briefing session should be arranged – such that any formal approval by the System Council could be expedited.

It was also emphasized by many of the System Council members that spoke to the presentation, **that it is evident that CGIAR's clearly demonstrated capacity to articulate its response is underpinned by acting as 'One CGIAR' as envisioned in Chengdu – and that such a response cannot be achieved by any one Center acting alone.**

We heard a comprehensive update from the System Board Chair and the EMT on progress towards operating as One CGIAR. Several System Council members re-affirmed that the effective delivery of the transition must remain a key focus – as an enabler and not a substitute for deploying CGIAR's global, regional, and local scientific capacity. Emphasis was again made on ensuring the Global Science Group Directors have the necessary formal authorities.

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.

We applauded the intensified engagement with CGIAR's partners and stakeholders in recent months, including through a significant number and range of in-person meetings, workshops and activities that have been re-enabled as global travel restrictions have been eased – and the System Council continues to be encouraged by the resultant positive tone and constructive steps forward. Based on meeting materials presented, the System Council was supportive of the pragmatic approach agreed by CGIAR's Senior Leadership Team over past weeks and months, to advance delivery of the transition to operating as One CGIAR through implementation of an integrated matrix structure. An opportunity exists for a follow-up engagement with the System Council to be scheduled to share how this will work in more detail and capture insights from those who have successfully implemented matrix-based models.

The System Board Chair set out a planned way forward for the innovative proposal titled 'Accelerating Crop Improvement Through Genome Editing', highlighting the important research questions proposed in the proposal, and the independent counsel received from the externally moderated review of its contents². Since protocol and regulatory contexts differ between Funders, the System Council appreciated that CGIAR management had anticipated that an alternative funding approach may be necessary, recognizing that the strong science contained within the proposal would add considerable value to the integrated research portfolio. It was noted that a summary memorandum on the funding and reporting approach would be forthcoming after System Board consideration of the key topics involved.

An engaging session on a recent evaluation undertaken on the 2017-2021 Excellence in Breeding Platform once again demonstrated the value of impartial external evaluations in raising potentially challenging issues constructively, coupled with commitment from management to embed learnings systematically and in a forward-looking way. There was recognition that there are important learnings for CGIAR as it moves to deliver the prospectus of interconnected Initiatives and Impact Area Platforms. Both the EiB evaluation and the 2021 Synthesis of learning from a decade of CGIAR Research Programs generated carefully considered management responses.

Benefiting from a series of pre-calls led by the Chair of CGIAR's Independent Science for Development Council ('ISDC'), **the System Council also took decisions to extend the terms of the ISDC Chair and three of its members and appoint an ISDC Vice Chair from 1 October 2022** recognizing the value of strong independent scientific advice and appropriate succession planning to maintain this valued expert capacity at a critical time for CGIAR.

The decisions and actions that we agreed are set out in full below, and a full meeting summary will be provided on a timely basis, in line with our Rules of Procedure.

As I close this Chair's summary, **I wish to particularly thank those who have undertaken considerable and dedicated work 'behind the scenes' since the System Council's last meeting to continue towards achieving what we agreed in Chengdu – essential now more than ever given the extraordinary challenges the world is facing.**

² https://storage.googleapis.com/cgiarorg/2022/07/SC16-04b.ii_ISDC-Review_Genome-Editing-Proposal.pdf

An annual \$2bn-funded CGIAR is needed sooner rather than later, and I would call on all of us to push towards that goal to ensure that the promise of our science and innovation proposition can be realized.

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

Appendix 1 – Decisions taken and Agreed positions and actions

DECISIONS

SC/M16/DP1: Meeting Co-Chair

The System Council **appointed** Professor Garba Sharubutu, representative from Nigeria of the Sub-Saharan Africa constituency as the non-voting Co-Chair for the meeting, pursuant to Article 5.2 of the CGIAR System Framework.

SC/M16/DP2: Adoption of the Agenda

The System Council **adopted** the Agenda (document SC16-01).

SC/M16/DP3: Evaluations

Pursuant to Article 6.1 ff) of the CGIAR System Framework, the System Council **endorsed** the Evaluation of the CGIAR Platform for Excellence in Breeding and its accompanying management response.

SC/M16/DP4: ISDC Membership & Succession

Pursuant to Articles 6.1 e) and f) of the CGIAR System Framework, the System Council:

- i. **Appointed** Professor Holger Meinke as Chair of CGIAR's Independent Science for Development Council ('ISDC') for a second three-year term effective from 21 September 2022;
- ii. **Approved** the revised Terms of Reference for ISDC, as set out in Annex 4 of document SC16-06a.i;
- iii. **Approved** the Terms of Reference for the ISDC Vice Chair, as set out in Annex 5 of document SC16-06a.i;
- iv. **Appointed** Dr. Nompumelelo Obokoh as ISDC Vice Chair for a three-year term effective from 1 October 2022; and
- v. **Appointed** Drs. Andrew Ash, Suneetha Kadiyala and Lesley Torrance as ISDC members for a second three-year term effective from 1 October 2022.

SC/M16/DP5: Nomenclature Change: CGIAR Advisory Services Shared Secretariat

The System Council **approved** the amendment of CGIAR's governing instruments and all relevant governing policy documents to change any and all references to CGIAR Advisory Services Shared Secretariat to CGIAR's Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service.

ACTIONS AGREED

SC/M16/AP1: System Council intersessional engagement

Building on deliberations during SC16 on CGIAR's response to the global food crisis and on the transition to One CGIAR, the System Council noted that:

- i. A proposal will be prepared, by end-September 2022, or earlier if possible, for System Council review and input on a possible financing mechanism to enable additional contributions to support CGIAR's response to the global food crisis; and
- ii. An ad-hoc System Council call will be scheduled in September 2022 to provide the opportunity for more in-depth exploration of and input to CGIAR's integrated matrix structure.

SC/M16/AP2: Taking forward research from the 6th Genetic Innovation Initiative

The Executive Management Team will prepare and share with the System Council, by end-September 2022, or earlier if possible, a memorandum setting out the planned approach to ensuring that research on "Accelerating Crop Improvement Through Genome Editing" can be taken forward on an interim basis through appropriate funding arrangements and under the overall management of CGIAR's Global Science Group Directors.

Appendix 2 - Participants

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

Co-Chair: G.H. Sharubutu, Executive Secretary of the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN)

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

System Council Voting Members (alphabetically)	Representative	Role
African Development Bank	Martin Fregene	Member
Australia	Andrew Campbell	Member
	Julianne Biddle	Alternate
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Ruben Echeverria	Member
	Renee Lafitte	Alternate
Canada	Hong-Won Yu	Member
East Asia and Pacific	Hao Weiping	Member (China)
European Commission	Christophe Larose	Member
Germany & Belgium	Sebastian Lesch	Member (Germany)
Japan	Akiko Tejima	Member
	Takuma Kojima	Alternate
Latin America and Caribbean	Jorge Mario Diaz Luengas*	Member
Mexico	Adriana Herrera-Moreno	Member
The Netherlands	Wijnand van Ijssel	Member
Norway	Daniel van Gilst*	Member
Sub-Saharan Africa	Garba Sharubutu	Member (Nigeria)
	Eliud Kireger	Alternate (Kenya)
Sweden	AnnaKarin Norling	Member
Switzerland	Manfred Kaufmann	Member
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Alan Tollervey	Member
United States	Rob Bertram	Member
West Asia & North Africa	Metin Türker	Member (Türkiye)
	Mohammad Reza Balali	Alternate (Iran)
The World Bank	Martien Van Nieuwkoop	Member
	Michael Morris	Alternate
<i>Funders that met criteria of Additional Temporary Voting members – Annex B, CGIAR System Framework</i>		
Ireland	Patrick McManus	

Non-voting Ex-Officio Members	Member
CGIAR System Board, Chair	Marco Ferroni
Executive Director of the System Organization	Khuloud Odeh (a.i.) and CGIAR Global Director, Digital & Data
Center/Alliance Representative 1 – Board Chairs	Elsa Murano
Center/Alliance Representative 2 – Directors General	Oscar Ortiz (on behalf of Jean Balié)

Active Observers	Representative
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CGIAR Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC)	Holger Meinke (Chair) Additional delegates (ISDC Members): Lesley Torrance, Nompumelelo H. Obokoh
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SC Secretary
Karmen Bennett, Global Director, Governance & Assurance (a.i.)

Invited Guests	Representative
Representative of Trustee of the CGIAR Trust Fund (World Bank)	Jane Mwebi (Trustee) Additional delegates: Chalida Chararnsuk, Lewam Mengesha; Jorge Alberto Fuentes Lanza
France, Chair of CRAI (Commission de la Recherche Agricole Internationale)	Bernard Hubert
France, Ministry of Higher Education and Research	Jean Albergel
CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA), Chair	Karen Macours

Invited attendees	Name
Italy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ludovico Banova Roberta Trevisi
EIARD Secretary	Nienke Beintema

Additional Invitees	Name
One CGIAR Executive Management Team	Claudia Sadoff, EMT Convener and Managing Director, Research Delivery and Impact Elwyn Grainger-Jones, Managing Director, Institutional Strategy and Systems

Additional Delegates

Representation	Name
Canada	Anatoliy Shatkovskyy
	Santiago Alba Corral
East Asia and Pacific (China)	Zhai Lin
	Yanzhou Qi
Germany	Stefan Kachelriess-Matthess
	Sarah Schmidt
	Felicitas Röhrig
	Veronika Vogel
Japan	Yuko Watanabe
	Satoru Muranaka
Latin America and Caribbean	Janette Pacheco (Peru)
Sub-Saharan Africa (Kenya)	Carolyne Minayo
United States	Gary Jahn (agenda item 4-6)
West Asia and North Africa	Fatma Sarsu (Türkiye)
	Aykut Ordukaya (Türkiye)
	Didem Kökden (Türkiye)
World Bank	Julian A. Lampietti (agenda item 1-3)
	Sarah A. Simons (agenda item 1-3)

Technical resources	Name/Role/Organization
SC Chair adviser	Jonathan Wadsworth, Lead Agriculture Specialist, Agriculture and Food Global Practice, World Bank
CGIAR	André Zandstra, CGIAR Global Director, Innovative Finance and Resource Mobilization
	Johan Swinnen, Global Director, Systems Transformation
	Kristina Röing de Nowina, Deputy Director, Funder and External Engagement
	Lotte Pang, CGIAR Global Director, Communications and Outreach
	Marion Barriskell, CGIAR Global Director, Business Operations and Finance
	Martin Kropff, CGIAR Global Director, Resilient Agri-food Systems
	Olwen Cussen, Governance and Institutional Risk Officer, System Organization
	Roland Sundstrom, Senior Advisor, Executive Management Team
	Sonja Vermeulen, CGIAR Global Director, Genetic Innovation (a.i.)
CGIAR assurance function providers (as invited guests)	<u>Legal:</u> - Selim Guvener, CGIAR Group General Counsel (a.i.) - Elise Perset, Director, Legal Services, CGIAR System Organization
	<u>Institutional Risk:</u> Georgios (Yorgos) Solomos, Senior Advisor
	<u>Ethics and Business Conduct:</u> Andrew Giddings, Director
	<u>Internal Audit:</u> - Jamila Ntege, Acting Co-Chief Audit Executive and Convener (and Head of CGIAR Internal Audit Community of Practice) - Madina Bazarova, Acting Co-Chief Audit Executive (and Head, CGIAR System Internal Audit Function)
	<u>CGIAR Advisory Services Shared Secretariat:</u> Allison Grove Smith, Director; Svetlana Negroustoueva, Lead Evaluation Function (agenda item 5 and 6)

Event Management Support
Victoria Pezzi, Meetings and Events Coordinator, System Organization