

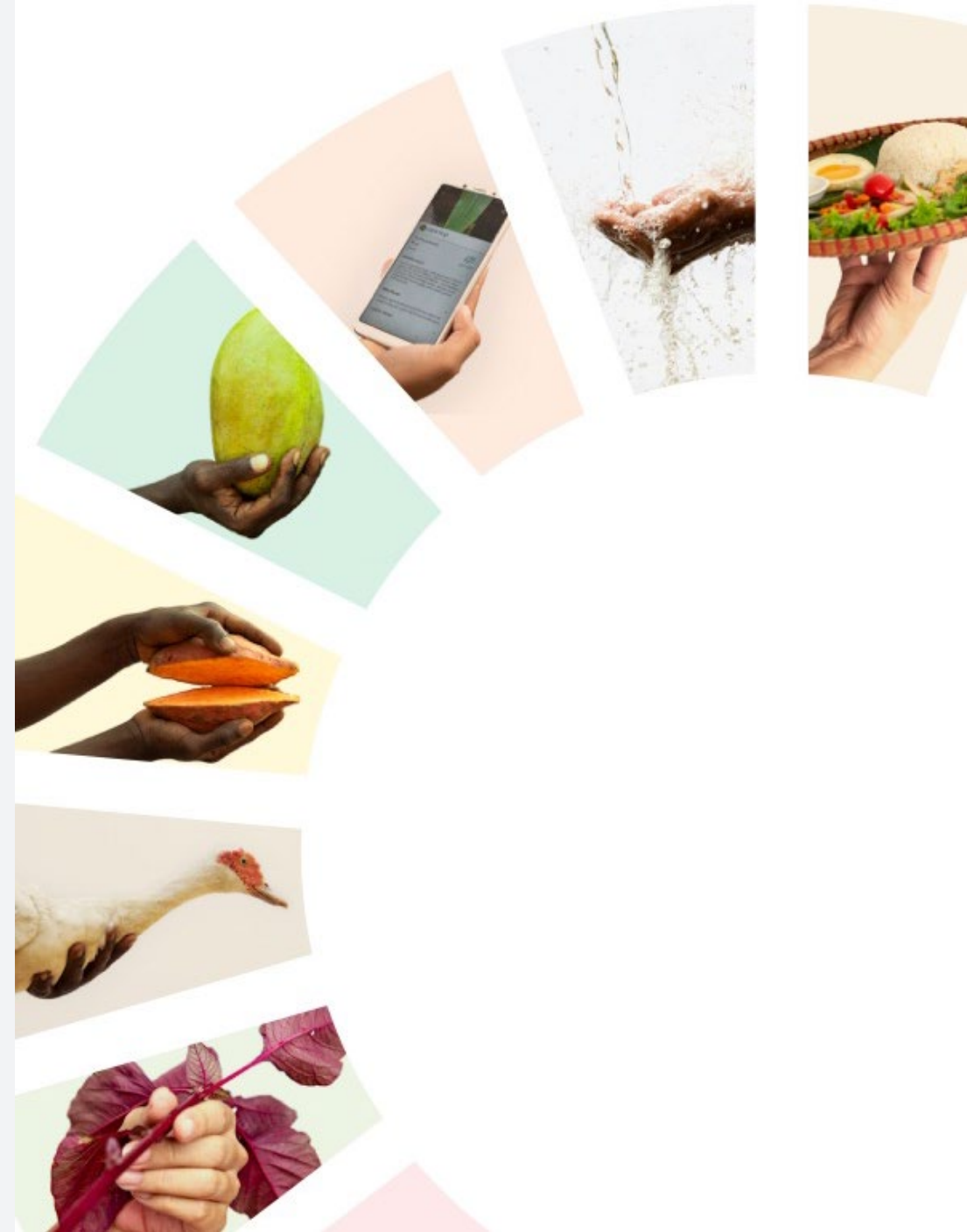


Agenda Item 13
Document SC17-13a
For approval
Issued: 19 October 2022

Membership of the System Council's Standing Committees

Purpose: This document sets out the background and the appointments to the following Committees, together with the rationale regarding the terms of appointment:

- Membership of the System Council's Strategic Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee; and
- Membership of the System Council Assurance Oversight Committee



Strategic Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (SIMEC)

The purpose of SIMEC is to assist the System Council in review of research program evaluations, oversight the strategic direction of the CGIAR System Organization and the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of CGIAR Research.

SIMEC was formed in 2017, at SC4, with Terms of Reference which provide for a maximum nine persons.

SIMEC is currently comprised of five members, with a need to re-confirm their continuing mandate through to 30 June 2023: Dougou Keita (African Development Bank), Bethany Davis (Australia), Ruben Echeverria (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation), and Alan Tollervey, Interim Chair (United Kingdom).

There are currently four vacancies, arising from changes in constituency members.

New nominations received for SIMEC membership

The System Council Secretariat put out a call for nominations for the current four vacancies as per the Terms of Reference. The following three nominations have been received:

- 1. Canada nominates Nikita Eriksen-Hamel** – who serves as Deputy Director of Policy and Practice in the Agriculture and Food Systems Division of Global Affairs Canada. He has an academic and research background relevant to a role on SIMEC with formal training as an environmental engineer at the University of Waterloo, MSc in ecological agriculture from Wageningen University, a PhD in soil science from McGill University, as well as post-doctoral research experiences in Japan and with Canada’s ministry of agriculture.
- 2. United States of America nominates Gary Jahn** – who brings over 30 years' experience in international development: designing, managing and evaluating agricultural development projects. He has a Doctor of Philosophy from Hawaii as well as a Masters in Entomology from University of Florida. He has previously worked with IRRI and is currently with the USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security.
- 3. West Asia and North Africa nominates Fatma Sarsu** – who is an experienced R&D professional in agriculture with a solid background in analytical, project manager and technical leader positions at FAO/IAEA Joint Division in UN and General Directorate of Agricultural Research in Türkiye. Experienced in all phases of the Project Cycle and a certified Project Management Professional (PMP)[®], a credential issued by the Project Management Institute. Dr Sarsu has been working with CGIAR since 2009, more actively during the last 2 years with Türkiye’s representatives to the System Council.

Proposal to extend terms of 5 members until 30 June 2023

Rationale for extension and timing

The current members continue to be active participants in SIMEC; are well linked into the voting member constituencies of the System Council they represent; and bring relevant experiences and skills for the tasks.

On timing out to 30 June 2023:

The previous extension decisions in 2021/22 anticipated work to take stock of the broader needs for assurance and oversight in the One CGIAR landscape and on what optimal mechanisms could look like for the future. These are now anticipated to be explored more fully in the first half of 2023. The functions carried out by SIMEC are needed into 2023 until any further changes are agreed.

Extension permissible under Article 13 - [SIMEC Terms of Reference](#)

All members (including the interim Chair) can have their terms renewed as determined by the System Council. This extension proposal is in line with that Article.

If approved SIMEC to June 2023 would be constituted as:

- Alan Tollervey, Chair (United Kingdom).
- Bethany Davis (Australia),
- Dougou Keita (African Development Bank),
- Gary Jahn (USAID)
- Nikita Eriksen-Hamel (Canada)
- Raphael Nawrotzki (Germany/Belgium)
- Ruben Echeverria (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)
- Fatma Sarsu (Türkiye)

System Council Assurance Oversight Committee (AOC)

Formed in mid-2018, the purpose of the AOC is 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 system-wide governance, risk management and internal controls.

The AOC is comprised of up to five members, the majority of which are independent, appointed by the System Council. The Chair is where possible appointed from within the independent members.

Due to two independent members having stood down from their roles in recent months the membership changes result in the committee not currently being quorate. Further, Daniel van Gilst has advised that he will not serve for an additional term, having served for 4 years on the AOC. The continuing independent member is Muriel Uzan. Ms. Usan has indicated she will continue with the AOC which will provide valuable continuity on the Committee.

Therefore, there will be four AOC member vacancies.

New nominations received for membership of AOC

The System Council Secretariat advertised or called for candidates both from the Funders and as Independents.

Two vacancies for System Council affiliated member

The Secretariat proposes that **Flora Mak** (Canada) and **Sarah Schmidt** (Germany & Belgium) be approved as System Council-affiliated AOC member. Their short bios are shown on the following slide.

Two external independent member vacancies

At the time of issue, there have been no qualified applicants for the independent members positions. However, enquiries are in process and this situation may be updated before the meeting.

Bios of proposed AOC Funder members



Ms. Flora Mak holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Carleton University, as well as a Bachelors Degree in Political Studies from Queen's University. She is currently **Deputy Director of Food Security Institutions at Global Affairs Canada and Alternate voting member on the System Council.**

In this capacity, she has acquired a strong understanding of CGIAR's vision, mission, goals, objectives, and processes. Her corporate governance experience is derived from having overall responsibility for Canada's relationships with the Food and Agriculture Organization (co-lead with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Committee on World Food Security, CGIAR, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. She manages a team of analysts to provide strategic direction in the governance bodies of each institution, ranging from policy, financial, performance, risk, and evaluation issues. In her previous role as Deputy Director of Planning, Reporting, Risk and Audit for Africa Branch at Global Affairs, Ms. Mak was responsible for branch-wide coordination on corporate matters, including the annual development assistance reporting exercise.

Ms. Mak has 15 years of project analysis, results based management, and program management experience of international development projects for Global Affairs Canada in East and Southern Africa, Ukraine, and the Middle East, including budget and performance reporting, monitoring and evaluation issues. Ms. Mak takes a constructive and pragmatic approach and would encourage effective communications and collaboration in the execution of her duties.

Dr. Sarah M. Schmidt is advisor in GIZ for the Fund International Agricultural Research (FIA). She advises the German Ministry for International Development and Cooperation (BMZ) on a range of technical and program issues on agricultural research for development to advance global food security. She serves as convener for the Advisory Panel of the CGIAR Genetic Innovation science group. In her role, she guides the investments supported by the FIA to contribute to German Development Goals including the implementation of feminist development policy, closer collaboration between research and development projects and orientation towards large scale impact. She also oversees the German investments in Crops to End Hunger and is instrumental for the technical and financial assessment of research proposals and their alignment to set objectives. With more than 8 years of handling research budgets, she anticipates risks in budget allocations, especially related to efficiency and efficacy of budgets, finance plans, legal and organizational obligations.

Dr. Schmidt's academic background in genetics and plant pathology includes a PhD from the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research. She has worked as a research scientist, Marie Curie Fellow and project coordinator on various crops including barley, tomato, melon, banana and rice, before joining GIZ in 2018 as an advisor for international agricultural research. Dr. Schmidt has established partnerships with NARES and coordinated research projects with multiple, diverse partners such as universities, NARES and CGIAR centers. She has 8 years of experience in risk assessment of budgets, project management as well as legal aspects of breeding, genome editing and gender/diversity.

Proposal to extend AOC Membership terms until 30 June 2023

Rationale for extension and timing

The AOC has not been quorate since April 2022.

On timing out to 30 June 2023

The previous extension decisions in 2021/22 anticipated work to take stock of the broader needs for assurance and oversight in the One CGIAR landscape and on what optimal mechanisms could look like for the future – early discussions have commenced but are anticipated to be explored more fully in the first half of 2023.

The functions carried out by AOC are needed into 2023 until any further changes are agreed.

Extension is permissible under Article 9 – AOC Terms of Reference

Proposed Resolutions

SIMEC

The System Council approves the following appointments as members of the Committee to 30 June 2023 and to extend the term of all Members of the Committee to 30 June 2023 or until a successor is appointed, unless otherwise determined by the System Council:

- Nikita Eriksen-Hamel (Canada)
- Gary Jahn (USA)
- Fatma Sarsu (Türkiye)

AOC

The System Council approves the appointments of Flora Mak (Canada) and Sarah Schmidt (Germany) as a members of the Committee to 30 June 2023 and to extend the term of Muriel Uzán as a member of the Committee to 30 June 2023 or until a successor is appointed, unless otherwise determined by the System Council.