

## Appointment of member positions to CGIAR's Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC)

### Purpose

This document sets out the recommendations, background, and rationale for appointing one new member to CGIAR's Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC) as presented by the System Council approved ISDC Nominations Panel. The System Council is asked **to review and approve the appointment of 1 new member of the CGIAR's ISDC – for a three-year term, subject to confirmation after a one-year assessment.**

*Annex I biography of the candidate; Annex II ISDC Nominations Panel members; Annex III background and details on the ISDC appointments process.*

### Proposed Decisions

Based on the ISDC Nomination Panel's recommendation, the System Council is asked to:

- 1a. **Appoint Dr. David Just** as member of the CGIAR's Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC) for a three-year term effective from 15 November 2022.

Dr. Just is a renowned agricultural and resource economist – with particular strengths in behavioral economics collaborating across multiple disciplines relevant to the CGIAR (crop, food, nutrition, entomology, and veterinary sciences) and with innovative methods development related to this work. He has had significant experience designing, scaling research results, and assessing the impact of interventions, such as school feeding programs. The Panel believes he would be a team player and a significant asset to the ISDC and the CGIAR.

*Note on reissue: This document was originally posted on 19 October 2022 under the consent agenda; it has been re-issued for System Council consideration and decision-making under Agenda Item 11 (Independent Science for Development Matters) of SC17.*

Document category: Working document of the System Council. There is no restriction on the circulation of this document.

Prepared by: The 2022 ISDC Nominations Panel (see Annex II) with support from the Nominations Panel Secretariat.

## Brief Background (more details found in Annex III)

1. Based on the ISDC terms of reference, an ISDC Nominations Panel was tasked to carry out a process to recommend one member to fill vacancy arising, as shown below.

Member (Gender)	Role	Appointment end date
Holger Meinke (M)	Chair	20 September 2025
Fetien Abay Abera (F)	Member	30 September 2024
Andrew Ash (M)	Member	30 September 2025
Chris Barrett (M)	Departed Member	30 September 2022
Magali Garcia (F)	Member	30 September 2024
Suneetha Kadiyala (F)	Member	30 September 2025
Nompumelelo Obokoh (F)	Vice Chair	30 September 2024
Lesley Torrance (F)	Member	30 September 2025

2. **The advertisement for new members** issued mid-June 2022 [here](#), was targeted to bring in 1 new member with specific discipline and skills being particularly sought in 2022: agricultural economics and/or social sciences, including but not limited to rural sociology, gender, extension, and the science-policy interface.
3. **The Panel process** after 30 June 2022 application deadline:
  - a. 16 applications were received and subsequently pre-filtered based on the requirements, eligibility, and key criteria;
  - b. The Panel rigorously reviewed the submissions and shortlisted 4 candidates and subsequently conducted 4 interviews;
  - c. References received from named referees were reviewed by the Panel;
  - d. The Panel analyzed the various data points for the candidates along with looking at the mandate, workplan and current composition of the ISDC – carefully considering expertise, geographic representation, and diversity;
  - e. Conflicts of interest declarations of Panel members were reviewed and the Panel worked with the Office of Ethics and Business Conduct to mitigate conflicts of interest (*see more in Annex III, Section 5c.*)
  - f. The Panel reached full consensus on the candidate recommendation to the System Council.
4. **The Panel is confident that this recommended candidate (Dr. David Just) will bring essential competencies to the ISDC role.** The ISDC Chair provided inputs to the Panel at its first meeting on the specific expertise that is required now for the Council – namely strong social science research background with the ability to work across relevant CGIAR disciplines, development and impact experience, open-mindedness and objectivity on a range of complex issues, and a team player. Based on the position advertisement and the additional insights provided by the Chair, the Panel unanimously agreed that Dr. Just would make an excellent addition to the Council.

## Annex I: Biographies (summarized from applicants' materials)

<p><b>Dr. David Just</b></p>	<p><u>Country of origin and current residence:</u> United States</p> <p><u>Current position(s):</u> Susan Eckert Lynch Professor of Science and Business, Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University</p> <p><u>Qualifications:</u>  BA – Economics, Brigham Young University  MS – Agricultural and Resource Economics, UC Berkeley  Ph.D.- Agricultural and Resource Economics, UC Berkeley</p>
<p><u>Brief summary of expertise and experience:</u></p> <p>Dr. Just has more than 20 years experience in agricultural economics, with a specific focus on agricultural, behavioral, and experimental economics. He would bring to the ISDC and CGIAR a strong academic background with an interdisciplinary focus, including collaborations with crop scientists, food scientists, veterinary researchers, entomologists, nutrition researchers, and psychologists.</p> <p>Dr. Just's research was highly recognized by the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA), leading to his selection as a Fellow of the Association, their highest honor. He has published more than 150 publications with more than 8,700 citations (Google Scholar - <a href="#">here</a>). He has written one of the premier textbooks in the field of Behavioral Economics (<i>Introduction to Behavioral Economics</i>, 2014).</p> <p>His work in behavioral economics and innovative methodologies have addressed both ease of access to information and how credibility is assessed, as well as drivers of technology adoption, such as how agricultural producers assess risk and how they seek information to guide choices. He has done significant work on how behavioral interventions can guide food choice, including the adoption of healthier diets and foods that may often face resistance. His work has spanned both developed and developing countries, with several projects in sub-Saharan Africa, India and China.</p>	
<p>Find out more at: <a href="https://dyson.cornell.edu/faculty-research/faculty/drj3/">https://dyson.cornell.edu/faculty-research/faculty/drj3/</a></p>	

## Annex II: ISDC Nominations Panel (appointed by the System Council)

The 2022 ISDC Nominations Panel ('Panel') members, appointed by the System Council, are listed below. The Panel was supported throughout the process by a Secretariat Team from the CGIAR System Organization.

### System Council Members (nominated by SC Chair)

- **Ruben Echeverria**, Delegate for the interim Chair of the System Council's Strategic Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (SIMEC) and System Council member from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Panel Chair)
- **Garba Hamidu Sharubutu**, System Council Member from the Sub-Saharan Africa constituency Nigeria

### Science leaders (nominated by SC Chair)

- **Mywish Maredia**, Professor, International Development, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University

### Person(s) fully external to the CGIAR

- **Judith Francis**, Independent strategic and policy advisory on innovation and agri-food and nutrition systems (*participated in the 2021 ISDC Nominations Panel*).

### Invited **observer** from ISDC

- **Chris Barrett**, <http://barrett.dyson.cornell.edu/about/>

## Annex III: Additional Background to Panel recommendation of new members

1. The Terms of Reference for the ISDC, as approved on 4 October 2018, include **provisions for the membership of the ISDC** such that:
  - a. Article 4.1: *“ISDC will consist of up to eight (8) standing members, which number can be reviewed by the System Council based on need and required expertise coverage, one of whom serves as ISDC Chair and one as Vice Chair. The role specification and key competencies desired for ISDC members, as well as those specific to the ISDC Chair and Vice Chair will be approved and reviewed periodically by the System Council to ensure that they represent the optimal guidance on capacities required.”*
  - b. Article 4.2: *“ISDC members will **serve an initial three years**, with the possibility of renewal up to three additional years without further extension. To the extent possible, membership terms will be staggered to ensure a gradual refreshing of members.”*
2. **The System Council-approved Terms of Reference** of CGIAR’s ISDC<sup>1</sup> includes a provision for the appointment process of the ISDC such that *“ISDC members, including the ISDC Chair and Vice Chair, are appointed by the System Council based upon a merit-based, open and competitive selection process”* (Article 4.3).
3. Pursuant to Article 4.3, the elements required for the selection process were implemented with a **broad call for applications and nominations** including a visible element as part of that call.
4. **The advertisement for this appointment process**, issued mid-June 2022 was featured on CGIAR’s website and social media channels as well as shared via email to both internal and external stakeholder groups.
5. From the 30 June 2022 deadline for submissions, the following steps were taken:
  - a. **Collating Submissions**: 16 applications and nominations were received in total which were filed, and a summary sheet developed for the Nominations Panel.
  - b. **Pre-screening**: All submissions were pre-filtered against application/nomination requirements and eligibility criteria -- reflecting candidate suitability against the expertise, competencies and diversity being targeted to support the review by the Panel.
  - c. **Managing potential conflict of interest**: Following One CGIAR procedures, all Panel members provided signed declarations on potential conflicts of interest with respect to the process and any applicants/nominees. Any potential conflict of

<sup>1</sup> Approved by the System Council with effect from 4 October 2018 (Decision Ref: SC/M6/EDP2); available at: [https://storage.googleapis.com/cgiarorg/2018/10/TOR-ISDC\\_Approved\\_04Oct2018.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/cgiarorg/2018/10/TOR-ISDC_Approved_04Oct2018.pdf)

interest was documented and shared with all Panel members, reviewed by CGIAR's Office of Ethics and Business Conduct, and mitigation measures put in place (as required), see below.

The outgoing ISDC member and invited guest on the Panel Chris Barrett completed the conflict of interest form – transparently noting that he and the proposed new ISDC member are colleagues at Cornell University, have been co-authors/co-editors, and have research projects together. The CGIAR Office of Ethics and Business Conduct provided inputs to the Panel on mitigating this conflict – which were undertaken. Chris Barrett attended the interviews, provided his observations on the candidates after all interviews were completed, but did not attend the decision-making meeting nor provide input into the decision.

- d. Shortlisting: The Panel met with the ISDC Chair prior to undertaking a process of shortlisting candidates to move forward into the next stage of the process which resulted in 4 candidates being invited for interviews with the Panel. The Panel considered the commitments to an overall ISDC profile balancing expertise, geography of experience, gender, and stage of career.
  - e. Interviewing: The Panel conducted interviews of the 4 candidates to probe their expertise and experience domains as well as to explore the competencies that they could bring to the ISDC in line with those that were agreed in the Member competency framework. Candidates were asked to deliver a statement in response to a key question provided by the Panel which was followed by a series of prepared questions from the Panel members.
  - f. Reference checking: Written reference statements were requested from all referees. These statements were used as an input by the Panel in its consideration of candidates.
  - g. Analysis: The Panel undertook analysis across all the candidates under consideration along with the current ISDC members to explore what the overall profile of the ISDC would reflect. Panel members were careful to consider the areas of expertise and experience domains and also the commitment to diversity and geographic representation.
  - h. Deliberations - the Panel undertook final deliberations on October 12 – analyzing all of the inputs for the candidates as indicated. The Panel reached full consensus on the recommended candidate to the System Council.
6. The Panel conducted the appointment process with careful consideration of the targeted needs for the overall composition of the ISDC as well as in the changing landscape of CGIAR, as reflected in the One CGIAR, and the world overall. Considering this context, the Panel is recommending a person who would bring valuable expertise, research, methodology innovation, skills and experiences to contribute to addressing key challenges in the One CGIAR Research and Innovation Strategy.