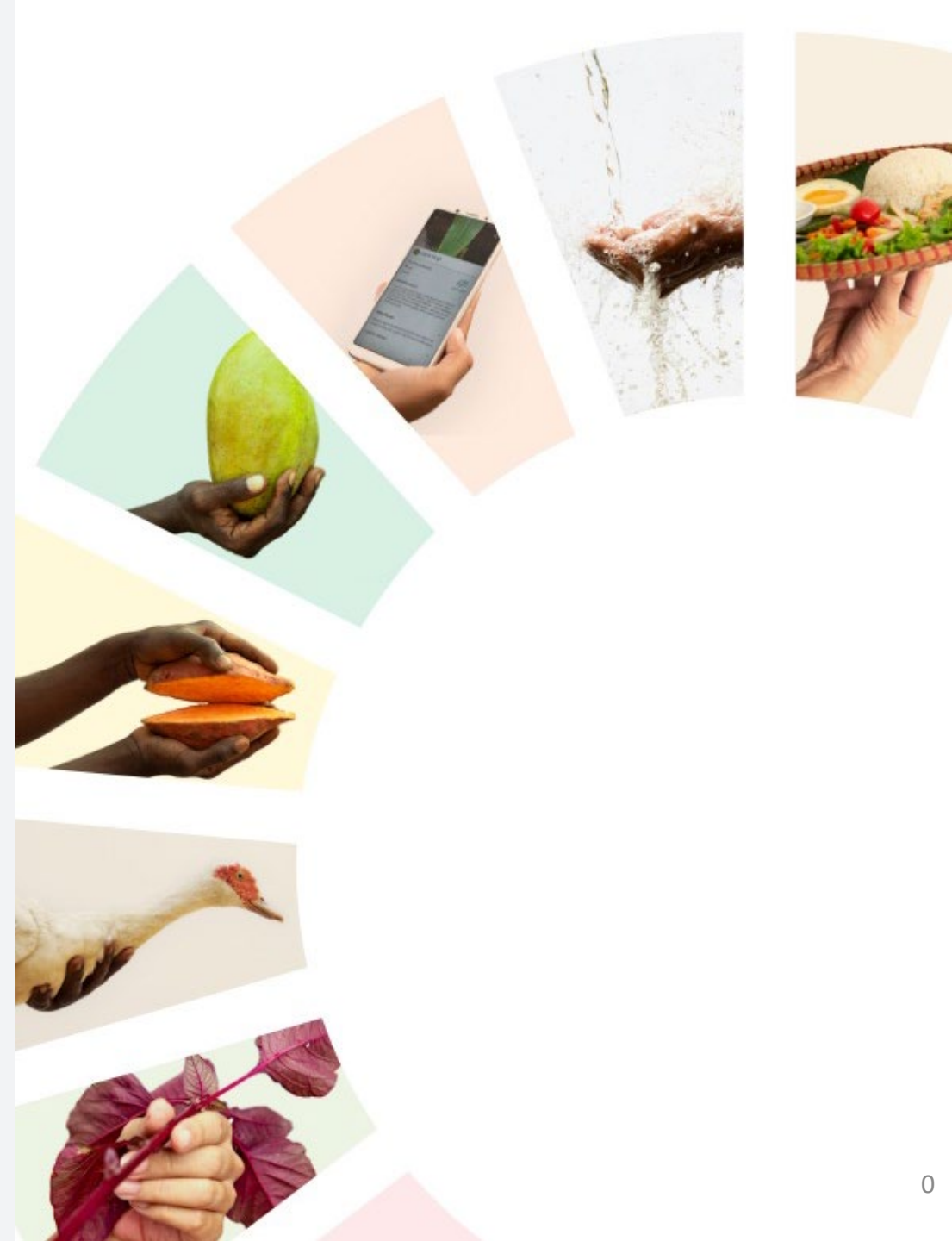


Report from the Strategic Impact, Monitoring & Evaluation Committee (SIMEC)

Purpose: This document sets out an overview of SIMEC's activities and areas of focus during Nov 2023-May 2024.

SIMEC met one time in person and virtually on 2 occasions during the time period – including a joint meeting with AOC. It also undertook activities on an electronic basis between sessions and some members have served on CGIAR nominations and assessment panels.



Advisory Bodies

SPIA



SIMEC role from its TOR

(Para 2) Advise and make recommendations to the System Council in relation to:

- a. Approval of the ToR for the [...] advisory bodies or committees of the System Council [...] related to strategic impact, monitoring or evaluation
- b. Review and endorsement of the Advisory Bodies annual work programs and budgets

SPIA budget

- Discussions held over Q4 2023-Q1-2024, including special purpose call with IAES in early-April to consider scenarios, minimum viable budget for SPIA and alternative sustainable funding
- Key points of SIMEC's position shared with management:
 - The baseline figure of \$34.6 million is not sufficient to deliver the workplan approved by the System Council, but a workplan with slightly adjusted priorities could be delivered for \$39.5 million, plus a projected \$6 million high probability restricted contribution from one System Council Funder.
 - SIMEC would like to continue discussions on how to sustainably finance SPIA beyond 2024. There are various options that could be considered.
 - SIMEC does not see value in disconnecting SPIA from the management of research. Impact assessment is central to the delivery of the research programs and should not be purely under the purview of the System Council.

Advisory Bodies (cont.)

Evaluation



SIMEC role from its TOR

(Para 1) Advise and guide the SC on any gaps, challenges, and synergies related to the Advisory Bodies.

(Para 2) Evaluate Advisory Bodies' effectiveness in fulfilling their functions

Evaluations reviewed:

- **December 2023 – Endorsement of Genebank Platform Evaluation Report**
 - Encouragement to share widely to inform development of P25
 - Recommendation to share ideas with the funding modality working group to reduce the genebank funding gap.
- **March 2024 – Endorsement of Regional Integrated Initiatives Evaluability Assessment Synthesis Report**
 - Recommendation that the synthesis report be leveraged in a positive way within the system so that lessons can be learned from the experience of developing, funding, and implementing the Regional Integrated Initiatives and applied to the new portfolio

Other activities:

- Review of Evaluation 2024 workplan and support for proposal for adjustment of scheduling of GDI Action plan advisory review

Advisory Bodies (cont.)

ISDC and IAES



SIMEC role from its TOR

(Para 1) Advise and guide the SC on any gaps, challenges, and synergies related to the Advisory Bodies.

(Para 2) Evaluate Advisory Bodies' effectiveness in fulfilling their functions

Key activities:

- Preliminary Consultation on IAES Work Plan 2025-2027 (draft anticipated by summer 2024)
- Review of ISDC Program of Work and activities, and guidance provided on future priorities
- Discussion on ISDC's potential role in reviewing the whole portfolio rather than just pooled funded parts (acknowledging that there are not currently means to do so)

Appointments, Nominations, and Succession Planning

SIMEC role from its TOR

(Para 3) SIMEC shall provide advice or recommendations to the SC in relation to:

- a. Selection of ISDC Chair and members
- b. Selection of Head of IAES
- c. Selection of the SPIA Chair

ISDC Membership

- Discussion with ISDC Chair on rapid turn over of membership – **importance of support for recruitment of a diverse ISDC** with an optimal spread of technical background, skills and experience.
- **Renewal of one ISDC member (Magali Garcia) requested at SC20**, and recruitment for one new member (replacing Fetien Abera) will start in Q3 2024 – with strengths in water management, animal and aquatic systems, and/or foresight techniques.

SPIA Membership

- Additional capacity required to deliver on approved workplan
 - **3 new members and extension of 2 members requested at SC20**
 - Additional nominations anticipated in Q3-4 2024 to reach full target size.
- Consultative process undertaken but some challenges in sourcing proposed appointees from the Global South

Other key activities

Portfolio Performance Unit (PPU)

- Review of progress on 2023 Technical Reporting, Innovation Portfolio Management, CGIAR's Results Framework and 2022-2024 Type 2 Report. SIMEC members have supported development of the Type-2 reporting outline

Communications and Building Cohesive Relationships - SPIA-PPU coordination

- Informal feedback provided on work undertaken by SPIA and PPU on approaches to strengthen coherence on MELIA approached. SPIA-PPU coordination to be a standing item in future meetings.

2019 MOPAN assessment

- SIMEC requested that IAES conduct a light-touch desk review to assess progress on MOPAN findings on Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 8 ('CGIAR applies evidence-based planning and programming').

Joint Meeting with AOC – 14 March 2024

- **Half-Day in-person/hybrid meeting**
- **Key topics of discussion:**
 - Respective roles and points of intersections
 - How the two Committees will work together on these
 - Planning a joined-up approach to reviewing IAES workplans and budgets
 - Spotlight topic - Research Ethics
- **Outcomes**
 - Agreement to hold annual joint meeting to review IAES workplans and budgets
 - Proposal for cross-observer roles (one member from each of AOC/SIMEC has standing invite to the other Committee's meetings)

Evolution of SIMEC

Current Membership



SIMEC is currently comprised of eight members, for a maximum of nine seats. The member representing Australia, Bethany Davies, stepped down from SIMEC at end-January 2024.

Current members are appointed until 30 June 2026, unless earlier determined by the System Council.

No	System Council voting constituency	Nominated member
1	African Development Bank	Dougou Keita
2	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Ruben Echeverria
3	Canada	Nikita Eriksen-Hamel
4	Germany	Thomas Miethbauer
5	South Asia	Ravi Khetarpal
6	United Kingdom	Alan Tollervey (Interim Chair)
7	United States	Gary Jahn
8	West Asia & North Africa	Didem Kökden