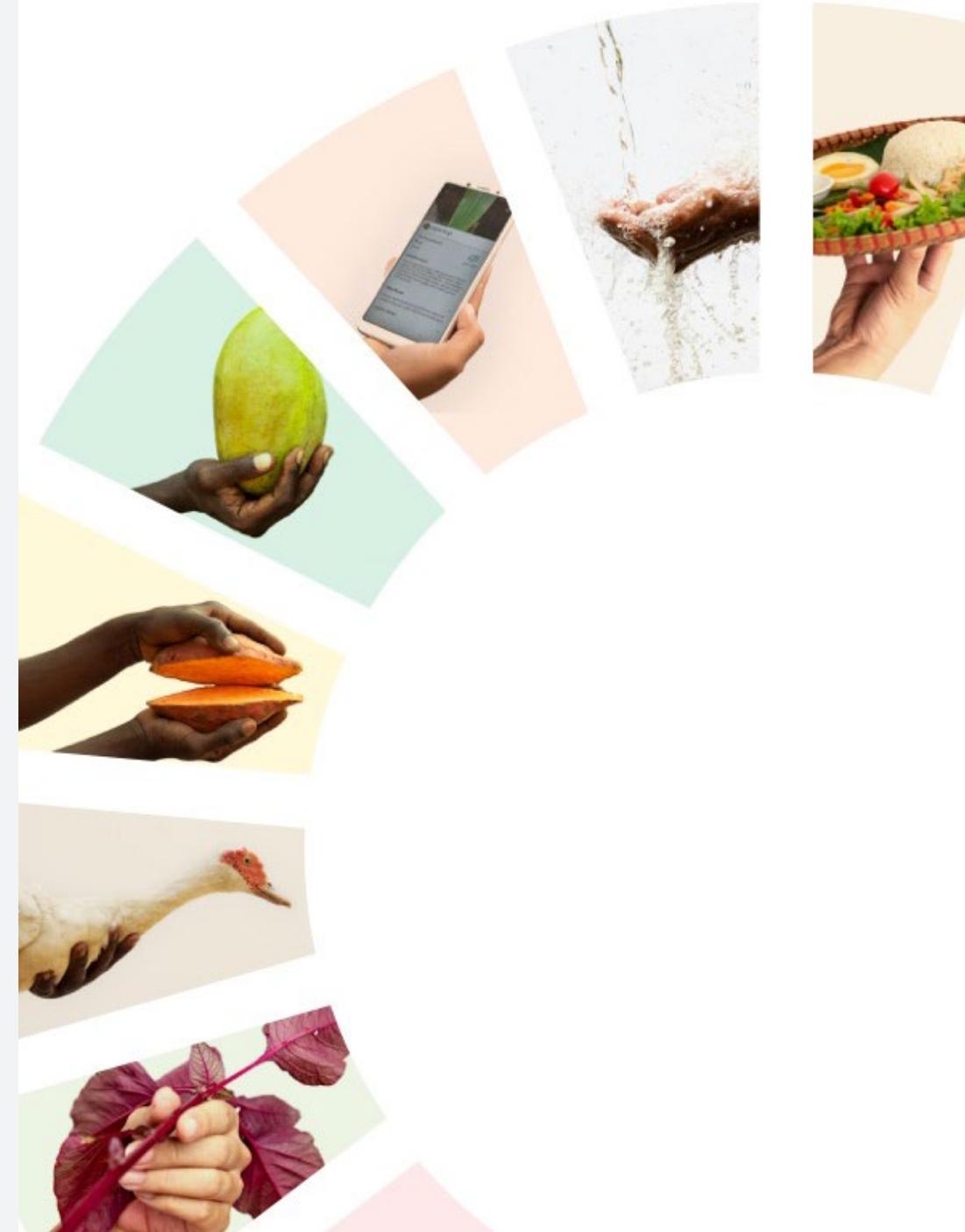




Background Resource for SC22
Issued: 29 May 2025

Update on actions agreed with the System Council

Purpose: This additional resource for the System Council's 22nd meeting sets out previously agreed action points and decision requests, and an update on the status of their completion.



Completed action from previous meetings (SC21)

Action
SC/M21AP1

The System Council requested that management consider the feedback provided by Council members on the intended governance and management arrangements for a Breeding for Tomorrow and Genebanks Science Program and provide a response by February 2025.

Details of
completion

Management provided a response to SC on 3 March 2025, advising that: Drawing on the experience of the Genebanks Platform and Initiative, CGIAR Genebanks will be governed and managed as a self-standing Accelerator within the 2025–30 science and innovation Portfolio. Specifically:

- Consistent with the agreed Portfolio Management Arrangements, an Accelerator Leader – reporting to the CGIAR Chief Scientist – provides overall leadership of the Accelerator and accountability for associated W1/2 funding.
- Aligned with the System Council -approved Genebanks Proposal, the Genebanks Accelerator is structured around five Areas of Work (AoW): (1) Biodiversity Conservation, (2) Strategic User Outreach, (3) Policy, (4) Germplasm Health, and (5) Strengthening Capacity Globally.
- The Accelerator Leader convenes a Leadership Team comprising AoW leadership as well as Delegates from all participating Centers.
- A Multistakeholder Advisory Committee made up of funders, policy experts, and scientists provides advice on the strategic direction of the Accelerator.
- Centers retain ultimate accountability for their Genebanks operations consistent with their obligations under the Plant Treaty.

Completed action from previous meetings (SC21)

Action
SC/M21/AP3

The System Council requested that the System Council Secretariat organize a two-hour meeting in January 2025 for SPIA to present a synopsis of their findings, and for System Council members to provide feedback on specific data that would be most useful to them.

Details of
Completion

- A drop-in call was held on 6 February 2025, where a summary of key SPIA messages and country studies was presented by the SPIA Chair.
- Consultant appointed to estimate the RoI of selected CGIAR Innovations (duration 6 months)
- The report is expected to be shared by SPIA with the System Council in November 2025 or at SC23

Completed action from previous meetings (SC21)

Action
SC/M21/AP5

The System Council requested that management provide additional information on the budgets for the internal audit and the ethics and business functions in February 2025

Details of completion

Management provided a response to SC on 3 March 2025, sharing supplementary information to the CGIAR Windows 1 & 2 budget for 2025. The information shared included projected costs for all CGIAR Ethics & Business Conduct (EBC) and Internal Audit Functions, with a specific focus on their breakdown within the System Organization. The total costs for these functions in Centers and System Organization are expected to increase by 13% from 2024 to 2025, reaching \$7.5 million. This increase is primarily driven by a 29% rise in EBC costs, including the addition of an EBC Executive and increased funding for investigations and training. Internal Audit costs are projected to increase by 3%, with the addition of an Internal Audit Executive and upgrades to existing functions. Specifically for the System Organization, the 2025 budget shows a significant investment in Ethics & Business Conduct (EBC) and Internal Audit functions, totalling \$1.6 million for EBC and \$1.3 million for Internal Audit.

Open action from previous meetings (SC21)

Action
SC/M21/AP4

The System Council requested that two working groups be formed in Q1 2025, focusing on the following, and with diverse membership(including from the IPB and System Council) drawn from those with direct experience in the respective areas:

- i. Innovative Finance modalities
- ii. Incentives for portfolio funding (Windows 1 & 2), including the role of cost sharing mechanisms

The Working Groups should work together collaboratively and would be asked to provide updates on progress and any recommendations for System Council decision in advance of the 2025 regular System Council meetings

Implementation
progress

- Both working Groups held their kick-off meetings in April 2025. Details of progress made are provided in the following SC22 meeting documents:
 - [Document SC22-06: Cover Paper](#)
 - [Document SC22-06a: Inception Report – Working Group on Incentives for Portfolio Funding \(W1/2\)](#)
 - [Document SC22-06b: Inception Report – Working Group on Innovative Finance Modalities](#)

Milestone of
completion

- The Working Group on Incentives for Portfolio funding will deliver the final report with recommendations at SC23
- The Working Group on Innovative Finance Modalities will present an update at SC23 and final report with recommendations at SC24 in 2026.

Open action from previous meetings (SC21)

Action
SC/M21/AP2

The System Council requested that Terms of Reference be developed by end-Q1 2025, for System Council consideration and approval, for a review of how CGIAR's independent advisory functions align with the new governance structure. Such a review should be conducted in 2025 under the oversight of SIMEC, with the support of independent external experts.

Implementation
progress

- Such a review of the independent advisory functions is provided for in the Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service Terms of Reference (*Para 9.1: "SIMEC will review the effectiveness of the organizational arrangements of CGIAR's Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service every three years in consultation with the ISDC and SPIA Chairs, Director, Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service and the Executive Managing Director of CGIAR, or at other time periods should capacity needs or other circumstances require, providing updates and recommendations to the System Council to ensure optimal performance and arrangements."*)
- A terms of reference for this review is currently being drafted.

Milestone of
completion

- An external party will be engaged to conduct the review, with results presented during SC23.

Open action from previous meetings (SC20)

Action
SC/M20/AP2

"The System Council, with a shared vision for the future of CGIAR as an integrated partnership, underscores the critical and urgent need for the integration of the following functions across the System: Internal Controls & Risk Management, Internal Audit, External Audit, and Ethics & Business Conduct. Integration of these functions is a key step that needs to be undertaken before the end of December 2024. The internal audit function, in particular, must be independent from management, in line with the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditor.

The System Council asks the EMD, working with the ICI Forum, to submit a time-bound risk and oversight integration action plan on internal audit, external audit and ethics & business conduct to the System Board by 24 July 2024. The Council further asks the System Board to review and approve the action plan and submit it to the System Council for decision by 31 July 2024. The Council asks the Integrated Partnership Board (once appointed) to report on progress of the implementation of the Action Plan by the System as a whole and by individual Centers by the end of September 2024 and at each of its System Council meetings starting in December 2024. The internal controls & risk function will be added to the ICI Forum priorities to complement the work on internal audit, external audit and ethics & business conduct.

The System Council asks the EMD, working with the ICI Forum, to submit an updated risk and oversight integration action plan that incorporates the internal controls & risk management aspects to the IPB by the end of October 2024. The IPB will submit this action plan for decision by the System Council at its December 2024 meeting."

Implementation
progress

- An interim status report was issued to the System Council on 17 April 2025
- A status update report is provided to SC22, including updates on key deliverables, and the status of approvals for each item by each Center Board, IPB and the System Council.

Milestone of
completion

- System Council decision-making on the 4 Ethics and Business Conduct Policies, CGIAR Integrated Partnership Risk Management and Internal Controls Framework and Risk Appetite Statement at SC22. Reports on implementation progress will be provided at each subsequent formal System Council meeting.

Open action from previous meetings (SC18)

Action
SC/M18/AP4

"The System Council requested that the System Board Chair actively facilitate the formal and inclusive integration of Centers not party to the Integrated Framework Agreement (IFA) into One CGIAR."

Implementation
progress

Several high-level meetings have taken place - both formally and informally - with CIFOR-ICRAF. This includes a donor lead engagement including CGIAR EMD and CIFOR-ICRAF CEO during Science Week in Nairobi. Championed by BMZ (GERMANY), the purpose of this engagement was to explore the interest of funders to explore the conditional funding mechanism to support CIFOR-ICRAF's transition to the Integrated Partnership.

It is important to note that CIFOR-ICRAF were actively involved in the development of Portfolio 2025-2030, and the partnership between the Centre's scientists and other IFA Centres is still ongoing. Though CIFOR-ICRAF is not a direct recipient of CGIAR Trust Fund designations, they are a partner with CGIAR Centers in Multifunctional Landscapes and Climate Action programs

Milestone of
completion

The decision to be a signatory of the IFA, as well as the Funding Framework Agreement is still a Centre Board decision, so the timeline is not under the control of the IPB. CGIAR remains open and willing partner to work with CIFOR-ICRAF through a productive process to onboard the Center as an Integrated Partner in the CGIAR family.