

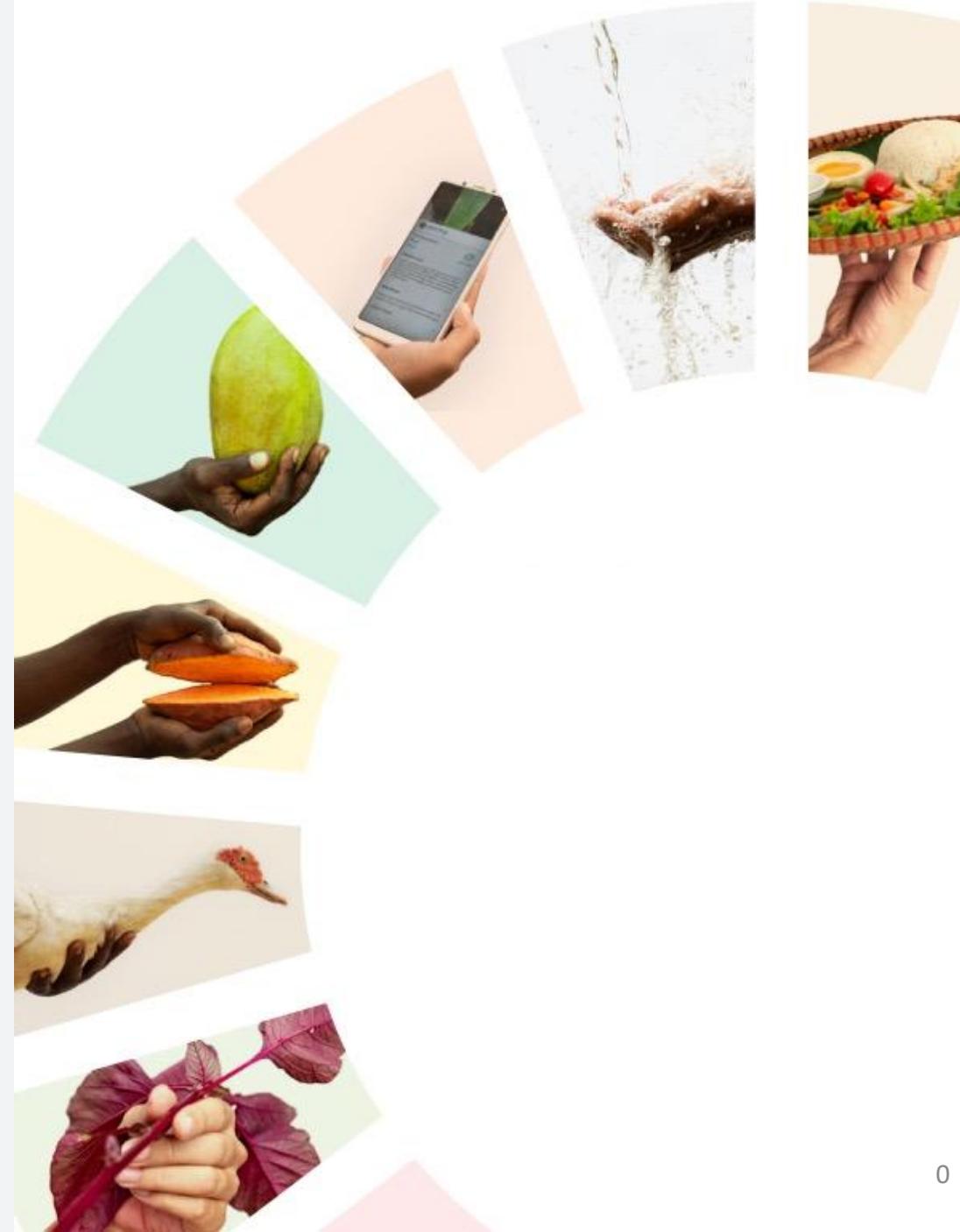


Agenda Item 9
Document: SC22-09
For decision
Version: 29 May 2025

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 December 2024 – May 2025.

Prepared by: Strategic Impact, Monitoring & Evaluation Committee (SIMEC)



SIMEC Terms of Reference (since 2023)

Advise and guide the Council on gaps, challenges and synergies relating to SPIA, IAES, and ISDC (the Advisory Bodies)

Build and facilitate a co-operative and cohesive relationship between the Advisory Bodies and PPU/PCU, to ensure improved communication, transparency of discussions and recommendations, and provide advice across the Advisory Bodies to ensure a cohesive, effective and efficient approach

Provide advice relating to the Council's approval of CGIAR policies related to strategic impact, monitoring and/or evaluation that are critical to maintaining the reputation of the CGIAR System.

Advisory Bodies

Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service (IAES)



- Regular meetings between the SIMEC Chair and the Director, IAES.
- SIMEC reviewed, provided feedback on, and endorsed the Review of the Management Response System to independent evaluations
- SIMEC members are participating in a pilot ‘ad hoc consultative group’, piloting a new evaluation engagement mechanism that brings together various stakeholders to leverage the value of independent evaluations.

Advisory Bodies

Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA)



- Consulted with the SPIA Chair on the identification of two new SPIA members.
- Supported two SPIA drop-in calls (6 February and 16 May), one for SPIA to present a synopsis of their findings (and for System Council members to provide feedback, in line with SC21/AP3) and the second for SPIA to present a summary of the findings from the first phase of four country studies (Ethiopia, Uganda, Vietnam, Bangladesh).
- Worked with the SPIA Chair to support the design of the Return On Investment evidence requested by System Council Members.
- Engaged with the SPIA Chair and a SPIA Member also attended the SIMEC in-person meeting in Nairobi in April.

Advisory Bodies

Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC)



- Two SIMEC members serve on the ISDC Nominations Panel, and SIMEC provides comments on and endorsement of prospective ISDC candidates.
- A recruitment process was conducted in 2024-2025 to identify candidates for three ISDC Member vacancies. 130 people applied and, after an extensive assessment process, three candidates were identified and approved by the System Council.
- The Nominations Panel has completed the interviews for ISDC Chair (to start in September 2025) and will shortly begin interviews for up to two new Members (to start in January 2026).
- Given that there is no proposed overlap between the outgoing and incoming ISDC Chair, IAES have proposed that the current Chair serve as an Advisor to the incoming Chair from October-December 2025.

Decision request: The System Council approves the Terms of Reference for the Senior Advisor to the Incoming ISDC Chair.

Planning 2025 independent advising and evaluative evidence for the System Council

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

Update: The Advisory Bodies terms of reference provide for periodic reviews of the effectiveness of their organizational arrangements. A terms of reference for such a review is currently being finalized. SIMEC would like to propose that the bigger questions of what the advisory system should look like, who oversees it, its size and priorities, and its links to the MELIA functions form part of a substantive discussion on the issue during the 23rd System Council meeting.

A cohesive, effective, efficient approach to CGIAR MELIA



- SIMEC provided inputs to, and receives updates on, the Gates Foundation funded project on CG MELIA Institutional Integration, which aims to support institutional strengthening of CGIAR monitoring, evaluation, learning, impact assessment and foresight capabilities for improved impact reporting, decision-making, and collaborative adaptive learning management.
- SIMEC members have provided significant feedback to the Portfolio Performance Unit regarding CGIAR's Technical Reporting Arrangement (TRA) 2025-30 and Type 2 report.
- Key feedback from SIMEC on CGIAR reporting:
 - Funders appreciate the positive results being shared but also want to know what didn't work and why, what efforts can be replicated/scaled, and how trade-offs are being identified and managed at the System-level.
 - Robust metrics on achievements over a program cycle are needed – not just numbers of outputs but also intermediate measures (outcomes/impacts).
 - While returns on investments are difficult to calculate, this information helps Funders defend the investments being made in CGIAR.

Upcoming priorities

- Identify a new ISDC Chair and up to two new Members for System Council approval.
- Review the ISDC and Evaluation 2026 workplans and budgets (in collaboration with the Assurance Oversight Committee) and provide recommendations to the System Council.
- Oversee an external assessment of effective, efficient, and cost-sensitive Advisory Bodies for the future CGIAR.

SIMEC membership

SIMEC is currently comprised of seven members, for a maximum of nine seats. So far in 2025, SIMEC has welcomed two new members: Lauren Kelly (World Bank) and Manfred Kaufmann (Switzerland). The System Council will soon receive an electronic decision for two currently vacant seats.

| # | Name | Constituency | Term end date |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Alan Tollervy (Interim Chair) | United Kingdom | 30 June 2026 |
| 2 | Ruben Echeverria | Gates Foundation | 30 June 2026 |
| 3 | Nikita Eriksen-Hamel | Canada | 30 June 2026 |
| 4 | Manfred Kaufmann | Switzerland | 7 April 2028 |
| 5 | Lauren Kelly | World Bank | 31 March 2028 |
| 6 | Ravi Khetarpal | South Asia | 30 June 2026 |
| 7 | Thomas Miethbauer | Germany | 30 June 2026 |