

Chair's Summary¹
17th System Council meeting
Brisbane, Australia 2-3 November 2022

Dear System Council Members, Active Observers, and invited guests,

Recognizing the Indigenous peoples of Australia as the First Australians and custodians of their land, our 17th meeting opened with a moving Welcome to Country ceremony and an acknowledgement and deep recognition of the complex agricultural practices utilized on the lands for tens of thousands of years.

We convened at a pivotal moment for the world -- the stalling of decades of progress in poverty reduction and economic growth. Countries are reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation is the worst in decades, food price increases are at a level not seen since 2008 and likely to be more pervasive and long-lasting, and there is a debt crisis and wars around the world. Hundreds of millions of people are displaced and very large numbers are unable to afford food or education.

In the face of these challenges, we must recognize that CGIAR is a global body with a global footprint, focused on global public goods. The world needs a CGIAR that is fit for purpose to drive the transformation of food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis. We have an obligation to step up and show the world that we can come together to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The countries and interests represented in person and on-line at the Brisbane meeting of the System Council are invested with the power to make significant contributions to meeting these challenges. Tremendous progress has already been made in reforming CGIAR and I hope this 'Brisbane moment' will move us beyond mere incremental conversations, remove roadblocks, stimulate new funding, and deliver results.

The System Board Chair, Marco Ferroni, opened with a powerful statement reminding us of our quest towards healthy, equitable, sustainable, and resilient food systems and four asks of the System Council: 1) continue to support and advocate for the One CGIAR evolution, to translate investments into more impactful partnerships in line with the ambition of social, technical and institutional bundles of innovations that advance systems transformation; 2) continue pooling as much funding as possible, as quickly as possible; 3) when engaging across CGIAR Centers and their staff, speak with one voice about the importance of working constructively together to sign the Integration Framework Agreement ('IFA') between its parties before 2023; and 4) allow the respective governance roles of the System Board and Council to evolve and align with the changes.

¹ The Chair's Summary is prepared as an early record of key messages and decisions taken, in advance of the more detailed formal meeting summary that will be shared for System Council input and approval.

Our discussion focused on the ongoing efforts to consolidate, reconfirm, and renew the path forward through the IFA, the third draft of which has been shared with the System Council, Center Boards, and stakeholders for their input and concurrence.

Ensuring that CGIAR demonstrates its ongoing deep respect for host country agreements and relationships is essential and explains why it has taken time to reach this critical juncture.

We welcomed interventions from several of our country and regional constituency members, some of whom also host countries of CGIAR Centers, who confirmed that the issues that previously caused concern for their governments have been resolved in the latest IFA iteration. Many noted that the IFA now represents a pragmatic step in clearly consolidating all that has been agreed to date, explaining how the One CGIAR vision has been adapted, and making the way forward crystal clear.

Interventions from System Council members confirmed a strong and overwhelming desire for the parties to the IFA to approve and sign it before the end of this year, understanding that the IFA is a high-level agreement with space for the integrated matrix structure to be developed in further detail in 2023. System Council members confirmed their willingness to engage with in-country partners when appropriate, to help achieve this important milestone, and emphasized that their pipeline of funding support – pooled and otherwise – is heavily influenced on CGIAR being ‘One CGIAR’ through signature of the IFA, and continuing collective efforts toward a systems that is stronger than the sum of its parts. Throughout our discussions, we paid tribute to CGIAR’s long and deep history of partnership, acknowledging the foundational role of, and continuing support from, CGIAR Center host countries.

As CGIAR’s partner ecosystem evolves, we encourage CGIAR’s teams who work on the regions and country engagement functions, and those leading the regional integrated initiatives, to maximize efforts to connect partners with the best CGIAR has to offer, and to convene stakeholders, continuously working to strike the right balance between strategic focus and responding with agility to changing needs.

The efforts of many System Council members to defend and expand pooled funding to CGIAR - including in the face of tightening budgets - are extremely appreciated, as was the commitment of the System Council to fund CGIAR in ways that support and empower the integrated matrix structure. In this regard, we welcomed the new Window 3 and bilateral Science Group funding mechanism. We must not give up on our long-stated objective to evolve CGIAR into a \$2 billion organization, because the world needs it now more than ever before.

Enormous progress has been made by CGIAR regarding gender, diversity, and inclusion in CGIAR’s workplaces, including priorities for a new 2-year Action Plan.

We extended our appreciation to the hundreds of individuals whose work has helped CGIAR achieve more progress in gender, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace in the last two years than over the prior 10 years combined. We agreed that gender, diversity, and inclusion

will now be a standing item in each regular System Council meeting, with rotating areas of specific focus.

Inclusion is a founding principle of CGIAR and acting with ethics and integrity in all we do is another. Since July 2021, CGIAR has benefitted from an enhanced Ethics and Business Conduct function, with a dedicated Director role, and an emerging broader team. A solid ethics framework is fundamental to achieving the cultural change needed for implementing One CGIAR; we need to be practical but also incorporate best practices.

We also took note of the System Board's proposal to review the roles and responsibilities of the System Board and System Council in the face of the considerable transformation of CGIAR since the governing instruments were approved in July 2016. We agreed that next steps would be informed by a short memorandum of areas for improved coherence between the two governing bodies.

The decisions and actions that we agreed are set out in full below, and a full meeting summary will be provided on a timely basis, in line with our Rules of Procedure.

It is now time to consolidate and build on the achievements of the reform and unlock CGIAR's full potential. We have reached a point of no return on CGIAR's integration journey and confirm that One CGIAR remains the most compelling way forward. A united and integrated CGIAR, as defined and guaranteed through adherence to the Integration Framework Agreement will be uniquely placed to deliver the science and innovation that can enable farmers across the global South to deliver food and nutrition security for all.

As I close this Chair's summary, I wish to thank our Australian colleagues for being such wonderful hosts and for the excellent dialogue in the related events across an important week.

Yours sincerely,
Juergen Voegele, Ph.D.
Chair, System Council

Appendix 1 – Decisions taken and Agreed positions and actions

DECISIONS

SC17-DP1 - Appointment of Meeting Co-Chair

The System Council appointed Professor Andrew Campbell, System Council member representing Australia as the non-voting Co-Chair for the 17th System Council meeting, pursuant to Article 5.2 of the CGIAR System Framework.

SC17-DP2 - Adoption of the Agenda

The System Council adopted the Agenda, as re-issued on 2nd November 2022 with revised timings and an additional item 14a titled 'Capturing our messaging'.

SC17-DP3 – Workplan and budget of advisory bodies

Pursuant to Article 6.1 u) of the CGIAR System Framework, the System Council approved the 2023 Workplan & Budget for CGIAR's Independent Advisory & Evaluation Service, Independent Science for Development Council, and Standing Panel on Impact Assessment, as set out in meeting document SC17-10.

SC17-DP4 - ISDC member appointment

Pursuant to Article 6.1 f) of the CGIAR System Framework, the System Council appoints Dr. David Just as member of CGIAR's Independent Science for Development Council for a three-year term effective from 15 November 2022.

SC17-DP5 - SPIA membership appointments

Pursuant to paragraph 4.7 of the terms of reference of the Standing Panel for Impact Assessment, the System Council confirms the appointments of the following persons:

- Dr. Kyle Emerick as SPIA Standing Panel Member for an additional three-year term with effect from 1 January 2023 unless otherwise decided by the System Council; and
- Dr. Rachid Laajaj as a Special Initiative Member for an additional three-year term with effect from 1 January 2023 unless otherwise decided by the System Council.

SC17-DP6 - SIMEC membership appointments

Pursuant to paragraph 9 of the terms of reference of the System Council's Strategic Impact, Monitoring & Evaluation Committee ('SIMEC'), the System Council:

- (a) Appoints the following persons as members of SIMEC until 30 June 2023 or such time as a successor is appointed
 - Nikita Eriksen-Hamel (Canada)
 - Gary Jahn (USA)
 - Fatma Sarsu (Türkiye)
- (b) Retroactively extends the terms of all other members of SIMEC until 30 June 2023 or such time as a successor is appointed.

SC17- DP7 - AOC membership appointments

Pursuant to paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of the System Council's Assurance Oversight Committee, the System Council:

- (a) Appoints Flora Mak (Canada) and Sarah Schmidt (Germany) as members of the Assurance Oversight Committee ('AOC') until 30 June 2023 or such time as their successors are appointed; and
- (b) Retroactively extends the term of Muriel Uzán as a member of the AOC until 30 June 2023 or such time as a successor is appointed.

SC17-DP8 – CGIAR's evolving Integration Framework Agreement

The System Council agreed on the importance of issuing a 'Brisbane moment' statement on the Integration Framework Agreement at the same time as release of the Chair's SC17 Summary.

ACTIONS**SC17-AP1 – Governing bodies**

Through the System Council Secretary, the CGIAR System Board is invited to provide a short memorandum on areas for improved coherence between the two governing bodies by 12 December 2022, to inform a further System Council discussion on the proposal for re-consideration of the distribution of roles and responsibilities between the System Council and System Board.

SC17-AP2 – System Council Standing Committees

The System Council requests its Standing Committees to review their respective terms of reference to consider whether to recommend any proposed changes, and report to the System Council the outcome of that review by not later than 14 April 2023.

SC17-AP3 – Gender, diversity and inclusion in CGIAR

Gender, diversity, and inclusion be a standing agenda item for future System Council regular meetings, with a rotating area of specific focus in any given meeting.

Appendix 2 - Participants

Meeting Leadership		Key: (*) indicates that voting member/active observer is being represented at the meeting by the alternate (***) indicated that voting member/active observer is being represented at the meeting by another delegated representative	
System Council Voting Members (listed alphabetically)		Member representative	Member Alternates & Other Delegation Members
Australia	Andrew Campbell		Alternate: Julianne Biddle Other delegates: Eleanor Dean
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Ruben Echeverria		Alternate: Renee Lafitte Other delegates: Rinn Self
Canada	Flora Mak*		Alternate: Santiago Alba Corral
East Asia & Pacific	Hao Weiping (China)		Alternate: Fadiry Djufry (Indonesia) Other delegates: Yudi Sastro, Nuning Argo Subekti, Suhartini
European Commission	Christophe Larose		
Germany & Belgium	Felicitas Röhrig**		Other delegates: Sarah Schmidt
Japan	Akiko Tejima (v) <i>Day 1 - except for Agenda item 5</i>		Alternate: Takuma Kojima Other delegates: Masa Iwanaga, Satoru Muranaka
Latin America and Caribbean	Pedro Machado (Brazil)		Alternate: Jorge Mario Diaz Luengas (Colombia) Other delegates: Renee Janette Pacheco Santos (Peru)
Mexico	Adriana Herrera-Moreno (v) Day 1		Alternate: Juan Bernardo Orozco (v)
The Netherlands	Timmo Gaasbeek (v)**		
South Asia	Himanshu Pathak (India)		Alternate Member - S.M. Bokhtiar (Bangladesh)
Sub-Saharan Africa	Garba Sharubutu (Nigeria)		Alternate - Eliud Kireger (Kenya) Other delegate: Carolyne Minayo (Kenya)
Sweden	AnnaKarin Norling		
Switzerland	Manfred Kaufmann		
United Kingdom	Alan Tollervey		
United States of America	Rob Bertram		Alternate: Jerry Glover
West Asia & North Africa	Fatma Sarsu (Türkiye)**		Alternate: Tooraj Valinassab (Iran)
The World Bank	Martien Van Nieuwkoop		

Non-voting Ex-officio members		Member	Other Delegates
CGIAR System Board	Marco Ferroni (Chair)		Alyssa Jade McDonald-Baertl, Lindiwe Majele Sibanda (System Board Members)
Executive Director of the CGIAR System Organization	Khuloud Odeh		
Center/Alliance Representative 1: Convener of the Chairs of Center Boards of Trustees	Elsa Murano (v) Day 1 only		
Center/Alliance Representative 2: Convener of the Center Directors General	Jean Balié		
Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Ismahane Elouafi Day 2 only		

Active Observers		Representative	Alternate & Other Delegates
Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR)	Ravi Khetarpal		Alternate: Hildegard Lingnau
CGIAR Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC)	Holger Meinke (Chair)		Other delegates: Nompumelelo (Mpumi) Obokoh - ISDC Vice Chair, Fetien Abera - ISDC Member

SC Secretary	
Karmen Bennett, Global Director, Governance & Assurance (a.i.)	

Invited guests		Representative
Host Country of the CGIAR System Organization (France)		Bernard Hubert & Jean Albergel
Chair of CGIAR's Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA)		Karen Macours
Trustee of the CGIAR Trust Fund (World Bank)		Jane Mwebi (v)

Additional Participants	Name/Role/Organization
SC Chair adviser	Jonathan Wadsworth, Lead Agriculture Specialist, Agriculture and Food Global Practice, World Bank
CGIAR's Executive Managing Director	Claudia Sadoff
CGIAR personnel	Elwyn Grainger-Jones, Managing Director, Institutional Strategy and Systems Harold Roy-Macauley, Managing Director, Regions and Partnership, CGIAR (v, agenda item 4) Lotte Pang, Managing Director, Communications and Outreach Sonja Vermeulen, Managing Director, Genetic Innovation Andre Zandstra, Global Director of Innovative Finance and Resource Mobilization Fiona Bourdin-Farrell, Global Director, People & Culture, CGIAR (v, agenda items 1-8) Marion Barriskell, Global Director of Business Operations and Finance Selim Guvener, CGIAR Group General Counsel (a.i.) Andrew Giddings, Director, CGIAR Ethics and Business Conduct unit (v, agenda item 8) Roland Sundstrom, Senior Advisor
CGIAR System Council Secretariat	Emma Quilligan, CGIAR System Council Support Sylvia Oyinlola, CGIAR System Council Support
CGIAR's Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service	Director, Allison Grove Smith; ISDC Lead, Amy Beaudreault (v, agenda items 9-13)
Secretary of EIARD (European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development)	Nienke Beintema
Event support	
Victoria Pezzi, Meeting and Events Coordinator, CGIAR System Organization	
Isabelle Osman, Portfolio Performance Administrator, CGIAR System Organization	