

Dear Patricia and colleagues

Thank you for sharing your preliminary consultation draft. We have not shared this with the ISPC, but since Peter and I were part of the consultation, we thought we should comment.

First, we too would like to compliment your team on putting forward clear options in such a short time.

We welcome references to strengthening the role of the ISPC and are in the process of establishing a Task Force (as recommended by the MTR) which will help us identify how best to achieve this. The CO Chief Science Officer and the Chair of the IEA will be invited to be members of the Task Force and thus issues relating to linking proposal assessment and evaluation of performance will be considered in the course of that work

We have taken the opportunity of the shared thoughts at this stage, to comment on some of the elements within the options which we see as positive, with our preferred options being 3 and 5b.

We support the need for smarter decision-making processes and thus see advantages in having a smaller decision-making body, although we (Peter and I) are not of the same mind as to whether there should be a separate 'Consortium Board' or this should be merged with the Fund Council.

We consider that retaining 2 offices (whether they report to their individual Boards or the CGIAR Council) would be beneficial in separating functions such as co-ordinating across CRPs and Centres (implementation) from those of monitoring both delivery and financial accountability. If a Consortium Board (CB) remains, we consider that membership of DGs and Centre Board member representatives would give more ownership to the Centres, but perhaps CRP Directors should also be represented. We would welcome the opportunity to send an 'active observer' to the CB.

Regarding the suggestions for appointment of a single CGIAR Council, we consider the principles of the Chair having sufficient time to provide leadership across the System and represent the CGIAR externally as very important. At the same time, we would not wish to lose the commitment of the World Bank to the CGIAR.

We are supportive of a Forum to bring the Centres and CRPs into closer contact with the donors, through for example, the annual meeting which is suggested.

We look forward to seeing the next version of your emerging thoughts.

Kind regards

Maggie Gill
Chair of ISPC

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