Eighteenth CGIAR Consortium Board Meeting
Minutes
Virtual Meeting
December 10, 2014

Chair: Carlos Pérez del Castillo, Consortium Board (CB) Chair.
Present: Lynn Haight (Vice-Chair), Mohamed Ait Kadi, Ganesan Balachander, Agnes Marion Guillou, , Martin Kropff, Klaus Leisinger **,** Agnes Mwang'ombe, and Paul Zuckerman as CB members; Jimmy Smith (observer, Centers' representative), Carmen Thoennissen (observer, FC's representative), Jonathan Wadsworth (Observer, FC Exec Secretary) and Frank Rijsberman (CEO, Ex-Officio CB member).

For Agenda item 3a: Jeremy Bird (Director General of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
CO Leadership team members: Alain Vidal, Nthisana Philipps
IAU Director: Pierre Pradal
Board Secretary: Daniela Alfaro

1. Welcome and opening remarks

The Board Chair opened the meeting with a small introduction by just outlining the draft agenda since everyone had already exchanged following the Fund Council mtg. It was suggested that the CEO give his update after which Jeremy Bird could join.

2. CEO Update on key developments since CB 17.

Key development since the last CB meeting was the FC meeting in Brussels, but as updates on that meeting have been provided through subsequent emails, and other key issues are on the agenda for specific updates, the CEO did not provide additional updates.

3. Report from Audit and Risk Management Committee ARC

a) 2014-2016 CGIAR Financing Plan

Lynn Haight, the ARC Chair, stated that the ARC had several meetings since the last CB meeting and opened discussion on the CGIAR Financing Plan.

Following introductions, Jeremy Bird spoke about the need to have stable funding and argued that the 2014-15 Finplan approved in December 2013 – which was very well received by the centers - adopts a good approach to deal with fluctuating funds that could be applied to the 2014 reduction but also as an approach to 2015 and 2016 allocations.

Jimmy Smith explained that it is very difficult to represent centers views on these points as they are very contentious and centers opinions differ widely. For 2015 funding allocations his sense is that the majority of the centers support Scenario 1, that is, allocation that uses the results of 2014 as a basis (not Scenario 2, that is, allocation that uses the FC-approved budgets as a basis) and that there is an interest to maintain some flexibility to deal with the unexpected in 2015, which supports allocating less than 100% of expected revenues at this point in time.

In response to comments related to the need to balance W1 and W2 interests, Jonathan Wadsworth commented that for the CGIAR Fund W1 and W2 are fully fungible.

Paul Zuckerman asked whether Centers need a decision on 2015 allocations at this point in time. Jimmy answered that a decision on 2014 is absolutely required but that for 2015 a few months delay would be acceptable.

In response to a question whether declining World Bank funds were taken into account in the 2015 revenue projections, Jonathan Wadsworth confirmed that for 2015 the projections include only $30 million of WB funds.

The ARC Chair made the following recommendations:

1. the 2014 CRP allocations are approved as in the proposed FinPlan;
2. for 2015 the CB will initially allocate only $315 million of the expected revenue available for the CRPs of 325 million);
3. for 2015 the CO will once more look at different allocation scenarios and come back to the CB with proposals, on which the Centers will be asked to comment, and the CB aims to finalize before end February 2015.

Decision: The CB approved these recommendations.

b) Revised 2015 CB/CO POWB

The revised POWB was discussed.
Marion Guillou asked to note the PoCCo agreed priorities among the de-prioritized actions and take these into account when considering which of these actions can be taken forward. The CEO agreed.

Paul Zuckerman commented that the POWB does not include any action (other than some of the CEO's time), budget or position related to Resource Mobilisation. It was agreed that under the circumstances of uncertainty over future structure, recruitment of RM staff, or initiation of RM activities, is not advisable. In the second half of the year, once there is more clarity, there should be enough flexibility in the budget to respond to opportunities and priorities at that time.

The ARC Chair recommended approval of the proposed 2015 POWB.
Decision: The CB approved the 2015 POWB.

4. Report from Science, Programs and Partnerships Committee SPPC

a) Update on SRF process

This SPPC Chair, Martin Kropff provided an update on the SRF. The process is now well in hand. A new draft will be issued December 15^{th}. There will be a key joint FC-ISPC-Consortium-Center workshop in Bern from 14-16 January where all remaining major issues will be discussed. Late January the final version should be distributed for a last round of comments late January. The CB is expected to approve the final version during its meeting at CIMMYT in late March 2015. The draft Guidance for the CRP 2nd Call is also progressing, on the heels of the SRF so to speak, and will need to be ready at the same time.

b) Update on CRP Extension Proposals

The good news is that all CRPs have been extended. The confusion over "carry – forwards" (and underspends vs. committed) has been resolved through a reasonable compromise. Contracting is now proceeding.

5. Report from Governance, Risk and Compliance Committee GRCC

- **Update on work and consultations on CGIAR Mid Term Review**

Paul Zuckerman and Martin Kropff have worked with Jimmy Smith and Camilla Toulmin following the CB's offer (at CB17) to see if the Centers and Consortium can overcome their differences, particularly the perceived ambiguities in the Consortium Constitution.

The Centers (with Bob Zeigler as penholder) have produced a concept note (and associated Q&A) on what has been called Consortium 2.0 (or "Consortium Light") – which was a response to a possible decision by the FC to replace the FC and CB by a single multi-stakeholder Board. It concludes that if the FC were to decide to move to a single board, then centers should form Consortium 2.0 to represent their interests.

The CB is also interested to develop the "Improved Status Quo" alternative, and sees an improved Consortium, referred to as Consortium 1.2, as a key element of that solution. That is worked out in the Consortium 1.2 concept note, now shared with the CB and soon to be shared with the Centers as well.

CB members expressed their support for the Consortium 1.2 note and were asked to share their comments in writing.

6. Report from Nominations and evaluations committee (NEC)

a) New board Members and Chair

The NEC Chair reported back that in between CB17 and CB18 discussions among the Centers and CB members concluded it was better to delay the election of two new board members until there is more clarity on the new structure. In the interim, the NEC Chair recommends to elect Lynn Haight as the Interim Chair.

Decision: The CB elected Lynn Haight as Interim Consortium Board Chair.

b) Appointment of Committee Chairs for 2015

The CB Chair recommended the following Committee Chair assignments:

- **ARC:** Klaus Leisinger, Interim Chair (for as long as Lynn Haight is Board Chair)
- **SPPC:** Martin Kropff
- Merged committee on **Governance and Policies (GRCC and PoCCo)**: Paul Zuckerman

- **NEC:** Marion Guillou

Memberships of committees to remain as in 2014.

Decision: The CB approved the recommendations for committee chairs and to keep the current members for 2015.

7. GCARD3 organizing committee

The CEO mentioned that the GCARD3 process has now been initiated through the consultation on the SRF. The CO will appoint Nadia Manning-Thomas as partnership adviser to coordinate GCARD3 form the CO side (in partnership with GFAR) from January 1, 2015.
The CEO recommends that the CB approves the composition and ToR of the proposed GCARD3 Organizing Committee that will report to the CB and GFAR Steering Committee. The committee will be co-chaired by the GFAR Exec Sec and the CEO. Two CRP directors will be members from Consortium side, and Alain Vidal will represent the CO.

Decision: The CB approved the composition and ToR of the GCARD3 Organizing Committee.

8. Any other business

Lynn Haight informed the CB members she has made arrangements to meet with the FC Chair in the coming week and asked members if they have things they wish her to discuss.
Lynn wished all the best to Carlos and Mohamed as this is their last meeting and regretted having to do this over the phone. All CB members joined her in thanking both Carlos and Mohamed once more.

The CB Chair then closed the open part of the meeting.

In Camera session:

The CB discussed the performance evaluation of the CEO in camera.