

24<sup>th</sup> CGIAR System Council Meeting  
10–11 June 2026, Antalya, Türkiye

Agenda Item 10	Report from the Strategic Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (SIMEC)
Distribution notice:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> May be distributed without restriction <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted to Members and Active Observers <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted to Voting Members only
Issue date:	1 June 2026
Purpose:	<input type="checkbox"/> For consent agenda/information <input type="checkbox"/> For discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For discussion and decision <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
Requested action:	Discussion and Decision
Executive summary:	<p>Since the last System Council meeting in December 2025 (SC23), SIMEC has continued follow-up on the Council-endorsed Advisory Bodies Review recommendations and engaged with IAES, ISDC and SPIA on selected matters within its mandate.</p> <p>The report summarizes SIMEC’s main areas of work since SC23, including Advisory Body follow-up; selected review and input on IAES, ISDC and SPIA deliverables; appointment and succession matters; future Advisory Body workplan and budget reporting; and considerations for future MOPAN follow-up, including timing, scope, feasibility, funding and implications of further deferral.</p> <p>For this agenda item, SIMEC seeks Council approval of SIMEC membership-related appointments and succession items: the extension of Thomas Miethbauer’s appointment as a SIMEC member and the appointment of proposed nominees to fill forthcoming SIMEC vacancies.</p> <p>SIMEC also recommends, via the SC24 consent agenda, approval of the SPIA Chair appointment extension and the ISDC Nominating Panel Terms of Reference.</p>
Draft decision point:	<p>Pursuant to paragraph C.7 of the Strategic Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (SIMEC) Terms of Reference, the System Council approves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the extension of Thomas Miethbauer’s appointment as a SIMEC member until 31 December 2027.</li> <li>ii. the appointment of the proposed Mariana Kim and Dr. Alice Murage to SIMEC for three-year terms commencing on 1 July 2026 and concluding on 30 June 2029, or until their respective successors are appointed.</li> </ol> <p><b><i>*Names and CVs of the proposed nominees will be shared separately with System Council voting members and alternates.</i></b></p>
Supporting materials:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SIMEC Report to SC24</li> <li>• Additional Reference: <a href="#">SIMEC Terms of Reference</a></li> </ul>
Prepared by:	Strategic Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee

## **Report to the CGIAR System Council (SC24) Strategic Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (SIMEC)**

### **Executive summary**

This report provides SIMEC's update and recommendations to the System Council at SC24. It is organized around SIMEC's core Terms of Reference responsibilities: cross-cutting advice on CGIAR's Advisory Bodies; review of Advisory Bodies' workplans, budgets and effectiveness; appointments and succession planning; and policies related to impact, monitoring and evaluation.

The [Advisory Body pre-read materials considered at SC23](#) provide the baseline for this report. Those materials covered the consolidated 2026 workplan and 2026–2027 budget for IAES, ISDC and SPIA; ISDC's recent portfolio review and prioritization work; SPIA's return-on-investment evidence products; IAES Evaluation Function progress on evaluation guidelines, management responses, evaluative learning and Center External Review scoping; and SIMEC's high-level Advisory Bodies Review recommendations. This report focuses on developments since SC23 and areas where SIMEC seeks Council noting, direction or approval.

Since SC23, SIMEC has followed up on the Council-endorsed Advisory Bodies Review recommendations and provided line-of-sight input on selected Advisory Body matters. This has included review of Advisory Body responses to the SC23 recommendations; input on evaluation approaches, pilot terms of reference, reports and management responses; review of evidence-use approaches and progress reports; and engagement on future Advisory Body workplan and budget reporting. Members have also divided review responsibilities and participated in IAES ad hoc consultative groups for selected pilot evaluation projects.

At SC24, SIMEC asks the Council to approve the appointment-related items for SIMEC, SPIA and ISDC. Other updates in this report are provided for the Council to note, with no specific decision or action requested.

## Annexes to this report

Annex	Title
Annex 1	Current SIMEC membership and term end dates
Annex 2	Follow-up Tracker: SIMEC's SC23 Advisory Bodies Review Recommendations
Annex 3	Background on Center External Review Pilot
Annex 4	What is MOPAN?
Annex 5	2019 CGIAR MOPAN Assessment Key Findings

## Acronyms used in this report

Acronym	Full term
AdHocCG	Ad Hoc Consultative Group
AOC	Assurance Oversight Committee
CER	Center External Review
IAES	Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service
ISDC	Independent Science for Development Council
LOS	Line of Sight
MELIAF	Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, Impact Assessment and Foresight
MOPAN	Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network
PPT	Portfolio Performance Team, formerly known as the Portfolio Performance Unit and Project Coordination Unit
ROI	Return on Investment
SPIA	Standing Panel on Impact Assessment
TOR	Terms of Reference

## Supplemental reference links

Additional Reference Links
<a href="#">SIMEC Terms of Reference</a>
<a href="#">SIMEC Advisory Bodies Review Report to the 23<sup>rd</sup> CGIAR Council Meeting</a>
<a href="#">SPIA, ISDC, and IAES's reports and pre-reads to the 23<sup>rd</sup> CGIAR Council Meeting</a>
<a href="#">Home Page — CGIAR Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service</a>
<a href="#">Brief — 2019 CGIAR MOPAN Assessment</a>
<a href="#">Report — 2019 CGIAR MOPAN Assessment</a>

## Summary of items for SC24

Area	SIMEC update since SC23	For Council noting/action/decision
<b>Cross-cutting Advisory Body matters</b>	Follow-up on SC23-endorsed recommendations with IAES, ISDC, SPIA and the IAES Secretariat.	For Council noting under the overall request to note progress; no separate action point.
<b>Advisory Body workplans, deliverables and effectiveness</b>	SIMEC input on selected IAES, ISDC and SPIA deliverables, including CER, the Country Evaluation pilot, ISDC AI, SPIA Use of Evidence / ROI, evaluation reports, management responses and data-quality reporting.	For Council noting: SIMEC recommends careful sequencing, clear communications, and learning from pilots before wider replication. Further background on CER is provided in <b>Annex 3</b> .
<b>Advisory Body Budgets and future reporting</b>	Engagement with IAES, AOC and CGIAR Finance on future Advisory Body budget-template reporting.	For Council noting under the overall request to note progress; no separate action point.
<b>Appointments, succession and SIMEC capacity</b>	Considered SIMEC membership renewal needs, the SPIA Chair extension, and the ISDC Nominating Panel Terms of Reference. Current SIMEC membership and term end dates are provided in <b>Annex 1</b> .	For Council approval: proposed SIMEC appointments; SPIA Chair extension; and ISDC Nominating Panel Terms of Reference through the SC24 consent agenda, as applicable. For Council support: timely nominations for forthcoming SIMEC vacancies.
<b>Policies related to impact, monitoring and evaluation</b>	Review of MOPAN timing, scope and feasibility options, alongside wider evaluation and evidence-use policy matters.	For Council noting at SC24; SIMEC may return with recommendations once options are more clearly developed. See <b>Annexes 4 and 5</b> for background.

## 1. Cross-cutting Advisory Body matters

The SC23-endorsed cross-cutting recommendations focused on maintaining the Advisory Bodies as independent functions while clarifying their scope; strengthening synergies with governance and System Organization structures; supporting coordination with relevant monitoring, evaluation, learning, impact assessment and foresight workstreams; and improving budget transparency and cost-efficiency by clarifying the costs of Advisory Body outputs.

- Reviewed Advisory Body follow-up to the SC23-endorsed recommendations, including the IAES/Advisory Bodies implementation tracker.
- Focused on scope and role clarity, synergies, coordination with relevant monitoring, evaluation, learning, impact assessment and foresight workstreams, budget transparency, evidence use and avoiding duplication during the governance transition.
- Noted that formal Advisory Body engagement with CGIAR Board structures should be considered once governance and committee structures are clearer.
- Emphasized prioritization, sequencing, capacity constraints and clearer tracking of recommendation uptake across follow-up work.

### For Council noting

No separate Council action is requested. This update is covered by the overall request for the Council to note SIMEC's progress and advice in this report.

## 2. Advisory Body workplans, deliverables and effectiveness

Since SC23, SIMEC has followed up on the Advisory Bodies Review recommendations and reviewed selected Advisory Body workplans, deliverables and effectiveness matters within its mandate. The table below summarizes SIMEC's engagement across the main areas reviewed or expected before SC24, including SC23 follow-up, budget reporting, pilot evaluations, SPIA and ISDC workstreams, and appointment and succession matters.

## Summary of SIMEC Engagement on Advisory Body Workplans, Deliverables and Effectiveness

Area	SIMEC update since SC23	High-level advice to Advisory Bodies	For Council action/noting
SC23 follow-up and implementation tracking <i>(TOR paras 1a, 1b, 2c, and 4)</i>	Reviewed the IAES / Advisory Bodies response to the SC23 recommendations, including one-line Gantt progress reporting.	Keep focusing on role clarity, synergies, coordination with relevant monitoring, evaluation, learning, impact assessment and foresight workstreams, budget transparency, evidence use and avoiding duplication.	Note continued follow-up to SC23 recommendations and SIMEC's ongoing monitoring role.
Budget template and future workplan/budget reporting <i>(TOR para 2b)</i>	Engaged with IAES, AOC and CGIAR Finance on a revised template for future Advisory Body budget reporting.	Link workplans, outputs, activities, costs and budget utilization more clearly while avoiding duplicative reporting burden.	Note direction of budget-template follow-up and its relevance for SC25 workplan/budget review.
Center External Review pilot <i>(TOR paras 1a, 2c, 4, and 5)</i>	Provided input on CER purpose, governance, communications, role clarity and the IWMI pilot; two SIMEC members participate in the CER consultative group.	Position CER as learning-oriented assurance and a Center-level health check, not an audit or compliance exercise; keep SIMEC's role time-bound and mandate-limited.	Note the need for clear, trust-building messages to Centers and Center Boards before wider rollout. The Council should encourage the CGIAR Board to help position CER as a learning opportunity for the system.
Country Evaluation pilot <i>(TOR paras 1a, 2c, 4, and 5)</i>	Provided comments on the Kenya concept note; two SIMEC members participate in the consultative group for TOR and report discussions.	Strengthen methodology, clarify evaluation criteria, include effectiveness questions, preserve independence, and define what can and cannot be generalized from the Kenya pilot.	Note SIMEC input and IAES's response; use pilot learning before wider replication.

<b>Area</b>	<b>SIMEC update since SC23</b>	<b>High-level advice to Advisory Bodies</b>	<b>For Council action/noting</b>
Data quality, evaluability and portfolio evaluation planning <i>(TOR paras 1a, 2c, 4, and 5)</i>	Reviewed or expects to review the Data Quality Summary Report, Evaluability Assessment Domain G learning study, and midline portfolio evaluation planning Green Paper.	Use these products to strengthen evidence quality, coordination with relevant monitoring, evaluation, learning, impact assessment and foresight workstreams, cost-effectiveness learning and future evaluation design.	Note the forward-looking evaluation pipeline and the need to sequence SIMEC input proportionately.
SPIA Use of Evidence and ongoing studies <i>(TOR paras 1a, 1b, 4, and 5)</i>	Reviewed or expects to review SPIA's Use of Evidence Strategy and progress reporting on ongoing studies.	Management should use SPIA's ROI studies and related evidence, working with SPIA as appropriate, to develop concise, well-caveated products for Council and funder use, while preserving SPIA's independence and technical rigor.	Note continued SIMEC interest in SPIA focus, evidence use, ROI interpretation and prioritization.
ISDC AI concept and advice uptake <i>(TOR paras 1a, 1b, 2c, 4, and 5)</i>	Reviewed ISDC's AI concept note and expects to review Enhancing ISDC Advice and Closing the Advisory Loop materials.	Proceed with careful AI piloting using real cases, clear methodology, model specification, prompt documentation, validation, data safeguards and human oversight.	Note responsible AI exploration and continued work to improve uptake and usefulness of ISDC advice.

## 2.1. Center External Review pilot

The Center External Review pilot is a key follow-up area from the SC23 Advisory Bodies Review recommendations. IAES is piloting a renewed CER process with IWMI to test and refine the approach before any wider rollout across CGIAR Centers.

SIMEC emphasized that CER should be positioned as a learning-oriented, independent review and Center-level health check, not as an audit, compliance exercise, inspection, or substitute for Center Board oversight. SIMEC also noted that clear, trust-building communication with Centers and Center Boards will be important before wider rollout. SIMEC's own role in CER consultative mechanisms should remain time-bound and mandate-limited, without making SIMEC part of CER implementation or management.

Further background on CER is provided in **Annex 3**.

### For Council noting/action

No separate Council action is requested under this section. SIMEC highlights the importance of clear, trust-building messages to Centers and Center Boards before wider rollout, including on what CER is and is not; the respective roles of Center Boards, IAES, SIMEC and the System Council; and how learning from the IWMI pilot will inform the future CER model.

## 2.2. Country Evaluation pilot

SIMEC provided consolidated input to IAES on the Kenya Country Evaluation concept note. Members focused on clarifying the evaluation's purpose and boundaries, strengthening the methodology, clarifying evaluation criteria, including effectiveness-oriented questions, preserving evaluation independence, and defining what can and cannot be generalized from Kenya as a pilot.

IAES indicated that the revised concept note and forthcoming Terms of Reference would adopt a mixed-methods design, consider additional data sources where feasible, harmonize evaluation criteria, and clarify roles to safeguard independence while maintaining productive coordination with relevant workstreams. Two SIMEC members are participating in the consultative group for Terms of Reference and report discussions.

### For Council noting

No separate Council action is requested under this section. SIMEC will continue to follow the pilot through the consultative group process, with attention to methodology, independence, effectiveness questions, and lessons that should inform any wider replication of country evaluations.

### 2.3. SPIA evidence use, ROI and ongoing studies

SC23 materials positioned SPIA's return-on-investment work as a response to Council interest in understanding the returns from selected CGIAR innovations and using evidence to support the CGIAR investment case. Since SC23, SIMEC has reviewed or expects to review SPIA's Use of Evidence Strategy and progress reporting on ongoing studies.

SIMEC's interest is in SPIA's focus, evidence use, ROI interpretation and prioritization, including how constrained resources affect choices between breadth and depth in country-level impact assessment work. SIMEC also noted that Management should use SPIA's ROI studies and related evidence, working with SPIA as appropriate, to develop concise, well-caveated products for Council and funder use, while preserving SPIA's independence and technical rigor.

#### **For Council noting**

No separate Council action is requested under this section. SIMEC will continue to follow SPIA's focus, evidence use, ROI interpretation and prioritization, including how SPIA evidence can support Council and funder dialogue without compromising SPIA's independence.

### 2.4. ISDC AI concept and advice uptake

SIMEC reviewed ISDC's concept note on the proposed use of artificial intelligence in advisory processes and expects to review related work on enhancing ISDC advice and closing the advisory loop.

SIMEC supported careful exploration of AI-assisted advisory processes where they may help with document-heavy synthesis, but emphasized the need for real ISDC cases, clear methodology, model specification, prompt documentation, validation and checking procedures, data safeguards, human oversight, and clear boundaries on where judgment must remain human-led.

#### **For Council noting**

No separate Council action is requested under this section. SIMEC will continue to follow responsible AI exploration and work to improve the uptake and usefulness of ISDC advice.

### 3. Appointments, succession, and SIMEC capacity

SIMEC's Terms of Reference include advising or making recommendations to the System Council on the selection of the Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC) Chair and members, the Head of the Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service (IAES), and the Chair of the Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA), as relevant. SIMEC members are also nominated and appointed by the System Council.

Several current SIMEC member terms conclude on 30 June 2026. Current SIMEC membership and term end dates are provided in Annex 1. Timely appointments and nominations will help maintain continuity, given the Committee's expected workload and the technical nature of matters coming before SIMEC in 2026–2027.

For SC24, SIMEC recommends approval of the following appointment and succession items:

- Extension of Thomas Miethbauer's appointment as a SIMEC member until 31 December 2027, to support continuity during the 2026–2027 review cycle and help manage the Committee's expected workload.
- Appointment of proposed nominees to fill forthcoming SIMEC vacancies and sustain the Committee's capacity.
- Extension of Dr. Travis Lybbert's appointment as Chair of SPIA until 31 December 2027, via the SC24 consent agenda, to support continuity across SPIA's 2027 work program and Advisory Bodies Review follow-up actions.
- Approval of the ISDC Nominating Panel Terms of Reference, via the SC24 consent agenda, as required under the CGIAR System Framework, to support the process to fill two open ISDC positions following SC24.

#### For Council decision and action

SIMEC recommends that the System Council:

- i. Approve the extension of Thomas Miethbauer's appointment as a SIMEC member until 31 December 2027.
- ii. Approve the appointment of the proposed Mariana Kim and Dr. Alice Murage to SIMEC for three-year terms commencing on 1 July 2026 and concluding on 30 June 2029, or until their respective successors are appointed.

***\*Names of nominees and CVs will be shared separately with System Council voting members and alternates.***

SIMEC also invites System Council members, particularly constituencies with forthcoming vacancies, to support timely nominations for SIMEC membership, with attention to the skills needed to sustain the Committee's work.

SIMEC also recommends, via the SC24 consent agenda, approval of the SPIA Chair appointment extension and the ISDC Nominating Panel Terms of Reference.

#### 4. Policies related to impact, monitoring and evaluation

SIMEC has discussed several policy-related matters within its remit, including evaluation-function role clarity, Center External Reviews, Country Evaluation, results reporting, data quality, management-response tracking, responsible use of AI tools, and future MOPAN timing and scope.

##### 4.1. Future MOPAN assessment

SIMEC36 held an initial discussion on possible future MOPAN follow-up. Members discussed the trade-offs between pursuing a new assessment in the near term and deferring until governance arrangements and related reforms are more settled. There was not full consensus on timing.

The discussion noted several considerations:

- a near-term full assessment could provide an external accountability signal, but may assess governance arrangements while they are still evolving;
- further deferral may be difficult to justify given the time elapsed since CGIAR's 2019 assessment and the frequency with which peer institutions are assessed;
- a targeted or phased approach could focus on areas within SIMEC's remit, including evaluation independence, performance management, management-response tracking, results reporting and evidence use;
- completed CERs could provide useful input to a later full MOPAN assessment if one is deferred; and
- any approach should consider feasibility, timing, donor interest, funding and staff-time costs.

Background on MOPAN and the 2019 CGIAR MOPAN assessment is provided in **Annexes 4 and 5**.

##### **For Council noting**

No separate Council action is requested at SC24. SIMEC will continue to consider future MOPAN follow-up, including timing, scope, feasibility, funding considerations and implications of further deferral, and may return to the Council with recommendations once options are more clearly developed.

## Annex 1 — Current SIMEC membership and end term dates

This annex lists the current members of the Strategic Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (SIMEC), showing term end dates.

### Strategic Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee

Member	Representation	Term Start Date	Term End Date
Timmo Gaasbeek (Chair)	The Netherlands	11-Jul-2025	10-Jul-2028
Ruben Echeverría	Gates Foundation	16-Dec-2021	30-Jun-2026
Nikita Eriksen-Hamel	Canada	3-Nov-2022	30-Jun-2026
Manfred Kaufmann	Switzerland	8-Apr-2025	7-Apr-2028
Tewodros Aragie Kebede	Norway	4-May-2026	3-May-2029
Lauren Kelly	World Bank	1-Apr-2025	31-Mar-2028
Ravi Khetarpal	South Asia	17-Aug-2023	30-Jun-2026
Thomas Miethbauer	Germany	17-Aug-2023	30-Jun-2026 (extension to 31-Dec-2027 subject to SC approval)
Alan Tollervey	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	10-May-2017	30-Jun-2026

## Annex 2 — Follow-up Tracker: SIMEC’s SC23 Advisory Bodies Review Recommendations

This annex summarizes follow-up to the recommendations endorsed by the System Council at SC23. It is based on the IAES / Advisory Bodies response tracker and SIMEC follow-up discussions and is condensed for Council-level review. Operational details, internal staffing information, and duplicative process notes have been omitted.

SC23 recommendation area	Follow-up since SC23	SIMEC advice / next step	Status / SC24 relevance
Cross-cutting: scope and role clarity	IAES has indicated that any TOR or mandate revisions should be considered once future Advisory Body scopes and governance arrangements are clearer.	Maintain the independence of IAES, ISDC and SPIA while continuing to clarify roles, boundaries and interfaces with emerging CGIAR governance structures.	Ongoing; for SC24 noting.
Cross-cutting: synergies and coordination	Advisory Bodies have continued engagement with relevant governance and System Organization counterparts, while recognizing that formal links with new Board structures should be sequenced with the governance transition.	Continue practical coordination to avoid duplication and strengthen synergies, while preserving Advisory Body independence and clear accountability lines.	Ongoing; for SC24 noting.
Cross-cutting: MELIAF alignment	IAES, SPIA and ISDC have continued engagement with MELIAF-related workstreams and communities, including areas related to data quality, evidence use, country evaluation and evaluation planning.	Use MELIAF as a coordination platform, with attention to sequencing, clear roles and the distinction between evaluation, monitoring, impact assessment and data-system objectives.	Ongoing; linked to multiple 2026 deliverables.
Cross-cutting: budget transparency and cost efficiency	IAES has advanced a revised Advisory Bodies budget-template approach in response to SIMEC’s recommendation to present budgets more explicitly and clarify costs of outputs.	Finalize a practical template that links workplans, outputs, activities, costs and budget utilization, in coordination with AOC and CGIAR Finance, without creating duplicative reporting.	In progress; informs 2027 budget preparation and future Council review.

SC23 recommendation area	Follow-up since SC23	SIMEC advice / next step	Status / SC24 relevance
SPIA: country-level impact and causal evidence	SPIA has continued country-study implementation and is considering how to prioritize causal impact assessment opportunities within available resources and existing commitments.	Continue to balance breadth and depth of SPIA work, with clear trade-offs between contracted country studies, causal impact assessments and evidence products for Council and funder use.	Ongoing; linked to SPIA progress reporting.
SPIA: study prioritization and reduced new commitments	SPIA has paused or reduced new study commitments where appropriate and is continuing with contracted studies, consistent with the SC23 recommendation to manage the study portfolio under budget constraints.	Continue transparent reporting on which studies proceed, which are paused or narrowed, and how decisions affect future evidence availability.	Ongoing; for SIMEC line of sight.
SPIA: coordination and cost / benefit evidence	SPIA has continued coordination with the Portfolio Performance Team, Portfolio Coordination Unit, Chief Scientist's Office and MELIAF-related communities on evidence use, technical reporting and ROI-related learning.	Strengthen links between SPIA evidence, costing data and decision-use products while preserving SPIA's independence and credibility.	Ongoing; linked to SPIA Use of Evidence and ROI follow-up.
SPIA: audience-targeted communication	SPIA has continued developing products that translate technical impact evidence for different audiences, building on ROI evidence products and the emerging Use of Evidence Strategy.	Continue making outputs concise, accessible and appropriately caveated for System Council, funders, management, Centers and partners.	Ongoing; for SC24 noting.
SPIA: budget adjustments	SPIA has reduced new grant commitments and clarified elements of program-management budgeting following SIMEC's SC23 review.	Continue reporting budget implications alongside study prioritization and evidence-product choices.	Substantially addressed; continue monitoring through workplan/budget review.

SC23 recommendation area	Follow-up since SC23	SIMEC advice / next step	Status / SC24 relevance
ISDC: feedback, engagement and uptake of advice	ISDC has continued to strengthen engagement with System Council, IPB / Board-related structures and CGIAR Management, including work to close the advisory loop and improve uptake tracking.	Support clearer mechanisms for tracking use of ISDC advice and for feeding Council priorities into ISDC work without compromising independent scientific judgment.	Ongoing; linked to ISDC advice and uptake workstreams.
ISDC: travel costs and efficient modalities	ISDC has reduced travel budgets and increased use of hybrid / virtual engagement where appropriate, while aligning in-person activity with major events where useful.	Continue applying cost-conscious meeting modalities while preserving the quality of consensus-building and independent scientific advice.	Substantially addressed; continue through annual planning.
ISDC: megatrends and future strategic work	The planned megatrends update has been deferred or replaced in the near term by work that assesses prior ISDC tools and supports prioritization and future strategic advice.	Sequence future megatrends or horizon-scanning work with Council needs, resource availability and the business cycle.	Deferred / to be revisited in future planning.
ISDC: strategic assessments and portfolio review	ISDC continues to prepare for periodic assessments and strategic advice linked to the 2025–2030 Portfolio, including reflection on inception and implementation and possible future review points.	Clarify future Council requests for ISDC reviews early, including scope, timing, expected use and resource implications.	Ongoing; forward-looking for 2026–2027.
ISDC: responsible use of AI in advisory processes	ISDC has developed a concept note on AI-assisted advisory processes; SIMEC provided comments on methodology, safeguards, validation, model specification, confidentiality and expert oversight.	Proceed with careful piloting using real ISDC cases, clear boundaries on AI use and human-led judgment for interpretive or value-based assessments.	Ongoing; for SC24 noting.
Evaluation Function: role clarity and oversight	IAES has identified areas where future Charter, Framework or TOR clarification may be needed, but these are best sequenced with broader governance changes.	Pause major mandate-document revisions until governance structures are clearer, while continuing to clarify practical roles in evaluation planning and reporting.	Ongoing; tied to governance transition.

SC23 recommendation area	Follow-up since SC23	SIMEC advice / next step	Status / SC24 relevance
Evaluation Function: Center External Reviews	IAES is piloting the renewed Center External Review approach with IWMI and developing generic TORs, implementation planning and learning from the pilot. SIMEC members are participating in consultative engagement.	Use the pilot to refine the model before wider rollout, with clear messaging that CERs are learning-oriented, independent reviews—not audits or replacements for Center Board oversight.	Pilot underway; key SC24 reflection / noting item.
Evaluation Function: country evaluations	IAES is piloting a Country Evaluation approach. SIMEC provided comments on methodology, criteria, effectiveness questions, MELIAF boundaries, independence and the limits of generalizing from the Kenya pilot.	Use pilot learning to clarify the purpose, scope, methodology and replicability of future country evaluations before broader rollout.	In progress; consultative group and report expected in 2026.
Evaluation Function: relevance, utility and stakeholder engagement	IAES is expanding stakeholder consultation and work-planning dialogue to improve relevance and utility of evaluation work, including forward planning for portfolio and midline evaluation needs.	Document consultations and clarify trade-offs, constraints and timing so SIMEC can provide early input where it adds most value.	Ongoing; linked to 2026 planning and SC25 workplan / budget.
Evaluation Function: data quality and evidence use	IAES is developing annual data quality observations and related evaluability / learning work relevant to MELIAF systems and portfolio evaluation readiness.	Ensure data-quality observations are actionable, proportionate and connected to evaluation readiness, management response and evidence-use needs.	In progress; for SIMEC input.
Evaluation Function: M&E / MELIAF community engagement	IAES and Evaluation Function staff continue to engage with MELIAF and relevant M&E communities of practice, including work related to evaluation guidelines and learning products.	Continue supporting practical learning across evaluation, monitoring, impact assessment and foresight communities while avoiding role confusion.	Ongoing; for noting.
Evaluation Function: transparency in work program planning	IAES is preparing to document consultations, scoping, staffing and budgeting considerations more clearly in future workplan and budget materials.	Provide SIMEC and Council with concise documentation of how evaluation work program priorities are selected, sequenced and resourced.	In progress; linked to future workplan / budget review.

## Annex 3 — Center External Review Pilot: purpose, roles and SIMEC reflections

### Executive summary

Following SIMEC’s recommendation to reinstate Center External Reviews as a core pillar of CGIAR’s evaluation and assurance architecture, IAES is piloting a renewed CER process with IWMI. The pilot is intended to test and refine a standardized approach, including methods, tools, timing, stakeholder engagement, reporting and learning processes before any wider rollout across CGIAR Centers.

SIMEC welcomes the pilot as an important step toward restoring a holistic, Center-level review mechanism. The process has the potential to support accountability, assurance, strategic reflection and organizational learning. At the same time, SIMEC notes that clear, trust-building communication with Centers and Center Boards will be essential. CER should be presented as a learning-oriented independent review and Center ‘health check,’ not as an audit, compliance review, inspection or replacement for Center Board oversight.

SIMEC asks the System Council to note the IWMI CER pilot under the overall request to note progress in this report. SIMEC recommends that future CER communications clarify what the process is and is not; the respective roles of Center Boards, IAES, SIMEC, the System Council and other CGIAR assurance actors; and how learning from the IWMI pilot will inform the future CER model.

Topic	Proposed message for Centers and Center Boards
What CER is	A learning-oriented, independent review process that supports accountability, assurance, strategic reflection and improvement.
What CER is not	Not an audit, compliance review, inspection or replacement for Center Board oversight.
Purpose	To provide a holistic assessment of the Center in its totality, including research-for-development performance, management quality, governance, strategy, partnerships and evidence of outcomes.
Commissioning role	Center Boards commission the reviews and use findings to support oversight, organizational learning and improvement.
IAES role	IAES supports the process through methods, tools, expert identification, quality assurance, coordination and learning from the pilot.
System Council interest	The System Council receives CER reports and management responses as part of CGIAR’s broader assurance architecture.
SIMEC role	SIMEC provides Council-oriented advice and may offer input at clearly defined points but should not become part of implementation or management.
Pilot learning	The IWMI pilot should inform the standard CER format, tools, timing, stakeholder engagement, communications and future rollout.

## Annex 4 — What is MOPAN?

### What is MOPAN?

The **Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network** is a network of 19 members with a common interest in assessing the effectiveness of the major organisations they fund.

 Australia	 Germany	 Norway
 Belgium	 Ireland	 Republic of Korea
 Canada	 Italy	 Sweden
 Denmark	 Japan	 Switzerland
 Finland	 Luxembourg	 United Arab Emirates
 France	 The Netherlands	 The United Kingdom
		 The United States of America



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## Context for CGIAR

### What is MOPAN?

- MOPAN is the Multilateral Performance Network: a network of 20 member countries that produces independent performance evidence on multilateral organizations.
- Its assessments are public and are used for accountability, funding dialogue and organisational learning.

### How assessments work

- Common methodology (current version: MOPAN 4).
- Evidence typically combines document review, interviews / consultations and partner surveys.
- Reports are designed as a diagnostic “snapshot”, not an audit and not a full institutional evaluation.

### Context for CGIAR

- CGIAR's first assessment was in 2019.
- Peer organisations are often assessed more frequently; CGIAR is now beyond that rhythm.
- A pragmatic option could be a targeted or phased follow-up once scope, sponsors and timing are clearer.



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## Annex 5 — 2019 MOPAN Assessment of CGIAR — Key Findings

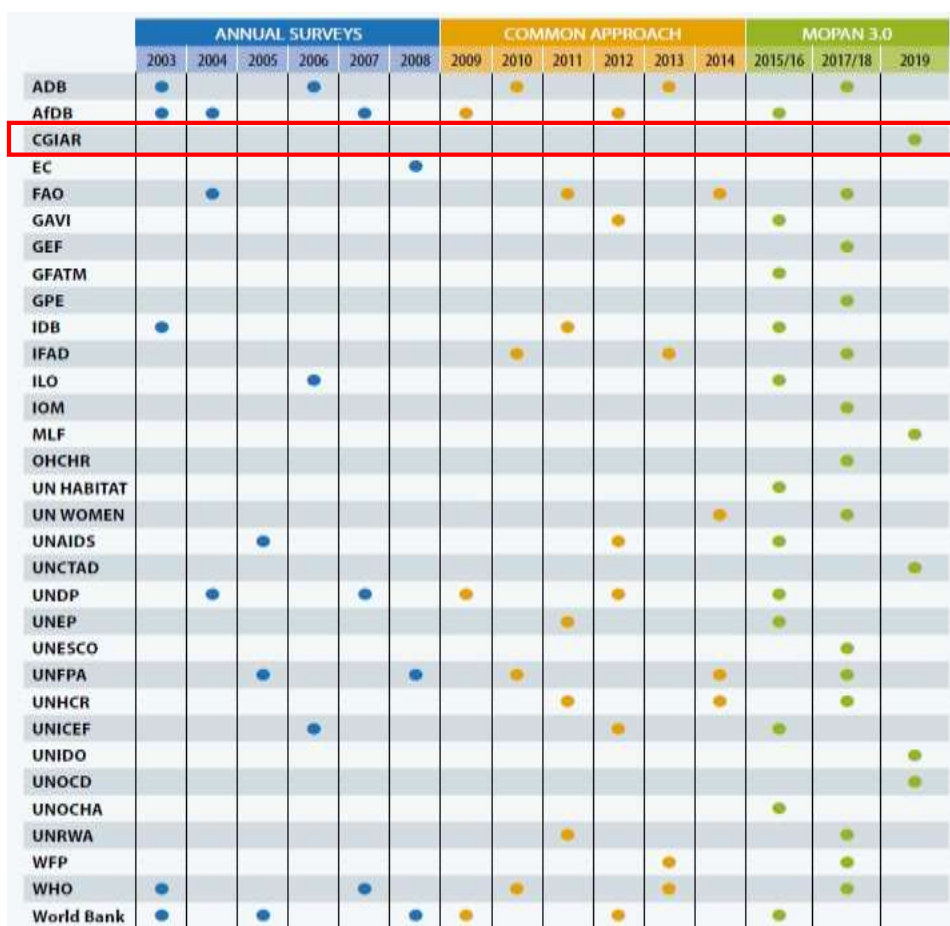


In 2019, the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN), assessed the performance of the CGIAR.

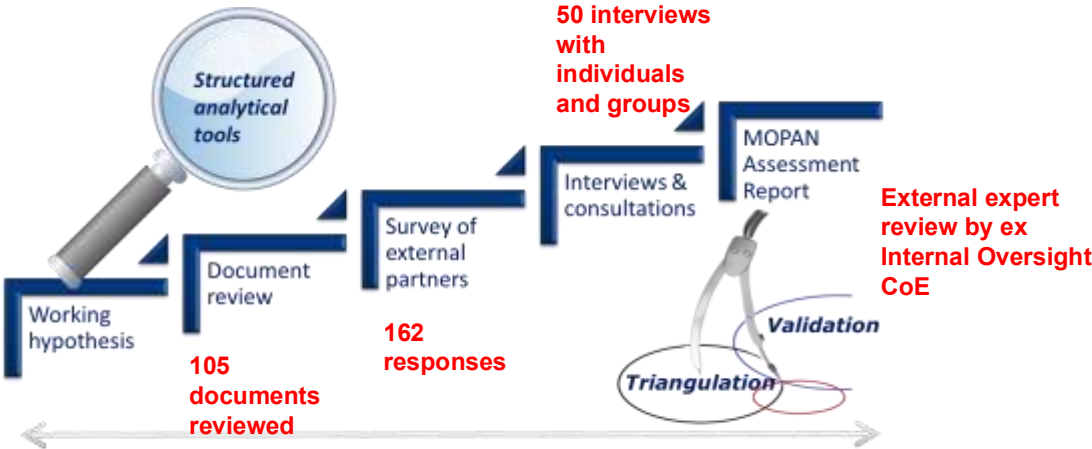
The assessment looked at CGIAR's organizational effectiveness (strategic, operational, relationship and performance aspects) and the results it achieved against its objectives.

This was the first MOPAN assessment of CGIAR.

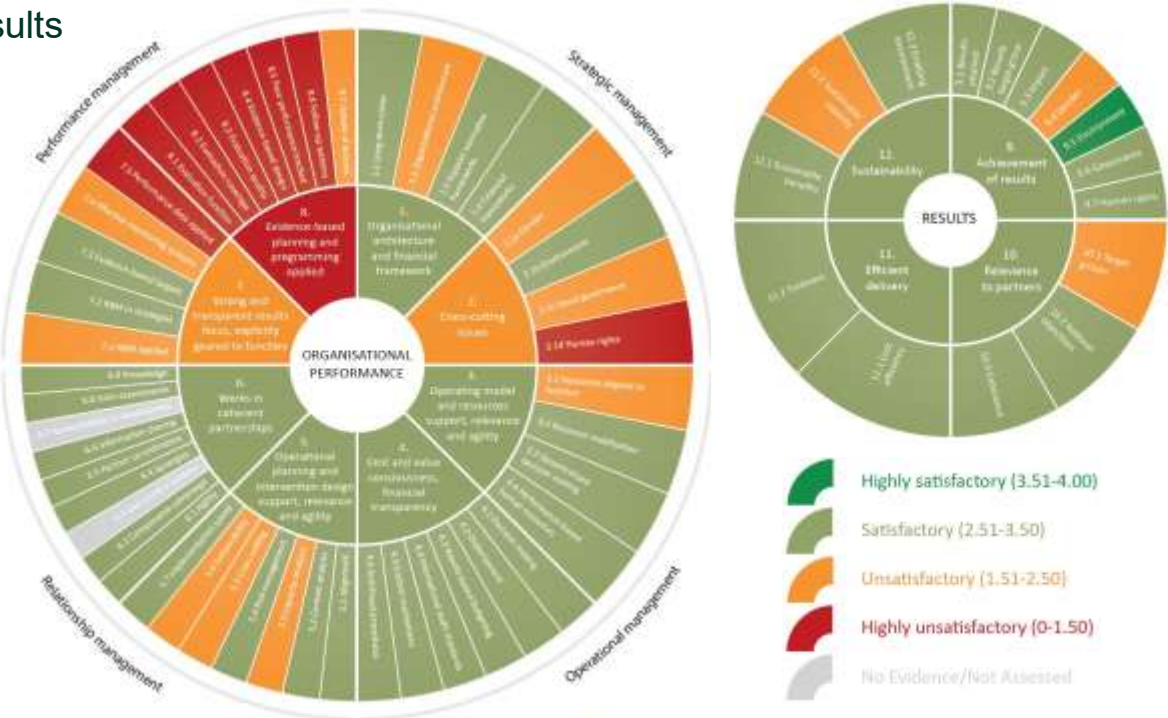
Documents available:  
[2019 CGIAR Assessment report](#)  
[2019 CGIAR Brief](#)



# CGIAR's assessment has followed a structured process



## Results



## Areas of Strength

