



24th CGIAR System Council Meeting
10–11 June 2026, Antalya, Türkiye

Agenda Item 16	SC24 Consent Agenda
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:	29 May 2026 (revised)
Purpose:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For consent agenda/information <input type="checkbox"/> For discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For discussion and decision <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
Requested action:	Approval
Executive summary:	<p>This item is presented to the System Council pursuant to Article 7.1(a) of the System Council Rules of Procedure, which permits a consent agenda for items requiring formal System Council decision that are submitted as a group for adoption without discussion.</p> <p>Should a System Council member or Active Observer wish to remove an individual item from the Consent Agenda, that request should be communicated to the Secretary of the System Council by close of business Paris time on Wednesday, 3 June 2026.</p> <p>There are three consent agenda items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ISDC Nominations Panel Terms of Reference On 30 June 2027, the second term of Magali Garcia on the CGIAR Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC) ends. In addition, there is currently one open seat on the ISDC. Pursuant to paragraph 4.4 of the ISDC Terms of Reference, the System Council is responsible for approving the Terms of Reference for the ISDC Nominations Panel for the appointment of ISDC members. 2. 15-month extension of the SPIA Chair's appointment On 6 May 2026, the CGIAR Strategic Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (SIMEC) endorsed recommending that the System Council approve the extension of Dr. Travis Lybbert's appointment as Chair of CGIAR's Standing Panel on Impact Assessment for an additional 15 months, effective from 1 October 2026 to 31 December 2027. 3. One-year extension of Sarah Schmidt's AOC appointment Given CGIAR's ongoing governance and organizational transition, AOC recommends that the System Council approve a one-year extension of Sarah Schmidt's appointment to the Assurance Oversight Committee, through 30 June 2027, to support continuity of oversight during this period of change.



Draft decision points: Approving the consent agenda means that the following resolutions are taken:

- Pursuant to paragraph 4.4 of the Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC) Terms of Reference, the System Council approves the Terms of Reference for the 2026 ISDC Nominations Panel for the appointment of ISDC members.
- The System Council approves the extension of Dr. Travis Lybbert's appointment as Chair of CGIAR's Standing Panel on Impact Assessment from 1 October 2026 to 31 December 2027.
- The System Council approves the extension of Sarah Schmidt's appointment to the Assurance Oversight Committee through 30 June 2027.

Supporting materials: Materials related to the ISDC Nominations Panel Terms of Reference:

- 2026 ISDC Nominations Panel Terms of Reference (proposed)
- Reference: ISDC Terms of Reference

Material related to the SPIA Chair appointment extension:

- Extension of the SPIA Chair's Appointment

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Issued 27 May 2026

Terms of Reference for the Nominations Panel for Appointment Process of ISDC Members

Background

1. The [Terms of Reference \(TOR\) for the Independent Science for Development Council](#) ('ISDC') were approved by the CGIAR System Council on 4 October 2018.
2. The TOR set out the membership of ISDC as follows:
 - 4.1 *ISDC will consist of up to eight (8) standing members, which number can be reviewed by the System Council based on need and required expertise coverage, one of whom serves as ISDC Chair. The role specification and key competencies desired for ISDC members, as well as those specific to the ISDC Chair will be approved and reviewed periodically by the System Council to ensure that they represent the optimal guidance on capacities required.*
 - 4.2 *ISDC members [including the Chair] will serve an initial three years, with the possibility of renewal up to three additional years without further extension. To the extent possible, membership terms will be staggered to ensure a gradual refreshing of members.*
3. Pursuant to the section on appointment process in the ISDC TOR, ISDC members are appointed by the System Council based upon a merit-based, open and competitive selection process that includes the following elements:
 - a. A broad call for applications and nominations, including a visible public element as part of that call;
 - b. Review and consideration of applications and nominations by a nominations panel; and
 - c. The search and nominations process will be undertaken according to the administrative policies of the CGIAR System Organization and be managed by the System Management Office under the overall oversight of the nominations panel. For the avoidance of doubt, the CGIAR System Organization has no decision-making role in regard to the selection of ISDC members.

Purpose and mandate

4. These terms of reference for the 2026 Nominations Panel for Appointment Process of ISDC Members ('nominations panel') outline the purpose, mandate, membership and operation of the nominations panel and will take effect upon approval by the System Council.
5. The purpose of the ISDC Nominations Panel ('nominations panel') is primarily to review and consider the applications and nominations submitted as part of the broad call for applications and nominations for identifying suitable candidates for:
 - a. Two ISDC member vacancies arising in 2026/2027
 - b. A short list that may be used for future appointment processes.
6. In carrying out its function, the nominations panel will:
 - a. Work in accordance with the applicable administrative policies of the CGIAR Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service Secretariat and System Organization;
 - b. Oversee the System Organization's support to the appointment process.

Membership

7. The nominations panel will be comprised of **not less than four persons and not more than six persons**, with:
 - a. **At least two System Council members** appointed by the System Council Chair, one of whom shall be the SIMEC Chair or her/his delegate;
 - b. **Up to two science leaders appointed by the System Council Chair**, one involved in the delivery of research outputs in a development context and/or one associated with major science bodies working across a range of disciplines; and
 - c. **Up to two persons fully external to CGIAR**, with a preference for at least one of those persons to be a highly experienced individual involved in innovation from a sector beyond agriculture.
8. The membership of the nominations panel will be as diverse as possible and demonstrate CGIAR's strong commitment to ensuring gender equality and diversity in all facets of its work.
9. The membership of the nominations panel will be approved by the System Council through electronic means.
10. The nominations panel will be chaired by the person appointed under paragraph 7(a), namely the SIMEC Chair or the SIMEC Chair's delegate.

11. The nominations panel may seek the views of the ISDC Chair during the screening process, including on the skills, experience and expertise needed to support the effective functioning of the ISDC. To preserve the independence of the appointment process, the ISDC Chair will not serve on the nominations panel, participate in its deliberations, or have any decision-making role in the selection or recommendation of candidates.

Operation

12. The nominations panel will carry out its work in line with the agreed steps and timeline for the ISDC appointment process. The panel is expected to submit recommended candidates for ISDC vacancies arising in 2026/2027 to the System Council for decision by no later than 30 September 2026. To the extent possible, the nominations panel may submit its recommendations earlier, provided this does not compromise the integrity of the process or the identification of an appropriately diverse pool of candidates.
13. Specifically, the nominations panel will:
 - a. Review key resource materials, including:
 - i. System Council-approved terms of reference for the ISDC;
 - ii. System Council-approved Competency Framework for ISDC Members; and
 - iii. Call for nominations and applications for ISDC vacancies.
 - b. Receive applications and nominations for ISDC appointments by a deadline that allows sufficient time for screening, interviews, reference checks, and submission of recommended candidates to the System Council for decision by no later than 30 September 2026;
 - c. Review candidates against agreed criteria¹ and seek views of the current Chair of the ISDC during the screening process to develop a shortlist of recommended candidates;
 - d. Carry out interviews (virtual) and consider reference checks on the shortlist of candidates as indicated in the nominations process timeline by mid-July 2026.
 - e. In developing its recommendations for ISDC vacancies, propose start dates that align with current member term-end dates and support appropriate staggering of members' terms;
 - f. Present recommended candidates to the System Council for electronic no-objection decision over a two-week-period by no later than 30 September

¹ The criteria are based on System Council approved Competency framework for ISDC Members.

2026, including a brief assessment of each candidate’s fulfillment of the selection criteria and ability to perform the relevant ISDC duties; and

- g. Provide documentation of the nomination panel’s work and any lessons learned to the System Council Secretariat to support future appointment processes.
14. The nominations panel will at all times respect the privacy and personal reputation of potential candidates and work within an appropriate framework of confidentiality. Panel members must complete conflict of interest and confidentiality declarations before beginning their work.
15. The nominations panel will seek to make its decisions by consensus. Recognizing that the role of the nominations panel is to propose the best possible candidates for the ISDC Member positions, where consensus cannot be obtained, the majority view of the nominations panel will prevail.
16. While it is difficult to calculate the exact time involved, the work of the nominations panel is estimated to require no more than approximately 4–5 full-time equivalent days, with actual time contributions set out according to a timeline developed by the nominations panel Chair in consultation with the other panel members. For those members serving as ‘fully external to CGIAR’, an honorarium of up to USD 5,000 will be made available to persons not otherwise fully remunerated through another organization, or where the use of the person’s time requires compensation to their affiliated organization.



Extension of the SPIA Chair's appointment

Background

1. The [Terms of Reference](#) for the CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA), as approved on 4 October 2018, in effect from 11 May 2023 (Decision Ref: SC/M18/DP3) include the following on Membership and Chair Appointment:

Membership

- 4.1 SPIA will consist of a core of at least 6 members, one of whom serves as SPIA Chair. SPIA membership may be grown as needed to lead on the delivery of different components of the approved workplan, as well as any additional activities within SPIA's mandate and as requested by System Council.
- 4.2 The role specification and key competencies desired for SPIA members, as well as those specific to the SPIA Chair, will be approved and reviewed periodically by the System Council to ensure that they represent the optimal guidance on capacities required.
- 4.3 SPIA members, including the Chair, will serve an initial three years, with the possibility of renewal up to three additional years without further extension. To the extent possible, membership terms will be staggered to ensure a gradual refreshing of members.

Appointment processes

- 4.4 Chair - The SPIA Chair is appointed by the System Council based upon a merit-based, open and competitive selection process that includes the following elements:
 - a. A broad call for applications and nominations, including a visible public element as part of that call;
 - b. A nominations panel comprised of up to six (6) persons from the following groups and chaired by the SIMEC Chair or her/his delegate, which will review applications and nominations and make a final recommendation to the System Council.
2. Following the appointment process, System Council approved the appointment of Travis Lybbert as SPIA Chair for an initial three-year term from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2026 (Decision Reference SC/M18/EDP6 of 30 September 2023).
3. In discussion with the SIMEC Chair, and if requested and approved by SIMEC, Dr Lybbert has expressed his willingness to extend his appointment as SPIA Chair for a further 15 months from 1 October 2026 to 31 December 2027.
4. Dr Lybbert has been leading the implementation of the [SPIA Workplan](#) as approved by the System Council at its 18th meeting on 11/12 May 2023 (Decision Reference SC/M18/DP3). In 2025 SIMEC carried out a [High-level review of CGIAR's Advisory Bodies](#), the results and recommendations of which were presented to and approved by SC23 on 11 December 2025. The recommendations see

major adjustments to the approved SPIA Workplan and it is therefore important for the current SPIA Chair to guide the team through this period of change to guarantee smooth and continuous implementation of the workplan.

5. Annex I shows the biography of Dr. Travis Lybbert.
6. Diversity among the Panel is an important element for SPIA membership. It is key to maintain substantive diversity of topical and methodological expertise so that SPIA can effectively carry out its broad workplan. In addition, SPIA also considers the origin, gender and current affiliation of its members.

As approved, SPIA would have a broad thematic and geographic composition, as well as a gender mix, as shown in Annex II.

Annex I: Biography of Dr. Travis Lybbert

<p>Dr. Travis Lybbert</p>	<p><u>Country of origin and current residence:</u> United States</p> <p><u>Current position(s):</u> Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at UC Davis</p> <p><u>Qualifications:</u> Ph.D. Applied Economics, Cornell University 2004 M.S. Agricultural Economics, Cornell University, 2000 B.A. Economics, Utah State University, 1997</p>
<p>A Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at UC Davis, Dr. Lybbert is currently the SPIA Chair and has worked intermittently with CGIAR partners for 25 years. He has published research on topics in applied microeconomics ranging from poverty dynamics, climate change and childhood nutrition to agricultural technology adoption, intellectual property and innovation policy. Collaborating with researchers, students, NGOs, governments, and private firms, he has lived and worked in India, Haiti, and throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and Europe. He has spent time as a visiting researcher in the Intellectual Property Division of the World Trade Organization, in the Economics and Statistics Division of the World Intellectual Property Organization, and in universities in Ghana, Germany and Sweden. He is an Affiliate of the Center for Effective Global Action and served as Co-Editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics.</p> <p>He has published widely in journals and on topics that matter to the CGIAR and use an array of impact assessment methods, including agricultural technology adoption, health and nutrition, innovation, poverty dynamics, risk and vulnerability, financial and market integration, and policy analysis. As a faculty member of one of the world's top agricultural and applied economics departments and as former editor of the top journal in this field, he has established professional networks that span the globe.</p> <p>He was a Fulbright Scholar in Morocco before earning his Ph.D. (2004) in Applied Economics from Cornell University</p>	
<p>Find out more at: https://are.ucdavis.edu/people/faculty/travis-lybbert/</p>	

Annex II: Composition of SPIA

Name	Institution	Origin	Role	Specialty	Gender	Term end
Travis Lybbert	UC Davis, USA	USA	Chair	Impact evaluation, development, agriculture	M	31/12/2027
Sujata Visaria	City, University of London, UK / Hong Kong University	India	Member	Impact evaluation, finance, agriculture	F	30/06/2027
Monica Biradavolu	QualAnalytics, USA/India	India	Member	Qualitative methods and measurement, Sociology	F	30/06/2027
Jennifer Burney	UC San Diego, USA	USA	Member	Remote sensing and earth observation for agricultural and climate change applications	F	30/06/2027
Susan Godlonton	Williams College, USA / University of Cape Town (South African Labour Development Research Unit)	South Africa	Member	Economics of development, health and labor markets in Sub-Saharan Africa	F	30/06/2027
Jenny Aker	Wageningen University, the Netherlands / Cornell University), USA	USA	Member	Impact evaluation, ICTs and agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa, use of evidence	F	30/06/2027
Robert Darko Osei	University of Ghana	Ghana	Member	Impact evaluation, risk, fiscal policy, aid effectiveness, and other development policy in Sub-Saharan Africa	M	31/03/2028
Shilpa Aggarwal	Indian School of Business, India	India	Member	Market linkages in developing countries, supply chains in India and East Africa, domestic trade, microfinance and food policy	F	31/08/2028