



CHARTER OF THE CGIAR SYSTEM ORGANIZATION

CGIAR is a global research partnership for a food-secure future. CGIAR science is dedicated to transforming food, land and water systems in a climate crisis, in order to reduce poverty and inequity, enhance food and nutrition security, and improve natural resources and ecosystem services. Its research is carried out by 15 CGIAR centers in close collaboration with hundreds of partners, including national and regional research institutes, civil society organizations, academia, development organizations and the private sector.

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This Charter was agreed between the CGIAR System's Funders and 15 Centers on 16 June 2016 and with effect from 1 July 2016 as the governing instrument of the CGIAR System Organization. It was last amended with effect from 1 October 2024 as the legal instrument governing the CGIAR System Organization and establishing the CGIAR Integrated Partnership.

Contents

Preamble	1
Article 1. Legal Status	1
Article 2. Definitions.....	2
Article 3. System Council	5
Article 4. Collaboration between Centers.....	5
Article 5. Role of Centers.....	6
Article 6. Structure and Governance of the CGIAR System Organization.....	8
Article 7. Composition of the Integrated Partnership Board	8
Article 8. Accountability and Functions of the Integrated Partnership Board	10
Article 9. Integrated Partnership Board Operations.....	133
Article 10. Center Compliance with Integrated Partnership Board Decisions.....	155
Article 11. System Management Office.....	166
Article 12. Executive Managing Director	166
Article 13. Partnership Forum	166
Article 14. Funding of the CGIAR System Organization	177
Article 15. Amendments	177
Article 16. Dissolution.....	177

CGIAR System Organization

Preamble

1. The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research was established as a global partnership in 1971. After several reforms, in December 2009, a new framework of overarching principles was agreed between the centers and the funders to give rise to a reformed CGIAR as set forth in the CGIAR Joint Declaration. On April 29, 2010, the then-called Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (which operated under the name “CGIAR Consortium”) was established as a joint venture between the 15 International Agricultural Research Centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. On July 20, 2012, the CGIAR Consortium obtained international organization status pursuant to an agreement establishing the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers as an international organization (“International Organization Agreement”), and operated in accordance with the rules set forth in its constitution. In 2016, the Centers and Funders agreed to a CGIAR System Framework that provides for a System Council and a CGIAR System Organization. The CGIAR System Organization operates in accordance with this CGIAR System Charter, which replaced in its entirety the constitution of the CGIAR Consortium. The legal name of the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers was changed to the CGIAR System Organization upon the amendment of the International Organization Agreement on 21 November 2016.
2. The CGIAR System Organization is part of a broader CGIAR System whose structure is set forth in Article 2 of the CGIAR System Framework. The purpose of the CGIAR System is to advance science and innovation to transform food, land and water systems in a climate crisis, in order to reduce poverty and inequity, enhance food and nutrition security, and improve natural resources and ecosystem services.

Article 1. Legal Status

The CGIAR System Organization is an independent international organization with such international legal personality as may be necessary for the exercise of its functions and powers, and the fulfillment of its purposes, including without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the legal capacity:

- a) to enter into treaties, agreements, arrangements and contracts
- b) to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property
- c) to institute and respond to legal proceedings.

Article 2. Definitions

In this Charter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- a) “Active Observers” means those entities identified in Article 7 and which have the right to participate in deliberations of the Integrated Partnership Board and to propose agenda items and make presentations for such deliberations. An Active Observer does not have a right to vote.
- b) “Centers” means those research organizations with legal personality that are recognized as CGIAR Research Centers contributing knowledge, technical expertise, and resources in support of the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework. Each organization is an independent legal entity with its own governing board, governing instruments and host country agreements. As of the date of agreement of this Charter, the following 15 research organizations are recognized as CGIAR Research Centers: Africa Rice Center, also known as AfricaRice, Bioversity International, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), also known as World Agroforestry Centre, International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), International Potato Center (CIP), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM), also known as WorldFish.
- c) “CGIAR Executive Managing Director” or “Executive Managing Director” means the executive director of the CGIAR System Organization as described in Article 12.
- d) “CGIAR’s Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service” or “IAES” provides operational support as the secretariat for the Independent Science for Development Council and the Standing Panel on Impact Assessment, and implements CGIAR’s multi-year, independent evaluation plan as approved by the System Council.
- e) “CGIAR Integrated Partnership” or “Integrated Partnership” means a federated group of Centers and the CGIAR System Organization, united by common values and principles, and committed to achieving, through integration and coordination, synergies that enhance the Centers’ individual and collective contributions to fulfilling the purpose of the CGIAR System.

- f) “CGIAR Policy” means a policy that is (i) a strategic, system-wide policy, which is critical to maintaining the reputation of the CGIAR System, approved by the System Council following concurrence of the Integrated Partnership Board, or (ii) any other policy that may be adopted by the System Organization in accordance with its procedures for the adoption of CGIAR policies¹.
- g) “CGIAR Portfolio” means the research programs and/or platforms carried out by the Centers and the CGIAR System Partners in support of the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework and which are supported by (i) the CGIAR Trust Fund and/or (ii) bilateral sources contractually aligned to such programs and/or platforms.
- h) “CGIAR Research” means the research and innovation carried out by the Centers and the CGIAR System Partners in support of the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework.
- i) “CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework” means one or more documents setting forth the common goals, strategic objectives and results to be achieved by the CGIAR System. The documents may be revised and updated from time to time.
- j) “CGIAR System” means, when taken together as a collective whole, a reference to the Centers, the Funders, the System Council, the CGIAR System Organization, the advisory bodies to the System Council, and CGIAR Research.
- k) “CGIAR System Charter” or “Charter” or “Charter of the CGIAR System Organization” means the legal instrument governing the CGIAR System Organization and establishing the Integrated Partnership, as may be amended from time to time in accordance with its terms.
- l) “CGIAR System Framework” means the framework for the CGIAR System, as may be amended from time to time in accordance with its terms.
- m) “CGIAR System Organization” or “System Organization” means the international organization governed by the CGIAR System Charter, with its organs being the Integrated Partnership Board and System Management Office.
- n) “CGIAR System Partners” means all organizations external to the CGIAR System that contribute to, or support the delivery of, the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework. They include national agricultural research and extension systems, universities and advanced research institutes, policy bodies, global and regional fora, intergovernmental organizations, non-government organizations, private-sector companies, farmers/producers and consumers.

¹ The term “CGIAR Policy” and the provisions herein relating to CGIAR Policies will be amended, as relevant, as per the CGIAR Internal Rules Framework, once approved by the Centers, the Integrated Partnership Board and the System Council. Such amendments will be adopted in accordance with Article 15 herein.

- o) “CGIAR Trust Fund” means the trust fund(s) established by the trustee for contributions from Funders to provide funding for the activities of the System Organization and for CGIAR Research.
- p) “Funders” means those entities that contribute funding to Centers in support of the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework and to the activities of the CGIAR System Organization, either through the CGIAR Trust Fund or through bilateral contributions.
- q) “General Assembly of Centers” means a forum of the CGIAR Research Centers as provided for in Article 5.
- r) “Independent Science for Development Council” or “ISDC” means an external, impartial standing panel of experts in science and development subject matters (including food, land and water systems innovation matters) appointed by the System Council and accountable to it, with the responsibility of providing rigorous, independent strategic advice to the System Council and, based on decisions taken by the System Council, the broader CGIAR System as a whole.
- s) “Integrated Partnership Board” means the governing body of the CGIAR System Organization and of the Integrated Partnership, described in Articles 7-9.
- t) “Integrated Partnership Board Audit Finance and Risk Committee” or “IPB AFRC” means the audit, finance and risk committee of the Integrated Partnership Board described in Article 9.
- u) “Nominations Committee” means the committee of the System Council described in Article 8 of the CGIAR System Framework.
- v) “Partnership Forum” means a forum for the CGIAR System and CGIAR System Partners to discuss and exchange views about the CGIAR System and the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework with the scope set forth in the CGIAR System Framework.
- w) “Standing Panel on Impact Assessment” or “SPIA” means an external, impartial standing panel of experts in impact assessment subject matters appointed by the System Council and accountable to it, with responsibility to provide rigorous, evidence-based and independent strategic advice to the CGIAR System on (i) efficient and effective impact assessment methods and practices, including those measuring impacts beyond contributions to science and economic performance, and (ii) on innovative ways to improve knowledge and capacity on how research contributes to development outcomes.
- x) “System Council” means the strategic decision-making and oversight body described in Articles 3-8 of the CGIAR System Framework.

- y) “System Management Office” means the office described in Article 11.
- z) “Unrestricted Funding” means funding from the CGIAR Trust Fund that has not been designated by a Funder for a specific Center or research program.

Article 3. System Council

The Integrated Partnership Board shall, in accordance with this Charter and the CGIAR System Framework, work with the System Council, which undertakes the functions set forth in the CGIAR System Framework, in order to ensure alignment of direction, strategy and resources. The System Council is supported by the System Management Office as set forth in Article 11 .

Article 4. Collaboration between Centers

4.1 The Centers recognize the benefits of collaboration in CGIAR Research in general, and specifically in the CGIAR Portfolio, and working jointly within the Integrated Partnership to achieve the goals of the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework facilitated by the Integrated Partnership Board. The Integrated Partnership Board will keep under review the effectiveness of the system, its reputation for excellence, and the capacity, skills and organizational structure of the Centers with a view to their collective ability to ensure results and the continued relevancy of research for development in food, land and water systems. The Integrated Partnership Board may recommend to a Center’s Board actions that may be considered to better respond to the evolving challenges of international agricultural research, taking into account any recommendations of the System Council.

Initial CGIAR Research Centers

4.2 The initial 15 CGIAR Research Centers are listed in Article 2(b).

Recognition of New Centers

- 4.3 The Integrated Partnership Board may agree, in consultation with the System Council, to admit and recognize additional research organizations as CGIAR Research Centers, provided that:
- a) the then-current Centers approve the proposal by a two-thirds majority vote;
 - b) the new Center meets general criteria for recognition established by the Integrated Partnership Board, in consultation with the System Council; and
 - c) each such new Center agrees formally in writing to be bound by the provisions of this Charter, any and all CGIAR Policies and the CGIAR System Framework.

Voluntary Withdrawal from the CGIAR System

- 4.4 Any CGIAR Research Center may choose to disassociate itself from the CGIAR System by giving at least one year's written notice to that effect to the Chair of the Integrated Partnership Board.

Ending recognition as a CGIAR Research Center

- 4.5 The Integrated Partnership Board may decide to end the recognition of a Center as a CGIAR Research Center, with the agreement of two-thirds of the other CGIAR Research Centers and in consultation with the System Council, in cases where such Center has failed to:

- a) comply with funding agreements with the System Organization;
- b) comply with CGIAR Policies;
- c) perform adequately in accordance with the CGIAR System's risk management framework; or
- d) ensure results or the continued relevancy of agricultural research for development under CGIAR Research,

and it has been unable or unwilling to take the necessary remedial actions as determined by the Integrated Partnership Board in consultation with the System Council.

- 4.6 Any admission, withdrawal or termination of recognition of a Center as a CGIAR Research Center shall be formally notified in writing to the Depositary of the International Organization Agreement. Such a Center can still be a CGIAR System Partner and contribute as such to CGIAR Research.

Article 5. Role of Centers

- 5.1 A CGIAR Research Center shall have the following rights in relation to the CGIAR System:
- a) conduct CGIAR Research and submit proposals for CGIAR Research for consideration and potential funding from the CGIAR Trust Fund
 - b) contribute to agenda setting of the CGIAR System including foresight studies, and be involved in reviewing and updating the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework and establishing CGIAR Research
 - c) propose and approve amendments to this Charter, in accordance with the process stated herein
 - d) vote as a member of the General Assembly of Centers in accordance with Article 5
 - e) retain their own means of funding, including, but not limited to, bilateral funding
 - f) individually maintain the right to discontinue voluntarily its recognition as a CGIAR Research Center of the CGIAR System by giving at least one (1) year's prior notice to allow the orderly transition of activities

- involving CGIAR Research
- g) raise with the Integrated Partnership Board or with the System Council any concern as to whether the CGIAR System Organization is operating in accordance with this Charter or the CGIAR System Framework
- h) seek and receive funding for CGIAR Research from sources other than the CGIAR Trust Fund
- i) participate, as determined by its Board, in shared services and other related non-mandatory activities or policies

5.2 CGIAR Research Centers shall have the following responsibilities:

- a) act in accordance with this Charter, any and all CGIAR Policies and the CGIAR System Framework
- b) without prejudice to the ability to raise concerns with the Integrated Partnership Board or the System Council, comply with the resolutions of the Integrated Partnership Board
- c) provide to the CGIAR System Organization all relevant information and support documentation on CGIAR Research, to facilitate the reporting requirements as agreed between the Integrated Partnership Board and the System Council
- d) collaborate with the Integrated Partnership Board, the Executive Managing Director and other Centers in order to achieve synergies through integration and coordination, and in all those cases where joint action is needed
- e) make all reasonable efforts to foster the purpose of the CGIAR System participate in the General Assembly of Centers
- f) appoint, through their respective Center Board member nomination and selection processes, two members of the Integrated Partnership Board except for the Integrated Partnership Board Chair to their respective Center Boards
- g) appoint one member of the IPB AFRC, except for the IPB AFRC Chair, as a voting member of their respective Center Boards and Center audit, finance and risk committees.

The General Assembly of Centers

- 5.3 The General Assembly of Centers shall be a forum for Centers to discuss issues related to the CGIAR System.
- 5.4 When voting on matters put to the General Assembly of Centers, each Center shall have a single vote. The quorum for a meeting and decision making shall be a two-thirds majority of all the Centers.
- 5.5 The Integrated Partnership Board Chair and the Executive Managing Director shall participate in the General Assembly of Centers as non-voting attendees.

- 5.6 The General Assembly of the Centers shall include the following functions:
- a) elect a Chair or Co-Chairs of the General Assembly of Centers
 - b) receive the reports of the Chair of the Integrated Partnership Board and of the Executive Managing Director
 - c) consider proposed amendments to this Charter and to the CGIAR System Framework
 - d) approve the Center representatives to serve on the System Council
 - e) nominate 3 members to the System Council's Nominations Committee
 - f) recommend governance changes to the Integrated Partnership as and when needed
 - g) decide on areas for integration or coordination, taking into account any priorities or requirements for assurance purposes identified by the Integrated Partnership Board and/or the System Council
 - h) recommend additional functions to be exercised by the Integrated Partnership Board
 - i) define, together with the Integrated Partnership Board, where Integrated Partnership Board committees and Center Board committees substantively interconnect, given the distinct role of each
 - j) provide input to the System Council in respect of the annual performance assessment of the Integrated Partnership Board
 - k) provide input to the Integrated Partnership Board in the development of the Terms of Reference of any committees established by the Integrated Partnership Board.
- 5.7 The General Assembly shall have rules of procedure that provide for the location and arrangements to conduct meetings and elaborate, to the extent necessary, on the provisions hereunder. These rules of procedure shall be made publicly available for transparency purposes.

Article 6. Structure and Governance of the CGIAR System Organization

The CGIAR System Organization shall be comprised of:

- a) the Integrated Partnership Board
- b) the System Management Office

Article 7. Composition of the Integrated Partnership Board

- 7.1 The Integrated Partnership Board shall be the governing body of the CGIAR System Organization and of the Integrated Partnership.

Composition of the Integrated Partnership Board

- 7.2 The Integrated Partnership Board shall comprise a Chair, the Chair of the IPB AFRC and a number of other voting members that equals the number of Center Boards², subject to its membership being at a sufficient number to deliver on its responsibilities. Taken as a collective whole, the Integrated Partnership Board members will have the diversity, skills, experience and gravitas required to enable the Integrated Partnership Board to discharge its responsibilities under this Charter. Employees of Centers and the System Organization are not eligible to sit on the Integrated Partnership Board as voting members. At least one expert in organizational management and one expert in financial management will be voting members of the Integrated Partnership Board.
- 7.3 The Integrated Partnership Board shall appoint its Chair and Vice-Chair from amongst its voting members.
- 7.4 The Chair of the Integrated Partnership Board Audit, Finance and Risk Committee will serve on the Integrated Partnership Board as a voting member.
- 7.5 The Executive Managing Director of the System Organization will serve on the Integrated Partnership Board as an ex-officio non-voting member.
- 7.6 The voting members of the Integrated Partnership Board shall be appointed by the System Council from nominations made by the System Council's Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee's terms of reference are made publicly available for transparency purposes.
- 7.7 Members of the Integrated Partnership Board shall be appointed for a term of up to three years and may be reappointed. The maximum number of years a member may serve is six years. In the event there are extenuating circumstances that require extension beyond the six-year term, a member may be reappointed for an additional term not to exceed one year. Subject to the total term limit, all appointments shall be 'until a successor is appointed' to mitigate the risk of unintended vacancies. Any member of the Integrated Partnership Board with voting rights will be deemed to start their initial term on the Integrated Partnership Board from the date they commence that term, irrespective of their prior tenure on the board of any CGIAR legal entity.
- 7.8 Vacancies on the Integrated Partnership Board due to resignation, incapacity, removal or any other analogous circumstance, shall be filled-in by the System Council from nomination(s) made by the System Council's Nominations Committee. Any replacement through a vacancy shall only serve the unexpired term of the replaced member.

² For the purposes of Article 7, "Center Board" means the board of trustees of a Center or, where two or more Centers have a joint board of trustees (i.e. several legal boards of trustees with identical members), such joint board of Trustees.

Active Observers and other participants to the Integrated Partnership Board Meetings

- 7.9 The following will be invited by the Chair of the Integrated Partnership Board as Active Observers at Integrated Partnership Board meetings held for the purposes of discharging the Integrated Partnership Board's responsibilities under Article 8:
- a) 2 System Council voting members
 - b) 1 representative of ISDC
 - c) the Chair or Co-Chairs of the General Assembly of the Centers
- 7.10 The following may be invited by the Chair to attend Integrated Partnership Board meetings held for the purposes of discharging the Integrated Partnership Board's responsibilities under Article 8:
- a) the Trustee of the CGIAR Trust Fund
 - b) the Chair of SPIA
 - c) the Head of CGIAR's Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service
- 7.11 All Integrated Partnership Board members and Active Observers shall act in good faith in the interests of the CGIAR System and shall act according to the Integrated Partnership Board's policy on ethics and conflicts of interest and shall respect the conflict of interest obligations of the entities they may be affiliated with.

Article 8. Accountability and Functions of the Integrated Partnership Board

8.1 The Integrated Partnership Board is accountable to:

- a) the System Council, with respect to the oversight of the implementation of the Integrated Partnership's vision, strategic direction, partnership strategy, governance and financial and programmatic performance
- b) the General Assembly of Centers with respect to its governance of the Integrated Partnership and in particular of those areas elevated to the Integrated Partnership for integration or coordination

8.2 The functions of the Integrated Partnership Board shall be to:

Vision, strategic direction and advocacy

- a) identify key areas of focus, and oversee the development by the System Organization, of the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework, in a participatory process that reflects inputs from CGIAR stakeholders, and approve the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework following concurrence of the System Council

- b) regularly review CGIAR's strategic priorities, including partnership priorities, and approve them following concurrence of the System Council
- c) oversee the development by the System Organization and delivery of CGIAR advocacy plans, and share any advocacy concerns with the System Council
- d) support and guide the CGIAR System's contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant global initiatives

Governance

- e) oversee the governance structure and processes of the Integrated Partnership to ensure that they are effective, transparent, and accountable
- f) appoint the Executive Managing Director and evaluate their performance with input from across the Integrated Partnership
- g) concur with those CGIAR Policies that are strategic, system-wide policies that are critical to maintaining the reputation of the CGIAR System, and submit them to the System Council for approval
- h) approve any other CGIAR Policies in accordance with its procedures for the adoption of CGIAR Policies
- i) monitor compliance with CGIAR Policies, take appropriate corrective action when required, and provide assurance of compliance with CGIAR Policies across the Integrated Partnership to the System Council
- j) ensure the completeness, effectiveness of internal and external audit arrangements and the ethics function across the Integrated Partnership, and that Centers are complying as required
- k) select and approve the System Organization's independent external auditor; and
- l) concur with the System Organization annual audited financial statements and submit them to the System Council for approval

Partnership engagement

- m) consider deliberations of the Partnership Forum for enhancing the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the CGIAR System and approve the partnership strategy and engagement framework following concurrence of the System Council
- n) strategically promote the mission, reputation and activities of the CGIAR System
- o) promote collaboration and coordination among the Centers and research programs, fostering partnerships and synergies to maximize the impact of scientific research for development on global challenges

- p) promote the active engagement of, and collaboration with, CGIAR System Partners in the delivery of each CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework
- q) ensure and encourage inclusivity and engagement with a wide range of CGIAR System Partners and other stakeholders, including host country governments and funders, to ensure that CGIAR Research reflects the needs and perspectives of stakeholders in the food, land and water systems sectors.

Resource mobilization

- r) oversee Integrated Partnership-level resource mobilization and plans and processes to allocate funding and resources to Centers and programs, in order for the CGIAR Portfolio to receive the necessary support to achieve its objectives
- s) review and provide input on the resource mobilization strategy and plan proposed by the Executive Managing Director

Financial and programmatic performance

- t) concur with the program proposals and indicative funding for the CGIAR Portfolio and submit them to the System Council for approval, and oversee the implementation of the CGIAR Portfolio
- u) concur with the overall financial plan for the CGIAR System and the allocation of Unrestricted Funding for CGIAR Research and other CGIAR System activities, and submit them to the System Council for approval
- v) report on programmatic and financial performance of CGIAR Research on an annual basis
- w) take fiduciary responsibility for, and oversee the use of, Unrestricted Funding and program specific funding from the CGIAR Trust Fund for the implementation of CGIAR Research, and account to the System Council for the use of such CGIAR funding
- x) concur with the process and means by which the costs of CGIAR System activities (including administrative costs) are to be financed, and submit them to the System Council for approval

Evaluations and impact assessment

- y) oversee the monitoring and evaluation of CGIAR Research to assess its effectiveness and impact, in order to ensure that CGIAR Research contributes to meeting the goals and targets of the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework
- z) provide input on a cost-effective, multi-year evaluation plan proposed by CGIAR's Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service covering evaluations of the CGIAR Portfolio

- aa) provide input on plans and financing of ex-post impact assessment of the CGIAR Portfolio proposed by SPIA

Article 9. Integrated Partnership Board Operations

Meetings

- 9.1 The Integrated Partnership Board shall meet as often as necessary, ideally on a quarterly basis but, in any case, not less than twice per year in ordinary session. The rules of procedure of the Integrated Partnership Board shall provide for the location and arrangements for the conduct of meetings, including the convening of extraordinary meetings.
- 9.2 Integrated Partnership Board meetings may be held face-to-face, by video or audio- conference or any other electronic communication medium that allows Integrated Partnership Board members to follow and contribute to discussions as they occur in real time.
- 9.3 The Integrated Partnership Board may conduct business only when the following are present:
 - a) At least two-thirds of voting members (rounded up to the next whole number)
 - b) The Chair or Vice-Chair of the Integrated Partnership Board or a temporary chairperson appointed amongst the members present, if needed

Decision-making during a meeting

- 9.4 The Integrated Partnership Board shall use best efforts to make all decisions by consensus. The Chair shall use best efforts to ascertain a consensus after consultation with other members of the Integrated Partnership Board. For the purposes of this Charter, consensus is a procedure for adopting a decision when no voting member in the decision-making process formally objects to a proposed decision or calls for a vote. It does not necessarily imply unanimity. A dissenting voting member, who does not wish to formally object to a decision, nor call for a vote, may provide her/his observations by attaching a statement or note to the decision.
- 9.5 If all practical efforts by the Integrated Partnership Board have not led to consensus, a vote may be called by any voting member of the Integrated Partnership Board seconded by another voting member of the Integrated Partnership Board.
- 9.6 The Chair shall determine, after consultation with the members of the Integrated Partnership Board, the timing for a vote. In circumstances where a vote is taken, decisions require an affirmative vote representing a two-thirds

majority of those Integrated Partnership Board voting members present.

- 9.7 All decisions of the Integrated Partnership Board shall be recorded in a summary of the Integrated Partnership Board meetings approved by Integrated Partnership Board, communicated, published and retained in the permanent records of the CGIAR System Organization.

Decision-Making without a meeting

- 9.8 In the circumstances set forth in the rules of procedure, the Integrated Partnership Board may be requested to approve a decision by electronic means using a no objection procedure in lieu of a meeting. Integrated Partnership Board members and Active Observers shall be provided with sufficient background materials and a proposed decision text for such requests. Active Observers shall be able to provide to the Integrated Partnership Board their concerns on such decision within seven (7) calendar days following receipt of the background materials and proposed decision text. Integrated Partnership Board members shall be provided with no less than fourteen (14) calendar days to state an objection. Should an objection be received from any Integrated Partnership Board member and not retracted before the deadline for objections, the decision shall not be considered approved. A decision that is not approved can be revised and resubmitted for consideration by the Integrated Partnership Board, at a meeting or electronically, at the decision of the Chair.

Closed sessions

- 9.9 At the determination of the Chair, the Integrated Partnership Board may conduct business in a closed (executive) session of voting members where ex-officio non-voting members may be present unless the Chair decides otherwise. Active Observers may be invited to attend the closed session unless the Chair decides otherwise. The Chair may invite others to attend as appropriate in the circumstances. The outcomes of a closed session shall be made public in open plenary if a decision is taken that has a material impact on the CGIAR System.

Integrated Partnership Board Audit Finance and Risk Committee

- 9.10 The Integrated Partnership Board will establish a standing Integrated Partnership Board Audit Finance and Risk Committee, and shall develop and approve its Terms of Reference with input from the General Assembly of Centers.
- 9.11 The deliberations of the IPB AFRC shall be communicated to Center Boards via each Center's audit finance and risk committee.
- 9.12 The Integrated Partnership Board shall ensure that it appoints appropriately qualified individuals, based on nominations received from a multi-stakeholder

nomination committee. The IPB AFRC shall have no more than eight voting members, one of whom shall serve as Chair and be a voting member of the Integrated Partnership Board. The IPB AFRC Chair shall not serve as a member of any Center Board audit, finance and risk committee or Center Board.

- 9.13 The IPB AFRC, in consultation with each Center, shall nominate one of its members to be appointed as a voting member of each Center Board and a member of each Center Board's audit, finance and risk committee, having regard to the number of Center Boards and Center Board audit, finance and risk committees that each individual has been appointed to.

Other Committees

- 9.14 The Integrated Partnership Board may establish other committees of the Integrated Partnership Board, and ad-hoc working groups and task teams, as it deems appropriate to carry out its work.

Article 10. Center Compliance with Integrated Partnership Board Decisions

- 10.1 In the event that a Center does not fulfill its responsibilities as described in Article 5, or is not compliant with a decision of the Integrated Partnership Board made within the scope of the Integrated Partnership Board's functions as described in Article 8, the Integrated Partnership Board may take such actions as it deems appropriate, within the parameters described herein, in consultation with the System Council. In any such case, the first action of the Integrated Partnership Board shall be to consult with the Center's Board to discuss necessary remedial actions. The Integrated Partnership Board shall allow reasonable time for the completion of remedial actions. If the two parties cannot agree, steps and procedures outlined in the dispute resolution mechanism approved by the Integrated Partnership Board shall be followed.
- 10.2 Where the failure of a Center to fulfill its responsibilities relates to its performance in the CGIAR Portfolio, the action that may be taken by the Integrated Partnership Board may include taking corrective actions as provided under funding agreements with Centers, as well as suggesting to the System Council to exclude such Center from the funding of CGIAR Research, and/or the withholding of current funding under the CGIAR Portfolio concerned in accordance with applicable agreements and/or request termination of recognition as a CGIAR Research Center in accordance with Article 4 hereto.
- 10.3 Where the failure of a Center relates to other matters, and the Center's Board is unable or unwilling to take the necessary remedial actions, the action that the Integrated Partnership Board may take may include:
- a) recommending to the System Council, the exclusion of the Center from consideration for future funding

- b) withholding current funding (to the extent allowable within any applicable agreements or contracts)
- c) requesting termination of recognition as a CGIAR Research Center in accordance with Article 4.

10.4 The Integrated Partnership Board may not restrict a Center's right to secure funds outside the CGIAR Trust Fund or any other Center rights not conferred by virtue of recognition as a CGIAR Research Center. The Integrated Partnership Board may not withhold a Center's right to discontinue recognition voluntarily.

Article 11. System Management Office

The System Management Office, headed by the Executive Managing Director, shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the System Organization, for supporting the System Council, the Integrated Partnership Board and the General Assembly of Centers, and for facilitating integration and collaboration within the Integrated Partnership.

Article 12. Executive Managing Director

- 12.1 The Executive Managing Director is the executive director of the System Organization.
- 12.2 The Executive Managing Director provides coordinated leadership to the Integrated Partnership and is responsible for the System Organization's day-to-day operations.
- 12.3 The Executive Managing Director appoints staff of the System Organization. Such appointments will be made under policies approved by the Integrated Partnership Board, taking into account cost efficiency.
- 12.4 The Executive Managing Director shall be appointed by the Integrated Partnership Board and may be appointed to serve a term of four years, which can be renewed once by the Integrated Partnership Board.
- 12.5 The Executive Managing Director is accountable to the Integrated Partnership Board for the fulfillment of their duties.

Article 13. Partnership Forum

The Partnership Forum provides stakeholders who actively support the CGIAR System with a forum to express their views on CGIAR's operations. Its scope and frequency are set forth in the CGIAR System Framework.

Article 14. Funding of the CGIAR System Organization

Funding of the CGIAR System Organization shall be made in accordance with the overall financial plan for the CGIAR System. Funding shall include:

- a) funding from Funders through the CGIAR Trust Fund, as approved by the System Council
- b) funding from other sources as approved by the Integrated Partnership Board and determined to be consistent with the purpose of the CGIAR System.

Article 15. Amendments

15.1 Amendments to this Charter may be proposed to the Integrated Partnership Board, by any member of the Integrated Partnership Board, by any member of the System Council or by any Center.

15.2 Amendments to this Charter shall be adopted by the:

- a) Integrated Partnership Board
- b) two-thirds majority of Centers as the General Assembly of Centers
- c) System Council

Article 16. Dissolution

16.1 The Integrated Partnership Board, in consultation with the System Council, may determine that the CGIAR System Organization is no longer able to function effectively and may adopt a resolution dissolving the CGIAR System Organization.

16.2 The States that are parties to the International Organization Agreement shall also be consulted prior to any decision to dissolve the CGIAR System Organization.

16.3 The CGIAR System Organization shall remain operative and not be dissolved until such time as the dissolution has been agreed to in accordance with this Charter and the CGIAR System Framework and for such an additional period as might be necessary for the orderly cessation of the CGIAR System Organization's activities and the disposition of its property.

16.4 In case of dissolution, the unencumbered funds of the CGIAR System Organization, subject to conditions attached to these funds, shall be returned to the original Funders, or with the original Funders' agreement distributed to organizations having purposes similar to those of the CGIAR System Organization.

- 16.5 Other net assets of the CGIAR System Organization shall be distributed to the Centers or to organizations having purposes similar to those of the CGIAR System Organization, as may be determined by the Integrated Partnership Board.