



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

Agenda Item 05	Escalation Framework
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:	27 May 2026
Purpose:	<input type="checkbox"/> For consent agenda/information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For discussion and decision <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
Requested action:	Engagement
Executive summary:	<p>The System Council is invited to note the current implementation status of the Ethics and Business Conduct Escalation Framework under the Integrated Partnership Risk and Oversight Plan.</p> <p>The update will cover current implementation and operationalization, interim aggregated reporting, key legal and systems enablers, and next steps to strengthen system-level reporting and assurance.</p>
Draft decision point:	N/A
Supporting materials:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Partnership Ethics and Business Conduct Update (PPT) • Additional reference materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Integrated Partnership Risk and Oversight Plan ○ Integrated Partnership Ethics and Business Conduct Escalation Framework
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24TH SYSTEM COUNCIL MEETING

Escalation Framework

Monde Sikopo Magolo

Integrated Partnership Ethics and Business Conduct Executive

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Why this update to System Council

- CGIAR has a contractual obligation to inform funders, through the System Council, of any matters where this is concern of financial irregularity. (Standard Requirements as provided under the Standard Provisions under paragraph 5.2.2)
- The EBC Framework and Escalation Framework are in place; system-wide operationalization is still maturing
- This update explains: → what is required → what is currently possible → how CGIAR is meeting requirements during the transition

From Requirement to Reporting

Requirement: Standard Provisions para 5.2.2

Centers will promptly inform the System Organization, and the System Organization will promptly inform Funders, through the System Council, if there is a credible concern of Financial Irregularities and of the corrective measures initiated

Framework (EBC Policies & Escalation Framework)

Defines how cases are:

- Managed
- Escalated
- Reported across the system

Legal Enabler (Data Transfer Agreement – DTA)

Enables the sharing of case level information across entities

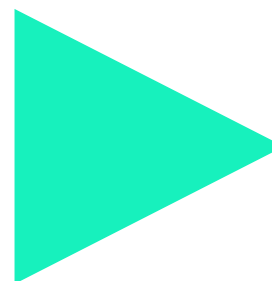
Draft (legal Functional Area Committee)

Current State of Implementation

- EBC policies and Escalation Framework approved system-wide
- Center EBC functions have processes for:
 - Case intake, assessment, and investigation
 - Reporting to Center management and Center AFRCs
- EBC Executive in Place 1 May, including the establishment of the EBC function

Current state

- **Capacity & Resourcing:** EBC responsibilities are assigned across the system, but resourcing models and maturity vary.
- **Systems & Tools:** The case Management capability is still under development
- **Legal Enablers:** *Data Transfer Agreement (DTA)* under development by the Legal Functional Area Committee. This safeguard will help the system to operate at full speed by eliminating legal exposure.
- **Reporting:** Developed a Q1 Aggregated report in consultation with GLT /EMD for submission to IPB-AFRC/AOC (Escalation Framework)
- **Escalation Framework:** Review to begin in June 2026, aiming to complete revisions by 31 October 2026, in line with the System Council's request and the IPB-AFRC and AOC recommendations.



Implications for System Council

- System-level reporting is currently high-level and aggregated.
- EBC Function is operational, including EBC Executive.
- Full system visibility will be progressively enabled, not immediately
- System-level assurance remains developing during this transition period

Reporting Approach

CGIAR applies a controlled baseline reporting:

- Aggregated
- Non-identifying
- Legally compliant

Boundaries

- Aggregated trends and indicators
- No case-level or identifiable information

Controls:

- Validated at Center level (DG / AFRC)
- No Center identifiable in system reporting
- Submitted to GLT and IPB-AFRC

Requirement:

Standard Provisions para 5.2.2

Centers will promptly inform the System Organization, and the System Organization will promptly inform Funders, through the System Council, if there is a credible concern of Financial Irregularities and of the corrective measures initiated

Path Forward

Development of structured tools and guidance materials: To support consistent and coherent interpretation and application of the Framework, EBC will lead development of practical guidance and tools for both operational and oversight actors.

Strengthening of EBC capacity

Develop targeted capacity building to support the effectiveness of the EBC Function

Finalization of key legal enablers

Completion of the Data Transfer Agreements (DTAs) to support structured cross-entity information flows and case escalation processes.

Escalation Framework: Review to begin in June 2026, aiming to complete revisions by 31 October 2026, in line with the System Council's request and the IPB-AFRC/AOC recommendations.

Advancement of systems and tools alignment

Gradual transition toward more structured and secure approaches to case intake and management.

Enhancement of data quality and reporting consistency

Improvement of aggregated reporting methodologies to ensure greater comparability and reliability of indicators across Centers.