

Joint Statement from the IPB-AFRC and AOC on the CGIAR Ethics & Business Conduct Escalation Framework (30 October GLT-endorsed version)

The IPB-AFRC and AOC have carefully reviewed the recent iteration of the draft Escalation Framework, particularly around access to information for the IP-EBC Executive.

Noting the material improvements made in this version and the confirmation by management that this version is agreed by management at all Centers, the AFRC and AOC believe it is in the Integrated Partnership's best interests to progress this version of the Escalation Framework for approval by all parties – the System Council, the Integrated Partnership Board and the Center boards.

Therefore,

- The IPB-AFRC recommends that the IPB concurs with the CGIAR Ethics and Business Conduct Escalation Framework pursuant to Article 8.2 g) of the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization and approves submission to the System Council for its approval.
- The AOC recommends that the System Council approves the CGIAR Ethics and Business Conduct Escalation Framework, pursuant to Article 6.2 i) of the CGIAR System Framework.

It is also requested that a review of the CGIAR Ethics and Business Conduct Escalation Framework is undertaken no later than 31 October 2026 taking into account amendments needed for any changes in the governing structures and the following points:

- 7a. This clause currently places the ability to escalate solely with the Center AFRC and IPB-AFRC. Suggested remedy is to include the option for the IP-EBC Executive to propose escalation to the IPB-AFRC or AOC for appropriate cases.
- 12. Inconsistent use/definition of preliminary review.
- 14a. Clarity on type/frequency of reports and the proper reporting lines.
- 14c. Requests for access to Center-specific case information by the IP-EBC Executive shall be routed through the Center AFRC Chair. This gives the Center AFRC Chair the possibility to veto. Suggested remedy is that if the IP-EBC Executive is restricted from accessing information by the Center AFRC Chair, this can be escalated to the IPB-AFRC.
- 19. This focus on liabilities is unhelpful, as (i) liability will need to be determined in each case, taking privileges and immunities into account, and (ii) the escalation framework is not the appropriate vehicle to assess, allocate or transfer legal liabilities.
- Footnote 6 – Center Board/AFRC members should provide investigation oversight and only get directly involved in investigations involving very senior staff and the Director General.
- Add glossary of shared definitions.