

## Progressing the Terms of Reference for CGIAR's Independent Science and Partnership Council

### Purpose

The objective of this paper is to seek guidance from System Council on how it wishes to take forward the topic of developing a comprehensive Terms of Reference for CGIAR's Independent Science and Partnership Council ("ISPC"), thereby clearly articulating to stakeholders within the CGIAR System and those beyond, the System Council's expectations of the ISPC role, and how the ISPC will work to deliver on those expectations.

Should the System Council wish to take this forward, clarification is sought on the broad parameters by which the System Council would wish that work to proceed.

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## Introduction

1. Through to 30 June 2016, the mandate and engagement model for CGIAR's Independent Science and Partnership Council ("**ISPC**") was articulated in the *CGIAR Fund Governance Framework*. An operating premise of the then operative CGIAR structure was the respective collective undertakings and responsibilities of the Fund Council and the CGIAR Consortium, particularly with respect to the use, allocation and oversight of funds from the CGIAR Fund, with the ISPC identified as one of a number of bridging mechanisms that were expected to assist in joining the then operational dual governance structure.
2. With the 1 July 2016 transition from the CGIAR Fund and the CGIAR Consortium, to a System Council and a CGIAR System Organization, with its two component elements – the System Management Board and System Management Office, the core premise of the dual accountability mechanism between the two former governing bodies has altered considerably.
3. Given the significance of the work of the ISPC, and the reliance placed upon its advice both within and beyond the formal definition of the CGIAR System, it is proposed that early attention be given by the System Council to the development and approval by the System Council of a comprehensive terms of reference for the ISPC pursuant to Article 6.1(e) of the CGIAR System Framework. Taking early action would give welcome, necessary clarity to the ISPC on its mandate moving forward, and the System Council's preferred engagement modalities for the ISPC throughout the CGIAR System.
4. As an aide memoire, [Appendix 1](#) provides preliminary draft terms of reference for the ISPC, as tabled at the 6-8 June 2016 transition meeting of the CGIAR System Funders and Centers.
5. Consistent with the role of the System Management Office to coordinate the development of a proposal for the terms of reference for the Internal Audit Function (as set out in Article 11(g) of the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization), the System Management Office stands ready to provide the System Council with such support as may be helpful to take forward the development of a comprehensive terms of reference for the ISPC.