

Background Notes

Reservations expressed on the CGIAR System transition

Purpose

This document sets out reservations that have been communicated to the System Management Board leadership regarding the CGIAR System transition process. It is proposed that the System Management Board discuss the possibility of (and possible means for) resolution by the System Management Board.

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Items for discussion

Terms in capitals are defined terms in the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization, accessible at this link: [Charter](#)

System Management Board composition

1. The number of independent members on the System Management Board is considered by some to be too low.
2. There is a widely felt concern about the potential for a conflict of interest for Center representatives on the System Management Board.
3. There is no full formal membership for the CRP leaders on the System Management Board, suggesting a return to a center-based approach.

Governance structure of the new CGIAR System:

4. The absence of a contractual relationship between the System Council and the CGIAR System Organization, apparently leaving donors 'outside' the system.
5. The two-board structure does not reflect the agreement for a single multi-stakeholder board as reached in the Fund Council's Bogor meeting in April 2015, and may not provide sufficient checks and balances.
6. The lack of a resource mobilization plan or mechanism encouraging or requiring donors to make more consistent decisions and stabilize funding. Should an External Engagement Committee be created in the System Management Board?
7. The need to ensure the Internal Audit Function ensures quality and oversight without duplicating the work of center audits or Independent Evaluation Arrangement reviews.
8. The lack of clarity thus far on how system-wide costs will be covered.
9. Cost charging by hosting Centers on joint locations.