



Independent
Science for
Development
Council



Photo: Neil Palmer/CIAT

FILLING VACANCIES IN CGIAR'S INDEPENDENT SCIENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IN 2020

CGIAR is seeking eminent and passionate candidates to join its Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC)- a standing panel of impartial, world-class scientific experts providing rigorous, independent strategic advice to the CGIAR System Council and other stakeholders.

With an opportunity to join this valuable work as a member in 2020, successful candidates will be appointed to serve for three years to help the ISDC contribute to the strategic and portfolio planning and positioning of CGIAR.

The appointments will be made to bring in additional key competencies and diversity required for the Council's effective composition, with specific disciplines and skills being particularly sought in 2020 around: water and soil management; non-economic social sciences; key development process experience and stakeholder engagement; and value chains and the private sector.

- Applications and nominations **must be submitted** by not later than 6pm, local Montpellier, France time on Monday **1 June 2020** via email to ISDCappointments@cgiar.org. Late applications/nominations will not be considered
- **Applications/nominations must adhere** to the requirements set out indicatively in this Guidance document
- All enquiries on applications and nominations **should be made in writing** to ISDCappointments@cgiar.org.

Submission email address: ISDCappointments@cgiar.org **Deadline:** 1 June 2020

About the ISDC

The Independent Science for Development Council ('ISDC') is an external, impartial standing panel of experts in science and development subject matters (including food systems innovation matters that extend beyond the agricultural sector) with the responsibility of providing rigorous, independent strategic advice to the System Council and the broader CGIAR System as a whole. The ISDC provides its advice within the broader context of CGIAR's Strategy and Results Framework ('SRF'), the multi-year CGIAR Business Plans and in the current transition to One CGIAR¹ as endorsed by the System Council.

For more information please visit: <https://cas.cgiar.org/isdc>

Chairing the ISDC at a time of transformational change for CGIAR is a challenge, a privilege, and an honour. It is a challenge, because as a team we must provide clear and purposeful advice in an environment characterised by uncertainties and competing interests; it is a privilege because I am leading some of the world's most eminent scientists and most capable professional staff.

–Holger Meinke, Chair of the ISDC

What we are looking for

The ISDC is looking for candidates- to serve as **members** - that have highly desirable skill sets in the following targeted areas:



Agriculture and Food Systems:

Water and soil management



Social sciences:

- Studies in fields of anthropology, geography, political science, sociology;
- World-class expertise in gender.



Development:

Experience with development processes to link global goals to national priorities.



Innovation, technology and private sector:

- Value/supply chain management and analysis;
- Private sector engagement and experience, including managing and using intellectual property



Key cross-cutting topics:

Experience in "One health", studies in link between food systems and health/pandemics/zoonotic disease transmission; experience in Asia and Latin America regions



Key methodological areas:

Particularly in stakeholder engagement, creation of multi-stakeholder networks and dialogues, effective partnerships

CGIAR is committed to gender equity, diversity and inclusion. In line with these principles, we strongly encourage applications from women and diverse geographies.

¹ 'One CGIAR: A bold set of recommendations to the System Council' is available at: https://storage.googleapis.com/cgiarorg/2019/11/SC9-02_SRG-Recommendations-OneCGIAR.pdf

Details on the role

Note: For more information see [ISDC Member Competencies, time commitment and honorarium arrangements](#)

Summary of role

The Council of up to 8 standing members, should:

- Represent a balance of **scientific, programmatic and development expertise** in sectors including and beyond agriculture
- Reflect **eminence in their fields** with internationally-recognized achievements
- Have **geographically diverse experiences** and include persons who work or have worked with a broad range of organizations across multiple countries
- To the extent possible without compromising expertise, reflect **geographic, gender and age diversity**.

Expectations & Eligibility

- Members of ISDC **serve in their personal capacity**.
- Persons currently employed by a CGIAR entity or actively serving on a CGIAR Board of Trustees or working directly within a Funding agency that is represented on CGIAR's System Council are not eligible for these positions.
- All candidates are required to declare any past and/or current involvement with CGIAR. Members will also be expected to comply with the [conflict of interest policy of the CGIAR advisory services](#)
- Members are expected to conduct limited international travel (up to several trips a year)

Term

ISDC members will be appointed for a three year period, with a one year assessment period to confirm continuation of the term, and a possibility of one additional term.

Time commitment

Up to **25 days per calendar year**, as determined by the ISDC Chair.

Appointment process

Members of the ISDC are **appointed by the CGIAR System Council** and accountable to it, with recommended candidates put forward by a nominations panel.

ISDC offers a chance to contribute to and participate in the global agricultural research community at a strategic level. The people are fascinating and brilliant and come from all over the world and many different disciplines and organizations, so the learning opportunities are great.

—Christopher Barrett, Stephen B. and Janice G. Ashley Professor, Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University, US

Applications and nominations

Either individual **applications or nominations*** of potentially qualified people are welcomed by **1 June 2020** and should be submitted by email to **ISDCappointments@cgiar.org** with the 4 following required documents:

- i. **A 1 page covering letter** - stating the applicant/nominated person's name, contact details, main areas of expertise and experience, and suitability for such position based on the competencies listed;
- ii. **A full curriculum vitae;**
- iii. **The names and current contacts of three referees who provide a diverse group of persons to contact;** and
- iv. **Declaration of past and/or current involvement with CGIAR.**

All applications and nominations will be collected and considered in one process, with different start dates of positions being offered as part of an effort to stagger terms.

* *Note in the case of nominations, confirmation from the nominated person of their interest and availability needs to also be provided.*

Experts who join ISDC will be given the opportunity to give independent scientific advice, engage early and regularly with the System and define together the boundaries of advice, the question of its scope, as well as best way to address it. They can improve the quality of scientific advice by rigorous synthesis of existing evidence and transparent debate.

—Nighisty Ghezae, Director of International Foundation for Science, Stockholm