

**SUMMARY OF THE MAIN
RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS MADE BY THE CIAT BOT # 56
CIAT HQs - 6th – 9th November, 2007**

Recommendations / decisions made by the full Board from the Audit & Risk Mgmt Committee:

- In agreement with one of the EPMR recommendations, the Board decided to strengthen the Board's financial expertise by appointing a new CGIAR nominee - Gordon MacNeil – who will be confirmed as a new Board members as of 1st January, 2008.
- As a result of reviewing the development of financial statements and effectiveness of some controls, improvement opportunities were identified on which the Board made some specific recommendations for both regions and HQs. These were duly communicated to the CIAT Management for monitoring.
- The Board decided that risk management should remain as a standing agenda item to be monitored on. However, there will no longer be in the Board a separate Risk Management but a combined committee - the Audit & Risk Management Committee.
- In order to analyze and monitor the identified risk management issues in the areas of finance, research and IT, the Board recommended including these high risk issues in the agenda for the Management Team to monitor on a bi-weekly basis.

Recommendations / decisions made by the full Board from the 86th ExFin Committee:

- In agreement with one of the EPMR recommendations, the Board recommended to pursue with the recruitment of a new Head of Finance reporting directly to the DDG of Corporate Services.
- The Board approved the 2008 Working Budget.
- The Board agreed to hearing on the decision made by Management whether to establish the CIAT Risk Management Committee or not and recommended that efficiency of current system in place needs to be checked in the regions.
- The Board acknowledged the work performed by the Grants Mgmt office and recommended Management to be very focused on its better efficiency by developing a series of indicators or milestones for the Board to monitor on.
- The Board acknowledged that services provided by the Corporate Communication and Capacity Strengthening (CCC) have been reduced and recommended improving communication among the Management Team, RDC Leaders and Regional Research Leaders.
- The Board recommended moving forward with the IRS policy proposal presented after including several modifications and improvements made by the ExFin Committee members, in consultation with staff.
- The Board agreed to authorize Management to implement as of January 2008, the approved amounts for lump sum and RPP payments and a 2% adjustment for the IRS salaries, as per the proposal presented by the DDG of Corporate Services on items 4 and 5, Table 1 of his memorandum No. DIR-038-07.

Recommendations / decisions made by the full Board from the Program Committee:

- The Board recommended that the core allocation for 2008 needs to be reviewed taking into account the needs of the regions and to achieve more equity between research areas and outcome lines.
- The Board recommended that guidelines need to be developed as to when exceptions to the rules for overhead and research and technical support charges may be made.
- The Board recommended that attention should be given to ensuring a good system for archiving data, project documents, reports and publications is in place and being actively used by all staff throughout the center.
- On the Reinvigoration Plan, the Board decided that all the additional feedback provided by the Board members, Management Team, Research Committee and Outcome Lines Leaders will be included for further improvement in a summary to be drafted on the next steps to follow which will be presented to the donors meeting in Washington.

Recommendations / decisions made by the full Board from the Nominating & Governance:

- The Board approved the Terms of Reference for the PRGA Policy Advisory Committee.
- The Board recommended having a report on plans for the future sexual harassment policy at the Board meeting that will take place in April 2008.
- Towards the approval of the Whistle Blowing Policy, the Board agreed that the Chair of the N&G Committee should research procedures used for dealing with anonymous complaints and report back to Board meeting in April 2008.
- The Board approved the Terms of Reference for the Nominating & Governance Committee as per Appendix B.
- The Board approved the Board succession plan as per Appendix C.