



## Scientific & Technical Committee

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference of the STC are based on the paragraphs 37 to 42 of the Declaration of Intention for the formation of the Consortium of the “4 per 1000” Initiative.

#### 1. Mission of the STC

Noting paragraph 37 of the Declaration of Intention for the formation of the Consortium, the STC shall provide scientific and technical support to the Consortium of the “4 per 1000” Initiative.

#### 2. Roles and activities of the STC

Referring to paragraph 38 of the aforementioned Declaration, the roles of the STC are to:

- *“propose to Consortium members, on the basis of the orientations defined by the Consortium, a set of reference criteria for the evaluation of projects and actions founded on the principles and goals of the Initiative as defined in the Paris Declaration, as well as on the Sustainable Development Goals;*
- *formulate opinions and advice on projects, actions and programmes at the request of the Secretariat;*
- *formulate proposals for the orientations of the international scientific research and cooperation programme and for any horizontal issue submitted by the Secretariat;*
- *make contributions to the resource centre in conjunction with the Secretariat and, when asked to do so by the Secretariat, validate the posting of documents on line.”*

Additionally, the STC may support other scientific and technical tasks such as but not limited to:

- provide advice and input for the scientific and technical
  - aspects of the “4 per 1000” Initiative;
  - evaluation of the actions of the “4 per 1000” Initiative;
- communicate with the College of Research and Educational Bodies of the Forum of the “4 per 1000” Initiative on training, capacity building, technology transfer, data management, and research activities;
- consult when deemed necessary any external expert it considers relevant to its activities.

Individual members may act as “4 per 1000” Initiative ambassadors at international conferences and major events related to the aims of the Initiative.

#### 3. Membership in the STC

The STC shall be composed of fourteen (14) scientists or practitioners, all recognised for their scientific or technical skills on topics relevant to the “4 per 1000” Initiative.

STC members shall notably be experts in the following disciplines: soil sciences, the carbon cycle, agronomics, land tenures, livestock farming, forestry, economics, political sciences and sociology, with the following areas of application: food security, adaptation or mitigation to climate change, and development.

The composition of the STC assigns a significant role to expertise in the field.

It takes into account the world’s various regions and shall promote a gender balance.

Members of the STC act in an individual capacity, independent of national or institutional affiliation.

The members of the STC are nominated by the Consortium from a list of potential candidates selected by the "4 per 1000" Initiative Consortium. Candidates recommended by the STC are also considered by the Consortium.

The Executive Secretariat is responsible for compiling the list of selections and preparing the nomination procedure. The diversity of disciplines covered in the scope of the "4 per 1000" Initiative as well as gender balance are important factors to be considered in the nominations.

Criteria for nomination are:

1. Outstanding academic record, international visibility, and reputation in the scope of "4 per 1000".
2. Broad vision of the challenges facing agriculture/forestry, food security and climate change.
3. Expertise at the field level will be considered as a complementary positive point.

The nomination of new members is performed by the Consortium on proposal made by the Executive Secretariat and led by the Executive Secretariat.

The members of the STC are appointed for 2 years as standard. Members can be re-appointed for a two years mandate with a maximum of 3 mandates by decision of the members of the Consortium.

If a member of the STC should leave before completion of their term, the Executive Secretariat shall set up a new nomination.

#### **4. Membership renewal**

The renewal of the STC membership shall be performed every two years by third of the STC. On a period of 6 years, the renewal of the STC will be complete.

#### **5. Chair and Vice-Chairs of the STC**

The STC shall elect from its members a Chair and Vice-Chairs (with a maximum of 3).

The Chair shall propose with the assistance of the Executive Secretariat an agenda for the STC working program, facilitate and moderate the meetings of the STC, with a Vice-Chair assuming this responsibility in the event of the Chair being unable to attend.

The STC shall report on due time directly to the Consortium through the Chair (or a Vice-Chair).

The Chair and Vice-Chairs are elected for a 2-year term. The Chair and Vice-Chairs can be re-appointed for a second 2-year mandate.

In addition to the replacement of the Chair in case of inability to attend, each Vice-Chair has specific roles to play in the functioning of the STC, to be defined by STC during the meeting in which the Chair is elected, or the next one if the Chair is elected by electronic consultation.

#### **6. Meetings of the Scientific and Technical Committee**

##### **6.1. Meeting frequency and attendance**

The STC carries out its assigned tasks by means of physical and virtual meetings with support from the Executive Secretariat.

The STC shall meet at least twice a year at the invitation of the Executive Secretariat. Additionally, the STC may be convened by the Chair and/or the Consortium if special circumstances necessitate such a meeting.

Regular attendance to meetings is expected and is a consideration in the renewal process.

Meetings of the STC are organized and attended by the Executive Secretariat and, if appropriate, by a maximum of 2 representatives of the Consortium.

The STC, through the STC Chair and Executive Secretariat, may invite experts, on a permanent or temporary basis to attend STC meetings where their attendance would facilitate discussion.

STC members can attend Consortium and Forum meetings in addition to Chair and Vice-Chairs, depending on the required expertise for the Consortium or Forum meeting agenda.

## **6.2. Decision process**

### *Quorum*

The STC has a quorum of two-thirds, i.e. 9 members, either in person or by video/telephone conference.

### *Voting*

The STC takes decisions by consensus.

## **7. Conflict of Interest**

STC members may provide advice for the development of activities and public policies only if they have demonstrated the absence of any conflict of interest.

Statements of interest shall be produced by each STC member and updated every year.

STC members shall not participate in any decisions or any evaluation where a situation or circumstance of personal or professional nature has the potential to compromise their ability to make decisions in the interest of best performing their role in the STC.

In case of a potential conflict of interest, such STC member shall raise the issue with the Chair. Consequently, the STC shall decide, as a panel, on whether or not the STC member can participate in the discussion. The STC shall make this decision outlining the situation(s) considered as conflict of interest.

## **8. Expenditure, Travelling Expenses**

The members of the STC work in an honorary capacity and are not employed by the “4 per 1000” Initiative to undertake this role. Members and invited experts are reimbursed for their travel expenses related to “4 per 1000” Initiative activities.