

## Funders Forum 2010 Survey Report

### OVERVIEW

Last year, Funders Forum participants were invited to answer a survey anonymously, which probed their satisfaction with comments on the meeting as well as recommendations to shape future Funders Forums. 37 out of 109 participants completed the feedback survey (see Figure 1).

Overall respondents rated the first Funders Forum positively. They offered helpful feedback on the preparation and conduct of the meeting. A list of the qualitative feedback can be found in the Appendix.

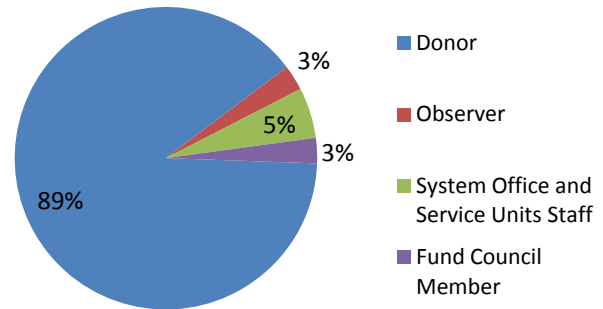


Figure 1 Composition of Survey Respondents

### RESPONSES AND ANALYSIS

#### 1. How would you rate the overall Funders Forum?

Respondents' average score on a scale of 1 to 5 (where 5 is excellent) was 3.8. Most respondents rated a 4.

#### 2. If you had to change or add one thing in the Funders Forum, what would that be and why would you change it?

25 respondents answered this question. Figure 2 gives an overview of major issues that were raised by respondents as areas they would like to change:

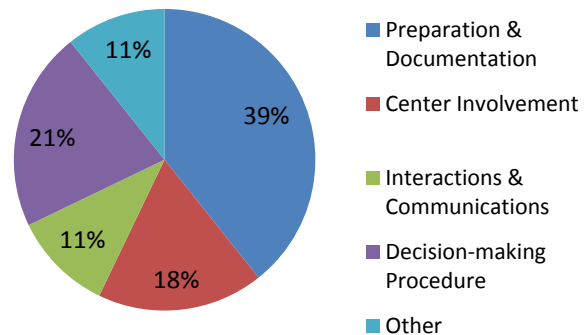


Figure 2 Areas Need Improvement

- **Preparation**
  - Background documents of the Funders Forum, including the agenda, timeline for discussion, and list of participants, should be posted well ahead of time.
  - A clear distinction of the items for discussion and/or decision would provide greater clarity and better input.
- **Decision-making procedure**
  - Decision-making can be more efficient if documents are provided sufficiently in advance of the meeting.
  - A debate/discussion period on the SRF before the meeting can reduce the inefficiency of the meeting.
  - Decision summaries should be communicated more clearly.
- **Centers' engagement**
  - Centers should be given opportunity to speak at the meeting, including giving presentations on Mega Programs.
- **Interactions and communications**
  - More interactions among donors should be encouraged.

- More interesting and engaging presentations and speakers
- Consideration should be given to non-native English speakers.
- **Other issues**
  - Change the time of the Funders Forum (not having it in mid-July)
  - Several donors complemented the chairmanship of the meeting

*3. Was there sufficient time to discuss the issues at the meeting?*

35 participants answered this question. 34 agreed that there was sufficient time for discussion.

*4. How satisfied were you with the information received about the Funders Forum prior to the meeting?*

All respondents answered this question and average score on a scale of 1 to 5 (where 5 is excellent) was 3.3.

*5. Did you visit the Funders Forum website?*

32 indicated that they had visited the Funders Forum website. Respondents who visited the site were more satisfied with the information received prior to the meeting.

*6. Additional comments/recommendations*

13 respondents provided additional comments regarding the Funders Forum. Three major issues raised by participants are listed below:

- **Documents should be ready ahead of time and discussions should be consistent with the agenda.**
  - Some respondents complained that documents were late (i.e. GRiSP proposal), and last-minute changes to documents took place (i.e. agenda).
  - There were discrepancies between what was on the document and what was discussed (i.e. funding gene banks).
- **Centers should be fully involved and more emphasis given to the Mega Programs.**
  - Presentation of MPs should have been much longer.
  - Centers should not be excluded.
- **Donors should be more engaged in the process of developing the SRF.**
  - Donors should have reacted earlier to the delay of SRF.
  - Donor collaboration is needed to support the FO and development of SRF.
  - Donors should have been involved with a review mechanism early on.

## Appendix: Qualitative Feedback

Q2: If you had to change or add one thing in the Funders Forum, what would that be and why would you change it?

#	Survey responses
1	The forum meeting should be back to back with GCARD
2	The Funders Forum is intended to provide a platform through which the PARTICIPANTS discuss and exchange views about the CGIAR. Individual Centers are participants but did not participate in any real sense. I'd change that. Need to hear all voice.
3	1) Secure that documents would have been reviewed and endorsed by the Fund Council prior to the Funders Forum; 2) Not have the Funders Forum in the middle of July
5	Be useful to have a list of members of the Funders Forum (indicating the constituency key representatives with contacts)
9	Other setting a bit less "official". Presenting short "info item" type of leaflet on which issues to be discussed. Info on decisions to be made (clearly indicating what/why/when...)
10	Be sure documents will be ready for approval before scheduling the meeting
11	Give the center directors the opportunity to speak during the Forum—very disappointing
12	Allow the so-called "open" portion of this meeting be truly inclusive of all attendees. To pretend that meeting was open but to intact deprive the Centers an opportunity to speak significantly compromises this body's credibility.
14	Agenda should be timed to plan better interventions and discussion time.
15	Greater clarify an agenda beforehand, in relation to Fund Council agenda
16	We need some way for interaction with Centers/Mega Programs whether the Funders Forum offer such a space, or GFAR, or the Science Forum, or???
17	Decisions could be taken faster by made of voting, etc
18	If would be better perhaps, if the major issues were first explained properly, put through a debate and these after, be decided on a direct vote base—"ayes" and "no".
19	Move interaction with donor, which are not part of the "usual inspects".
21	You should encourage debate of documents like strategy before people come to the meeting. Have specific written input submitted to assist with speeding up process.
22	More speakers like Lynn Haight—engaging interesting and informative
24	Addition of a part in documents describes the guidance or decisions expected from members/participants. This is to facilitate withdrawal of conclusions from the discussion.
25	Good chair person!
26	The CG Centers did not receive a chance to comment or show their feelings/frustrations. Too little about Centers
27	Endorsement of SRF (at least we tried). Discussion or rather presentations of the MPs.
28	Timeline for discussion items.
30	All paper documents be circulated at least 15 days in advance

34	Would suggest the Consortium give the FO an idea in advance of what it plans to present. E.g. Lynn Haight's presentation.
35	Not "changing" but "improving" the way of summarizing the decision. (not always fully understandable by non-native English-speaking people)
36	Excellent chairing

Q7: Additional comments/recommendations

#	Survey responses
2	Closed session necessary, but had consequence of "discussing" some participants without opportunity for appropriate closure/summary.
3	1) Considers the challenges encountered: this was a "positive" meeting; 2) It is a pity that we, as donors, did not react earlier to a situation (the SRP development) that was not acceptable earlier. The SRF was supposed to be discussed at ExCo in Rome (not ready), then in Montpellier (not ready), then at the Funders Forum (coming late). We are now facing a future delay. I think it is ok with the commitment of the Consortium Board to wait another 6 months, but please, we need together through the support of the FC Office to secure that donors are involved with a review mechanism early on.
5	Changes in the agenda have been made in the last few days before the meeting. Should try to be avoided.
10	It would be nice to have a list of meeting attendees. Be very clear about what decisions need to be made at the meeting. Document on funding gene banks, etc, was not discussed so why was it included as documentations for the meeting?
12	It was very disappointing that the centers were never given an opportunity to speak today. They travelled great distance only to be excluded.
14	Some documents for Fund Council came late (e.g. GRiSP)
21	You need to promote CGIAR in countries who are either not members or donors particularly the countries in the South.
26	Possibly presentation of MP should have been much longer-should be presentations for the Centers!
30	Well managed and participated meetings with very effective deliberation.
33	Some documents came too late!
34	A little disappointed that the SRF did not endorsed since GCARD, but understand well the reason for this. This Funders Forum was an excellent beginning of yet another new element of the CGIAR.
35	Good spirit!
36	Difficult to comment on #2 as this is the first and major decisions or areas for actions needed to be thought through. I suppose future Funders Forum will be more stable in terms of ___ agenda.