

Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers Organisations

INOFO general assembly, Istanbul, Sunday 12th October 2014

~ Agenda ~

- At Yeditepe University campus, Istanbul : INOFO Registration desk staffed by volunteers.
- 8h30 **Registration** of OFO delegates from all countries, including from non-Ifoam-affiliated OFOs. Delegates show their mandates at Registration Desk or send them beforehand to Inofo Secretary (Mandate* forms circulated 12 Sept with Agenda; Voting cards* issued with badges at Assembly).
- **9h30**: INOFO vice-president André Leu opens Assembly.
- 9h45: Introduction Round: each delegate has one minute (types & numbers of farmers, markets...)
~ *short break* ~
- 11h: Election of **Chairperson** of the Assembly (+deputy +2 secretaries +2 referees);
- Approval of 2011 GA minutes & of this Assembly's agenda (incl matters arising);
- **Reports from Delegates** round the table (per OFO) & from Convenors (per region), in summary (fuller versions of these reports are expected in written form, before or after the Assembly).
- **Report from Inofo Executive** 2011~2014; Report submitted to Assembly for approval;
- Call for candidates* to INOFO Convenors Council (Convenors come originally mandated by their own OFO and thereafter by other OFOs in the same Convenorship [country or region]. **See INOFO webpage**).
- ~ *lunch break* ~
- Election of INOFO **Convenors Council** after the mandated candidates are presented (Council seats for which no mandated candidate is physically present shall be reserved, pending further formalities*).
- Internal **Ifoam matters** (**Green card** holders: delegates of Ifoam-affiliated OFOs): which candidates for Ifoam WB & which motions will INOFO support in Ifoam GA? How many votes in pockets of delegates staying for Ifoam GA next week? How many further proxy votes can be assigned?
- INOFO's **thematic agenda** (review of 2011 version); Constitution of Working Groups 2014~2017 (**open to all**).
- INOFO's **organisational agenda** 2014~2017 (basing the Network upon farmers consent; OFO-building in Eastern Europe; IFAD Capacity Building project for OFOs in Latin America, Africa & Asia+Pacific, including mapping of OFOs and Convenorship training for OFO staff & farmers; Feedback from last week's training sessions; Proposed improvements to Inofo Statutes; Proposed working method).
- Meeting of new INOFO **Convenors Council** 2014~2017, which elects its executive & adopts agenda;
- **Dinner**, at which the Convenors Council presents its new executive & agenda.

* *INOFO Formalities:*

- **GREEN voting card** is for the mandated delegate of an ifoam-affiliated farmers organisation.
- **RED voting card** is for mandated delegate of a non-ifoam-affiliated OFO. A **Green** or **Red** voting card is issued in exchange for the written mandate presented by the delegate on arrival (can also be e-mailed beforehand).
- A **CONVENORSHIP** can include organisations of both types having together consented to a Convenor's mandate. This **Convenor's mandate** is a pre-condition for any candidature for election at GA to Inofo Convenors Council.
- **BLUE observers card** is for any member or employee of an OFO who is not, or not yet, explicitly mandated as its legitimate delegate, or for any other persons present for some good reason.

Annexed documents:

- Forms for signing in advance: OFO Delegate mandates, Inofo Convenor mandates, Inofo & Ifoam proxy votes).
- Report from 2011 INOFO GA, Korea, (see especially the thematic agenda set for 2011~2014).

Footnote in case of misunderstanding : INOFO is exclusively a network of organic farmers organisations that are owned & governed by farmers. IFOAM is the all-inclusive multi-professional federation whose organic farmers can now have a distinct collective voice. For Inofo Council executive, Honorary Secretary: Anton Pinschhof, France: <apinschhof@fnab.org>

INTERCONTINENTAL NETWORK OF ORGANIC FARMERS ORGANISATIONS
PROCEEDINGS OF INOFO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Sunday 12 October 2014
near **Istanbul**, on the Asian side, at Yeditepe University, Faculty of Fine Arts

André Leu (INOFO vice-president 2009~2014) opens proceedings:

Welcome to the INOFO GA. It is a great pleasure and honour for me to be opening this assembly.

INOFO is very important to me as a farmer, as I believe we have a critical role to play in improving the lives of farmers around the world. I have four points to make.

1. First, we formally **identify** all the organised organic farmers and bring them into the fold. The majority of the world's 1.5 billion farmers are smallholders who largely use organic methods. They are our natural constituency and we must engage with them and include them in INOFO.

2. We need to develop the **new generation** of leaders, which is a process that we have started through our IFAD project. By this formal process, by coming here as delegates or by becoming Convenors, you can take up these leading positions! We'd love you to take over and retire us.

3. Farmers on every continent are the **lowest socio-economic group**. We are seeing the continued exodus of farmers from farms and communities to live in poverty as unskilled workers on the margins of towns. Or they leave farming by suicide which is an unacknowledged epidemic in many farming communities around the world. Fortunately the organic sector is the exception. As numbers of farmers are declining everywhere in the world, we are gaining around 200,000 new farmers a year. In the USA for the first time since the 1950s, the number of farmers has increased, primarily due to the rise of small diverse organic family farms. We are the true success story in farming. However, we must do more.

We must teach many more farmers how to increase their yields through better organic practices and a greater diversity of crops. Nearly everywhere the farming land is impoverished and consequently we have one billion food-insecure people, most of them rural smallholders. An excellent example of how to reverse this is MASIPAG, one of my favourite organisations on this planet, who are showing that we have the ability to take farmers, however small the farms, and make them productive, to feed their families and their communities. We have proven ways to produce good yields.

4. Along with increasing production we need to increase the price that farmers receive for their produce. I am fortunate, in the last 40 years I have been able to visit thousands of farms on every continent, and in my experience, most farmers are very good producers. The yields of produce are not always the problem. The price farmers receive is the main problem.

We need to organise and empower farmers to have control over marketing and over the prices they receive for their produce. The current situation, where farmers are price takers not price makers and where most of the value is retained by the market players and not by farmers, is the main reason why farming is not viable for most farmers. It is vital that we set up alternative marketing systems where farmers can work in partnership with consumers to **set fair prices** that ensure the viability of their farms.

We have many examples of these such as PGS, CSA, Tei Kei, cooperatives & farmers markets and we must increase these types of distribution as an alternative to the current mass markets dominated by supermarkets. While there will always be a need for wholesalers, we need viable alternatives to mass market dominance, so farmers have choice of market, have control over the prices that they receive, and are not beholden to being exploited.

Very importantly, to achieve this, we need to train farmers in leadership, organisation, management and marketing, so that they have the skills to run these organisations. As farmers we are experts at farming, however, running organisations, leadership, the logistics of getting produce to markets in a good condition and the marketing of produce require new skills. This is where we need education and leadership.

Our INOFO leadership and mapping project, funded by IFAD and coordinated by IFOAM head office is a great start. We need to do our best to ensure that this project is fully supported and delivers the outcomes. If we successfully complete this project we will be in an excellent position to find more funding and organise better.

To sum up my four points: 1: identify everybody and become the biggest farmers organisation on this planet, which we potentially are. 2: To do that properly, we need the next generation of leaders, we have them here and we veterans will support them. 3: We shall work with the farmers to see they have good productive agro-ecological systems, 4: Farmers can organise to have farmer-empowered markets and cooperative distribution. We have ways to turn things around, cooperatives of all sorts.

At this small meeting we already represent so many farming families. We used to be seen as nut-cases, on the fringes of society. It's good to see the way we are increasing as the fastest growing agriculture and food sector in the world. We are the true future of farming, the industrialised farmers are diminishing in number if not in size, and their children don't want to be farmers because they see no future in it. That other side of farming is closing down. We are the exception as we are growing farmers by the hundreds of thousands, because we have a positive future, but, that's not enough. We can grow millions of farmers. I wish everybody a very successful meeting.

Tour de table : *full name & organisation quoted only at first intervention. These notes are incomplete. Link to the recordings of assembly proceedings: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGgJIYxEPBKncQwOVQt5exzX39q2kAriP>*

- France : Anton Pinschhof, smallholder, veg & goat meat, *FNAB*. France 26000 certif+conv +800 PGS.
- India Kerala State : Anuradha Sarang, *OFAI* board, 12 acres +school +PGS, *OFAI* 30 yrs existence,
- India : Shamika Mone, *OFAI* staff. - India : Claude Alvarez, *OFAI* director, 3000, total 20.000.
- India : Rohit Jain, *OFAI* board member, Banyan Roots & Vat Vriksh Foundation, 48.
- Peru : Felimon Mechato Ipanaqué, *ANPE* treasurer, Lemon, mango & cardamom producer.
- Colombia : Cristian Rodriguez, *EcoCacao*, 50 certified, total certif 500.
- Peru : Salvador Sanchez, *ANPE* president, 20 regional grps 12,300, total certif 40,000 ; PGS 5000.
- Mexico : Homero Blas Bustamante, organic coffee growers, 2300 certified in Mexico.
- Philippines : Rowena Buena, *MASIPAG*, PGS technical officer, 35000 plus PGS.
- Vietnam : Nhung Thi Tuyêt Tù, president *Vietnam PGS Group* : 300.
- Philippines : Lucille Ortiz, *MASIPAG* research officer, 49 associations.
- Philippines : Charito Medina, *MASIPAG* nat'l coordinator, 28 yrs existence, 35000, 3000 rice var.
- Philippines Mindanao : Edgar Opalia, farmer member of *MUFASA*, 180 farmers, part of *MASIPAG*.
- USA : Elizabeth Henderson, *NOFA*, in 6 states 4000, in USA 19000, plus the uncertified...
- China : Shi Yan, *Beijing CSA*: 500 families, 2000 poultry breeders, 50 pig breeders.
- In the national CSA network: 500 CSAs, 20 000 smallholders identified.
- Uganda : Cory Whitney, PhD student, working with 300 farmers.
- Zambia : Charles Kabwe Mubanga, *OPPAZ*, 300 individually certified,
- Zambia : Khama Mbewe, *OPPAZ*, grower of herbs & chilis, nat'l total 10,000, ...1010.
- Zimbabwe : Fortunate Nyakanda, *ZOPPA*, 1250 PGS +2900 conv +1010 certif.
- Zimbabwe : Tichaona Charova, *ZOPPA*.
- Malawi : Stanley Chidaya, *MOGA*, region 2300, nat'l 23,000 of whom 1100 individually certified.
- Namibia : Nathaniel Shikongo, *NOA*, communal farms, smallholders organic by default +500 wild harvesters +1000 rural women. Nationally 500,000 trad farmers, average 2 or 3 Ha.
- Benin : Omer Agoligan, *ORAD*, West Afr seed netwk, training women in trad prod, 147 families.
- Sénégal Casamance : Bacary Diedhiou, *ADTS*, market garden & trad medicine, 160 family coops.
- Sénégal : Famara Diedhiou, *FENAB*, 6 NGOs, 17 OFOs, 18 000 organic farmers, 4000 ha certified.
- Australia : André Leu, tropical fruit, *OFA*, 2000 certif, +2000 organic and by choice not certified.
- India : Krishna Prasad, nat'l seed savers alliance & *OFAKarnataka*: 250 certif, 2250 converting.
- Germany : Kai Kreuzer, journalist, presents his trilingual news service : www.organic-market.info
- Colombia : Carlos Escobar, *IFOAM* Latin America Group (staff), 4000 farmers.
- Germany : Thomas Cierpka, *IFOAM* staff. Self Organised Structures inside IFOAM are regional, nat'l or sector bodies. Latest : Ifoam Euro-Asia (russophone), Ifoam Southern Africa, Ifoam Iran.
- Benin : Pascal Gbenou (prod fish, rabbit, plantain, peanuts, rice), *ROPFA*; *FUPRO*: 1300 group-certified organic. My province pop 70,000, 90% trad small farmers, many organic by default, selling in conventional market.
- France : Jocelyn Parot, sec gen of *URGENCEI* : global CSA network, incl 2000 AMAPs in France.
- Zimbabwe : Tendai Gonese, *Agro-Ecology School* (principle), Zimbabwe: 18 000 smallholders.
- India : Joy Daniel, *IIRD*, PGS Council, 500 000 trad farmers, 10 000 Maharashtra. PGS 6000.
- India : Mathew John, *Ifoam WB* mbr & candidate, *PGS Council India*. Wild harvesters 15 000.
- India : Ashish Gupta, Him-Pradesh 16 PGS farmers, 6000 PGS plus 2000 in conversion..
- South Africa : Konrad Hauptfleisch, *IFOAM* staff (training program). Now you are on your own..!
- Uganda : Jane Nalunga, farmer for 17 years. *NOGAMU* includes all professional categories including 21,500 farmers third party certified; nationally we have 1,2 million smallholders.
- Ghana : Adelaide Yeboah Cole, third generation farmer, second generation organic at *Eloc Farms* which have 150 acres certified organic, 300 acres non-certified, and 50 outgrowers in conversion.
- India Maharashtra : Sanjay Patil, seed conservation: 1500 rice & millet farmers, 7 organisations linked to over 3500 farmers, conserving over 1000 varieties. In charge of *OFAI*'s research.
- South Africa : Janet Gracie, *BDAASA* with 10 farmers certified; linked to 3000 urban farmers & 1500 in Natal; with *Greenroad*, an enterprise with 32 farmers in PGS.
- Bangladesh : Touhidul Alam, *BARCIK* 7000 traditional farmers & fisherfolk.
- Uganda : Julie Matovu Nakalanda: two PGS coops, 50 farmers, member of *NOGAMU*.
- Brazil South: Marcelo Passos, *AOPA & Ecovida agro-ecology network*, 4000 families in PGS.
- Colombia : Jose Ivan Garcia Pescador, *Asociacion Asprocafe Ingruma*, 260 certified.
- Bolivia : Jaime Belén Copa, Quinoa prod, *AOPEB* board mb, 85 mb orgs, 4000 PGS, 70 000 nat'l.
- Nicaragua East Coast: Oscar Lopez, *Sano y Salvo*: 120. School *La Esperantzita*: 15 producers.
- Peru : Patricia Flores, *IFOAM office for Latin America & Caribbean*, coordinator.
- Brazil : Pupin *ANC 62*. Network 3500 certif; Brazil 9 million farmers +billions of earthworms.
- Chile : Monica Erpel Quevedo, *Tierra Vive* association, 100 PGS farmers.
- Puerto Rico : Yanna Mohan Muriel, *BORICUA* with 75 families, 10 certified.
- Colombia Cauca : Carlos Pazu Dagua, *Asociacon Fondo Paez*, 530 certified organic farmers in Cauca department which belongs to the *Nasa* native people.
- Peru, Silvia Montesinos Huallpa, farmer, student of agriculture, mb of *ARPE Cuzco*, 153 farmers.

- Peru, Naida Catalina Quispe, pres *ARPE Cuzco*, prod: maize, amaranth, fruit, vegetables, flowers.
- Nepal, Yam Kumari Sreshtha, prod 0.5 ha coffee on land 1.5 ha parents, 2.5 ha parent's in law. *Nepal Permaculture Group* 15 grps; *Coffee Coop Union* 342 certif., 100 PGS, In district 2000 trad growers, 5000 certif. In Nepal 22000 trad farmers. Rules for ICS & PGS since 2014.
- Sri Lanka, Ajantha Jini Baheerathan, Coord of nat'l Org program, moved to North, working with 120 farmers. 4000 certif, 130 farmer groups. Sri Lanka has 1800,000 farming families.
- India, Samraj Tonthai Gowder, *Keystone Foundtn*, trad farmer ancestors: 1Ha tea. *Adimalai Producer Company*: 200 honey hunters, 15000 wild harvesters, 300 trad farmers, 1200 PGS incl 200 flower women.
- Korea, Jennifer Chang, *CCFM*: 1000 certif +CSA box scheme +10 farm shops, linked to the Catholic Church as political body. Sth Korea has 16,733 certified Organic farmers.
- Austria, Cornelia Kirchner, *IFOAM* staff, Bonn; PGS & INOFO project team.
- Germany, Anne Thieme, food scientist. *IFOAM* staff, running your travel agency in Bonn.
- Turkey, Ozgar ..., student of internat'l relations, volunteer at *INOFO* reception desk.
- Other Turkish volunteers whose names are unknown.

- **coffee break**, during which Anton & Anuradha add up the farmers represented: 2,564,442 : two and a half million families, taking into account only those figures that seemed relevant and did not overlap.

CALL for nominations for president of the **assembly**. Claude nominated by Adelaide, seconded by Krishna. Nhung named by Cory, refuses. Janet nominated by Claude, seconded by Adelaide. Voting: Claude 31, Janet 16 : Claude Alvarez (India) presides over the assembly +Janet Gracie (SA) deputy.

Approval of Agenda. Nomination of secretaries : Famara Diedhiou (Sénégal), Cristian (Colombia), Rowena (Philippines). Arbitrators / vote counters: Nathaniel (Zimbabwe) & Yam Kumari (Nepal).

Minutes of Inofo GA 2011 (*publ in EN & FR*) were summarised by the Secretary. Outcome was that the Assembly of 59 delegates, representing between them about half a million farming families, confirmed its Convenors Council and set thematic and organisational agenda for the next 3 years.

Here followed a brief exchange about the nature of a Convenor's primary grass-roots mandate. Some were questioned after GA 2011 when formal primary mandate (by several OFOs in a region) had not been sought by all candidates. In fact, one Convenor was later stood down, some were frankly ineffective during the 3 years, lacking consent from other OFOs in their region. And one was simply substituted from within his organisation, as can also happen. Secretary explained the classic *chicken & egg* situation of a candidate Convenor, back home, seeking the mandates of other OFOs that had not previously even been asked to consent to the Convenorship concept, much less to a particular candidate being sent to GA by another organisation. *2011 Minutes approved unanimously.*

INOFO Secretary's Report 2011~2014,

Secretary Pinschhof summarises what the executive did since 2011 (*full version posted to web later*) :

1: External Relations: Inofo delegates went to the following events: UNEP's Rio+20, June 2012; UNEP & UNDP consultation on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, Istanbul Nov 2013 not long after UNEP called for delegates to be nominated to their "Farmers" Major Group; Inofo attended the IFAD Farmers Forum in Rome, Feb 2012 & Feb 2014, together with many other farmers organisations, notably Via Campesina. One outcome was that, with support from Ifad & Ifoam, the current Capacity Building program for INOFO was launched at the start of 2014.

2: Internal Relations within Ifoam and within Inofo. Given that INOFO is not a new organisation of Organic farmers, but a new relation between their existing organisations, internal relations have been mostly reflected in regional networks, which carry on their activities and publish their reports independently. Some INOFO Convenors met in Nuremberg & Rome, February 2012, 2013 & 2014. Result : INOFO Bulletin N°10, April 2014, in 3 languages, announcing capacity building exercise now in progress. INOFO's current thematic & organisational program, outlined by the Assembly in Korea 2011 and published in Bulletin N°8, Jan 2012, has 3 main chapters thus :

- Farmers Voice : Food Sovereignty & Land Rights (resistance against land-grabbing, deforestation, GMOs et cetera, against control of agriculture and almost everything by multinational non-persons).
- Agricultural Ecology & Economy (Systems of Agriculture, Modes of Production & Distribution).
- Organisation of the network (capacity-building for regional networks, working groups, translation).

In reality, all activity around practical or policy themes remained firmly in the hands of regional networks doing what they usually do, and thematic working groups operated only at regional level during this period. However, continuity in the organisational process was maintained by the executive (Moises Quispe, André Leu, Andrea Ferrante & Anton Pinschhof), with its occasional bulletins, and by a program of capacity building started with timely help from IFAD & IFOAM. *Report approved unanimously.*

Farmers Major Group: At UNEP (UN Environment Program, Nairobi) INOFO's delegate James Cole represents farmers, including Organic farmers. Context: there are nine *Major Groups: Farmers, Indigenous Peoples, Local Authorities, NGOs, Traders & Industrialists, Scientists & Technologists, Children & Youth, Women, Workers Unions*, which UNEP is currently consulting about their 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Production & Consumption. For this, UNEP invites delegates mostly from southern countries, but has insufficient money to pay for effectively legitimate representation at this

level.

- Anton : It's remarkable how Distribution (=Trade) were not on the agenda at RIO+20 nor in any subsequent consultations, like Istanbul Nov 2013, where I represented the *Farmers Major Group*. And none of the unsustainable but unstoppable development objectives are debated, such as armed land-grabbing, deforestation, urbanisation, extraction of foreign debt interest & other raw materials.

Regional Convenor's reports :

- **Europe**: Anton (for FNAB, European NOFO Convenor): apologises for Europe NOFO's report being unedited and too late: despite deadline 1st Sept, it arrived 7th Oct when he had left for the airport.

- **Latin America & Caribbean**: Patricia Flores: 1: Apologises for the absence of Moises Quispe. His report was approved by ANPE president Salvador Sanchez. 2: List of OFOs was sent to Anton.

3: The Family Farming theme has priority. 4: IFAD program: 78 candidates from our region, 16 selected, 14 arrived. 5: Questions at national level, what is INOFO, what are its objectives & vision?

- **West Africa**: James Ghana: 1: West Africa anglophone & francophone networks, with Famara. Mobilisation was our aim, but no resources. Communication at the grass roots level not easy. Farmers want to join individually but, first need their own farmers organisation. Nigeria today has one. 2: Cannot travel about, use e-mail but not all have it and connection is bad. 3: The challenge is in getting grassroots workers to register as groups.

- Famara Sénégal: reports on activities in francophone West Africa: 2011 first mentioned INOFO. Every 3 years we have farmers seed festival, so again in March 2014. Delegates from 8 countries assembled, including Benin, Mali, Togo & Burkina. They have their own organic farmers organisations, as does Sénégal. Big question, what is INOFO? I explain it is a self-organised structure building its own vision.

- Anton France: INOFO is not a new organization; it has no actual joining or membership, just mandated delegates from farmer organisations and perhaps a new political or practical relationship between them.

- Omer Benin: Five farmers from francophone West Africa submitted Practitioner presentations for OWC, which were translated & accepted. Only 2 found sponsorship for the costs of coming here.

Debate about the Inofo concept

Chairman Claude: 10 min debate. When was first proposed the idea of INOFO? Other questions?

- Anton : witnessed background, esp since 2002, farmers specifically want their own bush telegraph.

- Monica Chile: lots of work for each of us, need clear picture of what's intended.

- James Ghana: was in Vignola & Korea. Farmers missing out, needed voice, want to be in Ifoam but want voice heard. So, how do we govern ourselves, we decide that. If not, others will prescribe. Individual farmers want to feel they belong.

- Claude: primary objective: effort to put together voices of organic farmers in IFOAM forum (via their organisations, not as individuals). =>INOFO web page <www.ifoam.org/en/what-we-do/sector-groups>

- Julie Uganda: not just IFOAM forum, we are not in a vacuum, voice of OFOs also outside IFOAM..?

- Claude: is this last idea accepted? *All say YES, no objections (AP: Statutes allow for this anyway).*

- Stanley Malawi: I see my mother, she sees her son. How does IFOAM see INOFO?

- André Australia: IFOAM has **Self Organised Structures**: it's not for us (WB+office) to tell you what to do. You decide what you want, we help you operate. We base better decisions on what you say.

- Konrad Bonn: in the absence of Thomas Cierpka, I should say IFOAM has set a few landmarks, Principles, Definitions, Positions, Family of Standards.., and we (the SOS) honour them.

- Charito Masipag: caution...

- Elizabeth New England: am the only North American farmer here, we are hardly represented in IFOAM. I have no national mandate, no resources. Even if I am Convenor for New England, we have no national OFO for USA. Now an effort is being made, to find a national voice, just beginning.

First Call for candidates for seats on Inofo Convenors Council :

(precondition: candidate obtaining a formal consent from several OFOs in own region =mandate)

- Chairman Claude : Job description: routing agency for e-mails, from our part of the network to another in the jurisdiction of INOFO. The following candidates were nominated from the floor:

- LatinAmerica&Caribbean ES+EN: **YannaMuriel**, PuertoRico +antenita **Silvia Montesinos**, Peru.

- LatinAmerica LU: **Dercilio Pupin**, Brazil +antenito **Marcelo Passos**, Brazil.

- South Asia: **Shamika Mone**, India. - East Africa: **Julie Matovu**, Uganda.

- West Africa FR+EN: **Famara Diedhiou**, Sénégal; +EN **Adelaide Yeboah Cole**, Ghana.

Time to think (over lunch). André : arabophones & russophones etc not here today, they decide later.

=LUNCH=

Second Call for candidates for seats on Inofo Convenors Council :

- South East Asia: **Lucille Ortiz**, Philippines +assistant **Nhung Thi Tuyêt Tùr**, Vietnam.

- Southern Africa: **Charles Mubanga**, Zambia +assistant **Tichaona Charova**, Zimbabwe.

- Europe: **Anton Pinschhof**, France.

Assembly accepted by acclamation these 9 mandated Convenors and 4 Assistant Convenors.

Seats are nonetheless reserved for regional convenors mandated later by other regions:

North America, West-Central Africa, North Africa, Western Asia, Australia+NZ, Pacific.

Internal IFOAM matters : IFOAM GA Motions & IFOAM World Board candidates were discussed.

OWC 2017: The Brazilian delegation said the farmers organisations had not been consulted by the events management company proposing Brazil for 2017 and therefore cannot recommend them.
It was agreed to support the Indian bid.

Matters arising : from the discussion of the various motions for IFOAM GA (next week) arose the recurring question of Food Security versus Food Sovereignty. The latter concept was clear favourite.

- Omer Benin: the question of the distinction between Food Security & Food Sovereignty arose at the Third West African Organic Agriculture Conference in Cotonou (Benin), 27~29 August 2014.
- Julie Uganda: the Food Sovereignty concept is our only way to confront invasion by GMOs.
- Anton France: Via Campesina has pursued the Food Sovereignty strategy since 1996, esp at FAO.
- *Conclusion*: the relevant working group will make proposals for an INOFO position on this matter.

INOFO Working Groups were constituted for the following themes :

	Thematic Working Groups	founding members of Working Group
01	Governance of Inofo	<i>Pupin, Adelaide, Anton, Shamika, Anuradha, James, Stanley,</i>
02	Policy & Advocacy	<i>Famara, Charles, Anton, Lucille, Julie, Adelaide, Anuradha, Naida,</i>
03	Soil	<i>Lucille, Tichaona, Silvia, Cristian, Janet, Ajantha, Khama</i>
04	Seed	<i>Shamika, Homero, Omer, Ajantha, KP, Chito</i>
05	Guarantee Systems and Markets	<i>Marcelo, Tichaona, Nhung, Yam, Julie, Joy, Rohit, Rowena, Salvador, Fortunate, Bacary, Ajantha, Nathaniel, Fortunate, Khama</i>

Chairman Claude's closing ceremony for the Inofo General Assembly 2014

== END ==

Glossary:

Acronyms of some organisations are spelled out in the INOFO 2014 GA REGISTER (attached) or in their websites.

AMAP =Association pour le Maintien d'une Agriculture Paysanne (=equivalent of CSA)..

certif =third-party certified Organic. conv =converting in anticipation of certification.

CSA =Community Supported Agriculture (=equivalent of AMAP).

IFOAM =International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, multi-professional, set up 1972.

ICS =Internal Certification System, for group certification, the system itself third-party certified.

IFAD =International Fund for Agricultural Development, Rome.

Mb / mbs =member / members.

OWC =Organic World Congress organised by IFOAM every 3 years.

PGS =Participatory Guarantee System, for local marketing.

pres =president. prod =producer. trad =traditional.

THANKS TO THE TURKISH REGISTRY VOLUNTEERS WHOSE NAMES WE SHALL SEEK. THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEER INTERPRETERS WHO HELPED ASSEMBLY & COUNCIL
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INOFO Convenors Council, first session in same room at Yeditepe University, 12 Oct.

Present: Yanna & Silvia, Famara & Adelaide, Julie, Charles & Tichaona, Lucille & Nhung, Pupin & Marcelo, Anton, Shamika (+Anuradha sitting in as observer): total 14.

Agenda: statutes & working method, organisational matters, bilateral & multilateral relations.

- Anton retells the story : assemblies in Canada 2002, Australia 2005, Italy 2008, Korea 2011.
- All agree, grand titles can be abolished (statutes to be reconsidered), keeping secretary & spokesmen.
- Each meeting can elect its **chairman of the day** : **Marcelo** is proposed, seconded & elected.
- Anton proposes external spokesmen be appointed *ad hoc*, for each new situation that arises.
- Famara proposes spokesman & secretary for each continent, plus one spokesman toward Ifoam.
In each continent an annual meeting, then another at intercontinental level.
- Marcelo proposes 1 secretary +assistant and 3 spokesmen. If co-opt assistants, subject to consent of all.

This first Council meeting ended suddenly when all had to catch the last bus. The Bosphorus bridge was closed, apparently by traffic jam, and bus took us to the ferry for passage from Asia to Europe.

Second session, Istanbul, Monday 13 Oct., OWC lunch table at the top of the stairs.

Marcelo chairing. 13 present. Proposals for spokesmen/secretaries per language, not per region.

Big question: what structure? Anton proposes a circle. Julie reads statutes, it appears Article 8 should be reconsidered. How is Council to operate? External spokesmen per language? No external grand titles needed, but do need a permanent internal chairman, plus secretaries & spokesmen per language.

Third session, Istanbul, Monday 13 Oct., OWC 6 pm, same table at the top of the stairs.

Marcelo in the chair: 12 present; Julie flying home.

Agenda: 1: *Matter arising*: Proposition from Coventry University of partnership in an EU project, which goes on agenda for after Christmas. 2: *Do we draft a Declaration ?* Bulletin N°11 in December anyway. 3: **internal structure**: All agreed proposal to have the Council as a circle and, inside it, secretaries for each language (EN, FR, ES so far), with a general secretary or deputy chairperson as direct assistant to a chairperson (internal). Chairperson responsible for formal contact to IFOAM, contractual and statutory formalities, editing occasional bulletin, editing webpage, handling logo, acting as external contact point. *Nominations*: Famara for FR Secr, Yanna for ES Secr, Shamika for EN Secr, Lucille for deputy chair or general secretary, Anton for internal chairman & memory. All five accept their nomination.

Motion to retain this structure and these 5 names: unanimous yes.

4: **Basic functions of Convenors=Antenas** were also discussed: a) facilitate the basic *bush telegraph* function of the whole network, ensuring competent translations where needed, at regional or intercontinental levels; b) whilst also exercising political~editorial discretion about contents & context of messages passing round the network and c) publishing declarations & propositions only as result of internal consensus. Exceptional voting procedure for any urgent matters, to be considered later.

5: **Thematic Working Groups**, terms of reference. It was agreed each of these shall, within 3 months from publication of Bulletin N°11, organise appointment of chairperson & secretary and set agenda. Thereafter, the Group shall send internal report or other sign of life at least every 3 months.

Members in a TWG who are also INOFO Council mbs are indicated *in italics* in the above table.

INOFO Council of Convenors, **internal structure** inside the circle of regional Convenors

General Secretary

or Deputy Chairperson :

- Ensures that meetings take place, including setting up e-meetings,
- Facilitates the delegating of external representatives,
- Anticipates deadlines,
- Registers and supervises agenda points & action points,
- Collects and sub-edits material for publication or internal use.

Chairperson
internal

Chairperson :

- Convenor of Council meetings,
- Editor of proceedings & other occasional documents,
- Editor-in-chief of INOFO bulletin,
- Updates INOFO website and runs liaison with Ifoam WB (including contractual formalities, such as Statutes, Logo et cetera),
- Initiates calendar of activities,
- Handles urgent decisions in consultation with Council.

Deputy
Chairperson or
General
Secretary

Secretary for
Spanish-speaking
regions

Secretary for
French-speaking
regions

Secretary for
English-speaking
regions

Secretaries :

- Collect input from regional networks or elsewhere, summarise for Council, pending agreement on output.
- Edit agreed output destined for regional networks or Thematic Working Groups,
- Organise necessary translation, allowing for verification of quality & compatibility with other versions.
- Transmit agreed output via all regional Convenors for transmission to national networks of OFOs.
- Can represent INOFO & Council outside, with specific mandate of Council each time, as also can all other Council members (including Assistant Convenors).

NB: INOFO has no **treasurer**, no bank account, having as yet no separate statutory existence outside IFOAM. Separate registration would necessitate superstructure and cost money... and the price of money is too high. Therefore any money involved in INOFO activities is now either managed on INOFO's behalf by IFOAM Secretariat in Bonn (example, IFAD program) or is otherwise considered as normal running expenses within the capacity & activity of the OFOs constituting the network, such as for an organisation's external relations. AP.

Link to INOFO webpage: <ifoam.org/inofa>

INTERCONTINENTAL NETWORK OF ORGANIC FARMERS ORGANISATIONS

INOFO secretary's REPORT 2011~2014

for submission to INOFO GA, Istanbul, Sunday 12 October 2014

INOFO's external relations (FAO, IFAD, UNEP, UNDP, Via Campesina..)

Rio+20 June 2012 : Four INOFO delegates were in Rio (from Australia, Peru, Ghana & Sri Lanka) where common statements were signed with our civil society partners and some agreement reached with various governments, notwithstanding the overall corporate capture of the UN system, about which FOE has published a statement. The common Ifoam~Inofo report on Rio+20 is available on request. UNEP had been pushing for the development of the *Green Economy* concept in an attempt at *greening* the global economy and *decoupling growth* from resource depletion and pollution. Trade was not discussed. IFOAM had been calling for the needs of farmers & rural communities to be at the centre of a green economy. The establishment of INOFO was part of IFOAM's shift towards engaging all organic farmers, not only third-party certified farmers and not only Ifoam-affiliated farmers, incidentally letting them set their own agenda within both internal and external processes, especially including UN processes. For the cost of going to Rio+20, FAO gave financial support (via AIAB & Via Campesina) for two of our delegates, from Africa & Asia respectively.

UNEP & UNDP organised Regional Consultations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda for Eastern Europe & Central Asia, here in Istanbul, Nov 2013, preceded by a civil society consultation for representatives of the 9 so-called *Major Groups* (including the Farmers, here represented by our delegate) about *inclusive & sustainable development goals* post-2015. Trade was not mentioned.

Rome is where the formal & informal relations between all kinds of farmers organisations tend to happen, where **IFAD** organises the Farmers Forum every 2 years. In 2012 and 2014 INOFO was represented there by one delegate from each continent, alongside the many delegates of farmers unions from the Global South, notably including Via Campesina to which many of them belong. So far, it appears that **IFAD** Farmers Forum committee might have reserved seats for INOFO delegates, which they would occupy when invited and when their legitimacy is assured by the improved internal capacity resulting from the current IFAD-funded Capacity Building program.

The funding of this 3-year Capacity Building program for INOFO resulted from direct relations with IFAD and some expert administrative leadership from IFOAM staff in Bonn. This program, begun in January 2014, looks at first glance like top-down leadership training with candidates chosen from Bonn. In reality however, these leaders are those who have been or will later be mandated by their own organic farmers organisations as Delegates in the network, and some of these as national or regional Convenors. These organisations now have the opportunity to collectively redefine their existence as a professional class, distinct from all the promoters, experts and interested parties who love speaking for farmers and telling them what to do, how to do it and at what price to sell it.

Internal Relations

The INOFO Convenors Council met in Nuremberg & Rome, in February 2012, 2013 & 2014, to consult about prospects & engagements. The significant results are in INOFO Bulletin N°10, April 2014, which was posted to the INOFO web-page in three languages (EN-FR-ES), announcing the IFAD-funded capacity building exercise that is now in progress.

INOFO exists as the relations between existing organisations

INOFO is this new relation, not a new organisation to join. This concept was confirmed at the last GA in Korea. The organic farmers organisations now can set their own common agenda and elect their own spokespersons. This also means they can organise their own national & regional relationships, where

necessary via working groups, where common positions & objectives are elaborated. To make this happen, the different OFOs first have to agree on one organisation being responsible for convening (=facilitating) consultations nationally in the first instance, regionally in the second instance, and thereafter keeping in contact with Convenors in other regions & continents. The Convenor (or Antenna) at each level shall be assisted by a vigilant deputy in another organisation. They shall ensure that information & consultations circulate properly, up & down & across the pyramid. This concept has been well defined and can now slowly take root in the working habits of all organic farmers organisations, whilst maintaining excellent relations with our own *good* technocrats who are convinced they alone run the movement. Consultations, slowly at first, are already resulting in improved influence on policy-makers (from local to regional levels), but direct & indirect practical results are also expected to be felt by farmers back home. There is much on the agenda, and it's far too soon to announce tangible results. The impossible always takes a bit longer.

Reports from regional Networks of organic farmers organisations are presented separately to assembly by delegates from each continent or subcontinent, some are yet to be edited & translated.

(third draft, AP+AG, Istanbul, 11-X-2014)

Anton Pinschhof, INFOFO honorary secretary, <www.ifoam.org/inofa> for FNAB, France

Annex

Extract from Inofa GA Report 2011, Korea:

“**INFOFO Programme 2011-2014** : The last point on the Agenda was a brainstorming round, resulting in 33 themes, as basis for programs common to the whole network. A thematic synopsis follows here, arranged in 3 functional groups, each with 3 sub-groups.”

FARMERS VOICE

- * Specifically inside IFOAM : 2014 Istanbul: 1 whole congress day for farmers +1 day INFOFO GA,
- * Quien somos? que representamos? que queremos? what are we fighting for?
FOOD SOVEREIGNTY Strategy → Alliances [→ RIO+20 June 2012 → www.moreandbetter.org/
- * LAND RIGHTS: Defence of Smallholders & Tenants, Workers, Landless, Immigrants, Paldang,
Defence against: Corporate Control (of everything *incl Seed*), against: Land Grabbing, Mining, Deforestation, Pesticides, Defence against: GMO: → Hyderabad 2012. Sign on: <http://www.etcgroup.org/>

AGRICULTURAL ECOLOGY & ECONOMY

- * MODELS OF AGRICULTURE : Watersheds, Resilience, Agro-bio-diversity, Smallholders, Climate Adaptation, Exchange of Farmers Knowledge, Support for Family Farmers & Youth,
- * MODES of PRODUCTION : The Organic Method, Regenerative Agriculture,
SEED: Community Seed Banking & Exchanges, Organic Breeding & Propagation *incl. on farm*,
- * MODES of DISTRIBUTION : Prices, Contracts, Worker Farmer Distributor Processor relations,
Market Access (domestic or export), Alternative distribution systems, Direct marketing, Teikei, CSA, AMAP, traditional street markets. The Organic Method's guarantees : third party Certification (collective or individual) for export, Participatory Guarantee Systems for local marketing.

ORGANISATION

- * Staff : logistic and liaison support,
 - * Translation EN FR ES,
 - * Capacity building → Functioning of Convenorships & Working Groups.
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