

General Assembly Motions 2017

This document serves as an update on the implementation of the 2017 General Assembly (GA) motions. The full motions, as approved by the GA 2017 in New Delhi, India, can be consulted here: www.ifoam.bio/sites/default/files/draft_minutes_ga_2017_short_v9_0.pdf.

Note: A complete and up-to-date report on the motion implementation will be presented ahead of the General Assembly 2020.

MOTION W51: Compatibility of New Breeding Techniques

Update: In the next revision of the IFOAM Norms, the definitions of GMOs and GE will be changed to reflect the updated position expressed in the new breeding position paper.

In its ongoing advocacy work, whether it be at the UN level or when engaging in national regulation and legislation advocacy or technical advice, IFOAM - Organics International and its ambassadors will advocate in line with the positions on genetic engineering and the position on the compatibility of breeding techniques.

IFOAM - Organics International will however not directly engage (other than through advocacy) in concrete efforts to set-up or strengthen organically compatible breeding programs, as there are other organizations better placed to do this.

MOTION W52.1+W52.2: Organic Aquaculture + Organic System Boundaries for Aquaculture

Update: The Aquaculture Working Group prepared a draft and submitted it to the Policy and Guarantee department of IFOAM – Organics International for future consideration by the Standard Committee.

MOTION W53: Organic 3.0 – for Truly Sustainable Farming and Consumption

Update: The wording change as indicated in the motion has been done. See document here: www.ifoam.bio/en/organic-landmarks/organic-30-landmark

MOTION W54: Membership Structure

Update: In early 2019 the World Board Task Force on Motions 54 and 73 was dissolved. A Committee of Executive Directors of the Self-organised Structures (SoS) was formed and prepared cornerstones and key questions for discussion, validated by the World Board. An SoS meeting at BIOFACH 2020 will allow for further discussion and finetuning. The Committee will finalize the Network Strategy and translate it into Policy 23 after it having been validated at the level of all Boards (e.g. World Board, EU Group GA, ALGOA Summit and IFOAM America Latina GA).

This workstream integrates both motions as their implementation is interlinked.

MOTION M61: Organic Textiles: Fibre Production and Processing to be Covered by Appropriate Standards

Update: IFOAM – Organics International developed, in consultation with GOTS, the key elements of position and debate/questions to use in a survey to businesses/organizations involved in organic textiles. For this purpose a globally representative database of organic textile companies & organizations to be consulted in the business survey was compiled. The results have been analysed and inform the planning of next steps.

MOTION M67: IFOAM – Organics International Should Establish a Strategy to Identify and Systematize Non-certified Organic Agriculture

Update: IFOAM - Organics International has already taken the initiative and has developed a methodology for this. It has started collaboration with FAO on monitoring agroecology. The FAO Workplan on Scaling Up AgroEcology includes a public online database on agroecology (including quantitative, qualitative and spatial data).

The Center for Agroecology, Resilience and Water at Coventry University has been working on behalf of the Agroecology Fund to understand who is mapping what about agroecology. IFOAM – Organics International has been invited to bring in its experiences with PGS mapping.

MOTION M68: IFOAM - Organics International Should Review and Highlight the Social Dimension of Local Markets and their Contribution to Organic Agriculture Development

Update: In order to get the highest possible visibility for and dissemination of success stories and case studies, we decided to gather the best examples of successful local markets/food systems based on and strengthened by social processes as well as being economically successful and contributing to the production and consumption of organic food within its targeted community. These stories and examples are shared using all platforms and media of IFOAM - Organics International and its network. A report of this dissemination will be shared with the GA 2020.

Outputs:

- Workshop to define the scope and attributes of ‘social processes’ in local markets, and some understanding of their benefits to the market/food system.
- Desktop research, engagement with IFOAM - Organics International Network and stakeholders to gather good practice examples and success stories to highlight the social dimension.
- The stories of these good practice examples are shared on IFOAM - Organics International platforms (e.g. blogs, articles, videos, social media posts; case studies in training materials).
- Links and resources:
 - “Short Food Supply Chains and Local Food Systems in the EU” (2013)
<http://ipts.jrc.ec.europa.eu/publications/pub.cfm?id=6279>
 - Loconto: www.fao.org/3/a-i5907e.pdf
 - Global PGS Study: www.ifoam.bio/sites/default/files/pgs_study_report_brief.pdf

MOTION M69: IFOAM - Organics International Should Review and Update the Theoretical and Practical Bases of Internal Control Systems (ICS)

Update: We took up this issue as an urgent work area in view of the EU regulation development process. The aimed for outcome is a new set of requirements, that can be fed into the IFOAM Accreditation Requirements revision process.

FiBL has been tasked by SECO to work on further development of ICS; the concrete request has come from the and must be completed by the end of 2019.

The EU Commission want to assess the strengths, weaknesses and relevance of ICS through literature research, at statistics and surveys. The report is to serve as a basis for further work.

MOTION M70: IFOAM – Organics International Should Take a Clear Position on Other Sustainability Standard

Update: Through our communication like blog and upcoming Honest Food, we clearly communicate the positive impacts of organic. However, through Organic 3.0 we also want to be inclusive, take others on their way to true sustainability in agriculture. To this end, World Board, Executive Director and others have written an opinion piece for Nature Sustainability, which will be widely promoted.

MOTION M72: Multilateral equivalence instead of unilateral compliance

Update: This motion reflects the work done by IFOAM – Organics International on an ongoing basis and a summary of action taken will be compiled into a final motion implementation report.

MOTION M73: Defining and Regulating the Process and the Relationship Between IFOAM – Organics International and IFOAM Regional Bodies

Update: ‘Policy 23 on Self-organized Structures’ has been reviewed by the Action Group Task Force, which has its mandate from the Self-organized Structures (SoS) Leadership meeting on February 11, 2018. *See Motion 54 for further details.*

MOTION M74: Organic & Health

Update: BIOFACH 2019 had *Health* as the topic of the year, through which a narrative for the organic movement and the public was developed. This narrative has been discussed with the sector and the conclusions were spread through the communication of IFOAM – Organics International.

MOTION M76: Transparency of Finances of IFOAM - Organics International

Update: The Annual Report 2017 contained for the first time three financial posts (from each Self-organized Structure, IOAS and bioC: Income, Expenditures & Reserves). See page 30 of the [2017 Consolidated Annual Report of IFOAM – Organics International](#) and page 22 of the [2018 Consolidated Annual Report](#).

MOTION M77: Transparency of Salaries at IFOAM - Organics International

Update: Starting from the Annual Report 2017, IFOAM – Organics International publishes its salary scheme. See page 31 of the [2017 Consolidated Annual Report of IFOAM – Organics International](#) and page 20 of the [2018 Consolidated Annual Report](#).

MOTION M79: Raising Awareness of Glyphosate Contamination in the World to Motivate People to Action

Update: The Executive Board mandated that the implementation of M79 should focus on gathering already available science and making it available in target-audience tailored communications toolkits. Looking at the activities planned for the Honest Food campaign in terms of stakeholder mapping, fundraising, and creation of a toolkit, it is apparent that there is overlap between the mandate of the motion and planned campaign activities: The messaging planned for Honest Food raise awareness of the damage pesticides can do to farmers, consumers and the planet. These efforts were amplified through the DEAR campaign with 30 partners across Europe and messaging on pesticides. The messaging on glyphosate has been included in the DEAR project as part of a toolkit for the Good Food for All Campaign. Numerous articles pertaining to Glyphosate have been shared on our social media channels and our blog, e.g.:

- www.organicwithoutboundaries.bio/2018/09/19/glyphosate/
- www.ifoam.bio/en/news/2018/07/24/alternatives-glyphosate-weed-management-new-edition-july-2018
- <https://twitter.com/IFOAMorganic/status/1083657403948765184>
- www.facebook.com/ifoam.organic/photos/a.1410791649179273/2186160228309074/?type=3&theater

MOTION M80: Highlight Unethical Behaving of Multinational Agro-industrial Corporations

Update: This is already incorporated in IFOAM - Organics International’s activities and is planned to

be in the focus further on. IFOAM - Organics International will reinforce such efforts by speaking at events, organize and speak at press conferences, give interviews and write articles/news pieces on issues such as giant mergers and other means of concentration of power in the agricultural sector. IFOAM – Organics International was an active participant in the campaign organized jointly with various actors against the merger between Monsanto and Bayer. We spoke at the street demonstration as well as Bayer’s shareholder meeting trying to convince shareholders to make the right choice.

We have participated in the march ‘Wir haben es Satt’ in Berlin in January 2019 together with farmers protesting against the concentration of power in the agricultural sector.

Our campaign titled Good Food 4 All also developed messages related to agrochemicals and their producers that we and our 24 partners use on social media. As part of the campaign, [a video has been produced on the struggles of organic farmers in this economic environment](#), including footage on the march mentioned above. The video was screened widely to the general public as well as at global and European events.

We are engaged in discussions on planning for a follow-up of the Monsanto Tribunal held in 2016 in The Hague which had a broad media coverage around the globe.

All these activities are backed up by online and social media campaigning and we also regularly post messages on the topic, mostly in the context of major global events.

In an attempt to change our messages to be more on the positive side, we launched a [social media campaign early 2019 titled ‘I Grow Your Food’](#), celebrating and drawing citizens’ attention to farmers as the often forgotten players of our food systems dominated by a couple of large brands.

Our work promoting the full cost accounting approach to global organizations and governments is also partly aimed at changing these company practices by showing what environmental and social costs unsustainable practices entail.

MOTION M81: Communicate Advantages of Organic Farming over Conventional

Update: We set out to collect testimonials of people involved with organic, telling us in the first person what they perceive as the advantages. For this purpose we launched a blog, [Organic Without Boundaries](#) in May 2018, featuring stories and testimonials that highlight the benefits of organic agriculture. Both social media and the website are used to share information that highlights the reasons why organic is better than conventional agriculture. E.g.:

www.organicwithoutboundaries.bio/2018/11/30/world-soil-day-2018/

www.organicwithoutboundaries.bio/2018/10/31/synthetic-fertilizers/

www.organicwithoutboundaries.bio/2018/10/17/sikkim/

www.organicwithoutboundaries.bio/2018/10/10/chemical-inputs/

www.organicwithoutboundaries.bio/2018/09/19/glyphosate/

www.organicwithoutboundaries.bio/2018/09/12/climate-change-mitigation/

www.organicwithoutboundaries.bio/2018/08/08/agroecological-farmers-rethink/

www.organicwithoutboundaries.bio/2018/06/13/benefits-organic-farming-laos/

www.organicwithoutboundaries.bio/2018/05/22/biodiversity/

www.organicwithoutboundaries.bio/2018/05/09/organic-produce/

www.organicwithoutboundaries.bio/2017/12/11/global-land-outlook/

[www.organicwithoutboundaries.bio/2019/01/30/eat-lancet-](http://www.organicwithoutboundaries.bio/2019/01/30/eat-lancet-commission/?fbclid=IwAR1flhxEtC8o2xOOWF6h_uvIkQBuzel30UubOWDDxfsPugH_6vzLYpdyGuEY)

[commission/?fbclid=IwAR1flhxEtC8o2xOOWF6h_uvIkQBuzel30UubOWDDxfsPugH_6vzLYpdyGuEY](http://www.organicwithoutboundaries.bio/2019/01/30/eat-lancet-commission/?fbclid=IwAR1flhxEtC8o2xOOWF6h_uvIkQBuzel30UubOWDDxfsPugH_6vzLYpdyGuEY)

www.ifoam.bio/en/news/2019/01/30/thunen-institute-publishes-study-value-organic-farming

www.ifoam.bio/en/news/2019/01/18/launch-new-agroecology-position-paper-and-event-highlights-international-green-week

www.ifoam.bio/en/news/2018/12/19/statement-study-assessing-efficiency-changes-land-use-mitigating-climate-change

www.ifoam.bio/en/news/2018/10/15/new-ipes-food-report-seven-case-studies-agroecological-transition

www.ifoam.bio/en/news/2018/10/11/future-policy-award-2018-announces-winning-policies-agroecology-and-sustainable-food

www.ifoam.bio/en/news/2018/07/24/alternatives-glyphosate-weed-management-new-edition-july-2018