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Welcome

Welcome to the General Assembly (GA) of IFOAM - Organics International, which is the body with the highest legitimacy of the Organic Movement worldwide. As usual, we report, we plan, we elect, we decide on motions, we decide on the organizers of the Organic World Congress/GA 2020 and we honor people.

This GA has its special challenges. 7 out of 10 World Board members are not running any more for another term and totally 17 persons from around the world are eligible for the new World Board 2017 – 2020. With Organic 3.0 you decide on an organic landmark, you debate a membership reform and you make up highest-level positions on new breeding techniques and organic aquaculture. There are not less than 4 World Board and 21 member motions (in 2011 there were 5 and in 2014 there were 9 member motions). Last but not least, you decide among 10 candidate countries (we had 1 in 2011 and 4 in 2014) that propose to host the OWC/GA 2020.

This publication guides you through this assembly and helps you to use your voting right smartly. Get information here and engage in the various processes to build your own positions.

We are happy to support you in this and to meet you in Delhi.

Organically,

André Leu
President of IFOAM - Organics International

Markus Arbenz
Executive Director of IFOAM - Organics International

ARE YOU READY FOR THE G.A.?

Make sure you are ready to exercise your voting right. Here is your check list.

- Did you pay your membership fee?
- Do you have received the GA voter CODE by email and did you register the person voting for your organization here? In case you do not take the vote yourself, do not forget to forward the CODE to the person you trust to vote on your behalf.
- Do you have registered the votes of other member organizations you are authorized to represent on your personal MY OWC page in addition to yours? You may have a total maximum of five. Details about the online registration are online under the GA section.
- Did you register for the food package? (register HERE)
- Do you have all the information you need for decision making and voting during the elections? In case of any question, please send an email to ga@ifoam.bio

This IFOAM - Organics International In Action, as well as the World Board Term Report, will be available as hard copies during the G.A. Pick up your copy during the OWC at the IFOAM - Organics International booth, at the Motion Bazaar or just before the G.A.

The voting cards - which you will need to vote during the G.A. - for the organizations you have registered online you will receive at the entrance door of the GA plenary hall at the Constitution Club of India, the location for GA day 1, from 8.00 to 8.45 am on November 12.
General Assembly of IFOAM – Organics International: The Venues

The GA will be held in two different places this time:

**General Assembly DAY 1**

**Sunday, November 12,**
9.00 am - 6.30 pm - Voting Card Give Out from 8.00 - 8.45 am.
**Constitution Club of India** - CCI - Rafi Marg, 110001 New-Delhi, India.

There are buses in the morning at 7.30 am from the Vishwa Yurak Kendra (VYK) to the CCI and after the session returning back to the VYK. Lunch will be provided at the CCI. The CCI can also be reached by Metro. Pls take station Patel Chowk (on Yellow Line) or Central Secretariat (on Yellow or Violet lines). Pls find the stations marked on the Delhi metro plan for you.

The GA Social Evening - including dinner and presentations by the bidders for hosting the 2020 OWC - will take place at the VYK, starting around 7.30 pm.

**General Assembly DAY 2**

**Monday, November 13,**
9.00 am - 2.00 pm.
International Youth Center
**Vishwa Yuvak Kendra** - VYK.
Lunch will be provided.

**Constitution Club of India** - CCI. Location on Day 1.

**Vishwa Yuvak Kendra** - VYK. Location of dorms and GA Day 2.
There are 2 sessions of 1.5 hours each regarding World Board and Member Motions in the Main Track of the OWC. The purpose is to present the motions shortly and provide the opportunity for input to the motioner to consider as improvement of the motion.

Session 1. on Thursday, November 09, at 3.00 - 4.20 pm. Session # 3.B
Session 2. on Friday, November 10, at 3.00 - 4.20 pm. Session # 8.B

The Motion Bazaar will start 1 hour after the OWC closed at the same location as the OWC the Indian Exhibition Mart, Greater Noida, outside of New Delhi. Use this excellent opportunity to prepare for the General Assembly: you can initiate discussions on Member and World Board Motions, or propose friendly amendments which will be considered by the motion maker for presentation at the G.A. In addition World Board candidates will be available to answer your questions, and organizations bidding to host the Organic World Congress/ General Assembly 2020 will have booths to present their bids. IFOAM – Organics International World Board members & managers will share insights into advocacy campaigns, the recently approved new strategy, organic leadership courses, finances but to name a few. Self-organized Structures are invited to present their work and one of the Internal Auditors will also be attending.

Access to the Motion Bazaar is open. Before accepting a friendly motion amendment the motioner will ask you for the name of the voting member organization you represent. There will be facilities available to note down your amendment text electronically in order to document it for the motioner and for the presentation to the GA plenary.

After the Motion Bazaar there are buses to Vishwa Yuvak Kendra (VYK) - the location of the GA (day 2).

Please find a video introduction to member motions here.

Remote Participation

Unfortunately we cannot provide any live stream opportunity for this General Assembly.

Call for Interpreters

Dear G.A. participant, IFOAM – Organics International needs your support in India! In spite of the organization’s official language being English, there are many members who either do not speak English or prefer to have interpretations of the General Assembly. During the General Assembly we would like to assist groups with little understanding of English with ‘whisper translations’. People would sit with an interpreter who summarizes the discussions. We expect to have demand for interpretation into Hindi, Spanish and French. Are you available to help translate part of the time for other G.A. participants? We would be grateful to receive your statement of interest, indicating the languages you could help with by e-mail to Thomas Cierpka, ga@ifoam.bio. Thank You!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00 - 8.45</td>
<td>Voting Cards given to Online Registered Voters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00 - 9.30</td>
<td>1. Opening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP 11. Opening Address by the President</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AP 12. Election of the G.A. Chairs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AP 13. Approval of the Agenda</td>
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<td>AP 14. Approval of the GA minutes 2014/Istanbul</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30 - 10.20</td>
<td>2. Reports 2014 - 2017</td>
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<td>AP 21. WB and office reports</td>
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<td>AP 22. Internal Audit report</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.20 - 10.40</td>
<td>Coffee &amp; Tea Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.40 - 11.25</td>
<td>3. Outlook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AP 31. Strategy and Outlook 2020</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>AP 32. Budget 2018 -2020</td>
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<td>11.25 - 12.30</td>
<td>4. Elections</td>
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<td>AP 41. Presentation of the candidates</td>
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<td>AP 42. World Board elections first round</td>
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<td>12.30 - 13.30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>13.30 - 13.40</td>
<td>A Moment to Energize: Cultural Program</td>
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<td>AP 42. Announcement of first round WB election result</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AP 43. World Board elections second round</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AP 44. Appointment of Internal Auditors</td>
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<td>14.20 - 15.00</td>
<td>W 51. Breeding techniques</td>
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<td>W 52. Aquaculture position</td>
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<td>W 53. Organic 3.0</td>
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<td>W 54. Membership structure</td>
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<td>15.20 - 15.40</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>15.40 - 15.45</td>
<td>AP 45. Announcement of WB election result</td>
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<td>15.45 - 16.45</td>
<td>6. Decisions, Member Motions</td>
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<td>M 61 - M 66. Member Motions Part 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.45 - 16.55</td>
<td>A Moment to Energize</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.55 - 17.55</td>
<td>M 67 - M 72. Member Motions Part 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.55 - 18.05</td>
<td>Celebrate the Action Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.05 - 18.15</td>
<td>Close General Assembly Day 1</td>
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<td>19.30</td>
<td>International Night - Social Dinner at VYK</td>
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AGENDA POINT 11: Opening Address by the President of IFOAM – Organics International 2014–17, Andre Leu (Australia)

To do: Be inspired.

AGENDA POINT 12: Election of the G.A. Chairs

To do: Elect two G.A. chairs.

Information: Proposed Chairs: Leslie Zuck (USA), Joy Daniel (India).
Other G.A. Officers appointed by the World Board:

- Parliamentarians: Karen Hoberg (Spain), Christopher Atkinson (UK)
- Minute Keepers: Louise Luttikholt (Netherlands); Cristina Grandi (Italy), Barbara Zilly (Germany), David Gould (USA)
- Minute Referees: Patrick Belisario (Philippines), Reza Ardakani (Iran)
- Ballot Counters: Volunteers

AGENDA POINT 13: Approval of the Agenda

To do: Approve agenda.

Information: See agenda overview on pages 6 and 39.

AGENDA POINT 14: Approval of the Minutes of the 2014 G.A. in Istanbul, Turkey

To do: Approve the 2014 G.A. minutes.

Information: The draft minutes were published online and sent to members by email on March 18, 2015.

No comments were received from members of IFOAM - Organics International. The World Board and 2014 minute referees, Rita Schwentesius (Mexico); Karen Hoberg (Spain) recommend the approval of the minutes without amendment.

AGENDA POINT 21: World Board and Office Reports

To do: Get written and oral information from the World Board and office about the activities and finances 2014 - 2017. Ask questions about activities of the past term.

Information: The activities are published in the World Board Report, a separate document to this G.A. The financial statements are published in the Annual Reports and the World Board Report. The audit reports of the external auditors PwC for the years 2014 – 2016 are available at the Motion Bazaar and GA for review.

AGENDA POINT 22: Internal Audit Report and World Board Discharge

To do: Get written and oral information from the Internal Auditors – Uygun Aksoy (Turkey) and Steffen Reese (Germany) - about their observations. Ask your questions and discharge the World Board.

Information: The internal auditors’ report is published in the World Board Report, a separate document to this G.A. The financial reports are based on the external audit report conducted by PwC Cologne, Germany. The PDF versions of the PwC reports are available on request from Thomas Cierpka, t.cierpka@ifoam.bio.

To do: Obtain information from the World Board on upcoming priorities of IFOAM – Organics International. Ask questions and share your opinions with the World Board.

Information: The new IFOAM – Organics International three pillar strategy has been approved by the World Board in February 2017. The World Board approves every year the so-called Yearly Plan of Operations (YPO) that aims at the implementation of the strategy. This YPO also serves as the basis for budget calculations.

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AGENDA POINT 32: Budget 2018-20

To do: Approve or revise the tentative budget outline for 2018-20.

Information: The following tentative budget assumes continued income from membership, donations and services. The foreseen growth in income and expenditure is based on an increased project volume, assumption based on ongoing negotiations with donors and hiring of new staff.

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<table>
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<th>Term Budget 2017 - 2020</th>
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<td><strong>Budget for Activities in 1000 Euros</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Supply Pillar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demand Pillar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy and Guarantee Pillar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit/Loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Personnel | 1,200 | 1,300 | 1,350 | 1,400 | Membership fees | 350 | 350 | 350 | 350 |
| Office Costs | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | Services | 400 | 420 | 450 | 450 |
| Travel | 300 | 300 | 350 | 400 | Donations | 50 | 80 | 150 | 200 |
| Project partner expenses | 1,900 | 2,000 | 2,100 | 2,100 | Projects | 2,550 | 2,800 | 2,900 | 3,000 |
| Other expenses | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | Other income | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| **Total** | 3,400 | 3,700 | 3,900 | 4,100 | **Total** | 3,400 | 3,700 | 3,900 | 4,100 |
AGENDA POINT 41: Presentation of World Board Candidates

To do: Familiarize yourself with the World Board candidates 2017-2020 and prepare for the upcoming World Board elections.

Information: Each candidate for one of the ten World Board seats presents him/herself from pages 11 to 27. You also find the list of candidates online.

Report from the Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee for the 2017 IFOAM - Organics International World Board elections has worked diligently since November of 2016 to solicit and interview prospective candidates from within and outside the IFOAM - Organics International community. With the assistance of Thomas Cierpka, IFOAM - Organics International Deputy Director, the Nomination Committee followed the procedures set out in Policy 57; and published throughout the year calls for nominations in the publications of the organization. As well, the IFOAM - Organics International network of regional and sector groups was called on to expand the call for nominations. The goal set by the committee was to ensure that qualified World Board candidates with sector, geographic, age, cultural, and gender diversity would be presented to the General Assembly in November 2017. The committee worked vigorously to solicit and screen candidates and we are pleased to present a final slate that consists of 17 candidates, of which 3 are current World Board members, 8 were screened by the Nomination Committee, and 6 stepped forward from the open call.

Although the committee identified many good potential candidates, several withdrew their interest, did not complete the required application or obtain the endorsements from IFOAM - Organics International members. The committee approached and had received initial interest from five candidates from nations on the African continent, the final slate presents two candidates from this continent. Among the barriers expressed by potential candidates: language, lack of confidence in their capability to lead, professional and personal commitments that do not allow time and energy for the position, lack of support from their organization, desire not to stand against another candidate from their country or region, and a preference to work within their local or regional IFOAM - Organics International groups. It was not, however, a lack of interest in IFOAM - Organics International. In fact, the scope and responsibility of the World Board is taken quite seriously by those who chose not to stand.

The committee members found our experience to be enriching. We thank all those who have come forward to stand for election and applaud your willingness and commitment to serve the global organic community.

Kind regards,

[Signature]

Katherine diMatteo (USA),
Chair of the Nomination Committee

Katherine DiMatteo
Chair Nomination Committee
**Overview of the World Board Candidates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate*</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Country **</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Amudavi</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>New candidate</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khalid Azim</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>New candidate</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Chang</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>New candidate</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Eyhorn</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Germany / Switzerland</td>
<td>World Board Member since 2011; Vice President since 2014</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emile Frison</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>New candidate</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choitresh Kumar Ganguly</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>New candidate</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabel Griffiths</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>New candidate</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hans Herren</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Switzerland / USA</td>
<td>New candidate</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Lernoud</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Argentina / Switzerland</td>
<td>New candidate</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Mapusua</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Fiji Islands</td>
<td>New candidate</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peggy Miars</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>World Board Member since 2014</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Montenegro</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Argentina / Australia</td>
<td>New candidate</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shimpei Murakami</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>New candidate</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerold Rahmann</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>World Board Member since 2014</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhina de Rehmann</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>New candidate</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devasenapathy Vikrantha</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>New candidate</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edith Van Walsum</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
<td>New candidate</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The candidates answered a few key questions to NOFA, which you can find [here](#).

* Sorted alphabetically by family name
** country of citizenship/ country of residence
The relationship between the work of the World Board of IFOAM - Organics International and Africa’s Continental Initiative – Ecological Organic Agriculture cannot be overemphasized. We live in a world facing phenomenal challenges (notably rising poverty with increasing global population, climate change, food and nutrition insecurity, environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity, among others). These challenges are bound to rise and require efforts from people who have the desire to make the world a better place for current as well as future generations. Such people reside around the world, and have capabilities which if well harnessed can help propel agriculture in the right direction to guarantee a decent and healthy living for ALL, in line with some of the current sustainable development goals (SDG).

I believe that organic agriculture - or ecological organic agriculture as some would broadly say - is the agriculture that we need to embrace in research and development, policy and programmes, and investment plans. Efforts to promote it will certainly shape the global agriculture agenda.

As a strategic player in the development of the African Union-led ecological organic agriculture (EOA) in Africa (http://eoai-africa.org), and with a sound professional training, I believe I will not only add value to the quality of oversight provided by the World Board of IFOAM - Organics International in promoting organic agriculture but also be an agent of change in pushing the agenda of Organic 3.0 and strengthening synergies with other relevant initiatives in Africa that are globally aligned with principles and practices of organic agriculture. The EOA initiative stems from a response to the African Heads of State and Government Decision on promoting Organic Farming. The goal of the EOA initiative is to mainstream EOA into national agricultural production systems, policies, and practices by 2025 in order to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa. To achieve this goal it is framed around six pillars: Research, Training and Extension; Information and Communication; Value Chain and Market Development; Networking and Partnerships; Policy and Programme Development; and Institutional Capacity Development.

I have played a significant role in supporting the development of the EOA initiative, with support from the current coalition of partners (African Union Commission, Swiss Development Cooperation, and Swedish Society for Nature Conservation) in implementing the initiative in eight countries in Africa: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia in Eastern Africa, and Nigeria, Senegal, Mali and Benin in West Africa. I support the Continental Steering Committee through its Secretariat, currently hosted in my organization, to scale out EOA to other African countries. It is pleasant to note that IFOAM is a member of this Committee and its role is very much recognized.

With the foregoing, my candidature, and partly representing the face of Africa, should be valuable to the mandate of the World Board of IFOAM - Organics International. I therefore believe there is a lot we can achieve with my membership in the Board to unlock the potential for realizing our vision and goals in the organic sector.

More Background information you find online.
Khalid Azim
Marocco

During my involvement in organic agriculture over the past 17 years, I have never asked myself why I am defending Organic! So true, I cannot imagine myself doing something else.

My name is Khalid Azim, born in March 18, 1981 in Rabat-Morocco. I am a horticulture engineer with a Master's degree in Mediterranean Organic Agriculture from the CIHEAM-Bari (2003-2005). Since 2007 I have been a researcher in "Organic Horticulture and Composting optimization" at the National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA).

Organic agriculture in Morocco has long been rooted in the traditional practice of its small farmers. Smallholders and peasant farmers have practiced “traditional” or “natural” agriculture in Morocco for centuries. Most of these smallholders grow organically without organic certification.

I am mostly oriented toward research and capacity building actions. Proud to be close to farmer needs in much Research to Action projects, I have discovered the rude task of a farmer in an arid region in Morocco. I am totally committed to develop organic principles, in order to bring it out from niche to a mainstream as outlined by Organic 3.0. The first OWC I have attended was in 2014 in Istanbul (Turkey), and believe me, I felt like I was among my family, because IFOAM-Organics International global members share together the same values and ethics of organic agriculture advocacy.

I started farming organic vegetables in 2015 with my likeminded colleagues to be able to eat organic and to spread organic food to many families in my city. Farming is a very hard task, but then again the farmer keeps on it because we farmers cannot breath outside our organic farms.

Morocco had the chance to host in 2016 the COP 22 in Marrakech, during which, FIMABIO (Moroccan Federation of Organic Movement) and IFOAM signed a historical Memorandum of Understanding that aims at building Adaptation and Mitigation with Climate Change Resilient Organic Agriculture in Morocco and Multiple African Countries. Many success stories has come from pioneers in organic agriculture in Africa, and I would be very happy to contribute to the World Board of IFOAM-Organics International to spread this knowledge and make organic mainstream.

I would be pleased to present my candidature to serve as a member of the World Board of IFOAM-Organics International in order to implement Organic 3.0 in Morocco, in Africa and at international level to face climate change impact and sustain our resources for the future generations. Research for Action and Culture Innovation are key factors for stakeholders to benefit from scientific knowledge acquired by researchers and practitioners.

More Background information you find online.
Jennifer Chang  
South Korea

My first contact with IFOAM - Organics International and the global organic movements was in early 2008 when I started working at the Korea Bidding Committee for the 2011 Organic World Congress. This became a crucial point of my continuous involvement in the local and regional organic movements - going from the Korea Bidding Committee to the coordinator of the 2011 OWC Organizing Committee, then to my current position as Executive Director of IFOAM Organics Asia.

For the past five years, it was my task to re-build IFOAM Organics Asia as the umbrella organization of the organic agriculture communities and stakeholders in Asia. The most important work was to unite the major stakeholders in the region, to identify new areas where IFOAM - Organics International should play a bigger role and to stay financially viable. I strove to build up networks with organic groups, like-minded movements, local governments, researchers and the younger generation to expand the base of IFOAM in Asia and to bring the strategies of IFOAM - Organics International closer to its membership and relevant stakeholders. Membership in IFOAM Organics Asia grew from 85 members (2013) to 214 (May 2017).

And with IFOAM Organics Asia at the forefront, there were two areas where we felt that IFOAM - Organics International should have a bigger role, and we organized the “Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (ALGOA)” to support the local governments to translate international and national policies towards local organic agriculture development. The Annual ALGOA Summit and the ALGOA Organic Foundation Courses undertaken with the Organic Academy maximized exchanges and training in organic agriculture for the representatives from local governments, IFOAM Organics Asia affiliates and partners. Please see more at www.organicgovts.com

Another area that needed to be addressed urgently was to involve the younger generation in the organic movement – and the “IFOAM Asia Organic Youth Forum” was established for this very purpose. It is perhaps the most dynamic and exuberant project – most of the young people who attended the Forums said that they felt a common identity and pride in being part of IFOAM - Organics International! Local governments in the region are showing overwhelming interest and are promising support to host future Youth Forums.

I evaluate the ten years I served in the interests of IFOAM - Organics International as the most constructive years of my life. The organic movement embodies all the principles and values I hold true and this belief upheld me in the face of limited financial, human and organizational resources in re-establishing IFOAM Organics Asia from scratch. The organic movement has now become my life – I breathe, eat, sleep and live organic!

I am putting myself forward as a candidate for the World Board as I would like to continue to bring IFOAM - Organics International closer to its membership in Asia and to other parts of the world – to further promote the growth of IFOAM - Organics International as an organization and implement its strategies withactions. IFOAM - Organics International should no longer be seen as distant and should be in the center of the organic and other like-minded movements.

More Background information you find online.
Over the last three years IFOAM – Organics International embarked on a process of change. Under the guidance of the outgoing World Board the concept of Organic 3.0 has taken shape, providing a road map for the future development of the organic movement. In a participatory process involving the office team and many of our affiliates, we developed and launched a new organisational strategy that will make IFOAM – Organics International an even more relevant agent of positive change in the future.

Serving as a Vice-President allowed me to take an active role in these processes. I also lead the development of a fundraising strategy that strengthens the financial viability of our organization and allows it to expand its activities. By initiating the “Food for Life” awareness raising campaign, I was able to bring content and resources to the new consumer-facing communication department. In order to increase our outreach, I helped build bridges to organizations that can become allies in specific areas (development agencies and foundations, UN and private sector platforms, environmental organizations, ISEAL etc.).

I believe that with these reforms we managed to build a solid foundation for the future of our organization, but much of the work is still ahead of us. If re-elected I will continue dedicating substantial time and energy, my skills and my networks for building a stronger organization and for implementing the new strategies. I am convinced that organic agriculture has much to offer in addressing some of the big global challenges of our time: climate change, nutrition, rural poverty, water scarcity and loss of biodiversity. Since agriculture and food are now high on the international agenda we have a unique opportunity to help organic farming grow, to continuously improve it, and to inspire mainstream agriculture.

In order to accelerate the uptake of organic principles, we need to strengthen their recognition in society, economic activity, research and policy making. We need to seek collaboration and synergies with people and organizations with whom we share common objectives. And we need an efficient, resourceful and professionally governed and managed organization that facilitates organic development worldwide.

Born in Germany in 1974 and raised in a village, I used to work on organic vegetable farms after school – and fell in love with it! In 1994, I moved to Switzerland for my studies and still live here, now with my partner and our little daughter in a shared-community house near Zurich where we grow our organic vegetables and fruits, and keep bees.

I am an Environmental Scientist (PhD) with specialisation in soil fertility, tropical agriculture and rural livelihoods and additional advanced studies in International Organizations Management and in Development Cooperation. Over the past two decades I had the privilege to work on various aspects of organic agriculture in 15 countries: farming methods and system design, extension and internal control systems, standards and certification, value chain facilitation and business development, marketing and communication, sector development and policy advice. I did extensive research on the impact of organic farming on the livelihoods of smallholders and wrote several practical guides related to organic farming (IFOAM Training Manual on Organic Agriculture in the Tropics, Organic Cotton Crop Guide, Organic Business Guide).

More Background information you find online.
I am applying for Board membership of IFOAM – Organics International because I believe that the time has come for a major paradigm shift away from the dominant industrial model of agriculture towards sustainable agricultural production systems that provide a diversity of healthy food, a decent income for farmers, the necessary resilience to adapt to changing climates and the ecosystem services that sustain our life on this planet. These sustainable systems must move beyond niche markets and become mainstream and replace the unsustainable industrial agriculture.

I grew up on a “conventional” farm in Belgium and experienced the treadmill of ever increasing use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Later I studied agricultural sciences and was struck by the strong technology focus of agricultural education. Throughout my entire career in agricultural research for development I grew more and more convinced that this model of agriculture which “fights with nature” and tries to create artificial, “ideal” growing conditions for a handful of major commodities is doomed to fail to satisfy the needs of humankind in the future.

For the last ten years, I focused on promoting a systems approach that goes beyond maximizing productivity per hectare at all costs but rather delivers on all aspects that matter for people’s well-being: economic, environmental, nutrition and health, social and cultural.

I was instrumental in the creation of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems and the lead author of its first major report “From Uniformity to Diversity: a paradigm shift from industrial agriculture to diversified agroecological systems”. Since its publication in June 2016, I dedicate most of my time to advocating in favour of this paradigm shift. I believe that we must bring together the various movements that aim for a sustainable future in agriculture in order to have a stronger voice in policy debates and to reach the critical mass to be recognized as THE alternative to the strong industrial lobby that wants to maintain its dominance in agriculture. IFOAM – Organics International is well placed to play a leadership role in bringing the different voices together, not to create a single message, but to ensure that the diversity of messages are convergent and mutually supportive. I have appreciated the views expressed in the Organics 3.0 document which aligns well with my own views.

Today, I live on a small organic farm in Umbria, Italy, practicing what I preach. I share my time in various voluntary activities that contribute to promoting the badly needed transition to sustainable food systems.

I am willing to devote my energy and my multilingual communication skills to this cause as a member of the Board, and if so desired, of the Executive Board.

More Background information you find online.
Choitresh Kumar Ganguly
India

I am an organic farmer and have been involved in the field of rural development since the late 1970s, helping to empower small holder farmers, agricultural labourers, Dalits and other disadvantaged and marginalised communities, artisans, women, children and People with Disabilities.

In the initial part of my career, I was a social activist working with agricultural labourers and peasants. I was also associated with various mass movements. In 1990, when I co-founded the Timbaktu Collective and established the 32-acre ‘Timbaktu’ agro-forest habitat and intentional community, my work and personal orientation began moving away from direct political action and agitational politics. With my partner and my colleagues, I began to regenerate and revive the local economy, enhance livelihood opportunities, help regain food security and food sovereignty, and work on large-scale ecological restoration. In addition, I gradually established myself as a leading organic farmer in the region.

The Timbaktu Collective is a grassroots non-profit organisation which works with marginalised people in the drought-prone and ecologically challenged Anantapuramu District in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The Collective works in 172 villages, partnering with 22,763 families through various thematic programmes: financial inclusion of rural women, organic farming, enterprise development, ecological restoration, child rights and the rights of People with Disabilities. At present, I am the Chief Functionary and Director of the Ecology, Livelihoods and Enterprise Development programmes of the Collective.

The Collective has established and promoted 14 community-owned and managed Cooperatives [of rural women, small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, People with Disabilities, and tree growers] in order to demonstrate a model of local production, consumption and distribution, and provide an alternative to mainstream economic systems, which are often ecologically and socially exploitative. These alternatives have the potential to facilitate a vibrant local economy based on ecological sustainability, fair trade, and social and economic inclusion.

Of particular relevance is our work in developing the Dharani Farming and Marketing Cooperative (Dharani FaM Coop Ltd.), a cooperative of small and marginal farmers which is now a successful business enterprise that procures, processes and markets the produce of its members under the brand name ‘Timbaktu Organic’. Dharani FaM Coop Ltd., has 2,042 shareholders, all of whom practice organic agriculture while cultivating traditionally resilient millets, pulses and oilseeds on 10,568 acres of land. Around 75% of its members (1,513 shareholders) are certified organic as per the peer-based Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) inspired by IFOAM - Organics International.

In terms of my networking engagements, I am the Secretary and Founding Member of the PGS Organic India Council; a Founding and Core Group Member of the Fair Climate Network India, the Millet Network of India, and the Vikalp Sangam; and a Founding and Executive Member of the Slow Food India Network. Among the various awards that we have received, the “One World - 2014” award presented by Rapunzel and IFOAM - Organics International, is very precious - [http://www.one-world-award.com/mary-vattamattam-bablu-ganguly.html](http://www.one-world-award.com/mary-vattamattam-bablu-ganguly.html)

More Background information you find online.
I am passionate about organic farming and I will bring my enthusiasm and dedication to make a real contribution to the World Board. My work and studies have always been to champion the organic movement - from working on organic farms, to inspecting and supporting farmers in certification, to developing the standards for our farmers and processors. For me this is a pivotal time for IFOAM - Organics International, when we must focus on the goals of Organic 3.0 to bring about widespread change. From the outset, I have dedicated myself to organics - working on organic farms in the UK, Ireland and France; completing organic qualifications, including my batchelor's degree in organic farming. I moved from practical organic farming and studies to inspection, for Soil Association Certification. After a period in Zambia as an organic agricultural advisor, I have been working at Soil Association developing organic standards across a wide range of sectors including farming, aquaculture, food processing, health products, textiles and catering.

Organic farming holds many of the solutions to the problems we face today - soil degradation, pesticide use and its effects on people and wildlife, poor animal welfare and the overuse of antibiotics, and sustainable livelihoods for small-scale farmers worldwide. Thinking holistically, as organic farmers do, allowing for nature and people in the culture of growing food, is vitally important and an approach we must make relevant again to all those producing food.

We cannot work alone to achieve change. The effects of changing climate on our ecosystems and farming conditions are increasing and escalating the urgency of change. I believe that IFOAM- Organics International must actively seek opportunities to work with like-minded organisations, building into organic farming into efforts to improve production systems the world over. We must identify shared goals and ensure that organic approaches become solutions to problems adopted and integrated into non-organic practice. To do just this I have helped re-connect IFOAM – Organics International with the sustainability standards movement through the successful motion in 2014 to resume links with the ISEAL Alliance.

IFOAM - Organics International must influence and support governments to enable widespread uptake of organic farming and I will be ready to do this. I have many years’ experience in standards governance and best practice. We need the most effective governance structure in place so that IFOAM - Organics International serves its membership optimally and focusses on its strategic goals.

My 13 years of experience in developing organic standards at Soil Association has shown me that standards are an evolving tool to support organic production but that they must have real and positive impact. The Standard of IFOAM- Organics International has enabled global application of organic principles and we must work to ensure they are supported by advocacy and capacity building in-country so that farming communities can continue to benefit from thriving organic systems.

More Background information you find [online](#).

Isabel Griffiths
United Kingdom
Hans R. Herren
Switzerland / USA

I am a Swiss citizen, now working and living in Washington DC and Capay, California, who studied agronomy and entomology in Switzerland and the USA. I worked for 27 years in Africa in biological control, plant, human and environmental health.

My main interest and experience is in holistic, integrated and sustainable development. I have hands-on experience in research (designed and led one of the largest and most successful biological control program across Africa), capacity development, management of agricultural and bio-science research organizations and I am now active at the policy level, to assure that knowledge, science and technology contribute effectively to sustainable and equitable development by informing development policies at national, regional and global levels.


Awards and Honors: Sir and Lady Rank Prize for Nutrition, 1991; Kilby Award for Extraordinary Contribution to Society through Science, Technology, Innovation, Invention, and Education, 1995. World Food Prize, 1995, in recognition for having advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity and availability of the world's food supply; Brandenberger Prize 2002; Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement in 2003 for outstanding contributions to the field of environmental health; One World Award 2010; Right Livelihood Award (Alternative Nobel Prize) 2013; Foreign Associate US National Academy of Sciences, 1999; Member of the Third World Academy of Sciences, 2005; Honorary Doctor of Science Kenyatta University, Kenya, 2003; Honorary Professor, Hubei University, Wuhan, PRC, 2004.

More Background information you find online.
Julia Lernoud
Argentina / Switzerland

I grew up in a family where organic was the norm. We had an organic farm and a small organic home-delivery scheme. I understood from childhood that organic is not only food but the whole concept: respect for the environment, nature, people, the whole web of life.

Our company has been a member of IFOAM – Organics International for decades, so I grew up learning about the movement, the problems of small farmers, the dangers of genetic modification, among other key issues. While I was part of the retail sector, mainly in Buenos Aires, I had the chance to be in close contact with farmers and with consumers, listening to the needs of both sides of the counter and trying to strengthen that connection. In Argentina, I had the opportunity of organizing several times the presence of organic food in massive music festivals. Where once people only had fast food choices, now they had fresh, real food full of flavor and color at reasonable prices, showing that organic food can be for everybody.

In 2009, I had the opportunity of taking an internship at the IFOAM - Organics International Head Office. This experience brought me closer to what was going on in the organic sector worldwide. I had the opportunity to support the coordination of IFOAM - Organics International participation at the COP15, the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, learning in action to spread ideas in the right place.

Since 2011, I have been working in the production of the statistical yearbook “The World of Organic Agriculture” at FiBL, the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture. This project has allowed me to be in contact with different actors from all around the world and to stay updated on the latest developments in the sector. In 2014, I came closer to other like-minded movements through a new project at FiBL, “The State of Sustainable Markets.” This gave me the chance to get to know these movements and to see where the organic movement can connect and what we could learn from them.

In all these years, I noticed that the young farmers and entrepreneurs weren’t so involved in the global scene. That’s why with a group of young people from different places and backgrounds, we started a group called Young Organics, which aimed to connect young organic actors and to enhance knowledge transfer between generations.

I see IFOAM - Organics International as much more than an organization with members around the world. For me, it is the platform for the organic movement, a movement trying to create a better life not only for us but the whole of the planet. I see IFOAM - Organics International in all of its members – from the farmers caring for the growth of their tomatoes to the manufacturers aiming for the best tomato sauce, to the family enjoying a fully organic pasta, and the organizations working for all this to happen. I see myself as part of that community, of that movement.

I wish to help take the organic movement to the world, out of our comfort zone. I envision a movement that is strong, connected, reaching new places, and playing a major role in the complex world around us.

More Background information you find online.
My interest in organic agriculture arose out of two passions. First, food; food that no only tastes good, real and flavorful but also that nourishes is an important factor in my becoming engaged in the organic movement. This interest has only expanded over the years as I watch so many of my peers succumb to diet-related diseases far too young. Second, concern for our shared environment; what is happening to it, and how are our food systems contributing to the growing array of environmental problems? This concern too has only grown as I watch the impact of climate change on my Pacific islands home.

That said, I believe that farmers need to be at the heart of everything IFOAM – Organics International does. It is my firm belief that the organic movement, through IFOAM – Organics International, needs to:

– Play a pivotal role in a necessary and fundamental transformation of agriculture from a problem to a solution. To where organic, regenerative agriculture becomes a solution to our most pressing needs of food and nutritional security in the face of a changing climate, easing the burden of disease, biodiversity loss and fresh water insecurity.

– See Organic 3.0 progress in aligning the organic movement, based on the four core principles, to be a contributor to holistic social, economic and environmental sustainability. For the Pacific region, and I believe many areas of the globe, the link between agriculture and our indigenous cultures is a necessary part of these holistic solutions.

– Play a stronger role through the IFOAM - Organics International Self- Organized Structures, including regional bodies, to advocate against GMO and pesticide use and to educate and influence policy and decision makers.

– Continue supporting development of systems such as PGS, working for equivalence in organic standards, and ensuring that social justice is not forgotten. Ensuring that accessible, relevant organic certification is a key to livelihoods for many of our farmers.

IFOAM - Organics International has to maintain a balance between providing services to members and service to the planet. We need to ensure that likeminded movements have a better understanding of organic principles and unite, through strategic alliances, in not only the organic sector, but also with other groups and organizations that share similar visions. This will ultimately also benefit IFOAM – Organics International members.

If elected to the World Board, I will bring experience of a diverse and rich region of the world to IFOAM - Organics International, my extensive networking and advocacy skills, experience in board work and passion for the organic movement. I will offer my time, commitment and skills to the World Board team and staff and fully serve IFOAM - Organics International members to the best of my ability. I thank you for taking the time to read my statement.
I am excited to stand for another term on the IFOAM – Organics International World Board. I've brought a fresh perspective to World Board discussions and decisions. I believe it's important to maintain continuity on the World Board, and ask for your support.

I served on the steering committee that worked for 18 months to launch IFOAM North America, and I chaired the group's first General Assembly. Forming IFOAM North America was important to IFOAM – Organics International and to North America. I was appointed by the World Board to the International Organic Accreditation Service (IOAS) Board of Directors, a position that I would like to continue.

I've worked in the organic industry covering the entire value chain. I started in 1996 at a natural and organic grocery store and witnessed the introduction and implementation of the U.S. National Organic Program (NOP) standards. I was Marketing Director for a Whole Foods Market outlet and Consumer Marketing Manager for Earthbound Farm, North America's largest organic produce brand. I then became Executive Director/CEO of California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF), one of the oldest and largest organic certification agents in North America. That brought me to my current position as Executive Director/CEO of the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI). During my six years at CCOF, the organization grew from 14 employees to nearly 40. I have also led OMRI during a period of tremendous growth, expanding from 17 employees in 2010 to over 50 employees today.

My strengths are in NGO management, leadership, fiscal accountability and developing collaborations. I believe that my skills and experience in the organic industry are assets to IFOAM – Organics International. I regularly work with OMRI's Board of Directors, staff and stakeholders to uphold the integrity of organics in North America and the world. I participate in semi-annual meetings of the National Organic Coalition and the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB), the advisory group to the NOP. I am knowledgeable about the U.S. and Canadian organic standards as well as the regulatory structures and key actors in both countries. I have begun to develop relationships in Mexico now that they have implemented their organic standards.

I regularly report back to North American stakeholders and bring North American concerns to the World Board of IFOAM - Organics International. As an Executive Director in the organic industry myself for the last 13 years, I have a keen understanding of what is needed to lead an organization, including a membership organization.

I've been an organic consumer for nearly 30 years and an organic professional for more than 20 years. Organic is my life! I am a strong advocate for NGOs, having served as a board member, volunteer and employee. I am pleased that IFOAM – Organics International has made resource development a priority; it is an area of interest for me.

If re-elected, I am prepared to serve IFOAM – Organics International on the Executive Board. I commit to working on behalf of all members of IFOAM - Organics International and to upholding the integrity of organic products.

More Background information you find online.
Laura Montenegro
Argentina / Australia

We need to spread the word that organic farming is the solution for the major global challenges we now face, such as climate change, desertification, erosion, contamination, social problems (e.g. poverty) and loss of biodiversity.

Centering on the “quality of life,” in contrast to “hyper-consumption” in society will bring about the revaluation of natural assets for people and our planet, and a new focus on ensuring the minimum necessary – enough for all people to live at least a modest but dignified and happy life. The dominant logic of “use and discard” generates excessive waste, because of the disordered desire to consume more than what is really necessary. Linked to hyper-consumption is the crisis arising in society from unfulfilled spiritual hunger (mind body and spirit are a unit). The future is “Conscious Consumption”: Eradicate superfluous consumption and reduce waste.

IFOAM – Organics International needs to make more links and networking with other movements that share common objectives, and be more present in places where members are, providing more efficient and effective services. We need to strengthen communication in every level possible and raise our voice whenever we can in society, in economy activity, education and policy making, stressing that the economy must be more ecological and sustainable, therefore resilient to crises.

Organic agriculture is not only an effective tool for sustainable management of natural resources; it provides livelihoods for poor people, not only developing countries, but also in big cities. Soon 70% of the global population will be living in cities. Organic agriculture will include to grow your own veggies and herbs on the balcony!

Current market premiums enable organic farmers to capitalize additional sustainability values like water management, animal welfare, energy conservation, and freedom, justice and solidarity. Future markets could internalize such externalities, and continue to reward the ecologically and socially best agricultural practices.

To continue global market access we need to use equivalence instead of compliance, continuing recognition of other organic regulatory systems. Therefore, benchmarking among organic guarantee systems, and with other programs leading Good Agricultural Practices, is essential.

The approach of Organic 3.0 is one way to have great impact in society, but we need more participation of the members. IFOAM - Organics International needs to make more efforts in local advocacy and facilitate tools to spread and encourage local markets. At the same time we should facilitate increase of organic products in the main stream market.

We need to emphasize the new vision 3.0 with more inclusion and bringing farmers and consumers together, such as:

• supporting box delivery schemes, farmers’ markets, community supported agriculture (CSA) and green markets;
• encouraging participatory guarantee systems and developing local markets;
• promoting self-assessment,
• using new technology, IT QR etc., for bringing farmers and consumer together;
• because we are still a niche.

More Background information you find online.
Shimpei Murakami
Japan

When I realized that agriculture itself can be destructive to nature, the basis for all living things, my view of agriculture totally changed. It was in 1982 when I stayed in Gandhi Ashram in Buddha-Gaya, India – my first experience with agriculture in a tropical climate. Until that time, my concern had been how to get maximum production with organic methods. I was a farmer and had worked as a successor of my father’s farm where he had been practicing organic farming for more than 20 years. Since then, my concern has been changed to what type of agriculture is suitable to nature and optimizes food production.

After returning from India, I happened to work in Bangladesh in 1985-91, in Thailand in 1995-2001. In both countries, I have worked with local NGOs and CSOs that are concerned with the environmental aspects of rural development and have tried to introduce alternative agriculture. I have been involved in the practice of ecological agriculture at demonstration farms and conducting trainings on these topics for farmers and agri-extension workers.

There were two people who inspired me to work for ecological agriculture. One of them is my father who had been practicing organic farming in Japan since 1970. I was motivated by his simple, but strong thought, that the task of agriculture is to produce food for people’s health not to produce chemically poisoned food for the farmer’s economic benefit. He showed me proof by his practice that any crop can grow well without agro-chemicals, and be economically viable through TEIKEI (origin of CSA).

Mr. Masanobu Fukuoka, author of The One Straw Revolution, a natural farmer, is my agricultural master. He says that nature is perfect. It is human beings who disturb nature’s work and create problems. Soil in the natural forest is never plowed and fertilized by farmers, but it is soft and rich in nutrients. Soil in agricultural land is plowed and fertilized by farmers for every crop, but it is hard with less nutrients. Why? It is because human beings do not understand nature. “Let nature follow her own way”. Based on the idea, Fukuoka developed a natural farming method which is known as “do nothing farming” – No plowing, no fertilizer, no weeding and no pesticide. He had succeeded in having higher production than average of rice production in Japan. I have been impressed by his simple, radical and deep thought and faith in nature.

During nearly 20 years overseas doing cooperative work in the tropics, I have realized anew, a very interesting and important factor. That is, agricultural practices which follow the rule of Nature (Recycle, Bio-diversity, Vegetative cover on soil) recover soil fertility, ecological balance quickly and become efficient in use of sun energy and rain fall, thus, result in sufficient sustainable productivity. But anti-natural agricultural practices degrade the soil and the ecological balance quickly resulting in decreases in production.

I believe that the most important thing for us is to recover a sense of learning form nature and develop it by practices.

I really appreciate the recent IFOAM - Organics International direction, Organic 3.0. It is said that organic certification shows minimum condition. We need to develop organic agriculture as truly sustainable agriculture which is, environmentally sound, socially just, and economically viable. The statement made me to be a candidate of World Board of IFOAM - Organics International.

More Background information you find online.
Gerold Rahmann
Germany

organic science and organic practice (e.g., I am a Professor for Organic Farming, board member of IFOAM - Organics International and president of ISOFAR since 2014, board member of TIPI since 2011, editor-in-chief of the peer-reviewed Journal of Organic Agriculture).

After so many decades as active organic farmer, trader, global worker, organic researcher and green politician, I became board member of IFOAM – Organics International in 2014 to support the organic movement with my:

- deep knowledge in practical organic farming (farm to fork);
- high level science expertise, including at interdisciplinary and system level (from soil, to plant, livestock, farmer, processing, trading toward consumption);
- long term and inter-cultural experience in running institutions and working groups;
- understanding of decision making: lobbying, campaigns, fundraising;
- experience of creating and developing global networks and strategies.

I see the chance of organic farming to help to solve the future challenges in food security and safety as well as in sustainable and fair agriculture throughout the world. Nevertheless, organic farming has not the global importance as it should have. Despite a good development of the organic world and improved advocacy and promotion of the idea in the last decades, there is still a lot to do - internally and externally.

Nearly one billion people face hunger, and malnutrition even many more; despite that enough food is produced, but not sufficiently available to poor and remote people.

- Climate change and environmental pollution is increasing problems for food and farming.
- Food quality and food cultures are more and more endangered.
- Biodiversity and soil fertility are being lost.
- Food and agriculture are diminishing as a priority.
- Organic farming is not developing fast enough (efficiency and productivity).

Organic farming research is not developed and funded well enough to be compatible with conventional and business driven agricultural and food science.

The challenge for IFOAM - Organics International is to network and harmonize the global organic community, to speak with one voice in international and national committees, to gain and dense knowledge to support advocacy and, last but not least, to bridge the gaps between:

- rich and poor regions;
- traditional and modern technologies;
- research results and practical adaptation;
- business and public interests (short vs. long term impact);
- old and young, men and women, rural and urban;
- slow and fast food; and
- company and family agriculture.

I have contributed in the recent IFOAM – Organics International World Board in these issue in the concept paper of Organic 3.0 and the new strategy of the organization. I want to continue to support IFOAM – Organics International in the coming three years to communicate these concepts and strategies. I hope, that these arguments are convincing to get your vote to continue on the World Board of IFOAM - Organics International.

More Background information you find online.
Working for organic and sustainable principles, specifically for small holders and indigenous communities, is an essential part of my long years’ working practise. Therefore I would be very happy to contribute to the World Board of IFOAM - Organics International with my experiences and global network.

As a pioneer of organic farming in El Salvador I would be very happy to share experiences and knowledge as owner and director of my organic farm, “Hacienda Los Nacimientos,” and also as co-founder of several NGOs. While working for several international organizations like GTZ, CBI, Agronatura (as Executive Director) and others, I can offer capacities in the fields of international export promotion, trade strategies, funding and marketing research. Within my career I had the chance to establish a worldwide network with governments, business and NGO partners within the organic sector. It is great to see that even my competitors became my friends and we share a global network for exchange, contacts and know-how.

My passion is the production of natural colours and the worldwide promotion of those products. With this my objective is to provide workplaces for rural and indigenous communities - [https://goeatgive.com/worlds-best-organic-indigo/](https://goeatgive.com/worlds-best-organic-indigo/). I am proud to be one of only two organic indigo farms in the world (the other in India). The entire process, from farm to extraction, is done completely by hand, a method that allows not only to provide the highest quality indigo, but also to provide employment to local El Salvadorians. We revived the lost Mayan art of indigo production, creating all natural dyes from acres of indigo bushes interspersed with organic cashews, hibiscus, moringa oleifera and medicinal herbs.

My vision is to care for people, for the environment and also to take care that I enjoy my work so that I can contribute with a lot of effort and engagement. Also, providing work for women and coaching women entrepreneurs is an essential part of my day-to-day work.

“One doesn’t need to be a millionaire in order to be successful in life. Rather, one must be prepared to work hard, be honest, and always reach the goals one sets for oneself.”

With this I would be very proud to contribute to IFOAM - Organics International as World Board member to bring organic production out of its current niche with inclusion of poor farmer communities and women globally. I will be glad to support IFOAM - Organics International to be relevant and to play a leading role for sustainable agriculture also for future generations.
It is my pleasure to give you some insights about my engagement for the organic movement and to apply as a candidate for the World Board of IFOAM - Organics International.

I am founder of Skal International in Sri Lanka 2005, member of IFOAM - Organics International (FGPs Inspection & Certification) and proud to play a leading role in Asia for organic production and certification. Beyond organic production I include aspects going beyond it, such as social conditions, carbon and identifying species indicators.

For World Board of IFOAM - Organics International I can offer in-depth expertise based on more than 30 years of experience as senior inspector and certifier of organic and forest garden products, organic textiles, fair trade, biodiversity and traceability systems. I am also trained and experienced in the application of HACCP, control and monitoring of food safety hazards in the food industry in Asia (Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand).

I am very passionate to ensure that organic production is still the answer to replenishment of soil fertility and carbon sequestration and I would like to support the global adoption of organic principles while respecting challenging local conditions of remote farming communities. My experience with poor ethnic minorities is that they lack the necessary knowledge and the means to cultivate their lands to improve their livelihoods. In this respect, voluntary extension service is needed for knowledge transfer and monitoring the progress for the sake of the thinking behind “save the earth and the ethnic minority under privileged people”. I know this works as I have done it quite successfully in some tropical countries.

Consequently, a simple and inexpensive way forward can be recommended for livelihood improvement & empowerment, soil fertility and production sustainability. Restoring natural reforestation initiates natural organic matter production for improved soil fertility. Often lands became unproductive due to a variety of reasons such as wanton felling of forest trees, use of excessive chemicals provided by the middleman, lack of soil fertility/humus, soil erosion and uncondusive weather conditions.

From my experience of the past years, I recommend simple, inexpensive methods such as the establishment of a forest garden with climate-suitable crops and replanting disease-resistant perennial young plants. The choice of species for the forest capacity site is of particular importance for successful afforestation in good weather conditions with a variety of commercial tree crops. This leads to a forest cover within a few years, which can naturally provide in flat or steep landscapes, a cover for production of soil mulch, soil organic matter & fertility and filtered shade for development of shorter vegetation for domestic home consumption. Mutually beneficial pest / weed control and soil fertility are also ensured. Beneficial effects are soil fertility and water conservation, protection of erosion and re-vegetation and rehabilitation of degraded lands within almost a year.

With this leading background in Asia, awareness and practical experiences in organic production and certification, I would be very happy to contribute to IFOAM - Organics International as a World Board member for the growth of the organic sector to achieve more outreach and impact.

More Background information you find online.
Edith Van Walsum  
The Netherlands

I firmly believe in family farming rooted in the principles of organic agriculture as a pathway to sustainable development. Without family farmers - who form the basis of the organic pyramid - there cannot be sustainable development.

About 500 million small-scale farm families around the world are producing 50% of the world’s food. On average, women do 70% of the work in food production, for family nourishment, local and regional consumption and globally. Farm families share agricultural knowledge, from generation to generation. Women are seed keepers, upholding principles of organic farming. The farm provides (self-) employment and has a close connection with the surrounding landscape. The family farm is a safety net in times of crisis. Together, these 500 million farm families play a key role in sustaining the cultural and biological diversity of our planet.

Each family farm has the potential to be productive in an ecologically sound way. But today the majority of family farms worldwide are in various stages of disintegration and not able to actualise their potential. Climate change, increasing pressure on natural resources, neglect of family farmers by policymakers, outmigration and biased education are some of the factors that led to this situation. I see it as our shared responsibility to create an enabling environment for these farmers to actualise their potential.

What we can do: some practical examples.

• Revitalisation of local food systems places small-scale organic producers and consumers at the heart of a sustainable, decentralised global food system. This is happening in many places. It is important to systematise these experiences and to share lessons learned with practitioners and policymakers.

• Local markets play a crucial role in the revitalisation of food systems, they give a new boost to growing and eating diverse and nutritious local foods, gastronomy, food processing, etc. PGS brings organic certification within the reach of small-scale producers and consumers and strengthens the development of local markets.

• Nutritional problems can be tackled better if embedded in a broader food systems approach. Food is central to our cultures; if we begin to pay more respect to food, this will give a handle to address nutrition problems.

In Europe, increasing numbers of young people want to go (back) into ecological/organic farming and be part of local food systems. They need supportive (land) policies. It will be interesting to compare this European trend with developments elsewhere.

What I bring to IFOAM - Organics International

• A passion for the power of women organic farmers.

• A long track record in the systematisation of practical experience in agroecology and organic farming, and in distilling policy lessons from these.

• Extensive experience in the design and implementation of communication strategies.

• Twenty years of management and fundraising experience.

• A bridge-building attitude and skills: for ten years, I facilitated an international network and created successful linkages with other networks and movements.

More Background information you find online.
AGENDA POINT 42: World Board Elections
1st Round

To do: Elect ten World Board members.
Information: You need to fill out an election ballot. Tick a minimum of five and a maximum of ten persons from the list of candidates. Ballot sheets with less than five or more than ten selected candidates are void. Candidates with more than 50% of votes are elected in the first round.

AGENDA POINT 43: World Board Elections
2nd Round

To do: Vote for the remaining World Board candidates after the 1st election round.
Information: This agenda point is needed in the likely case that less than 10 candidates are elected in the 1st round. Every member can elect as many candidates as there are open seats. Ballot sheets where less than half of the candidates needed to fill the open seats are selected, will be deemed void, as will ballot sheets with more than the number of open seats.

AGENDA POINT 44: Appointment of Internal Auditors

To do: Elect two internal auditors.
Information: Usually one internal auditor is replaced and one internal auditor works for another term. Uygun Aksoy, Ege University (Turkey), is ready to serve for another term. Michel Reynaud, Vice President of Ecocert (France) is suggested to replace Steffen Reese, Naturland (Germany). Reference is made to the Report of the Internal Auditors, included in the World Board Report.
AGENDA POINT 50: World Board Motions

To do: Discuss, amend and approve / reject the motions.

MOTION W51: Compatibility of New Breeding Techniques

Motion:
Given that outside of the organic sector there is discussion and possible broadened uptake of new breeding and genetic engineering techniques in plant and animal breeding in the future, the General Assembly affirms a new position paper on the Compatibility of Breeding Techniques in Organic Systems. The GA mandates the continuance of the Working Group to make recommendations for: (i) developing strategies and viable alternatives to avoid seeds and breeds of questionable breeding techniques; (ii) supporting organic animal and plant breeding initiatives and (iii) engaging with the mainstream breeding sector to strengthen organically compatible breeding programs, and protect the integrity of organic systems and of genetic resources in general.

Rationale
The organic sector faces a significant challenge with respect to the ongoing access to, identification, and use of genetic resources. The current motion aims to protect the sector going forward by (i) affirming and clarifying its position through specific definitions and criteria that can be used to evaluate most known breeding techniques, as well as new ones that may be introduced in plant and animal breeding; (ii) acknowledging that conventional breeding programs have expressed the unlikelihood that their genetic lines will be adequately separated to preserve the genetic identity of many strains; and (iii) continuing work on all possible fronts to secure and strengthen the further development of acceptable breeding material, its multiplication, and improvement through acceptable innovations. In addition to protecting itself, the organic sector has the opportunity to engage with the mainstream sector to develop better overall risk assessment protocols for regulating the public release of novel genomes.

MOTION W52.1: Organic Aquaculture

Motion:
IFOAM - Organics International adopts the following position and advocates for it to national and international fora and to private and government standard setters:

The Principles of Organic Agriculture are applicable to aquaculture but can treat the aspect of soil differently, i.e. ensure its protection but not require it as a central system component. Organic aquaculture systems use natural resources responsibly, are integrated into the host environment to manage biological processes, enhance the health and protect the biodiversity of plants and animals. Standards should guide producers toward best organic practices regarding environmental stewardship, breeding, animal welfare, feed, veterinary care, and quality of the end product.

MOTION W52.2: Organic System Boundaries for Aquaculture

Motion:
IFOAM - Organics International adopts the following position and advocates for it to national and international fora and to private and government standard setters:

Option A (stricter specification on allowed recirculation system types):
Organic aquaculture may include an environmentally integrated recirculation system only if it is primarily based on and situated in a natural environment. It does not routinely rely on external inputs such as oxygen, allows the raised species to spend the majority of their lives in outdoor facilities and preferably uses renewable energy.
**Option B (broader allowance of recirculation system types):**

Organic recirculation aquaculture systems (RAS) do not need to integrate the production system into the natural environment if it can be evidenced that there are broader ecological feedback loops between production facility and environment that are stable and maintained, and have independence from non-renewable energy sources.

**Rationale:**

Organic-based approaches to ecosystem development are solutions for global sustainability. They positively affect biodiversity, food quality, food security, food sovereignty, and animal welfare. In a world faced with increasing urbanization, population growth, and new technologies, coupled with ongoing ecological destruction and increasing crises in human health, aquaculture is increasingly important in its impacts on the above solution areas and poses an opportunity through which the organic sector may contribute to Sustainable Development Goals.

A “yes” vote on W52.1 means organic aquaculture is considered to be a viable concept and practice. A “no” vote means the total rejection of aquaculture products as organic.

Aquaculture can occur in a diversity of system designs depending on ecological and demographic context. If W52.1 passes, there are three possible outcomes regarding recirculation systems in organic aquaculture. RAS covers an array of possible methods. Motion W52.2 reflects the possible choices:

i. Rejection of both Options A and B: RAS can only be low-tech systems wholly dependent on the ambient natural environment to process water;

ii. Option A: Environmentally integrated RAS, which offer the promise of a holistic production system integrated into its host natural environment and human communities; such systems embody long-standing organic values, but in general show lower economic viability with increasing scale of production. Potential for economic or large-scale impact is greater than having no RAS, but less than Option B.

iii. Option B: Typically, conventional RAS are facilities where aquaculture takes place within an enclosed environment that is isolated from the natural setting, involving the recirculation of water and depending on permanent external energy, oxygen, light, etc. to stabilize the environment for the species raised. Such systems enable higher productivity with minimal impact on the ambient environment. Option B differs from conventional RAS by the requirements for renewable energy as well as the requirements for feeding, breeding, and veterinary care according to organic norms that would be applicable to any option for organic aquaculture. Option B also allows for the possibilities afforded by Option A.

**Recommendation from the World Board:**

The World Board recommends voting YES to Motion 52.1 and motion 52.2. It gives preference to Option B.

**MOTION W53:**

**Organic 3.0 – for Truly Sustainable Farming and Consumption**

**Motion:**

The GA approves Organic 3.0 as a landmark and commits to include the content of Organic 3.0 in its strategies and actions and to facilitate required change in attitude and thinking. It mandates IFOAM - Organics International to be guided by Organic 3.0 and to lead the Organic Movement in this direction.

**Rationale:**

For the last 3 years, many organic think tanks worked on Organic 3.0 and SOAAN (the Sustainable Organic Agriculture Network, established based on a motion to the GA 2011 in Korea) compiled the essence with participation of the Global Organic Movement. The World Board - acting on behalf of the membership – also contributed to the content and eventually drafted the landmark that should complement other landmarks such as the Principles of Organic Agriculture, the Definition of Organic Agriculture, the IFOAM Norms, the Best Practice Guidelines, the Position Papers and the Policy Briefs.

Please find [HERE the Organic 3.0 landmark](#).
Rationale

The present membership system has been working fairly well. However, the number of affiliates has remained constant over the last 15 years despite the strong growth of the sector. In many instances, affiliates feel not well categorized because reality is more complex than turnover only, which is currently the only criterion we use. We also realize that many are reluctant to declare their turnover and/or the difference between organic and non-organic turnover is not accurate. Presently, we interpret the statutes that it is required for members to have more than 50% organic turnover. However, many (potential) members find this definition very difficult or don’t have figures available. Another challenge is that the fee payments are based on organic turnover only.

Against this background, the World Board developed new ideas in 2015 and discussed them, for example, in affiliate consultations. It withdrew its 2016 proposal based on members’ concerns and now presents this new motion, taking into account issues raised in the discussion.

The statutes remain unchanged, but the World Board would like to introduce a new system based on various, broader membership criteria within the framework of the present statutes. Most of the reform steps are within the competence of the World Board (with the exception of the fees); it is however important to the World Board to be transparent and to get GA support for this membership reform strategy.

Motion:

IFOAM - Organics International reforms its membership system within the framework of the statutes and whereby the World Board will:

- Simplify administration;
- For the definition of a fee category, rely on an online self-assessment tool by the members, using more criteria than just organic/non-organic turnover;
- No longer use the associate member and supporter categories in a formal sense but instead create new opportunities for stakeholders to engage with us.

The new fee system for voting members is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category based on a self-assessment</th>
<th>Criteria/overall income of the organization</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>For all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Overall income up to 49k € and further criteria</td>
<td>150 €</td>
<td>Commitment/ values consistent with our objectives. I.e. organic or likeminded, working towards true sustainability in agriculture, value chain and consumption. Detailed in a World Board procedure and in the terms and conditions for members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>50 – 299k € and further criteria</td>
<td>300 €</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>300 - 999k € and further criteria</td>
<td>500 €</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver member</td>
<td>1 – 1,99 million € and further criteria</td>
<td>1000 €</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold member</td>
<td>2 – 9,99 million € and further criteria</td>
<td>2000 €</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platinum member</td>
<td>More than 10 million € and further criteria</td>
<td>3000 €</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Associate and individual members do not have fixed fees any more. The 25% clause of income use for regional activities remains unchanged. The new registration fee is 100 Euros. Early bird discount of 5% until end of February. The late fee payment is abolished. IFOAM - Organics International will provide an online tool to facilitate self-assessment by (interested) members. Silver, Gold and Platinum members enjoy additional communications benefits.

The current fee scheme you find on the website.
AGENDA POINT 60: Member Motions

To do: Discuss, amend and approve/ reject the motions.

Information: The 21 member motions are organized in blocks of 6 motions. First, the 6 motions are discussed (approximately 45 minutes) and then the chair invites for voting one after the other (approximately 15 minutes). Amendments to motions have to be presented to the minute keepers in time and in writing before talking to the GA. Please present motions amendments latest at the end of the motion bazaar.

Part 1: Member motions M61 – M66

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

Motion:
- Textiles advertised/labelled ‘organic’ and made with organic fibres produced according to recognized standards (e.g. IFOAM Family of Standards), should also be processed to a standard (endorsed by IFOAM - Organics International) that prohibits hazardous and residual inputs according to a clear procedure.
- IFOAM - Organics International acknowledges that such standards should cover the whole supply chain (as is the case with food). Stating the organic fibre content (“contains X% organic cotton”), e.g. through the Organic Content Standard by Textile Exchange, is a relevant step.
- IFOAM - Organics International will communicate this to stakeholders and engage with them for the widespread adoption of a whole-chain-approach (chain of custody) to labelling organic textile products.

Rationale:
The purpose of this motion is to bring the labelling of organic textile products and organic fibre content claims into a coherent system consistent with organic food products.

The term ‘organic’ for non-food products is, for the most part, not legally protected. Consumer understanding of ‘organic products’ is based on food, where comprehensive production, processing and labelling standards apply. This whole-chain approach is included in national regulations. The integrity of the organic ingredients is maintained in the final food product. Consumers may believe that organic textile products are also subject to comprehensive whole-chain standards. In the absence of regulation of the use of the term ‘organic’ for textiles, consumers are frequently misled by ‘organic’ claims, confusion and greenwashing prevail.

The Global Organic Textile Standard gGmbH is a not-for-profit organization that operates a comprehensive textile processing and labelling standard formally endorsed by IFOAM - Organics International and is based on the use of organic fibre. 18 GOTS-approved independent Certification Bodies provide certification for 4.600 operators employing 1.4 million people globally.

Recommendation from the World Board:
The World Board recommends voting YES.

MOTION M62:
IFOAM norms – Integration of a Guide on Key Themes Related to Sustainability

Motion:
With more and more Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) emerging, many attempts are being made to assess their sustainability using indicators in relation to good governance, environmental integrity and social wellbeing. In order to make assessments of IFOAM norms easier, the GA suggests the addition of a guide listing key sustainability themes and indicators, with reference to the relevant norms chapter. This guide should be based on the GA approved IFOAM
Recommendation from the World Board:
The World Board recommends voting YES.

MOTION M63:
Change in the IFOAM Standard

Motion:
The GA approves the deletion of requirement 4.2.4 from the IFOAM Standard for Organic Production and Processing in the current IFOAM Norms, version 2014.

Rationale:
The current IFOAM Standard has a contradiction in its conversion period requirements that should be addressed urgently.

4.2.3 states that the length of the conversion period shall be at least:

- 12 months before sowing or planting in the case of annual production
- 18 months before harvest for other perennials

4.2.4 says that crops harvested less than 36 months after the application of a prohibited input to crop or soil shall not be used or sold as organic.

4.2.3 states that the length of the conversion period can be 12 months in the case of annual production or 18 months in the case for perennials. 4.2.4 requires at least 36 months from last application of a prohibited input. 4.2.4 essentially requires a 36 months conversion period on both annual and perennial non-organic production systems that use conventional inputs. 4.2.4 contradicts 4.2.3. We propose requirement 4.2.4 be deleted to address the contradiction between 4.2.3 and 4.2.4.

Rationale:
When the sustainability of a VSS is scored, usually the norms are screened for sustainability themes. However, many sustainability themes are not mentioned explicitly in the IFOAM norms, even though they are actually covered. An example is the “reduction of greenhouse gas emissions”, which is not mentioned, even though the norms/organic farming include many practices that contribute substantially to the reduction of greenhouse gases. The addition of a guide on key themes would help outsiders to understand the impact of IFOAM norms and thus organic farming better. FiBL has been collaborating with some of these organizations trying to ensure a correct assessment. FiBL is willing to support the development of this guide and provide the work that has already been done.

FiBL, Switzerland

Recommendation from the World Board:
The World Board recommends to amend the motion as follows:

Motion
The GA mandates the World Board to initiate as soon as possible a process compliant with Policy 20 (See: www.ifoam.bio/policy20) to positively consider the deletion of requirement 4.2.4 from the IFOAM Standard for Organic Production and Processing in the current IFOAM Norms, version 2014.

Rationale
While the World Board has sympathy with purpose of the proposed motion, it can’t support it. It violates our Policy 20 (process to changes to norms) and the ISEAL Code of Good Practice (See: www.isealliance.org/our-work/defining-credibility/codes-of-good-practice/standard-setting-code) of standard setting. Bringing standard changes directly to the GA without a proper process based on policy 20, without inclusion of the IFOAM Standards Committee and without public consultation risks credibility of the IFOAM Standard. The WB therefore proposes to amend the motion without changing the purpose but with the possibility to go through a process that is compliant with our own rules.

Green Net, Thailand
Thai Organic Trade Association, Thailand
Organic Alliance Malaysia, Malaysia
Rose Garden Hotel Company Limited, Thailand

Best Practice Guidelines, on the FAO’s SAFA (Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture systems) Guidelines and on the Sustainable Development Goals.
Motion: IFOAM - Organics International shall develop specific requirements for the production of organic invertebrates (including insects and annelids) and their products in its IFOAM Standard for Organic Production and Processing.

Rationale:
In nature, invertebrates play a key role in food chains. Interest is now growing for their commercial use. They show several advantages, including an efficient feed-product conversion rate, the ability to feed on waste products, and the production of high quality proteins, either for human consumption or for animal feed (particularly for poultry, pigs and fish). Insect meal and annelids have recognized potential to replace fishmeal in the diet of farmed aquatic species.

Those attributes match well the organic principles. However, currently there is uncertainty on whether their production is possible or not under organic standards, due to the absence of specific requirements. Most standards do not explicitly exclude insect/invertebrate production, but do not include detailed rules either. The general EU regulation for farmed fish feed just changed to allow insect meal.

Soil Association, UK
Seconded by: FiBL, Switzerland

Recommendation from the World Board:
The WB recommends voting YES to this motion.

Motion: IFOAM-Organics International shall tackle the issue of transparency in making public details of certified producers, products and processes in the next revision of its IFOAM Accreditation Requirements, and shall advocate for further transparency in this area within other fora, such as in the ISEAL community and towards government organic regulations.

Rationale:
Considering that Organic 3.0 notes “Greater transparency across the value chain and among all associated relationships will also help ensure that potential conflicts of interest are more readily exposed” and that “Organic 3.0 communications systems will enable parties to identify and address such concerns…. Operational objective related to feature #3: Transparency becomes the organizing principle of guaranteeing integrity. A diversity of appropriate methods for ensuring transparent integrity is developed and promoted,” and in view of the increasing demands from consumers for transparency, and of the need to address certain credibility concerns with third party certification, IFOAM – Organics International shall promote the idea of further transparency in organic third party certification whereby certifiers should be required to make certain information on their certified operators publicly available on their websites, beyond and above what is currently required.

Rainman Landcare Foundation, South Africa

Recommendation from the World Board: The WB recommends voting YES.

Motion: The World Board shall name among its members a person to operate as the IFOAM PGS Ombudsperson with the task to monitor any activities of IFOAM – Organics International concerning Participatory Guarantee Systems for the reliability of their fact finding and fraud prevention organic certification based on such facts.

MOTION M65: Transparency of Certification
Rationale:
Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) are locally focused quality assurance systems. They certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders, such as organic farmers. While PGS allow for a gradual implementation of organic farming and certifications practice they may raise serious concern related to issues like reliability of fact finding and organic certification based on such facts. Implementation by: World Board Hanspeter Schmidt Law Office, Germany

Recommendation from the World Board:
The WB recommends voting YES. PGS are locally focused quality assurance systems. They certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders, such as organic farmers. While PGS allow for a gradual implementation of organic farming and certifications practice they may raise serious concern related to issues like reliability of fact finding and organic certification based on such facts. Implementation by: World Board Hanspeter Schmidt Law Office, Germany.

Motion:
According to data published by IFOAM - Organics International, there are about 50.9 million hectares in certified organic production. However, unofficial figures mention that non-certified organic agriculture is much larger. IFOAM - Organics International should take the lead, along with partners such as FAO, to establish a methodologically credible figure on non-certified organic agriculture.

Rationale:
Public policies for organic agriculture require scientific and statistical bases to show the achievements and sectoral contributions in different areas: technical, social, economic, etc. Therefore, it is justified to know more about organic agriculture in all its forms of expression, not only certified. In that sense, IFOAM - Organics International should lead this process of not only identifying and recognizing the different expressions of organic agriculture, but also its quantification in different areas.

SOMEXPRO, Mexico

Supported by IFOAM America Latina & Caribe regional group

Recommendation from the World Board:
The WB recommends voting YES. IFOAM – Organics International has already implemented some pilots based on a new method, which caught the attention of FAO to monitor agroecology.

Motion:
Local organic markets are central to the current growth of organic agriculture, especially in developing countries. For now, many of them have been based on the production and marketing of organic foods. Even so, local organic markets are also the basis of the social fabric between producer and consumer and other stakeholders.

Rationale:
Successful local organic markets are the result of an adequate combination of efficient and profitable production practices and the building of a solid, stable and lasting social fabric between producers and consumers. However, on a regular basis, only the technical and economic attributes are highlighted, leaving aside the advances in social matters. This justifies the need to identify and visualize the social attributes of local organic markets that contribute elements to public policies, among other uses.

SOMEXPRO, Mexico

MOTION M68:
IFOAM - Organics International Should Review and Highlight the Social Dimension of Local Organic Markets

Recommendation from the World Board:
The WB recommends voting YES. This is foreseen in the Food for Life campaign.

MOTION M69:
Organics International Should Review and Update the Theoretical and Practical Bases of Internal Control Systems
Motion:
IFOAM - Organics International has stood out for its leadership in the promotion and defense of internal control systems as a strategy to access third party certification by small producers organizations that are interested in participating in international organic markets. However, the concept and practice of internal control systems has weakened in recent years, affecting its credibility. IFOAM - Organics International should review and update the approach to internal control systems.

Rationale:
Internal control systems are the basis of the current certification programs at the level of the developing countries that mostly supply the most important organic markets. The organic certification of a number of organizations of small organic producers depends on the proper functioning of their own internal control systems. However, internal control systems have lost momentum and preponderance, requiring an exhaustive review of their fundamentals and practical aspects with an innovative approach, in accordance with current organic regulations.

SOMEXPRO, Mexico

Recommendation from the World Board:
The WB recommends voting NO since it feels that there are good ICS resource documents available and that IFOAM Organics International has in its new strategy other priorities for its limited resources.

Motion M70:
IFOAM – Organics International Should Take a Frequent, Public and Belligerent Position on False Sustainability Standards

Motion:
As the organic sector is growing, other standards try to take advantage of this, which for a big part exists thanks to the vision, mission, reality and success of IFOAM - Organics International. These other standards are often non-organic, but try to appear as sustainable and a win for producers, consumers and nature. But the truth is, they are causing damage to producers, consumers and nature, and affect the organic sector. This needs IFOAM - Organics International’s clear voice, in public and with certain belligerence, to comply with it’s responsibility and to support the organic sector, where confronted with these false prophets.

Rationale:
False sustainability standards are winning terrain. Outstanding examples are UTZ and Rainforest Alliance, which moreover are merging right now. These two are appearing as savers of Mother Nature, UTZ is also claiming to be “social”. Both standards promote chemical agriculture, they “recommend” IPM; the “social” issue was defined in an UTZ speech in Nicaragua as “willing to pay legally foreseen minimum wages”. The motivation behind pushing these standards seems to be just profit oriented, they do a lot of expensive propaganda – to cheat the consumers, and in countries like Nicaragua by convenient offers to the farmers, lowering certification pre-conditions, offering “much less problems” than the organic certification etc. And they concentrate on the most lucrative products, like coffee, tea, cocoa!
Firms like Ritter Sport S.A., Nicaragua, buys now UTZ, causing close to all organic cocoa producers in Nicaragua to convert to this more comfortable, unsustainable way of production. These standards do really damage us “third world” farmers, nature, soils, water and climate. Our federation should publicly speak out about this evil, this attack on nature and us.

Sano y Salvo / Safe and Sound, Primera Asociación Campesina e Indígena de Cultura y Producción Ecológicas en la Biosfera del Sureste de Nicaragua

Recommendation from the World Board:
The WB recommends voting NO. While we dislike greenwashing schemes and unfair competition, the World Board chose a different strategy to what is proposed based on the GA 2014 and the Organic 3.0 discussion to be inclusive. The strategy is not to fight against Rainforest/Fair Trade and co. and to seem defending own selfish interests, but to advocate for the cause of true sustainability in agriculture and the common good by contributing solutions. That does not hinder us to clearly name the problems including greenwashing (see Organic 3.0 brochure), however if this is made a core strategy we will loose credibility and ground in international advocacy.
Motion:
The World Board shall name among its members one person to set up an internet based (closed and internal, potentially confidential) forum for members of IFOAM – Organics International to discuss the development of new techniques for altering the genome of plants and animals used in agriculture, such as CrisperCas. The World Board shall develop the proposal for an IFOAM policy covering these techniques to be discussed and voted on by the next GA. This proposal shall be accompanied by a comprehensive report on the context and content of the discussion in the forum as well as the global organic sector to be send to the members of IFOAM – Organics International no later than six months before the next GA of IFOAM – Organics International.

Rationale:
Genetic engineering is excluded from organic farming due to a broad consensus. Such consensus is rather weak with respect to the question of whether a multitude of new techniques used to alter the genome is genetic engineering in the sense of being thus excluded from organic breeding and farming. Consensus within IFOAM – Organics International requires information on and discussion among its members. The World Board is asked to help the IFOAM – Organics International to obtain and discuss more thorough, more current and more comprehensive background information. This may require confidential discussion. It is very important to educate the Board and the members on the possibilities to monitor and police the exclusion of techniques for and products of genomic alterations from organic farming and on the absence of such possibilities. The World Board shall propose the response of IFOAM – Organics International to cases where no such monitoring and policing is technically achievable at the given point in time.

Hanspeter Schmidt Law Office, Germany

Recommendation from the World Board:
The WB recommends voting NO since it sees the issue sufficiently covered in motion W54 and it does not want to create redundancy and incoherence.

Motion:
IFOAM - Organics International appeals to the European Union (EU) and the Members of the EU Parliament to abstain from the proposed shift for organic imports into the EU from the principle of EQUIVALENCE to full COMPLIANCE. Requiring such compliance means requiring national internet databanks for organic seeds and similar official structures of organic controls. All this breaks essential guarantees of the Final Declaration of Marrakesh for justice in fair terms of trade. IFOAM - Organics International appeals to all non-EU governments to defend the rights of organic farmers in their countries by all means appropriate under international law.

Rationale:
In June 2017 the EU institutions decided to go for full compliance from non-EU organic farmers from 2020 on. This would refer to details of the governmental organization of organic controls in non-EU countries. When they are not there, because no one cares for them in their country, organic farmers will be denied the opportunity of selling to the EU. This is not a joke. After three years of a top secret trilog of the EU institutions all points of an April 2014 draft proposed by the EU Commission had failed, but one proposal: Restrict selling non-EU organic food in the EU. The reasons given for this were fake: That EU requirements for non-EU organic farmers are presently less strict than those for EU farmers. The truth is, that there are very few aspects open to such discussion. The Rapporteur of the EU Parliament misinformed the public, that more than 60 different standards for non-EU farmers make organic certification difficult. The truth is, that in 2009 the EU Commission had required new non-EU organic standards (paraphrased from the EU texts) instead of using the EU texts while identifying (on one sheet of paper) the very few difficult points (where the farming in the tropics requires rules different from those in the valley of the Rhine). Implementation by: World Board

Hanspeter Schmidt Law Office, Germany

Recommendation from the World Board:
The WB recommends voting NO since it sees the issue sufficiently covered in motion W54 and it does not want to create redundancy and incoherence.
Recommendation from the World Board:
The World Board does not support the motion and tables an amendment as follows:

**Multilateral equivalence instead of unilateral compliance**

**Motion**
IFOAM - Organics International reinforces its position on preference of multi-lateral recognition of organic standards and regulations based on equivalence. It urges regulators to abstain from demanding compliance in certification and accreditation for international market access, which is still practiced by most regulators. It maintains the tools (e.g., the Family of Standards) to facilitate equivalence. It encourages and observes policy processes such as for example the discussions of Switzerland, USA, EU, Canada, Japan, Korea and Chile on plurilateral recognition and it defends the interests of organic smallholder producers throughout the world particularly of those from not regulated countries.

**Rationale**
The World Board felt that this motion does not give credit to the fact that IFOAM – Organics International works on this subject for a long time. Of course, we dislike the current development of the EU and we know that we failed altogether to bring through our position in the regulatory revision. However, most other regulators are going even further in demanding compliance including the USA, Korea, Japan, India etc. Therefore, it is too narrow to blame the EU only. The organic movement should push for a solution, which is a global multilateral approach.
## DAY 2 Agenda Overview / Monday, November 13

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<td><strong>6. Decisions, Member Motions</strong></td>
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<td><strong>M 73. - M 78. Member Motion Part 3</strong></td>
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MOTION M73:
Defining and Regulating the Process and the Relationship Between IFOAM – Organics International and IFOAM Regional Bodies

Motion:
Cooperation between IFOAM – Organics International and its IFOAM Regional Bodies should lead to a non-competitive environment on regional advocacy work, strategies and regional projects. IFOAM - Organics International and the IFOAM Regional Bodies collaborate and seek for synergies, on the basis of a mutually agreed strategy, with the lead taken by IFOAM - Organics International for interregional and global issues and the lead taken by IFOAM Regional Bodies for regional issues.

Rationale:
Existing policies of IFOAM – Organics International need clarification for the issues mentioned in the motion. For a well-functioning IFOAM family, it is necessary that IFOAM - Organics International and relevant IFOAM Regional Bodies support each other, whilst respecting their specific remits and the different levels on which they act. Therefore, synergies, communication and cooperation should be encouraged wherever possible, based on common written strategies and agreements. Unsolicited interference should be avoided, particularly where it may negatively impact on the success of the work, reputation or image of one of the parties. This is especially important in the case of strategic global or regional advocacy work, communication activities and/or funding opportunities.

EcoS Consultancy, UK
Supported by the IFOAM EU group

Recommendation from the World Board:
The WB recommends voting YES.

MOTION M74:
Organic and Health

Motion:
1. IFOAM – Organics International and the organic movement put wellbeing and human health (including social well-being, income for farmers/ producers and consumers’ health) in their development strategies. In this context, IFOAM Organics International and its members look for cooperation to understand the needs of operators, consumers and standards developer and they look for getting funding support.
2. The organic movement raises awareness and researches the relation between health, organic agriculture and lifestyle.

Rationale:
The importance of IFOAM – Organics International and its membership can only increase if scientific, practical, ecological, health and social criteria are included into nutrition. The health system is dominated by the pharmaceutical industry, but public health and health prevention need to be based on a healthy food system. At the moment, the organic movement does not have the knowledge of the science behind the needed paradigm shift in the health system. And it does not have sufficient knowledge about the needs of the big actors in the concerned industry, such as hospitals, caterers, canteens, hotels, restaurants etc. If the organic movement allies with big powerful companies and if we create common fora we can achieve a lot on all the continents. Ecowellness has a lot of experience, but is too weak in the market. However, it is ready to share its knowledge. The network of IFOAM – Organics International with its principle of health is an opportunity to scale this knowledge.

EcoWellness Group, Germany

Recommendation from the World Board:
The WB recommends voting YES.
MOTION M75:
Organics International Should Establish a Strategy and Program to Promote Organic Agriculture

Motion:
According to the statistics published by IFOAM - Organics International, certified organic agriculture (visible) reaches about 1.1% of the land devoted to agriculture. Organic agriculture has taken important steps in the last years; However, IFOAM – Organics International should have a more active role in promoting it, promoting concrete strategies and programs in this regard.

Rationale:
Organic agriculture has grown in recent times according to different figures known globally. However, this is variable by country, by crop, among other variables. For its part, IFOAM – Organics International has stood out in the world panorama, mainly, in the development and promotion of standards and the mechanisms of guarantee as well as impelling tools for the political incidence. This is not enough to ensure that organic farming continues to grow. It is necessary that IFOAM – Organics International establish a strategy and the necessary programs focused on the promotion of organic agriculture in terms of production and consumption. You could also seek and establish alliances in this regard.

SOMEXPRO, Mexico

Recommendation from the World Board:
The WB recommends voting YES.

MOTION M76:
Transparency of Finances of IFOAM - Organics International

Motion:
Future reports on the finances of IFOAM – Organics International shall include a detailed financial report not only for IFOAM – Organics International (as an association registered in Bonn (Germany), but also with respect to all other entities where IFOAM – Organics International holds interests (such as shares) or where IFOAM programs are implemented such as the IFOAM Organic Guarantee System and the IFOAM Accreditation Program.

Rationale:
Good global practice of corporations and organizations comprises such reporting to provide for minimum insight of members into the true financial status.

Implementation by:  World Board
Hanspeter Schmidt Law Office, Germany

Recommendation from the World Board:
The WB recommends voting YES.

MOTION M77:
Transparency of Salaries at IFOAM - Organics International

Motion:
Future reports on the finances of IFOAM – Organics International shall include a list of the annual earnings of at least the five highest paid employees (including officers).

Rationale:
Good global practice of corporations and organizations comprises such reporting to provide for minimum insight of members into the proportionality of the organizations spending. Implementation by:  World Board
Hanspeter Schmidt Law Office, Germany

Recommendation from the World Board:
The WB recommends voting NO. WB members work voluntarily with no salary at all (flights and accommodations are reimbursed). Publishing staff salaries is very uncommon in NGOs. The WB feels that the institution has to protect privacy of staff and to keep the negotiation power to attract specialists. The total amount of staff costs is already published in the annual report.
MOTION M78:
IFOAM – Organics International Shall Move its Head Office from Bonn (Europe) to a Location in Asia

Motion:
Asia is the Earth's largest continent, with more than half the world’s population and over 40% of the world’s organic producers, working biodiverse organic farms. More than half of IFOAM affiliates are located here. Relocating the Head Office (HO) of IFOAM – Organics International to Asia would be a recognition and reflection of these realities. Present location of HO in Germany is inhibiting growth and expansion while providing no special advantage. Costs of running a HO in Asia would be less than half, enabling IFOAM – Organics International to expand.

Rationale:
IFOAM's HO location in Bonn has its origins in European history and legitimate dissatisfaction of pioneering but small segments of its population with agribusiness led agriculture. The initial Bonn address was a development having neither consensus nor participation of the world's organic community. Its continuation in Bonn appears to be a disadvantage. Many segments, in fact, refuse to associate with it for specific reasons. Language is a prime example.

It may therefore be an appropriate time to look for a new place for IFOAM's HO to reflect its global character. Asia is the Earth’s largest continent with over 40% of the world’s organic producers. More than half of affiliates of IFOAM – Organics International are in Asia. Bhutan will be the world’s first organic country by 2020. The Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (ALGOA) is the largest and only organization in the world set up to facilitate 100% adoption of organic farming. Further such a move, embodies nearly all the features of Organic 3.0.

Organic Farming Association of India

Recommendation from the World Board:
The World Board recommends voting NO to this motion: IFOAM - Organics International has its seat in Germany, the country with most members (91, Europe has 347 out of 833 members, Asia has 284). We represent the organic movement towards the United Nations and Bonn is the seat of UNFCCC (climate change) and UNCCD (desertification) and it is close to Rome, Geneva and Vienna. It is also seat of Fair Trade International and other important like-minded institutions united in BINGO (Bonn International NGO). 85% of the funds come from Europe, which are hard to sustain for a global organization operating from Asia. A move of the office to Asia risks existing networks and own institutional experience since most of staff would be lost. Some of the costs are indeed higher in Germany than in many Asian countries, however relevant costs such as World Board travel costs, project acquisition costs and office rent costs would be higher in Asia.

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

Motion:
In order to raise public awareness and promote and protect the long-term growth of organic agriculture, the World Board of IFOAM - Organics International shall set up a task force or use existing appropriate committees to direct a study by a international team of scientist to assess and publicize the world wide contamination of glyphosate in our environment, in our food and in our human bodies. Evidence collected shall be published in peer-reviewed journals. The scope of the project will be determined by grants and/or the financial support that is received from the membership.

Rationale:
The increasing use of glyphosate is contaminating our planet to the point that traces (10-30 ppb) of the herbicide are now found even in organic food due to unavoidable environmental contamination. When these contaminated organic products lose their certification, it is a great loss to the affected organic farmers, processors and handlers. Hence, organic agriculture is being punished while the manufactures of glyphosate accept no responsibility for this loss. The purpose of this resolution is to bring to the attention of the world community the gravity of the problem of glyphosate contamination, to increase the support for organic agriculture and to discourage laws or rules which set unattainable low levels for glyphosate in organic products without allowances for non-avoidable environmental contamination. It is necessary to have
MOTION M80: Highlight Un-ethical Behaving of Multinational Agroindustrial Corporations

Motion:
IFOAM – Organics International should highlight ill effects of unethically behaving multinational agroindustrial corporations such as Monsanto by collaborating with various international organizations.

Rationale:
The behavior of Monsanto and alike multinationals has had extremely negative impacts on farmers, especially organic farmers all over the world. To realize the organic 3.0 philosophy all over world, the strong leadership of IFOAM – Organics International is prerequisite. It is necessary to collaborate with other international organizations, hand in hand, i.e. the United Nations, World Health Organization, World Trade Organization, International Court of Justice and many more. The excessive behavior of e.g. Monsanto should be prevented by doing all that is humanly possible.

This year in March 2017, the Japanese government decided to abolish the Seeds Law. This means all farmers are obliged to purchase seeds from seed companies, because if they produce seeds themselves there will be a possibility of being sued by Monsanto. This prevents organic farmers from getting their own seeds after the harvest. In Japan, this is serious when it comes to increasing the number of organic farmers. We are trying to be an IFOAM recognized PGS, but this information can easily be obtained by Monsanto from the online database of IFOAM – Organics International. They will sue us as they have done in the past when we use seeds of our own for producing vegetables and fruits. The Japanese situation above could also be applicable globally.

Organic Shizukuishi, Iwate Prefecture, Japan

Recommendation from the World Board:
The World Board recommends voting YES to this motion.

Kamut International, USA

MOTION M81: Communicate Advantages of Organic Farming over Conventional

Motion:
IFOAM – Organics International should gather documentation and communicate it in order to confirm the advantages of organic farming over conventional.

Rationale:
It is necessary to investigate recent international research and development activities on the advantages of the organic production and upload the results to the website e.g. of IFOAM – Organics International.

Major investigation topics could be:

1. Effectiveness of the produce on human health
2. Healthy soil maintenance and save our earth drives
3. CO2 reducing activities that contribute to the Paris Agreement
4. Taste of the produce
5. Growing rate of crops
6. Quantity of crop harvests
7. Cost advantages
8. Farmer satisfaction
9. Economic sustainability
10. True cost of produces

In Japan at any universities or even at national agricultural institutes, they have not carried out enough scientific studies on organic farming. Because their major research topics have been focused upon the breed improvements to produce tastier and more weather resistive rice, vegetables and fruits in the conventional agriculture. One of the trickiest
situations is coming from the unsavory ties been political, bureaucratic and business circles in terms of fertilizers, agricultural chemicals and insecticides. The issues are internationally applicable so it would be necessary to investigate the latest scientific reports and papers internationally to compare conventional and organic agriculture exhaustively. Without doing this investigation, we cannot prove figure for Intensification in Organic 3.0 and we cannot persuade consumers about the advantages of organic produces.

Recommendation from the World Board:
The World Board recommends voting YES to this motion.

AGENDA POINT 61: Recommendations

To do: Approve / reject the recommendations made at the Motion Bazaar. Reference is made to Appendix 3, paragraph 9.1 (page 63 of this document).

Organic World Congress 2020

AGENDA POINT 71: Proposals for Organic World Congress / General Assembly 2020

To do: Get information on the Organic World Congress/ G.A. 2020 bids from Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Russia, Spain, United Arabian Emirates and vote for your favorite. See the bids on the following pages.

BIDS OWC 2020

Please, find the full proposals of the bids on the GA website.
Australia provides an exciting opportunity for IFOAM to make a difference to the global organic community.

1. Australia’s organic community recognises the importance of investment in research, development, innovation, and extension of this knowledge to other global communities.

2. Australia’s farmers are leading agricultural producers and global supply partners.

3. Australia has received strong support for the bid from the Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, the Federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, the NSW Ministers for Tourism and Primary Industries, along with the university and research sectors.

4. Australia as a country has the largest organic agricultural area in the world. Hosting the congress will provide the global organic community a unique platform to capitalise on the momentum of an industry currently growing over 15% annually and estimated to be worth in excess of $1.72 billion in Australia.

5. Australia is a land of international collaborators and leaders in best practice.

6. Sydney is a safe and welcoming destination with a range of cost-effective accommodation, dining and touring options to suit any budget.

7. We have partnered with Business Events Sydney to keep costs down.

8. We will look to offer support for delegates from developing nations and students.

9. Once IFOAM 2020 is secured for Sydney, various government and industry department grants including from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and Austrade, will be available for application.
Welcome
The 20th IFOAM
Organic World Congress 2020
to
SASKATOON
Saskatchewan
CANADA

Saskatchewan is…
bursting at the borders with organic abundance with 1,000,000 acres under organic management and over 800 organic farmers. Saskatoon is a vibrant prairie city in the heart of organic field crop production and a breath of fresh air. Where prairie skies meet river valley, we welcome you to experience Saskatoon, Canada.

What you can expect:
• a collaborative global forum to explore how organic food and farming provide solutions to some of the most pressing issues of our time
• the latest research, agronomic practices and market opportunities
• an opportunity to explore indigenous food production – past, present, future
• organic farm tours - experience field crop production first hand, an opportunity to learn directly from organic farmers
• fun!
The 20th IFOAM Organics International Organic World Congress
6th–13th June 2020, Prague, Czech Republic

What you can expect:
- International development of organic bioeconomy
- Promotion of organic bioeconomy research and development
- Exchange of scientific knowledge and expertise
- Partnering and participating research among farmers, advisors, and scientists

Who are we?
- Internationally renowned contributors sharing insights on bioeconomy research
- Prominent profession of research, policy, and technology development
- Agroecological network of organic knowledge

Prague’s UNESCO and Cultural Heritage
Beautifully set on the banks of the Vltava River, Prague is a city rich in history and culture. The historic center of Prague is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Prague is known for its stunning architecture and historic sites, making it a popular destination for tourism.

BIDS OWC 2020 / Prague, Czech Republic
WELCOME TO FRANCE

The birthplace of IFOAM in 1972.
The country which enabled the signing of the Paris Agreement on climate change in 2015.
A cradle of inspiration for the arts, for technical and technological innovation, and for creativity; famous for its gastronomy, the importance attached to sharing meals with family and friends, and its local markets.
An agricultural nation, enjoying a growth in organic farming and consumption: 10% more organic surface area in 2016; 12% more producers; 20% more products sold; and 7 out of 10 French people regularly consuming organic products.
A land with a jewel in its crown - Brittany - an agricultural region benefiting from both land and sea, with a vibrant community, science and technology network.

A CONGRESS DEDICATED TO INSPIRATION

In Rennes, a historic city, capital of biodiversity in 2016, where all destinations are easily accessible on foot; at the ‘Couvent des Jacobins’ in the heart of the city, a conference venue with a magical atmosphere, equipped with the latest technology.

An inspiring Congress, in which innovations, skills, and knowledge can be shared: markets, demonstrations, and farm tours complete the programme of conferences, and encourage fruitful encounters.

A rejuvenating Congress for France’s organic community, which has come together to organise the Congress in the best possible way, and is keen to strengthen its ties with stakeholders from around the globe: producers, processors, and consumers.

A Congress focused on life, the gateway to the organic practices of the future, with a knowledge base refreshed by practitioners and researchers.

FROM ITS ROOTS
organic agriculture inspires life

September 2020 - Rennes
www.owc2020-France.bio

A proposal submitted by French members of IFOAM and supported by national, regional, and local public authorities. A multi-stakeholder cooperative, with experience of previous IFOAM congresses and a strong presence in European networks.
THE 20TH ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS IN LITHUANIA 2020
ORGANIC INFLUENCE TO EARTH AND HUMAN PROSPERITY

CENTRE OF EUROPE
LITHUANIA together with other Baltic States is located in the North Europe. IFOAM Organic World Congress will take place in the modern capital city VILNIUS, which actually is the geographical centre of Europe and internationally recognised as one of the most knowledge-intensive and innovative cities.

ORGANIC PRIORITIES
One of the goals determined in the Government Programme of the Republic of LITHUANIA is to seek for an exceptional - moderating - role to LITHUANIA in international community with the purpose to:
- Promote development of organic and sustainable agriculture;
- Stimulate organic consciousness and consumption of organic products in educational establishments;
- Increase healthy eating habits of children and support organic farmers.

MAKE DIFFERENCE
The primary objective of bringing the World Organic Congress to Lithuania as comparable Small Country is to share message in organic world that even small units can make influence to earth and human prosperity. The importance and the experience of working with neighbours and likeminded in the sector.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING
The practitioners, scientists, traders and consumers will share their knowledge about significant influence of organic to the prosperity of the whole planet and human in different forms allowing eye-to-eye experience sharing, interaction with professionals and networking:
- Fishbowl, square and round table discussions;
- Presentations and oral presentations including Q&A;
- Posters and e-posters sessions;
- Pitching on the stage;
- Mentor consultations in form of B2B/Speed dating;
- Video installations and live broadcasts.

SUPPORTED BY GOVERNMENT
Initiative to host 20th OW Congress in LITHUANIA is strongly supported by all governmental institutions, associations, shareholders and most important by others Baltic States and neighbourhood countries and partners.

LET’S MEET IN LITHUANIA!
THE 20th IFOAM ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS 2020

MEXICO CITY

MAIN OBJECTIVES FOR HOSTING OWC IN MEXICO

- **OWC 2020** Yes, it will be in México but it’s for Latin America! México will be the host country, but with the support and projection of different countries of Latin America.

- The OWC will help Mexico and Latin America emerge as potencies for production and trade of organic products.

- To continue strengthening and consolidating the National Control System of each Latin American country.

- Participate in working groups with our allied countries to keep citizens informed and expose the organic vision that provides the community with multiple benefits.

- We will work to improve truly sustainable agriculture, value chains and consumption.

- We will facilitate the assistance and participation of small farmers, especially native groups of Mexico and other Latin American countries.

- We will discuss about Organic Agriculture as the most viable system in the face of climate change.

- We will talk about organic production as an ecological, social and economic alternative to genetically modified organisms.

- The Mexican Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA, for Spanish initials) seeks to encourage the production and consumption of organic products in the country working together with IFOAM and supported the OWC 2020.

WHY MEXICO?

- México City welcomes more than 12 million visitors annually from all over the world, also leisure travelers looking to discover the city’s rich history and culture.

- Mexico ranks as the third largest country of organic producers and 1.5 million hectares and remains the main exporter of organic coffee.

- In the heart of Mexico City is located the World Trade Center meeting complex awarded the Environmental Unique License LEED GOLD for existing Buildings Operations and Maintenance.

- Beside organic coffee, Mexico is important in the organic production of honey, avocados, cocoa, tropical fruits, tequila, mezcal and corn.

In Mexico we will work hard to reduce as much as possible the registration fee to the CMO2020

OWC2020
MOROCCO would be the first African country to host the OWC since Burkina Faso in 1980.

MOROCCO has a famous tradition of hospitality and Moroccans are among the most welcoming people in the world; and the Red City of Marrakech is known as one of the most wonderful, mysterious and fascinating cities on Earth.

MOROCCO has a rich experience of organizing large events and was the first African country to host the Conference of the Parties COP 7 in 2001, and COP 22 in 2016 in Marrakech.

MOROCCO as a host of the Organic World Congress in 2020 and similarly to COP22, intends to defend the position of Africa. Our continent is greatly affected by climate change and highly concerned by sustainable development issues: Africa is at a very crucial time in its agricultural history, facing huge challenges; while it has the capability to meet them.

MOROCCO will emphasize on organic agriculture as a major solution.

FIMABIO is an Organic Movement with a clear, audacious and ambitious vision that advocates “For an Organic Morocco”. The OWC will no doubt play an exceptional role in supporting this young organism, leading to its growth and prosperity.

FIMABIO embraced the Organic 3.0 vision and signed with IFOAM a historical Memorandum of Understanding during COP22 that aims at building Adaptation and Mitigation with Climate Change Resilient Organic Agriculture in Morocco and Multiple African Countries.

MOROCCO is a social, economic and technological Hub to Africa. Moroccan agricultural system, thanks to its Green Moroccan Plan (Plan Maroc Vert) launched in 2008, is a success model and is currently being scaled up to African countries.

The Moroccan Initiative ‘AAA’ (Initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture to Climate Change) is committed to supporting the development of these solutions and to facilitating their implementation. Organic principles are strong within the Triple A initiative through solutions of soil fertility management; water use optimization in agriculture and the management of climatic risks.

"IT IS TIME FOR AFRICA"

Hosting the OWC in 2020 would be a unique opportunity to place Morocco as an Organic agricultural Hub to build climate change resilience in Africa.
Holding such a unique event in Russia will have a strong impact on the organic movement development in the member-countries of IFOAM-Eurasia.

We are strongly convinced that 20TH ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS & IFOAM GENERAL ASSEMBLY in 2020 would be a great success. Our city is a charming place meeting all necessary requirements for the Congress, and our team is ready to do their best to organize an excellent meeting.

There are multiple reasons for the choice of Russia as a destination for the 20th Organic World Congress and General Assembly.

- First, Moscow, as the largest city and the leading economic, scientific and cultural center with numerous business opportunities, gives a great opportunity for IFOAM to attract new members and partners in Russia.

- Secondly, it will add a great share to the Federation and its current members experience as hosting the Congress in Russia will give the first-hand knowledge of its local features and potential in the organic industry.

- Besides, the Congress may act as a catalyst that will bring the unique international experience, knowledge and organic culture farming to Russia, allowing our country to become one of the world organic market leaders over time.

Over the last years, organic agriculture industry in Russia demonstrates a rapid growth. The quantity of certified organic farmlands, producers and the market of organic products is constantly growing. Local farmers are increasingly interested in changing traditional food production to organic standards. Having the unique natural resources and developing organic agriculture, Russia is in a position to take one of the leading places in the organic market in the nearest future.

On behalf of National Organic Union as a Russian member of The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) we are honored to submit an official proposal of Russia to host the 20TH ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS & IFOAM GENERAL ASSEMBLY for the year 2020.
The Spanish Society for Organic Farming & Agroecology (SEAE), a national knowledge network of advisors, researchers, academics and organic operators as the oldest Spanish International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), member Organization is submitting a bid to host the 20th Organic World Congress (OWC), in Valencia (Spain) in 2020, at the city where our main office is located.

Spain is the first country in certified organic surface (over 2 mill ha), and this area is growing yearly an average of 10%, in the last 20 years. Up today over 40,000 organic operators (farmers and processors) are certified in organic and a huge number of farmers are willing to convert to organic. Although, organic consumption is still low, Spain is the number 6 country in the ranking of organic consumption.

New regional organic action plans in Spain are being developed to promote organic production and consumption. On the other side, several social movements and young people are going back to the countryside to restart farming with agroecological practices and agroecological "industry". Parallel to this, the general Spanish consumer's organisations are more and more supporting organic food consumption in the schools and restaurants.

Spanish organic movement is candidate for the first time for hosting an IFOAM OWC, since these events exist. In this case the 20th OWC and IFOAM International General Assembly will be an opportunity for a dialogue to catalyse Organic Farming and Agroecology movements. We want specially to put in the same path all type of organic and agroecological producers and consumers to open a real debate and not only, to make nice presentations and workshops.

Valencia City and its county, is willing to host the 20th OWC. The city is one of three largest of the country after Madrid and Barcelona, with an agricultural background with traditional practices coming from the past arabic systems (L’Horta), which has been leading the agrarian economy. Valencia is also a leading Mediterranean town with relevant cultural centers, where some relevant organisations are based.

Valencia has also an important tourist infrastructure (hotels, restaurants...), well connected by plane, train and boat ship with several European cities and nord African destinations. For the Organic World Fair we take one organisation with over 25 years organising this type of events at national level.

The most relevant authorities of Valencia city (Major & Town Hall Council), Valencia province (Province Deputy, Commerce Chamber...), also Valencia region (Agriculture Ministry, public certification body CAEV), and the National Agriculture Ministry are explicitly supporting this bid. Also the national most relevant and oldest organic organisations fully support this proposal. Furthermore, local, regional and national organic and agroecological organisations were participating in the preparatory meetings to define this bid.
The 20th IFOAM Organics World Congress In Dubai 2020

Dubai with its infrastructure and easy accessibility to markets across sea, land and air has made it a globally acknowledged trade hub for MENA, the Indian subcontinent and neighbouring countries. This is a great advantage for OWC. Multiple government initiatives in the Middle East over the years have made UAE one of the leading and advanced countries in organic and natural products business.

ORGANIC MOVEMENTS
Dubai’s major focuses are on:
• Understanding, enhancing and protecting earth’s diverse systems.
• Initiative towards achieving food security through Dubai Municipality’s “Grow your own food” campaign.
• Mitigating and managing the effects of climate change through innovation policies and best practices.

ORGANIC & NATURAL EXPO AND ITS LEGACY
As the exclusive organic products show, organisers Global Links Exhibitions operates in this market since 2002. The rich experience of conducting Middle East Organic and Natural Products Expo in this region for the last 14 years gives the organisers regional and international knowledge in the domain. This knowledge will certainly help in making OWC 2020 a successful event in Dubai.
AGENDA POINT 81: Farewells & Appreciations
To do: Participate in the farewell.

AGENDA POINT 82: IFOAM – Organics International Recognition Awards
To do: Participate in the recognitions.

AGENDA POINT 83: Closure
To do: Attend the closure by the new President of IFOAM – Organics International.
How does the General Assembly function?

A Visual guide to the Rules of Procedure

The World Board appoints minute keepers, referees, parliamentarians and ballot counters. Two chairpersons are nominated by the world board and are approved by the General Assembly by a simple majority vote.

Minute Keepers x 2 (+2 Referees)

The minutes record all decisions taken and are published on the website of IFOAM - Organics International together with a special announcement email to the membership.

Chairpersons (2)

The two chairpersons rotate as the Chair of the General Assembly and determine the schedule of the proceedings, decide who is entitled to the floor, and apply the Rules of Procedure.

Parliamentarians (2)

Advise the Chair, at the Chair’s request, on the application of the Rules of Procedure, and supervise the ballot counters.

Member who has the floor

A person must obtain the floor before addressing the General Assembly. Any person who wishes to obtain the floor, must present his/her voting card or speaker authorization card to the Chair, stating his/her name and the member / associate or the body he/she represents. He/she may then line up at the microphone to address the General Assembly.

Courtesy, Relevance, and Discipline

Speakers must address the Chair. Whenever the Chair speaks, any person speaking or offering to speak must desist and the Chair is heard without interruption.

Speakers must confine their remarks strictly to the matter under discussion or to a point of order. The Chair may call a speaker to order for irrelevance, repetition, unbecoming language, accusations, or any breach of order, and may direct those breaching order to cease speaking, or to be removed from the meeting.

The ruling of the Chair on points of order shall be final, and shall not be open to discussion.

“Mr./Madame Chair, I raise a point of order.”

In such case where a member believes there is a breach of order, the member can object by standing and addressing the Chair by saying “Mr./Madame Chair, I raise a point of order.” After acknowledgement by the Chair, the member then states the question of order. The Chair then decides the question and allows or modifies the proceedings accordingly.
Amending Motions at the General Assembly

General conduct

Motions are discussed, amended and voted in the order and time that the Chair determines. The Chair may allow the first speech on the motion to be made by the IFOAM member or World Board representative who submitted the original motion. The Chair may also allow questions and answers for clarification prior to discussion and amendments. The Chair may further allow the submitter of a motion to respond directly to questions and amendments.

1. Proposing an amendment to a motion:
Amendments are made in writing and handed to the chair. They are then visually displayed or read out by the chair before the member moving the amendment speaks on it. An amendment must be seconded before it is discussed (Friendly amendments * do not need to be seconded).

2. Discussion:
When an amendment is proposed, discussion ceases on the original motion and concentrates on the amendment.

3. Postponing, moving on, or withdrawing motions:
Members who obtain the floor can also move to postpone motions, move to the next agenda point, or withdraw motions (These requests must be seconded).

4. Ending debate and calling for a vote:
Any member obtaining the floor may move to stop discussion on the motion and call for vote on the motion. The motion is made orally and must be seconded. If seconded, it is voted without debate or further amendment. If the motion passes, the vote on the motion shall be taken without further debate or amendments. If the motion fails, discussion continues on the main motion or an amendment.

*Friendly amendments: Friendly amendments describe a short amendment offered by someone who is in sympathy with the purposes of the main motion, in the belief that the amendment will either improve the statement or the intent of the main motion, to the satisfaction of the maker of the motion.

Friendly amendments follow the procedure below:

Friendly amendments are accepted or not accepted by the maker of the main motion to which the friendly amendment is addressed.

If accepted, the motion is amended without further discussion or vote, and discussion continues on the amended main motion.

If not accepted, the maker of the friendly amendment may declare the amendment as a “general amendment” and the amendment is discussed upon as usual.

Motion amendments follow the flow of the diagram below:

- MOTION
- Further Amendments
  - YES
  - NO
  - Is the Amendment ‘Friendly’?
  - YES
  - NO
  - Accepted by the Motion Maker?
  - YES
  - NO
  - Discussion
- VOTE
Statutes

of an international federation that joins the efforts of its members to further Organic Agriculture as an ecologically, socially and economically sound and sustainable system of farming.

To promote throughout the world the production of high quality food sufficient to feed all people, while protecting the soils and enhancing their fertility, as well as minimising environmental pollution and the use of non-renewable natural resources,

1. Name, Seat, Language

The name of the federation is "IFOAM - International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements". It is registered in Bonn, Germany and carries in Germany the indication "eingetragener Verein," abbreviated "e.V.", after the name. The seat of the federation is situated in Bonn, Germany.

The official language of the federation is English, except in dealings with German authorities, in which case it is German.

2. Statutory Purposes

The purpose of the federation is to protect nature and the environment by promoting Organic Agriculture. Toward this end the Federation may provide, for example, for the exchange of knowledge and ideas among its members, the information of the public, representation in parliamentary and administrative rule-making, the development and permanent revision of Standards for Production, Processing and Trading Standards. It may for that purpose support global and transnational regional co-operative efforts and develop a common generic logo to be used by IFOAM-accredited certifying organisations.

The Federation pursues the public interest solely and directly. Its activities are benevolent only. It does not engage in activities primarily intended to accumulate capital. Its funds must be used exclusively for statutory purposes. Its members may not benefit from payments by the Federation, which are not covered by the scope of its purpose, or from payments which are disproportional.

3. Affiliation

There are three categories of affiliation with the Federation: member (with voting right), associate and supporter (without voting right).

Affiliation as member or associate is open to organisations including but not limited to farmers, producers, processors, traders and consumers as well as to those engaged in research, education, training, consulting, certifying, promoting and advocacy.

All members and associates must actively pursue the Federation's objectives. The activities of members must be predominantly consistent with the statutory purposes and standards of the Federation. Members must be prepared to provide proof of compliance with the membership requirements.

Organisations which do not meet the activities requirements for members may affiliate as associates. Individuals may affiliate as supporters. The Board decides upon admission of members and associates. It may expel affiliates that act against the Federation's objectives or interests. Affiliates may cancel their membership by means of a written statement.

All disputes between IFOAM and its affiliates related to affiliation status which may occur in the context of these statutes or with reference to their validity will be finally decided upon, without the possibility of recourse to legal action, according to the arbitration rules of the German Institution for Courts of Arbitration (DIS) which form an essential part of these statutes.

Place of the arbitration process is Bonn, Germany; the court of arbitration is formed by one single arbitrator; the substantive law to be applied is German law; the language of the arbitration process is English.

4. Organs

The Federation's organs are the General Assembly, the World Board and the Executive Board. The Executive Director carries out their decisions.
5. General Assembly

A regular General Assembly is held every three years. It is announced in writing by the World Board. On the written request of 25% of the members or the World Board an extraordinary General Assembly is called. General Assemblies must be announced three months in advance.

The General Assembly elects a Chair. Decisions of the General Assembly are recorded in Minutes, which are signed by one member of the Executive Board, who was present at the GA. The refereed minutes shall be sent to each affiliate.

The quorum shall be established by at least 25 per cent of the members represented at the opening of the General Assembly. In case the General Assembly will not meet the established quorum of 25 per cent a call for a second General Assembly (subsequent assembly) with identical agenda has to be sent out together with the call for the General Assembly (primary assembly). No quorum will be required for the subsequent assembly. The subsequent assembly may take place one hour after and at the same place of the primary assembly. The simultaneous call for the subsequent assembly has to explicitly clarify that the subsequent assembly will have a quorum independent from the number of members represented.

The General Assembly votes by simple majority. Members, IFOAM Regional Bodies and INOFO (Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers Organisations) have one vote each. Representatives have to prove their authorisation and the payment of their membership fee on request. If they cannot do so, they may not vote. Voting is open or by secret ballot, if so requested by one member. Votes by written proxy are permitted, but restricted to a total of five votes per person.

IFOAM members and the World Board may submit motions to the General Assembly. Motions from members must be proposed to the World Board at least 120 days before the session of the General Assembly. Motions must be sent out at least 60 days before the session of the General Assembly. Motions from the floor may only amend the aforementioned motions. Adopted motions must be implemented. Once adopted, the content of a motion can only be changed by a new motion at the next General Assembly.

6. Ballot Voting

The GA or the WB may decide that GA votes may be executed in writing and may be transmitted electronically; this includes votes for the election of an officer or board member. Votes may be cast in person, by mail, by fax, by email or by using an internet portal. The Executive Board shall appoint a natural person to carry out the voting procedure. This person shall also convey the voting results to the voting members in a suitable form. Voting members shall receive the ballot as well as information about the deadline, address and method for submitting the votes at least 30 working days before the deadline for casting the votes. Ballots sent by air mail are considered received 4 days after depositing it with the postal system. To consider: A vote is considered cast on the day it is delivered personally, deposited with the postal system as airmail, or sent electronically.

7. Elections

Every regular General Assembly elects ten World Board members. Candidacies must be received at least three months before the regular General Assembly and must be endorsed by five members. A presentation of the candidates must be sent to the members at least 60 days before the General Assembly.

The World Board chooses an Executive Board (see §8) from amongst the elected members before the end of the General Assembly. The World Board may co-opt up to three further World Board members. The World Board may elect additional Executive Board members and replace them as appropriate during the term.

8. World Board

The World Board decides all issues not yet determined by the General Assembly. The World Board establishes rules of procedure for the World and Executive Board and the General Assembly, which are to be approved by the General Assembly. The World Board may set up Working Groups, Committees, and regional or thematic task groups. It may also delegate specific tasks to such bodies or to individuals. The World Board takes decisions by simple majority with at least half of the members present and by open vote. On the request of three World Board members a meeting is called with six weeks notice.
9. Executive Board

The Executive Board is constituted by three members of the World Board: The President and two Vice-Presidents. The Executive Board represents the Federation, executes the decisions of the General Assembly and World Board, decides on issues not yet decided upon by the General Assembly or the World Board, reviews the organisation performance and initiates the remedy of short-comings. Executive Board decisions are taken by simple majority with at least half of the members present and by open vote; IFOAM is legally represented by two members of the Executive Board acting jointly. The Executive Board may appoint one or more special representative(s) according to § 30 BGB.

10. Executive Director

The World Board may appoint an Executive Director (ED), and may install an office, which executes the decisions of the Federation’s organs under guidance by the Executive and the World Board.

11. Self-Organized Structures

Self-organized and self-governed coalitions and organizations sharing the visions, principles and positions of IFOAM can get the right of being a self-organized IFOAM body, carrying the name of IFOAM based on a World Board decision. Those organizations focus their activities regionally (IFOAM Regional Bodies), thematically (IFOAM Sector Platforms) or they are owned by IFOAM (IFOAM daughter organizations).

12. Amendments, Modifications

The World Board may unanimously pass provisional amendments of these statutes that remain in force until the relative decision is taken by the next General Assembly. Any such amendments have to be made known to all members at least three months before they are implemented. Any modification of the statutes proposed by the World Board should be sent to the members not less than two months before the next General Assembly. A majority of two-thirds of the votes given is required to amend the Statutes.

13. Finances

Affiliation fees are fixed by the General Assembly. The World Board submits a financial report covering the period since the preceding General Assembly to every regular General Assembly. This report is to be approved by an auditor installed by the World Board. The members of the World Board are not personally liable for the Federation’s debts. A budget covering the period until the next General Assembly is to be submitted to the General Assembly by the World Board for approval. When the Federation is terminated its remaining assets shall be transferred to a public interest organization (Körperschaft des öffentlichen Rechts) or to another tax exempted organization in Germany, to be used for tax-deductible purposes specified in these Statutes.

Approved by the General Assembly in Namyangju City, Korea, October 2011

§ 9 amended by electronic vote on November 15, 2016
Rules of Procedure for the IFOAM General Assembly

§ 1 Call to Order
A session of the General Assembly is opened by the IFOAM President or in case he/she is unable to attend the session, by a vice President or failing that by a person selected by the World Board. The President establishes that the quorum, as defined in the statutes, is met.

§ 2 Chairing and Speaking
2.1 The President introduces two Chairpersons nominated by the World Board. They are approved by the General Assembly by a simple majority of votes cast. The two rotate as the Chair of the General Assembly.

2.2 The Chair determines the schedule of the proceedings, decides who is entitled to the floor, and applies these Rules of Procedure. ‘Roberts Rules of Order’ is used by the Chair, at his/her discretion, in cases not covered by these Rules of Procedure.

2.3 Any IFOAM member or IFOAM associate must be given previously announced decision of the Chair or by point of order.

2.4 Any person who wishes to obtain authorization card to the Chair, stating his/her name and the member / associate or the body as mentioned under 2.4 he/she represents.

§ 3 Courtesy, Relevance, and Discipline
Speakers must address the Chair. Whenever the Chair speaks, any person speaking or offering to speak must desist and the Chair is heard without interruption. Speakers must confine their remarks strictly to the matter under discussion or to a point of order (see §9). The Chair may call a speaker to order for irrelevance, repetition, unbecoming language, accusations, or any breach of order, and may direct those breaching order to cease speaking, or to be removed from the meeting. The ruling of the Chair on points of order shall be final, and shall not be open to discussion.

§ 4 Officers
The World Board appoints minute keepers, referees, parliamentarians and ballot counters. The referees may also serve as ballot counters. The ballot counters do their work under the supervision of the parliamentarians. The parliamentarians also advise the Chair, at the Chair’s request, on the application of these Rules of Procedure and Robert’s Rules of Order.

§ 5 Minutes
The minutes shall record all decisions taken. The refereed minutes are published in the Internal Letter (IFOAM in Action).

§ 6 Motions
6.1 General conduct
IFOAM members and the World Board may submit motions to the General Assembly. Motions are submitted to the General Assembly according to the rules of the Statutes. Motions from the floor may only amend original motions that have met the requirements of the Statutes. Motions are discussed, amended and voted in the order and time that the Chair determines. The Chair exercises its discretion with due regard to fairness and equity. The Chair may allow the first speech on the motion to be made by the IFOAM member or World Board representative who submitted the original motion. The Chair may also allow questions and answers for clarification prior to discussion and amendments. The Chair may further allow the submitter of a motion to respond directly to questions and amendments.

6.2 Amending motions
a. Every amending motion must be relevant to the original motion being discussed, and must not be a direct negative of the original motion. The Chair has authority to admit or not to admit an amending motion.

b. Amendments are made in writing and handed to the Chair.
c. Amendments are read out or visually displayed by the Chair before the member moving the amendment speaks on it, and no amendment is discussed or put to the meeting until it has been seconded.

d. When an amendment is proposed, discussion ceases on the original motion and concentrates on the amendment.

e. An amendment may be withdrawn by the member moving it, with the approval of the member seconding it.

f. If an amendment passes, the original motion as amended becomes the new main motion upon which further discussion and amendment may occur. If an amendment fails, the discussion continues on the original motion.

g. An amendment to an amendment is admissible at the discretion of the Chair. If the Chair admits it, the procedure in 6.2 b-f applies. However, if the Chair believes that the meeting will thereby become confused, he/she may rule that the first amendment be decided first and that the amendment to it be discussed separately afterwards.

6.3 Friendly Amendments

Note: Friendly amendments describe a short amendment offered by someone who is in sympathy with the purposes of the main motion, in the belief that the amendment will either improve the statement or the intent of the main motion, to the satisfaction of the maker of the motion.

a. Friendly amendments must be declared as such by the maker of the friendly amendment motion.

b. Friendly amendments follow the procedures in 6.2 a-c, except that a second is not required.

c. Friendly amendments are accepted or not accepted by the maker of the main motion to which the friendly amendment is addressed.

d. If accepted, the motion is amended without further discussion or vote, and discussion continues on the amended main motion.

e. If not accepted, the maker of the friendly amendment may declare the amendment as a “general amendment.” In this case, all points of Section 6.2 apply.

6.4 Postponing Motions

a. Any member who has obtained the floor may move that consideration of the question be postponed to any stated period or day within the Assembly schedule. The motion is made orally and must be seconded.

b. Discussion on a motion to postpone is limited to the propriety of the postponement.

c. There may be a motion to amend the period of postponement. Such an amendment follows the rules for amending motions in 6.2. b-f.

d. If the postponement motion fails, discussion continues on the previous main motion or an amendment.

6.5 Moving to next agenda point

a. Any member obtaining the floor may move to stop discussion on the motion and to go to the next agenda point, unless the chairman rules otherwise.

b. The motion is made orally and must be seconded. If seconded, it is voted without debate or further amendment.

c. If the motion passes, the question under discussion is dropped.

d. If the motion fails, discussion continues on the main motion or an amendment.

6.6 Withdrawing Motions

a. The member submitting an original motion or a motion to amend may obtain the floor and withdraw the motion. If there is no objection, the motion is withdrawn and discussion on it ceases. The person seconding the motion must agree.

b. If there is an objection, then a motion for withdrawal is required. The motion for withdrawal is made orally and must be seconded. The motion is voted without debate. If this motion fails, then discussion continues on the main motion or amendment.

6.7 Ending debate and calling for a vote

a. Any member obtaining the floor may move to stop discussion on the motion and call for vote on the motion.

b. The motion is made orally and must be seconded. If seconded, it is voted without debate or further amendment.

c. If the motion passes, the vote on the motion shall be taken without further debate or amendments.
d. If the motion fails, discussion continues on the main motion or an amendment.

§ 7 Voting
Only IFOAM members, IFOAM Regional Bodies and the Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers Organizations (INOFO) with voting cards are eligible to cast votes at the General Assembly.

Abstentions and invalid ballots are not counted as votes. A simple majority of the votes cast on a given motion is required for the adoption of that motion, except for motions on statutes, which require a two-thirds majority.

§ 8 Questions of Order
In such case where a member believes there is a breach of order, the member can object by standing and addressing the Chair by saying “Mr./Madame Chair, I raise a point of order.” After acknowledgement by the Chair, the member then states the question of order. The Chair then decides the question and allows or modifies the proceedings accordingly.

§ 9 Recommendations and Suggestions
9.1 Recommendations shall be presented to the GA in written form. All recommendations are based on a consensus process the procedures for which shall be made clear to the membership at the beginning of the GA. A recommendation must get a majority vote to be accepted. The recommendations are included in the minutes. The World Board reports to the following General Assembly what actions or considerations it has made related to the recommendations.

9.2 In order to evaluate the General Assembly the participants are provided with an opportunity for written feedback. These suggestions may address all items relevant for a successful General Assembly. The World Board shall compile the result and shall report the results of the evaluation back to the membership.

§ 10 Election of the World Board
The World Board is elected by written vote.

In the first round each member, each IFOAM Regional Body and INOFO may vote for a maximum of 10 candidates. Elected are the first 10 candidates who have received more than half of the votes.

If not all positions are filled in the first round a second ballot is taken for the remaining positions. The maximum number of votes for candidates cast by each voter shall equal the number of seats. Candidates who have received the most votes in this ballot are elected to fill the remaining positions.

In either round of voting, any vote that is rendered for less than 50% of the open seats is void.

§ 11 Election and Presentation of the Executive Board
Following the IFOAM statutes, the World Board chooses an Executive Board (see Statutes § 6) during the same General Assembly that has elected the World Board. Before the end of the General Assembly the World Board presents the newly elected Executive Board to the General Assembly.

§ 12 Amendment of the Rules of Procedure
12.1 Amendments to these Rules of Procedure may be proposed by the World Board or by at least 40 members. Proposals for such amendments shall be published at least two months before the General Assembly. These amendments will be voted after the approval of the agenda and the minutes of the previous GA and before any other decision is made. If adopted, the amendments apply to the present General Assembly.

12.2 Proposals for amendments by World Board not published in due time before the session must be approved by 2/3 majority.

12.3 In the course of a session of the General Assembly, these Rules of Procedure may only be changed by a proposal of at least 40 members represented, followed by a two-thirds-majority of votes cast on the proposal. If adopted, the amendments apply to the General Assembly immediately after approval.

First approved by the IFOAM General Assembly in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1992
Completely revised by the IFOAM General Assembly in Victoria, Canada, August 2002
Latest amended by the General Assembly in Adelaide, Australia, September 2005
§ 7 & 10, 2nd paragraph amended following the GA 2011 statutes change to grant voting rights to IFOAM Regional Bodies and INOFO.
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