

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. OPENING

AGENDA POINT 11: OPENING ADDRESS BY THE IFOAM PRESIDENT 2008 - 2011

Katherine DiMatteo announced that a quorum was achieved as 49% of the membership was represented by proxy (25% needed to achieve quorum). 316 votes were registered for the GA.

Proceedings commenced with a moment of reflection to remember dear, departed members of the movement.

Katherine DiMatteo introduced Kim Sung Hoon who made the opening address to the GA.

An announcement was made regarding Paldang Declaration to support the farmers of the region in their action to remain on their land. IFOAM members are asked to support the declaration as part of the support for organic agriculture in the region. Declaration could be signed at the IFOAM booth.

AGENDA POINT 12: ELECTION OF THE GA CHAIR

Motion: *“The GA approves as GA 2011 Chairs Liz Clay (Australia) and Dr. Shih-Shiung Chen (Taiwan).”*

Katherine DiMatteo presented the motion to approve the Chairs. **The motion was unanimously accepted.**

Other GA Officers appointed by the World Board are:

- Parliamentarians: Sue Edwards (Ethiopia), Vitoon Panyakul (Thailand).
- Minute keepers: Leslie Zuck (USA), Konrad Hauptfleisch (South Africa), Denise Godinho (Germany).
- Minute referees: Jorge Casale (Argentina), Diana Callear (South Africa).
- Ballot counters: Cory Whitney, Jennifer Chang, Robert Yang, Raymond Yang, Han Eusun, Tom Tang.

AGENDA POINT 13: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: *“The GA approves the agenda as presented in IA 107, p. 5, 8 & 32 and amended during the meeting: Agenda Point 51 is moved to after 25. Agenda Point 65 (Breeding Techniques Motion) is withdrawn.”*

This motion was accepted unanimously.

AGENDA POINT 14: APPROVAL GA MINUTES 2008 IN VIGNOLA

Motion: *“The GA approves the minutes from the 2008 GA in Vignola as published in IFOAM In Action 99, November 2008, p. 4-13.”*

This motion was accepted unanimously.

2. REPORTS 2008-2011

AGENDA POINT 21: WORLD BOARD AND OFFICE ACTIVITIES REPORTS

AGENDA POINT 22: IFOAM FINANCIAL REPORTS

AGENDA POINT 23: INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT AND WORLD BOARD DISCHARGE

The internal audit report was presented by Francis Blake in the absence of Eva Mattson.

Motion: *“The GA approves the financial reports 2008-10 and discharges the World Board from further responsibilities.”*

This motion was carried unanimously.

AGENDA POINT 24: OGS REVISION REPORT

AGENDA POINT 25: IFOAM ADVOCACY MESSAGES REPORT

AGENDA POINT 51: GOOD GOVERNANCE REPORT

AGENDA POINT 26: REPORTS FROM SELF-ORGANIZED IFOAM STRUCTURES

3. ELECTIONS

AGENDA POINT 31: PRESENTATION OF WORLD BOARD CANDIDATES

Each candidate for one of the ten World Board seats presented him/herself in a 2-minute presentation to the GA. The Nomination Committee presented a report.

AGENDA POINTS 32: WORLD BOARD ELECTIONS FIRST ROUND

The voting process was explained, and ballot papers were distributed to the members for voting.

AGENDA POINT 33: APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITORS AND REVISION OF TORs

Motion: *“The GA approves the new Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Internal Auditors as published in In Action 107 on pp. 31 + 32.”*

The new Terms of Reference were presented to the GA and friendly amendments were then put forward. The World Board decided to not consider these and to continue with the ToR as presented.

In response, **Bo van Elzakker presented an amending motion (seconded by Gunnar Rundgren) to insert after 2.e. a point 2.f., reading as follows:** “to evaluate the performance of each WB member and report in general terms to GA including recommendations to improve.”

Katherine DiMatteo cautioned that this was never part of the Internal Auditors’ ToR, and would add tremendously to their workload. The Internal Auditors did a general review, the WB does an internal review, but to review individually would require substantial changes.

In response, Gunnar Rundgren presented a friendly amendment to the amendment: “2.f to evaluate the activities of World Board members and report them to the General Assembly in general terms including recommendations to improve.”

The GA accepts the amendment and **the amendment is approved by majority.**

The GA elects as Internal Auditors Eva Mattsson, Grolink (Sweden) who will serve for another term and Steffen Reese, Naturland (Germany). Steffen Reese is invited to address the GA and the GA is asked to approve the appointment.

The GA approved the appointment unanimously.

4. PROGRAM 2011-2014

AGENDA POINT 41: PROGRAM 2014 & RECOMMENDATIONS

Katherine DiMatteo presented the IFOAM Strategy to the GA. Areas to concentrate on for Program 2014 are:

1. Social justice: World Board to establish Task Force on Social Justice
2. World Board to release a statement against introduction of locally developed GM bean in Brazil.
3. Communication strategies: IFOAM to start an informal network of journalists and media to publicize IFOAM activity.
4. Advocacy: GA urges IFOAM members to interact more actively with its structures.
5. Local Organic Sector development: Recommendation that regional

NOAMS network develop local linkages, use of GOM and local resources to promote the growth of OA worldwide.

The GA was asked to indicate agreement to this package. **The GA agreed on the recommendation package.**

Additional Recommendations:

Motion proposed by El Rincón Orgánico, seconded by GALCI, was lost in e-communication. It read as follows: “(...) it is proposed IFOAM should lead a process of dialogue among countries so that, based on the IFOAM Principles and a shared vision of the basic objectives of organic certification, a single procedure for harmonization and equivalence between the regulatory and/ or certification bodies be implemented in order to facilitate international trade. Additionally, IFOAM should promote a process of benchmarking and mutual recognition between the different regulation and certification schemes (complementary to organic) in common areas in order to facilitate the access of farmers to economically reasonable and simplified multi-certification services by certifiers.”

The GA was asked to accept this motion as recommendation, as it was not presented as motion. **The GA could not vote on it as motion, but indicated its support for this as recommendation.**

Otto Schmid (Switzerland) recommended that the task force should dialogue with group on animal husbandry. **The recommendation was generally accepted.**

AGENDA POINT 42: BUDGET 2012-2014

Motion: “The GA approves the budget outline 2012- 2014 as presented in In Action 107, p. 32.”

Budget presented by Andre Leu. Motion 42 to approve budget asked for by the Chair. **Motion 42 passed by clear majority vote.**

5. DECISIONS, WORLD BOARD MOTIONS

AGENDA POINT 52: IFOAM GLOBAL ACTION NETWORK MOTION

Motion 52: Global Action Network

The World Board suggested changing the statutes so that IFOAM’s identity

as a federation and of a global action network are both stated. The proposed title, including the new addition (in orange) to the statutes, read as follows: *“Statutes of an international federation and global action network that joins the efforts of its members to further Organic Agriculture as an ecologically, socially and economically sound and sustainable system of farming.”*

Motion 52: For: 15 (8%) Against: 165 Motion FAILED

AGENDA POINT 53: IFOAM SELF-ORGANIZED STRUCTURES MOTION

Motion 53: Empowered Self-Organized Structures

The World Board suggested including the self-organized structures in the statutes and suggests giving voting rights to Regional Bodies. This motion was split into three parts:

- Introduction of a new Chapter: *“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).”*

Friendly amendment by Raymond Auerbach, seconded by Heike Kirsten, to include a reference to ‘coalitions’ (in green). **The amendment was accepted by the WB and followed by a vote for acceptance of the amended motion.**

Motion 53.1: For: 165 (76%) Against: 52 Abstain: 18 Motion PASSED

- 53.2 Voting rights for the Regional Bodies Chapter 5, General Assembly, paragraph 5 is adapted as follows (new in orange): *“The General Assembly votes by simple majority. Members and IFOAM Regional Bodies have one vote each.”*

Motion 53.2: For: 140 (75%) Against: 46 Motion PASSED

- 53.3 Representation rights for the Regional Bodies Chapter 5, General Assembly, paragraph 5 was adapted as follows (new in orange): *“.. Votes by written proxy are permitted, but restricted to a total of five, in the case of IFOAM Regional Bodies of ten votes per person.”*

Motion 53.3: For: 110 Against: 106 Abstain: 10 Motion FAILED

- *“53.4 All votes extended to the regional bodies apply to INOFO.”*
Additional motion, 53.4, presented by Andrea Ferrante, seconded Sarvdaman Patel.

Motion 53.4: For: 187 (84%) Against: 36 Abstain:8 Motion PASSED

1st Round Election Results		2nd Round Election Results	
Andre Leu	253 votes	James Cole	133 votes
Roberto Ugas	206 votes	Gabriela Soto	132 votes
Mathew John	190 votes	Manjo Smith	123 votes
Matthew Holmes	181 votes	Eva Torremocha	112 votes
-	-	Frank Eyhorn	104 votes
-	-	Volkert Engelsmann	101 votes

Agenda Point 54: WB Term Motion



The new IFOAM World Board (left to right): Mathew John, Roberto Ugas (V.P.), Matthew Holmes, James Cole, Andre Leu (President), Manjo Smith, Frank Eyhorn, Eva Torremocha, Gabi Soto (V.P.), Volkert Engelsmann.

Motion 54: Six-year World Board Term and Staggered Elections

Originally stated in paragraph 7: "Every regular General Assembly elects ten World Board members." To be replaced by: "Every regular General Assembly elects *half of the World Board of ten members for a term of six years.*"

Amendment proposed by Matthew Holmes, Seconded by Brian Baker: "The internal auditors, in consultation with the nomination committee will release to the membership a recommended board slate that will address the need for board continuity, as well as other considerations, including gender balance."

Amendment was NOT accepted as an amendment and therefore discarded by the Chair.

Motion 54: For: 14 (6%) Against: 225 Abstain: 8 Motion FAILED

AGENDA POINT 55: WORLD BOARD GENDER QUOTA MOTION

Motion 55: 40% Gender Quota

The World Board suggests introducing a 40% gender quota for the World Board. This requires a new sentence in the statutes in Paragraph 7 after the first sentence: "Each gender has to be represented in the World Board with a minimum of 40%."

Motion 55: For: 75 (30%) Against: 169 Abstain: 8 Motion FAILED

AGENDA POINT 56: MEMBERSHIP FEE MOTION

Motion 56: Affiliation Fee System Revision

"The GA approves an adaptation of the affiliation fee system and proposes the system as published in In Action 107 on page 34 from 2012 onwards."

The World Board presented the proposed membership fee system with a friendly amendment, proposed by Gunnar Rundgren and seconded by António Compagnoni and Gerold Hermann. The friendly amendment was an adaptation to the up to 5,000,000 and over 5,000,000 Euros budget/ turnover categories to 3,000 and 4,000 Euros respectively.

Amendment proposed by Pablito Villegas, seconded by James Cole: "Include an affiliate yearly budget or turnover of up to 15,000 Euros in the classification of fees. Such policy will ensure inclusive growth in membership and promote IFOAM's policies of social inclusion of smallholders, small-scale organic producers and small organic farmer organizations."

Amendment to Motion 56: Yes: 47 No: 134 Amendment FAILED

Amendment proposed by Gerd Schnepel, seconded by Elba Riviera: "Small-holder organizations pay during the first two years a symbolic membership fee of 20 USD/ p.a."

Amendment to Motion 56: Yes: 53 Against: 122 Abstain: 24 Amendment FAILED

Motion 56: Yes: 128 Against: 32 Motion PASSED

AGENDA POINT 57: SUSTAINABILITY IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOTION

Motion 57: Sustainability in Agriculture

"IFOAM shall position Organic Agriculture better in its own and the public perception as a holistic, sustainable farming system that is committed to further develop its practices to meet traditional and new challenges. To implement this motion, IFOAM shall build an action network with allies which works out a new positioning *that highlight the multiple benefits* of Organic Agriculture. IFOAM shall also develop strategic recommendations regarding sustainability development for the stakeholders of the organic world."

Friendly Amendment by Frank Eyhorn.

Motion 57 (amended): Yes: Clear majority No: 0 Abstain: 1 Motion PASSED

6. DECISIONS, MEMBERS' MOTIONS

AGENDA POINT 61: ORGANIC GREENHOUSE PRODUCTION MOTION

Motion 61: Organic Greenhouse Production

"The IFOAM standards for organic production in greenhouses must encourage an agriculture consistent with the preservation of natural balance in living soils and plants, that seeks to maintain the right level of soil organic matter and is rooted in the soil and sub-soil. All practices not consistent with the IFOAM principles of organic agriculture are to be refused. The living soil nourishes the plant and must not, in any situation, be simply an inert substrate and medium of support. Cultural practices must preserve or increase soil fertility and improve soil ecology and biodiversity. Therefore, out-of-soil culture is to be refused in organic greenhouse production, apart from organic plants sold in pots or to be replanted in soil. Rapidly soluble fertility amendments (mineral and organic) are allowed, only as a necessary complement

when other fertilization techniques have proved insufficient. Permitting such techniques to be used systematically is therefore incompatible with the organic method of agriculture. IFOAM, through its Standards Committee, will monitor existing practice and subsequent efforts to develop specific standards for organic protected crop production and will, in consultation with the membership, propose specific requirements for inclusion in a future version of the IFOAM Standard.”

Motion 61 (amended by motioners): Yes: 104 Against: 66 Abstain: 8 Motion PASSED

AGENDA POINT 62: EXCLUSION OF AGRICULTURE FROM CARBON TRADING MECHANISM MOTION

Motion 62: Exclusion of Agriculture from Carbon Trading Mechanisms

“The World Board should promote the development of alternative financing systems to support organic farming and agro-ecological approaches to agriculture that provide a real solution for climate change for vulnerable farmers and communities and a fair compensation to organic farmers for their contribution to mitigation and adaptation strategies.

At the same time IFOAM should strongly advocate against including agriculture in any speculative carbon market schemes especially those controlled by the international finance system.”

Motion 62 (amended by motioners): Yes: Clear majority Against: 0 Motion PASSED

AGENDA POINT 35: ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW PRESIDENT/ EXECUTIVE BOARD

The newly elected WB decided on the new President and Vice Presidents and informed the GA. Andre Leu was introduced as new IFOAM President, Roberto Ugas and Gaby Soto as Vice-Presidents.

AGENDA POINT 63: FARMER CO-OPTATION MOTION

Motion 63: Farmer Co-optation

“May it please the General Assembly of IFOAM to congratulate the outgoing World Board for establishing the Inter-Continental Network of Organic Farmers’ Movements [INOFO], giving permanency to PGS by converting the Task Force to a Committee and setting up a Task Force on Good Governance to set

in process reform in its working systems and make it more ‘farmer friendly’ than it was before.”

Moses Muwanga presents the motion, amended by the motioners; the last section was removed by the motioners after the Motion Bazaar and thus obtained the support of WB.

It is pointed out, however, that the amendment did not address the original aim of motion as it removes the proposal to co-opt two farmer representatives. **The Chair decides to withdraw the amended motion on a technical point of order but a clear message to the WB is that smallholder farmers need to be engaged.**

AGENDA POINT 64: FAMILY FARMS MOTION AND FAMILY AGRICULTURE MOTION

Motion 64.1: Family Farms

“IFOAM should encourage and participate in medium and long-term research, in order to enable the integral assessment of organic systems of family farms, including monetary income and its impact in the quality of life of the families, especially for those who are internationally defined as living in ‘poverty’ conditions. To that end, it shall in particular establish and build alliances and cooperation with specialized research organizations and local experts, capable of delivering integral evaluations in the mid and long term in developing countries.

It shall take into consideration available research done in this field and explore collaboration with other initiatives to assess the impact of farming systems on the livelihoods of family farms.”

Friendly amendment by Frank Eyhorn.

Motion 64.1 (amended): For: Clear unanimous Against: 0 Abstain:0 Motion PASSED

Motion 64.2: Family Agriculture

“IFOAM, as signatory organization for the declaration of the International Year of Family Agriculture, shall lead the positioning of Family Agriculture – and its campaign- in the main networks, platforms and dialogue and cooperation spaces it participate, based on IFOAM’s Smallholder Position Paper highlighting successful stories of family farmers members around the world.

IFOAM shall put emphasis on:

- The contribution to social, economic, environmental and cultural sustainability in developing countries.
- The promotion of better visibility, valuation and equity of family Organic Agriculture in governments and public policies.
- The promotion of policies, programs and development projects with research and innovation components.
- The role and participation of consumers.”

Friendly amendment by Elizabeth Henderson, seconded by Michael Sligh, to add the following bullet points:

- The importance of ensuring fairness and social justice for all who labor in agriculture.
- The gender balance in family agriculture recognizing the key roles and responsibilities of women.

Point of order: The amendment was said to detract from the advocacy aim of original motion. **The Chair's position was to disallow the friendly amendment.**

Motion 64.2 (original) : For: Majority Against: 0 Abstain: 2 Motion PASSED

7. OWC/GA 2014 AND CLOSURE

AGENDA POINT 71: PROPOSALS FOR OWC/GA 2014

The GA voted unanimously for Istanbul 2014. The dates 4 - 14 October 2014 received general support.

AGENDA POINT 72: IFOAM RECOGNITIONS

Recognition awards now follow specific criteria to make them an award for excellence. Other service recognition will now be done via a certificate of appreciation. IFOAM's Recognition Award was given to Laura Montenegro (Argentina), Francis Blake (UK), Beate Huber (Switzerland), Vitoon Panyakul (Thailand) and Bo van Elzakker (Netherlands).

Moment of reflection: Markus Arbenz and Katherine DiMatteo shared final thoughts on OWC/GA.

AGENDA POINT 73: CLOSURE BY THE NEW IFOAM PRESIDENT AND HAND-OVER OF THE MANDATE BY THE CHAIR TO THE NEW WORLD BOARD

IFOAM SAVE THE DATE!



THE 18TH IFOAM ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS

'BRIDGING THE ORGANIC WORLD: FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL, FROM TRADITION TO KNOWLEDGE'

- ISTANBUL, OCTOBER 4-14, 2014 -

