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Istanbul, Turkey

IFOAM, Organics International, Declaration on Building the Bridge to Organic 3.0 18th Organic World Congress – Istanbul, Turkey – 13-15 October 2014

Preamble

We, the organic-minded people of the world, have come together to assist society with innovative ways to manifest the Principles of Organic Agriculture to help humanity sustain itself on Earth. Committed to meeting the challenge of sustainability, we extend ourselves to build bridges to other people, organizations, and institutions. During the 18th Organic World Congress we have come together to make a step in developing Organic 3.0, a new concept for how we define our agriculture system, design our lives, and strategize our future.

Our achievements

Organic pioneers, with their groundbreaking ideas from around the world have been heard (Organic 1.0). Millions of people have built broad knowledge and alternative markets that prove that farming systems based on agroecology and sustainable value chains are feasible and advantageous. Millions of people produce, market and consume organic products, as part of formally certified chains worth over US\$65 billion, plus unmeasured millions more produced and sold under alternative market systems (Organic 2.0). Our impact on global awareness of sustainability issues extends beyond our own direct market impact, influencing and impelling other such initiatives forward.

Our vision and contribution

We envision an organic approach that benefits the common good through which consumers, policy makers, businesses, and all other organizations come to value organic principles as the mainstream approach to sustainability – an approach that continually shows improvements and a leading way toward positive impact.

We see how organic agriculture can feed and nurture the world. It raises people out of poverty by providing livelihoods, nutrient-dense foods from regenerative fertile soils, thriving ecosystems, and interdependent mutually supportive value chains. Based on the knowledge of diverse cultures and traditions, and further empowered through relevant scientific disciplines of agroecology, organic principles and practices show ways to enhance private business ethics and public governance.

Organic practices are increasingly shown, through scientific study and widespread experience, to help reverse global trends caused by the dominant agriculture paradigm with respect to climate change, poverty, malnutrition, exposure to toxins, ecosystem degradation, loss of wild and on-farm biodiversity, resource depletion, and social marginalization. Organic practices are possible on small, medium, and large scale operations. They collectively build communities, enhance cultures, safeguard biodiversity, foster traditional knowledge and innovation, and respect human rights.

Our approach

We declare that the organic approach to sustainability is not a niche; it should be society's mainstream choice and be supported to continue spreading and improving itself. Organic 3.0 emphasizes the importance of integrative and innovative approaches that effectively support farmers to meet ecological, economic, societal, and cultural challenges. We call on everyone to accept and embrace organic approaches as the true core of sustainability in agriculture, the base on which a truly sustainable future can be built.

We commit to an organic approach that is increasingly inclusive and accessible, transparent and comprehensive, one that respects diversity and encourages local solutions to local challenges. We promise to assist in synergistically coordinating activities among our constituents, but also beyond. We heed and influence global trends about consumption, and evolve market mechanisms to enable even the weakest parts of the production chain to prosper. We seize the opportunity to increase our

presence in all markets, from local to international, as we improve and innovate credible market guarantee methodologies. We shall develop collective networks and alliances with stakeholders with whom we share goals, and engage them to participate in reforming the agricultural sector.

We continue to expand the scope of products we address, beyond food to textiles, body care, forestry, energy, and amenity horticulture, inclusive of all geographies and demographics, rural and urban, for all sectors using agriculture as its base.

Our engagement and commitment

We call on all stakeholders to join with us to affirm our interdependence and assume shared responsibility for the collective health and prosperity of humanity. We call for policy reform that empowers the organic paradigm and supports it with positions, educational campaigns, and tools. We reach out and build bridges to others to reduce farm practices and inputs that have adverse effects, to build diversity, to create fairness, and to improve nutrition and health.

We commit to enabling the widespread adoption of leading organic practices by giving attention to producers so that they can convert non-organic practices to organic ones, and/or improve existing organic practices. We further commit to advocating and creating market opportunities for producers and their value chains so that organic production provides them a stable and attractive livelihood, sustaining their families and communities. We shall nurture, educate, and enable new and young organic farmers and consumers, so that they may become the next generation of leaders toward healthy communities and societal prosperity. We pledge to enable diversity in systems and products to allow for greater opportunity, health, and ecosystem benefits.

We strive to establish an organic presence and a permanent voice in government and policy formation that represents the interests and ideas of the organic movement, and recognizes and rewards the benefits it brings. We shall strengthen our efforts to protect organic producers and consumers from unfair policies, and to hold polluters accountable for their actions.

We further call on ourselves, our allies, governments and all others to devote human and financial resources toward further improving on the organic paradigm's achievements. We dedicate ourselves to further developing and disseminating the results of scientific research across a full spectrum of issues in order to maximize our positive impact. We commit to continuing to seek, build, and share expertise and techniques, revitalize local and indigenous knowledge, and share seeds and breeds as open source benefits for the world.

We invite exchange with others who strive to solve the challenges of sustainability, to share knowledge, techniques, methodologies, and technologies so that they can be integrated in alignment with the Principles of Organic Agriculture, brought into practice and permeate society with a renewed awareness about the interdependence of peoples and ecosystems, with shared benefits for all. We acknowledge the capabilities and innovations of other individuals and groups who have acted largely outside of the organic movement, and offer opportunities for new alliances, collaboration and synergy.

We express our collective path forward as Organic 3.0, signifying the next wave of the organic movement, and encourage all parties to proactively support agroecological approaches and communicate this quantum leap forward that we intend.

Appendix

The Principles of Organic Agriculture

Principle of Health:

Organic Agriculture sustains and enhances the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible.

Principle of Ecology:

Organic Agriculture is based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.

Principle of Fairness:

Organic Agriculture builds on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities

Principle of Care:

Organic Agriculture is managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

The Definition of Organic Agriculture

Organic Agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic Agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.

IFOAM

Founded in 1972, IFOAM, ORGANICS INTERNATIONAL, is an international Global Action Network and the international umbrella organization for the organic movement. Currently, IFOAM represents over 750 member organizations in over 100 countries. Among IFOAM's affiliates are, for example, organic farmers' associations, organizations from the organic food industry and fair trade, research institutions, as well as certifiers. IFOAM represents the common interests of the organic movement based on the principles of organic agriculture (ecology, health, fairness and care). The worldwide adoption of ecologically, socially and economically sound systems, based on the principles of Organic Agriculture, is IFOAM's highest-ranking goal.