

# Draft Minutes of the General Assembly

## Vignola, Italy June 22nd - 24th, 2008

Please note that all motions approved by the General Assembly are in bold.

The President of IFOAM, Gerald Herrmann opened the 2008 IFOAM General Assembly at approximately 9 am on the 22nd June, 2008.

The President established the quorum as required by the statutes. 268 members are represented out of a membership of 552 i.e. 48% of the membership is in attendance. The quorum requirement was met.

### To Agenda Point No. 2: Approval of Chairpersons

The General Assembly elects Beate Huber and Brian McElroy as chairpersons for this General Assembly.

**Motion carried.**

### To Agenda Point No. 3: General Assembly Minutes Adelaide

The General Assembly approves the minutes of the last General Assembly in Adelaide, Australia, September 2005 as presented in IFOAM In Action # 89 from December 2005 and amended by the Executive Board in May 2007 (agenda point 29: Purpose of the OGS.) published in IFOAM In Action # 95, October 2007, page 3.

**Motion carried.**

To Agenda Point No. 4: Approval of General Assembly Agenda  
**Friendly amendment** to the agenda made by Angela Caudle de Freitas, Executive Director. There will be a guest speaker before the business of the meeting commences each morning.

And one clarification: points that are not numbered in the published agenda are not part of that agenda but are listed for information.

The General Assembly approves the proposed General Assembly agenda as published in IFOAM In Action 97, April, 2008.

**Motion carried.**

The other officers of the General Assembly were introduced as follows:

Parliamentarians: Liz Clay & Francis Blake

Minute takers: Leslie Zuck, Jan Deane & Christiana Christen

Referees: Vitoon Ruenglertpanyakul & Souleymane Bassoum

Ballot counters: Mateuz Banski, Semanta Rossi, Milena Belli, Carlos Escobar

### To Agenda Point No. 5: Rules of Procedure for the IFOAM General Assembly

The Chair outlined the Rules of Procedure.

### To Agenda Point No. 6: Guest Addresses

Allert van den Ham of HIVOS was introduced as the first guest speaker by Angela Caudle de Freitas. Angela Cooper, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), was the guest speaker on the second day. The final guest speaker on the third morning of the General Assembly was Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher, Environmental Protection Authority Ethiopia.

### To Agenda Point No. 7: World Board Report

Gerald Herrmann and Mette Meldgaard presented highlights from the World Board Report:

- It has proved complicated to find a satisfactory system of organization and equivalence within the Organic Guarantee System and IFOAM has not been able to roll out a scenario as a complete system. More time is needed but the new concept, to be introduced at this General Assembly represents a leap forward.
- IFOAM is a small organization financially with about 13 full time staff positions and a proportion of the finances are coming from project funding. Financial monitoring has been improved with the help of a senior financial advisor. The change in fee structure approved at the General Assembly in Adelaide has not produced the expected higher income and there has been a loss of members. However, donations are growing and there is a net income from conferences. IFOAM-Growing Organic project funding (supported by HIVOS and the Dutch government Biodiversity Fund) will stop after 2008.
- World Board and Executive Board meetings generally take place in Bonn, which saves travel time and expense for staff. On the minus side, this means that there is less opportunity to meet the membership. IFOAM is too small to travel everywhere, so IFOAM depends on the voluntary work of its members and have mandated members to speak on behalf of IFOAM. Thus IFOAM is able to have a presence at more events.
- The IFOAM Executive Director deserves credit. With the loose management structure she inherited, her task was challenging. IFOAM now has well structured policies and procedures and, although we remain low with resources, the organization is stable.
- IFOAM is needed on a global level. We have a chance to

make our voice heard and to play a leading role in world wide advocacy and we appreciate the support of the members and the movement.

To Agenda Point No. 8: Report of Internal Auditors and relief of the World Board

Tomas Vaclavik and Frank Rumpel were appointed as Internal Auditors at the 2005 General Assembly. The internal audit report was presented by Tomas Vaclavik.

Most recommendations have been addressed and implemented and work is on track. The principles of Organic Agriculture have been finalized and the definition of Organic Agriculture will be presented at this General Assembly. IFOAM has played a significant role in the International Task Force with a view to harmonization. Financial control has improved substantially with rolling budgets and up to date books and resources are being used efficiently. The Organic World Foundation has been established and will help stabilize finances in the future. IFOAM made a profit in 2006 and 2007.

The Internal Auditors have made one recommendation. The Bonn Head Office is staffed by a mixture of very experienced and very young workers and therefore extensive training for these younger staff members was recommended.

The General Assembly approves the financial reports from 2005 to 2007 as presented in IFOAM In Action # 97, April 2008, and relieves the World Board of any further responsibility. Motion carried.

To Agenda Point No. 9: Organic Guarantee System Revision report

Brendan Hoare and Mette Meldgaard presented a new concept for the Organic Guarantee System (OGS) revision which was discussed and agreed by the World Board at their meeting prior to the Organic World Congress. There are a great variety of standards which reflect a variety of processes throughout the world and there should be a place within IFOAM for all of them. Therefore it is proposed that the benchmark standard concept be replaced by a tool for equivalence which gives the possibility for recognition between various Organic Guarantee Systems in the world. This reference norm would be known as IFOAM Requirements for Standards (IROS) and would serve primarily for equivalence determination. IFOAM accreditation would be decoupled from the IROS and certification bodies could choose their reference norm from one of the family of equivalent standards or use another

organic standard. The Certification Body Forum initiated in 2006 will continue to play an important role for information exchange and capacity building and IFOAM will continue to develop Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS). IFOAM will work with the International Organic Accreditation Service (IOAS) to allow national accreditation bodies to carry out IFOAM accreditation in order to increase access and reduce costs to certification bodies. IFOAM is also interested in developing integrity assurance beyond certification.

A full report about the new concept for the revision of the Organic Guarantee System will be presented to the membership with the next regular IFOAM In Action newsletter.

To Agenda Point No. 10: IFOAM Program 2011

The six goals of the IFOAM Program 2011 were introduced by various members of the World Board.

**Goal 1:** Be the international authority and most effective voice on all matters organic

**Goal 2:** Increase market share for organic products and access to them at local, regional and international levels

**Goal 3:** Enhance capacity of the organic sector to sustain growth and development

**Goal 4:** Strengthen IFOAM as a democratic global action network

**Goal 5:** Create "think spaces" to cultivate the organic future

**Goal 6:** Ensure effective management and organization.

To Agenda Point No. 11: Introduction to Interactive Consensus Process and Motion Bazaar

Thomas Cierpka IFOAM Head Office, explained the purpose of the afternoon's activities.

To Agenda Point No. 12: Motion Bazaar

Not minuted.

To Agenda Point No. 13: Report of Nomination Committee

Tom Harding, Chair of the Nomination Committee reported that the committee had met several times by telephone conference and had one in person meeting. The Nomination Committee suggested to be given more time to evaluate each candidate and that the World Board should consider setting term limits and recommended that the co-option possibility

be retained.

To Agenda Point No. 14: Presentation of World Board candidates

The following candidates made short presentations to the Assembly: Jacqueline Haessig Alleje, Masaya Koriyama, Urs Niggli, Heather Lin, Vanaja Ramprasad, Fabio Piccioli, Moses Muwanga, Gerald Herrmann, Alessandro Triantafyllidis, PVSM Gouri, Katherine DiMatteo, Chido Makunike, Ong Kung Wai, Jim Riddle, Roberto Ugas, Brendan Hoare, Andre Leu, Eugene Milovanov, Lamine Bara Diao. Gabriela Soto was not present, but had sent a video presentation.

To Agenda Point No. 15: Member motions I: Seeds and Patents

Motion 15.1 was not published in its entirety. A friendly amendment from the motion maker of 15.2 had been made at the Motion Bazaar, accepted by the motion maker and the two motions combined.

*Friendly Amendment proposed by Michael Sligh, National Organic Coalition, and accepted by the motion maker: Replace “pay particular attention to” with “ensure”*

*Motion: The General Assembly instructs the World Board to develop a position paper on the use of organic seed and propagation materials in Organic Agriculture.*

*The paper shall balance the development of a commercial organic seed and propagation material production with the need to safeguard and promote informal or formal seed and plant exchange and vibrant bio-diversity on organic farms. It should respond to pressing issues including, but not limited to:*

- *how can organic seed production best be stimulated;*
- *how can farmers control over the organic seeds be asserted, or at least that their right to use, sell and exchange seeds are not limited;*
- *how can organic standards ensure that organic farmers will not be more limited in their choice of varieties than conventional farmers;*
- *how can organic standards ensure that the use of seeds and propagation material from non-cultivated land, household gardens, informal exchange, gene-banks etc is possible on organic farms;*
- *how can organic farming systems assure the dynamic*

*conservation of agro-biodiversity and its associated social and cultural value, including local varieties, farmers’ varieties and old commercial varieties.*

*The paper should cover the social, economic and environmental aspects of organic seed production and make a thorough analysis of the implications of the mandatory requirement for use of organic seed, certified as seed or not. It should take into account the situation for farmers in countries with small and weak sectors, and the strong link between agriculture diversity and traditional cultures. Finally, the paper should address the issue of the implementation of projects and strategies to start organic breeding. That breeding should include farmers in all the process (participatory plant breeding – PPB) and ensure the fair use of intellectual property rights, avoiding the corporate control of seed industry.*

*Throughout the IFOAM mission [statement] and the Principles of Organic Agriculture should be used as the main guidance for forming the recommendations.*

*Motion carried.*

*Motion 15.2: Motion was withdrawn by the motion maker.*

*Motion 15.3: To encourage the use of seeds within organic systems that are bred and maintained using open pollination and natural crossing techniques.*

*Motion carried.*

*Motion 15.4*

*Friendly amendment proposed by Miles McEvoy, WSDA and accepted by the motion maker: This Assembly requires of the World Board the formulation of a clear IFOAM policy position prohibiting the use of any permanent property patents on living organisms particularly in plants and seeds in Organic Agriculture, these being a threat to biodiversity.*

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*Motion carried.*

*To Agenda Point No. 16: World Board Election*

*The results of the first ballot were announced. 192 persons representing 339 organizations from 69 countries cast ballots. All ballots cast were valid and none were void. The following were elected with more than 50% of the votes*

casted (170 votes or more).

Urs Niggli - 274 votes

Roberto Ugas - 252 votes

Jacqueline Haessig Alleje - 194 votes

Moses Kiggundu Muwanga - 193 votes

Vanaja Ramprasad - 178 votes

To Agenda Point No. 17: IFOAM Program 2011 Recommendations from the Monday break out sessions

The rapporteurs presented the outcome of the various groups to the plenary.

## Goal 1: Be the international authority and most effective voice on all matters organic

### Recommendation one:

Meant as an activity under Objective 2 or 3:

To develop strategic planning and coordination that considers:

- research studies
- media support
- and government advocacy

**Recommendation carried, 1 opposed, 19 abstentions**

### Recommendation two:

Change the wording of objective 5:

Objective 5: Place Organic Agriculture as the agricultural solution to achieve food security food sovereignty.

**Recommendation carried, 9 against, 38 abstentions**

### Recommendation three:

Rephrase objective 6 to open it up for also other topics than climate change.

Objective 6: Place Organic Agriculture as a provider of vital ecosystem services such as nutrient recycling, regulating hydraulic flows, habitat for biodiversity, mitigating climate change and environmental stability on the whole.

**Recommendation carried, 2 opposed, 13 abstentions**

## Goal 2: Increase market share for organic products and access to them at local, regional and international levels.

### Recommendation one:

Recommend the goal be changed to read

Facilitate an increase in organic supply chains and organic markets at all levels, local regional and international; in accordance with standards and principles defined by IFOAM.

There are three elements in this change - Facilitate ..... Supply chains & organic markets .....in accordance with standards and principles.

**Recommendation carried, 7 opposed, 30 abstained**

### Recommendation two:

Continually improve the IFOAM Organic Guarantee System as an international harmonization tool and develop mechanisms to maintain organic integrity and to provide support for the IFOAM accreditation program.

**Recommendation carried, 0 opposed, 35 abstained**

### Recommendation three:

The group endorsed harmonization but wished to put down some recommended actions:

- develop training manuals on marketing organic produce and developing local markets
- establish a task force for an alternative to transaction certificates and to promote this to regulatory authorities.

**Recommendation carried, 16 opposed, 24 abstained**

## Goal 3: Enhance capacity of the organic sector to sustain growth and development.

There was a polite suggestion from the group that the title of this goal should include "human".

**Suggestion approved**

### Recommendation one:

Objective 1: IFOAM should work with local organisations to distribute training materials (which include ideas on training methods) to users in a controlled way, possibly through some sort of licensing process allowing printing, cultural adaptation, translation, customisation.

**Recommendation carried, 24 abstained**

### Recommendation two:

Objective 2: The IFOAM emphasis should be on influencing and facilitation of service providers rather than IFOAM delivering training themselves.

**Recommendation carried, 12 opposed, 16 abstained**

### Recommendation three:

Objective 3 and 4: We recommend that we combine objectives 3 and 4 given that much of the training material aimed at trainers and leaders would overlap and given the limited resources of IFOAM.

**Recommendation carried, 0 opposed, 10 abstained**

## Goal 4: Strengthen IFOAM as a democratic global action network

### Recommendation one:

IFOAM initiates a participatory process to define democracy related to Organic Agriculture as a basic step to achieve Goal N 4. (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4).

**Recommendation carried, 12 opposed, 33 abstained**

**Recommendation two:**

Develop a clear and comprehensive communication strategy that is decentralized, inclusive, and geared to information flow in all directions. Such strategy should include, but is not limited to the following:

- a) Takes into account our different conditions and cultures.
- b) Inclusive of all members.
- c) No north-south bias.
- d) Pay special attention to the needs of farmer member organizations.
- e) Facilitates the networking with other like-minded organizations by IFOAM and its members, i.e., SADED, ESFASF, SAI, unions, etc. (Objective 1)
- f) Communicate availability of existing IFOAM tools for members to represent IFOAM in national, regional and local forums (policies, training platform, position papers, resources). (Objective 3)
- g) Facilitate member management of IFOAM “organic wikipedia” on website, google groups and other IT communication tools. (Objectives 3, 4)
- h) Creating links to other websites from IFOAM website. (Objectives 1, 3)
- i) Facilitating distribution of member translations of IFOAM documents. (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4)

Create conditions which allow IFOAM members to adopt a high level of responsibility in the distribution of IFOAM related information to their members and in their region. (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4)

**Recommendation carried, 21 opposed, 39 abstained**

**Recommendation three:**

Prioritize a list of issues where position papers are needed, and communicate availability of existing and new position papers to members. (Objectives 1, 3, 4)

**Recommendation carried, 0 opposed, 14 abstained**

## Goal 5: Create “think spaces” to cultivate the organic future

**Recommendation one:**

Change objective 3 to read

Identify and communicate the synergies and create alliances between the organic community and other consumption, production and lifestyle trends. Delete the last sentence in the explanatory paragraph.

**Recommendation carried, 7 opposed, 5 abstained**

**Recommendation two:**

Change objected no. 2 to read

Identify, evaluate and promote best practices and innovations in organic systems in collaboration with local, regional and international partners.

**Recommendation carried, 1 opposed, 9 abstained**

**Recommendation three:**

Change objective 1 to read :

Develop ideas, facilitate discussions and develop strategies to create an organic future in a rapidly changing world. E.g. create strategies to deal with climate change or peak oil.

These spaces might include:

- Discussions at future World Congresses
- Internet forums
- Task force
- Conferences on emerging trends e.g. Energy use in organic farming
- Building alliances with existing efforts such as LEISA
- Use Ecology and Farming to frame a discussion.

These spaces would be created so that everyone could be part of the discussion; it would involve stakeholders from all relevant sectors and always ensure that the farm sector was included.

**Recommendation carried, 6 Opposed, 42 abstained**

## Goal 6: Ensure effective management and organization.

**Recommendation one:**

IFOAM’s Profile

- Brand (Explore visibility and expansion of the IFOAM brand)
- Use IFOAM Mission/Four Principles to interest specific donor groups

**Recommendation two:**

Broadening Sources of Funding

- Industry Sponsorship (Corporate Social Responsibility)
- Foundations
- Increasing capacity of existing structures and internal bodies for fund raising
- Provide more space for Executive Director to fundraise

**Recommendation three:**

Reviewing membership strategy and structure

- Clarify who our members are and how we target and support them
- Communication to members (and members of members)
- Creating an effective voice regarding what IFOAM has to offer
- Additional targeted membership development (and fundraising)

(Focus on business community particularly in developing countries)

The recommendations were grouped and voted on as a bloc.

**Recommendation carried, 3 opposed, 26 abstentions**

To Agenda Point No. 18: Approval of budget 2009-2011

The budget was presented by Angela Caudle de Freitas.

There was a question for clarification from Elizabeth Henderson, NOFA as to why no accreditation income was shown. The response was that the accreditation program currently brings no money to IFOAM, although IFOAM maintains the elements on which it is based.

This was followed by a presentation by Gerald Herrmann on the newly formed International Organic World Foundation. The purpose of this Foundation is related to IFOAM's mission and goals and will be run under the guidance of the World Board.

**Motion from the World Board**

**The General Assembly approves the IFOAM budget proposal for 2009, 2010 and 2011 as published in IFOAM In Action # 97, April 2008.**

**Motion carried.**

To Agenda Point No. 19: World Board Election (Second Round)

Procedure for the second round ballot was explained. Gerald Herrmann withdraws his candidacy.

To Agenda Point No. 20: Member motions II: Organic Guarantee System, IFOAM Basic Standards, Organic Integrity

The Chair announced that the floor would be opened for 15 minutes for discussion followed by a 3 minute recap from the World Board.

Gerald Herrmann, World Board clarified a few points regarding the new concept for the Organic Guarantee System.

- 1) The Board agrees that the IFOAM Requirements for Standards (IROS) will be decided by the membership through a motion process followed by a membership vote.
- 2) The Board also agrees that the decision on whether to decouple standards would also be decided by a membership vote as this is a fundamental change of direction.

**Motion: To have the World Board explain its new proposal for the Organic Guarantee System and have a discussion about it.**

**Motion carried.**

The Chair indicates that Motion 20.1 will be voted on after Motion 20.5.

**Motion 20.2:** Motion was withdrawn.

**Motion 20.3:** Motion was withdrawn.

**Motion 20.4**

Motion amended during the motion bazaar and accepted by the motion maker as a friendly amendment.

**Motion: That this assembly direct the World Board to balance and augment its focus on harmonization as its principle pursuit and re-establish IFOAM as a leader in technical standards setting and recapture IFOAM's important role in shaping the nature of Organic Agriculture.**

**Motion carried.**

**Motion 20.5**

Motion amended during the motion bazaar and accepted by the motion maker as a friendly amendment.

**Motion: This Assembly expects the IFOAM Basic Standards to be maintained, developed and regularly revised as they are IFOAM's identity and protection of its integrity.**

**Motion carried.**

**Motion 20.1**

Motion amended during the Motion Bazaar and accepted as a friendly amendment by the motion maker.



**Friendly amendment** proposed by Miles McEvoy, seconded by Elizabeth Henderson and accepted by the motion maker. Replace “is developed into an” with “includes an”:

**Friendly amendment** proposed by Jim Riddle and accepted by the motion maker. Strike out “old/current”.

**Friendly amendment** proposed by Gunnar Rundgren and accepted by the motion maker. Strike out the last paragraph.

**Motion:** The GA agrees that the IFOAM Accreditation Program includes an IFOAM Best Practice program within the Organic Guarantee System.

**Motion did not carry.**

#### **Motion 20.6**

Motion amended during the Motion Bazaar and accepted as a friendly amendment by the motion maker.

**Motion:** That this assembly requires that recommendations and draft standards be retained in the Basic Standards as indication of those areas where further development is necessary or in progress. The function of the Basic Standards as a guidance document should be kept: therefore

1. The recently revised IFOAM Basic Standard is re-elaborated into the IFOAM Requirements for Organic Standards (IROS) and will be used as an equivalency tool for harmonization (IFOAM unifies)
2. IFOAM benchmark standards (IBS) (best practice standards) are developed and could be used for IFOAM accreditation. (IFOAM leads)
3. IROS and IBS are integral parts of the IFOAM Norms for Organic Agriculture. The role of this standard would be to unite and lead.
4. The IFOAM Norms for Organic Agriculture do not enter into force before both sections (IROS and IBS) are drafted and agreed on by the IFOAM membership

**Motion did not carry.**

#### To Agenda Point No. 21: Announcement new World Board

The successful candidates for the second ballot were announced.

Andre Leu – 177 votes

Fabio Piccioli – 156 votes

Katherine DiMatteo – 155 votes

Masaya Koriyama -145 votes

Ong Kung Wai - 131 votes

**The IFOAM World Board members duly elected are: Urs Niggli, Roberto Ugas, Jacqueline Haessig Alleje, Moses**

**Kiggundu Muwanga, Vanaja Ramprasad, Andre Leu, Fabio Piccioli, Katherine DiMatteo, Masaya Koriyama, Ong Kung Wai.**

#### To Agenda Point No. 22: Announcement of new Executive Board

The new Executive Board of IFOAM consists of:

Katherine DiMatteo	President
Urs Niggli	Vice President
Roberto Ugas	Vice President

#### To Agenda Point No. 20: Member motions II: Organic Guarantee System, IFOAM Basic Standards, Organic Integrity (continued)

**Motion 20.7: This assembly wishes final political (not technical) decisions on final proposals concerning the Organic Guarantee System to be taken by the general assembly.**

**Motion carried.**

#### **Motion 20.8**

Although amended at the Motion Bazaar, this motion was withdrawn.

#### **Motion 20.9**

This motion was withdrawn.

#### **Motion 20.10**

This motion was withdrawn

#### **Motion 20.11**

This motion was withdrawn

#### To Agenda Point No. 23: Approval of Statutes

**Motion 23.1 To remove the word “humankind” from section 2 of the Statutes**

**Motion carried.**

#### **Motion 23.2**

**Friendly amendment** proposed by Katherine DiMatteo, Wolf & Associates: The section on voting should be in a new paragraph that does not sit under the General Assembly section but under Ballot Voting.

**Motion: To amend the language of the IFOAM statutes regarding ballot voting procedures and to remove this to a separate paragraph.**

**Motion carried.**

#### To Agenda Point No. 24: Approval of Terms of Reference for

*the IFOAM Internal Auditors*

**Motion from the World Board: The General Assembly approves the Terms of Reference for IFOAM Internal Auditors as published in IFOAM In Action # 97, April 2008.**

**Motion carried.**

*To Agenda Point No. 25: Appointment of Internal Auditors*

**Motion from the World Board: The General Assembly appoints Eva Mattsson, Grolink, Sweden and Frank Rumpe, Russia/Switzerland as Internal Auditors for the term from 2008 until 2011.**

**Motion carried.**

*To Agenda Point No. 26: Member motions III: Plant Breeding and Propagation, Shrimp in Organic Agriculture*

#### **Motion 26.1**

Motion amended during the Motion Bazaar and accepted as a friendly amendment by the motion maker.

**Motion: The IFOAM General Assembly confirms that cell fusion, including protoplast and/or cytoplasm fusion breeding techniques, do not comply with the principles of Organic Agriculture. Therefore we urge the IFOAM World Board to develop clear guidelines on how to deal with varieties derived from cell fusion, including protoplast and/or cytoplasm fusion breeding.**

**Motion carried.**

#### **Motion 26.2**

Motion amended during the Motion Bazaar and accepted as a friendly amendment by the motion maker.

**Friendly amendment** accepted by the motion maker: – that the phrase “at next IFOAM General Assembly” be removed as the normal procedure for approval of standards does not have it presented at the General Assembly.

**Motion: Complete work on the draft plant breeding standards as soon as possible with the view of adopting them as IFOAM (certification) standards.**

**Motion carried.**

#### **Motion 26.3**

Motion amended during the Motion Bazaar and accepted as a friendly amendment by the motion maker.

**Motion: Considering the severe consequences (for eco system services, local food security, coastal protection etc.) of present farm shrimp aquaculture, certified and non certified: we ask for an urgent standard revision to exclude**

**farmed shrimp from aquaculture standards. Farmed shrimp should not be included in the standards until it can be shown that it can be socially equitable and ecologically compatible with the principles of sustainable development and with the principles of IFOAM.**

**Motion did not carry.**

*To Agenda Point No. 27: Definition of Organic Agriculture*

The topic was introduced by Liz Clay and further elaborated by Brian Baker, both members of the Task Force. **The General Assembly noted the Definition put forward by the Task Force.**

*To Agenda Point No. 28: Recommendations from the Motion Bazaar*

Due to time constraints, the recommendations from the Motion Bazaar will be prepared for ballot by the membership after the General Assembly. [See Annex.](#)

*To Agenda Point No. 29: Member motions IV: Gender, Tendering, Co-option, Internal Bodies, Internal Control Systems and Participatory Guarantee Systems, Energy and Food Sovereignty*

**Motion 29.1:** Motion was withdrawn.

**Motion 29.2: IFOAM will develop a proposal to be submitted to funding agencies for the development of a study on how to include the gender perspective in all development projects of Organic Agriculture where donor and/or government money is used.**

**Motion carried**

**Motion 29.3:** This assembly would naturally expect to be informed of any contracts that have been awarded by or through IFOAM to consultancy companies over the past three years and, in each case, what procedure was followed for soliciting tenders. In particular, this assembly wishes to know of any contracts given to companies associated with current or previous World Board members including those contracts offered by ITF, the International Task Force, of which IFOAM is a prominent member.

**Motion did not carry.**

**Motion 29.4:** Motion was withdrawn.

**Motion 29.5 IFOAM shall create a representative task force aiming to evaluate and propose the most suitable mechanisms to enable and strengthen regional group participation inside IFOAM.**

**Motion carried**

**Motion 29.6:**

**Friendly amendment** accepted by the motion maker at the Motions Bazaar: To add “and other” before the word “membership”.

**Motion :** *This assembly requests the World Board to propose ways of giving more weight to the representation of farmers’ and other membership organizations, thus reflecting their real weight and value and decision making rights in the IFOAM.*

**Motion carried.**

**Motion 29.7** was combined with Motion 29.9 at the Motion Bazaar and accepted by the makers of both motions.

**Friendly amendment** proposed by Caren Wilcox, The Organic Center, and accepted by the motion maker: That the phrase “educate and advocate” replace “lobby”.

**Motion: IFOAM and the World Board will support, educate and advocate regarding Grower Group certification in order to obtain recognised and legal status world wide for small holders, family scale farmers and others small scale processors/ handlers.**

**If or when other groups are considered for an ICS system, additional criteria will have to be proposed, discussed and agreed upon by the membership.**

**Motion carried.**

**Motion 29.8**

**Friendly amendment** accepted by the motion maker to replace text of original motion: IFOAM should continue to develop, promote and support PGS through its permanent internal structures and include farmer representation.

**Motion: IFOAM should continue to develop, promote and support Participatory Guarantee Systems through its permanent internal structures and include farmer representation.**

**Motion carried.**

**Motion 29.9**

Motion 29.9 was combined with Motion 29.7 and is therefore withdrawn.

**Motion 29.10** was combined with Motion 29.12 at the Motion Bazaar and accepted by the makers of both motions.

**Friendly amendment** proposed by Jim Riddle, IOIA and accepted by the motion maker. To change “lobby activities” to “advocacy”.

**Motion: The General Assembly instructs the World Board to develop a position paper on the primordial role of smallholders and family farmers in the context of food sovereignty. This position paper should serve as the basis for the development of internal policies, advocacy and program development.**

**Motion carried.**

**Motion 29.11 IFOAM recognizes the potentials and dangers stemming from regenerative energy production and will thus establish a working group to specifically deal with the application of organic farming principles in renewable energy production and utilization.**

**Motion carried.**

**Motion 29.12**

Motion 29.12 was combined with Motion 29.10 and is therefore withdrawn.

To Agenda Point No. 30: OWC 2011 Bid Proposals

Bids for the 2011 Organic World Congress and General Assembly were presented by South Korea, Taiwan and Negros Islands, Philippines.

South Korea was duly chosen by ballot with 191 votes. The Chair thanked all three countries for the presentations.



To Agenda Point No. 31: IFOAM Recognitions

Angela Caudle de Freitas gave special thanks to the following for making the General Assembly work so well:

- Stefano Zocca, Municipality of Vignola,
- The staff at La Rocca di Vignola and the IT people in particular,
- Mayor of Vignola,
- Antonio Compagnoni and Graziano Poggioli,
- BioModena and Stefania Severi and Paula Bonfreschi in particular,

- *Modena Tour for keeping the buses running and getting us to where we need to go,*
- *General Assembly Officers*

*IFOAM honor persons that have contributed extraordinarily to the development of IFOAM. The list of those who were to receive IFOAM Recognition Awards was read out by Angela Caudle de Freitas. These were:*

**Participatory Guarantee System Task Force:** *Moses Kiggundu Muwanga, Fabio Piccioli; Inger Kallander, Manuel Humberto Amador, Pipo Lernoud.*

**Development Forum:** *Ranjit da Silva; Rene Piamonte; Rene Takannou; Gabrielle Stoll; Charles Walaga*

**African Advisory Group:** *Sue Edwards; Diana Callear; El Hadji Hamath Hane; Joseph Ngugi Mutura*

**Development Committee:** *Zhou Zejiang; Patricia Wangongu; Carlos Escobar; Holger Kahl*

**Program Strategy Committee:** *Liz Clay, Hay Soree; Maheswar Ghimire; Oscar Castaneda; Slavisa Jelusic; Josef Ngugi Mutura*

**Standards Committee:** *Jorge Casale*

**World Board:** *Brendan Hoare; Antonio Compagnoni; Prabha Mahale; Mette Meldgaard; Pipo Lernoud; Gerald Herrmann; Johan Cejie; Matima Juma.*

To Agenda Point No. 32: Closing

*Closing addresses were given by both, the outgoing IFOAM President, Gerald Herrmann, and the incoming President, Katherine DiMatteo.*

*Gerald Herrmann: I am proud that you have elected a World Board that will carry you forward - this new board brings experience to the table and does reflect the diversity of our members. I will continue to offer my services to IFOAM. The window of opportunity is open and IFOAM will continue to take up challenges. Let's grow the movement on all levels - from small farmers to the market.*



*Katherine DiMatteo: I would like Roberto Ugas to join me in giving a welcome from the Executive Board to the membership. This movement is vivacious, vivid, and full*

*of vitality. It's an honor to be here - I humbly accept the election and thank the Board for your support in choosing me as your president.*

*Roberto Ugas: Without voluntary work this movement could not exist - if you want to be involved then make time and let us hear from you. Don't wait until the next General Assembly - do it tomorrow. Organize yourselves so that you can participate in the everyday life of the federation. Give us your help. I'd like to thank Gerald and the old team - and on behalf of the Latin American members wish to say a special thank you to Pipo. We will continue to work together to strengthen the Latin American Organic movement.*

*Katherine DiMatteo: We heard a rendition of "My Way" last night. I'm not going to do it my way - together we'll do it OUR way. There is a lot to do.*



*Katherine DiMatteo thanked the staff.*

*The Chair thanked everyone for coming with special thanks to Thomas Cierpka, IFOAM Head Office for the wonderful organization. The fact that this General Assembly worked so well is because it was so well prepared.*

*The Chair declared the Assembly closed at 3:50 pm on the 24th June, 2008.*

*Minute takers: Leslie Zuck, Jan Deane and Christiana Christen*

*Referees: Vitoon Ruenglerpanyakul and Souleyman Bassoum*

*8th August, 2008*

