

Rules of Procedure of IFOAM LATIN AMERICA

Name

The name of the IFOAM – Organics International Regional Body is IFOAM LATIN AMERICA.

Nature of the group

IFOAM LATIN AMERICA is an organ within the IFOAM – Organics International Action Group, organizing IFOAM – Organics International (IFOAM-OI) membership and collaborators in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Objective

The purpose of IFOAM LATIN AMERICA is:

- to pursue IFOAM-OI's objectives within Latin America and the Caribbean
- to represent its members within IFOAM-OI
- to represent its members to the outside

IFOAM LATIN AMERICA aims regional and sub-regional integration in issues that its members prioritise in accordance with the existing biological and social and cultural diversity. Regional needs give the working framework for IFOAM LATIN AMERICA's lobby on the internal agenda of IFOAM-OI, being a support to accomplish IFOAM-OI's Strategy. Fosters and establishes relations with other stakeholders and like-minded organisations for national, regional and international lobbying with the aim to improve life quality and world happiness.

Membership

There are two categories of affiliation with the group, all of them with voting rights:

- Member and associate of IFOAM-OI.
- Supporters of IFOAM-OI.
- Individuals who have an assigned function within the IFOAM-OI's Internal Structure.

The criteria for membership is:

- (a) IFOAM-OI members & associates with institutional address and main activity in LA&C region,
- (b) IFOAM-OI supporters with address and main activity in LA&C region, and
- (c) Individuals living and working in LA&C region, elected, assigned, or appointed to serve on IFOAM-OI boards, committees, task forces, working groups, etc. while the mandate lasts.

Affiliation procedure

- (a) Organizations and individuals fulfilling the above criteria that have been present at the Foundation General Assembly or represented by proxies, are automatically considered as IFOAM LATIN AMERICA members.
- (b) Organizations and individuals fulfilling criteria for membership, that have accepted IFOAM LATIN AMERICA's invitation to become a member or asked to be a member in writing (no specific format required).

The IFOAM LATIN AMERICA Board decides upon admission of members and associates. It may expel affiliates that act against the Federation's objectives or interests. The decisions may be appealed to IFOAM-OI.

IFOAM LATIN AMERICA may invite non members to its meetings as observers.

Organs

The official organs of IFOAM LATIN AMERICA are the General Assembly and the IFOAM LATIN AMERICA Board. A co-ordinator carries out their decisions.

The General Assembly or the IFOAM LATIN AMERICA Board may set up Working Groups, Committees and task groups and delegate specific tasks or authorities to such bodies or to individuals.

General Assembly

A General Assembly shall be held at least every three years. It is announced in writing by the IFOAM LATIN AMERICA Board. General assemblies must be announced three months in advance.

The General Assembly elects a Chair of the GA. The General Assembly votes by simple majority. Voting is open or by secret ballot, if so requested by one member. Members have one vote. Associate and Individual members can vote. Votes by written proxy are permitted, but restricted to a total of five votes per person.

Upon request by the Board or five members jointly decisions may be taken by electronic or written ballot vote. Decisions of the General Assembly are recorded in Minutes, which are signed by the Chair and distributed to all the members and to IFOAM-OI. On the written request of 25 % of the members or by IFOAM-OI an extraordinary General Assembly shall be called.

Election of the IFOAM LATIN AMERICA Board

The following officers will be elected by simple majority vote at each General Assembly

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Treasurer

In addition the GA will appoint 3 Board members.

Contact point

The co-ordinator shall be the point of contact with IFOAM-OI, and shall be responsible for communication with members.

IFOAM LATIN AMERICA Board

The IFOAM LATIN AMERICA Board decides all issues not yet determined by the General Assembly. The IFOAM LATIN AMERICA Board has to establish rules of procedure for itself. The IFOAM LATIN AMERICA Board takes decisions by simple majority with at least half of the members present and by open vote. On the request of three IFOAM LATIN AMERICA Board members a meeting is called with six weeks notice.

The IFOAM LATIN AMERICA Board appoints a co-ordinator who organizes the office in execution of the decisions of IFOAM LATIN AMERICA under guidance by the IFOAM LATIN AMERICA Board.

Amendments, Modifications

The IFOAM LATIN AMERICA Board may unanimously pass provisional amendments of these rules 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 ruled proposed by the IFOAM LATIN AMERICA Board should be sent to the members not less than two months before the next General Assembly.

Any amendments to the rules of procedure must be approved by the IFOAM-OI World Board before they enter into force.

Finances

Membership fees are fixed by the General Assembly. Any membership fees must be approved by IFOAM-OI before they enter into force. There have not been established any membership fee, so far. The Board will have to design a fund-raising strategy to carry out the work plan.

Communication with IFOAM-OI

All relevant decision shall be communicated to IFOAM-OI in English.

Termination

When IFOAM LATIN AMERICA is terminated its remaining assets shall be transferred to IFOAM-OI.

Approved by the GALCI Founding Assembly, Lima, Peru, 25th January 2006

Confirmed by the IFOAM Executive Board, Thies, Senegal, 30 June 2006

The name change from GALCI to IFOAM Latin America was confirmed with signing the new SoS contract in June 2012.