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Dear Members of IFOAM,

Every three years the commitment and enthusiasm of the global organic movement culminates in the IFOAM General Assembly (G.A.). The power and energy that resonates throughout this meeting empower us to deal with the many challenges that lie ahead. The year 2014 marks the 21st edition of the G.A. Procedures have become routine and democracy can be witnessed in action as we report, elect, decide, and plan for the future.

However, this is just one aspect of the General Assembly.

It is also a time to reflect on the past, celebrate the achievements of the World Board, take inspiration from fellow members, examine the significance and potential impact of the motions, and also set the course of direction for the coming years. Decisions made at the IFOAM General Assembly will not only have a lasting impact on the further development of the organic sector in each and every country but also contribute to a significantly better future for us all. The work done here is of utmost importance. It requires input from the organic movement in its full diversity and cannot be delegated to just a few individuals or groups.

While the ‘IFOAM in Action: G.A. Special Edition’ provides full details on the agenda and the motions to be worked on, this World Board Report both reviews and provides transparency on the term that has passed. It contains a summary of achievements, explains what happened with the motions from the last G.A., shows the internal auditors report on how IFOAM uses its financial resources, and lists links to the numerous reports published over the past three years.

Both the World Board and IFOAM Head Office are happy to provide all the information you need to exercise your rights as a member of IFOAM i.e. propose, debate, and fine-tune motions. Decide your position on the issues at hand and vote accordingly.

We are very much looking forward to your active participation and are proud to lead, assist and unite the organic movement in shaping our future!

Organically,

Markus Arbenz
IFOAM Executive Director
Interview with
Andre Leu

For the past three years you served the global organic movement as the President of IFOAM. What was the most memorable experience during this time?

The most memorable experiences have been the warm and generous hospitality of the wonderful people who have hosted my visits to their countries and all the people I have met at these events. People in the organic movement the world over are the most incredible and enjoyable people you can meet. These are lifetime friendships.

How would you describe the working dynamic of the World Board as a whole?

Over the years I have been on numerous boards and I have to rate this as the best. The World Board has a wide diversity of skillsets, knowledge and experiences along with a professional work ethic. The Board and staff work well together and this is important for the cohesiveness and functionality of IFOAM. I look forward to Board meetings as I appreciate the wide diversity of thoughtful views from Board members and staff and the ability of the World Board to synthesize these into decisions that the staff can operationalize. It has been an honor and a privilege to be the President of this World Board.

How has the organic movement evolved in the past three years?

Organic 3.0. We are seeing the evolution of organic as much more than an agricultural production system defined by standards to more holistic and inclusive systems in terms of our engagement with society with regards to the wider environment, social justice, gender, health, culture, renewable energy, animal welfare, climate change, toxic chemicals, GMOs, biodiversity and other key issues. This is making organic more relevant to the majority of people.
President: Andre Leu

- Prioritized meeting our members all around the world to gain greater insight into their needs and respond accordingly, e.g. more training and expert help for farmers, better market access including both local and export markets, assistance in advocating organic to governments.
- Attended and gave presentations at relevant United Nation forums where decisions are made directly affecting the future of agriculture, e.g. events hosted by the United Nations Committee of Food Security, Rio+20, the IFAD Farmers Forum, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
- Established and maintained key relationships with the UN and government officials ensuring that IFOAM and our messages are seen as credible and that Organic Agriculture is included in decisions made on the future of agriculture. This network building has also paved the way for many new projects.
- Contributed to the financial viability of IFOAM by actively finding other income sources like projects, sponsorships and donations and without having to raise membership fees.

Vice President: Gabi Soto

- IOAS Board Member addressing accreditation/ certification relevant issues.
- Board member of the Technology Innovation Platform of IFOAM (TIPI), also assisted in its creation.
- Participated in the Organic Leadership Course in Europe.
- Organized and led the first Organic Leadership Course in Latin America, which was held in Mexico in 2013 and 2014, thanks to a strategic alliance between SOMEXPRO and IFOAM.
- Helped translated the Organic Leadership Reader into Spanish.
- Made official presentations for IFOAM in Mexico, Spain and Colombia, at meetings and conferences.
- Supported the broaden sustainability view of organic farming with the development of the Sustainable Organic Agriculture Action Network (SOAAN) as part of the Steering Group.

Vice President: Roberto Ugas

- Hosted the IFOAM Latin America General Assembly where a representative of the national association of organic farmers of Bolivia was elected president. Hosted two EB meetings in Latin America (Colombia, Peru) in order to facilitate dialogue between IFOAM and regional actors.
- Initiated the agreement signed between IFOAM and SOCLA, bringing the Latin American agro-ecological movement and the worldwide organic movement closer together.
- Ran AGROECO, an international PGS study, where IFOAM was in charge of a study on the sustainability of PGS in seven countries in four continents. A paper to be published in a peer-reviewed journal is being written.
- Facilitated the translation into Spanish of numerous key publications e.g. Smallholders position paper and the Best Practice Guidelines.
- Contributed to the official participation of IFOAM in the Peruvian case studies of the Sustainable Commodity Assistance Network, which aims at facilitating the access of smallholders to worldwide markets through a better coordination between different labels (organic, fair trade, sustainable).
Eva Torremocha

- Involved with Italian and Spanish organizations such as CERAI, ACRA, as well as the Brazilian government on issues pertaining to small farmers and PGS.
- Contributed to the open-end intergovernmental working group on a UN declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, Geneva, in 2013.
- Worked towards positioning IFOAM as a mainstream organization and advised on fundraising issues.
- Attended annual meetings with IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo and liaised with IFOAM EU.
- Contributed toward strengthening and broadening the role of IFOAM’s Self-organized Structures;
- Worked with URGENCI to organize first European meeting on community-supported agriculture, positioning IFOAM as a key ally.

James Cole

- Represented IFOAM at the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Major Groups Facilitating Committee. Carried out facilitation work for farmers and the UNEP secretariat.
- Facilitated the possibility for Kenyan Organic farmers to sell their produce to the UNEP compound in Nairobi, which led to the opportunity to also sell to the American Embassy.
- Involved in a university program to promote Organic Agriculture and motivate students to take up Organic Agriculture as a business venture.
- Actively participated in the dialogue to draw up the Road Map for the establishment of an organic platform for Ghana.
- Participated in conferences ‘Mainstreaming Organic Agriculture in the African Development Agenda’ (Lusaka, Zambia) and ‘Sharing Achievements Made and Lessons Learned’ (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania).

Frank Eyhorn

- Co-shaped the content of the Organic World Congress, putting topics like rural development, food security, and sector development on the agenda, proposing inspiring and challenging speakers, and providing space for member initiatives (workshops, pre-conferences).
- Supported the implementation of the Organic Leadership Course, serving as a resource person on research, capacity-building and sector development.
- Contributed to the work of the Sustainable Organic Agriculture Action Network by providing guidance in the Steering Committee.
- Refined the positioning of sustainable Organic Agriculture as an important contributor to many key global challenges such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, scarcity of clean water resources, poverty alleviation, and food security.
- Re-launched the Organic World Foundation with a new strategy and presentation tools to raise funds and support Organic Agriculture activities through IFOAM.
- Pursued acquisition options for the program pillar of IFOAM, resulting in the signing of development projects.
- Supported the development of a position concerning organic textiles (GOTS).
- Guided the development of the organic movement in Central Asia, leading to the establishment of IFOAM Euro-Asia.
Manjo Smith

• Worked with regional farmers, traders, non-governmental organizations, organic sector and government bodies for the advancement of organics in Africa.

• Supported the process of establishing the IFOAM Southern Africa Network (ISAN) as an IFOAM Self-organized Structure.

• Established the Namibian Organic Association’s private standards and Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) in Namibia. Negotiated full acceptance of PGS as a certification system nationally with all traders.

• Facilitated the inclusion of Organic Agriculture training unit standards on a vocational education training level in Namibia.

• Launched the organic section in Namibia’s annual tourism expo to promote organics in the region.

• Represented IFOAM and several events including the ‘Regional Dialogue on Family Farming in Africa (South Africa)’ and ‘The Role of Women in Natural Resources Management’ (Namibia).

• Developing GMO fact sheets for ISAN, based on the work of the African Centre for Biosafety.

Mathew Holmes

• Represented IFOAM at the meetings of the CODEX Committee on Food Labeling.

• Represented IFOAM at BIOFACH America, and speaker at BIOFACH America Latina, and BIOFACH in Germany.

• Served as a Global Organic Market Access (GOMA) Ambassador and member of the Organic Working Group on behalf of IFOAM at the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards.

• Attended meetings and consulted with members of the IFOAM Aquaculture group as they re-organize in order to respond to changing regulations in the EU and CODEX proposals.

• Provided encouragement and advice on building a strong social media profile for communications, advocacy and member/stakeholder outreach for IFOAM.

• Looked at new ways of finding sponsors and foundation money for IFOAM to support the organization and our mission.

Volkert Engelsman

• Contributed to IFOAM’s vision and strategy in a sustainable agriculture context and undertook fundraising activities (e.g. Organic World Foundation).

• Founding member of the Sustainable Organic Agriculture Action Network Best Practice Community and also carried out the SOAAN pilot sustainability assessment.

• Represented IFOAM at numerous events including Rio+20, a sustainability and leadership session with the Dalai Lama and the sustainability conference with Desmond Tutu.

• Gave speeches and was involved in workshops on a wide variety of organic- and sustainability conferences, congresses, workshops, thinktanks in South Africa, Namibia, Hong Kong, Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Costa Rica, Bhutan, USA, Europe.

• Supported IFOAM in reaching out and building common platforms with many like-minded individuals, organizations and movements.

• Contributed to the establishment of IFOAM Asia.
Achievements
2011-2014

Institutional Development
• The 2011 General Assembly approved a new policy and concept for Self-organized Structures (SoS), which saw the subsequent establishment of the following Regional and National Bodies: IFOAM Asia, IFOAM Southern African Network, IFOAM Euro-Asia, IFOAM Iran. GALCI was renamed IFOAM Latin America and ASAFI IFOAM France.
• Joint invoicing with IFOAM EU was introduced in 2012 and with IFOAM Asia in 2014.
• Since 2012, Global IFOAM membership fees dedicated to regional development have been shared with IFOAM EU, IFOAM Agribiomediterraneo and IFOAM Asia. A detailed report on investments in regional development in strategic regions can be found below.
• In addition to the already existing sector platforms, IFOAM Aquaculture and the Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers Organisations (INOFO), the following new ones were set up: The IFOAM Amenity Agriculture Alliance (IAAA), IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance (IAHA) and the Technology Innovation Platform of IFOAM (TIPI).
• INOFO has been receiving support for infrastructure and communications though the IFAD Project since 2014.
• The Organic Retailers Association and the Organic Trade Forum were discontinued.
• Annual strategic talks with all Self-organized Structures were introduced in 2012 and a new logo concept was implemented in 2013.

Organic Guarantee Systems
• Revision of two IFOAM Norms: the IFOAM Accreditation Requirements were revised and the 2014 Version (2.0) approved, superseding the 2005 version. This was after one round of public consultation, one motion round and one final vote. The IFOAM Standard was revised twice during the three-year period. The version 1.0 was approved in 2012, after one motion round end of 2011. It replaced the former IFOAM Basic Standard version 2005. The next version (2.0) was approved in 2014, superseding the 2012 version, after one public consultation, a motion period and a final vote. Work has also started on the next version (3.0) with two consultations on aquaculture.
• Actively involved in various external standards and regulations, particularly the Codex Organic Guidelines, the ISEAL codes, some private standards (e.g. GOTS), the EU organic regulation revision, and a number of national regulations.
• The ‘Best Practice Guideline for Agriculture and Value Chains’ Version 1.0 was approved in 2013 after a public consultation and vote on final ratification.
• 53 standards have been approved and added to the IFOAM Family of Standards.
• Decision was made to open up the IFOAM Accreditation Program to other Accreditation Bodies.
• Government presence at the Global Organic Market Access (GOMA) Asia Working Group meetings, addressing harmonization and equivalence: Global Organic Market Access (GOMA) Asia Working Group Meeting in February 2012 (Nuremberg, Germany) and in September 2012 (Bangkok, Turkey).
• PGS global survey shows an increase from 60 PGS initiatives (27,000 farmers) in 2011 to 110 initiatives (49,000 farmers) today.

IFOAM Head Office Contributions to the Strategic Regions 2012 and 2013

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Pro-Organic Advocacy

- IFOAM now officially co-leads the Farmers’ Major Group in the United Nations (UN) Environment Programme (UNEP), unofficially the Farmers’ Constituency at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and has a seat on the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS), allowing us to speak on behalf of world farmers at UN events.

- The Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), adopted in October 2012, recognized the role of Organic Agriculture in increasing agricultural productivity and output in a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable manner.

- IFOAM made Organic Agriculture the most visible farming system promoted at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development (2012). We organized and contributed to 19 events, which helped position the global organic movement as a key implementation partner in post Rio initiatives. IFOAM went on to collaborate with the governments of Bhutan and the US, the EU, the UN’s World Food Programme, UNCCD, UNV, as well as major civil society stakeholders such as the International Federation of the Red Cross.

- Report of the UN Secretary-General on agricultural technology for development (2013) refers to Organic Agriculture as a means to gain higher and more stable yields, create jobs in agriculture, improve health and nutrition and increase carbon sequestration, water infiltration rates and water-holding capacity.

- To highlight the importance of affordable and people-centered approaches to food security, IFOAM brought together UN agencies (FAO, UNCCD) in a panel discussion with allies like Biovision, FiBL, TEBTEBBA and Misereor at the Global Landscapes Forum (2013).

- At the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) meeting in 2013, IFOAM partnered with World Food Program and the International Federation of the Red Cross to illustrate how Organic Agriculture contributes to building resilience for farmers exposed to severe conditions and the effects of climate change.

- All farmers’ representatives unanimously acknowledged the importance of Organic Agriculture at the IFAD Farmers Forum (2014). The final statement of the meeting calls for the promotion of Organic Agriculture.

- In recognition of efforts in initiating the UN International Year of Family Farming 2014 (IYFF-2014), IFOAM was granted a seat on the World Consultative Committee for IYFF-2014.

- Bilateral negotiations started on tabling agriculture at the climate change talks with leaders of the G77 and China Group and the Least Developed Countries Group at UNFCCC in 2013 and 2014.

- IFOAM’s advocacy alliance platform is further solidified by signing an MoU with International Federation of the Red Cross on joining efforts to advance the food and nutrition security, climate resilience and sustainable household livelihoods agenda via collaboration in advocacy and joint projects.

Capacity-Building

Initiated by the previous World Board, the IFOAM Academy was implemented in this term. The first successful training took place in India, with 18 participants. Four more Organic Leadership Courses followed in 2012-13, and three are in progress for 2014. To date this culminates in 88 alumni from four continents and 39 countries. Examples of on-the-ground impacts include students’ development plans:

- Smartphone app to link farmers to markets, researchers to farmers, provide online extension support and knowledge management (available in India, Nepal and Kenya);

- Writing and publication of a children’s book on Organic Agriculture;

- Draft proposal to develop an institute for the review of inputs in Mexico;

- Development of an organic model farm, providing training and trading successfully in the local Sri Lankan market;

- Development of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) standard and implementation a successful PGS for Analog Forestry in Sri Lanka;

- Development of communications strategy and platform on pesticide residues in organic food;

Sector Development

The financial contribution of projects to the IFOAM budget has increased significantly in this term. There are currently nine projects in development and twelve in implementation, highlights being:

- Through the OSEA projects (OSEA I & II) 5,000 farmers are now involved in Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), the East African Organic Mark was established and support provided on developing organic policies in East Africa.

- Capacity-building supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for the Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers Organizations (INOFO) speaks for the recognition of IFOAM and INOFO as leading organic stakeholders.

- AgroEco Comparative PGS study gives substance and direction to the current status and further development of PGS as both a real and workable alternative.

Projects in 2011-2014

- Bridges for Organic Knowledge in Korea (BOKK): Building Capacity for Organic Agriculture Development in DPR Korea (2012-15)
- Greening Food Production & Consumption: Transforming the Highly Polluting and Resource-Consuming Edible Bamboo Shoot Industry into a Sustainable Value Chain in China (2013-17)
- Organic Agriculture Academy for Extension Agents (2012-14)
- Greater Mekong Subregion Core Agriculture Support Program (Phase 2) - Participatory Guarantee System (2013-16)
- Advocacy for Productive Ecosystems, Landscapes and Livelihoods (2013-15)
- Capacity-Building for the Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers Organizations (INOFO) (2014-17)
- Greening Economies and Implementing Sustainable Consumption and Production in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (2014)
- Development, Production and Trade of Organic Tea in China and India (2006-13)
- OSEA II: Regional Cooperation for Organic Standards & Certification Capacity in East Africa (2010-13)
- Global Comparative Study on Interactions Between Traditional Social Processes Such as Seed Conservation Systems and PGS (2011-13)
- Global Organic Market Access (2009-12)
- Agriculture and Food Security Towards Full Sustainability (2010-13)
- Gaining Governmental Support for Participatory Guarantee Systems (2012-13)
- The Green Road Map: Developing a Sustainable Community Model (2013-17)

Communications & Promotion

IFOAM Events

- Global Organic Market Access Conference: Let the good Products Flow! February 2012 (Nuremberg, Germany)
- The Bonn Sustainability Days: ‘Addressing our Future Today’, November 23-28, 2012 (Bonn, Germany)
- IFOAM 40th Anniversary Celebration, November 28, 2012 (Bonn, Germany)
- IFOAM Action Group Summit 2013, February 12, 2013 (Nuremberg, Germany)
- FAO/IFOAM Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium: ‘Entrepreneurship And Innovation In Organic Farming’, December 3-5, 2013 (Bangkok, Thailand)
- Organic 3.0 Conference@ BIOFACH 2014, February 11, 2014, Nuremberg, Germany
- IFOAM Conference on Organic and Ecological Agriculture in Mountain Ecosystems, March 5–8, 2014 (Thimphu, Bhutan)
Communications & Promotion

Publications
- Celebrating 40 Years of IFOAM (2012)
- Ecology & Farming (9 editions)
- IFOAM Insider (29 editions)
- IFOAM Africa Newsletter (10 editions)
- IFOAM PGS Newsletter (23 editions)
- OGS Courier (10 editions)

Declarations (click here)
- The Nairobi Declaration for an Ecological Organic Alternative for Africa (2011)
- Hamburg Declaration on Animal Husbandry (2012)
- IFOAM Bonn Sustainability Days Declaration (2012)
- Organic Farming Innovation Award Declaration (2012, 2013)
- Declaration on Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Organic Farming (2013)
- Declaration on Food Security in Mountain Systems (2014)

Patronage & Global Representation
- BIOFACH China (2012, 2013, 2014)
- BIOFACH USA (2012, 2013, 2014)
- BIOFACH AMERICA LATINA (2013, 2014)
- BIOFACH India / India Organic (2012, 2013, 2014)

Consultations
- Best Practice Guideline for Agriculture & Value Chains (2013)
- IFOAM Name Change (2013)
- IFOAM Accreditation requirements Version 2.0, (2013)
- Aquaculture (2013, 2014)

Web, Social Media & Miscellaneous
- ‘Organic Without Boundaries’ blog
- New website launch
- Launch of ‘Organic Info Hub’
- Initiation of Twitter activity
- Initiation of Facebook activity
- Logo development for Self-organized Structures

Awards & Recognition
- Organic Farming Innovation Award (OFIA), led by IFOAM and the Rural Development Administration (S. Korea), honors the work of organic innovators. In 2011 Dr. Shaikh Hossain (Bangladesh) won the Grand Prize with his paper ‘Organic Sack Garden Ensuring Nutrition and Improving Food Security in Small-Scale Households’. The Science Prize went to Dr. Soonbae Kwon from South Korea for his paper ‘Inhibitory Effects of the Extract from Quercus Dentata Gallnut Against Plant Virus Infection’. Decisions for the 2014 OFIA have been made and will be announced later in the year.
- One World Award (OWA) 2012 (Rapunzel & IFOAM) saw Nacianceno Mejos Pacalioga from the Philippines, also known as Mayor Jun, granted the OWA and Ana Maria Primavesi from Brazil be recognized, through the Lifetime Achievement Award, for her contribution to the organic world. Decisions for the 2014 OWA have been made and will be announced later in the year.

Agreements for Cooperation or Promotion: Fairs & Conferences
- AgriPro Asia Expo 2011 (Hong Kong)
- Natural Products Expo Asia 2011 (Hong Kong)
- Biologica 2011 (Greece)
- BtoBIO 2011 (Italy)
- Nature Health Fair 2011 (Slovenia)
- Natural Products Expo Asia 2012 (China)
- Ekoloji Izmir 2011, 2012, 2013 (Turkey)
- 4th International Conference on the Organic Sector Development in CEE and CA Countries (2012)
- Asia Natural Products Expo 2012 (China)
- BioStyl 2012 (Czech Republic)
- Forum Yili Satine China Organic Food Movement 2012 (China)
- 6th China International Organic Agricultural Products Exhibition 2012 (China)
- SANA 2012, 2013, 2014 (Italy)
- SOCLA Congress, October 10-12, 2013 (Lima, Peru)
- 14th China and International Organic Food & Green Food Expo 2013 (China)
- Nope 2014 (China)
The G.A. 2011 motions/recommendations and how the World Board addressed them.

**Motion 33: Terms of Reference (ToR) for Internal Auditors**

The G.A. approves the new Terms of Reference for the Internal Auditors as published in *In Action 107* on p. 31-32. The G.A. elects as Internal Auditors Eva Mattsson, Grolink (Sweden) who is ready to serve for another term and Steffen Reese, Naturland (Germany).

Main amendment to the ToR approved by the 2011 G.A.: “2.f to evaluate the activities of World Board members and report them to the General Assembly in general terms including recommendations to improve.”

> **Motion is implemented.** The individual feedback from World Board to the Internal Auditors is based on the official IFOAM tool. The Internal Auditors had various virtual and face-to-face contacts during events such as BIOFACH with all World Board members. The World Board term report includes now for the first time also a small section of each World Board member’s contribution.

**Motion 53: Empowered Self-organized Structures**

The World Board suggests including the Self-organized Structures in the statutes and suggests giving voting rights to Regional Bodies. This motion is split into three parts:

53.1 Explaining the role of IFOAM Self-organized Structures

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).**

> **Motion is implemented** and collaboration works generally to the satisfaction of the Self-organized Structures (SoS). There were Pre-BIOFACH Germany events in 2013 and 2014 with the SoS and the purpose to strengthen them. As a consequence, the number of SoS increased to 13 (8 Regional, (+4) and 5 Sector (-3,+3)). IFOAM increased staff time for supporting the SoS significantly every year (14.000€ in 2012, 26.000€ in 2013 and 47.000€ budgeted in 2014).

**Positive:**

- **a.** New SoS have been approved,
- **b.** annual talks implemented,
- **c.** positive attitude,
- **d.** common invoicing with IFOAM EU and Asia introduced
- **e.** IFOAM Action Group identity building ongoing
- **f.** coherent logo for most SoS
- **g.** funds flow to IFOAM Asia, Mediterranean and EU.

**Challenges:** Slow and delayed web and logo services of IFOAM. AfroNet reluctant to be IFOAM regional body, some SoS inactive, some processes of initiatives got stuck.

### Fees for Members and Associates - As proposed in MOTION 56

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affiliate’s yearly budget or turnover in organic in €</th>
<th>“Early” payment fee until 31-1</th>
<th>Fee in € until 28-2</th>
<th>% of turnover</th>
<th>Late payment (from 1-April) fee</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 50,000</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0.2 - ∞</td>
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<td>0.0 - 0.12</td>
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Registration Fee of 80 Euro; The annual fee for supporters remains 50/100 €.

In the future, 25% of the membership income of a certain region must be used for regional activities.
53.2 Voting rights for the Regional Bodies Chapter 5, General Assembly, paragraph 5 is adapted as follows (new in red): The General Assembly votes by simple majority. Members and IFOAM Regional Bodies have one vote each.


53.4 All votes extended to the regional bodies apply to INOFO.

- Same as 53.2

**Motion 56: Affiliation Fee System Revision**

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

- Motion implemented. The flow of funds for regional activities are reported to G.A. in Istanbul.

**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.

- Motion implemented. The mandated action network is SOAAN, the Sustainable Organic Agriculture Action Network, which was launched at BIOFACH Germany in February 2012. SOAAN developed and consulted the Best Practice Guidelines for Agriculture and Value Chain. A virtual G.A. unanimously approved the Guidelines in December 2013. The development of the new positioning and the strategic recommendations were started but the World Board decided not to push further those documents until the Best Practice Guideline was approved. The World Board started to develop a Sustainability Statement and consulted the membership on it in February 2013. Informed by the feedback, the decision was made to withdraw the document. The World Board developed a brochure that explains the multiple benefits of Organic Agriculture and published it with the Organic World Foundation.

**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 proven 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 implemented. The IFOAM Standards committee has put the mandate of this motion on its work-plan for revision of standards. Two IFOAM standard revisions (a third one is ongoing) went through the process of consultation and vote on motions. There were no motions about protected cropping asking to amend the proposed draft that was published to members end of 2013. The final vote on the IFOAM standard was in July 2014.
Motion 62: Exclusion of Agriculture from Carbon Trading Mechanisms in Speculative Markets

The World Board should promote the development of alternative financing systems to support organic farming projects and agro-ecological approaches to agriculture that provide a real solution of climate change for vulnerable populations 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 implemented. The World Board developed a statement to make clear the IFOAM position on carbon trading. The paper was approved in April 2014. The position is used in IFOAM’s advocacy activities e.g. in the Climate Change Conferences of the Parties (CoPs) or in Rio+20/UN post 2015 development agenda discussions.

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.

► Motion implemented. Among IFOAM’s implemented activities in this direction is the PGS study for the University La Molina, Peru. In the Sustainable Organic Agriculture Action Network (SOAAN), the questions of sustainability and poverty reduction were addressed, so that the vision of working with smallholding family farms rather than plantations or corporate organic farms is mentioned. IFOAM also strengthened its scientific stakeholders through building TIPI. Besides, there is a commitment to make INOFO successful with a grant from IFAD to give organic farmers a voice on international level.

► SOAAN also worked on the background of this motion. The issue of poverty is addressed in the sustainability discussion.

► IFOAM has not done research itself on the impact of farming systems on the livelihood of family farms. There are no resources for this. However, this point is mentioned in the OFIA (Organic Farming Innovation Award) declarations 2012 and 2013, a call for priorities in the organic research agenda.

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.

• The importance of ensuring fairness and social justice for all who labor in agriculture and specifically that IFOAM and other organic standards protect farmers’ freedom of association and require that prices paid to farmers are fair.

• The gender balance in family agriculture including recognizing the key roles and responsibilities of women.

► IFOAM is one of the strong promoters and leaders of the Year of Family Farming (YFF). It is organizing with partners several events/exhibitions during BIOFACH Germany (IFOAM Organic 3.0 event) and Organic World Congress. Cristina Grandi represented IFOAM in the committee at the World Rural Forum (WRF, the initiators of the YFF), which is part of the official steering committee of FAO. Cristina Grandi participated in some meetings on behalf on WRF.
Social Justice

Around the world in countries North and South, developed and developing, third world, first world and first nation, family-scale farmers struggle to make ends meet. This is true for organic farmers almost as much as for conventional farmers. The difficult weather conditions brought about by global warming and climate change compound the challenges farmers face. If we hope to create a sustainable food system, we must find a way to enable farmers to make a secure living and change the way revenues are shared along the organic food chain so that all sectors receive their fair share. To set this in motion, we recommend:

That the World Board establish a Task Force on Social Justice charged with assisting IFOAM in finding the paths to making fairness a living reality in Organic Agriculture. The Task Force will engage members in discussion, write policy papers, and convene forums. Along with other approaches, the Task Force will recommend how IFOAM and other standard setters can incorporate fairness into organic standards.

In the IFOAM Standards, Section 9. Social Justice refers only to employees and workers. As understood in the IFOAM Principle of Fairness, farmers should be included as well. Fairness requires that:

- Farmers have the right to freedom of association and the right to organize into groups or unions.
- Prices paid to farmers for their products cover the farm's costs of production, plus money to sustain the farm and farm family, and to invest in the future of the farm.
- All contracts be fairly negotiated among the parties involved.
- Contracts include a grievance or conflict resolution procedure that assures all parties against retaliation.
- And that farmers, buyers and processors pay living wages to farm workers and other employees, and take into account the principle of equal pay for equal work by women and men.

Recommendation addressed. The World Board did not establish a task force on Social Justice but highlighted the inclusion of social aspects and fair trade in organic farming through other activities:

a. Social criteria are a strong part of the sustainability issues addressed in SOAAN and its output. The G.A. approved Best Practice Guidelines explain that IFOAM shares the vision with the recommendation makers. The guidelines show that organic farming not only includes environmental, but also socio-economic and cultural aspects. Hence, social criteria are an integrated part of IFOAM's visions and positioning of organic farming.

b. The IFOAM standard committee included new social requirements in the revision of the IFOAM Standard that is approved in July 2014.

c. The equivalence assessments for the family of standards include social criteria despite the fact that most organic regulations don't have them.

d. IFOAM advocates every year for the inclusions of social and fair trade criteria in production standards at BIOFACH Germany with a conference event.

Statement Against Introduction of GMO in Brazil

IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture), representing more than 100 countries, recently had a meeting during the Organic World Congress on October 4, 2011 South Korea. We reached consensus that the decision of the Brazilian Technical Commission on Biosafety (CTNBio), to commercially release the beans “EMBRAPA GM 5.1” not only ignores the need for long-term studies to ensure the safe usage and impact on pregnancy of animals, but also provides little analysis of the risk of gene flow and examines environmental impacts only in a few regions. The “Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) Rice and Beans” has been doing research for eight years with organic cultivation of beans without the occurrence of the infestation of disease-causing bean golden mosaic virus, without compromising productivity, means that there is no justified need to invest in research and commercial release of transgenic beans. The release of GMOs will lead to the
gradual elimination of landraces and the loss of sovereignty of farmers and local consumers.

**Recommendation addressed.** The World Board decided in 2014 to invest in a global anti-gmo campaign that will include Brazil.

### Communication Strategies

IFOAM has been emphasizing its communication activities within and outside the organic world to promote the benefits of Organic Agriculture and its role in the alleviation of poverty, the effects of climate change and others. Among these activities, we recommend for IFOAM and its members to start an informal network of journalists and media around the world that could regularly receive electronic information about Organic Agriculture and, in this way, contribute to increase awareness in the general public.

**Recommendation addressed.** IFOAM has started to informally network with media professionals and has carried out communications work in line with its budget. Investments in public relations and media communication will be made as soon as there is budgetary availability. We estimate that a minimum of 50,000€ p.a. is required to develop communications. Despite budget constraints, IFOAM has started to improve its communications through a new website, regular media output and the development of a draft communications strategy.

### Advocacy

The General Assembly in Korea believes that advocacy is a key activity in IFOAM’s life and urges the World Board and staff to emphasize linkages with its members worldwide in order to make the better use of the enormous wealth of information and experience available. At the same time, the General Assembly urges IFOAM members to participate more actively in the life of its federation, to respond to the requests for information and opinion, and contribute to strengthen the capacities of the organic world to promote sustainable changes at the international, national and local levels.

**Recommendation addressed.** IFOAM fully shares the view of the recommendation makers. The new SoS and SOAAN are examples of member involvement among others for Advocacy. IFOAM is highly welcoming advocacy alliance building with members as e.g. happened in 2012 at Rio+20 with Biovision, Avalon, FIBL, ISD etc. IFOAM welcomes more members to commonly engage with IFOAM. IFOAM also developed a concept for the Organic Development Mechanism (ODM) to have a comprehensive frame for advocacy and project implementation. However, the World Board found investments in ODM too high and not affordable at that stage but IFOAM might use the concept in the future.

### Development of Local Organic Sectors

Establishment of local organic markets is a concrete manifestation of the Principles of Organic Agriculture. Members are encouraged to organize themselves to develop their respective local and national markets. National organic associations are encouraged to network amongst themselves to assist each other in market, advocacy and institutional development. National organic associations are urged to consider use of the IFOAM Global Organic Mark as a tool to facilitate cooperation of stakeholders as a common market as well as an international advocacy force. In this way, part of market returns of local, national and international organic sectors can be channeled through membership or service fees for advocacy for agriculture reform and the common good.

**Recommendation addressed.** IFOAM agrees with the recommendation to members. IFOAM offers consultancy services and builds capacity for this activity. The Global Organic Mark is further developed and offered to stakeholders in the markets even though there is little demand.
**Single Procedure for Harmonization and Equivalence**

Originally, organic certification had the objective of differentiating producers and products within the marketing channels, ensuring healthy foods and organic guarantee to consumer whereby the certification was by years a key tool for marketing and promotional activities. Today, combined with other environmental certifications such as fair trade, GLOBALGAP, Rainforest Alliance, among others, organic certification has become a tool that requires dedicated staff, time, economic resources and excessive documentation to meet the requirements, in many time very similar, from certification bodies making that producers and their organizations do not focusing and investing in their fundamental bases: social development, cropping and marketing sustainable and competitive. In addition, lack of harmonization and equivalence among countries, the authorities and certifiers, the certification is creating more bureaucracy and direct and indirect costs resulting an organic end product more expensive and, therefore, difficult access to it, among others.

Considering the above, it is proposed to the Executive Director of IFOAM, to lead a process of dialogue among countries so that, from the IFOAM Principles and a shared vision of the basic objectives of organic certification, to be put in implement a single procedure for harmonization and equivalence between the regulatory and/ or certification bodies and, therefore, facilitates international trade. Additionally, to promote a process of benchmarking and mutual recognition between the different regulation and certification schemes (complementary to organic) in the common areas, to facilitate the access of farmers to economically reasonable and simplified multi-certification services by certifiers.

**Recommendation being addressed.** IFOAM agrees with the aims of the recommendation and sees the potential benefits for farmers to get a one-stop shop. While the principle of equivalence over compliance is already very difficult within the organic sector (IFOAM has been working on this for more than 10 years, e.g. through the ITF and GOMA), it is even more challenging between farming systems and competing labeling schemes. However, IFOAM is participating in the Sustainable Commodity Assistance Network with exactly this purpose, and it is participating in UNCTAD facilitated activities to ease the burden of GlobalGap for organic producers while shortening the check list for certification.

IFOAM participates in UNFSS (Unites Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards), which was launched in 2013. This may be a forum to address issues put forward.

**Animal Husbandry**

Animal husbandry should be given much more emphasis as there are much challenges, such as animal welfare deficits, breeding techniques, animal health, feeding (roughage versus concentrates), etc. There is too much parallel work around the world in the organic sector on animal husbandry, not knowing what the others are doing. The IFOAM World task force should link stronger researchers with standard setters and practitioners. It should link the Standards Committee with researchers trying to further develop organic animal husbandry. The 2nd IFOAM World Conference on Animal Husbandry is a very important occasion.

The organic farming sector through IFOAM World should take the lead in a more sustainable and animal welfare friendly development of animal husbandry.

**Recommendation addressed.** A sector platform, the IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance (IAHA) has been created. IAHA has developed several activities (e.g. event during the SOCLA conference in Lima, Organic World Congress preconference in Istanbul, newsletters etc.).

The recommendation of developing organic toward more animal welfare and sustainability was taken up in SOAAN and is reflected in the G.A. approved Best Practice Guidelines.
Report

Purpose: The purpose of the Internal Audit (IA) on IFOAM is described in the Terms of Reference (ToR) of IFOAM’s Internal Audit. The main objective is to assess whether the motions and recommendations of the previous General Assembly (G.A.) have been carried out and whether the activities developed and implemented are in accordance with IFOAM’s goals and objectives.

Auditors: By the appointment of the G.A. in Namyangju City, South-Korea in Oct. 2011 Eva Mattsson, Grolink, Sweden, and Steffen Reese, Naturland, Germany, were (re-) elected as IFOAM’s Internal Auditors until the next G.A. in Istanbul, Turkey, 2014.

Action Taken: The Internal Auditors visited the IFOAM Head Office, Bonn, Germany, for the internal audit on August 21-22, 2012 and June 24-25, 2014, and communicated between both meetings with staff members to secure annual audits. World Board members provided a self-evaluation form (to support the assessment of their activities) and were also interviewed personally.

Review and Results

World Board and staff activities are in accordance with the decisions approved by the previous G.A., all motions/recommendations were worked on and IFOAM’s activities are in line with strategic documents. The budget allocation meets IFOAM’s strategy and the priorities approved by the G.A.

Overall it can be highlighted that, in our opinion, IFOAM operates in a constructive and effective way, and in a positive atmosphere.

Staff feedback was constructive and professional. Everybody seems to be pleased with how the office developed and how it is run by the Executive Director. There was a single, but serious voice that staff turnover presents a threat to running IFOAM and a long-term strategy is needed to retain staff.

On a positive note, documents are properly developed, e.g. a strategic plan, a summary strategic plan and recently presented drafts on pillar strategies.

The financial situation is stable according to the audit reports for the periods of 2011, 2012 and 2013. These documents indicate that finances are handled responsibly. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the situation is tight and additional financial reserves should be accumulated. IFOAM’s budget is difficult to forecast, as becomes clear if one compares the three-year planning with the annual financial statements.

The Internal Auditors came to a positive conclusion of the last three years. The IFOAM Head Office seems to be well-organized and there is awareness of actions and IFOAM’s strategic plan/decisions of the G.A.
## Income Statement

**2011-2014 (Euro x 1000)**

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*For computational reasons, rounding differences of ± 1000 Euro might occur.*
Accreditation Requirements Committee: Amaia Aldana Gondra, Dilip Dhaker, David Eboku, Carlos Escobar, Arjon Kalter, Roberto Setti, Mildred Steidle, Raymond Yang (two in-person meetings and eleven virtual meetings).

Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Committee: Mathew John, Marc Lewis, Chris May, Eva Torremocha, Alice Varon, Janet Villanueva (two in-person meetings).


Standards Requirements Committee: Jorge Casale, Katherine DiMatteo, Brendan Hoare, Bridget O’Connor, Roberto Setti, Lara Vivas (one in-person meeting and three virtual meetings).

World Board Nominations Committee: Mahesh Chander, Jennifer Chang, Katherine DiMatteo, Sümer Hasimoglu, Willi Jennissen, Julia Lernoud (five virtual meetings).

Interns: Francisco Augstburger, Miguel Castañeda, Giuditta Cirello, Maria Eugenia Manrique V., Rajo Rakotoarivony, Laura Ruggeri, Sara Sanchez, Rebecca Schröder, Anne Thiemer, Isbandiyar Valiyev.

Volunteers: Jenny Choo, Tolulase M. Ishola, Sdok Khorn, Fei Fei Lee.