

Terms of Reference for the Board of IFOAM - Organics International

The World Board is democratically elected by all voting members of IFOAM – Organics International and has its mandate from the General Assembly to which it is accountable. After a three-year term, the World Board reports back to the membership, presenting the achievements of its term.

The World Board is composed of ten members and reflects the full diversity of the organic movement it represents.

The World Board elects among its members an Executive Board of 3 persons, one of them acts as president. In case of acting beyond the mandate of the association, the EBoard members are personally liable.

The World Board and Executive Board function as a team and the president has no formal higher authority than other members and is accountable to the World Board for all her / his actions.

World Board members bring in their network and relations, however do not represent these; they act in the interest of the global organic movement.

The board strives to decide per consensus; however if the board does not reach consensus the board decides by majority vote and the president has a casting vote. The board can also vote through email or other electronic means beyond physical meeting times.

Board members speak with one voice after decisions have been made and adhere to decisions, regardless of their individual positions.

The Board members are active on voluntary basis and do not receive remuneration for their time involvement, which is 20 – 30 days/year for World Board members and 40 – 60 days/year for Executive Board members. Travel and accommodation costs associated with Board duties will be borne by IFOAM – Organics International.

Overall duties of the Board

- Provide strategic guidance and oversight.
- Ensure adequate resources to fulfill the strategy.
- Execute the decisions of the General Assembly.
- Decide all issues not yet determined by the General Assembly.
- Establish rules of procedure for the World and Executive Board and the General Assembly.
- Set up Working Groups, Committees, and regional or thematic task groups.
- Delegate specific tasks to such bodies or to individuals.
- Make an effort to fundraise for the organization.

The Board operates at a strategic level; there is a clear role division between Board, Executive Board and the Executive Director, whereas latter implements the strategy, prepares the budget and formal reports and is mandated to sign contracts. The president monitors the performance of the Executive Director, oversees the annual performance review with the Executive Director with the EBoard and reports the results to the WB.

All board members represent IFOAM, with the President as first choice of representation, at international events around the world, including public speeches and/ or other contributions to conference and seminar programs. They stick to agreed positions and strategies.

At the beginning of their term, all Board members sign a confidentiality agreement and declare their interest at business, cooperation, voluntary and sponsorship level. At the beginning of each meeting Board members declare potential conflict of interests regarding certain agenda items.

WB members may get assigned as counterpart to Self Organized Structures, Committees, Consortia and Events. Board members may form Task Forces, with a clear mandate approved by the Board, on specific topics.

Usually there are 2 Full Board meetings per year, and, in addition, 2 Executive Board meetings.

The president approves the agenda for the meetings.

The meetings and decision making processes are conducted in English language.

Board members should participate in all Full Board meetings; Executive Board members in addition to the Executive Board meetings. World Board members may participate in EBoard meetings either by invitation or at request. If invited because of a specific reason, IFOAM OI will cover expenses. Otherwise not.

The World Board may decide to terminate the board membership of a world board member who has been absent two times in a row without excuse.

Any Board member may put topics on the Agenda.

Board members should be prepared and informed before the board meetings.

All board members have access to all information necessary of their functioning, including minutes of EBoard meetings.

Board meetings usually consist of 2 parts:

1. Mandatory agenda points such as budget, income generation, approval of reports, strategies, follow-up on motions, preparation of GA etc.
2. A seminar part in which a selected topic of strategic importance is discussed in detail. One WB member takes the lead to prepare the seminar.

Board members are requested to report on their activities prior to meetings; during the meeting there is an opportunity to ask questions to / appreciate the reports of other WB members.

The president organizes a mid term and end term review of Board performance.

Confirmed by the WB 201904