

IFOAM e.V. General Assembly
12-13 November 2017, New Delhi, India
Draft Minutes

AGENDA POINT 11: Opening Address by the President of IFOAM – Organics International 2014–17, Andre Leu (Australia), on November 12, 2017

A moment of silence was held for those of the movement who left us in the last term, among them:

Bashkar Save, India

Bill Mollison, Australia

Jan van Ledebur, Germany

Rod May, Australia

Catherine Reynolds, USA/Germany

Ibrahim Abouleish, Egypt

Laura Montenegro, Argentina

At 9 am the **Quorum with 44,9 % was established** with 294 votes represented in the room from a total of 654 members.

Registration of votes was done in the course of the first G.A. day. At 3 pm the quorum was 53,7 % with 351 votes represented in the room.

AGENDA POINT 12: Election of the G.A. Chairs

Motion: Leslie Zuck (USA) and Joy Daniel (India) are elected as Chairs of this G.A.

✓ **Motion accepted unanimously.**

Other G.A. Officers appointed by the World Board:

Parliamentarians: Karen Hoberg (Spain), Christopher Atkinson (UK)

Minute Keepers: Louise Luttkholt (Netherlands); Cristina Grandi (Italy), Barbara Zilly (Germany), David Gould (USA)

Minute Referees: Patrick Belisario (Philippines), M. Reza Ardakani (Iran)

Ballot Counters: Volunteers from OFAI, India.

AGENDA POINT 13: Approval of the Agenda

The chair proposed a change of the sequence of member motions: M74 on November 12 and M 71 on November 13.

Motion: The agenda as presented on pages 6 and 39, with the amendments of the chair, is approved by this G.A.

✓ **Motion accepted unanimously.**

AGENDA POINT 14: Approval of the Minutes of the 2014 G.A. in Istanbul, Turkey

Motion: The 2014 G.A. minutes as [were published online](#) and send to members by email on March 18, 2015 are approved.

✓ Motion approved unanimously.

AGENDA POINT 21: World Board and Office Reports

Andre Leu & Markus Arbenz gave an overview of the World Board and office staff activities during the term 2014 – 2017. These activities were also published in the [World Board Term Report](#). The [presentation with more report details](#) and graphs as presented at the 2017 G.A. are published on the G.A. website.

AGENDA POINT 22: Internal Audit Report and World Board Discharge

The internal auditors' report composed by Uygun Aksoy (Turkey) and Steffen Reese (Germany) is published in the [World Board Term Report](#), a separate document to this G.A. The financial reports are based on the external audit report conducted by PwC Cologne, Germany and were published in the Annual Reports.

Steffen Reese shortly summarized the findings of the Internal Auditors as published in the WB Term Report.

Motion: The General Assembly approves the financial report 2014 - 2017 and discharges the WB from its responsibilities.

✓ Motion carries.

AGENDA POINT 31: IFOAM – Organics International Strategy and Outlook 2018 - 2020

The new IFOAM – Organics International three pillar strategy has been approved by the World Board in February 2017. The World Board makes a 3years plan for the term and approves every year the so-called Yearly Plan of Operations (YPO) that aims at the implementation of the strategy. This YPO also serves as the basis for budget calculations.

World Board and management responded to questions raised by the membership.

AGENDA POINT 32: Budget 2018-20

The tentative budget assumes continued income from membership, donations and services. The foreseen growth in income and expenditure is based on an increased project volume, assumption based on ongoing negotiations with donors and hiring of new staff.

Motion: the G.A. approves the budget outline 2018 – 2020 as presented in G.A. IFOAM in Action page 8.

✓ Motion carries.

AGENDA POINT 41: Presentation of World Board Candidates

Laura Montenegro, a World Board candidate passed away on October 28, 2017. A short statement was read by Roberto Ugas and a moment of silence was held in memory for her.

Each candidate for one of the ten World Board seats presented him/herself in a two minutes speech. Emile Frison was not present. You find the [list of candidates online](#).

AGENDA POINT 42: World Board Elections 1st Round

The chair explained the voting procedure; voting ballots were distributed, filled in by the participants and collected. Candidates with more than 50% of votes are elected in the first round.

In the first round of elections, Jennifer Chang (312 votes), Julia Lernoud (273 votes), Choitresh Kumar Ganguly (239 votes), Peggy Miars (232 votes), David Amudavi (212 votes), Karen Mapusua (205 votes) and Frank Eyhorn (190 votes) got more than 50% of the votes casted (346 votes cast, out of which 1 was void; 50% 173 votes) and were directly elected into the new World Board.

Voting results for the remaining candidates: Gerold Rahmann (163 votes), Hans Herren (150 votes), Edith van Walsum (145 votes), Isabel Griffiths (127 votes), Shimpei Murakami (120 votes), Rhina de Rehmann (66 votes), Khalid Azim (57 votes), Devasenapathy Vikrantha (47 votes), Emile Frison (32 votes).

AGENDA POINT 43: World Board Elections 2nd Round

The chair explained the voting procedure. The names of the 7 candidates elected in the first round were read loudly since they are NOT eligible to be ticked again. Voting ballots were distributed, filled in by the participants and collected. Due to three seats still open, the members had to tick a minimum of two and a maximum of three votes in the 2nd World Board election ballot.

In the second round of elections, a total number of 346 votes were cast, out of which 4 were void. Gerold Rahmann (226 votes), Hans Herren (196 votes) and Edith van Walsum (181 votes) were elected into the new World Board.

Voting results for the remaining candidates: Isabel Griffiths (132 votes), Shimpei Murakami (116 votes), Rhina de Rehmann (30 votes), Devasenapathy Vikrantha (25 votes), Khalid Azim (17 votes) Emile Frison (13 votes).

AGENDA POINT 44: Appointment of Internal Auditors

Usually one internal auditor is replaced and one internal auditor works for another term.

Uygun Aksoy, Ege University (Turkey), is ready to serve for another term. Michel Reynaud, Vice President of Ecocert (France) is suggested by the WB to replace Steffen Reese, Naturland (Germany).

Motion: Prof. Uygun Aksoy, Ege University (Turkey) and Michel Reynaud, Vice President of Ecocert (France) are appointed as Internal Auditors for the term 2017 – 2020.

✓ Motion carries.

AGENDA POINT 50: World Board Motions

MOTION W51: Compatibility of New Breeding Techniques

Motion:

Given that outside of the organic sector there is discussion and possible broadened uptake of new breeding and genetic engineering techniques in plant and animal breeding in the future, the General Assembly affirms the **corrected**¹ position paper on the Compatibility of Breeding Techniques in Organic Systems. The G.A. mandates the continuance of the Working Group to make recommendations for: (i) developing strategies and viable alternatives to avoid seeds and breeds of questionable breeding techniques; (ii) supporting organic animal and plant breeding initiatives and (iii) engaging with the mainstream breeding sector to strengthen organically compatible breeding programs, and protect the integrity of organic systems and of genetic resources in general. **This shall include more thorough, more current, and more comprehensive information on the use of genome editing and similar techniques as well as on the possibility to monitor and police the exclusion of incompatible techniques.**²

¹Amendment submitted by Klaus Rapf, Arche Noah. Note the following typos in the position paper:

Page 18, First row entries in columns 5 and 6 are switched around.

Page 19, fourth row 'hybrids based on CMS from cytoplasm fusion, first 5 columns should read 'P', 'no', 'no', 'no', 'limited by patent'

Page 25, fourth row on triploid plants, second to last column should read 'yes'.

². Amendment submitted by Hans Peter Schmidt., Law Office

NOTE: when amendment 2 is accepted as friendly by WB, motion 71 is withdrawn.

The amendments were accepted as *Friendly* by the WB.

✓ **Motion carries.**

[The corrected position paper on the Compatibility of Breeding Techniques in Organic Systems](#) you find uploaded on the website.

MOTION W52.1: Organic Aquaculture

Motion:

IFOAM - Organics International adopts the following position and advocates for it to national and international fora and to private and government standard setters:

The Principles of Organic Agriculture are applicable to aquaculture but can treat the aspect of soil differently, ensure its protection but not require it as a central system component. Organic aquaculture systems use natural resources responsibly, are integrated into the host environment to manage biological processes, enhance the health and protect the biodiversity of plants and animals. Standards should guide producers toward best organic practices regarding environmental stewardship, breeding, animal welfare, feed, veterinary care, and quality of the end product. Aqua food products need to be Anti-Biotic Residue free.

Amendment submitted by Sheik Ali Hussain, Academy for Sustainable Integrated Living, India.

No seconder to the amendment— **amendment does not pass.**

✓ **Motion as originally published carries.**

MOTION W52.2: Organic System Boundaries for Aquaculture

Motion: IFOAM - Organics International adopts the following position and advocates for it to national and international fora and to private and government standard setters:

Option A (stricter specification on allowed recirculation system types):

Organic aquaculture may include an environmentally integrated recirculation system only if it is based on and situated in a natural environment.

It does not routinely rely on external inputs such as oxygen, allows the raised species to spend the majority of their lives in outdoor facilities and only uses renewable energy.

Amendment submitted by Paul Vandenberghe, FiBL CH

Seconded by Beate Huber from FiBL Austria

In favor 65; Against 169

Amendment to Option A fails.

Option B (broader allowance of recirculation system types):

Organic recirculation aquaculture systems (RAS) do not need to integrate the production system into the natural environment if it can be evidenced that there are broader ecological feedback loops between production facility and environment that are stable and maintained, ~~and have independence from non-renewable energy sources~~ must use only renewable energy. In an environmentally integrated recirculation system renewable energy use is encouraged.

Amendment by Andrew Hammermeister, Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada.

The amendments were accepted as *Friendly* by the WB.

In favor of Option A as originally printed: 226

- ✓ Option A is preferred over Option B
- ✓ Motion 52.2 with Option A carries.

MOTION W53: Organic 3.0 – for Truly Sustainable Farming and Consumption

Motion: The G.A. approves Organic 3.0 as a landmark and commits to include the content of Organic 3.0 in its strategies and actions and to facilitate required change in attitude and thinking. It mandates IFOAM - Organics International to be guided by Organic 3.0 and to lead the Organic Movement in this direction.

The term 'soil fertility' should be replaced with '~~soil vitality~~' '**soil health**' (page 2), immediately in the online version of the position and in future prints.

Amendment submitted by Francois le Lagadec, IBB

Amendment on '**soil health**' by Nick Lampkin, Brian Baker seconded.

WB considers both as *friendly* amendments.

- ✓ Motion as amended (twice) carries.

Please find [the corrected Organic 3.0 landmark](#) uploaded to the landmark webpage.

MOTION W54: Membership Structure

Motion:

IFOAM - Organics International reforms its membership system within the framework of the statutes and whereby the World Board will:

- Simplify administration;
- For the definition of a fee category, rely on an online self-assessment tool by the members, using more criteria than just organic/non-organic turnover;
- No longer use the associate member and supporter categories in a formal sense but instead create new opportunities for stakeholders to engage with us. The new fee system for voting members is:

=> Fee table published on page 31 of "[InAction](#)".

Associate and individual members do not have fixed fees any more. The 25% clause of income use for regional activities remains unchanged. The new registration fee is 100 Euros.

Early bird discount of 5% until end of February. The late fee payment is abolished. IFOAM - Organics International will provide an online tool to facilitate self-assessment by (interested) members. Silver, Gold and Platinum members enjoy additional communications benefits.

Membership proposed the following amendments:

- For the definition of a fee category, rely on an online self-assessment tool by the members, using more criteria than just organic/non-organic turnover; *this self-assessment will be published in order for members to give feedback to the World Board prior their final approval on membership.*

Amendment by Beate Huber, FiBL Austria.

- ~~No longer use the associate member and supporter categories in a formal sense but instead create new opportunities for stakeholders to engage with us. The new fee system for voting members is:—~~

~~=> Fee table published on page 31 of "InAction"~~

~~Associate and individual members do not have fixed fees any more. The 25% clause of income use for regional activities remains unchanged. The new registration fee is 100 Euros.~~

~~Early bird discount of 5% until end of February. The late fee payment is abolished. IFOAM - Organics International will provide an online tool to facilitate self-assessment by (interested) members. Silver, Gold and Platinum members enjoy additional communications benefits.~~

- *Develop the new membership strategy with proper involvement of the membership, regional bodies and self-organized structures.*

Amendment by Eduardo Cuoco, BIOCERT Associazione.

WB considered both (FiBL & BIOCERT) as *friendly* amendments.

More thought for the new system is needed.

Amendment by Christopher Stopes, ECOS, **withdrawn**.

Amendment: Statutes shall continue to be interpreted to require members to have more than half of their turnover or activities organic.

Hans Peter Schmidt, Law Office, seconded by Margaret Scoles, IOIA

Unfriendly amendment according to WB.

Amendment fails.

Amendment: To remove naming and communication benefits for member categories 4, 5 and 6

Friendly amendment by Beate Huber, FiBL Austria

As table is dropped, **amendment is void.**

✓ **Motions as amended carries.**

The final motion reads:

IFOAM - Organics International reforms its membership system within the framework of the statutes and whereby the World Board will:

- Simplify administration;
- For the definition of a fee category, rely on an online self-assessment tool by the members, using more criteria than just organic/non-organic turnover; this self-assessment will be published in order for members to give feedback to the World Board prior their final approval on membership.
- Develop the new membership strategy with proper involvement of the membership, regional bodies and self-organized structures.

AGENDA POINT 60: Member Motions

MOTION M61:

Organic Textiles: Fiber Production and Processing to be Covered by Appropriate Standards

Motion:

Textiles advertised/labelled 'organic' and made with organic fibers produced according to recognized standards (e.g. IFOAM Family of Standards), should also be processed to a standard (endorsed by IFOAM - Organics International) that prohibits hazardous and residual inputs according to a clear procedure.

IFOAM - Organics International acknowledges that such standards should cover the whole supply chain (as is the case with food). Stating the organic fiber content ("contains X% organic cotton"), e.g. through the Organic Content Standard by Textile Exchange, is a relevant step.

IFOAM - Organics International will communicate this to stakeholders and engage with them for the widespread adoption of a whole-chain-approach (chain of custody) to labelling organic textile products.

✓ **Motion carries.**

MOTION M62:

IFOAM norms – Integration of a Guide on Key Themes Related to Sustainability

Motion:

With more and more Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) emerging, many attempts are being made to assess their sustainability using indicators in relation to good governance, environmental integrity and social wellbeing. In order to make assessments of IFOAM norms easier, the G.A. suggests the addition of a guide listing key sustainability themes and indicators, with reference to the relevant norms chapter. This guide should be based on the G.A. approved IFOAM Best Practice Guidelines, on the FAO's SAFA

(Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture systems) Guidelines and on the Sustainable Development Goals.

✓ Motion carries.

MOTION M63: Change in the IFOAM Standard

Motion:

The G.A. believes the requirement 4.2.4 of the IFOAM Standard for Organic Production and Processing, version 2014 is contradictory and places unjustified burdens on small producers. And therefore, the G.A. mandates the World Board to initiate as soon as possible a process compliant with policy 20 to positively consider the deletion of this requirement from the IFOAM Standard for Organic Production and Processing.

X - Motion fails.

MOTION M64: Organic Invertebrates

Motion:

IFOAM - Organics International shall develop specific requirements for the production of organic invertebrates (including insects and annelids) and their products in its IFOAM Standard for Organic Production and Processing.

✓ Motion carries.

MOTION M65: Transparency of Certification

Motion:

IFOAM-Organics International shall tackle the issue of transparency in making public details of certified producers, products and processes in the next revision of its IFOAM Accreditation Requirements, and shall advocate for further transparency in this area within other fora, such as in the ISEAL community and towards government organic regulations.

✓ Motion carries.

MOTION M66: Focusing Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) on Reliability and Fraud Prevention in Organic Certification

Motion:

The World Board shall name among its members a person to operate as the IFOAM PGS Ombudsperson with the task to monitor any activities of IFOAM – Organics International concerning Participatory Guarantee Systems for the reliability of their fact finding and fraud prevention organic certification based on such facts.

X - Motion fails.

MOTION M67:

IFOAM should Establish a Strategy to Identify and Systematize Non-certified Organic Agriculture

Motion:

According to data published by IFOAM - Organics International, there are about 50.9 million hectares in certified organic production. However, unofficial figures mention that non-certified organic agriculture is much larger. IFOAM - Organics International should take the lead, along with partners such as FAO, to establish a -methodologically credible - figure on non-certified organic agriculture. ~~This should also include non-certified organic gardening in the Global North.~~

Amendment submitted by Dr. Ulrich Schmitz, Garden Organic.

Amended amendment (leaving out Global North).

Accepted as friendly by original motioner.

✓ **Motion carries.**

The approved motion reads:

According to data published by IFOAM - Organics International, there are about 50.9 million hectares in certified organic production. However, unofficial figures mention that non-certified organic agriculture is much larger. IFOAM - Organics International should take the lead, along with partners such as FAO, to establish a -methodologically credible - figure on non-certified organic agriculture. This should also include non-certified organic gardening.

MOTION M68:

IFOAM - Organics International Should Review and Highlight the Social Dimension of Local Markets *and their contribution to organic agriculture development.*¹

Motion:

Local markets are central to the current growth of organic agriculture, especially in developing countries. For now, many of them have been based on the production and marketing of organic foods. ~~Even so,~~ **Considering** local markets are also the basis of the social fabric between producer and consumer and other stakeholders, **the organic movement and short food supply chains initiatives should work more closely together**¹. IFOAM - OI should complete a study to identify and visualize the social attributes of local markets.²

Amendment¹ by Hannes Van den Eeckhout, Red Agricultura Ecologica, Peru,

Amendment² by Christopher Stopes, EcoS Consultancy, UK

Both amendments are accepted as *friendly* by original motioner.

✓ **Motion carries as amended.**

MOTION M69: IFOAM - Organics International Should Review and Update the Theoretical and Practical Bases of Internal Control Systems

Motion: ~~IFOAM – Organics International has stood out for its leadership in the promotion and defense of internal control systems as a strategy to access third party certification by small producers organizations that are interested in participating in international organic markets. However, the concept and practice of internal control systems has weakened in recent years, affecting its credibility. IFOAM – Organics International should review and update the approach to internal control systems.~~

The majority of the world's organic farmers enter national and international markets through internal control systems. After more than 20 years of success, however, the practice of internal control systems deserves a critical assessment in order to improve their performance and increase consistency. Regional groups and IFOAM – OI projects in developing countries should assess the functioning of ICS and provide recommendations to the Accreditation Requirements Committee, that shall be used in the revision of the relevant criteria.

Amendment submitted by WB and was considered friendly by the original motioner.

✓ Motion carries as amended.

MOTION M70: IFOAM – Organics International Should Take a ~~False~~ Frequent, Public and Belligerent Clear Position on ~~Other~~ Sustainability Standard

Motion: As the organic sector is growing, other standards try to take advantage of this, which for a big part exists thanks to the vision, mission, reality and success of IFOAM - Organics International. These other standards are often non-organic, but try to appear as sustainable and a win for producers, consumers and nature. ~~But the truth is, they are causing damage to producers, consumers and nature, and affect the organic sector. This needs~~ IFOAM - Organics International's should have a clear voice, in public and with certain belligerence, to comply with its responsibility message, to support the organic sector, ~~where confronted with these false prophets.~~ by communicating intensively the positive impacts of organic practices and its importance for sustainable development.

Amendment by Julia Lernoud, Rincon Organico, WB and Steffen Reese, Naturland.

Accepted as friendly by original motioner.

✓ Motion carries as amended.

The final motion reads:

As the organic sector is growing, other standards try to take advantage of this, which for a big part exists thanks to the vision, mission, reality and success of IFOAM - Organics International. These other standards are often non-organic, but try to appear as sustainable and a win for producers, consumers and nature. IFOAM - Organics International should have a clear message, to support the organic sector by communicating intensively the positive impacts of organic practices and its importance for sustainable development.

MOTION M71 was **withdrawn** by the motioner, since amendment 2 to motion W51 was accepted.

~~MOTION M72: The Blocking of Access to the Organic Market of the European Union for Farmers in Africa, Asia and Latin America: A Last Triumph of Global Imperialism?~~

~~Motion: IFOAM – Organics International appeals to the European Union (EU) and the Members of the EU Parliament to abstain from the proposed shift for organic imports into the EU from the principle of EQUIVALENCE to full COMPLIANCE. Requiring such compliance means requiring national internet databanks for organic seeds and similar official structures of organic controls. All this breaks essential guarantees of the Final Declaration of Marrakesh for justice in fair terms of trade. IFOAM – Organics International appeals to all non-EU governments to defend the rights of organic farmers in their countries by all means appropriate under international law.~~

New MOTION M72: Multilateral equivalence instead of unilateral compliance

IFOAM - Organics International reinforces its position on preference of multi-lateral recognition of organic standards and regulations based on equivalence. It urges regulators to abstain from demanding compliance in certification and accreditation for international market access, which is still practiced by most regulators. It maintains the tools (e.g. the Family of Standards) to facilitate equivalence. It encourages and observes policy processes such as for example the discussions of Switzerland, USA, EU, Canada, Japan, Korea and Chile on plurilateral recognition and it defends the interests of organic smallholder producers throughout the world particularly of those from not regulated countries. *IFOAM – Organics International endorses Regional Equivalence Agreements as a means to provide for equivalency access to organic food markets. IFOAM – Organics International appeals to governments to the European Union (EU) and the Members of the EU Parliament to abstain from the proposed shift for organic imports into the EU not to go from the principle of equivalence to full compliance. IFOAM – Organics International appeals to all governments to and to defend the essential guarantees of the final Declaration of Marrakesh for justice in fair terms of trade.*

WB amendment (New motion 72) accepted by motioner as friendly.

Amended motion newly amended by Eduardo Cuoco, BIOCERT Associazione, Italy, accepted by the motioner as friendly.

✓ Motion carries as amended.

The final motion reads:

Multilateral equivalence instead of unilateral compliance

IFOAM - Organics International reinforces its position on preference of multi-lateral recognition of organic standards and regulations based on equivalence. It urges regulators to abstain from demanding compliance in certification and accreditation for international market access, which is still practiced by most regulators. It maintains the tools (e.g. the Family of Standards) to facilitate equivalence. It encourages and observes policy processes such as for example the discussions of Switzerland, USA, EU, Canada, Japan, Korea and Chile on plurilateral recognition and it defends the interests of organic smallholder producers throughout the world particularly of those from not regulated countries. IFOAM – Organics International endorses Regional Equivalence Agreements as a means to provide for equivalency access to organic food markets. IFOAM – Organics International appeals to governments not to go from the principle of equivalence to full compliance and to defend the essential guarantees of the final Declaration of Marrakesh for justice in fair terms of trade.

MOTION M73: Defining and Regulating the Process and the Relationship Between IFOAM – Organics International and IFOAM Regional Bodies

Motion:

Cooperation between IFOAM – Organics International and its IFOAM Regional Bodies should lead to a non-competitive environment on regional advocacy work, strategies and regional projects. IFOAM - Organics International and the IFOAM Regional Bodies collaborate and seek for synergies, on the basis of a mutually agreed strategy, with the lead taken by IFOAM - Organics International for interregional and global issues and the lead taken by IFOAM Regional Bodies for regional issues.

✓ Motion carries.

MOTION M74: Organic and Health

Motion:

1. IFOAM – Organics International and the organic movement put wellbeing and human health (including social well-being, income for farmers/ producers and consumers' health) in their development strategies. In this context, IFOAM Organics International and its members look for cooperation to understand the needs of operators, consumers and standards developer and they look for getting funding support.
2. The organic movement raises awareness and researches the relation between health, organic agriculture and lifestyle.

✓ Motion carries.

MOTION M75 **withdrawn** by the original motion submitter.

MOTION M76: Transparency of Finances of IFOAM - Organics International

Motion:

Future reports on the finances of IFOAM – Organics International shall include a detailed financial report not only for IFOAM – Organics International (as an association registered in Bonn (Germany)), but also with respect to all other entities where IFOAM – Organics International holds interests (such as shares) or where IFOAM programs are implemented such as the IFOAM Organic Guarantee System and the IFOAM Accreditation Program.

✓ Motion carries.

MOTION M77: Transparency of Salaries at IFOAM - Organics International

Motion: ~~Future reports on the finances of IFOAM – Organics International shall include a list of the annual earnings of at least the five highest paid employees, indicated in bands of €20'000,—¹(including officers). The ratio between the highest paid and the lowest paid should be mentioned.~~

Amendment 1 by Beate Huber, FiBL Austria, accepted as friendly

NEW AMENDED MOTION

Future reports on the finances of IFOAM – Organics International shall provide better transparency of the annual earnings e.g. the ratio between highest and the lowest paid.

Amendment (New motion) by Sven Shalit, accepted as friendly amendment.

✓ **New motion carries as accepted friendly amendment.**

MOTION M78: IFOAM – Organics International Shall Move its Head Office from Bonn (Europe) to a Location in Asia

~~Motion: Asia is the Earth's largest continent, with more than half the world's population and over 40% of the world's organic producers, working biodiverse organic farms. More than half of IFOAM affiliates are located here. Relocating the Head Office (HO) of IFOAM – Organics International to Asia would be a recognition and reflection of these realities. Present location of HO in Germany is inhibiting growth and expansion while providing no special advantage. Costs of running a HO in Asia would be less than half, enabling IFOAM – Organics International to expand. Criteria for Head Office to be determined based on the future growth / needs of the Organic Movement. 1~~

Amendment 1 by the Sundeep Kamath, BDI India, accepted as friendly.

New amended motion by Alexander Gerber, Demeter e.V., accepted as friendly:

The World Board works out a strategy for strong regional bodies, defining their tasks and rights as well as criteria for the location of the Head Office within 3 years.

X – New amended motion fails.

MOTION M79:

Raising Awareness of Glyphosate Contamination in the World to Motivate People to Action

Motion: In order to raise public awareness and promote and protect the long-term growth of organic agriculture, the World Board of IFOAM - Organics International shall set up a task force or use existing appropriate committees to direct a study by an international team of scientist to assess and publicize the world wide contamination of glyphosate in our environment, in our food and in our human bodies. Evidence collected shall be published in peer-reviewed journals. The scope of the project will be determined by grants and/or the financial support that is received from the membership.

✓ **Motion carries.**

MOTION M80: Highlight Un-ethical Behaving of Multinational Agro-industrial Corporations

Motion:

IFOAM – Organics International should highlight ill effects of unethically behaving multinational agro-industrial corporations such as Monsanto by collaborating with various international organizations.

✓ **Motion carries.**

MOTION M81: Communicate Advantages of Organic Farming over Conventional

Motion:

IFOAM – Organics International should gather documentation and communicate it in order to confirm the advantages of organic farming over conventional.

✓ **Motion carries.**

AGENDA POINT 61: Recommendations

Recommendations made at the Motion Bazaar (Reference is made to Appendix 3, Rules of Procedure of the G.A., paragraph 9.1 ([page 63 of IN ACTION](#))) have been presented to the G.A. for vote:

Recommendation 1:

Submitter: **Sheik Ali Hussain**, Academy for Sustainable Integrated Living, India

Recommendation: Establish an IFOAM office in India. It will be useful to focus the organic movement in the country.

In favour: 45 - Against: 67

X - Recommendation fails

Recommendation 2:

Submitter: **Otto Schmid**, Chair IAHA (IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance), FIBL, Switzerland

Recommendation: IFOAM-OI acknowledges the conclusions of the IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance (IAHA) Pre-Conference (7-8 November 2017) on “The Role of the Livestock in Sustainable Agriculture” as stated in the IAHA New Delhi Declaration ([LINK to declaration here](#)).

✓ **Recommendation approved.**

Recommendation 3:

Submitter: **Christopher Atkinson**, Soil Association, UK

Recommendation: To increase the prominence of the IFOAM Principles in framing and guiding the debates which we engage in as an organic movement. E.g. Discussions in IFOAM-Organics International facilitated sessions at the OWC should be introduced with reference to principles, which will best guide the debate to support the development of IFOAM OI’s positions, programs and standards.

✓ **Recommendation approved.**

Recommendation 4:

Submitter: Elizabeth Henderson, NOFA (Northeast Organic Farming Association), USA

Recommendation: In addition to biographies of WB candidates, ask each candidate to write answers to questions about IFOAM – OI policies, and about the WB and member motions, so that voting members know more about the people they vote for.

✓ Recommendation approved.

Recommendation 5:

Submitter: Ulrich Schmutz, Garden Organic, UK

Recommendation: Develop standards to define Urban Organic Horticulture worldwide. Make attempt to include Urban Agroecology into the Organic Movements.

✓ Recommendation approved.

Recommendation 6:

Submitter: Nicolas Lampkin, Organic Research Centre, UK

Recommendation: To reduce the tracks dividing different audiences in the next OWC and replace them with themed sessions with papers identified as R-Research, P-Practice or M-Markets so we can get an integrated view on the topic.

✓ Recommendation approved.

Recommendation 7:

Submitter: Paul van Berge, FIBL, Switzerland; seconded by Brian Baker

Recommendation: IFOAM should develop a new Basic Standards to incorporate the IFOAM Best Practices Guidelines.

✓ Recommendation approved.

AGENDA POINT 71: Proposals for Organic World Congress / General Assembly 2020

Organic World Congress/ G.A. 2020 bids from Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco, Russia, Spain, United Arabian Emirates have been presented during the social dinner on November 12 as well as at the G.A. plenary on November 13. Ballots were distributed. Each ballot one vote.

Place, Country	#votes (336, 50%= 168)	
Sydney, Australia	34	Oaxaca, Mexico 39
Saskatoon, Canada	20	Marrakesh, Morocco 60
Prague, Czech Republic	21	Moscow, Russia 8
Rennes, France	130	Valencia, Spain 10
Vilnius, Lithuania	4	Dubai, UAE 6

In the first round none of the bidding countries received more than half of the votes cast. Therefore the top two countries – France and Morocco – went into the second round.

Hanspeter Schmidt, Law office, requested a secret ballot according to § 5 of the IFOAM e.V. statutes.

Since it was the last vote of the G.A., the voting cards have been used as ballots.

2nd round of votes by secret ballot: (#votes 325, 3 abstention)

France	205	Morocco	117
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✓ **The Organic World Congress & G.A. 2020 will be held in Rennes, France.**

AGENDA POINT 81: Ambassadors & Farewells & Appreciations

The following **Ambassadors of IFOAM – Organics International** have been appointed by the World Board for the period 2017-2020:

Gerald A. Herrmann (Germany), **James Cole** (Ghana), **Martien Lankester** (Netherlands), **Mathew Holmes** (Canada), **Patrick Holden** (UK), **Tom Harding** (USA), **Tanveer Hossein** (Bangladesh), **Andre Leu** (Australia), **Manjo Smith** (Namibia), **Gabi Soto** (Costa Rica), **Eva Torremocha** (Spain), **Roberto Ugas** (Peru), **Zhou Zejiang** (China), **Mathew John** (India).

The WB honored the following **outgoing committee members** by a letter of appreciation:

Members of the **Nomination Committee** - Term 2016 -2017: Katherine DiMatteo, - NC Chair-, USA ; Beate Huber, Switzerland; Andrea Richert, Germany; Brendan Hoare, New Zealand; Diana Callear, South Africa; Shaik Tanveer Hossein, Japan; Iskenderbek Aidaraliev, Kyrgyzstan.

Outgoing **PGS Committee** members: Mathew John; India; Janet Villanueva, Peru; Marc Levis, South Africa.

The following outgoing **World Board members** were honored by individual participants of the G.A. putting flower garlands around their neck:

Andre Leu, Australia, Mathew John, India; Gabriela Soto, Costa Rica; Eva Torremocha, Spain; Roberto Ugas, Peru; Zeijang Zhou, China; - Manjo Krige, Namibia (did not attend the G.A.).

AGENDA POINT 82: IFOAM – Organics International Recognition Awards

The following organic personalities have been selected by the World Board to receive the IFOAM – Organics International Recognition Award 2017 for their outstanding contribution to the development of the global organic movement and IFOAM – Organics International:

Elizabeth Henderson, USA

Bernward Geier, Germany

Vanaja Ramprasad, India

Dr. Shi Shiun Chen, Taiwan

Edith Lammerts van Bueren, The Netherlands

AGENDA POINT 83: Closure

Peggy Miars as the new President of IFOAM – Organics International provided appreciation to the heads of the Regional Bodies and Sector Platforms as well as IFOAM-OI Staff and closed the General Assembly 2017 at 2 pm on November 13, 2017.