

57. Policy regarding the Nomination of Candidates for the World Board

Purpose

To establish a procedure for the nomination of candidates for the IFOAM – Organics International World Board

Background

The nomination of candidates for the World Board is based on the regulations in the statutes, related General Assembly decisions and the following considerations:

1. IFOAM – Organics International shall have a system for the targeted, pro-active recruitment of World Board candidates in order to ensure that highly qualified candidates, sufficient in number and suitable for the position are presented to each General Assembly.
2. Such a system shall guarantee the sovereign right of the membership to propose themselves or be proposed by other members, and shall also guarantee the right of the General Assembly to elect the World Board of its choice.
3. The nominations procedure shall not be in the direct control of the incumbent World Board.
4. Operational and recognized Self-organized Structures, Internal Bodies and likeminded organizations shall be actively consulted in the nomination of World Board candidates.
5. The procedures to be followed shall be transparent for all IFOAM – Organics International members.

The statutes regulate the following:

Every regular General Assembly elects ten World Board members. Candidacies must be received at least three months before the regular General Assembly and must be endorsed by five members. A presentation of the candidates must be sent to the members at least 60 days before the General Assembly.

Policy

Any person may present a candidacy for the IFOAM – Organics International World Board if the requirements for candidates are fulfilled (see Annex 1) and requested documentation is submitted completely (see Annex 2).

To seek, facilitate and stimulate candidates to submit their candidacies, the World Board shall institute a Nomination Committee (NC) (see Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure in Annex 3). Reference is made to policy 23 for Self-organized Structures and policy 24 for Internal Bodies (Committees and Task Forces).

The Executive Director is responsible for the administration of the nomination procedures.

Procedure

1. The Executive Director publishes in IFOAM – Organics International's newsletter the call for candidates for the coming World Board giving ample time, i.e. at least 12 months prior to the General Assembly. Requirements and deadline for submission will be clearly defined as to meet the requirements of the statutes.
2. The candidates submit their candidacies to the Executive Director.
3. The Executive Director screens the candidacies to ensure that they fulfill the requirements.

4. If a submission is not complete, the Executive Director ensures that the submission is completed no later than 10 days after notification.
5. The World Board will be consulted if the Executive Director deems a candidacy not to fulfill the requirements before it is finally rejected.
6. Any rejection of candidacies shall be based on the statutes or on this policy.
7. The Executive Director forwards a candidacy once it is accepted or rejected to the Nomination Committee.
8. The World Board shall be informed about the status of candidacies.
9. Candidates shall be presented in IFOAM – Organics International’s newsletter and to the General Assembly.
10. All communications (written and oral) to the IFOAM – Organics International membership are done in a neutral manner.

Revision

This policy will be evaluated and where necessary revised by the World Board following each General Assembly.

*Approved by the World Board, September 2004, USA
Latest amended by the World Board, May 2016*

Annex I to Policy 57

Requirements for World Board candidates:

The candidates have

- A passion for Organic Agriculture and the issues surrounding it;
- Strong cross-cultural communication skills and the ability to be clear, concise and diplomatic;
- Skills for (and preferably also experience in) strategy building and governance of a global and professional organization;
- Readiness to take over responsibility for IFOAM – Organics International together with other World Board members;
- The ability to understand and work with financial documents and official audit reports;
- An excellent organic and sustainably-minded network, including donors, private sector, regional and international organizations (preferable).
- The ability to see and act beyond your personal interests and objectively represent IFOAM – Organics International;
- A flexible and dynamic working attitude;
- A good command of spoken and written English;
- Availability to prepare for and attend World Board meetings.

Financial Aspects

IFOAM – Organics International offers the opportunity for you to be part of a truly global team of organic stakeholders and play an active role in shaping the strategic direction of IFOAM – Organics International and the global organic movement we represent. Although all activities for the IFOAM – Organics International World Board are voluntary work with no time reimbursement foreseen, travel and accommodation costs associated with serving on the World Board will be borne by IFOAM – Organics International.

Annex II to Policy 57

WB Application Procedure

Electronic applications should include:

1. A candidacy statement containing:
 - a) A short curriculum vitae addressing your involvement in the organic movement and focusing on experience and skills that you would contribute to the WB (max 1 page or 500 words);
 - b) A short presentation (maximum of 500 words), addressing the membership and indicating the area in which you would particularly like to contribute to the work of the World Board as well as relevant networks you are involved in/related to. You are welcome to also express your views on the current IFOAM – Organics International strategy and positions. Please note that your presentation will be used in the promotion of your application in the IFOAM in Action, GA 20XX edition.
2. The endorsement, in writing, by 5 IFOAM - Organics International members;
 - a. An indication of your availability (or lack thereof) to also serve on the Executive Board
 - b. A photograph, suitable for publication (print quality, i.e. 300 dpi). Please note that this photograph will be used in the promotion of your application in the IFOAM in Action, GA 20XX edition and on the website.

Annex III to Policy 57

Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Nomination Committee

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The main tasks of the Nomination Committee are:

- To actively identify suitable candidates and encourage them to submit their candidacies.
- To facilitate unbiased presentation of skills and positions of candidates.

Duties

In order to accomplish its task the Nomination Committee shall:

- Contact the existing World Board members to explore their interest to stand for another election, their experiences regarding other World Board members and their recommendations for new candidates.
- Contact recognized Self-organized Structures and Internal Bodies to seek their recommendations for candidates.
- Contact promising individuals with matching qualifications that have been recommended by others or identified by the Nomination Committee itself.
- Strive for a balanced constitution of the World Board.
- Work under strictest confidentiality.

Apart from these measures, the Nomination Committee may take other measures as appropriate for the task.

The Nomination Committee may in no way give the impression that its task is to recommend, elect or reject candidates or that it has the right to reject candidacies.

Structure and Accountability

The Nomination Committee

1. Is a committee according to the Policy for Internal Bodies (policy 24). The requirement to provide “Three statements of support from IFOAM members or other key stakeholders, i.e. relevant government bodies or related non-government organizations” as outlined in annex 4 of policy 24 does not apply to the NC.
2. Is appointed by the World Board. Members of the Nomination Committee will be recruited through:
 - a. An open call in IFOAM – Organics International’s newsletter
 - b. Inviting former World Board members
 - c. To actively approach regional groups and IFOAM – Organics International staff to submit candidates for this committee
3. Is composed of 5-7 members with diverse e.g. geographical, professional and personal background.
4. Receives secretarial and administrative support from the Head Office.
5. Will be reimbursed for meeting-related travel costs, subject to approval by the Executive Director, however there will be no reimbursement for time.
6. Shall present to the General Assembly an unbiased report of its activities, including an overall analysis of the procedure. The NC is not entitled to provide any recommendation of candidates neither should it publicly comment on the qualifications of any specific candidate.

Member Qualifications

1. General knowledge of IFOAM – Organics International and the organic movement.
2. Relation to networks and structures in the organic and like-minded sectors/movements
3. Ability to look and step beyond one's personal interests.
4. Proficiency in English language.
5. Members of the Nomination Committee cannot put themselves forward as World Board candidates.
6. No incumbent WB members shall be member of the NC.

Rules of Procedure

Overall

The Nomination Committee is subject to the Policy for Internal Bodies (24) in all of its operating policies, procedures and actions. It acts in accordance with IFOAM – Organics International statutes and policies.

Management and Communication

The Nomination Committee

1. Establishes a work plan and schedule in line with the Terms of Reference and communicates this information to the Executive Director in a timely manner.
2. Will get assistance from the Executive Director.
3. If needed, establishes more detailed Rules of Procedure in accordance with these Rules of Procedure. These rules must be submitted to the IFOAM – Organics International Head Office but are not subject to approval.

Member Responsibilities

Members of the Nomination Committee:

- Follow these Rules of Procedure.
- Actively and constructively participate in the committee.
- Contribute to the search of qualified World Board candidates in an unbiased manner.

Termination of Membership

Membership of the Nomination Committee may be terminated if the member does not fulfill its responsibilities or steps down from its duties.

Term of the Nomination Committee

Having completed its task the Nomination Committee will be dissolved by the World Board after each General Assembly and will be newly installed by the World Board at least 18 months before the date of the next General Assembly.

Amending Terms of Reference and General Rules of Procedure

The Nomination Committee may recommend revisions to these Terms of Reference and General Rules of Procedure. The World Board takes the final decision.