



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting ArExec/07/2022

### Record of Discussions and Decisions

06 July 2022

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Beirut / Riyadh / Kuwait / Doha / Amman | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Cairo / Tripoli

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Tunis / Rabat

#### PARTICIPANTS

Name	Country	Function	Present	Regrets
Dr. Amine Kassouf	Lebanon	President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eng. Ahmed A. Al-Bashah	Yemen	President-elect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prof. Samuel Godefroy	GForSS	Vice-president	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eng. Narjes Maslah El Hammar	Tunisia	Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Amal Al-Rashdan	Kuwait	Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Abubakr Salama	Morocco	Member-at-large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Elie Bou Yazbeck	Lebanon	Member-at-large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Gouda Abdalla Ramadan Gouda	Qatar	Member-at-large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Khalid Ghaffar	Waters Corporation - UAE	Member-at-large	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Moustapha Nabeel Mohamed Ahmed	Egypt	Member-at-large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eng. Reem Mahmoud Alqaisi	Jordan	Member-at-large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eng. Sakina El Khabuli	Libya	Member-at-large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The third meeting of the Executive Committee of the Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL was held on Wednesday July 06, 2022, in a virtual format via Zoom.

### A. Review of the Agenda

Quorum of attendance was achieved with the presence of 9 members out of 12.

The Executive Committee also welcomed Mr. Ahmed Eddouaicer, coordinator of the Arab Codex Initiative, as an observer to the meeting.

The proposed agenda was reviewed and adopted by the executive committee members attending the meeting.

### B. Review and approval of 27 April 2022 Record of Decisions (ROD)

Executive committee members approved unanimously the ROD of the previous meeting.

### C. Motion to Identify the Headquarters of the Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL

In their intention to identify the headquarters of the Arab section and its regional reach outs, executive committee members discussed this item. Dr. Amine Kassouf started by presenting the idea of establishing the headquarters of the section at the center of excellence, currently under implementation at the Dubai Central Laboratory, between the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS) and the Dubai Municipality. All members expressed their full support to this initiative. Furthermore, Dr. Abubaker Salama emphasized on the willingness of AIDSMO to remain an effective partner to this initiative. Eng. Ahmad Al-Bashah also affirmed the availability of the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) to provide also a sub-regional connection and partnership. Dr. Moustapha Nabeel and Dr. Gouda shared with the committee valuable ideas for further steps to be undertaken by the section to create a network of laboratories from the Arab region with an affiliated database, gathering the levels of accreditations of these laboratories, their scopes of analysis, available equipments, etc. This database will serve as a benchmark for further activities and programs to be undertaken by the section, namely proficiency testing programs. Dr. Moustapha also suggested the naming of a focal points in these laboratories, which would facilitate communication among the member laboratories.

### D. Review and adoption of Bylaws amendment proposed by GFoRSS Board

Pr. Samuel Godefroy explained the context of the amendment to the Bylaws of the Arab section, as recommended by the Board of Directors of GFoRSS. The proposed amendment concerns the addition of an article related to "Conflict Resolutions". After fruitful discussions relating to this issue, it was agreed to add the following clause to the initial amendment proposal:

"..... The Section President and Vice-President shall commit to exploring avenues to bridge the identified differences, **including through the organization of relevant meetings**, and develop a path forward that enables the continued operation of the Section, by GFoRSS and in accordance with the direction of the Executive Committee."

#### **E. Review and adoption of sponsorship packages**

The 3 sponsorship packages were presented and discussed by the committee members. Dr. Moustapha Nabeel suggested the addition of a complementary opportunity for sponsors with the Platinum package, related to the possibility of organizing a technology demonstration side-event. This suggestion was included in the sponsor prospectus. Another important discussion took place, related to the selection criteria of any prospective sponsor. The members agreed on the need to develop these criteria as well as the “terms of reference – ToR” for any future sponsorship agreement. Dr. Abubaker Salama emphasized on the importance of setting an advertising strategy to reach out to sponsors. The sponsorship packages were then adopted by the committee.

#### **F. Overview of the newly developed website and launching of the membership application**

Dr. Amine Kassouf introduced the newly developed website for the section ([arabaoac.org](http://arabaoac.org)), particularly the e-membership application and emphasized the need to disseminate this information, to reach out to all interested colleagues from the Arab region. All members agreed on the importance of this step and the need to disseminate this information at a very wide level through the Arab region. Dr. Moustapha Nabeel suggested several valuable points, related to the creation of additional sections (membership info, links to other Arab institutions and laboratories, sponsorship program, etc.) and the need to create an official email to contact the section, e.g., info or [contact@arabaoac.org](mailto:contact@arabaoac.org).

#### **G. AOAC INTERNATIONAL annual meeting (Aug 27 – Sep 01, 2022)**

The committee discussed the upcoming annual meeting of the AOAC INTERNATIONAL, which will be organized between August 27 and September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, at Arizona, USA. Some members expressed their willingness to participate in-person to the meeting. Moreover, the committee emphasized on the importance of introducing the section and its future activities through a presentation during this annual meeting.

#### **H. Introduction of AOAC INTERNATIONAL structure, mandate, and programs to Arab section members**

The committee members welcomed unanimously this initiative of organizing a webinar, delivered by head of programs from AOAC INTERNATIONAL, and highlighted its great importance to the launching of the Arab section.

#### **I. Reminder of upcoming event co-hosted by the Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL**

The committee was reminded about the upcoming event: the training of African Scientists at the Dubai Central Laboratories – in collaborative support with the African Union and the Sub-Saharan Africa section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL, in addition to the India Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL, to which the trainers are affiliated.

#### **J. Settlement of date for the upcoming meeting**

All members agreed once more to organize frequent meetings, which will help boosting the implementation of the section. It was agreed to organize the next meeting end of August, early September 2022.

## **K. Adjournment**

The Executive Committee meeting was concluded at 1:45 PM Beirut time, 12:45 PM Cairo time and 11:45 AM Rabat time.

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