



BOARD OF DIRECTORS – RECORD OF DECISIONS

Meeting of 13 April 2022

6:30 AM – 8:30 AM Quebec City | 11:30 – 13:30 Dublin | 12:30-14:30 Cairo | 18:30 – 20:30 Beijing |
21:30 – 23:30 Sydney - Canberra

PARTICIPANTS

Name	Officer / Function	Present	Regrets
Dr. Pamela Byrne	Vice President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr./Prof. Hussein Mansour	Vice-President	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prof. Junshi Chen	Honorary President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prof. Samuel Godefroy	President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Joyce Haddad	Executive Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Nuri Gras	Chile	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Wiem Guissouma	Tunisia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Zeinab Bouchiki	Morocco	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Rashed Al Arfaj	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prof. Kaushik Banerjee	India	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Scott Crerar	Australia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Greg Paoli	Canada	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

AGENDA

Item	Participants
A. Review of the Agenda	All
B. Review and Approval of 16 Feb Record of Decisions	All
C. Review of membership requests and final approval	Samuel Godefroy
D. Updates on initiative underway <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arab Codex Initiative 2. African Food Laboratory Training 3. Support to the Creation of Arab Section of AOAC 4. Agreement with AIDSMO – Letter of Agreement 5. Agreement with GSO/ Centre of Excellence UAE 6. Collaboration with AOAC International 7. Agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture Suriname (LVV) and The National Food Safety Institute (NIVS) 	Samuel Godefroy
E. Proposed Collaboration with AOAC LAC	Nuri Gras
F. Discussion of Operational Model – delivery of initiatives and On-going management of operations	Samuel Godefroy, all
G. Possible Hosting Agreement with ULaval / INAF	Eliane Picard Deland
H. Proposed Organization of Members’ Assembly and Face to Face Board Meeting	All
I. Scheduling Next Board Meeting	All
J. Adjournment	All

MEETING DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

A. Review of the Agenda

The meeting started at 6:30 AM Quebec time.

Prof. Godefroy informed the team that the agenda was amended, and item H will be introduced by Ms. Eliane Picard.

The agenda was reviewed. A proposal to adopt the agenda was made by Dr. Pamela Byrne, seconded by Ms. Joyce Haddad.

The agenda was approved unanimously by all participants.

B. Confirmation of adoption of Records of Decision of meeting of Feb 23rd, 2021

Prof. Godefroy informed the team that the ROD for the meeting of 16 Feb 2022 were not made available and will be subject to approval at the next board meeting.

C. Review of membership requests and final approval

- Prof. Godefroy suggested to review the membership requests and specifically for affiliated members to validate the approval.
- Board members confirmed that they reviewed the membership requests and that the votes made, were carried out with a complete understanding of the vote process. As a result, the e-voting on new members, can be considered as validated.
- The board gave the final approval for the membership requests.

D. Updates on initiatives underway

1. Initiative 1: Arab Codex Initiative

- Prof. Godefroy presented Initiative 1: The Arab Codex Initiative to enhance codex capacities in the Arab region and the achievements of this initiative so far. He explained that this initiative was supported by the US Codex Office and will now have a broader scope with the addition of Asia and the South West Pacific regions to the scope of the initiative.
- Prof. Godefroy mentioned the procurement problems faced during the implementation of this initiative, which did not allow to recognize GForSS as a co-awardee of the funding, as stipulated in the taskorder made by the US Codex Office, leading to the requirement of following a complex procurement approach for GForSS activities. As a result, the project will now be taken over by another Awardee / Collaborator: Venture 37 Landolakes. This change will allow a better recognition of GForSS as a key contributor and implementation party of this initiative (as a co-awardee).

2. Initiative 2: African Food Laboratory Training

- Prof. Godefroy informed the board that this initiative funded by US DA Foreign Agriculture Service (US DA – FAS) was completed in July 2021.

3. Initiative 3: Support to the creation of Arab section of AOAC

- Prof. Godefroy explained that this initiative was brought to GFORSS to act as the Host of the Section of AOAC International for Countries of the League of Arab States. Prof. Godefroy also indicated that he encouraged to have a President of the Executive Committee of AOAC – Arab Section from the region. As such Dr. Amine Kassouf will assume this function.
- Dr. Byrne raised the issue of possible situations that may arise in the future, where there may be a conflict between the board of the Arab section of AOAC and GFORSS rules and requirements. She advised of the need to consider the addition of a conflict resolution clause to the Bylaws of Arab AOAC.
- Prof. Godefroy agreed that this is a very important point and suggested to review the bylaws with the consideration of a such a clause to be used as a risk mitigation tool to support alignment with GForSS policy.

- Prof. Godefroy informed the Board of GForSS that the board of directors of "AOAC INTERNATIONAL" approved the creation of the Arab section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL which will be hosted and operated by GForSS on March 14th, 2022. Arab AOAC is now a reality.

4. Agreement with AIDSMO – Letter of Agreement

- Prof. Godefroy informed board members that the Arab codex office was newly created by the Arab organization for industrial development, standardization, and mining (AIDSMO). This office will from now on, take the leadership in the organization of coordination meetings of Arab codex contact points. These meetings will enable a better preparation of Codex delegations from the region, through making available and reviewing analysis of agenda items of planned codex committees. The preparation for CCCF15 (codex committee on contaminants in food at its 15th Session) will be a pilot for this approach, under the leadership of AIDSMO.

5. Centre of Excellence UAE /Agreement with GSO – Letter of Agreement

- Prof. Godefroy informed the board of the status of preparedness and of the joint work towards the development of a collaborative agreement between GForSS and the GSO which aims to enhancing food regulatory capacity in the gulf region, with taking the opportunity to develop a GCC chapter for GForSS, along with a Centre of Excellence for Food and Agriculture Standards.
- Prof. Godefroy informed the board that several meetings are being planned to introduce GForSS and defend the idea of the establishment of the Centre at several senior leadership meetings with the GSO.
- Prof. Godefroy explained that initial support was already provided during the presentation made to TC5 (Technical Committee 5 for food and agriculture) of the GSO which was held on March 31st, 2022. The attendees agreed in principle with the proposal and encouraged Prof. Godefroy and the GSO to continue he development of this initiative.
- The Board appreciated the updates and acknowledged the developments.

6. Agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture Suriname (LVV), The National Food Safety Institute (NIVS)

- Prof. Godefroy informed the Board that a Cooperative Agreement was signed with the Ministry of Agriculture of Suriname (LVV), and the National Food Safety Institute (NIVS) covering three levels of collaboration (technical, policy and operational). This agreement will also aim to support NIVS in the design and implementation of its food regulatory functions, aiming to anchor decisions in science and evidence.
- Prof. Godefroy added that this agreement represents the culmination of discussions between these organizations which took place on the margin of the food for future summit, which took place in Dubai, UAE, in late February 2022, where Suriname was represented by a high-level delegation to attend and contribute to the Summit. GForSS and LVV and NIVS will develop project plans on an annual basis to serve as a guide for achieving the stated objectives.
- Prof. Godefroy reminded that the overall goal is to increase the operational performance of Suriname's food competent authorities and in particular the newly created national institute of food safety Suriname (NIVS).

7. Collaboration with AOAC LAC

- Dr. Nuri Gras introduced the possible collaboration that could develop with AOAC Latin America and Caribbean Section (AOAC LAC). she explained that this collaboration could follow the model of the hosting that GForSS is offering to AOAC Arab Section.
- The Board accepted the proposal, with mentioning that it should be informed and updated about the progress of this collaboration, once this agreement of hosting is further developed.

8. Other collaborations

Other collaborations being explored for GForSS were also introduced by Prof. Godefroy as follows:

- Proposal made to FAO Caribbean region in relation with the implementation of the Food Safety Component of the Suriname Market Access Project (SAMAP)
- Discussions with WHO (Food safety and nutrition Department/Unit) to establish a broad collaborative framework with the possible leadership towards the creation of a Global Food Risk Assessment Forum
- Dr. Pamela Byrne expressed her endorsement of this idea and briefed Board about the importance and the interest of such collaboration. Also, she suggested an effective participation from BfR and EFSA at this forum.
- Dr. Nuri Gras added that it's important that this forum being considered leverages other initiatives such as the collaborative food risk assessment network created in Latin America, in collaboration with the BFR.
- The Board indicated its support to continuing the development of these initiatives and to be kept abreast of the developments.

E. Discussion of Operational Model – delivery of initiatives and On-going management of operations

Prof. Samuel Godefroy introduced this item by indicating the need for GForSS to rely upon a sustainable capacity of operations.

Current operations of GForSS may be classified in two categories:

- I. Delivery on funded initiatives: funding is directly provided through partners and donors. Delivery of these initiatives relies upon hired consultants and contributors, remunerated according to the remuneration grid established by the Board in 2021. When BoD members intervene, they are to be covered by the relevant disclosure of interest associated with the initiative as stipulated in the GForSS Bylaws.
- II. Delivery on horizontal initiatives: These initiatives are meant to deliver on key GForSS mission and mandate. These initiatives are to be funded either through the reserve developed by GForSS from its other activities (through the re-allocation of its overhead charges) or through sponsorship.

For this latter category, delivery has been achieved so far through support offered by Foodregsci Europe SAS, a company incorporated in France with operations in Europe and the Middle East. Expenditures for these activities were “front-ended” and cover the costs of:

- A communication officer based in Cairo
- Partial support from 2 experts based in the Middle East,

- Costs related to the organization of two events, including the Nov 2021 Global Food Regulatory Science symposium in Dubai.

This mode of delivery (costs front-ended) offers less risks to GForSS (no staff / no on-going payroll costs with uncertain revenues).

The board will be invited to consider options to sustain this mode of operations, if it is to be kept, with the estimation of such on-going operational costs and by setting conditions for offsetting such costs on a regular basis, along with improved medium term planning of GForSS operations.

This item will be brought for further more detailed discussions at an upcoming Board meeting.

F. Possible Hosting Agreement with ULaval / INAF

- Ms. Eliane Picard-Deland from INAF/U Laval was invited to join the board meeting for this item.
- Ms. Picard-Deland introduced the conditions of a possible Hosting Agreement between GForSS and the Institute of Nutrition and Functional Foods (INAF) at Laval University. She explained that this possible collaboration will allow GForSS members and INAF teams to come together on a common platform and share work and data towards the achievement of common goals involving multiple expertise in food safety and nutrition.
- Ms. Zeinab Bouchiki asked about the possibility for this partnership to include access to possible training sessions organized by experts from INAF in their relevant areas of expertise, to which Mrs. Picard-Deland replied favorably, and mentioned the various events and activities that could be carried out by INAF, through Eliane reply that such collaboration provides to GForSS the possibility to access INAF scientific networks, collaborate with AQIA and organize and promote of joint-events, webinars, and training (e.g. via joint session BENEFIQ, AQIA, PARERA...).
- The Board appreciated the proposal and will consider it in its future deliberations.

G. Proposed Organization of Members' Assembly and Face to Face Board Meeting

It was suggested that the 1st physical board meeting and an assembly of members could be held during/as part of the 16th Dubai International Food Safety Conference.

H. Scheduling Next Board Meeting

It was suggested that the next board meeting will be held during the second week of May, possibly on May 11th, 2022 unless other issues emerged requiring a Board meeting.

I. Adjournment

The Board meeting was concluded at 7.30 am Quebec local time.