



BOARD OF DIRECTORS – RECORD OF DECISIONS

15 December 2023

7:09 AM – 8:12 AM Quebec City Time

Zoom Call Details

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89586224157?pwd=lboUsk1AGUFnc4Gfa7RuGDNNtyqc9M.1>

Meeting ID: 895 8622 4157

Passcode: 514311

PARTICIPANTS

Name	Officer / Function	Present	Regrets
Dr. Pamela Byrne	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"/>	Absent no regrets
Prof. Kaushik Banerjee	India	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Scott Crerar	Australia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Greg Paoli	Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PROPOSED AGENDA

Item	Participants
A. Review of the Agenda	All
B. Review and Approval of 09 June 2023 Record of Decisions	All
C. Update on Activities of GForSS Based on the Board Update of 27 October 2023	Samuel Godefroy and Members for Questions
D. Review and Endorsement of the Agreement with the Military Laboratories of Jordan (replacing the Dubai Municipality agreement)	Samuel Godefroy and all
E. Validation of New Membership already endorsed by GForSS	Samuel Godefroy and all
F. Confirmation of Activities related to the Collaborative Agreement with r-Biopharm AG	All
G. Review of on-Going Activities with Seed Funding from GForSS devoted to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Suriname – National Institute of Food Safety b. African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum 	Samuel Godefroy
H. Schedule of Board Meetings for 2024	
I. Other items: Re-election of Board Members and Organization of the Assembly of Members	All
J. Adjournment	

MEETING DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

A. Review of the Agenda

The meeting started at 7:09 AM Quebec time.

The agenda was reviewed.

Quorum was confirmed.

The agenda was unanimously approved.

B. Review and Approval of 09 June 2023 Record of Decisions

Ms. Nuri Gras Rebolledo made the resolution for approval, seconded by Mrs. Joyce Haddad.

The records of decisions of the meeting of 09 June 2023 were reviewed and unanimously approved.

C. Update on Activities of GForSS Based on the Board Update of 27 October 2023

MoU with the Dubai Municipality: Professor Godefroy reviewed the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Dubai Municipality and revealed that it has been rescinded. This decision stemmed from a lack of agreement with the new management regarding the vision for the Center of Excellence.

MoU with the Military Laboratory of the Kingdom of Jordan: Professor Godefroy highlighted the significant progress in locating a replacement for capacity-building activities in food safety laboratories, with the specific objective of establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Military Laboratory of the Kingdom of Jordan.

MoU with Suriname Food Regulatory Organizations: Professor Godefroy shared insights about the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Suriname Food Regulatory Organizations. He noted that Dr. Kaushik has been actively conducting training through virtual meetings. Professor Godefroy proposed allocating seed funding to support these training efforts, with the condition that one board member should be involved in the activities.

Collaboration with R-Biopharm: Professor Godefroy offered a thorough overview of the collaboration with R-Biopharm, highlighting his proposal to redirect ongoing support from the Food Regulatory Science Fund of Université Laval (ULaval) to GForSS. The main aim is to enhance operational flexibility. He also announced that R-Biopharm has approved this request and transferred \$85,000.00 CAD to GForSS.

Arab Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL: Professor Samuel declared that GForSS will persist in hosting the Arab section, further announcing that R-Biopharm has agreed to contribute 16,000 USD annually to support the activities of the Arab section of the AOAC INT.

South-West Pacific Region: Professor Samuel stated that GForSS will sustain its efforts in the South-West Pacific Region and is contemplating providing support for the establishment of a section of the AOAC INT in that region.

African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum (AFRAF): Professor Samuel announced that GForSS has contributed of 5,000 USD towards the organization of the African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum (AFRAF).

All members appreciated the updates and concurred with the proposed steps forward for all initiatives discussed.

D. Review and Endorsement of the Agreement with the Military Laboratories of Jordan (replacing the Dubai Municipality agreement)

Professor Samuel introduced the clauses of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Military Laboratories of Jordan and sought approval from board members to sign the MoU on behalf of GForSS.

Prof Kaushik Banerjee, seconded by Prof Junshi Chen made the following resolutions:

The Board of Directors of GForSS grant the chief operator officer (COO) and the president of GForSS the authority to sign the MoU with Military Laboratories of Jordan on behalf of GForSS.

The resolution was unanimously approved.

E. Validation of New Membership already endorsed by GForSS.

The list of new members (since July) was shared with participants.

Professor Samuel noted that for a B-Member to become an A-Member, endorsement by one of the board members is required.

The board raised no objections to the inclusion of the proposed new members based on their application.

F. Confirmation of Activities related to the Collaborative Agreement with r-Biopharm AG

Professor Samuel introduced the new collaboration and funding initiative with R-Biopharm-AG. The new initiative will aim to promote good laboratory practices in Food Testing.

Prof Junshi Chen, seconded by Ms. Nuri Gras Rebolledo made this resolution: To support the new funding source and the allocation of resources to the promotion of good laboratory practices in Food Testing.

G. Review of on-Going Activities with Seed Funding from GForSS devoted to: Suriname – National Institute of Food Safety / African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum

Professor Samuel requested support to initiate discussions with the African Union Commission (AUC) to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the AUC. This MoU would position GForSS as a leading partner entity responsible for operationalizing the African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum and the African Food Safety Agency.

Prof Kaushik Banerjee seconded by Dr. Wiem Guissouma made the following resolution:

The members of the board of directors agree with the direction to continue to dedicate some resources to increase collaboration with NIVS-Suriname and to develop an MoU with the African Union Commission supporting the operationalisation of AFRAF and The African Food Safety Agency.

The resolution was unanimously approved.

H. Schedule of Board Meetings for 2024

Professor Samuel shared the proposal of the schedule of board meetings for the upcoming year 2024, with the aim of holding regular and monthly meetings.

A proposed change was made to the date of the first meeting of 2024 which has been rescheduled to January 18, 2024.

Dr. Wiem Guissouma seconded by Ms. Nuri Gras Rebolledo made the resolution approve the proposed schedule.

The resolution was unanimously approved.

I. Other items: Re-election of Board Members and Organization of the Assembly of Members

Professor Samuel noted that two executive board positions: Vice-president, Executive secretary Will become vacant, and will require elections in the coming period.

J. Adjournment

The Board meeting was concluded at 8:12 AM Quebec local time.