GFORSS | GLOBAL FOOD REGULATORY SCIENCE SOCIETY

Board of Director Meeting

23 June 2026

07:00 AM Quebec City

Zoom Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85216668816?pwd=8Xy1FtvabTPk15ad5xyT6Jp3fIrwEn.1

Meeting ID: 836 5648 5620

Passcode: 190365

PARTICIPANTS

Name	Present	Regrets
Mr. Kaushik Banerjee	☒	☐
Ms. Pamela Byrne	☒	☐
Mr. Junshi Chen	☒	☐
Ms. Zeineb El Bouchikhi	☐	☒
Mr. Hadi El-Alem	☒	☐
Mr. Samuel Godefroy	☒	☐
Ms. Ruba Goussous	☒	☐
Ms. Wiem Guissouma	☒	☐
Ms. Nuri Gras	☐	☒
Ms. Joyce Haddad	☐	☐
Mr. Shrinivas Joshi	☒	☐

Mr. Hakim Mufumbiro	☒	☐
Mr. Greg Paoli	☒	☐
Mr. Pingfan Rao	☐	☐
Mr. Christopher Worrell	☒	☐

PROPOSED AGENDA

Item	*Participants*
A. **Review of the Agenda**	*All*
B. **Opening Remarks**	*Prof. S. Godefroy*
C. **Approval of the Board meeting on 19 May 2026 Record of Discussion**	*All*
D. **Action Items from Previous Board Meeting(s)**	*S. Godefroy – All*
E. **Updates on Working Groups:** **a. Communication Strategy Working Group**	*E. Bou Yazbeck, S. Joshi*
F. **Updates on Partnership / Arrangements with ULaval's Platform of Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Excellence (PARERA)**	*S. Godefroy*
G. **Updates on Collaboration with ILMERAC**	*S. Godefroy*
H. **Adjournment**	*All*

MEETING DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

A- Review and Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair welcomed Board members and presented the proposed agenda for the meeting.

He noted that, in addition to the scheduled agenda items, he wished to provide an update on recent discussions with the **International Liaison Group for Methods for Risk Assessment of Chemicals in Food (ILMERAC)** and emerging opportunities for collaboration through the **Excellent One Health Risk Assessment Education (EXORA)** initiative. These updates were incorporated under Agenda Item G.

No additional items or amendments to the agenda were proposed by Board members.

The agenda was approved following a motion by **Mr. Greg Paoli** and seconded by **Dr. Wiem Guissouma**, with no objections raised.

B- Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed members to the **sixth meeting of the GFoRSS Board of Directors** and thanked them for their continued commitment to advancing the Organization's strategic objectives and governance activities.

The Chair noted that the meeting agenda had been intentionally streamlined to allow sufficient time for discussion of several strategic matters, including updates on the Organization's Working Groups, operational arrangements with the **Platform of Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Excellence (PARERA)** at Université Laval, and emerging opportunities for international collaboration.

The Board was informed that **Dr. Pamela Byrne** would join the meeting shortly due to a prior commitment. The Chair also conveyed the apologies of **Dr. Nuri Gras**, who was unable to attend because of family commitments, while reaffirming her continued engagement in the Organization's activities.

The Chair thanked Board members for their active participation in the recently established Working Groups and encouraged their continued engagement in supporting the implementation of the Organization's Strategic Plan and governance priorities.

C- Approval of the Record of Decisions of the 19 May 2026 Board Meeting

The Board reviewed the **Record of Decisions (RoD)** of the meeting held on **19 May 2026**, which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

The Chair recalled that the previous meeting had focused on the establishment of the Organization's Working Groups, the continued development of the Members Benefits Package and Fellowship Programme, and updates on strategic outreach initiatives. He also acknowledged the efforts of the Secretariat in preparing the Record of Decisions.

No amendments or comments were raised by Board members.

The **Record of Decisions** was approved following a motion by **Mr. Kaushik Banerjee** and seconded by **Mr. Greg Paoli**, with no objections raised.

D- Action Items from Previous Board Meeting(s)

The Chair reviewed the status of the action items arising from previous Board meetings and provided an update on their implementation.

The Board noted that the **Communication Strategy Working Group** had successfully held its inaugural meeting and would provide a detailed update under the next agenda item. The **Operations and Policy Working Group** had scheduled its first meeting for **2 July 2026**, while preparations were underway to launch the **Education and Capacity Building Working Group** under the leadership of **Dr. Pamela Byrne**.

During the discussion, **Dr. Hadi El-Alem** expressed his interest in joining the Operations and Policy Working Group. The Board welcomed his participation and agreed that the Working Group composition would be updated accordingly.

The Chair reminded members that, pending the planned relocation of the headquarter from Quebec to Ontario, GFoRSS remains subject to Quebec corporate governance requirements. Members who had not yet done so were requested to

provide a copy of the identification page of their passport together with their professional address to facilitate completion of the required regulatory filings.

The Chair further noted that the development of the **GFoRSS Fellowship Programme** remains an important strategic initiative and will continue to be maintained on the Board's forward agenda as work progresses through the relevant Working Groups.

E- Updates on Working Groups:

a. Communication Strategy Working Group

The Chair invited the Co-Chair of the Communication Strategy Working Group to provide an update on the activities of the Working Group following its inaugural meeting.

The Board was informed that the Working Group had initiated a comprehensive review of the Organization's Communication Strategy with the objective of strengthening GFoRSS's visibility, stakeholder engagement, and scientific outreach. Discussions focused on aligning communication activities with the Organization's Strategic Plan while ensuring that communication efforts are supported by measurable objectives and performance indicators.

The Working Group discussed the development of an annual communication and dissemination plan, including the introduction of a quarterly electronic newsletter, a structured calendar of scientific webinars and events, and enhanced engagement through social media platforms. Members emphasized that communication success should be evaluated not only through quantitative indicators, such as audience reach and engagement metrics, but also through qualitative measures reflecting the influence and impact of the Organization's scientific activities.

The Working Group also discussed opportunities to strengthen the Organization's scientific publications, including further development of the GFoRSS Journal, and explored options for sponsorship and strategic partnerships to support communication activities.

The Board welcomed the progress achieved and noted that the Working Group would continue refining the Communication Strategy and prepare a phased implementation plan for consideration at a future Board meeting.

F- Update on Proposed Capacity-Building Initiatives

The Chair provided an update on the current operational arrangements between GFoRSS and the **Platform of Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Excellence (PARERA)** at Université Laval.

The Board noted that the partnership with Université Laval has played a pivotal role in supporting the Organization's administrative and scientific activities since its establishment. As GFoRSS continues to expand its programmes and international engagement, the Chair highlighted the importance of periodically reviewing the Organization's operational arrangements to ensure they remain aligned with its strategic objectives, governance requirements, and long-term sustainability.

The Chair informed the Board that one potential option under consideration would be the engagement of a research professional through a direct contractual arrangement with GFoRSS, should such an arrangement become necessary in the future. This approach would provide additional operational flexibility while preserving the Organization's collaborative relationship with Université Laval.

During the discussion, **Dr. Pamela Byrne** emphasized that the matter should be viewed within the broader context of the Organization's evolution and governance. She noted that decisions regarding staffing arrangements should be guided by a clearly defined operational model reflecting the Organization's anticipated growth, future resource requirements, and long-term strategic direction, rather than being considered as isolated administrative decisions.

Mr. Greg Paoli agreed with the proposed direction and observed that the Board should distinguish between the mechanism through which services are procured and the legal relationship established with the individual providing those services. He recommended that, where direct engagement is considered appropriate, an **independent contractor arrangement** would generally provide greater flexibility and reduce the administrative and legal obligations associated with direct employment.

Board members acknowledged that the Organization is entering a new stage of development that will require increasingly robust operational and governance structures to support its expanding portfolio of activities and partnerships.

Following discussion, the Board agreed that the preferred approach would be to continue working collaboratively with Université Laval while exploring alternative operational arrangements that may enhance the Organization's flexibility and efficiency. The Board further agreed that the broader review of the Organization's operating model should be undertaken by the **Operations and Policy Working Group**, which will develop recommendations for future consideration by the Board.

G- Updates on Collaboration with ILMERAC

The Board was informed that GFoRSS continues to participate as an observer within ILMERAC and has contributed to discussions on strengthening international cooperation in food chemical risk assessment and capacity building. The Chair highlighted the preparation of a discussion paper examining opportunities for collaboration in training and professional development, areas that closely align with the **Organization's Strategic Plan** and long-term capacity-building objectives.

The Chair also introduced the **Excellent One Health Risk Assessment Education (EXORA)** initiative, a European programme aimed at strengthening education and training in One Health risk assessment. Members discussed opportunities for collaboration with European partners through this initiative, particularly in relation to the development of international training programmes, professional competency frameworks, and educational resources that complement the Organization's mission.

The Board welcomed these developments and recognized the strategic value of strengthening collaboration with ILMERAC and related international initiatives. It was agreed that the **Education and Capacity Building Working Group** should remain closely engaged in these activities and that updates on progress and potential collaborative opportunities would continue to be reported to the Board as discussions advance.

H- Adjournment

The Chair invited members to raise any additional business.

No further items were brought forward.

The Chair reminded members that the **Operations & Policy Working Group** would meet on **2 July 2026**.

The meeting was adjourned following a motion by **Dr. Ruba Goussous** and seconded by **Dr. Shrinivas Joshi**.

The meeting concluded at approximately **8:05 AM (Quebec time)**.