



## Extraordinary General Assembly 2026 – Q&A for IFOAM Members

### 1. Why is IFOAM conducting a governance reform now?

The governance reform was initiated by a wider discussion during the General Assembly in December 2024. Members expressed the need for governance structures that better reflect the diversity, needs, and contributions of all regions and self-organised structures. This mandate was captured in **Motion W03: “Building a fit for the future IFOAM structure and governance”** (see page 12 of the 2024 GA Minutes, available in the Member Area).

A Governance Advisory Board, integrated by several stakeholders from across different regions, was appointed to carry out surveys, consultations, and discussions to understand how a potential governance reform could look for the organisation. The results from this work will be translated into proposed governance reform models that the World Board will submit to the General Assembly for IFOAM members’ approval.

The Extraordinary General Assembly in June 2026 is therefore a **continuation of the membership’s request** to strengthen the organisation’s long-term effectiveness and representation.

### 2. Does the Extraordinary General Assembly replace the regular General Assembly?

No. The Extraordinary General Assembly is **not** a replacement for any regular General Assembly.

It is meant to address **one specific mandate** from the 2024 GA: deciding on the future governance model for IFOAM – Organics International.

Finalising this work before the next General Assembly in 2027 is essential so that future decisions, elections, and strategy discussions take place under a governance structure that is clear, stable, and aligned with what members decide now.

### 3. Who is developing the governance models?

The proposed governance models have been developed by the Governance Advisory Board (GAB), which was commissioned by the World Board.

The GAB's role has explored and designed governance options that reflect the interests and diversity of the membership. To do this, they have consulted a wide range of stakeholders across regions, sectors, and self-organised structures.

This has been a thorough and thoughtful process, grounded in the aim of recognising the diversity and contributions of the global organic community.

After the GAB submitted its proposals, the Executive Board shared its initial assessment with members during the BIOFACH Network Meeting in February, 2026. That discussion led to a clear call for further member input.

In the third week of March 2026, the World Board met to review the proposals and agreed on a set of streamlined governance models and related motions. These will be shared with all members in the coming weeks, ahead of the Extraordinary General Assembly.

#### **4. Will members be able to provide feedback on the proposed models?**

Yes, as we move forward in the governance reform process, we invite members to join one of our upcoming informative sessions in April. These online sessions are designed to give you a clear and practical overview of the proposed governance models and what lies ahead in the process leading up to the Extraordinary General Assembly.

During the session, members will:

- Get a simple overview of the governance reform process
- Learn about the proposed governance models
- Understand how you can take part in the feedback and voting stages
- Have the opportunity to ask questions during a live Q&A

#### **Session dates (CEST):**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Language</b>
Tuesday, 14 April	09:00 - 10:30 CEST	English
Tuesday, 14 April	16:00 - 17:30 CEST	English
Wednesday, 15 April	16:00 - 17:30 CEST	Spanish
Thursday, 16 April	09:00 - 10:30 CEST	Mandarin

Members only need to attend one session.

## 5. How will voting work?

Voting will take place **online**, during clearly defined voting windows, to ensure participation across time zones.

Members may hold **up to 5 proxy votes**, as in past GAs.

Further instructions and technical details will be shared early in 2026.

## 6. Will recordings of informative sessions be available?

Yes. All informative and presentation sessions will be **recorded and uploaded to the Member Area** for those who cannot attend live.

## 7. Who can participate in this process?

Only **IFOAM – Organics International members** will be able to participate in the sessions, access materials, and submit feedback in April. Only members with voting rights will be allowed to participate in the voting process.

## 8. What is the timeline for the process?

Here is a simplified timeline (details updated as materials become available):

- **February 2026** – Network meeting at BIOFACH
- **April 2026** – Online informative sessions (multilingual)
- **April – end April 2026** – Member feedback period
- **June 2026** – Publication of revised governance models
- **1 June 2026** – Presentation session + voting on unadopted changes
  - **Register here:**  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_gW0qyQtcQfyZ0nA9iPuKkA](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gW0qyQtcQfyZ0nA9iPuKkA)
- **5 June 2026** – Presentation of results + final voting on the governance model
  - **Register Here:**  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_30R\\_e43lQuClvoa67fWM2Q](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_30R_e43lQuClvoa67fWM2Q)

## 9. What role do members play in shaping the outcome?

Members hold the **central decision-making power** in this process. You can:

- Attend the sessions (live or through recordings)
- Review and comment on the proposed models
- Submit comments through the official feedback Forum platform

- Vote on unadopted changes\*
- Vote on the final governance model\*

Your participation directly determines the governance structure that will guide IFOAM – Organics International into the next decade.

\*Only available for voting members.

#### **10. When can we expect the governance reform to be implemented?**

Implementation would begin **after the Extraordinary General Assembly in June 2026**, provided a model is adopted. Because reforms of this scale require legal, procedural, and structural adjustments, the process will **continue throughout 2026–2027**.

The aim is to have a concrete update for the new governance system **before the next regular General Assembly in 2027**, so that elections, motions, and decision-making can reflect the updated framework. This timing ensures continuity, avoids unnecessary transition periods, and allows members to experience the potential benefits of the reform.

#### **11. Are the network meeting at BIOFACH 2026 and the online information sessions only information sessions, or will attendees be able to provide feedback?**

These sessions are **informative only**. Their purpose is to explain the background, intention, and structure of the proposed governance models so that members feel prepared and confident to participate in the formal consultation process.

During these sessions:

- Participants may ask questions for clarification
- Questions and comments will be noted
- But **they will not count as official feedback** on the governance models

#### **12. What is the mechanism for recording and tracking feedback provided during these occasions?**

- At BIOFACH and during the online information sessions, questions and comments were **captured as part of the session's notes**, but they won't be treated as formal feedback.
- The **official member feedback period** takes place between **the beginning of April and 30 April 2026**, using a dedicated feedback tool accessible only through the Member Area. More information about it will be shared via email.

- This tool will ensure:
  - confidentiality
  - traceability
  - systematic screening of member input, and
  - transparent communication of feedback influenced the final models

The structured feedback mechanism is designed to ensure that all member input is captured consistently and evaluated fairly.

### **13. What will happen after the Extraordinary General Assembly**

After the Extraordinary General Assembly (held on 1 June and 5 June, 2026), the outcome of the vote determines the next steps:

- **If members vote *for* one of the proposed governance models:**

The selected model becomes the organisation’s new governance framework. The World Board will then initiate a phased implementation process, which includes developing internal procedures, updating legal documents, aligning operations, and preparing the transition toward the next General Assembly in 2027.
- **If members can’t reach a consensus on the proposed models:**

The current governance system remains in place for the time being. The World Board will review the reasons behind the outcome—based on the feedback provided throughout the process—to determine whether adjustments, alternative models, or a renewed mandate for reform should be pursued.

### **14. How many governance models will be proposed?**

We are **not expecting many competing proposals**. Instead, the focus is on a **small set of strong, well-designed models** that prioritise quality, clarity, and long-term feasibility.