



**PEFC Council (PEFC
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General Assembly Minutes

Marienberg Fortress, Würzburg, Germany

Wednesday 13th November 2019

24th General Assembly

PRESENT:

- Peter Latham - Chair
- Natalie Hufnagl-Jovy – 1st Vice Chair
- Geneviève Chua – 2nd Vice-Chair

National Governing Bodies from:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus Republic, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, Uruguay, United States of America, Vietnam

By proxy:

Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Switzerland

International Stakeholder Members:

Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT), Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF), Double A, European Panel Federation (EPF), International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA), Metsä Group, Purinusa Ekapersada (APP), SAPPI, Smurfit Kappa, Stora Enso, Suzano Pulp and Paper.

By proxy:

International Family Forestry Alliance (IFFA), Olam

Members of the Board

Peter Crook, David Ford, Nurudeen Iddrisu, Brian Kernohan, Gerard Pfiffinger, Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Suzette Weeding.

APOLOGIES:

- ***National Governing Bodies***
 - Gabon
 - Bulgaria
 - Hungary
 - Lithuania

- Macedonia

- **International Stakeholder Members**

- APP Timber
- Arauco
- Asia Pacific Resources International Holdings Ltd. (APRIL)
- Bioenergy Europe (formerly AEBIOM)
- Building and Wood Worker's International (BWI)
- Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI)
- Connecting Natural Values and People (CNVP)
- European Confederation of Agricultural, Rural and Forestry Contractors (CEETTAR)
- European Pulp Industry Sector Association AISBL (EPIS)
- European Timber Trade Federation (ETTF)
- European Tissue Symposium (ETS)
- International Paper
- RECOFTC
- Union of Silviculturists of Southern Europe (USSE)
- WestRock Company
- Weyerhaeuser Company

- **Extra-ordinary members:**

- CEI-Bois, ELO, FECOF, MECSEA, and UEF

- **Members of the Board**

- Juan Carlos Jintiach, Riikka Joukio, Hervé Le Boulter, Jin Sook Lee

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Ben Gunneberg - Secretary General and CEO- PEFC International
- PEFC International Staff.

Of a total of 139 eligible votes, 119 votes were present (85%)

The Chairman noted that this General Assembly meeting was correctly convened in terms of notice and documentation as set out in Article 5 of the PEFC Statutes; and that the quorum (as defined in Article 5.12) was achieved.

It was also noted that International Stakeholder member Fibria had merged with International Stakeholder member Suzano and that thus Fibria was no longer a member of PEFC Council.

In addition, the Secretary General reported that the PEFC National Governing Body member for Russia had changed its name and transferred of all the PEFC Russia Scheme documentation from the "Association Non-Profit Partnership Centre for Development of Forest Certification" to the new PEFC NGB member name "Association Centre for Development of Forest Certification", and the Secretary General informed the General Assembly accordingly.

1. AGENDA

Unanimously agreed:

To approve the Agenda of the 24th General Assembly.

*Out of 119 possible votes:
119 For; 0 Against, 0 Abstain*

2. MINUTES OF THE 23RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Unanimously agreed:

To approve the minutes of the 23rd General Assembly held Wednesday 14 November 2018 in the Movenpick Hotel, Geneva, Switzerland as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

*Out of 119 possible votes:
119 For; 0 Against, 0 Abstain*

3. PEFC UPDATE VERBAL

The Chairman provided an update and some reflections on the priorities and activities that he and the Board members had undertaken throughout the year in advancing the PEFC Strategy. The Secretary General then presented a review of key activities undertaken by the whole PEFC family and a reflection on the challenges facing the forest certification movement; highlighting how PEFC's unique structure and processes, utilised optimally, could ensure an advancement of the mission and vision of PEFC.

4. FINANCES

4.1 YEAR-END ACCOUNTS 2018

Ms Genevieve Chua, Vice Chair, and Chair of the Management Accounts Committee presented the report.

Unanimously agreed:

To approve the audited accounts for the period 1 January to 31 December 2018, as prepared by Interexperts.

*Out of 119 possible votes:
119 For; 0 Against, 0 Abstain*

4.2 BUDGET AND MEMBERSHIP FEES 2019

Unanimously agreed:

- To approve a membership fee cap per country for the period 2020 of 376,208 CHF per annum
- To approve the budget and membership fees for 2020.

*Out of 119 possible votes:
119 For; 0 Against, 0 Abstain*

4.3 Appointment of Auditor

Unanimously agreed:

To appoint "Interexperts SA" as the PEFC Council auditor for the year end accounts (as at 31 December 2019), in accordance with the PEFC Council Statutes, Article 5, Chapter 10, section V.

*Out of 119 possible votes:
119 For; 0 Against, 0 Abstain*

5. ELECTIONS

5.1 Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chair and Members of the Board

Mr Esa Härmälä of the Nominations Committee presented the Nominations Committee report 2019 on behalf of William V. Street Jr., Chairman of the PEFC Council Nominations Committee.

Unanimously agreed:

To appoint:

- David Ford – as PEFC 1st Vice Chairman (2019-22)

To reappoint:

- Eduardo Rojas y Briales – as Board Member (2019-22)
- Suzette Weeding – as Board Member (2019- 22)

To appoint:

- Dradjad Wibowo – as Board Member (2019-21)
- Josien Tokoe – as Board Member (2019-22)
- Kurt Ramskogler – as Board Member (2019-22)

*Out of 119 possible votes:
119 For; 0 Against, 0 Abstain*

It was noted that Mrs Natalié Hufnagl-Jovy had completed her term of office as Vice Chair; and Mr Juan Carlos Jintiach had completed his term as a member of the Board.

Following the election, the new Board Members introduced themselves.

5.2 Election of Nominations Committee

Unanimously agreed:

To appoint Ms Jan McAlpine (for three years 2019-2022) and Ms Minnie Degawan (for two years 2019-2021) as members of the Nominations Committee.

*Out of 119 possible votes:
119 For; 0 Against, 0 Abstain*

6. PEFC NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY APPLICATION

Unanimously agreed:

- To approve the national governing body (NGB) membership application from “the Association National Voluntary Forest Certification System” for Ukraine.
- To approve the national governing body (NGB) membership application from “The Guyana Forestry Commission” for Guyana.

*Out of 119 possible votes:
119 For; 0 Against, 0 Abstain*

7. TECHNICAL

Following the discussions at the members meeting the previous day, and with the support of the PEFC Council Board, the Chairman reported that voting on agenda items 7.1 (Revised documentation - Trademark Rules), 7.2 (Revised documentation - Chain of Custody standard) and 7.3 (Revised documentation - Requirements for Certification Bodies (Chain of Custody) would be delayed for no longer than two months.

This would allow the Chain of Custody and Trademarks working group to consider an issue raised by several members with respect to a stand age range in the notes of the chain of custody standard. Although the issue only referred to item 7.2, the three standards would need to be voted on at the same time as a package and so voting on the other two

standards would be temporarily delayed as well. A meeting of the Chain of Custody and Trademarks working group would be convened post haste to consider the issue and, following a consensus, the standard would pass through the Board to be voted on by a postal ballot of the General Assembly in line with PEFC requirements.

Unanimously agreed:

To accept the Chairman’s procedural recommendation on the treatment of agenda items 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3

*Out of 119 possible votes:
119 For; 0 Against, 0 Abstain*

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

9. PEFC COUNCIL MEETING DATES & SUBMISSION DEADLINES 2020

The General Assembly noted the PEFC Council Board of Directors agreed meeting dates and submission deadlines for 2020. It was noted that the final dates for all of the events in week 46 in Ireland had not yet been finalised and that further information would be sent once this had been finalised. Members were encouraged to plan being in Ireland for the full week and to consider the options of an additional field trip once circulated.

9.1 Date and venue of 25th PEFC General Assembly - Wednesday 11th November 2020, Dublin, Republic of Ireland

REPORT ON RESULTS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY POSTAL BALLOT VOTES HELD IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN SENDING OUT PAPERS (18TH OCTOBER 2019) FOR THE 24RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY (13TH NOVEMBER 2019) AND 19TH OCTOBER 2020

Peter Latham, Chairman

Ben Gunneberg, Secretary General

GAPB 4/2019 - 12 November 2019

Motion 1: To endorse the SFI Small Lands Group Certification Module, on the condition that the three minor nonconformities identified in the assessment against PEFC ST 1003 are resolved within six months as of endorsement.

For 91,3%, Against 0%, Abstain 8,7%

Motion 2: To recommend to the PEFC General Assembly to endorse the PAFC Cameroon scheme for a period of two years.

For 88,4%, Against 2,9%, Abstain 8,7%

GAPB 5-2019 - 17 January 2020

Motion 1: To approve the final drafts of the revised PEFC International standards for chain of custody, trademarks and certification bodies, namely FD PEFC ST 2001:20XX, Trademark Rules - Requirements; FD2 PEFC ST 2002:20XX, Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products – Requirements and FD PEFC ST 2003:20XX, Requirements for Certification Bodies (Chain of Custody).

For 98.9%, Against 0%, Abstain 1.2%

GAPB 1/2020 - 21 September 2020

Motion: To approve that the 25th General Assembly of the PEFC Council (PEFC International) be held as a virtual meeting, via an on-line platform on Wednesday 11 November 2020, with electronic (on-line) voting.

For 76.8 %, Against 0 %, Abstain 0 %