

General Assembly Minutes

(Virtual meeting with online voting)

Wednesday 11th November 2020

11:00 hrs to 14:00 hrs Geneva time

25th General Assembly

PRESENT:

- Peter Latham - Chair
- David Ford – 1st Vice Chair
- Geneviève Chua – 2nd Vice-Chair

National Governing Bodies from:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Rep, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Netherlands, New-Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Vietnam

International Stakeholder Members:

Asia Pacific Resources International Holdings Ltd. (APRIL), Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT), Building and Wood Worker's International (BWI), Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF), Connecting Natural Values and People (CNVP), Double A, European Panel Federation, International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA), International Paper, Metsä Group, Mondi, Purinusa Ekapersada (APP) SAPPI, Smurfit Kappa, Stora Enso, Suzano Pulp and Paper, WestRock Company.

Members of the Board

Brian Kernohan, Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Gerard Pfiffinger, Hervé Leboulter, Kurt Ramskogler, Nurudeen Iddrisu, Peter Crook, Riikka Joukio, Suzette Weeding.

APOLOGIES:

- **National Governing Bodies**
 - Cameroon
 - Congo Rep of.
 - Ghana
 - Lithuania
 - Luxembourg
 - Macedonia
- **International Stakeholder Members**
 - APP Timber
 - European Biomass Association (AEBIOM)

- European Confederation of Agricultural, Rural and Forestry Contractors (CEETTAR)
- Celulosa Arauco
- Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI)
- European Tissue Symposium (ETS)
- European Timber Trade Federation (ETTF)
- European Pulp Industry Sector
- International Family Forestry Alliance (IFFA)
- Olam
- RECOFTC
- Union of Silviculturists of Southern Europe (USSE)
- Weyerhaeuser Company

- ***Extra-ordinary members:***

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

- ***Members of the Board***

- Josien Tokoe

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Ben Gunneberg - Secretary General and CEO- PEFC International
- PEFC International Staff
- Representatives of Portugal, India

Of a total of 135 eligible votes, 116 votes were present (84%)

The Chairman noted that this General Assembly meeting was being conducted in accordance with the General Assembly postal ballot *GAPB 1-2020*, September 21st 2020. The meeting was therefore 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) had been achieved.

Prior to the commencement of the formal business of the General Assembly, the President of the PEFC International Stakeholder Member, Building and Wood Worker's International (BWI), Per-Olaf Sjö, made a keynote speech on the challenges of the pandemic; welcoming the social requirements, amongst others a living wage added by PEFC to its standards recently, and setting out some new opportunities for development and cooperation on social issues, seen from a work force' perspective.

1. AGENDA

Agreed:

- To approve the Agenda of the 25th General Assembly.

92 votes "For"; 0 votes "Against" and 2 votes "Abstain" (Netherlands)

2. MINUTES OF THE 24TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Agreed:

- To approve the minutes of the 24th General Assembly held on 13th November 2019 in Wurzburg Germany.

92 votes "For"; 0 votes "Against", and 5 votes Abstain (INMETRO, CNVP, Double A)

3. PEFC UPDATE VERBAL

In addition to a short report on the PEFC growth figures for the 12 months and the PEFC week newsletter; the Chairman and the Secretary General conducted a "fireside chat" on life after COVID; the external factors affecting PEFC and the challenges and opportunities this posed for members and the organisation as a whole.

4. FINANCES

4.1 Year-End Accounts 2019

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 2019, as audited by Interexperts.

4.2 Budget and Membership Fees 2021

Agreed:

- To approve a membership fee cap for the year 2021 at 376,208 CHF per annum.

89 votes "For"; 0 votes "Against", and 15 votes "Abstain" (Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, WestRock Company)

Agreed:

- To approve the Budget and Membership Fees for 2021.

86 votes "For"; 0 votes "Against", and 6 votes "Abstain" (Double A, Netherlands, Brazil)

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 2020), in accordance with the PEFC Council Statutes, Article 5, Chapter 10, section V.

5. ELECTIONS

5.1 Election of The Chairman, Vice-Chair And Members of The Board

Mr Esa Härmälä, Chairman of the PEFC Council Nominations Committee, presented the Nominations Committee report for 2020.

Unanimously agreed:

- To elect:
 - Riikka Joukio – as PEFC 2nd Vice Chair 2020-2023
- To re-elect as members of the Board:
 - Peter Crook – 2020-2023
 - Mohamed Nurudeen Iddrisu - 2020-2023
- To elect as members of the Board
 - Fatimah Mohammad - 2020-2021
 - Lena Ek - 2020-2023
 - Sarah Khatib - 2020-2023

It was noted that Mrs Genevieve Chua had completed her term of office as Vice Chair; and Mr Hervé LeBouler 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 Mr Esa Härmälä as a member of the Nominations Committee.

6. PEFC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

6.1 National Governing Body for Turkey

Agreed:

- To approve “the Association for Sustainable Forest Management, Forest Products and Services Certification” as the PEFC National Governing Body member for Turkey.

100 votes “For”; 0 votes “Against” and 4 votes “Abstain” (Poland, and Switzerland)

6.2 National Governing Body for Bosnia & Herzegovina

Unanimously agreed:

- To approve the Association of Private Forest Owners “Naša Šuma” as the PEFC National Governing Body member for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

6.3 International Stakeholder (ISM) membership

Unanimously agreed:

- To approve UPM Kymmene Corporation as a PEFC International Stakeholder Member.

Following the election, the new Members introduced themselves.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

8. PEFC COUNCIL MEETING DATES & SUBMISSION DEADLINES 2021

The General Assembly noted the meeting dates and submission deadlines for 2021 as agreed by the Board.

8.1 Date and venue of 26th PEFC General Assembly

Wednesday 17th November 2021, Dublin, Ireland.

Peter Latham, Chairman

Ben Gunneberg, Secretary General

**REPORT ON RESULTS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY
POSTAL BALLOT VOTES HELD IN THE PERIOD
BETWEEN SENDING OUT PAPERS (14TH
OCTOBER 2020) FOR THE 25TH GENERAL
ASSEMBLY (11TH NOVEMBER 2020) AND 20TH
OCTOBER 2021**

GA Postal Ballot 1-2021 (19 June 2021)

MOTION: To endorse the Ukrainian National Voluntary Forest Certification System, subject to an in-country visit during the initial 18 months' period, including an evaluation on the successful implementation of the "Action plan to prevent the risk of illegal wood and corruption in forest sector of Ukraine"

For 98.8%, Against 0% Abstentions 1.2%.