

20th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Held at Hotel Royal Plaza,

Montreux, Switzerland

Thursday 10 December 2015

PRESENT:

William Street (Chairman)
Natalie Hufnagl-Jovy (1st Vice Chairman)
Sheam Satkuru Granzella (2nd Vice Chairman)

Members

National Governing Bodies from:
Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon,
Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Denmark,
Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Indonesia,
Ireland, Malaysia, Netherlands, , New Zealand,
Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain,
Sweden, UK, USA

International Stakeholders:
APRIL Group, Building and Wood Workers'
International, StoraEnso, Suzano Pulp and Paper.

(92 votes out of possible 116).

Observers

Official observers from member organisations,
members of the PEFC Council Board of Directors
(Joe Lawson, Peter Latham, Olivier Bertrand, Hans
Drielsma, Genevieve Chua, Pedro Albizu, Michael
Proschek-Hauptmann); Mr. Christopher (Kit) Prins
(Chairman of PEFC Nominations Committee);
candidates for PEFC membership, and invited
guests from Ghana, Guatemala, South Korea,
Nepal, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand and
Vietnam.

APOLOGIES:

NGB's members
Argentina (Designated PEFC Spain AS Proxy),
Belarus, Estonia (Designated Finland as Proxy),

Cameroon, Slovenia (Designated Germany as
Proxy),
Lithuania, Russia, Uruguay,

International Stakeholders members
Asian Panel Product Timber (APP Timber), Asia
Pulp and Paper produces Indonesia, Association
Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux
(ATIBT),
Confédération Européenne des Propriétaires
Forestiers (CEPF), Confederation of European
Paper Industries (CEPI), The Center for People
and Forests (RECOFTC), Earth Focus Foundation,
European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs
(ENFE), European Timber Trades Federation
(ETTF), European Tissue Symposium (ETS), Fibria,
International Paper,
ICFPA (International Council of Forest and Paper
Associations) IFFA, Metsa Group, Purinusa
Ekapersada (APP) Indonesia, MeadWestvaco
(MWV),
Smurfit Kappa, USSE, Weyerhaeuser.

Extraordinary members:

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

Board members

Julian Walker-Palin, Juan-Carlos Jintiach, and
Hervé Le Boulter.

Nominations Committee members

Dr Bin Che Yeom (Dato) Freezailah, Dr
Christopher Davidson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ben Gunneberg –Secretary General/CEO and
PEFC Council Staff.

*Albert Emilio (Ambet) Yuson, General Secretary,
Building and Wood Worker's International (BWI),
joined the General Assembly to give the opening
address to the PEFC 20th General Assembly and
PEFC Council Chairman Mr William V. Street,
opened the proceedings.*

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Unanimously agreed:

To adopt the agenda.

2. MINUTES OF 19TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2014 IN PARIS, FRANCE

Unanimously agreed:

To approve the Minutes of the 19th General Assembly held in November 2013 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. PEFC REPORT UPDATE

The Secretary General reported on the work of the organisation since the last General Assembly and set out the priorities for the coming year.

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1. Change of Membership Name

Unanimously agreed:

To note two changes in national member names:

- From “Slovak Forest Certification Association” to “PEFC Slovakia”.
- From “The Belarusian Association of Forest Certification” to “Republican Association for Forest Certification” in Belarus.

5. FINANCE

5.1. Accounts for the year end 31st December 2014

The Secretary General presented the year end accounts for the year end 31st December 2014.

Unanimously agreed to approve the year end accounts (as at 31st December 2014) including Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Account.

5.2. Budget and Membership Fees 2016

Agreed:

To approve the budget and membership fees for 2016 as proposed by the Board

90 For, 0 Against, 2 Abstentions (Italy and Canada) votes out of possible 116.

5.3. Appointment of Auditor

Unanimously agreed:

To approve the appointment of “Interexperts sa” as the PEFC Council Auditor for the year end accounts (as at 31 December 2015), in accordance with the PEFC Council Statutes, Article 5, Chapter 10, section V.

6. ELECTIONS

Mr Kit Prins presented the Nominations Committee’s report and presented the candidates to the members.

It was noted that Mr Hans Drielsma, who had been a Member of the Board of Directors since 2009, was not standing for re-election to the Board.

6.1. Members of the Board of Directors

Unanimously agreed:

To appoint Mr Brian Kernohan, and Mr Dieter Koenig-Woehl, as new members of the Board of Directors for a three-year period (2015-2018).

To reappoint Mr Michael Proschek-Hauptmann, as members of the PEFC Council Board of Directors for a further three-year period (2015-2018).

6.2. Election of Nominations Committee 2015

Unanimously agreed:

To re-appoint Dr. Bin Che Yeom (Dato) Freezailah, Mr. Kit Prins and Dr. Christopher Davidson as the PEFC Nominations Committee 2016.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1. Publishing the PEFC Council General Assembly Minutes

Although provision was made in the Statutes for the General Assembly minutes to be available to third parties on request, the General Assembly was of the view that they should be published on the PEFC website, as are the Board minutes.

Unanimously agreed:

To make the PEFC Council General Assembly Minutes publicly available on the PEFC Council website.

8. PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS AND POTENTIAL MEMBERS FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES

Presentations were made by new members:
Andrew McEwen – New Zealand,
Sachin Raj – India (new National Governing Body),
Lucita Jasmin – APRIL Group (new International Stakeholder).

Presentations were made by invited guests:
Bach Le Van – Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development (MARD) Vietnam,
Joseph Osei - Working Group on Forest certification Ghana,
David Everard - SAPPI Southern Africa South Africa, Seoggu Son - Korea Forestry Promotion Institute, South Korea,
Ghan Shyam Pandey – Global Alliance of Community, Nepal,
Pralong Dumrongthai – Royal Forest Department, Thailand,
Alvaro Samayoa INAB National Institute of Forests – Guatemala,

9. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Unanimously agreed:

The 21st General Assembly is to be held on Wednesday, 16th November 2016 in Bali, Indonesia.

Meeting closed at 15:30

Signed by:

William V. Street, Chairman

Ben Gunneberg, CEO and Secretary General

After the meeting, Certificates were awarded to outgoing member of the Board, Mr. Hans Drielsma, and outgoing Chairman of the PEFC Council, Mr William V. Street for their contributions to PEFC and to the members in first second and third place for chain of custody and area growth in the last year. In addition endorsement and re-endorsement certificates were issued to six national forest certification systems.

General Assembly Postal Ballots (GAPB)

Decisions since 20th General Assembly

General Assembly Postal Ballot 4/2015

Motion 1: To endorse the revised Slovak Forest Certification System, subject to the resolving of three minor endorsement conditions by PEFC Slovakia to be verified by the PEFC Secretariat within six months of the endorsement.

Out of 96 possible votes, 65 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

Motion 2: To endorse the revised Norwegian PEFC Forest Certification System, subject to the resolving of six minor endorsement conditions by PEFC Norway to be verified by the PEFC Secretariat within six months of the endorsement.

Out of 96 possible votes, 65 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

Motion 3: To approve the Hungarian Forest Certification Non-profit Ltd. (PEFC Hungary) as PEFC National Governing Body member in Hungary.

Out of 96 possible votes, 63 For, 0 Against, 2 Abstentions

General Assembly Postal Ballot 1/2016

Motion 1: To endorse the revised Russian National Voluntary Forest Certification System.

Out of 96 possible votes, 55 For, 0 Against, 3 Abstention

General Assembly Postal Ballot 2/2016

Motion 1: To approve the PEFC NGB application of the Working Group on Forest Certification – Ghana

Out of 96 possible votes, 65 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

Motion 2: To approve the PEFC NGB application of the Korea Forestry Promotion Institute (KoPI)

Out of 96 possible votes, 65 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

Motion 3: To approve the PEFC International Stakeholder application of The European Biomass Association” (AEBIOM)

Out of 96 possible votes, 65 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

Motion 4: To approve the PEFC International Stakeholder application of the European Confederation of Agricultural, Rural and Forestry Contractors (CEETTAR)

Out of 96 possible votes, 65 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

Motion 5: To approve the PEFC International Stakeholder application of Connecting Natural Values and People (CNVP)

Out of 96 possible votes, 65 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

Motion 6: To approve the PEFC International Stakeholder application of WestRock

Out of 96 possible votes, 65 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

Motion 7: To endorse the SGEC forest certification scheme, subject to the fulfilment of the two following conditions within six months after a scheme endorsement:

a) SGEC shall actively engage with the AINU Association of Hokkaido in order to develop a mutually acceptable solution for the recognition of AINU people’s rights in the SGEC forest management standard.

b) SGEC shall bring the wording of the requirements concerning conversion in full compliance with PEFC’s requirements (PEFC ST 1003:2010, 5.1.11)

Out of 96 possible votes, 65 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

Motion 8: To endorse the revised system of PEFC Germany, subject to the fulfilment of three conditions:

a) To ensure that non-conformity by the forest owner identified under one forest management certification is addressed in any other forest management certification that covers the forest owner. (PEFC ST 1002:2010, 4.1.2)

b) To define and include the transition date in the forest management standards PEFC D 1001 and PEFC D 1002-1. (PEF ST 100:2010, 6.2)

c) To enter into a discussion with PEFC International and resolve the issue of the” Regional Labelling” and the labelling in context of the recreation forest.

Conditions a) and b) shall be fulfilled by PEFC Germany within six months after re-endorsement. The fulfilment of the conditions shall be verified by the PEFC Secretariat.

Out of 96 possible votes, 65 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

Motion 9: To endorse the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 standard of the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme

Out of 96 possible votes, 65 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

General Assembly Postal Ballot 3/2016

Motion 1: To endorse the revised CERTFOR System, the Chilean System for Sustainable Forest Management Certification, submitted by CERTFOR Chile

Out of 96 possible votes, 72 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.

Motion 2: To endorse the SFI Program 2015-2019, that was submitted for assessment by PEFC US

Out of 96 possible votes, 72 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention.