



Annex: Background information on GFAR Steering Committee (from the GFAR Charter)

The Steering Committee is composed of global partners, Regional Fora and Partners nominated from other constituencies, as agreed by the Partners' Assembly. The GFAR Chair and Vice Chair would hold these respective positions in the Steering Committee. The independence of the Committee is reinforced by inclusion of the GFAR Facilitating Agencies (FAO and IFAD) a representative of donor perspectives, and a representative of international agricultural research. Committee members are expected to represent the wider GFAR community if delegated by the Chair or Vice Chair. The GFAR Executive Secretary is an *ex-officio* member of the Committee.

The GFAR Steering Committee will be composed of representatives of GFAR constituencies, drawn from across all regions and from each sector. The distribution of seats and their rotation will be determined by the Partners' Assembly, with appropriate measures for accountability to the Assembly.

GFAR Steering Committee members play a key role in developing GFAR's capacity to strengthen the interaction between the local/national, the regional/sub-regional and the global level. The interaction between these levels is essential for making GFAR a dynamic and agile Forum, engaging its Partners in dialogue on policy issues and facilitating their participation in Collective Actions.

Membership of the Steering Committee will be reviewed every three years by the Partners' Assembly. The Partners' Assembly has the right to replace members based on the current relevance, representativeness of member organisations and of the performance of their delegates to the Steering Committee, as assessed by their respective constituencies. Individuals representing organisations on the Steering Committee normally serve for a three-year term, which can be renewed once only.

The Steering Committee organizes itself as a body and through standing committees. It will decide what sub-committees it may, or may not, require to ensure effective operation and accountability in all respects. These may include (inter alia):

- An Executive Sub-Committee to streamline decision making and ensure effective supervision of the Secretariat
- A Resource Allocation Sub-Committee, to provide the Steering Committee with independent recommendations on allocation of available resources;
- A GCARD Sub-Committee to manage the organization of the GCARD process and GCARD meetings;
- A Collective Action Sub-Committee to monitor progress of Collective Actions, synthesize lessons learned etc.

The Steering Committee will meet annually. The GFAR Chair may convene extraordinary meetings of the Steering Committee when required. The agenda of the meetings are prepared by the GFAR Secretariat in consultation with Steering Committee Members and as decided by the Chair. The draft agenda and documents to be tabled are circulated at least two weeks in advance to allow Members sufficient time to consult their respective constituencies.

At the discretion of the Chair, some sessions of the Steering Committee may be in closed session for Members to discuss and, if required between Partners' Assembly sessions and on behalf of the Partners' Assembly, take decisions on GFAR Chair/Vice Chair and Executive Secretary appointments (following from open advertisement processes).

The main roles of the Steering Committee are programmatic governance and executive governance although it also has a strategic role. It oversees the work of the GFAR Secretariat, and is assisted by the GFAR Secretariat in carrying out its tasks. The main functions of the Steering Committee are as follows:

Strategic governance

- Promote GFAR's vision, mission and principles within GFAR's constituent Partners and in the broader agri-food research and innovation system community.
- Facilitate the flow of information and the exchange of experience among stakeholders of agricultural research.

Programmatic governance

- Oversee GFAR Collective Actions, including legitimacy, commitment among all concerned and accountability for delivery
- Select the Collective Actions to be implemented in a given year, based on the medium- to long-term strategy
- Approve multi-annual Programs of Work related to the Medium Term Plan
- Report on and review program achievements, monitoring and evaluation of Collective Actions
- Mobilize resources for Collective Actions
- Report progress to the Partners' Assembly

Executive governance

- Establish Sub-committees or working groups that may be deemed necessary to accomplish GFAR's mandate in an effective and efficient manner.
- Identify and evaluate candidates for the Chair and Vice-Chair of GFAR, and prepare recommendation for Partners' Assembly.
- Oversee performance of the GFAR Secretariat
- Following an open advertisement process, select and proposed a ranked shortlist of at least three candidates for the post of Executive Secretary of GFAR to FAO's Director General for appointment. The appointment will be made from this shortlist, unless a legal impediment intervenes, or the proposed appointment is not consistent with the provisions of FAO's Administrative Manual.
- Ensure that the Secretariat is staffed with competent persons that can contribute to the objectives of GFAR, including the approval of the staffing profile of the Secretariat, the persons that are posted to the Secretariat, and the Agreement with the Host Institution for the functioning of the Secretariat.
- Where possible, the Steering Committee and Partners' Assembly institutions should seek to provide staff to the Secretariat to help enable its functions and/or support to relevant Collective Actions.

- Approve annual Programmes of Work and budget, prepared by GFAR Secretariat and ensure that donor funding is used judiciously.
- Make decisions on the allocation of resources to GFAR programmes and Partners based on transparency and impartiality, recognizing and avoiding any conflicts of interest among Steering Committee members.
- Approve the GFAR Annual Report, prepared by the Secretariat.
- Assess the performance of the GFAR Executive Secretary at least every three years, in synchrony with his/her contract renewal.
- Undertake a self-assessment of the performance of Steering Committee members and report to Partners' Assembly.
- Commission an external evaluation of GFAR programmes every five years, to assess the progress being made towards the goals and objectives of GFAR as captured in the GCARD Road Map and Medium Term Plan.
- Oversee the planning and management of meetings of GCARD and the Partners' Assembly.

In addition to participating in Steering Committee meetings and carrying out the functions outlined above, **each Steering Committee member is accountable to his or her constituents and has an important liaison function with the constituency that he/she represents.** This includes:

- Seeking to organize and further develop or strengthen the constituency.
- Ensuring that adequate information is fed back to the constituency.
- Bring forward strategic issues in agri-food research and innovation, which are of interest to their constituencies, to the attention of the Steering Committee.
- Promote the involvement of his/her constituency in discussion of the strategic issues that are addressed by GFAR, actively reach out to other constituencies to build cross linkages, share knowledge and help enable the development of Collective Actions.

Composition of the new GFAR Steering Committee

	Global	Regional/National
Farmers, producers & agric. workers	1	2
Consumers	1	1
Private sector (incl. input sector & markets, all elements)	1	1
NGOs/CSOs (all elements)	1	1
Rural advisory services	1	1
Education	1	1
Women's organizations	1	1
Youth	1	1
Regional Fora & Regional Representatives		8
International research	2	
Advanced research		1
Facilitating Agencies (FAO & IFAD)	2	
Donors & finance/ investment agencies		1
Executive (Chair, Vice-Chair & Exec. Sec.)		3
Total		34