



#### BECOME A MEMBER

To enable global participation without any financial burden, individual scientist members do not pay membership fees.

To join GHI go to:  
[www.globalharmonization.net/become-a-member](http://www.globalharmonization.net/become-a-member)

#### CONTACT US

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#### GLOBAL FRAMEWORK, GLOBAL IMPACT

GHI facilitates global discussions to develop the information needed to create a sound foundation for sensible, science based regulations and creating a forum for scientists and technologists to interact with regulatory authorities worldwide.

## Global Harmonization Initiative

Advocating science-based  
 food safety law and trade



#### WHAT IS GHI?

The **Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI)** is a worldwide network of individual scientists.

GHI's objective is to achieve consensus on the science of food regulations and legislation to ensure the global availability of safe and wholesome food products for all consumers.

Harmonization of food safety laws and regulations should be included in the policies of governments.



[www.globalharmonization.net](http://www.globalharmonization.net)



## THE MISSION

GHI strives to eliminate the regulatory and legislative differences between countries by providing information that promotes science-based policy-making. This should have a significant, positive impact on several fronts:

- Eliminating trade barriers that masquerade as food safety protections (such as large, non-science based differences between maximum residual concentrations of pesticides)
- Contributing to, or at least minimization, of world hunger by avoiding destruction of food where the concentrations of naturally occurring substances have been incorrectly identified as harmful.
- Make regulators aware that there are no toxic substances, but only toxic concentrations of substances (Paracelsus, 16th century)
- In many countries tests with animals are legally required to prove food safety. Consumers are increasingly concerned about using animals this way. Reliable in vitro tests are available that often are able to show safety more accurately and faster than is possible with animals. GHI promotes the use and harmonization of such tests through training and dissemination of information.
- Debunking misinformation about food that lead to consumers demanding regulations that have no science base and negatively affect food security.
- Facilitating and encouraging reporting of food crimes that may lead to diseases or death (anonymously through a GHI secured webpage).
- Develop materials for education in food safety at all levels, in local languages and with pictorial material for literacy-limited food handlers.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

GHI is registered in Vienna, Austria as a non-profit organization, as the “Global Harmonization Initiative Association” (ZVR-Zahl/Registration Number: 453446383).

GHI is also recognised in The Netherlands as an ANBI (Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling = Institution for the General Benefit; Fiscal number: 823848607). GHI is impartial and therefore does not accept funding from industries and governments. A Supervisory Board oversees compliance with the GHI Constitution.

GHI members never represent their employers. Membership is individual and contributions to GHI are based on the scientific conscience of the members.



## GHI LEADERSHIP

GHI is led by an international Board, supported by Directors and many other Officers. The Board is elected by the General Assembly. Currently the Board has 10 members: President, Vice-President, Supervisory Board Chair, General Secretary, Treasurer, Global Councillor and 4 Members-at-Large. There is a Communications Director, an Ambassadors Programme Director and a Membership Director. Details can be found on: <https://www.globalharmonization.net/leadership>

## GHI WORKING GROUPS

GHI Working Groups (WGs) provide platforms for GHI member scientists and experts to engage with colleagues to collaborate, build consensus and take collective action within topical areas relevant to our mission. Information about all current WGs can be found on: <https://www.globalharmonization.net/working-groups>.

## CURRENT WORKING GROUPS

Chemical Food Safety | Education and Training of Food Handlers | Ethics in Food Safety Practices | Food Law and Regulations | Food Microbiology | Food Packaging Materials | Food Preservation Technologies | Food Safety in Relation to Religious Dietary Laws | Genetic Toxicology and Genomics | Global Incident Alert Networks | Mycotoxins | Nanotechnology and Foods | Nomenclature on Food Safety and Quality | Nutrition | Regulatory Aspects of Reducing Post-Harvest Losses | Science Communication

## THE AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME

The GHI Ambassadors Programme is designed to empower selected GHI members to represent GHI in their country or region. GHI has ambassadors in many countries and welcomes applicants from non-represented countries. Information, including contact details: <https://www.globalharmonization.net/ambassadors>

## NEWSLETTER GHI MATTERS

GHI publishes a newsletter five times a year. See: <https://www.globalharmonization.net/ghi-matters>