

GB33 Voting rights and financial contributions

GBIF depends on the voluntary contributions of its Voting Participants to fund its operation and work programme. Therefore, lack of payment impacts and delays operations and has a negative impact on effectiveness of GBIF.

The current funding model runs 2023-2027. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, Paragraph 10, 2(B), a Voting Participant is to make its financial contribution in order to retain its voting status. If it is not possible for the Voting Participant to pay by the deadline, an application should be made to the Executive Committee asking for an extension.

Voting Participants countries which have not paid in full by the nomination deadline date, 2 August 2026, or have not received approval for extension of payment from the Executive Committee will have their voting rights suspended.

Nomination process

This year, six committee positions are open. Nominations for some of these positions are restricted and may only be submitted by Heads of Delegation from Voting Participants in good financial standing. Nominations for the rest may be submitted by Heads of Delegation from any Voting Participant or Associate Participant.

Positions open for nomination from all Voting Participants and Associate Participants

The positions open for nominations from any Participants for the elections are:

Position	Current officer	Eligible for re-election
Governing Board 2 nd Vice-chair	André Heughebaert	Yes
Science Committee 2 nd Vice-chair	<i>Currently vacant</i>	
Science Committee 3 rd Vice-chair	Soledad Ceccarelli	Yes

- The Governing Board 2nd Vice-chair is eligible for re-election but has informed the Secretariat that he will not run again.
- The Science Committee 2nd Vice-chair position is currently vacant.
- The Science Committee 3rd Vice-chair is eligible for re-election, subject to valid nomination.

Positions open for nomination only from Voting Participants in good financial standing

The positions open for nominations only from Voting Participants which have made their full financial contribution or agreed an extension for their contribution are:

Position	Current officer	Eligible for re-election
Governing Board Chair	Liam Lysaght	No
Budget Committee Chair	Pierre Rafou Radji	Yes
Science Committee Chair	Birgit Gemeinholzer	No

- The Governing Board Chair and the Science Committee Chair have served two terms and cannot run again for their current position.
- The Budget Committee Chair has served one term and is eligible for re-election, subject to valid nomination.

Election process

For the elections for committee positions, only Voting Participants in good financial standing will be eligible to vote.

The [Rules of Procedure for the GBIF Governing Board](#) state:

4.2. In order to retain its voting rights, a Voting Participant is to make its financial contribution each year within the first three months of the GBIF financial year, unless the Executive Committee has approved a later payment arrangement for the financial year (See MOU Paragraph 10.2 (b)).

Voting Participants are considered to be in good financial standing if they have made their full financial contribution for 2026. Voting Participants will also be considered to be in good financial standing if they have reached an agreement with the Executive Committee regarding an extension date for making their contribution. Following such a date, if the Voting Participant has still not made their full financial contribution, they will no longer be considered to be in good financial standing. All Voting Participants are accordingly urged to ensure that they satisfy these criteria or to communicate with the Executive Committee if they wish to arrange an extension date.

Payment status

The list provided below shows the current payment status (as of 15 June 2026) for all current Voting Participants. Those listed as having paid in full or having an extension agreed are eligible to nominate and vote for all positions. Other Voting Participants are eligible only if they make their full payment or agree an extension prior to the meeting.

	Participant	Payment status
1	Andorra	Paid in full
2	Angola, Republic of	Paid in full
3	Argentina	Not paid
4	Australia	Paid in full
5	Belgium	Extension agreed
6	Benin	Not paid
7	Brazil	Extension agreed
8	Bulgaria	Paid in full
9	Burundi	Paid in full
10	Canada	Paid in full
11	Chile	Not paid
12	Colombia	Not paid
13	Costa Rica	Not paid
14	Croatia, Republic of	Paid in full
15	Denmark	Paid in full
16	Ecuador	Not paid
17	Estonia	Paid in full
18	Finland	Paid in full
19	France	Not paid
20	Germany	Paid in full
21	Guyana	Not paid

22	Iceland	Not paid
23	Ireland	Paid in full
24	Italy	Not paid
25	Korea, Rep. of	Extension agreed
26	Luxembourg	Paid in full
27	Madagascar	Not paid
28	Mauritania	Not paid
29	Mexico	Extension agreed
30	Netherlands	Paid in full
31	New Zealand	Paid in full
32	Norway	Paid in full
33	Peru	Paid in full
34	Poland	Extension agreed
35	Portugal	Paid in full
36	Slovakia	Paid in full
37	Slovenia	Paid in full
38	South Africa	Paid in full
39	Spain	Paid in full
40	Sweden	Paid in full
41	Switzerland	Paid in full
42	Togo	Paid in full
43	Tonga, Kingdom of	Paid in full
44	United Kingdom	Paid in full
45	United States	Paid in full
46	Uzbekistan	Paid in full
47	Zimbabwe	Not paid