

FNET Board Chair – role specification

Recruiter: [Food Network for Ethical Trade \(FNET\)](#)

Location: Remote working, UK-based

Salary: £400/day plus basic expenses. Up to 12 days per year.

Posted: 28th April 2023

Closes: 19th May 2023

Job Function: Chair

Industry: Non-profit, Food processing, manufacturing and production

FNET is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and welcomes applications from all individuals regardless of personal characteristics or background.

Mission

The [Food Network for Ethical Trade \(FNET\)](#) is a collaborative network of supply chain partners established in 2017 which aims to use the collective leverage of suppliers and retailers to bring about positive change in working conditions in global food, beverage and horticulture supply chains by providing guidance, resources, training and opportunities for collaboration. We currently have 56 supplier members and 10 retailers.

Position

As chair, your role is pivotal in creating the conditions for overall board and individual director effectiveness, setting clear expectations concerning the style and tone of board discussions, ensuring the board has effective decision-making processes and applies sufficient challenge to major proposals. You will lead the board of made up of 8 individuals elected from FNET supplier and retailer members, plus a Finance INED and manage the FNET lead.

Individual Responsibilities:

- To provide non-executive leadership to the organisation and to ensure that Board members fulfil their duties and responsibilities for the proper governance of the organisation.
- To line manage, support and, where appropriate, to constructively challenge the FNET Lead and conduct their annual appraisal.
- To secure the long-term future of the organisation by ensuring that:
 - the Board sets the mission, vision, strategy and high-level policies for the organisation, including risk appetite.
 - the Board takes effective steps to monitor the performance of the organisation, including delivery of strategic objectives.
 - adequate systems are in place to assess, review and mitigate risks.
 - internal controls and systems (both financial and non-financial) are audited and reviewed regularly, and the organisation satisfies all regulatory and legal compliance requirements.
 - the Board protects and enhances the reputation and positive culture of the organisation with an emphasis on collaboration, support and transparency
 - the Board works collaboratively with FNET team and functions as a unit. Ensuring discussion and decision making is fair, open and balanced and discussions are directed towards a consensus view

- Responsibility for the board's composition, development and succession planning to ensure the right skills and reflects the communities FNET serves.

General Responsibilities:

- Ensure that financial controls/management and systems of risk management are robust and that the Board is kept fully informed in a timely, relevant manner.

Plus, those described in FNET code of conduct namely

- Ensuring FNET's compliance with all legal and constitutional requirements;
- Ensuring that FNET's activities remain within the requirements of competition law; (c) Overseeing the effective management and administration of FNET;
- Effectively and prudently managing FNET's resources and protecting its assets;
- Monitoring the performance of external contractors and service providers to ensure effective support for the Network;
- Managing FNET's contractual arrangements;
- Resolving any disputes which arise in connection with FNET's approved ways of working;
 - Complying with their legal duties as company directors.
 - Providing strategic input and guidance in the running of FNET;
- Developing and managing plans for monitoring FNET's progress towards its objectives;
- Reviewing the operational performance of each area of activity and ensuring that operational decisions contribute to strategic priorities;
- Supporting FNET member organisations to work in accordance with the agreed ways of working;
- Providing guidance and advice to FNET's Lead and workstream leads on planned activities, gaps and opportunities;
- Acting as ambassadors and champions for FNET and its work both internally and externally;
- Managing relationships with stakeholders and demonstrating externally that FNET is well run and effective;
- Identifying key external relationships for FNET to build in order to support its objectives and strategy (and identifying individuals within FNET and its support functions to develop and maintain those relationships
- Ensuring that FNET continues to collaborate with other ethical initiatives in an effective way;
- Developing and maintaining strong relationships with FNET members, with an appropriate degree of accountability;
- Representing the views of different areas of the food sector within FNET. Providing overall leadership to the board

Board terms

FNET's Chair will serve a two-year term to be eligible for re-appointment for one additional term. Board meetings will be held quarterly and sub-committee meetings will be held in coordination with full board meetings.

Benefits of taking on this role

This role offers an opportunity to work with 65+ major companies in the food industry with operations and supply chains reaching millions of workers globally. FNET members are dynamic and passionate, committed to improving their organisation's approaches to human rights and improving the lives of workers in their supply chain.

Qualifications and expectations

	Essential	Desirable
Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity of purpose • Able to lead and chair to achieve higher performance in the leadership team, establish a cohesive board and deliver maximum impact for members • Facilitate change within an organisation • Considered decision making • A natural affinity for cultivating relationships and persuading, convening, facilitating, and building consensus among diverse individuals • Diplomatic and able to resolve differences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An experienced chair with a commitment to FNET's mission and the drive and insight to make that mission a reality. • Financial Acumen • Digital and marketing experience to support with FNET's growth strategy
Qualifications:	Degree level	CIMA, ACCA or ACA qualified
Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive professional experience with significant executive leadership accomplishments in business, government, philanthropy, or the non-profit sector • Extensive experience of effectively chairing diverse and multi-stakeholder groups to achieve outcomes and drive forward on strategic agendas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of food and hospitality sector and an interest in sustainability/ ethical trade understanding of global supply chains • A credible and effective ambassador/ influencer with excellent relationship building skills, and the ability to build alliances and develop partnerships across the sector and government
Personal Qualities:	Credibility; Integrity, Listening, Facilitating, Communicating, Decision making	

Service on FNET's board of directors is without remuneration, except for administrative support, travel, and accommodation costs in relation to board members' duties. This may change as the organisation evolves. The Chair will be appointed as a non-Executive Director of [FNET](#).

The Chair will be expected to plan and prepare for the 4 days for Board meetings and be willing to contribute up to 6 further days per year to ensure the Board and sub-committees work effectively, to represent the organisation, support the technical team and attend FNET events.

Interested parties should share a covering letter and CV by the 18th April with admin@foodnetworkforethicaltrade.com