



## **SPORTACCORD GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Scandinavian Center, Aarhus, Denmark, Lausanne  
7 April 2017, 9.00 a.m.

### **1. OPENING OF THE STATUTORY GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The President of SportAccord, Mr Patrick Baumann (International Basketball Federation – FIBA), welcomed all the delegates to the General Assembly, as well as guests Mr Francesco Ricci Bitti, (ASOIF and SportAccord Convention President), Mr Kit McConnell (IOC Sports Director), Mr Benjamin Cohen (WADA Director, European Regional Offices and International Federations Relations), Mr François Carrard (Legal Adviser), Mr Joël Bouzou (World Olympians' Association (WOA) President), Mr Gianni Merlo (International Sports Press Association (AIPS) President) and Mr Bo Nyman (General Secretary of the Federation of International Bandy (FIB)).

### **2. ROLL CALL**

Mr Baumann reported that SportAccord had 91 members with full voting rights, 84 of whom were present. This resulted in a majority plus one of 43 votes, and a two-thirds majority of 56 votes.

### **3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Mr Baumann noted that "Items brought forward from meetings among members" would include an additional item 11.5 for the Associate Members' report.

Approved unanimously.

### **4. NOMINATION OF THE STEWARD AND TWO SCRUTINEERS**

Mr Baumann nominated Mr Jan Fransoo (International Korfball Federation – IKF) as steward, with Mr Gargary Marcus (International Triathlon Union – ITU) and Ms Guillemette Juillart (International Basketball Federation) as scrutineers.

Approved unanimously.

### **5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Mr Baumann noted that the minutes had been sent to members along with the Working Documents one month before the General Assembly.

There being no comments, the minutes of the SportAccord Statutory General Assembly of 22 April 2016 in Lausanne, Switzerland, were declared approved.

### **6. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

Mr Baumann thanked the SportAccord members for the confidence they had placed in him and the Council to work on their behalf. He thanked the President of the SportAccord Convention, Francesco Ricci Bitti, and its Managing Director Nis Hatt for their contribution to this week's wonderful hospitality and excellent organisation. He also thanked the Danish organisers, the city of Aarhus and its Mayor, the NOC of Denmark and SportEvent Denmark, who had made it possible for SportAccord to be there.

Although this year marked SportAccord's 50th anniversary, ideas about forming a union of International Federations had surfaced much earlier. At the Olympic Congress of 1921, 22 federations had discussed forming a union, in order to secure for each IF the assistance of all the others, and to create bonds of lasting friendship. They had stipulated that this new body should not interfere with the internal management of the affiliated bodies, and its essential purpose would be the "assertion of the general community of our aims and interests" and "to benefit the cause of sport throughout the world". At the time the project was abandoned until more than 40 years later, in 1967, when GAISF was founded. Almost one hundred years later, the same spirit of mutual assistance and support had carried SportAccord through the turmoil of recent years. Today, as then, it was about asserting the general community of their aims and interests, speaking with one voice for all of sport. But the world was changing increasingly quickly, and this concern had been addressed in the topic of the SportAccord Convention: "Innovation in action". It was extremely important that the IFs remain focused, and continue to innovate their names, their branding, events and governance, if they did not want to be left



behind and face challenges from others. They had to protect each other, both as a group and individually, and help each other to overcome the challenges they faced every day, from media scrutiny and from public authorities.

The SportAccord Council had met seven times since the last General Assembly. Their focus had been to establish what SportAccord was doing right and what it had done wrong, and to try to bring the organisation back to its core objectives. These had been discussed at length under the presidency of Gian Franco Kasper, and they remained the same: 1) The Convention, coming together once a year; 2) Providing services to the members, particularly on membership issues, and moving up through the structure with the eventual aim of joining the Olympic programme; 3) SportAccord was also about trying to give the federations visibility through a number of specialised games.

The Council had also sought to emphasise not the differences between the different groupings of IFs but what united them. They had looked at the issue of avoiding duplication of effort among the stakeholders, whether this was with the IOC sports department, ARISF, ASOIF, the NOCs, etc. They had also focused on cost-efficiency, trying to ensure that the administration worked properly, that SportAccord had a sustainable future providing useful services to all its members, and trying to find added value for everyone.

Today, the General Assembly would look at some proposals for statute changes which, although simple, were important because they gave a direction or further clarified the direction given the previous year. The focus should not be on the leadership or personalities, but on services for the members. Regardless of who was on the Council, or who was President, they must have the future of all the members at heart, not just their own group. This was why it was important that the non-Olympic groups should have the opportunity to take a leadership role in SportAccord, not just the Olympic federations.

They would also discuss membership. Many applicants had had a difficult journey in recent years. The Statutes were strict, in order to protect existing members. But the world was changing, and they had to be careful

about how strict they had the right to be. Many organisations still wanted to join, there were some applicants for Associate Membership, and some federations needed to formalise their status when, for historical reasons, it was not completely in line with the core principles of the Statutes.

He would also discuss the reform of the anti-doping system and WADA, as proposed by the IOC. This was an important point that affected them all, and it was vital to gain greater clarity on the structure of the anti-doping fight.

Finally, he wished to thank his colleagues on the SportAccord Council, the Vice Presidents and Treasurer, who had taken much of the burden from his shoulders. Finally, he thanked the SportAccord and SportAccord Convention staff for their diligent work.

## **7. FINANCIAL MATTERS: TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ms Marisol Casado began by thanking the people who had helped her to produce her report, the former Treasurer Mr Ron Froehlich and Ms Nicole Schnegg.

Referring to the 2016/2017 provisional budget, she noted that the human resources item had been increased as there would be more activity within the administration, particularly within the Doping-Free Sport Unit. The good news was that the budget would result in a small profit. This would be held in reserve for the time being, but as soon as they began to generate more income they would like to start to help the member organisations.

Mr Baumann noted that the budget had been based substantially on the 2015/16 activities, despite a somewhat volatile environment. There had been a welcome financial contribution from last year's SportAccord Convention in Lausanne, and with the approval of Bangkok for 2018 it looked like the usual financial subsidy would be allocated. There could be some changes in terms of the activities of the DFSU, and the creation of the Independent Testing Agency. Other areas that would be given more attention were communication and membership services, particularly in terms of applications for SportAccord membership and for IOC recognition. This had so far been taken care of by ARISF,

but they needed greater stability and the SportAccord administration should provide that.

Mr Baumann noted that, with the help of Ms Nicole Sch-negg, the accounting procedures of SportAccord and the Convention had been unified into one pair of hands.

**The 2016 balance sheet and accounts were approved unanimously.**

Mr Baumann thanked the auditors, BDO, who had been appointed for two years at the last General Assembly.

**2016/2017 provisional budget approved unanimously.**

Mr Baumann thanked Ms Casado for her work and congratulated the SportAccord administration.

## **8. STATUTORY CHANGES**

Mr Baumann noted that, if these changes were approved, some general fine-tuning of the Statutes would be required, to ensure that all the text was aligned with the changes.

### **1. Change of name of the association**

For historical reasons, there were two structures, with the Convention on one hand and the Association on the other. The Association had its 91 voting members plus Associate Members; the Convention had three stakeholders (SportAccord, ASOIF and AIOWF). It was felt to be important that they should clearly distinguish between the names of the two bodies. The proposal was to rename the SportAccord association the “Global Association of International Sports Federations” (GAISF). The names of the SportAccord Convention would not change.

### **2. Addition of observer status for applicants to membership**

Many new applicants had difficulty fulfilling the membership criteria within the application period. It was felt that observer status would be helpful for both the applicants and SportAccord, and could enable the applicants to receive the necessary support of their sports ministries or NOCs. Only those with no conflicts with existing members would be eligible. Observer status would grant them the right to receive help with their application. The Council also asked for the authority to revoke this status at any time. The status would be limited to two years, renewable once only. The proposed new article also provided for the Council to produce guidelines for applicants.

### **3. Change of rules on presidency**

The idea behind this proposal was to depoliticise the selection of the President, and ensure that all the sub-groups had the opportunity to serve the organisation as President.

Mr Baumann invited questions from the floor.

Dato Abdul Halim Bin Kader (International Sepaktakraw Federation – ISTAF) thanked the Council for coming up with the idea of a rotational presidency, which gave other sports leaders the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities as the President of SportAccord. On behalf of his federation, he recommended that these changes be accepted.

On behalf of the Council, Mr Baumann asked for a preliminary vote on whether they should vote on all three proposals at once. This was approved unanimously.

Mr Baumann reminded members that a two-thirds majority was required to approve the changes.

**Statutory changes 1, 2 and 3 approved unanimously.**

## **4. OTHER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SPORTACCORD STATUTES**

The remaining amendments were proposed for the purposes of clarifying existing provisions in the Statutes.

Mr Baumann noted that, although the Statutes were in English, under Swiss law they were obliged to provide a French version to the authorities.

Mr Baumann also asked that the members allow the Council, where necessary, to clean up the Statutes as a whole in order to ensure they were consistent with the decisions they had just taken.

Ms Beng Choo Low (World Baseball Softball Confederation – WBSC) asked for clarification with respect to the English and French versions.

Mr Baumann confirmed that the English version would prevail, although a French version would be submitted to the Swiss authorities.

**The proposed amendments were approved unanimously.**

Mr Baumann thanked the members for their support. It was likely that the Council would have more changes the following year, to address the ideas of recognition criteria, to ensure they were protected as far as pos-

sible from legal challenges, and to adjust to what was happening around the world.

Ms Beng wished to record her thanks to the Council and to the legal team that had worked on the amendments.

## **9. MEMBERSHIP**

Mr Baumann thanked World Rowing (FISA) and the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), which had taken the decision to return to SportAccord after having previously suspended their membership. The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the International Golf Federation (IGF) had also agreed to join, and would do so formally in the next few months. Finally, constructive discussions had taken place with the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), which was due to ask its council in the second half of the year to support a return to SportAccord.

Mr Baumann invited the members to look at the list of pending applications, and raise any rivalry issues with the SportAccord administration by the end of April. The applicants would be invited to come to Lausanne where, together with the IOC, they would hold a workshop to explain the criteria for joining SportAccord and moving through the membership levels.

He thanked the three federations that had tried to apply the year before. The Council had concluded that it was premature to propose any of them to the General Assembly. He also informed the members that the Council had decided to use its statutory authority to create a Membership Commission to work with the applicants and the administration, before the applications were brought before the Council. Mr Antonio Espinós (World Karate Federation – WKF) chaired the commission, which also comprised the AIMS and ARISF presidents. They had been able to make the process more transparent, engage with the federations, raise important issues and address the reasons why the applicant federations had not yet been proposed for membership. It was possible that the commission might be expanded to incorporate more expertise, and the IOC Sports Department would also be involved.

### **Associate Membership**

Two applications had been received for Associate Membership, from the Association Internationale de la

Press Sportive (AIPS) and the World Olympians' Association (WOA).

Mr Baumann invited the members to vote on their admission, one by one.

### **Both are approved unanimously.**

Mr Gianni Merlo (President of AIPS) and Mr Joël Bouzou (President of WOA) each gave a short speech of thanks.

### **International University Sports Federation (FISU)**

Mr Baumann explained that, for historical reasons, FISU a founding member of SportAccord, was the only Associate Member with voting rights. Since it had been recognised by the IOC since 1961, it was proposed, with the agreement of FISU and ARISF, that it be moved into the ARISF division. Because the Statutes included dedicated provisions to address FISU's situation, a decision of the General Assembly was required to formalise this change.

Mr. Volker Bernardi from FFDF asked Mr Raffaele Chiulli to clarify whether FISU was now a member of ARISF.

Mr Chiulli confirmed that FISU would become an ARISF member, as it had formally requested. He fully supported the proposal.

### **Approved unanimously.**

### **Federation of International Bandy (FIB)**

Mr Baumann noted that Bandy represented another inconsistency within the system they were trying to create, in that it was recognised by the IOC and was a member of ARISF, but not a member of SportAccord. Consequently, Bandy had submitted a request to become a member of SportAccord. The International Ice Hockey Federation and all the other AIOWF members also supported this request.

### **Approved unanimously.**

Mr Bo Nyman (General Secretary of the FIB) thanked the members for bringing his sport into the SportAccord family.

Mr Raul Calin (International Table Tennis Federation – ITTF) asked if the members could be given some brief information about the potential applicants, as it was not always clear from their names what their sport was about, and therefore whether there were any rivalry issues.

Mr David Carrigy (World Rugby) welcomed the establishment of the Membership Commission and looked forward to working with them. World Rugby had already raised its concerns relating to the Federation of International Touch and the Rugby League International Federation with the Council.

Mr Baumann thanked them for addressing these issues. Some members, such as the International Gymnastics Federation, kept a close eye on developments around the world that might affect their disciplines and events, and kept SportAccord informed.

He pointed out that it was very difficult for the Council to provide a definition of “rivalry”, because it had many legal implications. Insofar as the concept related to competition, any attempt to prevent an entity from pursuing its activity placed SportAccord at risk of accusations of anti-competitive behaviour or breaching anti-trust laws. They might have to look into a different way of defining the concept while protecting their membership. Under the Statutes, the burden of proof of no rivalry lay with the applicants, but none of the pending applicants were yet at that stage.

## **10. REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION**

### **10.1 ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Mr Philippe Gueisbuhler, Head of Administration, reported on the activities of the SportAccord administration.

### **10.2 DOPING-FREE SPORT UNIT**

Mr Matteo Vallini, Head of the DFSU, referred the members to his written report. As presented during the coaching session with ARISF, AIMS and WADA, the DFSU offered a broad variety of services in support of 39 members to date. They expected to provide services to more than 40 IFs in 2017. Today, 45% of IFs that outsourced all or part of their anti-doping activities to the DFSU belonged to the ARISF group; 29% were Olympic IFs, 16% were AIMS and 10% were Associate Members and major event organisers. The activities of the DFSU had greatly increased in recent years thanks to the trust and support of the SportAccord members, and the support and collaboration of the IOC and WADA. New staff members would be joining in the next few weeks.

The DFSU also continued to represent SportAccord members at international anti-doping conferences,

and facilitated the exchange of anti-doping expertise between IFs by organising seminars for members. The DFSU would continue to respond to the needs of the IFs with regard to their anti-doping strategies, and help them to secure compliance with the WADA Code. The DFSU was also looking into providing anti-doping services beyond membership, particularly in countries facing situations of non-compliance with the Code, and it would also support applicant members.

He thanked the IFs for their support and looked forward to continuing to work together.

Mr Baumann noted that the DFSU was a small team of four staff who managed 40 contracts, including working with the IOC on a number of issues. It was a very efficient way of working, although not always easy. He thanked the IOC and WADA for their financial and logistical support of the DFSU. They understood the effectiveness of the unit in servicing the SportAccord members and its contribution to the fight against doping. Finally, he pointed out that those 40 contracts represented only around 40% of the SportAccord membership. He was convinced that more SportAccord members could enter into a partnership with the DFSU. SportAccord had been discussing the future of the DFSU with the IOC, and in the wake of discussions about an independent testing agency, there was a general consensus that the DFSU would be a core element thereof. He believed that the faster the members joined the

DFSU, the faster they would be part of the core element of WADA’s reformed anti-doping system. He encouraged everyone to discuss with the DFSU how it could service also the other 60% of membership. He thanked the IOC for having taken on board SportAccord’s wishes to be part of the nucleus of the future ITA.

### **10.3 MULTI-SPORT GAMES**

Mr Baumann reported that work was ongoing to fully flesh out the multi-sports games concepts. They were not yet at the point of selecting hosts or deciding dates, because they were trying to avoid duplication, make the games sustainable and ensure that they made sense within the context of other existing international events. Three working groups had been meeting regularly.

### **SportAccord Urban Games**

Mr Sabatino Aracu (International Roller Sports Federation – FIRS) reported that the feedback from the survey distributed to the participant IFs had been collated into a compact games concept, which offered two possible scenarios that optimised the number of disciplines and costs. The next steps would be to identify synergies between federations in terms of the physical space, competition schedule and shared organisation elements of the concept, and to develop an event organisation guide. He was happy to share the beginning of this adventure with the SportAccord members, to create an innovative format that would bring multisports events inside the host city. The message of the Urban Games was that sport should come closer to people, not the other way around, and this was what the younger generation were looking for. Another strong message would be to combine spectacular sport with urban beauty, making sport and tourism one product. He believed this key message would make it clear to everyone that they were in step with the times.

### **SportAccord Mind Sports Games**

Mr Geoffrey Borg (International Chess Federation – FIDE) said that as this would be the 5th edition of the Mind Games, the formats and budgets were already well defined. It was hoped that some minor issues would be resolved with SportAccord within the next couple of weeks. They had already begun to search for host cities, looking at a target date of March 2018. He thanked the SportAccord Multi-sports Games Unit, Michel Filliau and Alexandre Dufault with whom he had been working actively. The next stage would be under IMSA's new president, Ms Chen Zelan, and he hoped they would be able to move forward very quickly on trying to pin down future host cities.

### **SportAccord Combat Games**

Mr Stephan Fox (International Federation of Muaythai Amateur – IFMA) began by thanking the other members of the working group, Mr Nenad Lalović and Mr Antonio Espinós. The next edition of the Combat Games would be the third. They had finalised a questionnaire to all the 15 members, and the result had favoured an event taking place every 4 years. They had clarified the possible disciplines and looked into the

technical requirements. The next steps were to further develop the concept and set a competition date. They also had to complete the event organisation guide and present it to possible host cities. Greater focus would be placed on the cultural programme, in cooperation with organisations that were either recognised by or close to the IOC such as Peace and Sport and Generation for Peace.

Mr Baumann thanked the Chairs of the Working Group for their efforts.

As far as the Beach Games were concerned, he referred to the note in the Working Document: "The SportAccord Beach Games concept is ready but has been put on hold while discussions with the ANOC leadership on the concept and governance for the Beach Games are ongoing. The Council is of the opinion that such Games are valuable but should be co-organised by and coordinated between the two entities to avoid duplication and confusion in roles and responsibilities within the international and Olympic world of sports." The opinion of the Council is that it would be premature to sign any memorandum of understanding with either SportAccord or ANOC while the governance matter remained unresolved.

### **10.4 SPORT TOP-LEVEL DOMAIN (TLD) INITIATIVE**

Mr Baumann reported that, as matters stood, SportAccord had prevailed in all three challenges to its claim to the .sport TLD, although the companies concerned were now appealing the decision on every possible technicality. Nevertheless, he was cautiously optimistic that ICANN would rule in SportAccord's favour, and .sport could be rolled out in 2018.

Dato Abdul Halim Bin Kader (International Sepaktakraw Federation – ISTAF) noted that all the IFs were coming under increasing pressure from WADA in terms of in-competition and out-of-competition testing, survey forms, etc. SportAccord's DFSU provided a valuable service that all the members required, particularly the AIMS members. He thanked Mr Baumann and the Council for supporting the members by providing in-competition and out-of-competition testing, and educational services. He urged the DFSU to continue to support the members with all these important tools, so that they could continue to follow the recommendations of WADA.



Mr Baumann thanked Dato Halim on behalf of the DFSU for his kind words, and assured him that it was the aim of the Council and of the DFSU to expand its services further.

## **11. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM MEETINGS AMONG MEMBERS**

### **ASOIF – REPORT BY ASOIF PRESIDENT, FRANCESCO RICCI BITTI**

Speaking as President of the SportAccord Convention, Mr Ricci Bitti said he was very satisfied with the relaunch of SportAccord Convention, and thanked Aarhus for providing such good conditions. After two difficult years, the SportAccord Convention had been successfully hosted in Lausanne, and now here in Aarhus, Denmark. He was confident about the future of the SportAccord Convention, and was happy that they would be keeping the name, which had high commercial value. Around 15 cities had expressed interest in hosting the event in the future. He asked for a round of applause for the Danish volunteers, who had been outstanding.

Speaking as ASOIF President, he noted that lengthy discussions had taken place this week. ASOIF had seen excellent presentations by the two candidate cities for the 2024 Olympic Games. ASOIF had also decided on the formal admission as Associate Members of ASOIF of five ARISF member federations who would be included on the programme of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Four members had been elected to the Executive Board: Mr Uğur Erdener (World Archery) and Mr Ching Kuo Wu (AIBA) were re-elected, and Ms Marisol Casado (ITU) and Lord Sebastian Coe (IAAF) became new members.

Heated discussions were currently taking place within the world of sport and the IOC with regard to the delivery of the Rio Games, the sport delivery plan and the new role of the IFs in delivering the Games. ASOIF had also reiterated its position on the Russian case and the McLaren report, which was to support the decisions of the individual federations. ASOIF's view was that, although the McLaren report highlighted many problems in the anti-doping programme in Russia, it was not specific enough to enable them to pursue individual cases. ASOIF had offered to contribute to reforming WADA, including setting up the independent testing authority,

and was very active in this. They had also presented the first findings of the governance project, which had a great deal of consensus with governmental and intergovernmental organisations, including the Council of Europe, and had been presented to the AGM.

Mr Baumann added that the work on governance currently being conducted within the ASOIF family would certainly be of relevance to all the non-Olympic federations and will be part of future SportAccord services.

### **AIOWF – Report by the President, Mr Gian Franco Kasper**

Mr Kasper reported that the AIOWF had held its General Assembly here in Aarhus. The main topic over the past season had been the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games in 2018 and the test events, which had now concluded. They were very optimistic about the coming Games. The fallout from the McLaren report had been a key matter for a number of the winter federations, who had issued a media communication at the end of January about the various actions being taken by the seven individual Olympic winter sport federations. They stood strongly behind clean sport, and had pledged to act against athletes, their entourage and national federations whenever real evidence was provided. They were also trying to coordinate their actions with the IOC and cooperate with the two special disciplinary commissions. They were also working closely with ASOIF to implement the IF governance survey. He thanked the ASOIF members for the good collaboration between the summer and winter sports. In conclusion, he hoped to see as many members as possible at next year's Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang in 2018.

### **ARISF – Report by the President, Mr Raffaele Chiulli**

Mr Chiulli reported that they had had an intense but very fruitful week. He thanked all the 38 member IFs, the outgoing members of the Council and the newly elected members, Mr John Liljelund, Secretary General of the International Floorball Federation and Ms Susanne Schödel of the International Air Sport Federation. He noted that two ARISF federations – the Orienteering and Air Sport federations – had made an excellent contribution this week to the plenary session of the SportAccord Convention, on the topics of innovation and new technologies.



Two very good Council meetings had been held this week, before and after the General Assembly. The new board was possibly the first IOC recognised organisation with complete gender equality, something of which they were very proud. At the Council meeting they had discussed a new vision, mission and strategy that ARISF had to go through in the coming years. They had also held a positive meeting with the IOC President, two vice-presidents and top management of the IOC, to further strengthen cooperation. They had also taken part in a series of very fruitful workshops, and he thanked the IOC administration for the opportunity to have a genuine, interactive Q&A session. During the ARISF-WADA session, ARISF members had had the opportunity to see what the Olympic federations were doing to combat doping. Five ARISF members had been included in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, and next year in Buenos Aires another three members would be medal sports at the YOG.

As he and Mr Fraccari had reported to the SportAccord Council, they were in the same boat and rowing in the same direction. He was proud of ARISF's contribution to setting up well-informed and well-documented procedures, which had no doubt contributed to the key decisions that had been taken today.

He concluded by saying that working with Mr Baumann was a pleasure because they were able to do serious work with a smile.

#### **AIMS – Report by the President, Mr Stephan Fox**

Mr Fox began by thanking Aarhus and the SportAccord Convention staff for an outstanding week. Everyone had come to the event with a positive spirit. He congratulated two AIMS members – ICU and IFMA – for securing IOC recognition. He noted that the constitution clearly stated that Council members were elected as individuals and could see out their four-year strategic plan. The symbol of AIMS was a handshake of cooperation, between its members and all the members of SportAccord. He thanked the other four umbrella groups for their close cooperation, and the IOC Sports Department for being available to address any issues, and for guiding them.

This week, AIMS had established a membership support team to help the SportAccord team to assist the new observer members. They would continue to use the SportAccord Convention as a platform to share knowledge. This year, their conference had been on the theme of social responsibility and cooperation between IFs. The IOC President had been one of the keynote speakers, alongside the WADA President and a UNESCO representative. At the next Convention in Bangkok, an AIMS sport festival would be proposed as part of the Convention, to showcase all the sports, and give those federations not yet established in Thailand the chance to promote their sports.

He thanked Mr Baumann for his leadership. It had been an amazing year. He looked forward to welcoming everyone to Bangkok for the 2018 SportAccord Convention.

#### **Associate Members – Report by Mr José Perurena Representative of the Associate Members**

Mr Perurena began by congratulating the two new Associate Members. Yesterday at their meeting, all the Associate Members had signed a document formalising their relationship with the other SportAccord members. He thanked Mr Baumann on behalf of the Associate Members for clarifying their position, and for his sensitivity to their status as full members of SportAccord, albeit without voting rights. They would continue to move forward.

Mr Baumann noted that, although the Associate Members were not eligible to vote, they were a key ingredient of the family. All the individual members were associated with them in some way, and they benefited from those associations, and should increase collaboration with them.

The same applied to the World Games organisation, which could play a crucial role in devising the calendar of SportAccord's future events and maintaining their importance for the non-Olympic disciplines.

#### **12. ITEMS PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION**

##### **Declaration of the IOC Executive Board**

Mr Baumann referred the members to the Declaration of the IOC Executive Board, outlining 12 principles for a more robust and independent global anti-doping system to protect clean athletes, which constituted an im-

portant basis for discussion. President Bach had raised some important points during his opening address to the Convention. Innovation could take many different forms in the world of sport, and it was the opinion of the SportAccord Council that one important area where innovation was needed was reforming the WADA anti-doping system. The overall focus of the changes would be about strengthening WADA, and ensuring that the new system was equally independent of both sports organisations and national interests. This was necessary because even the perception of a conflict of interests was damaging to the credibility of the anti-doping system. As they had seen from recent cases involving NADOs, it was also important to keep the anti-doping system independent from national interests. In a world where the integrity and credibility of sport was scrutinised by a sceptical public and by authorities like never before, perception often became reality.

For the IFs a new system could be very advantageous, as they would be protected from the high risk of liability they were currently exposed to, when dealing with individual cases and facing challenges in the CAS. This was also one of the reasons why, together with ASOIF, ARISF and AIMS, they were supporting the creation of an independent testing authority, and asking the IOC to accelerate this process. Only by working together with the International Federations would this independent testing authority be able to develop an international test distribution plan that would fully understand the difference between every sport and discipline.

The Council and each of the sub-groups strongly rejected the claim often heard from NADOs that the IFs and the sport movement as a whole must be excluded from the system, that they could not both promote sport and police it. The IFs knew sport better than anyone, having been involved for a hundred or more years, whereas the NADOs had been around for 10 or 15 years at most. But they were all ADOs and service providers, and the NADOs were certainly not moral judges of the sports movement. The same conflict of interest issues applied also to national anti-doping entities, as was clear from recent disputes over sanctioning of individual athletes as well as over the duration of suspensions, etc. With an independent international sanctioning system there

would be no such perception or disputes. The IOC had had a positive experience with the independent sanctioning power of CAS during the Olympic Games in Rio, when there had been no appeals against its decisions. This was why the Council believed it is the right way forward with regard to sanctioning.

In conclusion, the Council proposed that SportAccord support fully the reform of the system, to ensure it was equally independent of conflicts of interests, whether from the sports movement or from NADOs. It would also ask for the support of the members in urging those in charge to accelerate the creation of the ITA, and finally in supporting WADA in its desire to strengthen its role as a regulator and compliance monitoring body, but on the understanding that sanctions should be taken by CAS.

In fact, the NADOs and IFs were all in the same boat. This was a way for SportAccord to speak with one voice for all of sport.

**Mr Jan Fransoo** appreciated the discussions that had been taking place with the IOC, and supported Mr Baumann's comments about the position of the NADOs. However, he had some concerns with the way the declaration was currently worded, and noted that this had not been discussed at the ARISF General Assembly. The document's recommendations assumed a one-size-fits-all approach, which did not distinguish between high-risk sport and low-risk sport, or between team and individual sports, or between federations and anti-doping organisations that were compliant, versus non-compliant bodies. He had the feeling that many organisations that had worked hard over an extended period to become compliant could fall victim to a limited number of organisations that had had compliance issues. Federations that did not receive millions in funding from the Olympic Games or other sources typically worked with specialists who volunteered their time. Under the ITA, this time would need to be paid for. His federation had estimated that this would quadruple their anti-doping expenditure, something that they simply could not afford.

Looking at the minimum testing requirements referred to in the document, there was a phrase that was totally unsuitable for team sports: "every athlete that enters

the World Championships should have been tested multiple times". For many team sports this would mean thousands of additional tests, something not even the Olympic sports were currently doing. Finally, he thought that the role of CAS was important, but as a final instance of appeal. The sanction procedures within federations that were compliant had been working quite well. He could imagine a case where, particularly with non-compliant NADOs, a move could be made towards CAS. But where the disciplinary bodies were working well and had been deemed compliant over the past 15 years, he would find it strange if their authority should suddenly be taken away.

He understood the difficulties the sports movement was in, but he would like to have more consideration and consultation with federations like his own, and he hoped there were others that thought similarly on these topics.

**Mr Kelly Fairweather** (International Tennis Federation – ITF) said he completed supported the comments about the NADOs. From the WADA seminar it was clear that this was a concern for many IFs. Many of the comments Mr Fransoo had made would also apply to the ITF. Tennis brought together 7 different stakeholders, united in one effort in the fight against doping. It was a much more complex environment than having just one body carrying out the testing. The ITF would like to have much more information and consultation on this process, particularly the funding model. They had received very little details on the financials.

**Mr Alan Van Caubergh** (International Dragon Boat Federation – IDBF) supported Mr Fransoo's statement about the number of participants that should be tested before World Championships. At some of his federation's World Championships there were more than 5,000 competitors. It was unfeasible and totally unaffordable to conduct this number of checks. Of course they supported doping-free sport, but they could not comply with this rule.

Mr Baumann thanked all of them for their valuable comments and noted that the IOC and WADA were still in a process of working out what should be changed and the speed at which this would happen was unknown. Similarly, the speed at which every federation should

implement changes, if at all, was a different matter. In the first instance, it was about creating a structure. The main concept was that they were all in the same boat, and the system had proven to be failing in some parts. Removing the perceived conflict of interests was a vital step. As far as the specific conditions were concerned, they were still some way from this process. A key element of this was that it provided a way for the IFs to protect themselves. The points raised would certainly be addressed as the concept was developed.

The point was not to approve the document line by line, but to acknowledge that there was a need for change, and the direction the IOC had indicated was the right one. Personally, Mr Baumann felt they should move quickly because the longer they spent talking about it, the more they were damaging themselves and the less IF's could concentrate on promoting and organizing their sports.

ARISF had discussed the document at Council level and ASOIF had dealt with it during the Assembly. He was sure that as more elements were developed, they would be circulated to the IFs and all would have a chance to respond. He did not feel that there was any intention to make the ITA mandatory, but from a policy perspective, the more they moved in that direction, the better it would be for the sports movement. The comments made here today would certainly be noted and forwarded to the IOC.

Mr Baumann asked if the members agreed to support the principle of moving in this direction.

The General Assembly agreed almost unanimously, with one against and one abstention.

### **SportAccord Convention**

Mr Nis Hatt, Managing Director of the SportAccord Convention, began by showing a brief video. Some 15 meetings had taken place with potential future host cities, which was a healthy sign of trust after a turbulent period. He thanked all those in the room, and the IOC. Without the support of the IFs and their belief in the Convention they would not be in this position today.

Around 1600 delegates had participated in the Aarhus Convention, from 740 organisations, and more than 90 IFs, spanning 71 nationalities. 135 cities and regions had attended the Convention this year, which was a

record high, and showed a healthy interest in hosting future sports events. There had been fewer exhibitors this year, largely because not as much exhibition space had been available, but revenues were higher. All the Olympic organising committees had been present, along with the candidate cities for 2024. There had been 1600 dedicated news stories from all over the world on the event. He thanked SportEvent Denmark, the city of Aarhus and the organisers, without whose support this would not have been possible.

The next IF Forum was scheduled to take place at the Royal Savoy Hotel in Lausanne from 8 to 10 November. The 2018 SportAccord Convention would take place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 15 to 20 April.

Mr Baumann thanked Mr Hatt and his team, and also the volunteers who had made their stay in Aarhus so comfortable. The fact that cities were showing such interest was a sign that there was renewed trust and credibility in SportAccord, thanks to the support and participation of all its members.

### **13. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT STATUTORY GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The next Statutory General Assembly was scheduled to take place on 20 April 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.

### **14. CLOSING OF THE STATUTORY GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Mr Baumann reported that over the past 12 months the Council and he had made efforts to build bridges with all the other stakeholders within the sports movement, including ANOC and previous SportAccord presidents, which had been very constructive. They had also opened a dialogue with the IOC, including discussions on how the services the IOC delivered to all the IFs could be reconciled with those that SportAccord could deliver in the future. As a result of those conversations, President Bach had had a private meeting with the SportAccord Council this week, where they had discussed the best way forward on a number of issues. The ultimate goal of all SportAccord's members, Olympic or not, was a place on the Olympic programme. This meant that the Olympic movement and the values it represented were above the individual sports, and represented a target and an objective for them all to aspire to. From this perspective, the relationship with the

IOC was vital and should be strengthened and made valuable to all of the members. There would be five ARISF members in Tokyo, and three in Buenos Aires; if they were strong enough to innovate and improve, even more could have this opportunity. There would always be differences, but the IFs all shared the same values and ambitions. He used the analogy of an elevator: the federations entered on the ground floor and moved up, but they could also move down, in which case it was important to regroup and renew the effort to go back up. The IOC Sports Director was doing an amazing job nurturing the relationship with all the federations, not just the Olympic sports. The IOC had clearly understood that, if they wanted to keep the Olympic programme relevant, it was important to bring in fresh new blood. He then passed the floor to the IOC.

Mr Kit McConnell, IOC Sports Director, expressed his thanks to Mr Baumann, the SportAccord Council and all the International Federations for a very enjoyable and valuable week. He also thanked the SportAccord Convention President and Managing Director, and everyone involved in making this week in Aarhus such a success. The IOC Sports Department had a much wider focus than just the Olympic federations, although the Olympic sports were a key focus. The role of the summer federations would be greatly expanded going forward, into delivering the Games. The IOC continued to expand its support to ARISF and build its relationship with AIMS. He also acknowledged the contribution of associations including WOA, FISU, IWGA and the Masters' Games.

Mr McConnell referred to the 1921 Olympic Congress document, which mentioned the bonds of friendship between federations and mutual assistance. In this changing landscape, the coming together of sports organisations was more important than ever, to address the challenges, seize the opportunities, share experiences and work together. The IOC focused on this and its partnerships with everyone in the room, regardless of where they came from. He congratulated SportAccord on the unanimous support for the new statutes and structures, and thanked those who had laid the foundations for the progress achieved today. He looked forward to moving ahead with this integration, acting together as one team, speaking with a uni-



ted voice, noting the differences but also those areas where they had common cause and common beliefs. He looked forward to working over the coming weeks and months on putting more detail into the integration, and come back with greater clarity on how those partnerships would work in the future, whether in terms of services to the IFs, recognition structures or integrated projects. He looked forward to continuing the strong spirit of partnership, and focusing on sport and the athletes.

#### **Award to Mr Ron Froehlich**

The Council wished to recognise the contribution of Mr Ron Froehlich, who had given a great deal of his time to both SportAccord and the SportAccord Convention, even when suffering from serious health issues. Over the years, he had worked to build up the financial reserves of the organisation. He had been involved with the World Games and was a passionate member of the gymnastics family. In recognition of his tremendous contribution to the activities of SportAccord and the SportAccord Convention, Mr Baumann presented Mr Froehlich with a commemorative plaque.

Mr Ron Froehlich said that his primary motivation was to help the athletes. For him, every athlete who was given the opportunity to participate in sport was a gold medal. He urged the members to continue doing what they did, because the athletes were important and, without them, they had nothing. He wished to accept this award on behalf of all the administrators, because they made the difference for all the athletes.

In closing, Mr Baumann thanked the General Assembly for their patience and their advice over the last year and months, and thanked them for their support for the changes that the Council had proposed, and for their input. He thanked the SportAccord and Convention teams, the city of Aarhus and the interpreters and declared the General Assembly closed.

#### **Council Members**

Patrick Baumann, President  
 Raffaele Chiulli, Vice President  
 Stephan Fox, Vice President  
 Marisol Casado, Treasurer  
 Gian Franco Kasper, Member  
 Riccardo Fraccari, Member  
 Kate Caithness, Member (excused)  
 Nenad Lalović, Member  
 José Perurena, Member  
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#### **Membership Commission**

Antonio Espinós, Chairman  
 Raffaele Chiulli, Member  
 Stephan Fox, Member

#### **Multi-Sport Games Working Groups**

Combat Games: Stephan Fox, Chairman  
 Mind Games: Geoffrey Borg, Chairman  
 Urban Games: Sabatino Aracu, Chairman

Lausanne, 7 June 2017

Patrick Baumann, President  
 Philippe Gueisbuhler, Head of Administration

