OPENING OF THE STATUTORY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Senior Vice President of GAISF, Mr Raffaele Chiulli welcomed those present to the GAISF General Assembly in the Gold Coast, Queensland. United, all the sport organisations they represented have a great relevance and influence. He opened the meeting with a moment of remembrance for their former leader and dear friend, Mr Patrick Baumann.

ROLL CALL

Mr Chiulli announced that there were 79 voting members in the room. The simple majority stood at 40 votes, with a two-thirds majority at 53.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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NOMINATION OF THE STEWARD AND TWO SCRUTINEERS

The Director of GAISF, Mr Philippe Gueisbuhler, proposed Mr Espen Lund (WAKO) as steward and Ms Susanne Schödel (FAI) and Mr Mircea Simonescu Simicel (WAF) as scrutineers.

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<td>Mr Espen Lund (WAKO) appointed as steward and Ms Susanne Schödel (FAI) and Mr Mircea Simonescu Simicel (WAF) appointed as scrutineers.</td>
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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr Chiulli noted that the minutes of the last General Assembly had been sent to the members in a timely manner, according to the Statutes. No comments had been received.

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<td>Minutes of the 2018 General Assembly in Bangkok approved.</td>
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SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS

Mr Chiulli outlined that much of what he was about to say was covered in the Working Documents, which the members had been sent ahead of the meeting. Part of GAISF’s work over the last year had been the creation and re-creation of the Multi-Sports Games. The first World Urban Games would take place in Budapest in September 2019, and the members would be hearing from the Budapest representatives about their ambitious plans for this exciting event. There had also been some great developments on the other Multi-Sports Games. They would receive updates on the good governance review which had been conducted for the International Federations from ARISF and AIMS. He believed this would prove to be a good piece of work, as it had been for the Summer and Winter Olympic sports. The review could certainly be used for improving governance and transparency in their organisations. He encouraged all those present to take their individual reports as a basis for internal development, on the understanding that the athletes and other key stakeholders had higher expectations than ever before, when it came to governance. This was just part of the many areas where the staff of GAISF, under the leadership of Director Philippe Gueisbuhler, had been working very hard for their members. He invited the members to join him in a round of applause, in appreciation.

Today there will be presentations from FIBA, the Olympic Channel, and an update on the International Testing Agency. GAISF’s mission is to serve, to represent, to promote and to protect, in the common interest of the GAISF members. The GAISF leadership wants to help its members to achieve their objectives. It is by working together openly and in a collective spirit of good faith that, we can and will succeed. He wanted GAISF to drive forward a collective direction through a democratic decision-making process, working at the forefront of the sports movement to ensure that sport is a vehicle for positive change in terms of good governance, sustainability initiatives and youth development programmes. As IFs, our actions will inspire the next generation of athletes. He wished the IFs, collectively, to set the example and show that sport was a tool for good. GAISF should lead the way.
FINANCIAL MATTERS

Mr Chiulli gave the floor to the GAISF Treasurer, Mrs Marisol Casado, and congratulated her on her re-election to the ASOIF Council.

Mrs Marisol Casado directed the members to the financial statements in the Working Documents. GAISF had been able to establish its activities as it entered the final phase of the transition. The Doping-Free Sport Unit had been transferred to the ITA in July 2018, and the six staff members had left GAISF. The remaining GAISF employees, a total of seven staff members, together oversaw the administration, managed membership-related matters, and ran GAISF’s digital services and other special projects, including good governance and the Multi-Sports Games.

The 2018 accounts were included in the Working Documents. There had been a net profit of CHF 1.3m for 2018, with reserves of almost CHF 5m. For the 2019 budget, the profits from 2018 would be reinvested in developing several projects to serve the members. This included the development of good governance, sustainability and digital services. 2019 would also mark the launch of the Multi-Sports Games. The 2019 World Urban Games would take place in September in Budapest, with an option for a second edition also in Budapest two years later. Discussions were ongoing about other Multi-Sports Games, namely the World Combat Games, the World Mind Games and the World Beach Games. The staff required to support these games and various projects that GAISF was currently launching had to be adapted to the new structure. The proposed budget included financial support from the IOC for these projects, which would be a significant help in launching the initiatives. The profits from 2018 would be invested in the final stage of the transition of GAISF, which was why the budget for 2019 would present a deficit. However, it was very important to note that this would not affect the reserves, and the result for the two last years would remain financially positive overall.

BDO had been appointed the auditor of GAISF at the last General Assembly in Bangkok and had conducted the statutory audit. A copy of the financial statements was included in the Working Documents for their approval.

She thanked her colleagues in GAISF, the Council members, the GAISF staff, BDO and Mr Olivier Mirshak who now provided accounting services for GAISF. She respectfully recommended that the General Assembly approve the budget for 2019 and the audited financial statements for 2018 and discharge the Council members from any liability. Mr Gueisbuhler would be happy to answer any questions.

Mr Chiulli invited the members to vote.

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STATUTORY CHANGES

Mr Chiulli drew the members’ attention to the proposed changes to the Statutes in their Working Documents.

Mr Gueisbuhler explained that the Council proposed to advance the rotation of the presidency cycle from 2020 to 2019, due to the tragic death of their late President, Mr Patrick Baumann. Article 7 had also been clarified to outline the difference between the process to follow and the documents to submit for the applications. Finally, some aesthetic changes had been made, to harmonise the language and coherence of the Statutes.

Mr Chiulli thanked all the GAISF Council members for the time they had spent on this, and Mr Carrard for his invaluable support. No written comments had been received on the proposed changes, but Mr Carrard was present today to respond to any questions the members might wish to raise.

Mr Kelly Fairweather (ITF) noted that he had submitted some written comments and had been in contact with Mr Gueisbuhler. He had asked for clarification regarding some of the changes under 7.a.2 and 7.a.3, which he had duly received. But it was important to note how this impacted Article 7.b.1.a. He wanted to make sure that the final decision regarding incompatibility with an existing member of GAISF remained with the AGM.

Mr François Carrard thought that Article 7.b.1.a was clear on this.

Mr Fairweather noted that he wished to be clear that when the Membership Commission made a recommendation, and the Council made a positive recommendation to the General Assembly, the GA still had to take this article into account.

Mr Carrard agreed that this was the case.

Mr Chiulli thanked Mr Fairweather for his comment and Mr Carrard for his answer.

Mr Chiulli invited the members to vote.

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Mr Chiulli thanked the members for their confidence.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

Mr Chiulli pointed out that, even though there was just one candidate, it would not be appropriate for him to conduct the election. He gave the floor to Vice President Stefan Fox.

Mr Stefan Fox noted that, after the sad passing of President Baumann, who had brought them all together under one voice in sport, they now had to elect a new President. They had a strong candidate. He asked the GAISF members to join him in congratulating Mr Chiulli on being elected President of SportAccord and invited him to say some words about how he would approach the presidency of GAISF, if elected.
Mr Chiulli thanked the Council for their support in such a delicate transition. The members had heard a lot from him this week. They had received his programme, which laid out four key actions: continuing to work to serve and promote the common interests of the GAISF members with integrity and transparency; strengthening the role of GAISF as a service-based organisation while continuing to increase good governance and acting as a model of best practice; leading GAISF to a position among the world’s most respected sport governing bodies; and promoting and implementing new development programmes, social responsibility and sustainability initiatives as a cornerstone of their future. Sport, as they had seen this week in the United Through Sport Festival, provided great educational opportunities and had the power to unite in diversity, regardless of faith, race, culture, belief, gender and ability. This was his commitment and he will work hard for the benefit of all the GAISF members. It will be a collective effort and he thanked all IFs and key stakeholders for their time and their support.

Mr Fox asked if there were any comments from the floor. There being none, he invited the membership to vote by show of hands.

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<td>Mr Raffaele Chiulli unanimously elected President of GAISF.</td>
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Mr Fox congratulated Mr Chiulli on his election.

Mr Chiulli thanked the members for their confidence and trust. It will be a great honour to serve them.

MEMBERSHIP AND OBSERVERS

Mr Gueisbuhler noted that there were no decisions to be made today regarding membership. There continued to be great interest in membership of GAISF, and many applications were being considered carefully. They were continuing to look at ways of streamlining the membership process, in keeping with GAISF’s role as “gatekeeper” to the Olympic Movement. He continued to collaborate closely with the IOC to ensure that GAISF served both current and potential future members in the most effective way.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

FIBA

Mr Andreas Zagklis, Secretary General of FIBA, thanked GAISF for the invitation to report on this topic. It was an opportunity for him to share the experience and thoughts of FIBA on the issue of third-party organisers, a relevant topic for all those present.

He began by saying that he thought the initiative taken by ASOIF was excellent; there were some strong ideas that would help to guide discussions and actions for the future. Basketball was the Olympic sport with the biggest third-party organiser, the NBA, which had been around for 70 years, and had been working closely with FIBA for 30 years. FIBA had changed its governance to incorporate the NBA into its Board and Executive Committee, at the heart of the decision-making process. 3x3 basketball had made it from the streets to the Olympic Games thanks largely to
private promoters, since 80% of events were run by private promoters. This was the case for many other sports. At the same time, not everything had been done correctly. When Patrick Baumann had taken over as Secretary General in 2002, FIBA had just lost control of the Europe club competition, which FIBA had organised successfully for more than four decades, when the leagues decided to do it themselves. Fifteen years after this breakaway, FIBA had found itself in a dispute before the European Commission in Brussels, the second Olympic federation to be involved in such proceedings. Three years into the process, he was here to share some thoughts and his experience.

The first thing FIBA had learned was the power of the domino effect. They had seen this in the 1990s with the Bosman case, but also more recently following the European Commission's decision on the ISU. Several people had tried to convince them that they were all affected in the same way, but this was not in fact true. They had many common interests, which was what he wished to emphasise today. They should look into how they could align their common interests and have a joint strategy on this topic. FIBA had worked alongside colleagues that found themselves in a similar situation. He wished to publicly thank the ISU and FEI in this regard.

There was a great deal of confusion, which began when public authorities claimed that the IFs were regulators and therefore could not be competitors in the market. This was wrong. The IFs were regulators, prudent regulators, and they knew their limits. This was the discussion they needed to have as colleagues in this assembly, and following that, in working groups, regarding what their limits were. They had to define their limits jointly, so that when each of them was faced with a situation of a breakaway, a rival league, a third-party organiser, the board of that organisation would know very well what the conditions were before pressing the button of suspension. They could not simply announce that members would be suspended if they participated in that competition. But at the same time, the public authorities had to understand that the IFs had a good set of rules, intended not to protect their commercial interests, but to protect their ability to raise funds which were then invested in the development of their sport.

The ASOIF study had some good thoughts, but they should consider what they wanted their core activities to be. One of these had to be establishing the rules of the game. Through a proper process, the IFs had to be the ones deciding how their sports were played. It had to also include the calendar. Coordination of the calendar was a tool that could be abused, but had the IFs ever abused it? Had they ever used the calendar to harm the commercial interests of another body? The sports rankings, rules and Olympic qualification procedures had to be retained as part of the IFs’ core competences. One of the things FIBA had faced in Brussels was the assertion that FIBA could be in charge of health, safety and integrity and no more. However, in fact anti-doping was largely outsourced because the IFs considered themselves to be under a conflict of interests. Some IFs also outsourced integrity. What was left then? FIBA’s answer had been that they could be very good competitors in the market because they had great expertise in organising top-level events. They all had a long tradition of establishing rules in a prudent manner, as seen from how they made statutory changes.

However, when it came to discussing governance, they began by looking at how they scored in the ASOIF good governance assessment. Did their competitors in the market go through similar procedures? Were these third-party organisers as transparent as the IFs were or were obliged to be? Did they disclose all their financial reports, their sources of funding?

A couple of proposals that FIBA thought would merit discussion within GAISF were the standards for recognition of third-party organisers. No matter how different their sports were, there had to
be a body of rules that were applicable to all. This was how the bigger federations could help their friends who were currently trying to develop their sports. Once they had established this common ground, they had to push hard for it. This meant collaborating on legal cases, to the extent that it was allowed, and lobbying. A body like this should be doing some lobbying activities. It was hard to understand why the IFs were not jointly represented in Brussels, for example. There was an office for the European Olympic Committees, but he thought they should also have an office for the International Sports Federations, where they could explain what they did to legislators who took decisions that affected their activities.

In conclusion, he thought the IFs had no reason to be afraid when it came to competing in the free market, if they were united. He believed it was a duty of FIBA to extend a helping hand to any other federation facing similar issues.

Mr Jan Fransoo (IKF) thought this was an outstanding call to action. He was interested in the view of the GAISF Council in terms of the call to open up lobbying activities in Brussels.

Mr Chiulli said at the forthcoming GAISF Council meeting they would address this issue, because it was becoming increasingly relevant to many of their stakeholders.

Mr Kelly Fairweather (ITF) thanked Mr Zagklis for sharing these ideas. In practical terms, what was the scope of this framework? Did it go back to the bid process and through the management of the event?

Mr Zagklis thought they should first look at recognition rules for organisers of third-party events. This was the area where so far, they had not been well coordinated. Some federations had good rules, others less good. If the federations communicated better with each other, and shared more know-how, they would be able to reach a certain standard. If they had a common and legally sound approach to third-party organisers, then they could take the next step.

Mr Graham Stoker (FIA) asked if a working group could be set up to look into this matter. In the early 2000s, his federation had been forced into a 100-year agreement. He thought now was the time to look at this issue, because there was a conspicuous lack of understanding in Brussels about what the Federations brought to the table. If they got together and presented a common dialogue of what they did, it would be very powerful.

Mr Chiulli thought this was a very good point and it will be discussed at the next GAISF Council meeting. He was in favour of gathering the broad experience present in the room and making good use of it in terms of best practices to be shared. He thanked Mr Zagklis for his interesting insight.

I TRUST SPORT

Mr Chiulli thanked everyone who had participated in the survey that was at the basis of the report to follow.

Mr Rowland Jack of I Trust Sport Ltd. presented the summary results from the study of governance of the members of ARISF and AIMS, which had been conducted over the last few months. They all had ambitious goals for sports federations: H.E. Mr. Ban Ki Moon had mentioned this week his belief in the extraordinary power of sport to change lives. At the opening of the Sports Festival, they had heard about the need to connect with young people. Putting in place the right standard of governance in sports federations gave them the best chance of achieving these important objectives.
He began by explaining that the project covered 55 IF members of ARISF and AIMS, similar to the studies of Olympic federations carried out in the two previous years. The five ARISF members that were on the programme for Tokyo 2020 had been excluded because they had been studied recently. The information had been collected with a self-assessment questionnaire, which included 20 scored indicators (0-4) and some background questions. The focus was on transparency (8 out of 20 questions). The idea was that it was possible to make progress with limited resources in the area of transparency and help to tackle the loss of trust that affected the sports sector. The survey had taken place from November to February. There had been 47 responses, and he appreciated the cooperation of the federations concerned in what was a significant task. He thanked the GAISF team, who had been very helpful in coordinating the contacts.

He and a colleague had checked all the details, adjusting the scores where necessary. They had also conducted assessments for those federations that had not responded to the questionnaire. This was the 5th study of its type, so it was a tried and tested procedure, and a relatively objective and consistent one. The quality of the information supplied was generally good.

Looking at the results, there was a wide range, from 10 to 65 total score out of a maximum of 80. The results had been divided into four groups, A1 (the top 5), A2, B and C. The full report would be published shortly. There was a great deal of variation among the 50 organisations studied, so a question had been included to categorise the federations by number of staff and contractors. Looking at the averages, it was clear that the average score appeared to rise, the more staff they had, up to a certain point. Those federations with no full-time members of staff (14) had an average score of around 30. Federations with between 5 and 9 staff members had an average score of 50. Among those with 10 or more staff there was a mix of results.

The group with 1-4 members of staff was the largest, accounting for 25 of the 54 federations. Among those with 5-9 staff, scores were generally high. Federations with 10 or more staff represented a mix of scores. Each member of ARISF and AIMS would be able to see their relative position compared with other federations of a similar size.

They had also asked a question to categorise federations by revenue, another important factor. The majority of ARISF and AIMS members (45) had less than CHF 2 million annual revenue in the period concerned. Average scores showed that larger revenues seemed to help, but the threshold at which revenue made a difference was not clear.

Looking at some of the individual 20 indicators, across all of the IFs, almost all the organisations studied published their statutes and sporting rules. Many of them had athlete representatives on their Executive Boards, but there were a number of indicators where average scores were rather low, although within that there were still examples of good practice. For example, one indicator concerned publication of financial information. Twenty-five federations published nothing or almost nothing, while 21 published their audited accounts. There was also often a lack of information about the level of expenses for officials such as per diems and travel costs. Another important factor was conflicts of interests. Twelve of the federations had no evidence of an existing conflict of interest policy. At the other end of the scale 10 federations had a policy and demonstrated they had implemented it. This included all five of the top A1 group. Research from other sectors and business showed that having internal controls, conflict of interest policies etc. could help to reduce the risk of things going wrong, and they also gave confidence to stakeholders.
As was the case with the Olympic federations, the boards of the ARISF and AIMS members were rather male dominated. Two of the federations had over 50% of their board made up of women, but eight federations had either no female board members at all, or less than 5%. A number of federations had rules to encourage better gender balance, but overall there was a long way to go.

Looking at term limits for presidents and elected officials, 32 IFs had no term limits in place. Among those that did, most often the limit was three terms of four years, with some variation. The scores were significantly higher for the 22 federations that had term limits, compared with the 32 that did not. This was consistent with the findings from the Olympic federations. It was important to say that correlation was not causation. In fact, term limits were often introduced as part of a package of reforms that collectively had the impact of raising the scores. There were exceptions, but the average difference was clear.

They had tried comparing the ARISF and AIMS federations. The ARISF members tended to be slightly larger, but once controlled for size there was no obvious difference between the members for the purposes of this exercise.

As they had gone through the documents to get a feel for federation activity, it had become clear that disputes were quite common, and soaked up a lot of executive time and budget and could hold back organisations from achieving their potential.

There were 14 federations that were trying to manage a global sport with no full-time staff. This was a challenge, and it was no surprise that some of these organisations were struggling.

To conclude, the best of the federations were doing very well indeed, despite limited resources, and competed with many of the Olympic federations. However, there were basic failings across quite a few of the organisations. The good news was that useful progress was possible even with limited investment, by, for example, improving transparency, and putting in place and implementing policies like conflict of interest and internal financial controls. Where constitutional changes were needed, such as to term limits, this was more difficult and took longer. On the issue of gender balance there were bigger societal issues at play. Federations could have a positive influence, but clearly, they could not solve all problems on their own. As the President had said earlier, sports federations were facing higher expectations than ever before, so this should be just one step in an ongoing process of improving governance.

The full anonymised report would be published online on the GAISF website after this assembly. Individual reports for each federation were currently being prepared. Some good practice examples would be provided from among the organisations studied, which would be useful to learn from. A second assessment exercise was planned.

The President thanked Mr Jack. He looked forward to continuing to work with him on this service. He encouraged everyone who would receive an individual report to make the most of the findings.

- **OLYMPIC CHANNEL**

The President welcomed Jochen Färber of the Olympic Channel. The Olympic Channel had become an extremely important partner for many of the GAISF members and is doing a great job to help both Olympic and non-Olympic sports to reach young people everywhere.
Mr Jochen Färber began by giving a big thank you to everyone present. Most of them had worked very well with the Olympic Channel and the teams in Madrid and Lausanne. Although it was called the Olympic Channel, they had also been working closely with the recognised sports, and recently they had an event with the Cheer federation, which had reached the highest number of concurrent users from the Youth Olympic Games that they had ever had. The priorities for the Channel this year were to grow engagement with the youthful sports explorers, the audience they were trying to target, and to increase the relevance of the Olympic Movement with the broader Olympic fan base. They were therefore doing three things. The first was proactively supporting the promotion of the Tokyo Olympic Games 2020 and the Lausanne YOG 2020. On top of that, they wanted to make the best use of their content production and technical capabilities, and focus on getting and keeping the fans engaged, with the help of data activities. They were also working very hard on localisation and distribution, not just on the digital platform but also in Japan and China, to see what was possible. They already had an Olympic Channel window with the Japanese consortium NHK, and before the summer games more footage would be made available in Japan. The same applied for the upcoming Winter Games in China.

Activities were being planned around the Lausanne 2020 YOG in very close collaboration with Lausanne 2020, the IOC communications team and the YOG team. That had not always been the case in the past. At previous Games, the OCOG would have their own communications stream, the IFs another, the IOC another. In Buenos Aires they had put the teams together, made combined efforts, and it had worked very well. A live stream would be offered from Lausanne 2020, along with live shows from Lausanne and St Moritz. They were about to create a multi-sport video player, so that users could watch different sports and switch from one to another. They also wanted to have overlaid data with results, schedules, etc. to enhance the vision.

There would be an Olympic Channel hub in the athletes’ village, as they had had in Buenos Aires, which had worked very well to engage directly with the athletes. The athletes had been trained in how to make their own short videos and tell their stories, and it had been very well received. As part of the focus on the athletes’ journeys in the lead-up to Lausanne 2020, they had already begun following some athletes, promoting the upcoming Games through the athletes, their training and their results.

The same would happen with Tokyo 2020, the only difference being that the Olympic Channel was not the rights holder. The Channel would do some things outside of the Games, but could not broadcast live, with the exception of the territory of India, where the Olympic Channel was able to broadcast 120-150 minutes per day. Tokyo would be the first Olympic Summer Games where the Olympic Channel was live during the Games.

The Olympic Channel video player was free of charge, and all the federations could access the content. Any content about their federation or their athletes could be integrated into their own websites. All the original programming and features could be used. The Olympic Channel also produced promotional assets, to help to bring more content to their audiences.

The sports data warehouse was something that all the summer Olympic Federations knew about. Some of the Winter Federations were very aware too. The project had been delayed somewhat because of GDPR and privacy policies, but in cooperation with the ASOIF legal consultative group they had overcome the challenges. He thought the document would be finished in the next few weeks. They now had a sound legal framework, and if any IFs were interested, he would be happy to share how and why they had done it. They were now ready to integrate as many IFs as
they could up to Tokyo and beyond. At the end of May in Lausanne it was planned to have a system demonstration in more detail. Any IFs that were interested were invited to join.

In its first test during the Buenos Aires YOG, the sports data warehouse had developed widgets. The aim was not just to collect the data in a database but to return it to the federations and, more importantly, to the athletes themselves. The Athletes 365 platform that had been developed by Kit McConnell's team featured a “widget gallery”; athletes could log in and choose a widget, and then for example, connect directly with the results system of the Buenos Aires Games, pull out their biography, connect it to their social media or website, etc, and receive results automatically. It was hoped to open up this database to the athletes themselves so that they could help by contributing data such as pictures, hobbies, personal information, etc., which would give the athletes an interest in using it. The database, which was an amalgam of dozens of different sources, was stored in the cloud. For records from the same athlete, it would be possible to merge and combine the information.

As far as the IFs were concerned, the Olympic Channel was giving them the ability to use the backend that had been built for the Olympic Movement. The interesting part was how the data was presented to the audience. Here, everyone would have different ideas. But it meant the IFs could focus more on the front end. In the long run, he believed this project would help to bring costs down. It was maintained in the cloud of one of the IOC’s TOP sponsors. A small team of 3-4 developers in Madrid had worked on this huge project, and he felt they were just at the start of a huge data project. He hoped to work with the IFs on this in more detail.

Mr Andy Okun (IGF) asked what opportunities were available for non-recognised and AIMS federations to work with the Olympic Channel.

Mr Färber said that there were many different opportunities. He invited Mr Okun to have a one-to-one conversation. He thought most of the federations had ideas already. He also invited him to consult with some of the other federations, such as Cheerleading. The Olympic Channel could air and broadcast live events where there was a production in place; they were always looking for interesting sports content to tell stories about athletes and communicate the values of sport. There was a production team available to produce these stories. There was a social media team, with 100 people working in Madrid and Lausanne. This could be used as an extended communications arm. In 2020 there would be a major focus on the Olympic Games and the Winter YOG, but there would still be content for the recognised federations.

The President thanked Mr Färber for his presentation.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

The Director reported that it had been another busy and extremely interesting year for GAISF. This report had been shared in the preliminary Working Documents sent out one month ago. At the last General Assembly, they had had the pleasure to welcome back the IAAF, IGF and IPC. They had also welcomed two new Associate Members: the World Union of Olympic Cities and the World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry. The General Assembly had approved the membership of the World Armwrestling Federation, which brought GAISF to a total of 95 Members, 20 Associate Members and 10 Observers.
GAISF was committed to organising a range of specialised multi-sports games, creating a number of opportunities for members to showcase their sports and disciplines. He thanked everyone working behind the scenes to make these games a success.

Given the range of complex issues sport was facing around the world, promoting and supporting best practice in governance was high on the agenda. The members had heard about the GAISF Good Governance Study conducted with the ARISF and AIMS members to improve their governance. Every step forward, no matter how great or small, was positive for sport, and GAISF would continue to push in this direction.

In partnership with the IOC, GAISF hosted an e-sports forum last summer at the Olympic Museum. The forum had met its objective of starting a dialogue between the Olympic Family and the e-sports community. The forum was not the automatic opening of a door for e-sports to join the Olympic Games; it was the first step of a journey. The existing synergies between e-sports and the sports movement were identified, outlining also some of the critical differences, structure and operations between their two worlds. As a result, an e-sports liaison group would be set up by the IOC and GAISF to continue engagement between the Olympic Movement and the world of e-sports. The objective was to learn and share from each other, and they would of course share the findings with the GAISF membership to ensure they continued to promote sport within the digital era.

GAISF members had also had the opportunity to discuss the relationship with e-sports at the IF Forum in November, and a short survey had been issued to poll their views on this important topic. The results were very helpful in better understanding their expectations and would play an important role in shaping the future relationship with the e-sports community.

Finally, he wished to thank President Chiulli, the GAISF Council and the GAISF team for the work they had done in the last year. Their tireless efforts all came together in one common objective: to serve, represent, promote and protect the common interests of the GAISF members. He looked forward to continuing to do so in the years to come, under the leadership of the newly elected President, Raffaele Chiulli.

The President thanked the Director and his team for all their hard work.

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**ITA**

The President reminded the members that the Doping Free Sport Unit had been transferred to the International Testing Agency (ITA). Dr Valérie Fourneyron of the ITA had kindly agreed to join them today to give a presentation.

Dr Valérie Fourneyron thanked Mr Chiulli for the invitation to provide an update on the International Testing Agency. Today, she would focus on the recent activities of the ITA, its progress and future projects.
GAISF had a played a key role in the establishment of the ITA. The nucleus of the ITA was formed by the GAISF Doping-Free Sport Unit, and she was pleased to see that all six staff members agreed to transfer to the ITA and be part of the team with ITA Director General Benjamin Cohen. Since this was the first time she had officially addressed the GAISF General Assembly, she thanked the President for his support, and the Director for his assistance throughout the transition. She also thanked and paid tribute to the late Patrick Baumann, for his support and efforts to encourage IFs to invest resources in the fight for clean sport. During the last GAISF GA, one year ago, Patrick had called upon all the IFs to unite behind the ITA. He had pursued an ambitious vision for the integrity of sport. During the last SportAccord Convention in Bangkok, Mr Baumann had said, “We IFs have been taking a lot of hits. People say we don’t care about this, we only care about our commercial success and so forth, and that we are permanently conflicted.” He continued: “We disagree. I cannot say that some in our family have not made mistakes that have come out, and that have been fuelling this perception of a conflict of interest. But we have been fighting against doping for decades and trying to keep sport clean. To avoid that perception, we are happy to move towards the International Testing Agency. Whether you catch a big star or a more normal athlete, that’s life. It’s better not to have this in our house to decide. We just have to bring the expertise.” These words still resonated with her and confirmed her belief that federations greatly benefitted from outsourcing this difficult area to the ITA, all the while fuelling the ITA with their own sports-specific expertise.

After exactly one year since these words were pronounced, and the ITA’s official start of operations on 1 July 2018, the board had been able to observe the tremendous progress made by the ITA over this short period. She used the word “observe” because the board of the ITA, composed of three representatives of the sports movement – athletes, IFs and IOC – and two independent members, was not involved in the ITA’s operations. This was extremely important, as it provided for the complete operational independence of the foundation.

To illustrate the progress made, she was pleased to report that more than 40 IFs and major event organisers were currently engaged in a partnership with the ITA. The ITA team had grown from seven staff in July 2018 to soon 30 staff members from all corners of the world, with extensive anti-doping expertise. The team was spread among five departments: testing, science and medical, education, legal and compliance, and business operations.

Testing numbers had grown from 1,500 last year to more than 10,000 this year. For 2019 the forecast for the ITA’s revenues had initially been set at CHF 900,000. It was currently more than 200% higher, at around CHF 3 million. In this respect, it was important to underline that as a not-for-profit organisation, ITA operated at cost. The aim was to continuously assess how to reduce the cost for partners, keeping in mind that anti-doping activities remained unfortunately expensive. These figures illustrated the rapid growth of the organisation and the positive momentum around this initiative, coming from the sport movement and for the sport movement. Additional numbers could be found in the Working Documents.

In terms of operations, the ITA had successfully managed on behalf of the IOC the anti-doping programme of the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, with more than 700 samples collected over the Games period. The ITA was also currently reanalysing more than 2000 samples from the London 2012 Summer Games and prosecuting all positive cases resulting from it. The ITA team had also played a key role in the coordination of the anti-doping programme for the FISU Winter Universiade in Siberia earlier in 2019, and the ITA would soon go to Minsk to provide independent oversight of the anti-doping programme of the 2019 European Games, while preparing the anti-doping programme for the 2020 Lausanne Winter YOG and the Tokyo 2020
Olympic Games. These important projects were conducted in parallel with the management of the dozens of International Federations’ anti-doping programmes that the ITA coordinated on a daily basis.

The GAISF members would realise the huge work handled by the ITA team to support them in their efforts to fight doping. Hence the importance for the ITA to rapidly grow, and reach strategic partnerships with national anti-doping organisations, law enforcement authorities, sample collection agencies and research centres, to name just a few, to support the important growth and the number of tests performed by the ITA all around the world. It was also important to share expertise with existing IF integrity units.

Significant projects had been launched as well in the fields of data protection, cyber-security, artificial intelligence, scientific research and intelligence. New solutions were being developed to offer users the most advanced technologies to detect doping in their respective sports. As an example, the ITA was currently working on integrating security and blockchain technologies and data protection safeguards for the management of the IFs’ TUEs.

Given its importance, Dr Fourneyron also wished to highlight the area of anti-doping education. The ITA firmly believed that while testing must be done, some of these resources might be best invested in anti-doping education to treat the problem before it actually became one. They were therefore already supporting their IF partners with their education activities and had recently hired a former Olympian to further promote education and the delivery of outreach programmes to the athlete community and their entourages. The ITA was far from being short of work, and they did not expect things to slow down this year.

Their priorities continued to be: assisting all interested GAISF members in the management of their programmes and ensuring they remained at all times compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code; developing innovative solutions to find doping more effectively, plus adding value to all IFs and major events organisers; and creating a true international centre of anti-doping expertise.

The IOC Session in Rio in 2016 had unanimously approved making anti-doping independent of sports organisations and national or political interests. The objective was clear: to remove even the perception of a conflict of interests. This was obviously an important change of mentality and way of doing things. She understood the reluctance that some might have to change a system that they felt was not broken within their organisations. Nevertheless, the sports movement was only as strong as its weakest link. This was why it was paramount to do everything possible to ensure independence and to regain the trust of all athletes and the public at large, if it had been damaged. The ITA had been established for that reason, and it was now their job to ensure that it could support all GAISF members efficiently, cost-consciously, and always taking into account each sport’s needs, existing expertise and specificities.

Finally, she invited everyone to visit the ITA whenever they wished. It was their home, and they would always be warmly welcomed. She and the ITA Director General remained available to answer any questions.

The President thanked Dr Fourneyron and the Director General, Benjamin Cohen for their great support and he said that they will continue to work closely together in the overall interest of our IFs.
MULTI-SPORT GAMES

The President noted that there had been some exciting developments in the Multi-Sports Games. They were only few months away from the first edition of the World Urban Games. He welcomed Messrs Iván Rózsa and Attila Mizsér from Budapest.

Mr Attila Mizsér congratulated the President on his new role and wished him great success. This was a great occasion. He introduced his communications director and partner in the local organising committee, Mr Iván Rózsa.

This year, Budapest was both the European Capital of Sport and the European Best Destination. Budapest had been described as a city that offered the elegance of Paris, the architectural heritage of Vienna, the charm of Porto and the gentle way of life of Stockholm. Beyond that, Budapest was a loving capital in the heart of the country, which was ranked in 3rd place by Sportcal's GSI Cities Index. Their clear target in the long term was to remain in the top three in Europe, which would not be an easy task given the competition.

With the concept of the first World Urban Games, they felt they could give the right answers to at least two big challenges. On one hand, youth engagement was a very important matter for everyone, and having new-generation sports in the programme of the WUG would make this first edition a strong event. On the other hand, they had a city development plan. This sport event would be a catalyst for starting the regeneration of the location and the venue.

Mr Iván Rózsa noted that it had not been easy to find a location for these innovative sports, but they had found one along the River Danube, just 15 minutes from the city centre. The area was a very urban industrial site, which was in an extremely degraded condition. But that was why they could really make a difference there. Once they had delivered the WUG, he believed they could resuscitate this entire area. He showed some slides illustrating the fields of play and venues. Roughly 100,000 people were expected in total.

Mr Mizsér introduced the draft venue master plan and explained how the sports programme would be accommodated on the site. They were convinced they would be able to create a very vibrant and dynamic atmosphere and deliver the twofold purpose of the WUG: youth engagement and city development.

In terms of the sports scheme, they would focus on three core values when constructing the event schedule. Excellence – having the best athletes from the eight sports; Universality – athletes from three or sometimes four continents; Inclusivity – they would create opportunities for everyone coming to the location to have the opportunity to try every sport featured. They were closely cooperating with the eight national federations concerned, and the state secretary responsible for sport, on how to create a cornerstone legacy. In Hungary, sports such as roller-skating and skateboarding were not highly developed, and in the coming years, particularly with the 2021 WUG in mind, they had to create more opportunities for Hungarian sport.

He was grateful for the cooperation with GAISF and the IFs concerned. The NFs involved were also very enthusiastic and excited about the concept. He invited everyone present to visit this excellent event, which would build a new brand for the benefit of global sport.

The President congratulated the Budapest team with whom GAISF had established a great constructive relationship. He pointed out that Mr Mizsér was a former Olympic and World Champion in modern pentathlon. He outlined that they had seen how this initiative was a great catalyst for city development, and what great legacy the WUG could leave behind. He was very
grateful to Budapest for their hard work, and to the GAISF Director and his team, for having established in such a short time such a productive collaboration. He was very much looking forward to the inaugural edition of the WUG in Budapest in mid-September 2019.

There was a question from the members asking if the sports programme would be expanded for the next Urban Games.

Mr Mizsér explained that the original concept of the WUG was to have 14 sports – 10 competition sports and 4 showcase sports. Now, due to the time stress, they had agreed with GAISF that it must be a high-quality event, and to achieve that they had decreased the numbers. This was temporary, however, so in 2021 the sports programme would have all 14 sports.

The same person asked if there would be an application process.

Mr Rózsa explained that GAISF had laid out a clear rule about which sports would be eligible, but he thought this was a discussion with the GAISF team.

The Director added that a thorough process would be relaunched to invite all the federations to participate after the first edition. They could expect to hear more by the end of the year.

The President concluded by thanking the Budapest Team and looking forward to the inaugural edition of the World Urban Games.

WORLD COMBAT GAMES

The President introduced the WCG and outlined that GAISF key points. The World Combat Games were also the first games they had established, in 2010. When discussing the next edition, it had been very important to ensure that the expenses of the athletes were covered in full, that there were no visa issues, that qualified athletes could enter the country, and there would be no political interference. This was very important, as was the idea of making a contribution back to the IFs as part of the games. For some of the Olympic sports, this might be a small contribution, but for the non-recognised sports, this contribution was very important in helping with logistical issues and ensuring that everything was done to the highest standard.

This had all been achieved. Stephan Fox said that the 2021 World Combat Games would be more like a festival of combat sports and martial arts, combining tradition, history, excellence, friendship and fun, and cultural exchanges. It would be a vehicle for the Olympic values, which could be traced back to martial arts. He thanked the GAISF team who had travelled to the country to ensure this was all done at the highest level, and that they had the government assurances they needed.

The President was very happy to announce that Nur-Sultan (formerly known as Astana), the capital of Kazakhstan, would host the 2021 World Combat Games. It was his honour to introduce the representative of the government, General Secretary of the Martial Arts Association of Kazakhstan, Farhat Amakulov. He had been delegated by Mr Karim Massimov, the chair of the 2022 Winter Olympic bid, former prime minister and martial artist,

Mr Amakulov, on behalf of the President of the Martial Arts Association of Kazakhstan, Mr Karim Massimov, thanked GAISF for their efforts to develop martial arts around the world. Kazakhstan had vast experience in holding multi-sports events, including the Asian Winter Games and the Universiade. As part of the Expo 2017, Kazakhstan had held many World Championships, in boxing, judo and hockey. Wrestling and karate championships would also take place this year in
Kazakhstan. He assured GAISF that Kazakhstan would host the World Combat Games 2021 in Nur-Sultan at the very highest level, with the help of the GAISF members and GAISF team, and he looked forward to welcoming them to Kazakhstan.

President Chiulli signed the host city agreement.

The President thanked Mr Amakulov and said he thought this would be a great multi-sport initiative, and he was looking forward to further strengthening their collaboration.

WORLD MIND GAMES

The Director reported that an interesting meeting had taken place earlier in the week with the four mind sports federations that were part of GAISF, and Associate Member IMSA, which had coordinated efforts over the years to support the mind sports and games. To ensure they were all aligned in their approach, they had agreed to continue this close collaboration, to hopefully finalise the project over the summer. He would keep the GAISF members updated about the outcomes.

DOT SPORT

The Director noted that the Dot Sport project had been launched successfully in 2018, and there was an extensive report in the Working Documents. More than 60 IFs had already joined the programme, and over 9,000 domain names had been created. He invited all those that had not yet joined to get in touch, so that a tailor-made portfolio could be created to help them increase their digital presence. The head of the project, Pierre Germeau, was present today and was available to support the GAISF members and to answer their questions.

ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM STAKEHOLDERS

ASOIF

Mrs Marisol Casado had the honour to inform the GAISF members about the outcome of the ASOIF meetings. The third questionnaire of the ASOIF governance task force would be circulated in November 2019 and completed self-assessments were to be submitted by the end of January 2020. They would be independently moderated, using the same consultant as used by GAISF, Rowland Jack of I Trust Sport. A report would be presented at the 2020 ASOIF General Assembly. The objective was to see at least 26 of the 28 full ASOIF members score 120 points out of a maximum of 200. There would be greater transparency around the results of the third report, following external pressure and scrutiny, particularly from public authorities. The ASOIF governance support and monitoring unit established in 2018 would continue to help IFs achieve progress in good governance. DSMU had published a document of best practices and quick wins that might be useful for GAISF members, which was available from the ASOIF website.

The ASOIF report on the future of sport, launched in February 2019, had received a very positive reaction. The document aggregated the views of thought leaders and decision makers from sport, business and government. It addressed political, social, technological, legal and economic influences, all of which impacted IF decision-making, and the model under which sport would be
managed going forward. Its conclusions laid out a vision for the future of sport over the next 20 years, including key recommendations for IFs. There would be an ASOIF follow-up in key areas such as the future role of the IFs and European laws. A number of member federations had stated that the report recommendations had gained momentum within their IFs and would be discussed at upcoming executive board meetings.

ASOIF would establish a new consultative advisory group which would specifically focus on the topic of gender and diversity, drawing upon the expertise within the member IFs.

Looking ahead to Tokyo 2020, the recent launch of the ticketing sales website had been a success, with more than 2 million registrations by the end of March 2019. The Tokyo 2020 OCOG had also promised to collaborate closely with the IFs regarding the upcoming test events, which would be important for fine-tuning operations for Games time. Concerns had been raised by member IFs about transport, and the reduction of sport presentation budgets, but there was now an understanding that these would be resolved.

The Paris 2024 OCOG had delivered an inspiring presentation setting out their plans for the Games and had presented their new event delivery model to leverage the IFs’ expertise for an optimal and cost-effective Games delivery. They had already started to work very closely with the ASOIF Olympic and multi-sport games consultative group and with the IOC Sports Department.

WADA President Craig Reedie had updated the General Assembly about the latest status of the investigation related to Russia, ongoing governance reforms within the organisation, and WADA’s work on a strong compliance monitoring programme, the 2021 Code and international standards framework.

The IOC had updated ASOIF member federations on preparations for the Dakar 2022 YOG, strengthening the solidarity funding models for athletes and the IOC’s gender equality project.

Ingmar de Vos (FEI), Morinari Watanabe (FIG) and herself (ITU) had been elected as ASOIF Council members for four years. Finally, the General Assembly had also approved the Olympic revenue distribution model for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

AIOWF

Mr Gian Franco Kasper reported that after several council meetings over the past year the AIOWF had held its General Assembly here in the Gold Coast, with presentations from the IOC Sports Department, the Olympic Games department, the Olympic Channel, the Ethics and Governance department, the Beijing OCOG, WADA and the ITA and the CAS. One of the most important subjects was the debriefing of the very successful Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang 2018, and even more, preparations for the Olympic Winter Games 2022 in Beijing. At the previous Beijing Coordination Commission meeting last September, all seven International Winter Sports Federations had been invited to attend, and it was decided that this would be the case for all future Coordination Commission meetings. He believed all parties, the IOC, the OCOGs and the IFs, benefited from such coordinated and effective approaches, and it was a welcome Olympic Agenda outcome for everyone. Governance activities were a priority on each of their agendas, and the Winter IFs had carried out the second review using the same questionnaire as ASOIF. He thanked their Summer colleagues for this collaboration. This important task was proving to be a helpful tool, not only in assessing their status, but also in providing sound advice and best practice models to assess their governance. The third edition of
the governance review would be undertaken later this year and he expected to see further improvements.

Other key topics that were addressed by the Winter Federations at their General Assembly included a report and discussions with WADA in view of the results they would soon receive from the Moscow laboratory, the new Code and international standards that would come into force from 2021, the ITA and the CAS’s new sports doping division. At the end of their meetings they had heard official presentations from the two candidates for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games: Milan and Cortina d’Ampezzo (Italy) and Stockholm and Are (Sweden). The Winter Federations were looking forward to an excellent outcome, as both these candidates were true winter sports countries with extensive experience.

ARISF

Mr Riccardo Fraccari reported that this SportAccord Convention had seen strong participation from ARISF members – 37 out of the 42 were present. They had made an excellent contribution at the various sessions of the Convention, which was a clear demonstration of their will to cooperate and actively participate in the movement by learning and sharing their best practices. He welcomed the four new IFs to ARISF: icestocksport, kickboxing, lacrosse and sambo. On behalf of the ARISF members and ARISF President, he thanked President Bach for his presence at the ARISF General Assembly 2019, as well as Mr Jochen Färber of the Olympic Channel, IOC Sports Director Kit McConnell, and WADA President Craig Reedie. The most significant topics of their GA had been the revised strategy plan, based on the results of the survey conducted by the ARISF Council. One of the main development areas was participating in multi-sport games such as the Olympics, GAISF multi-sports games, World Games and Universiade, which was the most important goal for the IFs. Following the MoU signed by GAISF and the IOC, ARISF was working closely with GAISF to ensure services to their members were streamlined. The workshops conducted would now be available to ARISF and AIMS members. He thanked the speakers from the IOC, the Olympic Channel and ITA for taking the time to speak to the IFs. At the joint meeting with the IOC, ARISF had discussed the results of the survey and the strategic plan that was approved at the General Assembly. The IOC President had been informed about the key development areas for the IFs. ARISF members had undertaken specific responsibilities on the topics of development, including marketing, sustainability, good governance etc., to pave the right pathway for their members to reach their goals. He expressed the thanks of the ARISF Council to all present for their good work.

AIMS

Mr Stefan Fox congratulated the GAISF administration for doing an amazing job putting this week together and coordinating all the meetings. He thanked the SportAccord team, headed by Nis Hatt, for an amazing week on the Gold Coast. AIMS was one of the umbrella bodies here where losing counted as a success. He was happy they had lost four members last year to ARISF and thanked the IOC Sports Department and Kit McConnell for all the support they had given to this process. AIMS had had six members recognised in the last three years. It was their aim to get into AIMS as quickly as possible, and to leave as quickly as possible. He welcomed the new AIMS member, Armwrestling, the 18th member of the AIMS family. One top priority of the AIMS family was rivalry issues, which would be at the top of the agenda for new members entering the
GAISF family. He was happy to say that the alignment between the IOC, GAISF and the umbrella bodies was a key factor in this matter.

The United Through Sports initiative had been established in 2017 in Denmark and continued in Bangkok. Over the last three days they had seen it in action, with over 250 talented Australian youngsters at the opening ceremony. One of AIMS’ objectives was to bring “sport” back into the “accord”, to give the federations a chance to see what was happening on the ground where the Convention was held. He believed this principle had been successfully established. It also gave the IFs a chance to see what their NF in the country was capable of. He invited everyone to the closing conference that afternoon, and the closing cocktail reception hosted by the Life-Saving Federation. He also thanked FIBA, who had been instrumental in organising many things.

The President thanked Mr Fox for the great initiative of the United Through Sport festival.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Mr José Perurena reported that the Associate Members had held their annual meeting on Wednesday. They had agreed to create a working group with two objectives: to look for ways of working together and coordinating the global calendar. The aim was to present a project at the next SportAccord. He took this opportunity to thank the staff and the GAISF Director for helping him to contact these 20 different groups.

IOC

Mr Kit McConnell offered his sincere congratulations on behalf of the IOC to Mr Chiulli on his election as GAISF President. They had enjoyed the partnership they had built in this interim role and looked forward to continuing that in the future. He thanked the GAISF Council and all the bodies they represented, the GAISF administration and the Director, for the daily work they did together for sport. He congratulated SportAccord, Nis Hatt and his team on what had been another incredible and productive week of SportAccord. He thanked the hosts at the Gold Coast, who had underlined the expertise and the passion for sport that Australia and this region had. He thanked Stefan Fox and his team, who brought to life not only the value of sport but the importance of youth in everything they did. On behalf of the IOC he added their remembrance of Patrick Baumann. Everyone missed his smile and his energy, but the IOC was committed to taking forward all the legacies he had left across so many areas.

The IOC had held bilateral meetings with many of the organisations present, including Olympic, recognised and AIMS federations. One of the IOC team had been to every General Assembly held over the week and attended the joint meetings between the IOC and their leadership bodies. This underlined the importance of the partnerships they shared with each IF. The role of IFs was critical in everything the IOC did to develop and promote their sports. The IOC was their partner every step of the way.

The President thanked Mr McConnell and said he looked forward to continuing their constructive work together.
DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT STATUTORY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The President invited Nis Hatt to give a recap of the week and congratulated him on his very good work.

Mr Nis Hatt congratulated Mr Chiulli on his election as President of both SportAccord and GAISF. On behalf of SportAccord, they looked forward to working with him in the coming years.

He shared a brief video of the week’s events.

1701 people had been registered for the Convention, which was a good number given the distance many people had had to travel, and in line with past attendance figures. 831 different organisations had participated, including 109 IFs (the highest number ever). He thanked all the IF community for coming out and supporting SportAccord; their support was greatly appreciated and greatly needed. There had been 84 different nationalities and 176 cities and regions. SportAccord could not take place without the support of all the hundreds of dedicated volunteers who worked behind the scenes. He thanked the hosts and the authorities of Queensland.

The IF Forum would take place this year at the end of October. The regional SportAccord would take place from 10 to 12 December in Fort Lauderdale, USA. He asked for those present to support the event and engage with the community on those two continents, from northern Canada down to Chile.

The next GAISF General Assembly would take place from 19 to 24 April in the Beijing Olympic Village.

The President thanked Mr Hatt and all his team for their hard work this week. He confirmed that the contract for the next SportAccord and GAISF General Assembly had been signed. They would meet on Friday 24 April 2020 in Beijing, China.

CLOSING OF THE STATUTORY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The President thanked everyone for their contribution and their support for GAISF. He thanked the speakers for their valuable insights. He thanked the SportAccord team, the GAISF team, the staff, volunteers and local organisers who had made this great event possible. GAISF had prepared a small souvenir to remember the wonderful time they had here in the Gold Coast, and he hoped everyone had had a wonderful time and wished to all attendees a safe journey home.