



## Association of Summer Olympic International Federations 46<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Wednesday, 8 June 2022

Hotel Royal Savoy, Lausanne, Switzerland

### Minutes

#### 1. OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 1 **The ASOIF President (President)** opened the 46<sup>th</sup> ASOIF General Assembly and welcomed the delegates attending both in person in Lausanne, Switzerland and by video-conference. He acknowledged the presence of **Mr Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)** at the ASOIF General Assembly and expressed his appreciation on behalf of the members. **The President** then invited **Mr Thomas Bach** to deliver some opening remarks.

#### Opening Remarks by the IOC President

- 2 **Mr Thomas Bach** expressed his gratitude to the Summer Olympic International Federations (IFs) for their continuous efforts and close cooperation with the IOC and other stakeholders to deliver the postponed Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (Tokyo 2020) in 2021, under the challenging circumstances posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. He remarked that the successful delivery of Tokyo 2020 had demonstrated the Olympic Movement's unity and tenacity.
- 3 **Mr Thomas Bach** reiterated the IOC's position on Russia's invasion of Ukraine which was a breach of the Olympic Truce by the governments of Russia and Belarus. He stated that the IOC's recommendations consisted of sanctions and protective measures, of which the sanctions were imposed on the Russian and Belarussian governments who were responsible for the war; and the protective measures were to ensure the integrity and safety of international competitions. He urged the IFs to be vigilant for political influences which might undermine their autonomy and to continue their efforts to preserve solidarity and peace through sports.
- 4 **Dr Hassan Moustafa (President, International Handball Federation (IHF))** appreciated the IOC's leadership in facilitating the solidarity efforts in support of Ukraine. He enquired as to whether the IOC could offer guidance on how to address the humanitarian crises caused by the war and if the Olympic Movement could send a message to the world to advocate peace. **Mr Thomas Bach** stated that the IOC had been coordinating the humanitarian mission with the stakeholders, including the IFs, to assist the Ukrainian sport community in its best capacity. He said the message should be that this was a humanitarian mission of the Olympic Movement, which aimed to assist the sport communities not only in Ukraine, but also in other conflict zones.
- 5 **The President** thanked **Mr Thomas Bach** again for addressing the ASOIF General Assembly and reiterated ASOIF's commitment to support the IOC's recommendations regarding the war in Ukraine.

## 2. ROLL CALL AND APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS

- 6 **The ASOIF Deputy Executive Director (Deputy Executive Director)** conducted the Roll Call and confirmed that all 28 ASOIF Full Members and four Associate Members were present. Therefore, the 46<sup>th</sup> ASOIF General Assembly's quorum had been met in accordance with the ASOIF Statutes [Article 4.3](#).
- 7 **The President proposed**, on behalf of the ASOIF Council (Council), to appoint two scrutineers for the 46<sup>th</sup> ASOIF General Assembly: **Mr Francisco Lima (International Equestrian Federation (FEI))** and **Mrs Christine Hauselmann (ASOIF Secretariat)**.
- 8 **The General Assembly approved** the appointment of the scrutineers ([voting results](#)).

## 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 45<sup>TH</sup> ASOIF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 9 **The General Assembly approved** the minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> ASOIF General Assembly ([voting results](#)).

## 4. REPORT OF THE ASOIF COUNCIL

- 10 **The President** congratulated the IF Presidents who had been elected or re-elected and the IF Secretary Generals who had been appointed since the 45<sup>th</sup> ASOIF General Assembly as follows (in alphabetical order of surname):
  - **Mr Sabatino Aracu** re-elected President of World Skate
  - **Dr Chung-won Choue** re-elected President of World Taekwondo
  - **Prof Uğur Erdener** re-elected President of World Archery
  - **Mr Jean-Christophe Rolland** re-elected President of World Rowing
  - **Mr Thomas Konietzko** elected President of the International Canoe Federation
  - **Mr Nenad Lalović** re-elected President of United World Wrestling
  - **Mr David Lappartient** re-elected President of the Union Cycliste Internationale
  - **Dr Hassan Moustafa** re-elected President of the International Handball Federation
  - **Dr Klaus Schormann** re-elected President of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne
  - **Ms Petra Sörling** elected President of the International Table Tennis Federation
  - **Mr Shawn Tay** re-elected President of the World DanceSport Federation
  - **Mr Morinari Watanabe** re-elected President of the International Gymnastics Federation
  - **Mr Vincent Gaillard** appointed Executive Director of World Rowing
- 11 **The President** also acknowledged the attendance of **Mr Emmanuel Katsiadakis (Interim President of the International Fencing Federation)** and **Mr Umar Kremlev (President of the International Boxing Association)**.

### Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

- 12 **The President** and **the ASOIF Executive Director (Executive Director)** expressed their gratitude to the IFs for their flexibility and close cooperation with the IOC, ASOIF and the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee, which had led to a successful delivery of Tokyo 2020 despite the extraordinary circumstances posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 13 On behalf of the Council, **the Executive Director** thanked the IOC Sports Department for its high level of engagement with ASOIF during the preparations and at Games-time during Tokyo 2020.
- 14 **The Executive Director** highlighted that, thanks to the robust COVID-19 countermeasures and health protocol put in place, the cumulative positive test rate was only 0.02% for the Olympic Village residents and 0.09% for the other stakeholders, significantly lower than the pre-Games simulation which predicted a total of 2%.

### **Olympic Revenues from Tokyo 2020**

- 15 **The Executive Director** reported that the IF revenue shares from Tokyo 2020 had been distributed by the IOC in three *tranches*, matching the total revenue shares from the Rio 2016 Olympic Games (Rio 2016) of USD 540 million.

### **Olympic Urban Series**

- 16 **The President** said that ASOIF welcomed that three individual IFs had joined the Olympic Urban Series as they envisaged receiving commercial benefits and being able to organise their Olympic qualification events in a more professional manner. However, he stated that it was seen as a departure from IOC's traditional role as the owner and rights holder of the Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games only. The IOC would now also become the owner and rights holder of Olympic qualification events. He remarked that the IFs should remain vigilant regarding the control of their Olympic qualification processes as it was the IFs who should determine the criteria which then should be submitted to the IOC Executive Board for approval (as stated in the Olympic Charter [Bye-law 1 to Rule 40](#)).

### **Olympic Virtual Series**

- 17 **The President** said that ASOIF endorsed the IOC's Olympic Virtual Series and welcomed the positive outcomes from the first edition. However, he suggested that the Olympic Virtual Series should only include the disciplines in which the respective IFs were already involved, or they had established a presence within the esports sector with a publisher agreement.

### **Role of International Federations**

- 18 **The President** reported that in light of the various EU competition law cases involving a number of IFs, ASOIF had published a position paper, entitled "The solidarity model of organised sport in Europe and beyond – A stable platform for collaboration", which aimed at contributing to a better understanding of the role IFs play in the global organisation of sport.
- 19 **The Executive Director** reported that the position paper had been well received, particularly by EU decision-makers, which was a key part of this ongoing project in collaboration with the IOC. However, he reminded the General Assembly that it would be a long-term project given its nature and said that ASOIF would continue the dialogue with the EU institutions and public authorities as a collective effort on behalf of its members.

### **Gender Identity**

- 20 **The Executive Director** reported that following the IOC's publication of "Framework on Fairness, Inclusion and Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity and Sex Variations" in November 2021, ASOIF acknowledged that there had been an ongoing debate among the IFs on the compatibility of the scientific and human rights approaches on sport's transgender issues. He said that ASOIF would continue monitoring and studying these complex matters. **The**

**President** had been invited by the International Federation of Sports Medicine (FIMS) to make a presentation on this topic in Rome in early July 2022.

### **Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games**

- 21 **The President** said that the IOC had initiated a process for defining the Olympic disciplines and events programme for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games (LA28). **The Executive Director** reported that ASOIF had been working closely with the IOC to ensure the IFs were fully consulted on the evaluation criteria and methodology.
- 22 **The Executive Director** said that the confirmed Initial Sports Programme of LA28 was composed of 28 sports, including Skateboarding, Sport Climbing and Surfing. He added that the inclusion of Boxing, Weightlifting and Modern Pentathlon was under review by the IOC and would be finalised at the IOC Session in Mumbai, India in 2023.

### **Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games**

- 23 **The Executive Director** said that although there were limited updates to be reported at this stage, the Coordination Commission of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games had been established, of which Mr Jean-Christophe Rolland (President, World Rowing) was a member representing ASOIF.

### **Consultative and Advisory Groups**

- 24 **The Executive Director** expressed his sincere gratitude to ASOIF's eight consultative and advisory groups, which comprised approximately 50 senior IF representatives contributing their expertise to the groups' respective areas of focus. He highlighted some of the outcomes from the eight groups' projects and initiatives which had all been well received by the ASOIF members.

### **Staff and Administration**

- 25 **The Executive Director** reported that, upon the Council's approval, Mr James Carr had been promoted to Deputy Executive Director with expanded responsibilities which included the management of ASOIF's staff and Lausanne-based operations. He also reported that in light of the ongoing pandemic and also in line with the ASOIF's commitment to reduce its environmental impacts, the ASOIF Secretariat had adopted a partial work-from-home policy and the Council had approved that all ASOIF meetings could be conducted in a hybrid format.

### **Global Association of International Sports Federations**

- 26 **The President** reported that as a stakeholder of the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF), ASOIF had been facilitating its proposed dissolution which was considered as a simplification effort to avoid duplication and overlap of work of the other IF associations. He said that it was a complex process from a legal perspective, as it also involved the restructuring of SportAccord, as an event organisation of which GAISF was the majority stakeholder.
- 27 **Mr Kelly Fairweather (Chief Executive Officer (CEO), International Tennis Federation (ITF))** enquired as to how the GAISF's proposed dissolution would impact the IOC recognition process for an IF, as the proliferation of the non-IOC recognised racket sports was seen as a concerning trend from the ITF's perspective. He also raised the concern that a number of sports had been included in the programmes of continental multi-sport games of which the respective IFs were not recognised by the IOC nor GAISF. He said that the ITF looked forward to contributing to the resolution of these matters if required.

- 28 **The President** remarked that a new specialist commission would need to be created to facilitate the IOC recognition of new IFs once the GAISF's proposed dissolution had been approved, which should operate based on clear terms of reference with formal representation from all key stakeholders including the IOC and all the IF associations.
- 29 **Mr Ingmar De Vos (ASOIF Council Member and President, FEI)** concurred with the President's remarks and disclosed that, as a GAISF Council Member representing ASOIF, there had been a consensus among the stakeholders that GAISF's role was a duplication of that of ASOIF, the Association of International Olympic Winter Sports Federations (AIOWF), the Association of IOC Recognised International Sport Federations (ARISF) and the Alliance of Independent Recognised Members of Sport (AIMS), particularly since the GAISF's former Doping-Free Sport Unit had been absorbed by the International Testing Agency (ITA). He added that the GAISF Council had been exploring the re-assignment of GAISF's few remaining functions, including the mentioned IOC recognition process for an applicant IF. He agreed with the President that it should be the responsibility of a new commission operating with clear terms of reference, with the representation of the IOC and all the mentioned associations.

### **Creative Sports Award**

- 30 **The Executive Director** reported that the IHF had won the 11<sup>th</sup> Creative Sports Award for its innovative way of staging the 27<sup>th</sup> IHF Men's Handball World Championships in January 2021 in Cairo, Egypt, during the disruptive COVID-19 pandemic. He said that a prize of USD 250,000 had been awarded to the IHF for its development programmes.

### **Remarks by the General Assembly Delegates**

- 31 **Mr Mohammed Jalood (General Secretary, International Weightlifting Federation (IWF))** thanked the President for ASOIF's leadership and close cooperation with the IOC under the difficult circumstances posed by the pandemic and the war in Ukraine. Following the successful delivery of Tokyo 2020, he appreciated that the IWF had received its Olympic revenue share. He looked forward to the future cooperation between the IWF, ASOIF and other Summer Olympic IFs. **The President** thanked and assured him that ASOIF would continue to serve its member IFs in this challenging time.
- 32 **Ms Petra Sörling (President, International Table Tennis Federation)** thanked the President for his congratulations on her recent election. She remarked that sustainability should be a standalone area of focus instead of being included as an additional subject to the existing ASOIF Development and Education Group. **The President** thanked her and acknowledged her remark.

## **5. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **2021 Financial Report and Auditors' Report on the 2021 Accounts**

- 33 **The Executive Director** presented and summarised the 2021 financial report and audited accounts which showed an increase in the total assets at the end of 2020 from CHF 14.2 million to CHF 16.4 million at the end of 2021. He explained that the increase of CHF 2.2 million was contributed to by the Tokyo 2020 revenue share from the IOC and a capital gain from the assets valued on 31 December 2021. He said that ASOIF's finances remained in a healthy state.
- 34 **The President** added that ASOIF's financial state had been resilient thanks to the four-year operational reserve and Central Projects Fund in spite of a small deficit in the operational budget.

### **Approval of the 2021 Accounts**

- 35 **The General Assembly approved** the 2021 accounts ([voting results](#)).

### **Annual Subscription 2022**

- 36 **The President proposed** that, on behalf of the Council, the annual subscription fee for 2022 should remain at CHF 100.
- 37 **The General Assembly approved** the annual subscription fee 2022 ([voting results](#)).

### **Revised 2022 Budgets**

- 38 **The Executive Director** presented the 2022 revised operational budget which was forecast to produce a break-even result. However, he said that due to the global financial uncertainty, he expected the return on investments would be less than the amount originally projected.
- 39 **The General Assembly approved** the revised 2022 budgets ([voting results](#)).

### **Approval of the draft 2023 Budgets**

- 40 **The General Assembly approved** the draft 2023 budgets ([voting results](#)).

## **6. PRESENTATION FROM THE PARIS 2024 ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

- 41 **Mr Tony Estanguet (President, Paris 2024 Organising Committee (POCOG)), Mr Étienne Thobois (Director General, POCOG), Ms Aurélie Merle (Executive Director of Sport Competitions, POCOG) and Mr Greg Bowman (Founder of Great Big Events (Paris 2024 service provider))** gave a presentation of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games (Paris 2024) preparations to the General Assembly ([Annex 2](#)).
- 42 **The President** thanked the POCOG for its comprehensive presentation. He stressed that while there were only two years remaining for the Paris 2024 preparations, the POCOG should increase its engagement with the IFs by establishing a more open and regular dialogue and conducting full consultation before decisions were taken. He suggested that the IFs should remain flexible and supportive in light of the challenges that the POCOG had been facing, namely the ongoing pandemic, war in Ukraine and global financial uncertainty.
- 43 **The Executive Director** said the Council acknowledged that, at this final preparation stage, similar to Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020, one of the priorities would be the optimisation of the Games delivery in light of the POCOG's financial constraints. While concurring with the President's abovementioned remarks, he reiterated that it was imperative for the POCOG to ensure transparency, full consultation and close cooperation between the IFs and IOC.
- 44 **Mr Walter Sieber (Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA))** enquired as to whether POCOG's sports team had direct representation in POCOG's Executive Board. He elaborated that, based on FIFA's previous experience, sometimes issues raised with the sports team were not addressed efficiently when reliant on the Executive Board's decision-making. **Mr Tony Estanguet** said that one of the sports team members, Mr Jean-Philippe Gatien (Executive Director of Sports, POCOG), was an Executive Board member. He added that the sports team consisted of members with strong sports background and he assured the IFs that the sport-centric approach would be maintained throughout the preparations and delivery of the Games.

- 45 **Mr Thomas Konietzko (President, International Canoe Federation)** enquired how the IFs might assist POCOG in delivering the test events, as the Paris 2024's testing strategy slightly differed from previous Games. **Ms Aurélie Merle** reported that a risk assessment had been undertaken with each IF for each sport, discipline and venue. She said that the testing strategy would be determined and implemented based on the IF's assessment feedback and POCOG would ensure the testing programme would be developed with integrated risk mitigation for each discipline and venue.
- 46 **Mr Tom Dielen (Secretary General, World Archery)** enquired as to how the IFs could assist POCOG in delivering the key milestones of the Sport Delivery Plan (SDP), as some of these had been or soon would be behind schedule. However, he acknowledged that some milestones also required engagement with the IOC or International Paralympic Committee. **Ms Aurélie Merle** said that, as Mr Tom Dielen rightly stated, some SDP milestones involved engagement with other stakeholders, which might have caused delays. She proposed that the IFs raise the concerned milestones with POCOG so that it could refer them to the involved stakeholders in order to accelerate the process.
- 47 **Mr Tom Dielen** also requested a clarification as to whether the arrangements and allocation of IF's accommodation, accreditation and transferable guest passes would be identical to those of Tokyo 2020, as it would have an impact on IF's requirements and needs. **Mr Étienne Thobois** said that they would be different from those of Tokyo 2020 as POCOG acknowledged the increasing demands for Paris 2024. He said that POCOG would continue cooperating with the IOC regarding the optimisation on IF services and would provide feedback to the IFs once ready.
- 48 **Mr Andreas Zagklis (Secretary General, International Basketball Federation (FIBA))** raised FIBA's concerns regarding the Basketball venue for the group stage of Paris 2024 and consequently the athletes' safety and experience during the Games, while acknowledging the challenging circumstances that POCOG had been facing. He remarked that while FIBA had accepted that the Games might no longer be able to offer a similar level of standards and services as in the FIBA World Cup, it was ready to host its events in large venues to help generate ticketing revenue. He said POCOG should seek solutions for the ongoing concerns of the venues to ensure the athletes could have a great Games experience by providing accommodation in the Olympic Village in Paris and transportation to the venue of which the duration should be less than one hour instead of three hours. He also remarked that POCOG should fulfil the integral safety requirements as in the previous editions of the Games, which would be essential particularly in hot weather. **Mr Tony Estanguet** assured him that POCOG would continue its efforts to identify mutually agreed solutions. He said that POCOG had to constantly adapt and optimise its operations to maintain the high level of ambition given its budgetary limits. He added that POCOG recognised the popularity of Basketball in France and would strive to offer a great Games experience to the athletes as well as to the spectators.
- 49 **Ms Sabrina Ibáñez (Secretary General, FEI)** said that FEI appreciated the efforts that POCOG had been undertaking, especially under the current difficult circumstances. She added that FEI agreed that the Games needed to be cost efficient and would continue its cooperation with POCOG.

## 7. IF OLYMPIC GAMES REVENUE SHARE AND REVENUE GROUPS

- 50 **The President** reminded the General Assembly that determining the revenue groups had always been a responsibility of the IOC and that the IOC was responsible for defining or reviewing the criteria and methodology. He said that ASOIF could only request the IOC to review the criteria and provide any necessary support. However, he emphasised that, as an association and the guardian of the members' common interests, ASOIF should never be responsible for determining the criteria or methodology itself.



- 51 **The Executive Director** reported that following requests from a number of IFs, the Council was asked to consider proposing to merge the IF revenue groups C, D and E into one group, as the difference between the proportional contribution to these groups had been steadily narrowing following successive Games. However, after an evaluation, the Council viewed that such a proposal was premature since it would require a significant amount in addition to the total revenue shares from Tokyo 2020. He said that the Council would continue its consideration on this matter once more information on Paris 2024's revenue distribution became available.

## 8. ASOIF STATUTE AMENDMENTS

- 52 **The President** presented the proposed Statute amendments, which had included a clarification of ASOIF's membership status and eligibility conditions given the changing Olympic Games programme; the rights of the ASOIF Full and Associate Members; and lapse of membership ([Annex 3](#)).
- 53 **The President** said that the proposed amendments to the eligibility rules would allow an IF to become a Full Member if its discipline, event or sport had been consecutively included on the programme for the three most recent Games. He elaborated that, if the proposed amendments were approved by the General Assembly, three ASOIF Associate Members – the International Federation of Sport Climbing, the International Surfing Association and World Skate would be eligible to apply for ASOIF Full Membership immediately following this meeting. If their applications were approved by the next General Assembly, they would be granted the Full Member's rights set forth in the proposed Article 3.4, except the right to be part of the revenue share scheme from Paris 2024, because the three sports had been proposed by POCOG to be included in the Programme. However, he explained that since the three sports had been confirmed in the LA28 Initial Sports Programme approved by the 139<sup>th</sup> IOC Session in February 2022, they would be entitled to become part of the revenue share scheme from LA28 onwards.
- 54 **The President** explained that the proposed Statute amendments would also allow an IF to become an Associate Member if its discipline, event or sport were included in the programme for the next Games, or had been included within the events programme for any five editions of the Games since 1988. He said that the World Baseball Softball Confederation would be eligible to apply for ASOIF Associate Membership if the proposed amendments were approved.
- 55 **The General Assembly approved** the ASOIF Statute amendments as the required two-thirds majority (66.67%) of the votes cast had been exceeded in accordance with the ASOIF Statutes [Article 4.18](#) ([voting results](#)).
- 56 **Mr Sergey Nifontov (General Secretary, World DanceSport Federation (WDSF))** enquired as to how the new eligibility rules could apply to the WDSF's membership status. **The President** explained that WDSF was currently an ASOIF Associate Member. As soon as a WDSF's discipline, event or sport had been included in the three most recent Games consecutively, it would be eligible to apply for ASOIF Full Membership.

## 9. ASOIF GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE

- 57 **The President** expressed his gratitude to the Governance Task Force (GTF) for its work and also to the IFs for their commitments and participation in the governance assessment.
- 58 **The President** said that, as approved by the Council, the report of the Fourth Review of IF Governance (Fourth Review) would be published on 21 June 2022. He disclosed that the Fourth



Review had revealed significant progress achieved by the IFs. He added that, for the future, the GTF would consider reviewing and updating the assessment methodology as the IFs' progress had demonstrated that the initial objective of fostering a culture of good governance had been accomplished.

- 59 **The Deputy Executive Director** reported that the GTF had received a full response by the ASOIF members to the self-assessment questionnaire, of which the submissions had been, once again, moderated by the independent external assessor, *I Trust Sport*. He said that there would be a headline findings presentation exclusively for the ASOIF members on 21 June 2022, shortly after which each IF would receive the individual report. He added that the follow-up meetings with the individual IFs would be held in the third quarter of 2022.
- 60 **The Deputy Executive Director** said that the GTF had committed to continue with the project to maintain the momentum of encouraging better governance among the IFs. He concurred with the President that the GTF would consider a revision of the methodology as some IFs were approaching the limit of the highest level of performance in certain areas, such as transparency.
- 61 **The Deputy Executive Director** reported that the GTF had also been conducting research on the governance of the IFs' National Federations (NFs). He said that an *ad-hoc* working group had been established to identify the best approach for the IFs to monitor and support their NFs' governance.

## 10. PRESENTATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

- 62 **Mr Kit McConnell (Sports Director, IOC)** gave a presentation to the General Assembly on matters related to the IFs, Olympic Games and IOC's various projects ([Annex 4](#)).
- 63 While presenting the details of the Olympic Urban Series, **Mr Kit McConnell** stressed that the Olympic qualifications were the IFs' properties and the IOC did not intend to take control of them.
- 64 **Lord Sebastian Coe (ASOIF Council Member and President, World Athletics)** remarked that a few IFs had been keen to host some of their events outside of stadiums and thus striving to make them as accessible as possible to local communities. However, he felt that there had been a declined interest from POCOG in pursuing such initiatives. He enquired as to whether the IOC could increase its engagement and dialogue with POCOG on this matter. **Mr Kit McConnell** said that the IOC was in full support of exploring the opportunities for such an initiative and ensured him that the IOC would continue its joint efforts with the IFs to reinforce Paris 2024's innovative delivery approach. He added that the IOC would soon start discussions with the LA28 Organising Committee and the IFs to explore an even more innovative and engaging approach.
- 65 **Ms Sabrina Ibáñez (Secretary General, FEI)** said that the IFs had supported and implemented the IOC's recommendations of banning the Russian and Belarussian athletes and officials from participating in international sport events, despite some IFs facing legal challenges at the Court of Arbitration for Sport. However, she stressed that the Paris 2024 qualifications would soon start or even had already started as in FEI's case. Therefore, she requested the IOC to provide a clarification or position as to whether the ban should continue throughout the qualification period or might be lifted at some stage, as it would impact the quota and the IFs' qualification events delivery. **Mr Kit McConnell** acknowledged her concerns and stated that the IOC was not able to offer a definitive timeline for the ban given the unpredictable nature of the war. However, he assured her that the qualification process would not be stalled or altered and therefore the IFs would have the possibility to accommodate Russian and Belarussian athletes' Olympic pathway at a later stage should the situation require change.

- 66 **Mr Kelly Fairweather (CEO, ITF)** concurred with the issues raised by Ms Sabrina Ibáñez and stated that, as the Chair of the ASOIF Olympic and Multi-Sport Games Group (AOMSG), he looked forward to receiving more information relating to the IOC's qualification branding guidelines. He remarked that the IFs were willing to offer support and assistance wherever they could, particularly regarding the Paris 2024 venues concerning which the ITF had had similar concerns to those of FIBA. He added that, on behalf of the AOMSG, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) currently under development with the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) and IOC regarding the IF's role in the continental and regional multi-sport games should be finalised, while acknowledging that this had been a long-term complex discussion. In addition, he requested an update on the athlete's age limit review for the Youth Olympic Games (YOG).
- 67 **Mr Kit McConnell** said that the consistency of most IF positions on the IOC's recommendations had been essential for the IOC to convey a collective message. Also, he reported that the IOC was finalising the qualification branding guidelines, which would be shared with the AOMSG for review once ready. Next, he stated that the IOC understood the IFs' concerns for the Paris 2024 venues and would continue to cooperate closely with the IFs and POCOG to identify appropriate solutions. Then, he referred to the comments on the MoU and said that the IOC would continue working closely with the AOMSG to clarify the IF's role in the concerned multi-sport games. Finally, he reported that the IOC would not introduce an age limit for the YOG at this stage. He said that determining the age limit would remain a consideration by the individual IFs.
- 68 **Mr Antony Scanlon (Executive Director, International Golf Federation)** enquired as to whether the Olympic Urban Series would be a precedent which would impact the IFs' control of their qualification process, how it would be funded and whether it would affect the Olympic revenue distribution to the IFs. **Mr Kit McConnell** replied that the IOC considered it as a pilot project for Paris 2024, and would assess the outcomes and discuss the next steps together with the IFs. He added that the IOC had not developed "an expansion philosophy" for the Olympic Urban Series. He also said that it would be funded jointly by the IOC and the host cities and would not affect the overall Olympic revenue distribution to the IFs.

## 11. REPORT FROM THE DAKAR 2026 ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- 69 **The President** invited the General Assembly to consider the written report submitted by the Dakar 2026 YOG Organising Committee and said that ASOIF would provide more information once available.

## 12. SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY

- 70 **Mr Witold Bańka (President, World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA))** addressed the ASOIF members and thanked the ASOIF, IOC and IFs for their close cooperation with WADA in the global anti-doping activities under the challenging circumstances posed by the pandemic and the war in Ukraine. He appreciated the solidarity with Ukraine that the IFs and the National Anti-Doping Organisations had demonstrated ([Annex 5](#)).
- 71 **Mr Antonio Arimany (Secretary General, World Triathlon)** requested WADA's advice on the issue that sometimes third-party event organisers, in World Triathlon's case the World Triathlon Corporation (WTC) which organised the IRONMAN events, had failed to comply with World Triathlon's sanctions against certain countries triggered by their anti-doping rule violations (ADRVs), while they had been a signatory of the World Anti-Doping Code (Code). **Mr Sébastien Gillot (Director, European Office and Sport Movement Relations, WADA)** said that WADA strived to ensure as many athletes as possible were covered by the Code while acknowledging

that the anti-doping activities of a sport, discipline or event could be undertaken by more than one entity. However, he confirmed that the WTC would now be subject to the same level of scrutiny and requirements as World Triathlon by WADA.

- 72 **Mr David Lappartient (President, Union Cycliste Internationale)** reported, as a WADA Foundation Board Member, that WADA would now be able to allocate more funding for scientific research to identify emerging ADRV substances, which, he said, had been well received by the stakeholders. He added that research was essential to the global anti-doping movement and the fight against doping, and advocated more consistent and increased budgets for WADA in the future.

### 13. CLOSING

- 73 **The President** thanked all the ASOIF members for their participation and contribution in person and those by video-conference.
- 74 **The President** conveyed a message to advocate peace on this occasion, reiterating ASOIF's commitment to assist the Ukrainian sport community and also to safeguard the integrity of all international competitions. He expressed his sincere wish that the war in Ukraine would end soon.

### ANNEXES

- Annex 1 – [46<sup>th</sup> ASOIF General Assembly Voting Results](#)
- Annex 2 – [Presentation from the Paris 2024 Organising Committee](#)
- Annex 3 – [Summary of ASOIF Statute Amendments 2022](#)
- Annex 4 – [Presentation from the International Olympic Committee](#)
- Annex 5 – [46<sup>th</sup> ASOIF General Assembly YouTube Replay](#)