

## OLYMPIC AND PARALIMPIC COMMISSION MEETING

Pine I and Pine II, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Incheon, Korea

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018

### Minutes

#### 1. President's Welcome and Opening remarks

The ITTF President, Mr. Thomas Weikert, welcomed everyone and informed about the changes in the schedule of the day, inviting the members to visit the WTGF venue in the afternoon.

#### 2. Roll call

Thomas Weikert	President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Deputy President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President
Bruce Burton	Executive Vice-President
Masahiro Maehara	Executive Vice-President
Shi Zhihao	Executive Vice-President
Alaa Meshref	Executive Vice-President
James Morris	Executive Vice-President
Nestor Tenca	Executive Vice-President
Zoran Primorac	Athletes Commission Chair
Khaled El-Salhy	ATTF President
D.R. Choudhary	ATTU Representative member
Ronald Kramer	ETTU President
Paul Calle	LATTU Representative
Tony Kiesenhofer	ITTF NA Representative
Anthony Ho	OTTF President
Sachiko Yokota	Tokyo 2020 Representative
In attendance	
Steve Dainton	CEO
Raul Calin	Secretary General
Vicky Eleftheriade	Competition Director
Iulia Necula	Executive Assistant & Athletes Manager
Claudia Vatheuer	Assistant to the President
Trevor Hirth	Para AC Representative

#### 3. Approval of the Agenda

The OPC approved the Agenda.

#### 4. Minutes of the previous OPC meeting

##### 4.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2018)

The minutes of the previous meetings were approved and signed by the President.

##### 4.2 Business arising from the Minutes

The Secretary General, Mr. Raul Calin, informed the group that no other business arose from the previous minutes than those already covered by the Agenda.

## 5. Youth Olympic Games Update

### 5.1 Buenos Aires 2018 Final Report

The President, Mr Thomas Weikert, expressed his satisfaction regarding the 2018 Games held in Buenos Aires and stated that it was a great experience not only from a table tennis point of view but also considering the other sports and all the different areas within the Organization.

Mr Weikert thanked Mr Nestor Tenca for all the support and hospitality and congratulated him for a successful event. The President also used the opportunity to thank Ms Galia Dvorak and Mr Ryu Seungmin, for the work done in their capacity as Athlete Role Models.

Mr Thomas Weikert updated the OPC on the Olympic Bridge Project, informing about the reception held for that purpose in the Japanese Gardens in Buenos Aires, with the participation of over 200 persons, including some IOC members.

The Secretary General, Mr Raul Calin, presented a brief report regarding the 2018 YOG held in Buenos Aires, the first edition to be held in Latin America. He reported that the local organizers delivered a very solid and professional event.

The Secretary General highlighted the public attendance to the table tennis event, with full occupancy in the main court seating on the last three days, and the fact that there were three continents winning medals.

Mr Calin also mentioned that the IOC President, Mr Thomas Bach, visited the table tennis events and interacted with players from different Associations and with the two Table Tennis role models.

The ITTF EVP, Mr Maehara Masahiro, stated that table tennis had a great representation at the 2018 YOG in Buenos Aires and praised the local organizers for the great work, especially for the sport presentation.

The ITTF EVP, Mr Nestor Tenca, thanked everyone for their kind words and admitted that he was very happy and proud with the fact that the YOG was hosted in his home country and hometown, Buenos Aires. He also felt very satisfied with the event and noted that the YOG were a great opportunity for Argentina to show the capacity of the sport family and the ability to organize big events.

The Secretary General updated the OPC on the Young Umpires Project and stated that the Referee, Mr Peter Bohumsky, recommended to continue with the project at the next edition of the YOG in 2022 in Dakar, Senegal.

The ATTU representative, Mr D.R. Choudhary, questioned the necessity of playing a match for the 3<sup>rd</sup> position match and suggested the ITTF should elevate to the IOC the desire to have two bronze medals, which would encourage more players and NOC's in the World to support table tennis.

#### **01-OPC-20181214**

The Olympic and Paralympic Commission approved unanimously to request to the IOC to have two bronze medals at the events in the Youth Olympic Games

## 5.2 Next YOG edition

The Secretary General, Mr Raul Calin, updated the members about the next edition of the YOG, which will be held in 2022 in Dakar, Senegal. With the YOG being hosted for the first time in Africa, there is a good opportunity for ITTF to invest in the development in the region in general and in the country in particular.

The ITTF CEO, Mr Steve Dainton, stated that from an external perspective regarding the YOG, it is perceived that all the other sports tend to focus towards innovative formats and modern, youth-oriented products, whereas Table Tennis tends to be following the traditional system. Given the examples of other successful sports, Mr Dainton suggested that in the future it would be good to consider a different approach to the events being included, more in line with the apparent spirit being following by the Olympic movement, and the promotion of the sport among young people. Mr Dainton proposed to start thinking about the inclusion of TTX at the next edition of the YOG.

## 6. Olympic Games

### 6.1 Tokyo 2020 Progress Report

The Secretary General updated the members on the Tokyo 2020 preparations. Mr Calin mentioned that the IOC is still negotiating with the Olympic Committees of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korea Republic about the potential participation of a unified team in some of the disciplines at the Tokyo 2020 Games. A further update will be presented at the next OPC meeting.

#### 6.1.1 Qualification process update

The CEO, Mr Steve Dainton, informed that the qualification process was discussed during the last senior management meeting, and explained that the complexity of the final system is due to the IOC restrictions in quotas.

Mr Dainton presented a more comprehensive infographic and stated that he expects that the entire process will be simplified in the future with a strategy more aligned with the ITTF World Ranking events, rather than loading the calendar with too many special events.

The Secretary General reported that the ITTF's philosophy was always to maximize the number of NOC's participating at the Olympic Games and stated that there was a major improvement in the qualification system in comparison to London 2012 and Rio 2016.

#### 6.1.2 Test event

The CEO, Mr Steve Dainton, announced that the 2019 World Team Cup scheduled on 6-10 of November, in Tokyo will be used as a test event. Mr Dainton reported that from a technical point of view everything is on track and ongoing discussions are being held with the LOC regarding sponsorship rights.

Tokyo 2020 Representative, Mrs Sachiko Yokota, informed that the playing venue is currently under renovations but will be ready on time before the test event.

The President, Mr Thomas Weikert, noted that the Playing Venue will be located within walking distance of the New National Stadium, which will serve as the main stadium for the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as being the venue for track and field events at the 2020 Summer Olympics as well as 2020 Summer Paralympics.

#### 6.1.3 ITO's selection procedures

The Secretary General presented the International Technical Officials' selection policy elaborated for Tokyo 2020.

Questions were raised by some of the OPC members regarding specific points of the policy.

The EVP, Mr Bruce Burton, specified that the proposed document is a major improvement from the previous version used for the London 2012 and Rio 2016, and provides more options to select the best and most experienced umpires, while guaranteeing a certain universality and gender equality.

Mr Burton, reported to the OPC about the issues of the previous selection policy and highlighted that the new proposal involves evaluations throughout the year, identifying officials that score a minimum of 75% evaluation success rate and does not exclude from participation at the Olympic Games those who have already done so.

The OPC approved the proposal for the ITO's selection procedure with a note that ITTF will continue to work on the professionalization of the officials and will further consult the continents during the selection process.

#### **02-OPC-20181214**

The OPC approved the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games selection Policy.

##### 6.1.4 Time schedule

The Secretary General, Mr Raul Calin, informed that the small adjustments to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games schedule were agreed during the meeting held in previous day between the Tokyo 2020 Sport Manager, Mrs Sachiko Yokota, the CEO, Mr Steve Dainton and himself. Mr Calin stated that the new schedule will fit better the local public and the worldwide audience and has been checked with Olympic Broadcasting Services (OBS).

He noted that as a formality, the proposed updated will be sent to Tokyo 2020 for the final approval. Once confirmed, the new TV schedule will be shared with the OPC.

The Secretary General, Mr Raul Calin, also gave a brief explanation related to the sequence of the events played at the Olympic Games, which start with the individual events and finishes with the team event.

##### 6.1.5 VIP Lounge

The CEO, Mr Steve Dainton, informed that although it fulfils the basic requirements of the event, the Playing Venue does not have visibility from the VIP area. He described Tokyo 2020 as a fantastic opportunity to taste table tennis at a global level and taking into consideration the favourable timing of the tender process, there will be a lot of interest generated around the promotion and the selling of the commercial rights. Mr Dainton stressed about the importance of having a VIP area which will ensure a high-level experience to the potential Guests.

The EVP, Mr Khalil Al-Mohannadi, stated that the VIP services are very important, and it is necessary to ensure an improved quality compared to Rio 2016.

##### 6.1.6 Look and feel of the Games

The CEO indicated that the confirmation of the look and feel of the Games was very delayed from the LOC side. The ITTF got the first colour palette choice only one week before the meetings in Incheon. Ongoing discussions are being held regarding the potential colours, taking into consideration the table tennis sport presentation criteria.

Mr Dainton stressed that this is an urgent matter that needs to be finalized as soon as possible, hopefully by the end of 2018 or latest by the end of January 2019.

## 6.2 Paris 2024 update

The Secretary General presented a general update regarding Paris 2024 and informed that the next step is the ratification of the sports present in the Games in February 2019.

After the successful achievement of introducing the Mixed Double event at Tokyo 2020 Games, the Secretary General explained the process to be followed for Paris, and the possibility to apply for the introduction of additional Olympic medal events. Mr Calin suggested to continue with the application for Men's and Women's doubles events.

The President, Mr Thomas Weikert, stated that from previous discussions with the IOC, there is a feeling about the preference towards innovative mixed gender events, and the possibility to have an event concluded in a short period of time, i.e. one day. Mr Weikert highlighted the fact that ITTF's goal is to successfully apply for new Olympic medals and future discussions should be held with this purpose.

## 7. **Paralympic Games**

### 7.1 Tokyo 2020 Progress Report

The Secretary General, Mr Raul Calin, informed that the same playing venue will be used for Olympic and Paralympic Games and that a visit will be held in March.

#### 7.1.1 Qualification process update

The Secretary General, Mr Raul Calin, believed that the Paralympic Games Qualification system approved in May 2018 in Halmstad, is a major improvement in comparison to the previous one. He explained that the only remarks from some NOC's was related to the high number of wild cards, but this is based on the necessity to ensure the minimum number of teams required and the selection always consider the higher ranked athletes as an important criteria.

He informed that there will be an interesting year in terms of continental and regional events, and that the Para Qualification process will be starting on 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2019 and will be ending on 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2020.

The Para Athlete, Trevor Hirt, asked in regard to the Final World Qualification Tournament, to be held in April 2020 and pointed out the fact that only two factor 40 tournaments will be held in 2019, which is not ideal for the athletes in his opinion. He mentioned that the AC will submit a proposition to increase the number of events.

The Secretary General informed that the Final World Qualification Tournament goes ahead as planned, and that the ITTF cannot force organizers to host factor 40 events, but the opposite, concerned about the athletes, has to secure that a factor 40 tournament has really such standard, to protect the athletes.

The ITTF is very aware of the situation with only two applications completed for 2019, and this is why organizers will be encouraged to host factor 40 events in the first three months of 2020.

#### 7.1.2 Test event

The Secretary General, Mr Raul Calin, informed that Tokyo 2020 has no intention to host a Para Table Tennis test event. There will be however a Para Table Tennis tournament (factor 20) in Japan, for the first time in many years. This will be used to test the task force to be used during Paralympic Games time.

### 7.1.3 ITO's selection procedures

The Secretary General, Mr Raul Calin, presented the selection policy proposed, technically similar to the new OG policy, but for the specific case of the Paralympic Games, tries to avoid the issues experienced in Rio 2016 with the lack of experience in Para events. The new policy will ensure the necessary experience is granted before being selected for this important event.

#### **03-OPC-20181214**

The OPC approved the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games selection Policy.

### 7.2 Paris 2024 update

The Secretary General, Mr Raul Calin, reported that Paris 2024 requested to the ITTF to agree with a new proposed change of the playing venue, as the second option provided was found not suitable for their plans. Mr Calin checked the venue layout presented by Paris 2024 and pending of future inspections, it seemed to be suitable for the event (pending of the verification of the technical details). The location of the venue, the *Grand Palais Ephemere*, is iconic, just a few meters away from Eiffel Tower.

The President, Mr Thomas Weikert, stated that it is a great achievement to be located in the middle of the city, in front of the Eiffel Tower.

## 8. Any other business

There was no further business.

## 9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:30.

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Thomas Weikert  
ITTF President

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Date

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Raul Calin  
ITTF Secretary General

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Date