

CONTINENTAL COUNCIL MEETING

Hotel Intercontinental Century City, Longquan Hall (5th floor), Chengdu, China
Sunday 9th October 2022 – 13h00 to 14h00 China Standard Time

MINUTES

CC members in attendance:

SÖRLING Petra	President
LIU Guoliang	Deputy President
AL-MOHANNADI Khalil	Executive Vice-President
MAEHARA Masahiro	Executive Vice-President
MESHREF Alaa (via Zoom ®)	Executive Vice-President
NATRAN Roland (via Zoom ®)	Executive Vice-President – Finance
OSHODI Wahid (via Zoom ®)	Executive Vice-President
SYMONS Graham (via Zoom ®)	Executive Vice-President
PRIMORAC Zoran (via Zoom ®)	Athletes Commission (AC) Chair
RYU Seung-Min	IOC Member
MOURA Pedro	ETTU Acting President
EL-SALHY Khaled (via Zoom ®)	ATTF President
MOORE Anthony (via Zoom ®)	ITTF-Oceania President
VILA Juan (via Zoom ®)	ITTF Americas President

Staff in attendance:

DAINTON Steve	ITTF Group CEO
CALIN Raul	ITTF Secretary General

Apologies:

AZEVEDO Alaor	Executive Vice-President
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1. Welcome from the ITTF President

Ms SÖRLING welcomed the Continental Council (**CC**) members in attendance reflecting on the high-level semi-final of the Men's Team event between China and Japan the previous day and thanking the Continental Presidents for their respective reports submitted in writing.

Ms SÖRLING gave the word to Mr LIU, recently appointed ITTF Deputy President. Mr LIU addressed the EC colleagues and Continental Presidents highlighting Ms SÖRLING's vision of unity and sustainable development and thanking the EC colleagues, particularly Mr AL-MOHANNADI for the work being done, looking forward to the work together with the Continental Presidents. Mr LIU considered the renewed relationship between the CTTA and the ITTF will benefit the development of table tennis globally. In his new capacity as WTT Board Chair, Mr LIU expressed his desire to bring more resources and investment to the sport and praised the humanitarian projects that the ITTF Group does through the ITTF Foundation. To conclude, Mr LIU praised the common love for the sport of both EC and CC members, considering that the joint work in good faith will bring table tennis to become a leading global sport.

2. Welcome from the EC member in charge of the Continental Council

Mr AL-MOHANNADI welcomed his CC colleagues, and congratulated Mr LIU on his appointment as ITTF Deputy President, as well as Chair of the WTT Board. Mr AL-MOHANNADI expressed his hope to be meeting with everyone physically in Amman on the occasion of the Summit.

3. Minutes of the previous Continental Council meeting

3.1. Approval of the Minutes from the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2022 were adopted.

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The Continental Council approved the Minutes of the CC Meeting held on 17th March 2022.

3.2. Business arising from the Minutes

3.2.1. World Cups

The CC noted the intention to continue with the tradition of the World Cups, ensuring the concept is revised to provide an even brighter future for the event, which will be discussed at the upcoming EC meeting.

4. Continental President Report – Africa

The CC noted the report of Mr EL-SALHY, ATTF President, about the activities of his continent since the meeting held in March in Singapore. Mr EL-SALHY thanked the EC initiative to continue the tradition of the World Cups and suggested ensuring that the winners of the Continental Cups continue participating in the event.

Mr EL-SALHY thanked the ITTF for the support in carrying out its activities, particularly the support extended to the organisation of the regional events and considered very important the fact that Ms SÖRLING together with other EC Members and the ITTF Secretary General, attended the ITTF-Africa Championships in Algeria. To conclude, Mr EL-SALHY suggested having professional staff working for the Continental Federations.

Dr MESHREF suggested exploring the possibility to have a World Title event for Clubs, as sometimes in the past was held, as this would strengthen the relationship of the ITTF with the clubs and would encourage the participation of the best players in the continental club competitions.

5. Continental President Report – Americas

The CC noted the report of Mr VILA on the activities of ITTF Americas, which highlighted the excellent level of organisation of the regional championships held in Cuba, Guatemala, and Colombia, as the first step on the qualification pathway to Durban 2023. Mr VILA indicated that a total of 25 Associations took part in the regional stages and confirmed Chile as the host for the Pan American Championships and ITTF Americas General Assembly in a few weeks' time, which will count with the participation of the ITTF President and Secretary General.

Mr VILA also reported on the continental age categories championships held in Argentina, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic.

Mr VILA also referred to the WTT events held in Peru, Ecuador, and the USA.

The CC noted the report on the development activities, the launch of the new website, and the satisfaction of ITTF Americas President, Mr VILA, for the full engagement of Canada and USA in the continental activities, confirming that there is one (integrated) continental federation in the Americas.

6. Continental President Report – Asia

The EC noted the report of Mr AL-MOHANNADI on Asian activities, which highlighted the signing of the Master Continental Agreement with the ITTF, the new ATTU website, and the ongoing

work in the reform of the ATTU Constitution. Mr AL-MOHANNADI also informed his CC colleagues that following the 2023 Asian Championships in Korea, the Teams and Individual events will alternate at the annual major event, to align with the World Championships structure. Mr AL-MOHANNADI suggested the upcoming Asian Cup in Bangkok will show a new level of organisation in the ATTU events.

7. Continental President Report – Europe

The CC noted the report of Mr MOURA, Acting President of the ETTU, who started by thanking the CTTA for the efforts put in place to make the WTTTC Finals possible, expressing it was a unique experience which will last in everyone's memories.

In relation to the ETTU activities, the CC noted the different events held in Europe to date, as well as the Development and Education activities completed and planned. Mr MOURA highlighted the organisation of the ETTU Congress in Munich, on the occasion of the very successful European Championships. The President of the Ukraine Table Tennis Federation, Mr ZATS, attended the events, which was very appreciated despite the ongoing war.

Mr MOURA also reported on the case opened in CAS by Russian Table Tennis Federation against the ETTU in relation to the Russian athletes and clubs suspended; and thanked the ITTF for the access to the ranking data which will allow the ETTU to better work on the ETTU rankings.

Ms SÖRLING thanked especially Mr MOURA's support at the ETTU Congress and Championships in Munich to secure the participation of the European Associations in Chengdu.

8. Continental President Report – Oceania

The CC noted the report of Mr MOORE, who started remembering Mr HO, the former President who passed away in 2021 and congratulating Mr LIU for his appointment as ITTF Deputy President and for the successful organisation of the WTTTC Finals in Chengdu.

ITTF-Oceania management had three meetings since April and is about reviewing its strategic plan for 2021-2024. The CC noted the development activities being carried in Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga, and has also refreshed its website, similar to other continental federations, with the support of the ITTF, for which Mr MOORE extended his appreciation.

The ITTF-Oceania Championships were successfully held in Melbourne, counting with the participation of 9 member associations, which was seen as very positive due to Oceania still trying to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions. A total of 10,000 spectators came along during the event to watch the matches, exposing the sport to new customers due to the fact of being organised in a shopping mall. The CC noted that the presence of the ITTF President and other ITTF officials was a good opportunity to meet government officials and explore options for future major events, taking into consideration the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Victoria in 2026 and Olympic Games in Brisbane in 2032.

9. Any other business

Mr DAINTON congratulated Mr LIU for his appointment as Deputy President, thanked Mr AL-MOHANNADI for his continuous support and the continental presidents for their excellent reports and continental activity. Mr DAINTON continued thanking CTTA, Chinese Olympic Committee and all those in China that have made possible this event, one of the best World Championships witnessed in many years and reported on the upcoming WTT events in Macao and Xinxiang.

Ms SÖRLING thanked Mr DAINTON for his remarks, mentioning the also upcoming World Para Championships in Granada, Spain.

10. Next Meeting

Not having any further items on the agenda, Ms SÖRLING invited the CC members to the next meeting to be held in Amman, Jordan, on 3rd December 2022, passing the word to Mr AL-MOHANNADI, EC member in charge of the CC, who in turn, thanked all those in attendance, hoping to continue the work together for the benefit of our sport.

The meeting was adjourned at 14h00 CST.

Petra SÖRLING
ITTF President

Date

Raul CALIN
ITTF Secretary General

Date