

## CONTINENTAL COUNCIL MEETING

Video Conference

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – 13h00 CET

### MINUTES

CC members in attendance:

SÖRLING Petra	ITTF President
AL-MOHANNADI Khalil	Executive Vice-President
AZEVEDO Alaor	Executive Vice-President
LIU Guoliang	Executive Vice-President
MAEHARA Masahiro	Executive Vice-President
MESHREF Alaa	Executive Vice-President
NATRAN Roland	Executive Vice-President
OSHODI Wahid	Executive Vice-President
PRIMORAC Zoran	Athletes Commission (AC) Chair
RYU Seung-Min	IOC Member
EL-SALHY Khaled	African Table Tennis Federation President
LEVITIN Igor	European Table Tennis Union President
VILA Juan	ITTF Americas President
IRELAND Graeme	ITTF-Oceania Acting President

Staff in attendance:

DAINTON Steve	ITTF Group CEO
CALIN Raul	ITTF Secretary General

Invited staff (in order of intervention):

FELEGYI Gabor	ITTF Competitions Director (section 7)
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Apologies:

SYMONS Graham	Executive Vice-President
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#### 1. President's opening remarks

Ms SÖRLING welcomed the Continental Council (**CC**) members in attendance highlighting the importance to work closely with the Continental Federations, adding that this was the reason why Swedish Table Tennis Association (**STTA**), at the time she was its President, submitted to the 2021 ITTF AGM a proposition to create the CC.

Ms SÖRLING reminded that the CC replaces the former *Olympic and Paralympic Commission*, the *Development and Continental Council* and the *Future Events Working Group*, encouraging the members to be active in the discussions.

Ms SÖRLING gave the floor to Mr DAINTON, who explained that on the eve of the meeting, the ITTF received a letter from the Local Organizing Committee (**LOC**) of the Chengdu 2022 World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals (**Chengdu 2022**) requesting the postponement of Chengdu 2022 due to the pandemic not easing worldwide.

While expressing ITTF's disappointment, Mr DAINTON mentioned also ITTF's understanding of the difficult situation and the reasoning for the request.

Mr LIU expressed CTTA's disappointment with the situation, indicating that the current lack of international flights available to/from Chengdu, forced the LOC to take this decision.

Mr LIU added that the FISU World University Championships to be held in Chengdu in July will be a good opportunity to learn from their experience and be able to host a successful World Championships.

Mr Khaled EL-SALHY highlighted the importance of confirming the new dates as soon as possible for the Continental Federations to be able to plan their events without clashes with the major ITTF events a.s.a.p.

The CC noted that the ITTF has urged the LOC to confirm the proposed new dates before the EC meeting to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

## **2. Qualification pathway for Chengdu 2022**

Ms SÖRLING introduced Mr FELEGYI to present the proposed options for the qualification pathway to the Chengdu 2022 WTTC Finals.

The CC noted the two options presented by the ITTF Competition Department, the first being to allocate the six remaining quotas to the highest ranked not yet qualified teams on a certain date, regardless of the continent, and the second being allocating one quota per continent and the sixth quota to the highest ranked team not yet qualified on a certain date.

Mr LEVITIN thanked Ms SÖRLING for hosting the CC meeting and indicated that ETTU's position is that the best teams in the World Ranking should participate or, alternatively, in view of the postponement of Chengdu 2022, to organise the intercontinental stage.

Mr PRIMORAC indicated that, ideally, the Intercontinental Stage should be organised; adding that if that would not be possible, in his point of view the best alternative would be inviting the best teams in the WR.

Not having further questions, Ms SÖRLING indicated that Continental Federations were invited to review the two proposals, which will be circulated via email following the CC meeting, and to come back to the ITTF with eventual alternatives no later than Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Mr CALIN explained that following the review of the eventual alternatives, the CC will receive the full set of options put forward and will be invited to vote on.

## **3. Qualification pathway for Granada 2022 World Para Table Tennis Championships (Granada 2022)**

Ms SÖRLING invited Mr FELEGYI to present the proposed qualification pathway to Granada 2022. The CC noted the presentation and FELEGYI explained that the proposal, as presented by the ITTF Competition Department, was endorsed by the two Para Table Tennis Athletes of the ITTF Athletes Commission (AC), the Para Table Tennis Committee Chair and the Para Table Tennis Manager.

The CC noted the remarks of Ms SÖRLING on the work to be done in the Para Table Tennis component of the ITTF Strategic Plan.

## **4. 2022 ITTF AGM**

The CC noted that with the postponement of Chengdu 2022, the AGM will be called once the dates of Chengdu 2022 are confirmed.

## **5. Initial discussion on the Qualification System (QS) for Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games**

The CC noted that an Olympic and Paralympic Games Qualification System Working Group will be formed following the EC meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January, including representatives of the EC, the

CC, the AC, the ITTF Technical Commissioner and supporting staff, with the aim to prepare proposals for both qualification pathways (for Olympic and for Paralympic Games Paris 2024). The CC also noted that the Working Group will submit these proposals to the CC for their analysis and eventual approval, with the goal to submit to the IOC the preferred system for the ratification at the IOC Executive Board to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Mr LEVITIN indicated that the preference of ETTU is to use only qualification tournaments, and not WR, on the QS for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, thanking once again Ms SÖRLING for the engagement of the Continental Presidents / Continental Federations on the discussion.

**6. Any other business**

Ms SÖRLING invited the CC to attend the first physical meeting on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022, in Singapore, so these deliberations can be made in person.

Mr VILA thanked Ms SÖRLING for this historical first meeting of the CC which allow the Continental Presidents to express themselves in important matters, and to work closely with the ITTF, praising the ITTF for the transparency in the process.

Not having any other business, Ms SÖRLING thanked all those in attendance for their participation, and the meeting was adjourned at 14h25 CET.

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Petra SÖRLING  
ITTF President

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Date

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Raul CALIN  
ITTF Secretary General

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Date