

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Panorama Room, Paradise Hotel, Busan, Korea Republic  
Monday 19 February 2024 – 10h00 – 13h00 KST

### MINUTES

EB members in attendance:

SÖRLING Petra	President
LIU Guoliang	Deputy President
AL-MOHANNADI Khalil	Senior Executive Vice-President
MESHREF Alaa	Executive Vice-President – Finance
AZEVEDO Alaor	Executive Vice-President
MAEHARA Masahiro	Executive Vice-President
NATLAN Roland	Executive Vice-President
OSHODI Wahid	Executive Vice-President
SYMONS Graham	Executive Vice-President
RYU Seung-Min	IOC Member
LIU Shiwen (via Zoom ®)	Athletes Commission (AC) Co-Chair

Apologies:

NATLAN Roland	Executive Vice-President
ACHANTA Sharath Kamal	Athletes Commission (AC) Co-Chair

Staff in attendance:

DAINTON Steve	ITTF Group CEO
CALIN Raul	ITTF Secretary General
BROWN Michael	ITTF Group CFO
BESSAH Mounir	ITTF Deputy Secretary General

## 1. Welcome and Opening

### 1.1. ITTF President's Welcome

Ms SÖRLING welcomed all in attendance, commenting that the World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals Busan 2024 (WTTTC) opening ceremony the day before was really enjoyable. Ms SÖRLING noted that when walking around and speaking with players and coaches, there have been nothing but positive expressions. Ms SÖRLING extended congratulations and appreciation to Mr RYU and his team, as well as Mr DAINTON and the staff, for the very smooth start of the WTTTC, which is the result of the hard work of everyone involved.

Ms SÖRLING noted that 2024 for the ITTF has started in a positive way and that there is light at the end of the tunnel for the previous tough years, especially with the calendar and finances. Moreover, the team has a revised strategic plan that was approved around half a year ago and that the EB will need to follow up on. Ms SÖRLING reflected on the sentence of a colleague about the importance of remembering collectively the reason why people seats in the EB meetings: for table tennis; adding that even if other duties (that any EB member may have) can add perspective and knowledge, it is important to keep in mind the reason why people is in the room and which interests (those of ITTF and the sport of table tennis) should be pursued.

### 1.2. Roll Call

Ms SÖRLING conducted a roll call and noted apologies from Mr NATLAN, and Mr ACHANTA who is competing in the WTTTC. Ms SÖRLING noted Ms LIU Shiwen's online attendance and the presence of staff members Mr DAINTON, Mr CALIN, Mr BESSAH and Mr BROWN.

## 2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda of the meeting was adopted, adding, on the recommendation of Ms SÖRLING, an address of Mr RYU Seung-Min to the EB colleagues as the President of the host Association of the WTTTC.

## 3. Minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting

### 3.1. Approval of the Minutes from the last meeting

It was agreed that the minutes from the last EB meeting would be discussed at the second EB meeting in Busan.

Mr RYU was invited to address the EB as the host of the WTTTC.

Mr RYU thanked all in attendance and was happy to extend a warm welcome to everyone in Busan, finally. Mr RYU reflected on the long 6-year journey of preparation for this event, indicating that the LOC had learned a lot about hosting a WTTTC from Houston, Chengdu, and Durban, and the opportunity to implement these learnings and showcase the hosting of Busan was possible. Mr RYU noted his heartfelt appreciation for the positive feedback for the tournament so far and promised to continue doing all he can to make the event run smoothly until the end. Mr RYU noted the slogan 'One Table, One World' and was happy to have so many ITTF family members in attendance. Mr RYU referred to the handmade rackets created by Mr HUH Myoungwook, a famous Korean artist <sup>1</sup>.

Mr AL-MOHANNADI requested the floor and was invited by Ms SÖRLING to address the EB.

Mr AL-MOHANNADI thanked Mr RYU and his team for their efforts on the event, setting high standards. Mr AL-MOHANNADI asked if a presentation from Doha 2025 was necessary for the AGM or next EB meeting, adding his hope that the agreement for the WTTTC Finals Doha 2025 could be signed before leaving Busan.

Ms SÖRLING suggested adding a Doha 2025 presentation to the AGM Agenda and providing a report at the EB within the Events section.

## 4. CEO Report / Strategic Plan

### 4.1. Current Business Status Update

Mr DAINTON echoed Ms SÖRLING's address about the ITTF coming out from a difficult few years into a more positive one. Mr DAINTON noted that the year has started very well thanks to Mr RYU and the team delivering the WTTTC. Mr DAINTON expressed that on the ITTF side, the team has felt an excellent cooperation with the LOC, and that this can be considered as the first World Championships Finals "back to normal", after the events in Houston, Chengdu, and Durban, somehow impacted by the pandemic.

Mr DAINTON referred to the Mixed Team World Cups (XTWC) indicating that that everyone at the ITTF should be proud of the XTWC and extended his appreciation to the CTTA and Mr LIU for organising such an innovative event which fostered gender equality, and was commercially successful, generating a lot of public interest, with all the final sessions sold out.

Mr DAINTON then referred to the draw ceremony for the WTTTC held on 16 January 2024 in connection with the last inspection.

Mr DAINTON referred to the restructuring, which is being finalised with the latest org charts being part of EB package, considering that the structure is around 99% complete.

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<sup>1</sup> The EB was shown a video of the production of the special racquets made by Mr HUH Myoungwook.

Mr DAINTON noted that at the EB meeting in Bangkok it was decided that a Business Development Unit (BDU) would be created under the leadership of Mr NATRAN. Mr DAINTON added that some more work would need to be done to get this BDU up and running, and encouraged the members of the EB to provide recommendations for any individuals with business acumen and an interest in growing table tennis to be part of.

Mr DAINTON then referred to the return of the Singles World Cups, which will be held from 15 April to 21 April in Macau, expressing his belief that the venue, the Galaxy Arena in Macao, is the best in which Table Tennis has ever been played. Mr DAINTON thanked the partners in China for their help in securing the venue, and to raise the prize money for the World Cups to USD1M, adding that ticket sales is a priority focus in the coming weeks.

Mr DAINTON continued his report referring to the WTT Finals held in Nagoya, Japan, in December (Women) and Doha, Qatar, in January (Men). He particularly thanked QTTA for helping to take the event at the last minute and reported that both events were successful.

Mr DAINTON provided a business status update, noting that Mr BROWN will go into more detail with the financial presentation and mentioned that WTT was not able to deliver on everything that was hoped for in 2023, with significant adjustments which had to be made halfway through the year, however, and although WTT is still financially not meeting the targets that had originally been hoped for, he looks forward to 2024 as it seems to be much more promising with good announcements coming in the past few days, and more to come soon.

Mr DAINTON noted that the Saudi Arabia Smash has been confirmed and announced (1-11 May) was made, with a solid financial agreement, with USD2M in prize money for athletes.

Mr DAINTON noted very positive discussions being held for a Grand Smash in China in 2024 and deferred to Mr LIU to provide further updates on that.

To complete on major WTT events, Mr DAINTON referred to an upcoming WTT Champions event in Incheon which would be a legacy event for the WTTTC, one potentially in Montpellier, France which happens to be the hometown for the LeBrun brothers and would be a good legacy following the Olympic Games, one in Frankfurt, one Macau, China and another in China.

Mr DAINTON noted that WTT is in the final year of the first part of the 12-year agreement with IMG. While this agreement is for 12 years, it shall be subject to a 4-year review cycle. Mr DAINTON noted that there have been some good aspects of the partnership with IMG. However, items such as TV production costs are high compared with the low media rights incomes, which would require some tough negotiations. Mr DAINTON hoped to find a way to improve the situation.

Mr DAINTON noted discussions with Mr LIU on the future of WTT. Looking deeper at the structure and overall business, Mr DAINTON suggested that a major review of WTT would need to be done, with a consulting firm assisting in assessing the next growth phase. However, WTT is looking at the biggest year of table tennis yet. Never before in table tennis history have there been as many large-scale major international table tennis events in a year. It is a great moment and something to be proud of.

Mr RYU thanked everyone for their support for the WTTTC since 2018 and for continuing the legacy of table tennis with a WTT Champions event in Incheon. Table tennis is an exciting sport with many fans in Korea, and Mr RYU hoped it would be a good event for table tennis fans. Mr RYU also congratulated the confirmation of the Saudi Smash.

Ms SÖRLING added that from the EB perspective, it is clear that the focus of the CEO on the business side, as recommended in Durban, is bearing fruits.

Dr AZEVEDO noted that 2024 is also a good year for Para Table Tennis, with Factor 40 events in four continents, and with much more entries in some of the events. Dr AZEVEDO hoped Mr DAINTON would include more news about Para Table Tennis in his reports in the future.

Mr DAINTON acknowledged Mr AZEVEDO's comment, noting that there is so much to report about, but of course, items such as Para, Masters, and development are just as important and shall be included for future meetings.

## **5. Operations**

### **5.1. Finances**

Dr MESHREF noted that Mr DAINTON and Mr BROWN are doing a good job of trying to keep within budgets and making a budgeting process within the current restructure and deferred to Mr BROWN for further details.

#### **5.1.1. Forecast 2023**

Mr BROWN presented the forecast update and comparison to the approved budget, noting increases in incomes, which were helping to compensate the increase in administrative expenses, mainly related to the move of offices in Singapore. Mr BROWN noted currency fluctuations were also impacting the result but noted the overall significant improvement of the forecasted result at around negative USD165,000, which is better than the initial forecast approved at the AGM of negative USD491,482.

Mr BROWN presented the forecast update for WTT, noting that it was a challenging year from a financial perspective and that the revenues listed were far from its primary target, what required a large adjustment of the expenses. In the middle of the year, it was foreseen an expected loss of USD10m was reduced to USD7m within a space of six months; however, far from the AGM-approved budget of under USD3m loss. Mr BROWN noted that the 2024 calendar would have many major events which hopefully would help to support a stable business model moving forward.

Mr BROWN presented the forecast update for ITTF Foundation, noting a small deficit compared to the initially approved budget.

Mr BROWN presented the consolidated accounts for the three organisations along with inter-company eliminations, which showed a significant increase in income compared to pre-pandemic periods. Mr BROWN noted a few items still being finalised in preparation for the audit and noted the audit timelines for the EB's awareness. Mr BROWN noted that there would be a Finance Forum on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February before the ITTF Summit, and that the audit partner in charge from PwC would be attending remotely. It was further noted that April and May would be the audit period and that the following financial statements would be put before the Audit and Finance Committee for approval.

Mr BROWN informed the EB that Ms Ludiwine ARPINO is now active in the Audit and Finance Committee as Mazars is no longer ITTF's auditor and that the third independent member is being sought.

Mr BROWN reminded that at the last EB meeting in Lausanne it was agreed that a Remuneration Committee should be constituted as an extension to the Audit and Finance Committee. Mr BROWN noted that the terms of reference for the Remuneration Committee are being worked on, and that these terms of reference should be circulated amongst the EB before finalising the structure, ideally at the Paris EB meeting.

Mr BROWN also presented on cashflow, noting that the ITTF has a line of credit with UBS bank, with about CHF1.78m having been utilised, and reported that the paperwork for the agreed increase of such line of credit from the current CHF2.4m to CHF4m as agreed in December is

being made. It was also noted that a loan facility for World Table Tennis with World Sports, and that this line of credit will help ease cashflow issues until the completion of the Olympic Games.

#### 5.1.2. Budget 2024

Mr BROWN presented on the ITTF budget for 2024, noting that work has been made since the previous EB meeting. The current forecast is that the budget will end with a lower deficit than the approximately USD200k loss approved at the 2023 AGM.

Mr BROWN presented on WTT budget for 2024, which revenue forecast has grown from the AGM-approved revenue of USD47.5m to a current forecast of USD50m, adding that the hope is for a break-even year, just pending on the IMG deal management.

Mr BROWN presented on the ITTF Foundation noting also an almost break event result foreseen.

The consolidated overview presented by Mr BROWN showed a forecasted income of USD59M, which is around a 33% increase from 2023. Events in 2024 largely contributed to this revenue.

Mr BROWN highlighted that the updated proposal reflects the adjusted development budget (with an increase in the Development Objective of USD20k for each of the five Continents) and the increase in the Integrity Unit budget of USD50k.

Dr MESHREF noted that the 2024 budget is better than what was approved at the last AGM and that the work done by Mr DAINTON and Mr BROWN, as well as the increase in events are helping that, adding that these are positive and good news to hear.

Ms SÖRLING concurred with Dr MESHREF and acknowledged that it was good to keep a prudent approach and be mindful of the line of credit. Ms SÖRLING expressed her belief that this budget was better presented than in the past, having the input of the staff in charge of the different areas, and expressed her appreciation for the work done.

Dr AZEVEDO suggested that each tournament should have a goal, such as a 10% profit, and if this goal is not reached, to study the reasons.

Ms DAINTON and Ms SÖRLING noted that this matter was on the agenda for the last WTT Board meeting and that it was agreed to focus on helping the LOCs be profitable at events, too.

Mr AL-MOHANNADI took the floor and referred to the budget of Integrity, indicating that there is an important case pending, which potentially could have led to the cancellation of the AGM in Houston, and that nobody has contacted him, being the most important case (for himself). Mr AL-MOHANNADI stated it has since been 2 years without any update on the case's progress.

Ms SÖRLING asked Mr SYMONS to comment as the EB Member in charge of Integrity.

Mr SYMONS acknowledged that the budget has been an ongoing issue for the Integrity Unit, and that the difficulty has been that since the ITTF set up the Integrity Unit before Houston, there has been no budget increase, with the only additional budget was to account for Mr Kevin CARPENTER's salary. Mr SYMONS noted that the Integrity Board would be reporting later which would be the opportunity for Mr AL-MOHANNADI to engage with them.

Dr MESHREF opined that it would be ok to increase the budget, but with respect to the confidentiality part – some cases deal with very sensitive matters such as harassment, and it would be not arguable for the EB to know what is going on in such cases. However, the EB should be made aware of the progress, for example, 50% done or 70% done. As for the case in Houston, as mentioned by Mr AL-MOHANNADI, it is a case known to the EB and should be made known to the EB.

Ms SÖRLING agreed with Dr MESHREF, suggesting that regular updates from the Integrity Unit could be received by the EB, adding that this also could help to assess on the efficiency of the Integrity Unit. It would also be good to see how many cases are related to events, to betting, etc., to measure clean sport.

Dr MESHREF queried whether increasing the budget for the Integrity Unit would help decrease the money spent with Sportradar.

Mr DAINTON noted that Sportradar is a monitoring service related to match manipulation, and not something that can be done in-house. The in-house aspect needed would be to look at how all of the other table tennis products that are out there in the market for which ITTF has no authority or regulations over, such as mini leagues set up from someone's garage. Most matches come from those leagues, which are also cheaper and impact ITTF's business.

Mr SYMONS noted that there had also been issues with Sportradar and that Sportradar's monitoring costs are directly tied to the number of matches. As ITTF/WTT continues to expand the number of tournaments and contracts, the cost of monitoring increases as well.

Mr OSHODI noted that there was a very good report from Mr CARPENTER on the case of Mr AL-MOHANNADI back in July 2022, although it is a confidential report and, therefore, not public. Mr OSHODI added that in relation to Mr AL-MOHANNADI's comment, the cases have been taking a long time, and more help is needed for the Integrity Unit, suggesting raising the question of Mr AL-MOHANNADI to the Integrity Board.

Mr AL-MOHANNADI expressed his support for the increase in the Integrity Unit budget; however, as the case in Houston was related to visas, he asked what the EB would decide if, in Doha 2025, someone would not get a VISA, suggesting to Mr DAINTON to add significant penalties if VISAS are not granted.

Ms SÖRLING suggested that this be added to future contracts, as Mr AL-MOHANNADI is in charge of the World Championships portfolio.

**20240219-EB-01**

The Executive Board agreed to approve the updated 2024 budget to be presented to the 2024 AGM, including a total of USD2,140,000 for the Master Continental Agreements and an increase of 50,000 USD on the Integrity Unit budget.

Mr BROWN presented on the 2025-2028 budget which would be explained in more detail at the Finance Forum and AGM, highlighting that the main positive element is that the bottom line can be positive in most of the four years, with 2026 forecasted to having a small deficit considering that there will be Youth Olympic Games and Para Table Tennis Championships.

The EB noted that for WTT's growth, it would be important to find and secure profitable events to improve the bottom line. Following negotiations with IMG on the agreement, adjustments to the 2025-2028 budget might also be made. Overall, however, there appears to be a positive balance.

Mr BROWN also presented the consolidated budget, showing progressive increases to over USD60m in incomes from 2026 onwards.

Ms SÖRLING reflected that the 2025-2028 budgets are the result of the work made by all the EB members, with the strategic decisions taken during the pandemic. The direction the ITTF is following shows a significant improvement from the previous year's situation.



Dr MESHREF reflected on his visit to Singapore in October, adding that when sitting in this meeting and looking at the figures, it is seen how much work has been done with many discussions and it was good to see how the figures turned out and how things could be improved.

Dr MESHREF thanked the CEO and his team for this.

Dr AZEVEDO opined that the four-year budget seems very conservative, with only a 4% increase a year, and that the EB should be more aggressive hoping for over USD100m in 2028, and seeing a bigger number than USD59m in 2025. Dr AZEVEDO further queried about the loan repayment plan from WTT to ITTF.

Mr BROWN acknowledged that the team should always push for more. However, the numbers in the budget were based on the last few years and, at the current stage, taking a prudent approach. Mr BROWN added that it would be better to under-promise and over-deliver and further noted that the initial few years where WTT is going to be profitable, would help to pay back to the ITTF the outstanding amounts due.

Dr MESHREF further acknowledged that Dr AZEVEDO's comments were a good reminder in terms of what should be done, such as filling the spectator seats to garner more investment interest in table tennis. Despite how aggressive the ITTF can get, the important part is to get spectators in the venues in countries other than China and Japan, which can help to increase incoming cash flow. It should, however, be a positive note that the ITTF owns a company worth USD100m, and once WTT can start earning more money and breaking even, the value can only increase. Dr MESHREF concluded that the ITTF and WTT are on the right track but are in tough times.

#### **20240219-EB-02**

The Executive Board agreed to approve the 2025-2028 budget to be presented to the 2024 AGM.

Mr DAINTON added that it is important to see where the ITTF is coming from, with budgets that were in the USD10m level just a few years ago, and of course, without being complacent, the current levels are five times bigger, and while the ITTF and WTT aim for more, it has to be understood that some investors still consider WTT small, however, it has great potential.

#### 5.1.3. Master Continental Agreements for 2024

##### 5.1.3.1. Budget for the Integrity Unit

The MCA Agreements budget for 2024 and the increase of the Budget for the Integrity Unit were already approved jointly in 5.1.2.

#### 5.1.4. Finance Forum preparations

Mr BROWN noted that the Finance Forum would be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024 from 10 am in BEXCO, with the auditor from PwC joining remotely from Lausanne. Mr BROWN invited all EB members to join the Finance Forum.

The meeting was adjourned for a 10-minute coffee break.

## **6. Athletes**

### 6.1. WTTTC Finals Busan 2024 Feedback

Ms SÖRLING expressed that there had only been positive feedback from the athletes of the WTTTC thus far. Dr MESHREF concurred with Ms SÖRLING and thanked Mr RYU for the preparations.

Mr RYU expressed that the WTTTC was promised to be athlete-centered and focusing on athlete satisfaction. Mr RYU had ensured checks on food, lounges, floors, and lighting, taken advice from the ITTF side, and he is glad that people is satisfied so far.

Ms LIU mentioned that recent discussions about the 2024 calendar were held, adding that there had been positive comments about the medical support provided to athletes. When she arrives in Busan, Ms LIU hopes to have more time and interactions on matters that athletes are concerned about.

## **7. Events**

### **7.1. World Title Events**

#### **7.1.1. WTTTC Finals Busan 2024 update**

Mr BESSAH noted that he had just started his new position as head of ITTF events following the restructure, and has immediately got into action. More than seven inspections had taken place prior to the WTTTC Finals in Busan, which had been well received by LOC with great cooperation. Mr BESSAH noted that there are full participation teams with around 339 players in total, representing 47 Associations from all five continents.

Mr BESSAH also presented figures for planned participation at the ITTF Summit, with around 265 persons in attendance.

Mr BESSAH considered the facilities and conditions provided by the LOC for the two events excellent, with no complaints received. Mr BESSAH added that -to date- the 100% of the VISAS have been granted, thanking the LOC for their commitment.

Mr BESSAH noted certain issues during the preparation, such as the availability of rooms on the different hotels, but in general, all services are working very well, including dedicated buses for the athletes.

Mr BESSAH noted that within the LOC team, there are individuals who have also worked on the Asian Games and Olympic Games, and they are applying IOC standards. It was a good learning journey, and Mr BESSAH mentioned that as instructed by the ITTF President and CEO, new manuals for future World Championships organisers will be prepared, for which Busan's experience will be very useful.

Mr DAINTON referred to ticket sales, indicating there are very good figures for the final stages, but not so good for the preliminary groups, adding it would be good to reflect on it.

Ms SÖRLING suggested looking at the playing format might be considered.

Dr AZEVEDO further suggested that it would be useful to compare with other World Championships, adding that it would be also useful to share the inspection manuals.

Mr RYU suggested these manuals are part of the LOC legacy and will share them with pleasure.

Dr AZEVEDO concluded this organisation is a model of excellence.

#### **7.1.2. World Masters Table Tennis Championships 2026 – Bid Update**

Mr BESSAH noted that there had been 7 expressions of interest, which had been whittled down to 3, Hong Kong, Korea, and Spain. However, Hong Kong had withdrawn because the proposed venue was not ready. Mr BESSAH noted that the team had used the same measurements as the Para Committee had used to score the viability of the bidding cities, but adapted for the Masters.

#### **7.1.3. World Para Championships 2026 – Bids Update**

Mr BESSAH noted that there had been expressions of interest from England, Thailand, and USA. The Sheffield bid (England) was unable to share their financial model as they are waiting for certain approvals, which has affected their inspection measurement. Mr BESSAH noted that Pattaya, Thailand, has a big support from their government to host. It was further noted that the city of Fort Worth, USA, is always trying to organise a major event with ITTF, so overall, the ITTF has three very good bids.



Dr AZEVEDO was pleased that there were evaluations being made, which will help on the decisions taken.

#### 7.1.4. World Singles Cups 2024 Update

Mr BESSAH noted that everyone is very motivated to have the World Cups in Macau, as had been mentioned earlier by Mr DAINTON, that there will be 2 tables – one for men, and one for women – being played at the same time, a total of 48 players for each gender. The prospectus would be delivered soon. The prize money offered will secure a minimum of USD6,000 to each player, with the hospitality covered.

Mr BESSAH added that each Continental Cup will offer in the future four places for the World Cup.

Ms SÖRLING expressed happiness for the return of the World Cups and thanked Mr LIU and the team for making this possible in such short notice.

Mr BESSAH noted that a report on Doha 2025 will be shared at the next EB meeting.

#### 7.2. Olympic and Paralympic Games

Mr CALIN noted that there would be a Continental Council meeting the next day, and it was just a message for the EB members that they are welcome to arrive in Paris for the Olympic Games from 25 July for the opening ceremony, with an in-principle reservation until 11 August for the last match of table tennis events. Mr CALIN suggested the EB book their flight tickets no later than 15 March 2024 to ensure optimal cost.

#### 7.3. World Ranking (ratification of the on-line decisions)

The EB ratified the two decisions recently taken by the EB online, which were related to the seeding world ranking to be considered for the Olympic Games as well as the world ranking points for the WTTTC Finals.

#### **20240219-EB-03**

The Executive Board agreed to use 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 as the date for seeding for all five events at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

#### **20240219-EB-04**

The Executive Board agreed to award points to the individual players and pairs at the Busan 2024 WTTTC Finals and future events as proposed.

### **8. World Table Tennis**

#### 8.1. Investment Update

This item was moved to the second EB meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

#### 8.2. Calendar

This item was moved to the second EB meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

### **9. Development**

The reports were noted for the EB in their package.

### **10. ITTF Foundation**

The reports were noted for the EB in their package.

## **11. Governance**

### **11.1. Members**

#### **11.1.1. Ukraine Support**

Ms SÖRLING reported that the IOC has established a mechanism to support Ukrainian athletes via IFs / NFs.

Mr CALIN added that the IOC approved a EUR40,000 special fund for Ukrainian athletes and thanked Mr ANDERSSON for elaborating on the proposal.

Dr MESHREF queried what ITTF could be doing for the players in Palestine.

Ms SÖRLING noted that the ITTF foundation was working on it, and hoped to come back during the second meeting of the EB with the ITTF's foundation work.

#### **11.1.2. Russia / Belarus update**

Mr CALIN noted that the Russian and Belarusian have been given in-principle permission to participate in ITTF events, the first one being the ITTF Kazakhstan Para open. Mr CALIN noted that attention will be given to this first event.

#### **11.1.3. Falkland Islands update**

Mr CALIN noted that a letter was received from the Falkland Table Tennis Association expressing disappointment that the ITTF Americas had not accepted their application for membership and that they are now seeking membership in Europe.

### **11.2. Continental Council**

#### **11.2.1. MCA update**

Mr CALIN noted that with the decision taken earlier in the day, the ITTF is now in a position to negotiate agreements with the continents for 2024. It would still need to wait for AGM approval of the budget, but there would be meetings with staff of each of the continents over the next few days in Busan.

### **11.3. Integrity/Safe Sport**

#### **11.3.1. EB Conflict of Interest Declaration**

Mr CALIN noted that a revised conflict of interest declaration is ready, and that for now, this item is For Information Only. The members of the EB would be given the conflict of interest declaration form to review, to be ratified at the second meeting of the EB on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and sent for electronic signature thereafter. The conflict-of-interest declaration serves as a reminder to the EB that when in these meetings, the EB is working collaboratively for table tennis and not attending on behalf of their organisations or continents.

### **11.4. Others**

#### **11.4.1. Propositions and Resolutions for the Council and AGM**

Mr CALIN noted the governance session scheduled for Friday and the propositions and resolutions for the Council and AGM to be discussed at the next EB meeting after the governance session.

#### **11.4.2. ITTF AGM and Council 2024 preparations**

Mr CALIN presented for information the different meetings planned in Busan, which are on the ITTF Members Portal.

## **12. IOC Members Reports**

Ms SÖRLING noted that this item would be addressed at the next meeting of the EB.

### 13. Other Business

Mr RYU requested the floor and presented before the EB a video exhibiting the making of the rackets, which he had presented at the beginning of the meeting to the EB members.

Mr LIU was invited to close the meeting.

Mr LIU noted that the meeting had gone very smoothly, and from all the reports it could be seen that there had been big efforts made since Durban to make WTT healthier in all areas and functioning better. Mr LIU noted that following the XTWC in Chengdu, three cities in China had expressed interest in hosting a Grand Smash event (Hangzhou, Chongqing, and Beijing).

Mr LIU added that the Chinese capital showed a great interest and positive attitude. Beijing had not hosted a high-level international event since the first China World Championships in 1961. Following the recent Lunar New Year Celebrations, the Beijing government has already started their work by sending a delegation to Chengdu to learn from the successful experience of the XTWC. Mr LIU opined this is a great opportunity to develop events in major cities. Successful events in ITTF can influence WTT events and vice versa. Chengdu's biggest success was the sold-out sessions for all days, and this success could only be achieved with the support of the ITTF. Mr LIU noted that he believes the spectators are the focus point and that he wants to build a business and marketing team to develop this area.

### 14. Next Meetings

The next meeting of the EB will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February in Busan.

### 15. Adjournment

Ms SÖRLING thanked all the EB colleagues for their cooperation. The meeting was adjourned at 13:10 KST.

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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