

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Panorama Room, Paradise Hotel, Busan, Korea Republic
Sunday 25 February 2024 – 10h00 – 12h00 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
NATRAN Roland	Executive Vice-President
OSHODI Wahid	Executive Vice-President
SYMONS Graham	Executive Vice-President
RYU Seung-Min	IOC Member
LIU Shiwen	Athletes Commission (AC) Co-Chair
ACHANTA Sharath Kamal	Athletes Commission (AC) Co-Chair

Staff in attendance:

DAINTON Steve	ITTF Group CEO
CALIN Raul	ITTF Secretary General

Guests:

RIPOLL Enric	Integrity Board Chair
DE ANDRADE Tiago	Integrity Board Member
GRAY Jonathan	Integrity Board Member
RIEDL Erika	Integrity Board Member
SNELL Wayne	Integrity Board Member
CARPENTER Kevin	Head of Integrity

1. Welcome and Opening

1.1. ITTF President's Welcome

Ms SÖRLING welcomed all in attendance and congratulated Team China and Team Japan for their performances at the Women's Team final the previous night. Ms SÖRLING also congratulated Team Korea for a great semi-final match and the excellent preparations and delivery of the WTTC for the benefit of the athletes. Ms SÖRLING concluded by congratulating also the ITTF for the delivery of the WTTC, but also the EB colleagues for their engagement in the meetings with the membership over the past few days and hoping for a constructive meeting.

1.2. Roll Call

Ms SÖRLING welcomed the attendees, particularly Ms LIU and Mr ACHANTA, who could join the meeting physically.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Ms SÖRLING noted 2 other items to be added to the agenda, Table Tennis Review (TTR) and Sport Science report, both put forward by Mr MAEHARA, asking if there were any other business from other EB Members.

Mr AL-MOHANNADI asked about the Nominations Committee.

Ms SÖRLING indicated that the nominations committee is an important matter, so it was decided to consider it at the EB meeting to be held in August during the Paris Olympic Games.

Mr AL-MOHANNADI suggested receiving the nominees' names at least one month before the meeting to better prepare for the EB decision.

3. Minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting

3.1. Approval of the Minutes from the last meeting (D)

Ms SÖRLING noted that at the previous EB meeting, it was noted that the minutes of the Meeting of the EB held on 6 and 7 December in Lausanne would be approved at this meeting. However, due to the staff's heavy workload, the Minutes were not circulated with the necessary time for the EB members to read through, and it was suggested that the approval of these minutes would be taken online, to be approved via email.

3.2. Business arising from the Minutes (Conflict of Interest Declaration)

Ms SÖRLING noted that the Conflict of Interest (COI) Declaration is also in the package. The EB would need to approve the COI declaration and sign against it. Ms SÖRLING opened the floor to any questions.

Dr MESHREF noted that there was not enough time for the EB to read through the document properly. However, after skimming the declaration, Dr MESHREF opined that the previous COI had an additional sentence which noted that if a member of the EB is unaware that they are in a situation which forms a conflict of interest, and it is found by a third party, the EB member should be notified. According to Dr MEHSREF, that statement had been removed from the current document. In addition, Dr MESHREF opined that the current COI declaration provides too much power to the Integrity Unit as, if found to be in a situation which constitutes a form of conflict of interest, the Integrity Unit could disqualify the EB member in conflict, and that decision is final. Dr MESHREF noted that this also appears to contravene the Constitution, which allows a process from the Integrity Unit decision to the ITTF Tribunal and then to CAS. Dr MESHREF opined that the appeal process is not included in the COI declaration.

Ms SÖRLING acknowledged Dr MESHREF's comments and noted that this would be brought before the responsible person in charge of the COI declaration. Ms SÖRLING further added that the EB should contemplate how to ensure that the COI declaration is constantly updated, citing that some companies have a declaration as part of the agenda for each meeting of the Board, and the EB could consider something similar.

Mr OSHODI acknowledged Dr MESHREF's comments and noted that the persons in charge will review the COI declaration again. However, Mr OSHODI clarified that there is always a right to appeal a decision of the Integrity Unit, which would go before the Tribunal and then before CAS. The comments from Dr MESHREF shall be noted and passed back to Mr Dylan MAH for review.

Ms SÖRLING suggested that once the review is made, the COI can be circulated via email.

4. CEO Report / Strategic Plan

4.1. Strategic Plan

Before presenting on the Strategic Plan, Mr DAINTON thanked KTTA and Mr RYU for their excellent management of the WTTC.

Mr DAINTON reported that since Mr Dylan MAH took over as ITTF Operations Director, he has been responsible for establishing a plan to measure the progress made in implementing the revised Strategic Plan adopted in Bangkok. According to Mr MAH's analysis, governance and

sustainability seem to have progressed the most, with the largest work needing to be done for business growth. Mr DAINTON noted that the slides and charts have been included in the EB package and notified the EB of the plan to do this assessment quarterly. Mr DAINTON noted Dr AZEVEDO can arrange meetings with Mr MAH to discuss the tools for measuring better.

Ms SÖRLING thanked Mr DAINTON and the team for their efforts, highlighting the importance of following up and measuring the revised Strategic Plan.

5. Operations

5.1. Finances (update from Finance Forum)

Dr MESHREF was invited to address the EB about the Finance Forum on 24 February 2024.

Dr MESHREF reported that there was very good attendance, a sign that the members wanted to understand the finances. Many questions and good answers were given. Dr MESHREF noted that the most important question was about the investment from World Sports, which is a key issue on the audited financial statements, suggesting that it is a priority to deal with it.

Ms SÖRLING opened the floor to any further remarks. There were no further remarks.

5.2. HR

The EB noted the report from HR which was included in the package.

Mr DAINTON noted from his discussions with Dr MESHREF that the changes made to the structure need to be reflected in an updated chart, which will be done.

Dr MESHREF queried whether the 'gradual easing of the hiring freeze' would mean that WTT would start actively hiring – which Dr MESHREF opined was one of the issues causing the cash flow problems. Dr MESHREF noted that the term 'gradual easing' should not be overused.

Mr DAINTON noted that the hiring freeze was a hard freeze and hard stop. However, the gradual lift of the freeze would not mean the floodgates would open. Mr DAINTON noted that many people have resigned from WTT, and a new solution needs to be sought for the WTT structure.

Dr MESHREF asked specifically if the CFO position would be reflected in the revised chart, which Ms SÖRLING confirmed.

5.3. Sustainability

The EB noted the report included in the package.

5.4. Communications

The EB noted the report included in the package.

6. Athletes

6.1. Athletes Commission Report

Mr ACHANTA and Ms LIU were invited to address the EB.

Mr ACHANTA first congratulated the KTTA for the fantastic WTTTC, adding that having been a player and an official at the event allowed him to experience the conditions from both angles: athletes' happiness with the playing conditions, practice arena, players' lounge, dining facilities, etc., but also the facilities for officials. Overall, Mr ACHANTA considered these memorable World Championships for everyone and thanked Mr RYU and his team for creating such a wonderful experience.

Mr ACHANTA reported on the two official online meetings of the AC since December, in which the World Ranking, prize money, and tournament schedule have been discussed. Mr ACHANTA considers the conditions to be improving overall.

Mr ACHANTA referred to the clashes of the WTT Champions event in Frankfurt with the Pan Am Games and the upcoming clash of the African Games with the Singapore Smash.

The EB was also informed about the feedback received in relation to the Mixed Team World Cup, WTTTC Finals, and WTT Frankfurt Champions, with more spectators coming to watch table tennis, what players have appreciated.

Mr ACHANTA then referred to matters to be brought to the EB's attention: concerns over prize money being reduced and low prize money for events such as Feeder events, where players have to spend around USD1,200 for 3 days only to win up to around USD500. Mr ACHANTA added that in discussions in Busan, WTT has informed him that the prize money levels will return to the original plans, which he hopes will be confirmed in Saudi and China Smashes.

Players hope that the prize money could be on par with expenditure and income as it would be difficult, especially for younger players, to come out and play these tournaments. Mr ACHANTA noted that announcing the calendar in advance was another matter for EB's attention. While 2024 is being filled up, it is still slow-moving. Players also provided feedback on prospectuses, noting that rules and regulations should not change following its publication to allow players to be able to plan better, such as adding points to the XTWC after the prospectus was released or changing the table model of an event after being announced.

Mr ACHANTA noted that the report did not include the request for a communication channel. Mr ACHANTA proposed that this channel would allow the players to reach out to the athlete's commission and vice versa. Mr ACHANTA explained that currently, the athletes use personal channels such as WhatsApp or Instagram to reach out to the Athletes Commission; however, it is considered that it would be better if the ITTF and IT team could give a space on the ITTF website for the Athletes' Commission to reach out to players and interact.

Mr ACHANTA thanked WTT for the appointment of Ms Polona CEHOVIN as the head of player relations, adding that she is the right fit, coming from the ITTF, being experienced about what top athletes require, and being a good link between the athletes, the Athletes Commission, WTT, and the ITTF.

Mr ACHANTA suggested incorporating education about integrity for the players because, currently, specific areas for safe sport and anti-doping education in the Athletes Section are not clearly identified, suggesting these ideas be covered in the Minutes.

To conclude, Mr ACHANTA thanked Ms LIU, for her support, the rest of the AC members, Mr RYU, for bringing his expertise from the IOC AC, and the EB for their support.

Dr MESHREF was glad to hear that there is some progress for the players and noted that whatever the Athletes Commission needed, the EB should be asked about it. Dr MESHREF noted from the last meeting of the EB in Lausanne about establishing a steering committee for WTT and for a player to be involved in this steering committee so that players have a voice in WTT. Dr MESHREF noted that the decision to have this steering committee was made many times in the EB but had not been implemented. This would be important, especially with WTT moving into a period with many more events than last time and urged WTT to consider this a priority.

Ms SÖRLING thanked Mr ACHANTA for his report and for Dr MESHREFs address to the EB.

7. World Table Tennis

7.1. Investment Update

Mr DAINTON recalled the EB meeting in Lausanne, where it was noted that there had been several different proposals from a prospective investor and that WTT had not been very satisfied with those initial offers mainly as it would be taking over a large portion of control from WTT with a financial contribution amount lower than expected. Since his December report, WTT have replied to decline this offer and the prospective investor is currently working on revising their offer, combining it with the hosting of a Grand Smash. Mr DAINTON noted that this would lower the company's value and that there would be more back and forth with the prospective investor.

Mr DAINTON reported that the Saudi Smash has been confirmed and added that there have been discussions with another investment company ("second prospective investor") that had interest in WTT but their feedback was that WTT's value is not in the size this second prospective investor would consider for an investment. Mr DAINTON noted that there is a long way to go for WTT and echoed Dr AZEVEDO's call for WTT to be more aggressive to catch up to these levels.

Dr MESHREF noted that it is good news that other interest parties want to invest in WTT and echoed Mr OSHODI's suggestion not to look for investors but for other sponsors for the moment.

Ms SÖRLING recalled that during the first discussion about the first prospective investor in Durban, it was agreed that provided the cash flow situation can be managed, it is certainly better to delay the sale of shares until the company's valuation grows.

Mr NATRAN noted the few topics to address in negotiations, such as cash flow and strategic partners, which are linked to the shares and ownership of WTT. Mr NATRAN was glad to hear that the credit lines and cash flow management in the previous months have improved the situation, alleviating pressure, agreeing with Ms SÖRLING, Dr MESHREF and Mr DAINTON that it would be better to wait for a better position of WTT before involving potential new investors. Mr NATRAN concluded that having strategic partners is just as important as liquidity.

Ms SÖRLING added that the newly created Business Development Unit (BDU) was created with the aim of bringing new sponsors and business streams.

7.2. Calendar

Mr DAINTON presented on the WTT calendar indicating that 2024 will be healthy and robust, something that had been missing the past couple of years, affecting many areas such as the seeking of sponsors and WTT's media rights strategy.

Mr DAINTON added that with the Saudi Smash confirmed, Beijing keen to host the China Smash in October, and France agreeing to a WTT Champions event, the situation is improving, and WTT is more confident during discussions with sponsors and media partners.

Mr DAINTON suggested that there might be a Grand Smash in 2024 or 2025 in the United States, which would be interesting from a marketing and sponsorship perspective.

Ms SÖRLING was pleased to hear of a fuller calendar of events and thanked the team for working hard on this. Ms SÖRLING noted while sponsors are important, it is also important to have a business model that helps not only WTT earn money but also local organisers to earn money in order to keep them as organisers. Ms SÖRLING noted that there are ongoing efforts to review the business model.

8. Governance

8.1. Members

8.1.1. Indonesia (D)

Mr CALIN noted the report by Mr Dylan MAH in the package, which provides a summary of the matter at hand and a proposal for resolution. Mr CALIN noted that it was proposed that the two relevant stakeholders be invited to a neutral territory for mediation.

Dr MESHREF asked about Indonesian players, how they would be affected by mediation, and whether these players should be included in events on a neutral flag.

Mr OSHODI noted that the idea of mediation is to get all parties on board and, ideally, to conduct elections and to work with the NOC on doing that. In terms of the players, the EB has the right to permit them to play, and mediation should not delay that, adding that it is within the powers of the EB to grant the right to play and for ITTF officials to oversee that process as well.

Ms SÖRLING noted that the will is to move forward with the goal of having players back on the table as soon as possible. It would be for the EB to decide the mediation steps to encourage this and ensure that mediation doesn't stop the players from returning to competition.

Mr ACHANTA echoed Dr MESHREF's sentiments, noting that the players should not suffer due to the conflict in the country, particularly for WTT events, which are individual events. Mr ACHANTA further echoed that it is a long fight and that pathways should be created for players to participate in events. ITTF / WTT should be able to accept their entries on a neutral flag. The difficulty, however, comes with playing in team competitions, especially with the upcoming Olympic Games. As mediation goes along, if ITTF can intervene, maybe there could be a selection trial on common ground to select the players.

Mr DAINTON noted that while the steps taken to give the ITTF more authority to intervene when there is more than one Federation are good, he hopes that decisions will be made quickly. He added that he hopes to find mechanisms to allow the EB to make faster decisions and confirm the right Federation in each territory.

Mr OSHODI suggested that a timeline could be put in for the mediation.

Dr AZEVEDO queried why ITTF can intervene in a country, as for example, this cannot happen in Brazil.

Mr OSHODI noted that the Member Associations are affiliated with the ITTF, and the ITTF can suspend their membership. If problems cannot be resolved in-house and affect the players, then the ITTF has the right to intervene. Mr OSHODI noted that mediation is not a court; it is for all the parties to be brought together to talk and discuss.

Mr AL-MOHANNADI, referring to his ATTU President capacity, referred to his three meetings with the Indonesian NOC President in Doha, Bangkok, and Indonesia and suggested he needs more information before making a decision.

Mr OSHODI emphasised that the aim of the mediation is to talk, not to suspend the Association.

After some more interventions, the EB approved the mediation as proposed by Mr MAH.

20240225-EB-01

The Executive Board agreed to invite the two contesting associations in Indonesia for an in-person mediation.

Dr MESHREF suggested to also start the work to bring the athletes back.

8.1.2. Mexico (D)

Mr CALIN noted the report by Mr Dylan MAH in the package.

Based on Mr MAH's assessment of the case, it was proposed to appoint Mr Alexander ZAMORA, ITTF Council member and NOC President of Costa Rica, to supervise the Mexican TTA elections.

Dr AZEVEDO asked why Mr ZAMORA is selected for this mediation.

Mr CALIN indicated that the criteria to recommend Mr ZAMORA is because the ITTF has two Council Members in Central America, one of them, Emilio WONG, active as President of the Panama Table Tennis Association and the Central American Table Tennis Confederation, while Mr Alexander ZAMORA, after being President of Costa Rica Table Tennis Federation for 20 years, is no longer in that position, but is the NOC President in his country, what is felt will help in his authority to be better accepted by both parties.

The EB agreed to Mr MAH's proposal.

20240225-EB-02

The Executive Board agreed to appoint Mr Alexander ZAMORA, ITTF Council Member and Costa Rica NOC President, to mediate and supervise in the Mexican TTA elections.

8.2. Others

8.2.1. Propositions and Resolutions for the Council and AGM

Mr CALIN noted that there was not too much to add at this stage except that the Rules Committee had met the day before the EB and had decided to remove the proposition submitted for the AGM about the coloured lines. Mr CALIN noted that the Rules Committee and CTTA have discussed their similar propositions to the ITTF Council to be hopefully unified as a joint proposition before the Council meeting starts.

8.2.2. ITTF AGM and Council 2024 preparations

Mr CALIN provided a rundown of the upcoming meetings happening on Monday and Tuesday.

Ms SÖRLING encouraged the EB to spread the word about the upcoming meetings, asking if there was any feedback from the discussions while in Busan that may help the EB to be better prepared for the ITTF Council and AGM.

Dr AZEVEDO noted three points for the AGM: the first being the name of the players' country on the back of the shirt, suggesting that if the players don't use it, the Association might not enter them in the tournaments.

Ms SÖRLING suggested taking this discussion after the meeting and providing Dr AZEVEDO with the experience from the approach used by the Swedish Table Tennis Association when she was the President, as, in fact, they had a court case.

Dr AZEVEDO's second point was about table friction, suggesting supporting this proposition, and the third point was making Portuguese an official language in the ITTF.

9. IOC Members Reports

It was noted that since the last meeting of the EB in Lausanne, Ms SÖRLING and Mr RYU attended the Winter Youth Olympic Games in Gangwon, Korea Republic, in January. Ms SÖRLING reported that since her induction as an IOC Member, she has had meetings with the Head of Ethics of the IOC, to go through the Ethics Code and the Olympic Charter, has signed a Conflict of Interest declaration, and an onboarding session for the new IOC Members is scheduled in the month of March, which Ms SÖRLING will attend. To conclude, Ms SÖRLING reported on the meeting with the President of the Republic of Korea, in which Ms SÖRLING spoke about the hard work of Mr RYU as part of the LOC of the Winter Youth Olympic Games.

Mr RYU highlighted this was the first Winter Youth Olympic Games in Asia and reported that there was a focus on Sustainability, with many venues from the Winter Olympic Games 2018 being used and Youth Development Sport in Korea Republic. Mr RYU provided insight into his time as the Chairman of the Pyeongyang 2018 Legacy Foundation, organising several projects for youth development, including inviting fifty thousand local students to experience the YOG.

Mr RYU noted that he has around six months left in office as an IOC Member and encouraged the ITTF to support the two table tennis athletes who are candidates for the IOC Athletes Commission election.

Ms SÖRLING thanked Mr RYU for his remarks and noted that the EB should do their very best to keep Mr RYU in the Olympic Movement.

10. Other Business

10.1. Future World Championships Bids

Mr DAINTON noted that the AGM in 2025 would have to move forward with the allocation of multiple World Championships, as it was agreed not to allocate 2027 in Busan to allow for the bid process to be reshaped, to ensure the conditions to be negotiated with the potential hosts before the event is allocated. Mr DAINTON added that this reshaped bid process is part of Mr BESSAH's new remit. Mr DAINTON noted that there had been some discussions to award the bids not only for the 2027 and 2028 editions but potentially also for 2029 during the ITTF Summit in Doha, Qatar, next year.

Mr AL-MOHANNADI expressed that it would be good if 2027 and 2028 could be voted in 2025.

Ms SÖRLING concurred, adding the consideration for 2029, what would allow more time to plan in advance, and what could help build the event in a more professional and strategic way. Ms SÖRLING added that this would also help with the long-term planning for the calendar.

Mr DAINTON opined from a business side that the earlier bids could be allocated, the better for a longer plan for business in terms of equipment sourcing as well as sourcing for longer-term sponsorships.

Mr AL-MOHANNADI noted that if there are three editions of the World Championships to bid for, with multiple candidates, this would amount to around 12-15 presentations, which would require a lot of time.

Ms SÖRLING noted that these are technical questions that have to be solved and suggested that presentations could be done over the course of a few days.

Mr AL-MOHANNADI asked Mr CALIN whether 17-27 May is enough for the World Championships and AGM 2025 in Doha.

Mr CALIN noted that this would be more of a question for Mr DAINTON on whether the staff can deliver that much activity.

Ms SÖRLING noted that with the team in Qatar and with the ITTF team, it should be manageable, but the concept would still need to be defined.

Mr AL-MOHANNADI noted that many logistic and technical aspects still need to be confirmed and clarified, suggesting that a final decision needs to be made as soon as possible.

Ms SÖRLING noted that the EB's decision is whether to open the bids for 2029 in addition to those for 2027 and 2028.

The EB Members agreed.

20240225-EB-03

The Executive Board agreed to open bids for the WTTC Finals 2027, 2028, and 2029, to be allocated at the AGM to be held in Doha in 2025.

10.2. World Ranking

Mr DAINTON referred to the discussions about ranking points during the Continental Council meeting on 20 February. The main topic on the agenda was fairness, and Mr AL-MOHANNADI proposed bringing the matter to the next EB meeting. Since then, Mr DAINTON, Mr OSHODI, and the World Ranking Working Group members have had discussions seeking a potential solution, which is being presented to the EB for consideration as part of the documents package.

Mr OSHODI hoped the recommendation would be acceptable to the EB.

Ms SÖRLING was happy to see a clear recommendation and opened the floor to any remarks.

On a question from Dr MESHREF about the duration of the validity of the points, Mr OSHODI added that this solution will solve the current issues. The World Ranking Working Group has started working on a holistic review of the World Ranking regulations, hoping to have a proposal by the end of October.

Dr MESHREF suggested that the wording must be very clear if the EB makes a decision, and it must state clearly that it is made for fairness.

20240225-EB-04

The Executive Board agreed to accept the recommendation of the WRWG to modify the date of expiration of World Ranking points of Continental Events to ensure fairness.

10.3. Co-opted members to Committees

The EB noted the proposal from ITTF-Oceania to co-opt Ms Jan FITZGERALD to become a co-opted member of the Sustainability Committee, as currently, there is no representative from that continent.

The EB members agreed.

20240225-EB-05

The Executive Board appointed Ms Jan FITZGERALD (AUS) as a co-opted member of the Sustainability Committee.

10.4. Integrity Board introduction and recommendations

(The EB moved to Agenda items 10.5 and 10.6 before addressing this Agenda item.)

The Integrity Board (IB) Members were welcomed into the EB meeting. Since this was the first time that they were met the EB members ¹, both EB and IB members introduced themselves.

The EB Members introduced themselves, mentioning their portfolios within the EB.

The IB Members introduced themselves, mentioning their professional background.

Mr RIPOLL was invited to address the EB.

Mr RIPOLL referred to the operational report and the road map sent by the IB to the EB, which are included in the package. Mr RIPOLL explained that the road map document outlines the path

¹ Except Mr RIPOLL, who already met the EB Members in the AGMs of Amman and Bangkok.

the IB envisions, including a summary of the flaws that the IB has identified in the ITTF Integrity Regulations due to the usual “patches” way in which regulations are evolving.

Mr RIPOLL noted that the IB's inaugural meeting would be held immediately after the EB Meeting, adding that the sentiment is that the Integrity Regulations have to be redone thoroughly to ensure consistency.

Mr RIPOLL asked the EB if they had any questions about their report and road map and how they envision the EB future collaboration with the IB and the Integrity Unit.

Ms SÖRLING encouraged the EB colleagues to review the IB documents, reported to the IB on the decision taken at the first EB meeting to increase the budget for the Integrity Unit, and acknowledged the work being done by Mr CARPENTER.

Mr CARPENTER expressed his availability to discuss with the EB Members any aspects of his report, and Ms SÖRLING suggested the AC Co-Chairs review the presentation of Mr CARPENTER earlier in the week about safeguarding, as it can be particularly interesting for the athletes.

Dr MESHREF drew upon two points, the first being if it would be possible, while respecting the confidentiality of the cases, to know how they are progressing, at least to let the EB be aware of the cases' timelines.

Mr CARPENTER suggested this matter be discussed in the afternoon's IB meeting so that, eventually, redacted versions of the ongoing cases can be made available on the ITTF website so that the membership can be aware of how cases are progressing.

Mr CARPENTER also suggested having a public policy about prioritisation so that the membership can better understand the order in which cases are taken.

The second point Dr MESHREF raised was recommendation 17 of the road map and the separation of powers between investigative and prosecutorial powers.

Mr RIPOLL addressed Dr MESHREF's second point, suggesting that the investigatory part and the prosecutorial part shall be separated, indicating that Mr CARPENTER cannot do the investigatory part as well as the prosecutorial to ensure an objective assessment in the prosecution, reason why an increase in the Integrity Unit budget has been requested to hire investigators.

Dr AZEVEDO addressed that there are some problems with classification in Para Table Tennis and queried whether there could be fees for appeals.

Ms SÖRLING indicated that any case filed to the ITTF Tribunal requires the payment of a fee.

Mr CARPENTER suggested that for Dr AZEVEDO's second point, there would need to be some clarification through regulations on the process, adding that currently, there is no internal appeal process, just a first instance and then a CAS appeal. The Integrity Unit brings cases on behalf of the ITTF, and Mr CARPENTER acts as the party and not the person who brings the complaint.

As for Dr AZEVEDO's first point, Mr CARPENTER indicated that he has worked closely with Mr PEREZ on different Para Table Tennis cases, some of which impact directly on the qualification process for the Paralympic Games, which has taken priority. Mr. CARPENTER also noted that he has conducted interviews with Associations and athletes to establish whether or not an ongoing case is a case misrepresentation.

Mr RIPOLL added that, in terms of Para Table Tennis classifications, the Integrity Unit will work to help the ITTF understand what the Integrity Unit's role is and to help others understand what cases may be put forward to the Integrity Unit. Mr RIPOLL thanked the EB for inviting the

Integrity Board and the Integrity Unit to the EB Meeting and for allowing a chance for mutual introductions.

Ms SÖRLING thanked the IB and IU Members for their presence, suggesting the IB address the EB when required so the ITTF can improve in the Integrity area, recognising the knowledge of the IB Members, and adding that the ITTF is proud to have them as part of the Table Tennis family.

Ms SÖRLING gave the floor to Mr OSHODI, the EB member in charge of Governance, who welcomed once again the IB Members and wished them a successful initiation of their duties.

10.5. TTR System

Mr MAEHARA referred to other racket sports, such as tennis and badminton, where a video judging system is already implemented, suggesting that it be considered for table tennis.

Mr DAINTON noted that the ITTF was already working on implementing the "Table Tennis Review" (TTR) before the pandemic and suggested that the EB decide on an implementation date.

It was proposed to implement it for the WTTC Finals Doha 2025, but it would have to be tested beforehand, to what the EB agreed.

20240225-EB-06

The Executive Board agreed to implement TTR at the WTTC Finals Doha 2025, for what it should be tested before.

10.6. Update from Sport Science.

Mr MAEHARA was pleased to report that, with the support from the Qatar Table Tennis Association (QTTA) and Mr AL-MOHANNADI, Mr Miran KONDRIC, Sport Science and Medical Committee (SSMC) Chair, has begun preparations to hold the Sport Science Congress (SSC) for the first time after COVID-19, before the WTTC Finals Doha 2025. The EB noted that the last edition was held in Budapest in 2019.

Ms SÖRLING thanked Mr MAEHARA and the SSMC for their hard work and looked forward to attending the SSC in Doha.

11. Next Physical Meeting

The EB's next physical meeting will be fixed later, but during the Paris Olympic Games. The EB will continue to host online meetings before that.

12. Adjournment

Ms SÖRLING thanked all the EB colleagues for their cooperation. The meeting concluded at 12:30 KST.

Petra SÖRLING
ITTF President

Date

Raul CALIN
ITTF Secretary General

Date