11th WT Member Relations & Development Commission Meeting (via conference call)
November 17, 2020 | 16h00-17h00 (local time Korea)

Summary

Attendees: Jean Marie Ayer (Chair), Sarah Stevenson (Vice Chair), Russell Ahn (Member), Usman Dildar (Member), Jeongkang Seo (Senior Director, MRD), Corbin Min (Director, Strategic Planning & Legal), Taeun Kim (Manager, MRD), Haeri Jeon (Manager, MRD), Sockho Lee (Assistant Manager, MRD) and Wooram Kim (Coordinator, MRD)

1. Establish Quorum

- Four (4) members attend the meeting; thus, the quorum is established.

2. Approval of the Minutes

- The Chair asks for approval of the minutes of the previous Commission meeting held on November 4, 2020 which was sent to all members for their review. The minutes are approved by the Commission.

3. Discussion

a. MNA leadership verification process

   i. Recommendation

      ➢ Chair gives a floor to Mr. Jeongkang Seo.

      ➢ Mr. Jeongkang Seo reports that the revised MNA verification process recommended by MRD Commission was agreed by CUs at its meeting. He adds that this change will give more authority and responsibility to CUs while WT will still rely on cooperative partnership with NOCs for the issues of disputes of the pertinent MNAs. He continues saying that CU may not need to dispatch an observer from abroad under this Covid-19 situation as most of meeting will be held virtually.

      ➢ The Chair asks the commission for any further comments. There are none. The Chair confirms that the commission agrees to this new MNA verification process.

      ➢ Mr. Seo thanks the commission and reports that the amendment proposal to Statutes will be duly prepared until the next commission meeting based on this recommendation.

      ➢ Mr. Usman Dildar suggests that WT should still be involved in this process as the ultimate body to check the good standing of the MNAs. Mr. Seo replies that WT can anytime involve in this process when CU has any reasonable situation with particular MNAs.
ii. Ad-Hoc WT-CU Coordination Committee

➢ Mr. Corbin Min explains that the Ad-Hoc WT-CU Coordination Committees were formed and the inaugural meeting was held. He gives brief explanations on the roles of the committee to play mainly for MNA disputes.

➢ Mr. Min then moves on to addressing the key changes of GMS bylaw.

➢ Members have expressed their concern about implementing mandatory membership of MNA and stakeholders of MNAs as they will not fully understand the rationale and benefits as well as privacy issue.

➢ Mr. Seo suggest inviting WT Secretary General and Mr. Justin Tenbeth to the next meeting for more information. Members agree to the suggestion.

b. Increase of the number of Level I membership

i. Case Study

➢ Mr. Seo reports that the case studies were conducted to find out how other IFs manage their membership categories and voting rights. He addresses that most of IFs have no such membership categories and variation of voting rights. He concludes that the commission may stay with the original recommendation of removing membership fee requirement for maintaining Level I membership.

ii. Recommendation

➢ Members approves the removal of membership fee payment from the requirements for Level I membership to ensure increase of Level I members (voting members).

4. Other Matters

➢ Chair asks commission if there are any matters to be addressed. There is none.

5. Next Commission Meeting

➢ Chair calls for the next meeting to be held on November 27 (Fri), 2020 at 15:00 in Korean local time subject to confirmation from the WT Secretary General.

6. Closing of Meeting

➢ Chair thanks the members of the commission as well as WT administration for contributions to the 11th MRD Commission Meeting. The meeting is adjourned.