

Minutes

World Taekwondo General Assembly

Hybrid: Marriot Boulevard Baku, Baku, Azerbaijan

May 28, 2023 | 14h00-18h00 (GMT+4)

AGENDA

- 1. Establish Quorum: Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. President Report**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes**
 - a. Approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly held in Sofia on August 1, 2022
- 4. 2022-2023 Reports**
 - a. Approval of Operation and Finance Reports
- 5. Reports**
 - a. New Olympic Qualification System for LA 2028 Cycle
 - b. WT Promoted Championships in 2024 and 2025
 - c. World Para Taekwondo Championships and Para Taekwondo Open Challenge
 - d. Olympic Esports Week
 - e. Update on participation of Individual Neutral Athletes and Support Personnel with Russian and Belarusian passports
 - f. Statuses of Member National Associations – Portugal, Singapore
 - g. MNA Survey 2022
- 6. Approval of Membership Status**
 - a. New Membership – Namibia
- 7. Other Matters**
- 8. Next Meeting**
- 9. Closing of Meeting**

Appendix 1: Minutes of the General Assembly held in Sofia on August 1, 2022

1. Establish Quorum: Call Meeting to Order

1. The 50th Founding Anniversary of World Taekwondo (WT) video was played on screen in front of the audience at the General Assembly.
2. **Mr. Jeongkang Seo**, WT Secretary General, announced that eighty-nine (89) Level I Member National Associations and thirty-four (34) Council Members were present, thereby a quorum was established in accordance with Article 8.6 of the WT Statutes.
3. The meeting was called to order by the **CHAIR** of the Meeting, **Dr. Chungwon Choue**, President.
4. The **CHAIR** acknowledged **Mr. Kamaladdin Heydarov**, President of the Azerbaijan Taekwondo Federation, on his contributions in organizing an amazing Gala Dinner the day before the General Assembly with a wonderful drone show celebrating the 50th Founding Anniversary of WT and also the 100th Anniversary of the former President of Azerbaijan, his Excellency **Mr. Heydar Aliyev**. He also mentioned the Independence Day of Azerbaijan, which was coincidentally the same day as the Founding Anniversary of WT, the 28th of May. He ended with a celebratory note on the Golden Jubilee in Azerbaijan together with the Independence Day of Azerbaijan.
5. He awarded the Appreciation Plaque and the 50th Founding Anniversary Commemorative Black Belt to **Mr. Heydarov**.

2. President Report

6. The **CHAIR** opened the 36th General Assembly, expressing the privilege to take part in the 36th General Assembly on the same date as the Founding of World Taekwondo fifty years ago and also the Independence Day of Azerbaijan. He noted that this marked the 21st time he had opened the General Assembly since assuming the role of President in 2004.
7. He acknowledged the progress made over the past WT's 50th years, emphasizing the unity and familial bond within the Taekwondo community.
8. He highlighted the support received from the Republic of Azerbaijan, specifically mentioning the contributions of President of Azerbaijan Taekwondo, especially the Golden Jubilee Gala, which honored the 17 founding Member National Associations (MNAs) and the 14 Best Athletes from the Olympic Paralympic Games since Sydney 2000.
9. He recalled Baku's significant role as a host city for various events such as a Council Meeting simultaneously hosted along with the inaugural World Para Taekwondo Championships in 2009, the inaugural World Taekwondo Cadet Championships in 2014, the World Cup Team Championships in 2009 and 2016, the London 2012 Olympic Games World Qualification Tournament in 2011, the World Taekwondo Grand Prix Final in 2016, and the upcoming World Taekwondo Championships.
10. He extended congratulations to Azerbaijan on sharing the same founding date as World Taekwondo. **Mr. Kamaladdin Heydarov** received a gift of appreciation, and expressed his gratitude.
11. The **CHAIR** welcomed over 950 athletes, 730 officials, and representatives from 144 MNAs, including Individual Neutral Athletes and the Refugee team. He noted the historic participation of refugee athletes, with seven of them being part of the IOC Olympic Solidarity Scholarship Program for Paris 2024 Olympic Games. He particularly noted the presence of **Yahya Al-**

Ghotani, a refugee athlete from a refugee camp.

12. He was pleased to inform that the Namibia Taekwondo Federation will be the 213th MNA upon the approval of the General Assembly.
13. Additionally, he congratulated the MNA presidents who had been elected or re-elected to their positions and expressed eagerness to collaborate with them in the coming years.
 - *Albania: Eljon Kolziu (Elected)*
 - *Armenia: Verban Ghahramanyan (Elected)*
 - *Australia: Jean Kfoury (Elected)*
 - *Austria: Alexander Hübl (Elected)*
 - *Bolivia: Ana Evelin Hernández Quevedo (Elected)*
 - *Botswana: Tumelo Mapila (Elected)*
 - *Cameroon: Ngako Yoga Brice Axel (Elected)*
 - *Colombia: Rene Forero Tavera (Elected)*
 - *Haiti: Frenel Ostin (Re-elected)*
 - *India: Namdev Sampat Shirgaonkar (Re-elected)*
 - *Kosovo: Arsim Agushi (Elected)*
 - *Kuwait: Hani Almershad (Re-elected)*
 - *Liberia: Pewee Russian (Elected)*
 - *Nicaragua: Salvador Mario Zavala Jirón (Re-elected)*
 - *Philippines: Rafael M. Alunan III (Elected)*
 - *Portugal: Nuno Semedo (Elected)*
 - *Sierra leone: Oness A. Johnson (Re-elected)*
 - *Singapore: Tan Cheng Han (Elected)*
 - *Sudan: Hussam Hashim (Re-elected)*
 - *Tajikistan: Zaynullo Sharifzoda (Elected)*
 - *Tonga: Malakai Ahokava (Elected)*
14. He noted that an Extraordinary Council Meeting had been held in Bangkok on February 1st, expressing gratitude to **Mr. Pimol Srivikorn**, the Treasurer of World Taekwondo, for his hospitality. **Mr. Srivikorn** was also congratulated on his appointment as Chairman of Sport Policies to the Thai government.
15. He mentioned that during the meeting in Bangkok, the Council had selected Chuncheon, Republic of Korea as the host city for the 2024 World Taekwondo Junior Championships and Hong Kong as the host city for the 2024 World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships.
16. He reported that the inaugural Hope and Dreams Sports Festival, organized by World Taekwondo and the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation (THF), had taken place between late February and early March this year. The event was highly successful and involved the

participation of the World Baseball Softball Confederation and the president of the Association of Olympic Summer International Federations. He expressed gratitude to Council Members and THF Board Member, **Mr. Maher Magableh**, his team, and the Jordan Taekwondo Federation for their exceptional support.

17. He announced that the suspension of the Singapore Taekwondo Federation has been lifted in cooperation with the Singapore National Olympic Council.
18. He also mentioned that Singapore would host the inaugural Olympic Esports Week in June. He noted that Virtual Taekwondo would be featured as one of the competitions and was the only combat sport to receive an invitation.
19. He highlighted that Wuxi had successfully hosted the 2022 edition of the World Taekwondo Grand Slam Champions Series between late March and early April. He expressed delight at the return of the Grand Slam, emphasizing its importance as an event for Olympic Games qualification. Wuxi was acknowledged as a valued partner of World Taekwondo. He expressed anticipation for the upcoming 2023 edition of the Grand Slam, scheduled for December.
20. He informed the General Assembly that on April 3rd, the Council held an urgent meeting to address the issue of the participation of Individual Neutral Athletes and Support Personnel holding Russian and Belarusian passports. The decision was prompted by the International Olympic Committee's statement and recommendations to the International Federations. He mentioned that the details would be reported by **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** in the 2022-2023 Reports.
21. He acknowledged that since the war in Ukraine, World Taekwondo had consistently stood in solidarity and condemned aggression against innocent lives. The organization, along with several MNAs, had dedicated resources over the past 14 months to support Ukrainian athletes who had fled their country. Additionally, restrictions had been imposed on the participation of Russia and Belarus in World Taekwondo events.
22. He emphasized the importance of maintaining peace and unity within the world of sport. Despite differing opinions within the Council, it was ultimately decided to stand in solidarity with World Taekwondo's vision and core values. As a result, the Council approved the participation of Individual Neutral Athletes and Support Personnel holding Russian and Belarusian passports, contingent upon a rigorous 3-step verification process and compliance with doping control regulations.
23. He expressed sadness regarding Ukraine's official notification that its athletes would not be participating in the World Taekwondo Championships in Baku. However, he noted that World Taekwondo remains supporting Ukrainian athletes until the war is over and the situation improves.
24. He reported that the council selected Wuxi for the 2025 World Taekwondo Championships and Fujairah for the 2025 World Taekwondo Cadet Championships after considering presentations from various bidding cities. Congratulations were extended to the selected host cities for their achievement.
25. He mentioned that a Taekwondo statue would be unveiled at the Olympic Museum during the IF Forum in November.
26. A video showcasing the exact location of the statue was presented, which was described as an ideal spot in front of the museum and near the Olympic Flame.
27. The **CHAIR** also shared the video message from IOC president, **Dr. Thomas Bach**.

28. In the IOC President's congratulatory message on the occasion of World Taekwondo's 50th anniversary, the IOC President expressed great pleasure and acknowledged the remarkable progress achieved over the years. He highlighted the sport's growth from 17 member associations to becoming a global sport, thanks to the outstanding leadership of President Choe. He commended World Taekwondo for promoting sport and its values through initiatives such as gender equality, athlete representation, sustainability, and digital innovation. He particularly praised their pioneering work in supporting refugees through the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation. He emphasized the strong partnership between World Taekwondo and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), working towards Olympic Agenda 2020+5 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. He concluded by wishing World Taekwondo continued success in the future, emphasizing the importance of unity and solidarity in embodying the Olympic motto: Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together.
29. The **CHAIR** shared the news that IOC President would be attending his third World Taekwondo Championships on June 3rd. Additionally, IOC Vice President **Ser Miang Ng** would be present at the Opening Ceremony, highlighting the strong friendship and support of the IOC.
30. In conclusion, he expressed gratitude to the MNAs for their solidarity and sacrifices. The dedication to Taekwondo with a focus on peace was emphasized, and appreciation was extended to all attendees.

3. Approval of the Minutes

a. Approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly held in Sofia on August 1, 2022

31. The **CHAIR** asked to approve the minutes, noting that there were no comments when the minutes were distributed in advance. This was seconded and approved by the General Assembly.

- Decision: Minutes of the General Assembly held in Sofia on August 1, 2022 are approved by the General Assembly.

4. 2022-2023 Reports

a. Approval of Operation and Finance Reports

32. The **CHAIR** invited **Mr. Jeongkang Seo**, Secretary General to present the 2022-2023 Reports.
33. **Mr. Seo** provided a summary of the 2022-2023 Operation and Finance Reports. He acknowledged that the Annual Report had been distributed to Council Members prior to the meeting and, therefore, would not go into the details but focus on key figures.
34. He mentioned that WT's financial position was in good standing in 2022, keeping its net assets with 16,111,625 USD which is more than average annual budget, and about 11.4 million USD of income was generated while the expense was down to 9.3 million USD with continued efforts to cut down operation costs. He noted that for the year of 2023, WT foresee the income of 12.4 million USD, and also more budget was allocated comparing to last year due to special events commemorating 50th founding anniversary.
35. He stated that World Taekwondo Championships were successfully held in Guadalajara, Mexico in November last year for operations, and this was the replacement of the 2021 World

Championships which was supposed to be held in Wuxi, China. He continued that the Grand Prix events were also held with resounding success in Paris in September, Manchester in October and Riyadh in December as the Grand Prix Final.

36. He added that 2022 Grand Prix Series featured Para Taekwondo, culminating in a historic and inclusive Gala Awards and Dinner in Riyadh where able-bodied and Para Taekwondo athletes were recognized together for their incredible achievements in 2022. He mentioned that World Taekwondo Grand Slam Champions Series returned to Wuxi.
37. He reported that in 2022, a total of 113 World Taekwondo promoted and recognized competitions were held including 13 WT promoted championships, 4 multi-sport games and 96 WT recognized competitions worldwide and the number of athletes who participated in these competitions reach 33,329 from 158 + 1 countries.
38. He said that WT also organized more education courses than previous year, and a total of 111 courses were held last year for referees, coaches, Para Taekwondo classifiers. He added that a total of 4,435 persons participated in any of WT education courses and 1,960 participants were certified.
39. He noted that International Referee Selection Camps for Paris 2024 Olympic Games were held in 4 continents selecting the best 60 referees, and for Anti-Doping tests, 161 samples were collected from out-of-competition and 199 samples were collected from in-competition tests. Out of 360 tests, 14 tests were blood test.
40. He stressed that WT operated comprehensive development program to help CUs and MNAs to enhance their capacities, and 10 MNAs received equipment support, 7 MNAs received financial support for participation in the 2022 General Assembly and 20 MNAs were supported for participation in 2022 World Taekwondo Championships. He noted that a total of 10 athletes received scholarship support for 2022-2023, and 4 female athletes were benefited from the newly created Individual female athlete scholarship. He said that 4 refugee athletes also received refugee solidarity scholarship, and 3 MNAs received project funds supported by the IOC.
41. He continued that as per social development efforts, World Taekwondo Cares Program supported Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in addition to the existing projects. He stated that Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation continued its activities in different camps in cooperation with THF branches in continental and national level.
42. He mentioned that THF also organized the first ever THF Hope and Dreams Sports Festival in Jordan on February 25-27 giving refugees and displaced persons the opportunity to compete in Taekwondo and Baseball 5 competitions. He informed that President of ASOIF and WBSC, representatives from UNHCR and FISU were present to support this great initiative, and WT expect the 2nd edition of THF Hope and Dreams Sports Festival will be held with much bigger size next year with participation of more sports.
43. He marked that as part of WT's continued efforts to achieve good governance, WT launched a call for highly qualified individuals to apply for the positions of the WT Committees. He added that the response to the call for applications was remarkable, with a total of 454 applications submitted in just two weeks.
44. He added that Nomination Committee carefully reviewed and shortlisted to recommend to the President for his final appointment.
45. He concluded the operation and finance report.

46. The **CHAIR** asked the General Assembly to motion and approve the 2022-2023 Reports. This was seconded and approved by the General Assembly

- Decision: The 2022-2023 Reports are approved by the General Assembly

5. Reports

47. The **CHAIR** invited **Mr. Jay Lee**, Senior Director of Sport & Event Management Department, to present the next three reports from 5a to 5c.

a. New Olympic Qualification System for LA 2028 Cycle

48. **Mr. Lee** presented a new Olympic qualification system for LA 2028 cycle, in which the Olympic and world ranking points shall be reset to zero every two years.
49. He reported that this is a change from originally a 4-year to a 2-year cycle with the first 2-year cycle beginning from June 1st, 2024 and running until May 31st, 2026. The ranking points accumulated in this cycle will not be counted towards the following 2-year cycle for the ranking period of LA 2028, which will start on June 1st, 2026 and closing on May 31st, 2028, those points earned will be counted towards LA 2028.
50. He mentioned that the competitions during the first 2-year cycle will, however, indirectly affect the qualifications for the LA 2028 ranking cycle and that the result of Paris 2024 will not be considered for the ticket to LA 2028. He added that the top 6 rankers after the 2-year cycle from June 1st, 2026 through May 31st, 2028, will be qualified for the LA 2028.
51. He stated that following rules shall be affected and therefore amended within 2023: Ranking bylaw, GP Standing Procedure, GS Standing Procedure, and Event Operation Rules.

b. WT Promoted Championships in 2024 and 2025

52. **Mr. Lee** gave an overview timeline of WT Promoted Championships in 2024 and 2025.
53. He stated that for 2024, the World Taekwondo Junior Championships will be held in Chuncheon, Korea in October, World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships will be held in Hong Kong in November, and World Taekwondo Grand Prix Final bid will be re-opened in 2023.
54. He continued that for 2025, all exact dates will be determined later, but announced that the World Taekwondo Championships in Wuxi, World Taekwondo Cadet Championships in Fujairah, Grand Prix Challenges on Continent basis, and Grand Slam Qualification Tournaments will take place.

c. World Para Taekwondo Championships and Para Taekwondo Open Challenge

55. **Mr. Lee** gave an overview of the event schedule for World Para Taekwondo Championships and Para Taekwondo Open Challenge. He mentioned that Para Taekwondo Open Challenge will be hosted in Chuncheon, Korea from August 21 to 22, 2023 as a G-4 pilot event.
56. He added that World Para Taekwondo Championships will be held as a G-14 event, from September 21 to 24 in Veracruz, Mexico.

d. Olympic Esports Week

57. The **CHAIR** moved on to the next reporting item which is the upcoming Olympic Esports Week

where Virtual Taekwondo will be staged. He welcomed Refract Technologies and Pico Studios at the meeting, and mentioned that this event aims to engage with the youth and make contributions towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Olympic Agenda 2020+5.

58. He invited **Mr. Jerry Ling**, Senior Director of Planning and Finance, and **Ms. Michelle Tan**, Head of Investor Relations in Refract, to present about Virtual Taekwondo and the Olympic E-sports Week (OEW).
59. **Mr. Ling** provided a report on Virtual Taekwondo, saying that Taekwondo is the sole combat sport featured in the E-sport Week scheduled from June 22nd to 25th and it was noted that on June 25th, the IOC President would attend the OEW. He highlighted the shared vision among World Taekwondo, Refract Technologies, and Pico Studios to invest in the virtual world and make Taekwondo more accessible as a sport for all.
60. He mentioned that WT expects Virtual Taekwondo would become the first medal event in future Olympic Games. He then invited **Ms. Tan** to elaborate on the progress.
61. **Ms. Tan** introduced Refract Technologies, which specializes in XR (Extended Reality) and AI (Artificial Intelligence). She explained that the company's vision is to expand human experiences beyond reality and mentioned that the collaboration between WT and Refract Technology began in 2018 when they signed an MOU to develop the concept of the first virtual combat game. She added that by 2019, the initial concept had been approved and presented at the Taekwondo Grand Prix held in Manchester.
62. She mentioned that the development progressed from standing cameras capturing motions to full-body motion tracking, resulting in interactive gaming experiences. She stressed that Pico Studios is a partner providing VR headsets for the Virtual Taekwondo project.
63. She emphasized that, mandated by WT, Virtual Taekwondo would be included as a competition event in future World Championships and Grand Prix events sanctioned by WT and the goal is to introduce this innovative and exciting program to every dojang (Taekwondo training hall) and country, offering refreshing content to all practitioners.
64. She expressed the hope for support in promoting Virtual Taekwondo and generating increased interest at the national level to enhance participation in the upcoming Olympic Esports Week.
65. A video was shown as a sneak preview, illustrating athletes competing without physical contact in a safe environment, while the audience spectates in an interactive virtual environment. This was described as the first phase of Virtual Taekwondo, with plans to launch additional digital content for Taekwondo members, such as training and sparring with AI correctors, online challenges, and more interactive gaming content for all.
66. She concluded her presentation on Virtual Taekwondo.
67. The **CHAIR** thanked **Ms. Tan** for her presentation and called upon **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** to present the next three reports, specifically from Agenda Items 5e to 5g.

e. Update on participation of Individual Neutral Athletes and Support Personnel with Russian and Belarusian passports

68. **Mr. Seo** provided an update on the participation of individual neutral athletes and support personnel with Russian and Belarusian passports. He highlighted that after a 14-month restriction, athletes from Russia and Belarus will be participating as individual neutral athletes

in the World Taekwondo Championships.

69. He explained that the WT Council's decision on March 3, 2022, prohibited Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials from competing at WT events in support of the IOC's decision at that time. However, following consultation calls between the IOC, International Federations (IFs), and other stakeholders, a different approach was adopted.
70. He added that during the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on February 1, 2023, in Bangkok, the Council declared its support for the reconciliation of athletes and endorsed the IOC's decisions and recommendations.
71. He emphasized that the IOC's decision and recommendations provided complete authority to the International Federations (IFs) to implement the necessary processes.
72. He stated that this position was reaffirmed during another extraordinary council meeting on April 3. As a result, athletes with Russian and Belarusian passports were accepted as individual neutral athletes by the WT Council.
73. He further mentioned that in March 2023, the IOC issued comprehensive guidelines to be implemented in the event that the Russian and Belarusian athletes were accepted by IFs. These guidelines included restrictions on organizing IF international sport events in Russia and Belarus, prohibiting the display of flags, anthems, colors, or any identification of these countries during IF sport events, and excluding Russian and Belarusian government or state officials from IF sport events or meetings. Additionally, athletes with Russian or Belarusian passports winning medals in IF sport events would not be included in any country-based medal table.
74. He mentioned that to enforce these guidelines, World Taekwondo formed an ad-hoc review committee responsible for reviewing the eligibility of athletes holding Russian or Belarusian passports. Despite the short time frame, World Taekwondo established a three-phase process for reviewing the eligibility of these athletes. The first stage involved the review conducted by the pertinent Member National Taekwondo Associations (MNAs) of Russia and Belarus, along with the European Taekwondo Union. In the second stage, eligible individual neutral athletes and support personnel were required to sign a pledge confirming their compliance with various conditions. Finally, the Review Committee verified all required documents and conditions had been fulfilled.
75. He expressed that the decision and direction taken by WT were in complete alignment with the spirit of Taekwondo and the vision set forth by the Chair. He emphasized that the principle of World Taekwondo not to leave any athletes behind was paramount. In this regard, **Mr. Seo** highlighted the continuous support extended by WT and the IOC to Ukrainian athletes, ensuring their training and participation in the games. He emphasized the importance of solidarity and inclusivity within the Taekwondo community, ensuring that all athletes have equal opportunities to excel and contribute to the sport.
76. Following the presentation, the **CHAIR** opened the floor for questions from the attendees. However, as there were no questions raised, **Mr. Seo** proceeded to move on to the next item on the agenda, item 5.f.

f. Statuses of Member National Associations – Portugal, Singapore

77. **Mr. Seo** provided an update on the statuses of Member National Associations (MNAs). He informed that the new member national association, FPTKD, in Portugal had been approved by the WT Council, replacing the former MNA PORTKD. Provisional membership would be granted until the end of this year, and full membership would be given upon successful

incorporation of the athletes and members of PORTKD.

78. He announced that the suspension of the Singapore Taekwondo Federation had been lifted, and their membership had been restored.

g. MNA Survey 2022

79. **Mr. Seo** informed the attendees about the MNA Survey 2022, highlighting its importance and providing details on the survey process. He mentioned that two printed reports were distributed; an overall survey report and a per MNA report, which indicates the standing of each MNA and provides best practices.
80. He reported that the survey was conducted in four languages and consisted of five sections evaluating governance, transparency, integrity, democracy and development, with five indicators per section. The questions required relevant supporting evidence, such as file attachments, website links, and comments. Each answer was scored, and the final score was moderated by WT after reviewing the evidence.
81. He revealed the results of the survey, stating that six MNAs were identified as excellent in governance (A1 category). He then requested permission from the President to acknowledge the top six MNAs that demonstrated an excellent level of governance—United States, Israel, Australia, Russia, Switzerland and Germany.
82. He further mentioned that the MNA Survey 2023 will be conducted in the second half of the year, and the results will be published in the first half of the following year as a MNA Ranking.
83. He emphasized that this is an opportunity for MNAs to improve their level of governance. He mentioned that the best practices with web links are provided in the report, and a soft copy of the per MNA report will be sent by email. He concluded the report of the MNA Survey 2022.
84. Following the presentation of the reports, the **CHAIR** thanked **Mr. Seo** for his comprehensive presentation. The **CHAIR** then invited the General Assembly to raise any comments or questions for the Secretary General before proceeding to the next agenda item.
85. There were no comments or questions and he requested a round of applause to acknowledge the presenters for their informative reports.
86. The **Chair** moved on to the next item 6.

6. Approval of Membership Status

a. New Membership – Namibia

87. The **CHAIR** announced that the Namibia Taekwondo Federation had fulfilled all the requirements to become a member of World Taekwondo. The floor was then opened to the General Assembly to raise any objections regarding Namibia's new membership status.
88. No objections were made by any member present.
89. The **CHAIR** declared that the General Assembly approved new membership of Namibia, then extended an invitation to the President of Namibia, **Mr. Kavezemburuka (Sieggie) Veii-Mujoro**, to address the assembly.
90. **Mr. Kavezemburuka (Sieggie) Veii-Mujoro** expressed his deep honor at participating as a representative and individual in the highest body of World Taekwondo, particularly as the

youngest member. He acknowledged that Taekwondo is a relatively new sport in Namibia, requiring significant dedication and effort to develop and expand its presence.

91. He emphasized the federation's need for support in terms of equipment, human resources, and financial assistance. He assured the assembly that Namibia would strictly adhere to ethical standards, uphold the statutes of World Taekwondo, and make the most of the available resources in the country. He concluded by expressing his confidence that Namibia would soon produce talented athletes.
92. The **CHAIR** expressed gratitude to Namibia for their membership and conveyed high expectations for working closely with Namibia. Additionally, he expressed the intention to utilize Taekwondo for the well-being of the citizens of Namibia.

- Decision: New Membership of Namibia Taekwondo Federation is approved by the General Assembly

7. Other Matters

93. The **CHAIR** asked attendees to raise any matters they wished to discuss.
94. **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** stated that WT have received feedbacks from many stakeholders regarding GAL approval process. He mentioned that the new rule clearly defines which MNAs and athletes can receive a license from. He noted that individuals applying for a WT Global Athlete License must hold citizenship or residence of the MNA they are applying through, and upon submission of the application by an athlete, MNA has fifteen (15) working days to approve or deny the application. He added that denial of a license can be appealed to the WT GMS regional administrator. He mentioned that this new rule will come into effective as of June 1, 2023. He stated that more detailed instructions will be sent to all MNAs shortly.
95. **Lt Col Raja Wasim Ahmed**, the President of Pakistan Taekwondo Federation, shared his experience from last year as they have suffered greatly due to the pandemic and had to prepare for the Asian Open Taekwondo Championship 2022 with nothing. However, with World Taekwondo's full support, not just financially but also with an encouragement to hold the Asian Open Taekwondo Championship 2022 with more than 500 athletes participating in that event, they overcame the challenges and thus he wanted to share his gratitude to World Taekwondo who always supported the Taekwondo community. He mentioned that together with **Mr. Kyu Seok Lee**, Asia Taekwondo Union President, they have witnessed World Taekwondo's love and support last year.
96. The **CHAIR** thanked the President of Pakistan Taekwondo Federation for his comments.
97. **Mr. Dhanaraj Rassiah**, Secretary General of Taekwondo Malaysia, appreciated to World Taekwondo in recognizing Taekwondo Malaysia as a founding member of Taekwondo. He then addressed the issue with Kukkiwon which happened last year where they approached Taekwondo Malaysia to establish an office in Malaysia. Taekwondo Malaysia felt skeptical about this process and were not sure about establishing an office. Therefore, Taekwondo Malaysia has put this matter on hold so that this kind of discussion could be raised at the General Assembly. Most recently, they received letters from Kukkiwon saying that if they do not accept the offer of establishing an office, then Kukkiwon will give this opportunity to others in the country. Secondly, if they do not establish an office by the end of this year, Kukkiwon is going to increase the rate of Kukkiwon certification. This letter has worried their federation members.
98. He noted that one of the pre-requisites of GAL license is about having Kukkiwon Dan and he

humbly requested to revisit this pre-requisite so that not only having the Kukkiwon Dan, but National Dan of the country is also recognized.

99. The **CHAIR** presented the question to **Mr. Seo** who also serves as a board member of Kukkiwon, to address this matter.
100. **Mr. Seo** confirmed his commitment to address the question during the upcoming board meeting of Kukkiwon. Additionally, he assured the assembly that he would arrange a meeting with the Senior Director of Kukkiwon, who is present at Baku, to discuss potential avenues of collaboration.
101. With no further questions or comments, the discussion ended.

8. Next Meeting

102. The **CHAIR** announced that the next General Assembly will be held in Chuncheon, Korea, on the occasion of the 2024 World Taekwondo Junior Championships. The exact date and meeting details will be provided to the General Assembly in due course.

9. Closing of Meeting

103. The **CHAIR** adjourned the General Assembly expressing gratitude to all participants for their presence.