



Meeting Minutes of the WT Sustainability Committee

18th October 2019

Venue: BlueJeans Conference Call | 13H00 – 13H50 CET

Participants: Giovanni Di Cola, Chair and Host of Meeting
Badra Alawi | Lerina Bright | Driss El Hilali | Adriana Gulino | Jerry Ling

Welcome Remarks

Committee Updates

Action Points

Next Meeting: 18th November 2019

Welcome Remarks

The Chair welcomed all new and former Members of the Sustainability Committee and requested for a self-introduction of the Members.

He noted the importance of the diversity and equal membership (3 men and 3 females) of the Committee, and thanked the members for their commitment and overall capacity in achieving the same. He commended the process used by WT to establish new committees as being transparent and in line with sustainability standards.

He thanked the President and the Senior Management of WT for the trust and for the work of the Committee, which had produced recommendations that were adopted in full by the Council and by its General Assembly during the World WT Championships in Manchester in May 2019.

Committee Updates

Mr. Giovanni Di Cola

In a recent meeting in Lausanne with the Secretary General, Mr. Hoss Rafaty, the Chair received assurances of the commitment of WT to implement the 17 recommendations of the Sustainability Committee.

The Chair noted that the IOC, GAISF and ASOIF had recognized the work achieved thus far by WT. In particular, the latter for governance matters. In addition, the IOC had requested from WT information to show compliance with reduced carbon emission requirements, and this would be presented at the IF Forum of October 28, 2019.

GAISF had established an award for sustainable international sport federations for 2020. The Chair indicated that it would be important for WT to contribute to such events being opportunities to learn and share good practices.

It was noted that as part of the WT Strategy Plan, the 17 recommendations should be used as a road map by clustering them with reporting mechanisms to the relevant units.

The Chair stressed the importance of the WT mandate and the focus on branding as an integral part of the Sustainability Strategy. He also emphasized its alignment with that of the IOC.

He committed to sharing a draft term of reference of the Committee in which, among others, advisory services and peer reviewing would be central (for example of policies and practices). In that regard, he stressed the importance of feedback from WT units once the Committee would have emitted its advice for example, on policies, processes and programmes.

Mr. Jerry Ling

Jerry indicated that in addition to the other umbrella organizations, FISU had also selected the WT – Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation as the best federation for their humanitarian activities undertaken in the refugee camps, as well as on gender equality.

As it pertained to neutral carbon emissions, he said that for the next World Taekwondo Championships to take place in 2021 in Wuxi (China), the aim was to put athletes and participants close to the venues (within walking distance).

He reiterated the importance of the Sustainability Committee's independence and having an oversight on all activities of WT. The importance of having a diversified experience across the memberships should also facilitate advisory services that would be close to the constituents needs (MNAs) as well as regional confederations and WT HQs.

Jerry agreed on the need to provide feedback and took the example of the recently revised draft policies on safeguarding and on Ethics (including PPPs), which were peer reviewed by members of the Committee. It is important to provide feedback to consider the capacity of the staff in internalizing changes as suggested by the Committee.

Lastly Jerry agreed that the recommendations should be rolled out as suggested by the Chair in the next call as the road map for the strategic plan of WT.

Ms. Lerina Bright

Lerina thanked the members for the opportunity to serve on this distinguished Committee, stating that as she was participating in her first meeting, her goal was to listen and learn about the work of the Committee and the environment in which it operated.

Referencing the draft Safeguarding Policy that the Committee had been asked to review, she said that it was important that Sport Governing Bodies and Federations moved from aspirational policies to operational policies. And suggested that a WT Athlete Safeguarding Toolkit be developed to ensure that those intended to benefit from the policies would be empowered with practical guidelines on implementation.

Ms. Badra Alawi

Badra commented that the committee will have greater value if it can build on actions initiated by WT (such as referees' parity and draft safeguarding policy).

She added that it is very important for the committee to get continuous feedback from WT teams in order to provide meaningful advice and technical support that is well connected to the reality of the organization and its member national associations.

Ms. Adriana Gulino

Adriana emphasised the importance of putting forward a plan of action, once the Committee has performed an assessment of the implementation of the recommendations. At that point, depending on the level of output required from the members, the Committee can draft a term of reference for the Committee's work. The plan of action would layout the Committee's activities, individual responsibility, timeframe / deadlines etc.

Mr. Driss El Hilali

Driss noted the challenge that the WT struggles with, which is the implementation of a work policy that is hand in hand with all the committee members. He said that this would ensure that all the strategies are communicated to the MNA Sport National Federations.

He also noted the importance of "Operational Documents" i.e. work plans, diagnostics, « paper drafts » etc. Driss stressed the importance of sustained communication between all national MNA's, with part of the the project being to work in strong cooperation with the IOC & NOC as this would provide access to the latest updates and ensure the continuation of exchanges between all the active partners. He also informed the Committee that the 1st Qualification Project will be held in Rabat, Morocco.

Driss suggested the creation of a WhatsApp Group Chat to ensure quick intervention and quick transmission of information. Suggestions, recommendations, or challenges were requested.

He pointed out the need for the creation of a database of best practice so that the Committee could use as a reference.

He wanted to ensure an updated process of note taking after every meeting, and developing plans inspired by (WT/ NOC/ IOC/) at the level of continental Unions and Sport MNA's.

He suggested the publication of well translated documents to better connect with the athletes all over the world.

Action Points

- Assignment of tasks between the members of the Sustainability Committee i.e. Adriana Gulino as Vice Chair, Lerina Bright as Committee Secretary etc.;
- Consideration of other conference call platforms for future Committee meetings;
- Creation of more sustainable communication method to ensure quicker interventions e.g. creation of a WhatsApp group chat;
- Publication of well translated documents to better connect with the athletes;
- A feedback mechanism to:
 - (i) check on the capacity of staff in internalizing changes as suggested by the Committee; and
 - (ii) obtain feedback from WT;
- Drafting of the terms of reference of the Committee;
- Presentation at next committee meeting of the recommendations as the first draft of the Sustainability Committee's Roadmap.