



Meeting Minutes of the WT Sustainability Committee

15 November 2019

Venue: BlueJeans Conference Call |13H00 – 14H00 CET

Committee Members: Giovanni Di Cola, Chair and Host of Meeting
Badra Alawi | Lerina Bright | Driss El Hilali (absent) | Adriana Gulino | Jerry Ling

Welcome Remarks

Committee Updates

Action Points

**Next Meeting: 16th December 2019
(15h00 CET)**

Welcome Remarks

The Chair called the meeting to order and completed the roll call, announcing Mr. Hicham's participation, in place of Mr. Driss El Hilali who had earlier informed the committee of his absence. Mr. Giovanni Di Cola then yielded the opening remarks to Mr. Jerry Ling.

Committee Updates

Mr. Jerry Ling

Mr. Ling updated the committee on the upcoming Extraordinary Council Meeting (ECM), which is to be held on 5th December 2019. He explained the importance of the meeting, being that ASOIF had recently launched its third governance review and is now reviewing the position of WT. He said that the updating of the WT Code of Ethics and Anti-discrimination Policy should help it achieve a better score and that the Federation was striving for an "A", with most other International Federations only possessing a "B" grade.

He said that Mr. Di Cola had spoken to all internal stakeholders and that they would share the strategic framework, which is currently being developed. He added that the ECM would be used to share development guidelines for 2020, and that the focus would be on strengthening WT governance processes by integrating the 17 recommendations into daily operations.

The committee was informed of the President's visit that day to the International University Sports Federation (FISU), and that he was there to sign a MOU with FISU, to expand peace quo with the university students. Had added that FISU would be awarding WT with the 'Best International Sports Federation' at their gala dinner.

He recounted his meeting with the IOC E-sports and ASOIF, and that the IOC extended a possible invitation to WT to be part of the E-sports review group for 2020.

WT being awarded the DOW Sustainability Award encouraged WT to review its own hosting and operation guidelines to include sustainability and carbon emission factors.

It was stressed that from 2020 onwards, WT would like to measure all major events and contribute to a sports action climate framework, and in doing so, would be consulting with both the IOC and the WT Sustainability Committee.

To this end, he used the case example of the decisive steps WT took to address the allegations of sexual abuse by female athletes against Taekwondo's star family (The Lopez Family). Standing by its principles, he said that this incident led WT to review its own code of ethics and discrimination policies to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

He further announced that WT is going to organise a conference once they are done with the world junior championships and that the conference would focus on educating young athletes.

Mr. Ling agreed with the Chair on the importance of having an adept mode of communication between members and proposed a physical gathering of the Sustainability Committee in 2020, depending on the availability of the members. He said that a working dinner would also be held to discuss how to combine the efforts of the different committees.

Mr. Giovanni Di Cola

Mr. Di Cola thanked those who provided feedback on the first draft of the code of ethics and mentioned that there will be a further review of the document in the future. He said that the work of the committee was positively impacting the work of the organization.

He informed the committee that he had a working dinner with the Secretary General on strategic planning, and that he explained his plan on combining the efforts of different committees and on sharing the framework with them.

In addition, he said that he provided comments on the previous strategic planning framework and they brainstormed on how the 17 recommendations could be integrated into the previous decision of the council.

He told Mr. Ling that the committee is ready to review and provide comments on the strategic planning before it is brought before the council.

Mr. Di Cola stressed the importance of achieving an A-rating for WT, and how the collective effort required to achieve this, is a triggering point also considered by ASOIF.

Made a note on the need to align the branding, communication and marketing of the WT Humanitarian Foundation, with that of WT, as these elements are important. He said that communications and tools needed to be developed to maintain public image, integrity and principles of the organization.

He implored Mr. Ling on the importance of receiving feedback on the work of the committee. So that the committee is informed on the end result of its contribution. And that this would re-affirm the commitment and action of the committee to the work they are doing.

He also did respond to Mr. Hicham's questions on the resistance of the council to implement the strategies by giving a brief outline of how the sustainability committee came about and why certain previous decisions of the council was deemed as crossing the path of sustainability.

Mr. Di Cola ended his intervention by saying that WT may wish to involve other members of the committee to represent the Federation at events, as this would allow WT to be in other spaces.

Ms. Lerina Bright

Ms. Bright commended the efforts and progress that WT is making to protect athletes from exploitation.

Briefly elaborating on the Taekwondo sexual abuse scandal in the United States, of female athletes, she added that the lawsuit also included allegations of sex trafficking because the US federation allegedly knew of the sexual abuse accusations against the brothers, but allowed the female athletes to travel around the world for competitions with them.

She pointed out that the actions WT has taken in the wake of this incident speaks a lot to the importance it gives to acting to protect athletes and the sport; it shows that they are not just creating aspirational policies but are taking practical steps.

She referenced the recommendations that the committee had made to introduce into the Safeguarding Policy, language from UN International Standards and said this measure was important.

Ms. Badra Alawi

Ms. Alawi commended the efforts of Mr. Ling and WT for what has been achieved thus far with the work on safeguarding and sustainability.

She raised a question as to the next steps for rolling out the safeguarding policy and the sustainability policy, and that it would be important to also receive input from other committees.

Ms. Adriana Gulino

Equally, Ms. Gulino declared her satisfaction to see all the improvements that have been made in the past two years and said that she remained committed to working with the committee to continue making progress.

Mr. Hicham

Mr. Hicham gave the apologies for Mr. Driss El Hilali's absence at the meeting. He went on to enquire about the resistance of the Council to implement the strategies. He also enquired further on the MOU signed with FISU and put out the question on whether there would be a committee representing WT for such.

Action Points

- Start measuring all major events to contribute to sports action climate framework, and measure WT's own carbon emissions;
- Review branding, communication and marketing;
- To avoid scheduling conflicts and priorities, consider a shared platform to share one's schedules;
- Further review of the code of ethics and discrimination policies;
- Establishment of a network focal point between Lausanne and Geneva;
- Organising a physical gathering of the sustainability committee in 2020; and
- Share the development guidelines in 2020 and lay out a more practical approach to the sustainability recommendations.