



**11th WT Development Committee Meeting (via conference call)
October 31, 2023 | 11h00-12h00 (KST)**

SUMMARY

Attendees: Mr. Maher Magableh (Vice Chair), Ms. Gyouri Kim (Member), Mr. Henderson Turton (Member), Mr. Frederick Lartey Otu (Member), Mr Hadi Saei Bonehkoal (Member), Ms. Seungmin Lee (Senior Director, MRD), Mr. Wooram Kim (Assistant Manager, MRD), Mr. Woongki Kim (Assistant Manager, MRD), and Ms. Claudia Cardenas (Coordinator, MRD)

1. Welcoming Remarks

- *Mr. Maher Magableh, Vice Chair on behalf of Chair, Ms. Maria Borello welcomed all members for the 1st meeting of the WT Development Committee meeting in the terms of 2023-2025.*
- *Five (5) members attended the meeting; therefore, the quorum was established.*

2. Introduction

a. Members

- *All members introduced themselves since it was the 1st meeting with its new members.*

b. Terms of Reference

- *Ms. Seungmin Lee touched on terms of references.*

3. Discussion

a. 2023 WT Development Program

- *Mr. Wooram Kim provided an overview of the annual WT Development Program, highlighting accessible guidelines and forms on the website. MNAs' applications undergo screening based on their tiers and eligibility status, and he reported the status of 2023 Development Program*
- *Anticipating a smoother visa issuance process in 2024, he mentioned the expectation for enhanced support to more MNAs as the WT General Assembly and Junior Championships are scheduled to take place in Korea.*
- *Mr. Maher Magableh reaffirmed that the budget for the Development Program should be spent from the beginning to the end of this year.*

b. 2024 WT Development Program Plan

- *Mr. Woongki Kim outlined key changes for the 2024 WT Development Program, including the removal of the Individual (Female) Athletes Scholarship, a \$10,000 budget expansion for MNA support, revised conditions applicable to all MNAs, the introduction of project report submissions by each Continental Union, and the allocation of an extra project fund to the Oceania Taekwondo Union for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics in the Oceania region.*
- *He introduced the World Taekwondo Cares Program, conducted similarly for orphans and prisoners across Asia with support from the Asian Development Foundation.*
- *He announced the transfer of all procedures for the WT Refugee Solidarity Program to the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation in 2024 for unified management.*
- *World Taekwondo plans to allocate a budget to support small MNAs in Oceania for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics, fostering youth athlete development through increased participation in the IF Training Camp.*



- *He stated that the IOC supports NOCs in hosting IF Training Camps, and WT aims to aid MNAs in communicating with their NOCs to utilize allocated IOC funds for Taekwondo. WT plans site visits, offering training programs and sports equipment if needed, with potential expansion to Africa and the Pan-Am region discussed with the IOC.*
- *He emphasized the final special project, the New MNA Support, offering assistance, including the dispatch of a Taekwondo coach and provision of training equipment or programs, to MNAs affiliated with WT for less than 10 years or recommended by the MRD Commission.*
- ***Ms. Seungmin Lee** listed some MNAs which WT wish to help with the new MNA Support. Those are 1) Botswana, 2) Seychelles. 3) Sierra Leone, 4) South Sudan, 5) Curacao, 6) Kosovo, 7) Mauritania, 8) Djibouti, 9) French Guiana, 10) Guinea-Bissau, 11) Faroe Islands, 12) Vatican City, 13) Maldives, and 14) Namibia.*
- *She also stated that the goal of the World Taekwondo is to rise to third place among the ASOIF member IFs.*
- *She also asked the committee members for comments on better outcomes, and suggestions for any other MNAs that need help since World Taekwondo is willing to assist WT MNAs to be active participants in WT events by standing on their own.*
- ***Mr. Maher Magableh** replied that he would provide a list of MNAs that need support in Oceania, so we could study what realistic support would be for them.*
- ***Mr. Frederick Lartey Otu** highlighted that there are many MNAs in Africa which definitely need support. He will inform neighbouring MNAs about the WT Development Programme.*
- ***Mr. Woongki Kim** briefly introduced the Djibouti and Namibia projects to strengthen the domestic instructors by dispatching a coach and supporting training equipment.*
- ***Mr. Frederick Lartey Otu** mentioned again about African MNAs that are still struggling but have been affiliated for more than 10 years.*
- ***Mr. Woongki Kim** stated that World Taekwondo will initially prioritize the recently mentioned new MNAs for this year and expand support to other MNAs in need. Additionally, he expressed a desire for practical advice from the development committee for the future.*
- *He also mentioned that details about the new MNAs will be documented in the minutes and shared with all members.*
- ***Mr. Henderson Turton** inquired whether the extension of the IOC Solidarity Fund training camp to Africa and South America entails inviting individuals to Oceania.*
- ***Mr. Woongki Kim** responded that the initiative is likely to focus on Oceania next year. Following the confirmation of the success of the hosted Training Camp in Oceania, there is a possibility of extending it to the African continent and the Pan-American region.*
- ***Ms. Seungmin Lee** explained that the Oceania program, in collaboration with the IOC, uses half of the IOC budget along with the WT budget. Although the budget for entering Oceania is limited, WT will plan to implement their national development program as scheduled, aiming to learn and create a successful project in Oceania with less expenditure before extending it to other continental unions.*
- ***Mr. Maher Magableh** suggested supporting small countries, particularly in Africa, to develop junior and youth athletes for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar. He emphasizes the cost-effectiveness of the initiative, making it easier to establish youth programs and provide opportunities for young athletes, especially in smaller countries.*
- ***Ms. Gyouri Kim** suggested expanding support beyond airfare to include training schedules. She shared an example of managing a team of two refugee athletes in Korea for three months, where only air tickets were covered. She highlighted the challenge of finding suitable teams for refugee athletes to train with and emphasizes the need to explore additional benefits for teams,*



such as certificates of excellence from WT or IOC. She also raised concerns about the extended three-month period, suggesting it might be challenging to find and satisfy teams within such a timeframe.

- **Ms. Seungmin Lee** acknowledged the limited information about the plans of KTA and WT at the beginning of the project. However, she appreciated the efforts of KTA in organizing the training camp and expressed gratitude. While emphasizing the importance of comprehensive planning for the training period and location before extending invitations, she proposed enhanced collaboration between WT and KTA for future projects.
- **Mr. Maher Magableh** praised the project conducted by KTA as highly successful. He suggested that the Development Committee could continue the project by fostering partnerships with other MNAs and inviting athletes from underdeveloped countries to train in different nations.
- **Mr. Frederick Lartey Otu** pointed out that Ghana is set to host the African Games in March, and efforts were made during a conference in Accra to include Poomsae and mixed teams in the games. The Ghanaian government faces budget constraints, and the local organizing committee (LOC) requested support from Continental Unions for equipment due to the expensive nature of purchasing in dollars. The request is expected to reach World Taekwondo through the Development Committee. The inclusion of Poomsae and mixed teams in the African Games is seen as crucial for development. Challenges faced by countries like Ghana in preparing for events like the World Championship, Junior, and Cadet Championships underscore the importance of support programs, such as training camps, to enhance their competitive readiness and performance.
- **Mr Hadi Saei Bonehkohal** discussed the establishment of an international camp in Iran for refugee athletes from countries including Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, and Palestine. Underlining the support for Afghan athletes, he highlighted their notable achievement at the ASEAN Junior and Cadet Competition, securing medals for the first time. Despite obstacles like financial constraints for return tickets, he underscored the significance of aiding these athletes, acknowledging their potential for success in events like the Youth Olympics.
- **Mr. Maher Magableh** recognized Hadi's remarks on accomplished refugee athletes, highlighting a gold medalist in the Asian Junior Championship. Supporting the concept of refugees applying to the development program through their respective countries, he suggested joint efforts between the Development Committee and MNAs, citing the Iran Taekwondo Federation as an illustration. The considerable advantages of such partnerships, particularly with technically adept countries like Iran and Korea, were underscored.
- **Ms. Seungmin Lee** summarized the discussion by expressing her intention to collaborate and share these positive ideas with Laurent from the THF in Lausanne.
- **Mr. Henderson Turton** raised a question about the emphasis on the technical side in the development and planning, expressing a concern that there hasn't been much focus on capacity building for management at the MNA level.
- **Ms. Claudia Cardenas** mentioned a World Taekwondo sustainability strategy with various activities planned until 2030. There is a focus on establishing a program to develop the capacities of MNAs, collaborating with the Sustainability Committee. Discussions with the MRD Department, MRD Commission, and the Development Committee will determine the implementation of administrative capacity development for MNAs. Currently, the MNA survey is conducted, generating both a general report and individual reports for participating countries.
- Additionally, she highlighted the tailored MNA reports from the survey, containing best practices for each MNA to identify areas for improvement in their administration. Referring to



these best practices serves as a guideline for MNAs. While direct support is not currently available, plans are underway to develop guidelines in the future, demonstrating a commitment to ongoing improvement.

4. Other Matters

- *None*

5. Next Commission Meeting

- *Mr. Maher Magabelh suggested discussing the organization of the next meeting during the current session. He inquired whether to coordinate the schedule immediately, send an email later for notification, or engage in a discussion today to decide the frequency of future meetings, considering options like monthly or at different intervals.*
- *Mr. Woongki Kim stated that members will be informed about the next meeting once the 2024 budget is internally confirmed.*

6. Closing of Meeting

- *Mr. Maher Magableh expressed gratitude to everyone, concluding the meeting. They encouraged committee members to share any suggestions or concerns related to today's discussions via email. Additionally, members were invited to propose agenda items for the next meeting in advance.*