

DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINENTAL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of the Development and Continental Council held on Saturday, 5 December 2015 at 11h45 in the Vendespace, Vendee, France.

1. President's welcome and opening remarks

The President welcomed all the members and guests in attendance and thanked the French Table Tennis Association and the Local Organizing Committee for the good organization of the Championships.

Special notes of thanks were addressed to the Continental Presidents for their close co-operation in delivering the programs successfully, the present Executive Committee members for attending the meeting and the staff for their efforts in implementing the programs.

2. Roll call

Thomas Weikert	President
Melecio Rivera	Executive Vice-President
Khaled El-Salhy	African Table Tennis Federation President
Afshin Badiee	Asian Table Tennis Union President's Representative
Ronald Kramer	European Table Tennis Union President
Juan Villa	Latin America Table Tennis Union President
Tony Kiesenhofer	North American Table Tennis Union President
James Morris	Oceania Table Tennis Federation President

In attendance

Patrick Gillmann	Executive Vice-President
Masahiro Maehara	Executive Vice-President
Petra Sorling	Executive Vice-President
Shi Zhihao	Executive Vice-President
Hajera Kajee	ITTF Women's Commissioner
Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO
Raul Calin	Operations & Olympic Games Director
Polona Cehovin	Education & Training Director
Steve Dainton	Marketing Director
Leandro Olvech	Development Program Director
Mohamed Dawlatly	Competition Manager and IT Consultant
Claudia Vatheuer	Assistant to the President

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (6 December 2014, Shanghai, China)

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2014 were confirmed and signed by the President.

4.2 Business arising from the Minutes (not covered by Agenda)

There was no further business not covered by the agenda.

5. Continental Updates and Proposals

Africa:

- The yearly Development Program has been running successfully and according to the plans.
- The support of the Development Officer, Michael Brown, regarding TV coverage and Internet streaming at the African Cup and All Africa Games was highly appreciated as resulting in better marketing potential of the events.

Asia:

- Since the signing of the Affiliation and Development Program agreements in early 2015, 31 development courses have been completed, thanks also to the ITTF Development Program due to their active role with the National Associations. Moreover, the following ITTF events were held in Asia throughout the year: Star Awards, World Championships, Women's World Cup, a number of World Tours and Junior Circuits and also the World Hopes Week & Challenge. Besides, a scholarship program for players has been introduced.
- The cooperation with Europe successfully continues.
- The digital table was introduced as a major innovation in our sport.

Europe:

- It was noted that the implementation of the Development Program has a steep learning curve and the team has been learning by doing.
- Europe has adopted a slightly different approach when it comes to development since it's more oriented toward high performance with the aim to bridge the gap between Asia and Europe. Considering this the "Eurotalents" project has been introduced, which is targeting the best young players of Europe.
- Considering the different realities and objectives of the continents it is believed that a greater differentiation of the Development Program could be made possible.

Latin America:

- Under new leadership the Continental Federation has set up an ambitious and comprehensive Development Program, focusing mainly on small National Associations.
- The Development Team works in close cooperation with ITTF and it's aiming at improving the level of coaches and umpires.
- The Olympic Games being held in Brazil is a great opportunity to get more exposure for our sport throughout the continent.
- The gold medal that was won by Team Latin America Girls' Team at the 2015 World Cadet Challenge is of historical importance.
- The President called the attention of Asia and Europe to offer more opportunities for training and coaching, which is believed to be the right way to start seriously challenging the two strongest Continents.

North America:

- The Development Program focuses on players' pathway from Hopes to elite level.
- A successful women's camp was held in 2015.
- The situation on the continent is slightly different compared to the others since there's a lot of private coaching – there is around 80 full time clubs/training centers that operate on private basis; the role of NATTU is to manage the growth and harvest the fruits of the private efforts.
- A comprehensive competition plan has been set up for the Pan-American region that started with a very successful event in Toronto. The plan will be fully implemented from 2017 onwards.

Oceania:

- OTTF is very grateful to the efforts of Development Officer, Michael Brown, whose efforts are of vital importance for the effective implementation of the Development Program.
- A very successful Para event was held in 2015, which was a proper milestone for the Para movement on the continent and also the formation of the Para Committee that reports to the OTTF contributed to it.
- In relation to the development of Para TT good news came from Australia as the government started funding a Para TT project targeting 4 National Associations from the Pacific-Vanuatu-Kiribati-Fiji-PNG with close co-operation between OTTF Development Program and Table Tennis Australia
- Otherwise the isolation remains a burden for the small islands; Kiribati responded with a good event for the Oceania Junior and Cadet Championships. Hopefully more similar cases will follow in the near future.

6. ITTF & Continental Athletes Commissions

Unfortunately the athlete's representative was unable to attend with items passed to the next meeting.

7. ITTF Women's Commissioner

- The Commissioner presented her vision of the role: to define the terms of reference and the role of the Continental Presidents, to follow and encourage career paths for women leadership, to actively approach challenges that girls and women are facing in sport and finally to the define and map the way forward by recommending corresponding actions and measures to the concerned programs and bodies.
- It is also important to follow the 2020 Agenda, which will further contribute to reach the ITTF target of being top 5 among all International Federations.
- Apart from the 1 women's course per continent, which is part of the continental Development Programs, there's unfortunately no continuity on Continents in relation to Continental Women Coordinators; in order to effectively address this issue and also other matters mentioned previously the Commissioner suggested to meet individually with the Continental Presidents and discuss the specific situation, needs and realities of the continents.

8. 2017-2020 Continental Development Agreements

The two relevant documents, ITTF 2017-2020 Continental Development Fund & Plan as well as the Olympic Fund Allocation for Continents for the next quadrennial, which represent the base for the 2017-2020 Agreements of Understanding between the Continental Federations and the ITTF, were discussed at the ITTF Executive Committee meeting in September and both were unanimously approved. Moreover, they were sent as annexes to the DCC meeting invitation and presented to the meeting.

In the discussion that followed the following points and observations were made:

- Asia: In the view of ATTU the "needs rating" component of the formula, needs to be revised, with the expectation that population should be considered in the formula.
- Africa: the standard of living on each continent should represent the principal criteria; one aspect that could be considered is also the list of eligible NOCs for

the tripartite spot at the Olympic Games, which is based on the overall development of sport in NOCs and consequently on each continent.

- North America: the amount allocated to the continent is way too low to cover all its development needs, even if considering only the grassroots level and youth development. Besides, the needs and priorities also differ a lot among the continents and Development Programs should reflect this.
- Europe: all comments are duly noted, but such changes would require an in-depth analysis first followed by a comprehensive professional study on the possible future modifications. Considering the given timeframe it is more realistic to use the already accepted and so far effectively used formulas for the forthcoming Olympic cycle, but at the same time to start immediately with the proposed process of looking at options to change the formula which has been in place for 10 years, for the 2021-2024 period.
- Latin America: in order to enable the continents to start implementing the Development Programs as already agreed and preliminarily communicated it is preferred not to apply any changes for the next quadrennial, but to follow the proposed pathway for 2021-2024, whereby any observations or comments should be presented at appropriate meetings and in a timely manner.
- Petra Sorling: both the formula and the accompanying documents were presented to the Executive Committee in September, 2015 and passed unanimously and without comment from any of the Executive Committee, so suggested to focus on a detailed discussion leading to 2021-2024 agreements.
- Marketing: another point of view that could be adopted in this challenge is the solution to raise the total of available fund in terms of redefining the corresponding programs, projects and finally events to bring more marketing opportunities. In the first step it's recommended to focus on the media rights improvement.

The President and the Deputy CEO summarized the discussion with the following proposal:

- The present formula and needs ratio have been in use for the past 10 years and always generated different perceptions and points of view, but was always accepted and implemented as it was acknowledged that all continents have a different view and different reasons why they should have a higher needs rating.
- Similar debates concerning funds allocation are common and normal and show the great interest of the continents in development.
- The proposed funding for the 2017-2020 Agreements of Understanding will remain unchanged as the proposal and approval procedures have been conducted according to the usual process, approved by the Executive Committee, and based on the accepted policy, while the content of the related Development Programs will be discussed during the 2016 WTTC. Later on the Agreements will be signed during the 2016 Olympic Games.
- Finally, the input and arguments of the Continental Federations are well noted and will be analyzed; the first opportunity for a wider debate and brainstorming is the Development & Education Workshop in Malaysia that will be the first step towards the possible changes in the 2021-2024 Continental Development Fund & Plan.

9. Development Program Update

9.1 Continental Agreements-2013-2016

- 140 activities were planned under the umbrella of the Development Program in 2015 and 124 were already successfully implemented by the end of November, whereby the 6 PTT activities were funded by the PTT Division. The development activities included coach education, course conductor trainings, training camps, Hopes activities, URC courses, PTT activities, as well as women's, marketing and tournament organization courses.
- 33 major equipment packages were planned to be distributed by the end of the year.
- The concept of self-funded ITTF Coach Accreditation courses is expanding with 44 being organized in 2015.

In the continuation a detailed report for each continent was provided.

9.2 ITTF Coach Accreditation System[CAS]

The courses held according to the CAS are running smoothly. Due to the increased demand for coach education courses, in particular self-funded, 4 Course Conductor Trainings were held in 2015.

9.3 Dream Building

- The partnerships with Peace and Sport, UNOSDP, GSD and IPC continue to flourish and in 2015 a partnership with Ping Sans Frontiers was also commenced.
- Due to the positive experience with UNOSDP in the area of organization of Youth Leadership – 18 Leadership Camps were organized since their introduction in 2012 and ITTF attended all, an Memorandum of Understanding was signed in September; the UNOSDP will provide US\$104,000 for the 3 year project of assisting Nepal after the devastating earthquake with technical assistance as well as rebuilding of table tennis venues, ITTF secured US\$26,000, while the continents have provided support of US\$10,000 that were raised during the 2015 WTTC.

9.4 Women's Development

Women courses, held as part of the Development Program, were successfully implemented on all 6 continents, while the other areas were covered by the report of the Women's Commissioner.

9.5 PTT

In 2015 all continents managed to organize PTT courses, which are funded by the PTT division and therefore represent additional funds for the continents.

9.6 Olympic Solidarity

- 15 Technical and DNSS courses and 3 scholarships for coaches funded by Olympic Solidarity were already executed or planned.

9.7 World Table Tennis Day-Sport for All

The reporting continued with a summarized report of the "Sport for All" activities that were held in 2015, when also the World Table Tennis Day, 6 April, was announced and celebrated for the first time:

- 158 events were held in more than 70 countries around the world that were attended by approximately 63,000 participants with an average of around 400 per event.
- Argentina organized 9 events including the main one supported by ITTF. The promotional video produced in Buenos Aires was presented during the meeting.

The efforts and the success of the ITTF Development Program were once again recognized and the following awards and/or achievements were obtained:

- Sport Business Ultimate Sports Federation and Associations Award: position nr. 1 for global popularity and expansion and position nr. 3 for ultimate sport federation and association
- Peace & Sport – Best Sport Federation: the ITTF World TT Day project was shortlisted
- SportAccord's Spirit of Sport Award: the ITTF Dream Building project in Uganda was shortlisted
- GSD Foundation – Athlete in Excellence: Sarah Hanffou (Ping Sans Frontier), proposed by ITTF won the award.

10. Education and Training Program Update

10.1 ITTF International Training Center Network

- Based on the renewed Directives of the Network that foresaw a number of new opportunities, measures, but also conditions, an application process was run and 12 International Training Centers were affiliated to the Network in 4 different recognition levels – Academy, High Performance, Elite and Hot Spot.
- The Network is expected to continue representing the backbone of all Education & Training projects and activities and also to play a significant role in the area of national, regional and continental development.

10.2 Online Learning

- The renewed platform has been successfully used in connection with the Hopes Program (obligatory preparatory and educational courses for coaches attending the World Hopes Week and Hopes team coaches). The use in other areas (PTT, URC etc.) is still modest, but following the allocation of additional funding more technical content related to coaching will be provided in 2016 and also a further modernization of the platform will be executed.
- The platform was also tested as a communication hub (for the application process of the ITC Network) and it proved to work well, whereby some initial education for its use has to be executed.
- Following the conclusion of the cooperation between SportAccord and the provider of the anti-doping and anti-betting courses a new partnership has to be identified in order to continue offering education in these areas.

10.3 Hopes Program

- The new concept introduced in 2015 – limiting number of participants at the World Hopes Week to 16 boys and 16 girls qualified through the continents proved to work very well and it also boosted significantly the interest for participation at Continental Hopes activities that now serve as a qualifier for the World event.
- A very successful World Hopes Week was held at the China Table Tennis College in Shanghai organized in cooperation with the Chinese Table Tennis Association. All the aspects of the activity were at extremely high level – coaching and experts' team, facilities, educational sessions etc.
- Due to the expansion of the Hopes activities on all levels, in particular national and regional a Hopes Experts' Training will be organized in connection with the 2016 World Hopes Week in Qatar.

- No major changes are planned for the future apart from the introduction of follow-up activities for players from previous Hopes Teams, which will fill the gap between that Hopes (U12) and the With the Future in Mind (15-18 years old).

10.4 WFIM Scholarships

- 12 athletes were identified for the WFIM support in 2015 and their programs were being implemented successfully. 2 more athletes were managed following a special request of Olympic Solidarity.
- It was the first time that athletes from all 6 continents were nominated in the program.
- Besides the budget secured through a special agreement with ITTF, Olympic Solidarity approved also scholarships worth US\$419,380 targeting athletes for Rio in the period 2015-2016 granted via the direct applications of the NOCs.
- The portfolio of supported players in 2016 will remain the same with the possibility to add few more, depending on the unspent funds from 2015. The focus in the coming year will be the preparations of the players for the Continental Olympic Qualifications.

10.5 Mentorship Program

- 2 coaches, chosen from the WFIM list of coaches, were targeted for the trial implementation of the program in 2015. Each of them was offered an online educational component with the Mentor (head coaches from the Training Centers, members of the ITTF Network) followed by a practical live experience of 1 week in the corresponding Center.
- The received feedback from both the mentees and the mentors, was very positive and gained a lot of interest therefore it will continue in the future, too.

10.6 Coaching Films

- The first series, featuring 8 videos about technique of basic strokes was produced in cooperation with ITTF marketing and released in the second half of the year. The videos were well accepted and gained good viewership on the ITTF YouTube channel.
- With the objective to continue releasing high quality and interactive educational material for a wide audience that can also be used for promotional purposes it is planned to work on a second series of video that would deal with advanced techniques and strokes and be released in the second half of 2016. Discussions with partners from Asia in relation to their production are underway.

11. Global Junior Program Update

11.1 World Junior Circuit

- 30 events were successfully organized on all 6 continents in 2015, without any cancellations.
- 100 National Associations participated, which represents 45% of all the membership.
- 2450 unique players, 1054 girls and 1396 boys, participated overall, which is the highest number ever; the Association with the highest number of participants (108 as 55 girls and 53 boys) was Egypt.
- The 3 tiers of the WJC events proved to work well and a number of technical changes/improvements for the 2016 WJC events were presented.

11.2 World Junior Championships

- 91 girls and 92 boys are attending the current WJTTC; due to the attacks 2 weeks prior to the event Japan and Chinese Taipei canceled their participation.
- In terms of organization all matters were running efficiently: very good technical conditions and venue layout, good internet service and sport presentation including TV coverage, all the participants were granted visas; the only areas that could be improved are accommodation (the level of some hotels was just acceptable) and the transportation service (some delays were occurring).
- For the 2016 WJTTC in Cape Town, South Africa an inspection visit was planned for the first months of 2016, while representatives from the Local Organizing Committee were present in France.
- The bidding documents for the 2016 and 2017 editions were released on 17 November with a deadline of 15 January 2016.

11.3 World Cadet Challenge

- The 2015 edition with full attendance of 32 girls and 32 boys was successfully organized in Sharm el-Sheikh/Egypt.
- Peter Karlsson was the expert on duty at the traditional training camp held prior to the event.
- Due to heavy rain one day before the event started, flooding both the main venue and practice hall, it was agreed to cancel the morning session on Day 1 keeping the rest of the schedule as planned.
- The Organizers assured that all participants were granted with visas either upon arrival or before traveling and also organized a good activity on the Cultural Day, which together with the excellent hotel contributed to the overall success of the event, the dislocation of the training hall being the only downside of the event. However, low spectators attendance and relatively poor local media coverage could have been improved, too.
- On pilot basis the Mixed Doubles event with an open (entertaining) draw for the mixed pairings from different teams were introduced for the first time and proved to work well.
- The bidding documents for the 2016 and 2017 editions were released on 28 November with a deadline of 15 January 2016.

11.4 Junior Commissioner

There was no additional discussion here, as practically the same persons attended the meeting of the Junior Commissioner with the Continental representatives 2 days earlier.

12. Marketing Update

12.1 Continental Marketing Agreements

The philosophy and the primary objectives of the Agreements are linked to continental events, which should be more linked to ITTF events and offer a better presentation, also by securing appropriate TV production and broadcasting, with the ultimate goal to create environments that attract sponsorship and consequently raise the economy of the sport around the globe.

Following a detailed presentation with evaluation of the implemented continental Agreements and organized events the recommendation of searching further for better connections between continental and international events was portrayed aiming at ensuring relevance, especially to the media.

The following points and opinions were expressed during the discussion:

- Latin America: a change of the WTTC format should be considered and the change should be significant – Continental Championships should be directly linked to the World Championships, as it is done in other sports; this way it would also be possible to host a smaller WTTC in a bigger number of countries and the saved funds could then be reallocated to other events or programs.
- Asia: the possibilities to better connect the events should further be explored and presented to the Continents.
- Oceania: OTTF presented an idea that only the top 5 players from the Continental Championships will be eligible to benefit from the free hospitality at the individual WTTC with the expectation that the measure will boost the level of competition at the Oceania Championships.

13. ITTF Overview

The President stated that the IOC appreciates the efforts ITTF is doing in the area of development, in particular the adopted innovative and creative approach.

The goal of ITTF is to bring table tennis to every country in the world. Currently there is 4 countries remaining-Cape Verde, Guinea Bisseau, Eritrea and Bahamas. ITTF is however expanding in a sustainable way by targeting a small number of countries each year. It is anticipated that ITTF will have all countries worldwide early in the next quadrennial, and so become the first sport to achieve this.

14. Any other business

No further business was discussed.

15. Adjournment

Before concluding Glenn Tepper presented the staff structure and project portfolio of the Development and Education & Training Programs. By thanking the Continental Presidents for their support and the DET staff for their motivated and devoted work he invited everyone to attend the Development Workshop at the 2016 WTTC, which will be held in an interactive manner in order to stimulate healthy discussions in relation to the 2017-2020 Development Program.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 16.20

Thomas Weikert
President

20 February 2016
Date