

# MINUTES

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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Magdeburg, Germany, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2005, at 09.30 hours

### 1. President's welcome and opening remarks

The President welcomed all to Magdeburg and explained that a preliminary meeting of the Executive Committee had taken place on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November attended by the President, Mr. Khalil Al Mohannadi, Ms Claude Bergeret, Mr. Neil Harwood and Mr. Ivo-Goran Munivrana in order to enable Mr. Mohannadi, who had to leave for the Arab Club Championships, the opportunity to discuss any agenda items and other issues related to the present meeting. He reported that Mr. Mohannadi had expressed his opinion and delivered his vote concerning item 12 of the agenda regarding the Court of Arbitration mediation settlement agreement with the Brazilian TTA. He had also requested that the ITTF should ensure that the secondary halls for the Bremen WTTC should be of the same standard as the main hall, which in his opinion was not the case in Shanghai. He had also requested more detailed information about the sale of the building in Ottawa and the playing system for the team event at the Olympic Games. The preliminary meeting had lasted two hours.

### 2. Roll call

Adham Sharara	President
Claude Bergeret	Executive Vice-President
Neil Harwood	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice-President
Ivo-Goran Munivrana	Executive Vice-President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President

#### Excused

Khalil Al Mohannadi	Deputy President (present at preliminary meeting on 12 <sup>th</sup> November)
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#### Invited to attend

Yao Zhenxu	Chairman, Technical Committee
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#### In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Anders Thunström	TMS - Managing Director
Li Tiefeng	Interpreter

### 3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

### 4. Minutes

#### 4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Shanghai, 29 April and 5 May 2005)

The Minutes of Executive Committee meetings held in Shanghai were approved and signed by the President as a true record of the meetings.

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

No other business.

## **5. Marketing Update (TMS)**

Mr. Anders Thunström reported that from a commercial point of view the Shanghai WTTTC had produced very good results for the ITTF and that a substantial amount of money had been generated thanks to Volkswagen and Liebherr sponsorship as well as the additional sponsorship secured by the CTTA. The television networks CCTV, Shanghai TV and Eurosport were among 20 networks that covered the event, which created value for the sponsors. The VIP boxes produced by Double Happiness had enhanced the very good presentation on the floor. These VIP boxes were now owned by TMS and would be used at other events in order to ensure continued improvement of the image of ITTF events. He added that in the past the weakest element in the presentation was the surrounds and that TMS was striving to incite manufacturers to improve the surrounds as well as to control the uniformity of the signage and printing on the surrounds.

Mr. Anders Thunström further reported that a meeting with the Bremen organisers had taken place and another would take place in January 2006 to finalise TV production and the time schedule. He said that Bremen was in advance with preparations and the title sponsor Liebherr had been secured, together with the equipment sponsors (Tibhar and Donic). He also said that TMS was continuing to negotiate with a potential Chinese sponsor.

It was reported that the contract with Liebherr would end in 2007; but that the President, Adham Sharara, Mr. Anders Thunström and Mr. Jordi Serra had met with Liebherr representatives in Lausanne to discuss a future longer-term partnership. Mr. Anders Thunström had also attended the Monte Carlo TV Sports Symposium "Sportel" where he met with many TV networks and signed a new agreement with the European Broadcasting Union. He said that the ITTF website was growing rapidly. The new Chinese version of the website should generate income for the ITTF in the future. He added that the IOC report after the Athens Games was a boost to the image of table tennis.

It was said that an update meeting would be held with Volkswagen in order to finalise events for 2006. Volkswagen would be the sponsor for the Pro Tour finals in Hong Kong in 2006.

Mr. Yang Shuan thanked and congratulated TMS for their contribution to the improved image and status of table tennis around the world.

## **6. Representations and reports (verbal)**

### **6.1 Island Games "Crete 2005"**

Mr. Ivo-Goran Munivrana made a brief report of his visit to the Games where he had attended a meeting of representatives from all member associations. The Games comprised 12 sports including table tennis. The opening ceremony was very good. He said that the small islands, due to their limited geographical space were suited for table tennis and that the ITTF should target them to develop the sport.

### **6.2 Mediterranean Games**

Mr. Ivo-Goran Munivrana referred to the detailed report he had sent to the ITTF and said that the Games were very well organised, according to ITTF standards and had produced very high-level matches. He noted that several Arab countries (North Africa) had not participated possibly due to financial reasons.

### **6.3 Games of the Small States in Europe**

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that he had attended the Games of the Small States in Europe as technical delegate and ITTF representative, from 30<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June. These Games included European countries that had less than 1 million inhabitants. He said that former IOC President J. A. Samaranch and President Jacques Rogge were present at the Games. The next Games would take place in 2007 in Monaco.

### **6.4 ASOIF meeting**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that he had attended the ASOIF meeting held in June in Geneva, together with Mr. Jordi Serra and that the ITTF had taken a leadership role at the meeting in order to object to the method of selecting events for the Olympic Games. After softball and handball had been rejected by the IOC at its last session in Singapore, Mr. Adham Sharara said he had received many letters from other Federations congratulating him on his foresight and agreeing with him that the selection method should be reviewed. He also said that another issue that will be discussed soon was the distribution of Olympic revenues to International Federations. As table tennis was now in a very strong position concerning televisions ratings, he said his next goal was to reposition table tennis in a higher group, which would mean much higher income from Olympic television rights. The next meeting of ASOIF is scheduled for April 2006, in Seoul, Korea.

### **6.5 Grubba's funeral**

Mr. Adham Sharara thanked Ms Claude Bergeret for interrupting her vacation to attend Mr. Andrezj Grubba's funeral. Ms. Claude Bergeret reported that it was a very sad event but the love and appreciation for Mr. Grubba could be judged by the record number of people who attended his funeral, including top players and officials from the sport world. Mr. Adham Sharara also extended his condolences to the Japan TTA on the untimely death of Mr. Nobuhiko Hasegawa, at the age of 58.

Mr. Jordi Serra was requested to ask the ETTU for a replacement at the BOD for Mr. Andrezj Grubba.

### **6.6 117 IOC Session**

Mr. Jordi Serra explained the outcome of the IOC session held in Singapore: London selected for the 2012 Olympic Games, baseball and softball rejected from the 2012 programme and all proposals for new sports rejected. It was said that table tennis was in a very strong position at the moment, and Mr. Sharara thanked Mr. Yang Shuan who was held in high esteem within the IOC and BOCOG and that the Beijing Olympic Games could only strengthen the position of table tennis.

### **6.7 Asian TT Championships**

Mr. Koji Kimura gave a brief update on the Asian Championships held from 27<sup>th</sup> August to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September. 32 Associations had participated and several meetings had been held. Mr. Li Furong (CHN) had been re-elected President of the ATTU and Mr. Choo Wee Khiang (SIN) had been elected as ITTF Continental Vice-President for Asia. He also reported that a very successful meeting had been held with Asian manufacturers as well as a Women's Forum. Mr. Adham Sharara said that he would go to Jeju Island in the near future to meet with the officials that had extended an invitation to our EC to meet. Ms. Lilamani de Soysa requested that a member of the staff or Mr. Odd Gustavsen should attend the next meeting with Asian manufacturers, in order to discuss ways to improve the administrative relationship with them.

## **6.8 Guangzhou delegation visit**

It was reported that a delegation of 28 people, including the Mayor from the city of Guangzhou, China, had visited the headquarters in Lausanne. The ITTF had been represented by Ms Claude Bergeret who reported that the organisation and meeting with the mayor went off very well, with a visit of the museum, signing of a statement of agreement to host the 2008 WTTC as well as a friendly table tennis match between the Mayor and the Executive Vice-President. One issue of discussion was regarding the dates for the event, both dates proposed by the city of Guangzhou were not acceptable and they were asked to refer back to the ITTF with new dates.

## **6.9 Men's World Cup in Liège**

It was said that the ITTF had been invited to hold its Executive Meeting in Liège but had declined the offer, having already accepted the invitation from Germany. Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the Men's World Cup had been a very successful event with a full-house of spectators at most times. Next year's organisers, the French Federation, also attended with a delegation of observers. Mr. Adham Sharara said that the title sponsor Liebherr had expressed satisfaction with the results of the World Cup. Mr. Sharara congratulated Mr. Philippe Saive and the Belgian Association for the organisation. It was also reported that the Catalan Table Tennis Association had signed a contract to host the 2007 Men's World Cup with the blessing of the Spanish TTA.

## **6.10 World Cadet Challenge**

It was reported that Ms Judit Fargó had represented the Chairman of the Junior Commission, Mr. Tony Yue, at the World Cadet Challenge held in the Dominican Republic on Mr. Yue's request. Mr. Adham Sharara said that he had been very pleased by the excellent organisation of the event, which had surpassed all expectations. The television coverage had been excellent and the level of competition surprisingly high, despite the absence of the Chinese team.

## **6.11 Pro Tour Grand Finals (to assign)**

It was said that Mr. Anders Thunström would represent TMS at the Pro Tour Grand Finals in Fuzhou, China and Mr. Neil Harwood was assigned the representation of the ITTF. A delegation comprising of a representative from Volkswagen, Mr. Yao Zhenxu and Mr. Steve Dainton visited Fuzhou and preparations were underway as planned.

Mr. Adham Sharara also said that he had attended the Russian Open held in St Petersburg together with Ms Claude Bergeret and was impressed with the much improved and more professional organisation of the event held in a hall that could be used for a world championship. He said he was happy to see that the Russian Federation was active again and was producing players of very high standard.

# **7. World Table Tennis Championships**

## **7.1 Shanghai report and debriefing**

Mr. Jordi Serra presented a report that had been compiled with remarks and recommendations from the staff and Committee Chairmen regarding the organisation of the WTTC in Shanghai. In general the key success factors seemed to be the good presentation, high-level competition, wide media coverage and television sponsorship as well as good accommodation and transport. Some weak points such as the

accreditation system and lack of information and the lower quality of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> playing halls were pointed out. The on-line entry system had to be improved. Ms Claude Bergeret and Mr. Jordi Serra were requested to work on the report and to include recommendations and directives for future World Championships

#### **7.2 Team WTTC playing system. Final proposal**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the team WTTC playing system had been decided by the BOD in Shanghai and as requested the final document sent out to all the Associations and posted on the web site. He thanked Mr. Yao Zhenxu, Mr. André Damman and Ms Claude Bergeret for their work regarding this issue.

#### **7.3 2006 WTTC update and Coordination visits**

Ms Claude Bergeret said that she had made a first visit to Bremen in August with Mr. Nils Bergström and Mr. Jordi Serra. She said that the organisation was well under control and that she was pleased to see the full involvement of the President of the DTTB who had been present during all the meetings. Many issues had been discussed, mainly TV coverage but the host broadcaster had not been designated yet and the time schedule not yet fixed but these issues should be resolved in January. The venue was excellent, space for the ITTF museum had been reserved in hall 3 and there would be a practice hall with 30 tables. Visas would be issued free of charge to all participants. There will not be a farewell party or a women's forum in Bremen.

The Executive Committee accepted a proposal made by Mr. Yao Zhenxu to extend the WTTC from 7 to 8 days. Mr. Ivo-Goran Munivrana was requested to recommend to the Zagreb organisers to extend the event to 8 days and to refer to the next EC meeting in Linz with their answer.

#### **7.4 2007 WTTC update and Coordination visits**

Mr. Ivo-Goran Munivrana gave a brief report of the preparations for Zagreb and said that they were well underway with television deals in place and HRT designated as the host broadcaster. However, the organisers were looking for extra funds to renovate the hall. Accommodation had been booked for 3000 people and an open air opening ceremony on the lake was being planned. He said he would do his best to have the Zagreb WTTC extended by one day. It was said that a coordination visit to Zagreb would be made in January 2006.

#### **7.5 2008 WTTC update**

It was reported that the province of Guangdong and the city of Guangzhou were very keen to host the 2008 WTTC and that they would ensure its full success. Mr. Yang Shuan said that the Guangzhou TTA was working very closely with the CTTA and had already formed a working group. The existing venue was totally suitable to host the event and had the total support of the city authorities. The dates were still an issue but the CTTA will analyse the proposal from Guangzhou and present the most suitable dates (preferably end of February or beginning of March) to the ITTF in due course. Mr. Sharara suggested that the same schedule as 2004 be used for the WTTC and Final Olympic Qualification, which would place the 2008 WTTC in the period 1-8 March 2008.

#### **7.6 2009 WTTC bids**

It was reported that two bids had been received by the due date for the 2009 WTTC, from Yokohama for Japan and Linz for Austria. It was decided

that a coordination team would be sent to the two cities and if approved, the bids would be presented to the next AGM. Mrs. Claude Bergeret and Mr. Jordi Serra would visit Linz, while Mrs. Bergeret and Mr. Yao would visit Yokohama.

#### **7.7 2005 WJTTC update**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that this year the Executive Council would meet in Linz in December followed by an Olympic Commission meeting. It was reported that a coaching conference would also take place in Linz during the WJTTC. Mr. Anders Thunström said that TMS was continuing to look for a title sponsor for the World Junior Championships. ORF Austrian terrestrial television would guarantee 4 hours of television within Austria and CCTV would cover a minimum of 2 hours of the event. He said he had offered TV networks at the Monte Carlo TV symposium (Sportel) the possibility to obtain free footage of the WJTTC on condition that they would definitely show it.

#### **7.8 2006 WJTTC issues**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that there was a serious problem concerning the 2006 WJTTC where the Egyptian Federation had changed leadership and Mr. Khaled El Salhy, responsible for winning the bid, was not the President of the Federation anymore. He said that the ITTF would ask the new leadership to accept Mr. El-Salhy as the Tournament Director of the 2006 WJTTC event in order to ensure that the event could be organised under his supervision. However, if the Egyptian Federation decided to cancel the event it would be necessary to allocate it to another Federation. Mr. Sharara and Mr. Mikael Anderson may visit Egypt in January to resolve this issue.

### **8 Special ITTF Solidarity Fund**

#### **8.1 Tsunami project**

This item was referred to the Executive Council meeting in December.

#### **8.2 Solidarity Fund**

Ms Lilamani de Soysa was requested to formulate a new name for the fund as "Solidarity fund" could be confused with Olympic Solidarity. This item was referred to the next meeting.

### **9 Olympics**

#### **9.1 Olympic Programme Report**

Mr. Jordi Serra thanked Mr. Neil Harwood for his help in summarising the IOC report and compiling one for the ITTF showing how the position of the ITTF could be improved within the Olympic Programme. The report now consisted of 20 recommendations together with some strategic recommendations such as inviting IOC members to top events and preparing ITTF officials for roles within ASOIF and GAISF. Mr. Neil Harwood said that table tennis measured up fairly well with other sports but was weak in print media coverage, ticket sales and gender representation at leadership level. Ms Claude Bergeret recommended that the report should be sent to all national associations as well as to present it at the next AGM.

Mr. Sharara said that this report will form the basis of the ITTF's future plan and will be fully incorporated in the P4 Plan objectives section.

#### **9.2 2008 Qualification system process**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the proposal for a team event instead of the doubles at the Olympic Games had been accepted by the IOC, on

condition that it did not add extra players, days or make any big differences to the existing system. Therefore, 16 teams, with 3 players in each team for a maximum of 48 players had to be respected but all other specifications could be finalised in due course.

Mr. Adham Sharara said he was proud to have achieved the goal set by Mr. Ichiro Ogimura to include the team events in the Olympic Games.

Mr. Yao Zhenxu made three detailed proposals for a playing system based on the system currently used at the WTTC, the system used in Chiba and a new system also proposed by the Rules Committee Chairman the previous day. The new system that will be adopted would be known as the "Olympic Team System". The qualification system for the Olympic Games was also explained in detail. This item was referred to the Olympic Commission meeting in December.

## **10 Committees and Working Group updates**

### **10.1 URC Committee update**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that together with Mr. Neil Harwood he would be meeting in the near future with the Chairwoman and other members of the URC in order to discuss the future and the transition between the chairpersons. Mr. Neil Harwood said that he was very pleased with the work being done by the URC and that with proper direction from the ITTF it would produce excellent work.

### **10.2 Glue Working Group update**

Mr. Koji Kimura gave a short update on the work being carried out by the Glue Working Group whose mandate was mainly to limit glues with volatile organic substances and to develop a glue-testing device. He said that a new technical leaflet T4B had been developed and an easy to use testing device had been built and 3 demonstration prototypes would be available in Bremen. A racket testing procedure would also be put in place from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2006. It was said that a sophisticated testing device would be bought by the ITTF and that it would be used at major events.

### **10.3 Women's Working Group update**

Ms Claude Bergeret made an update report and a proposal for the WWG programme 2006-2008. It was decided that instead of the annual Women's forum at the WTTC, 5 continental forums would be held in the next 3 years (North America could join with another Continent) and an ITTF forum would be held at the WTTC in 2009. Several financial incentives were also accepted: the ITTF to bear the cost of a certain number of female delegates to the AGM and to distribute sums allocated for development courses based on female participation in the course. It was also decided that a meeting of the WWG would take place each year at the WTTC on conditions similar to other committees or commissions and that the ITTF would limit its representation in order of priority to international or Olympic conferences and seminars organised by Olympic and other major international bodies.

Mr. Sharara asked Mrs. Claude Bergeret to meet with Mr. Neil Harwood, Ms. Lilamani de Soysa, Jordi Serra and Glenn Tepper to budget the WWG initiatives and avoid duplication with the ITTF's Development Plan.

### **10.4 Integration of IPTTC in ITTF (Timelines)**

This item was referred to the next meeting.

## **10.5 Integration of Veterans WG in ITTF (Timelines)**

This item was referred to the next meeting.

## **11 Palestine TTA issue**

It was explained that the Palestine TTA was represented by two bodies, one recognized by the national sports council and the other by the NOC. It was decided that the ITTF would ask both bodies to hold elections and form a joint association that could be recognized by the ITTF. In the meantime the ITTF will not recognise either body. An official letter will be dispatched to both associations with copies to the concerned authorities.

## **12 Shanghai elections**

### **12.1 Brazil TTA appeal and CAS Mediation**

Mr. Adham Sharara summarized the issue of the appeal that had been made by the Brazilian TTA to the CAS (Court of Arbitration for Sport) regarding the procedure for electing the Executive Vice-President (Finance) as well as other irregularities concerning the elections in Shanghai. A preliminary audience between the Brazilian TTA, the ITTF and the CAS had produced a mediation settlement agreement, thus avoiding a formal Arbitration process.

It was agreed that there was no question that the president of the ITTF is the official representative of the ITTF in this matter. This was unanimously agreed upon. After a detailed discussion it was decided that if all EC members unanimously agreed, the ITTF would accept the mediation settlement agreement, which would require that the ITTF submit all documentation related to the complaint as well as ask the CAS to rule on the validity of the elections. The ruling of the CAS would be binding. In return the Brazil TTA would withdraw its appeals. After a long discussion and after all members expressed their views, the President asked for a vote. Mr. Munivrana asked that the result of the vote be registered nominative in the minutes, which was agreed.

The vote was taken and the results were as follows:

Voted In Favour of the Mediation Settlement Agreement proposed by the Court of Arbitration of Sport and signed by the ITTF President and the Brazil TTA, in order of voting:

- Mr. Koji Kimura
- Mr. Yang Shuan
- Mr. Neil Harwood
- Mrs. Claude Bergeret
- The president, Adham Sharara, was in favour by virtue of signing the agreement

Against:

- Mr. Ivo-Goran Munivrana
- Mr. Khalil Al-Mohannadi (his vote was registered on 12<sup>th</sup> November during the preliminary meeting)

Based on the fact that an absolute majority was not achieved, the President would report back to the C.A.S. and inform the President of the Brazilian TTA accordingly.

### **12.2 CAS Legal Panel decision**

In view of the EC vote, Mr. Adham Sharara said he would meet with the CAS to explain the EC decision and to be informed of the consequences.

### **13 ITTF Building in Ottawa**

Mr. Adham Sharara informed that the sale of the ITTF Real Estate investments in Ottawa had been concluded successfully at a 40% profit, and the final payment had been received on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2005.

### **14 ITTF staff**

#### **14.1 ITTF Media Manager**

Mr. Munivrana reported that more than 70 applications had been received and Mr. Svend Frandsen from Denmark had been hired as the new Media Manager. He would begin work on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2006.

#### **14.2 China web site Editor (Liu Chanjuan) and China Website Manager (Fu Jiayu)**

Mr. Yao Zhenxu said that two young women were working on the Chinese web site of the ITTF, Fu Jiayu, a player and a graduate of the Shanghai language institute and Liu Chanjuan who had been formerly in charge of Wang Nan's personal web site. The official Chinese site would be opened in January 2006 but a temporary site was already in operation.

#### **14.3 Competition Manager & Marketing (Europe)**

It was explained that due to the increased number of ITTF events, especially junior events, Mr. Karl Jindrak would be hired on a shared basis as an additional Competition Manager as well as Marketing representative for TMS in Europe.

#### **14.4 Future staff**

It was announced that Mr. Chuck Hoey would continue at the ITTF for a further two years as Museum Curator and Historian. The apprentice, Miss Shiho Ogaki of Japan would be leaving in February 2006 after a one-year apprenticeship and another apprentice of Chinese nationality had been selected to replace her. Mr. Jordi Serra said that the ITTF was negotiating with Ms Etsuko Enami to come back to the Lausanne office. He said the headquarters would also need a receptionist when the museum was opened as well as a full-time concierge. The EC agreed that Mr. Ian Marshall's title would be changed from Editor TTI to "Publications Editor".

### **15 2nd review of ITTF Constitution**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the ITTF Constitution would have to be re-written including the new rules concerning juniors. Mr. Rudi Sporrer and Mr. Jordi Serra were requested to develop new directives for elections to be presented at the next meeting in Linz.

### **16 Under-21 Youth programme**

It was reported that Ms Judit Faragó had been requested to propose a formal programme for Under-21 Youth, which she would present in due time. TMS was requested to ensure that all Under-21 events at Pro Tours are given the same consideration as all Pro Tour events and held in conditions of the same standard.

### **17 Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held in Linz, Austria on 16<sup>th</sup> December. An Executive Council meeting will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup>. It was also reported that the EC meeting following Linz would be held in Barcelona in March 2006 together with the next Glue Working Group meeting.

## **18 Any other business**

### **18.1 ITTF travel policy**

A detailed travel policy was presented to all EC members and staff.

### **18.2 EC members credit cards**

All EC members were provided with a credit card. They were requested to send all receipts to Mr. Jordi Serra, to check bank statements carefully.

### **18.3 LATTU financial request**

A request for financial support to cover a deficit in the LATTU finances was rejected by the Executive Committee.

### **18.4 Swedish TTA nomination (N. Bergström)**

Based on the request from the Swedish TTA, it was decided that the EC would recommend to the BOD to present to the AGM the acceptance of Mr. Nils Bergström as Honorary Personal Member of the ITTF.

### **18.5 Mr. Ramanujan's proposal for WTTC**

This item was referred to the next EC meeting.

### **18.6 Directives for match officials**

This item was referred to the next EC meeting in Linz, where a meeting of the URC would also take place. Mr. Neil Harwood was requested to ask Ms Cindy Leung to present the final document in Linz.

### **18.6 Electronic voting system**

Mr. Jordi Serra explained that he had obtained proposals for renting an electronic voting system and had received an offer that seemed suitable. Mr. Serra was requested, together with Mr. Rudi Sporrer to visit the company, explain ITTF requirements and present a proposal to the next EC meeting.

### **18.7 Proxy System**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that he would like to follow-up on the report previously submitted by Mr. Pierre Albertini concerning the proxy system. It was decided that other IFs would be consulted and a working group would be formed to continue the discussion of this issue.

## **19 Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 16h30.

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Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara