



INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION  
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE JUDO  
FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE JUDO

**DRAFT**

ASSOCIATION UNDER HUNGARIAN LAW – ASSOCIATION DE DROIT HONGROIS - ASOCIACION HUNGARA

**2023 IJF ORDINARY CONGRESS**  
**Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Doha, Qatar**  
**Sheraton hotel, Al Majlis room**  
**Roll Call 08:00 (Doha time)**  
**Start of the Congress 9:00 (Doha time)**

## MINUTES

**Congress Opening at 9:00.**

### Preamble

Mr. MARINESCU, IJF Director General, greets all the delegates and welcomes His Excellency Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Doha 2023 World Judo Championships Chairman, Qatar Olympic Committee President and Association of National Olympic committees Senior Vice President, Mr. Marius VIZER, IJF President and Mr. Khalid ALATIYA, President of Qatar Taekwondo, Judo and Karate Federation.

### Point 1. Obituary

**General Secretary Mr. ROUGÉ**

Mr. ROUGÉ, IJF General Secretary, calls for a moment of silence in solidarity with judo family members who passed away since the last 2021 IJF Congress.

### Point 2. Validation of the Congress composition and quorum

**General Secretary Mr. ROUGÉ**

Mr ROUGÉ informs that all the documents proposed for the vote of the Congress have been sent within the regulatory deadlines.

The official opening of the Congress may be declared when at least one-third (1/3) of the member National Federations are represented and when at least three (3) different Continental Union representatives are present.

The quorum required is **66 out of 197** National Federations from 3 continents in order to deliberate.

According to the Roll Call, **112 IJF member National Federations from 5 Continental Unions are represented at the 2023 IJF Congress.**

The Congress shall decide by a relative majority of the votes cast (article 8.18 of IJF Statutes): **57 out of 112 voting members.**

“Amendments to the Statutes [...] must be approved by a minimum of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the member National Federations present or represented at the Congress from at least three (3) different Continental Unions” (article 26.1 of IJF Statutes): **75 out of 112 voting members.**

As the quorum is met, the conditions of the Congress opening are fulfilled and the Congress can deliberate.

**Point 3. Welcome word and opening of the 2023 IJF Ordinary Congress****President Mr. VIZER**

Mr. VIZER, IJF President, welcomes all IJF distinguished guests, the Qatar Olympic Committee, the Local Organising Committee, all IJF National Federations delegates and judo family members on the occasion of the IJF Ordinary Congress and the World Judo Championship in Doha, the city of innovation and one of the biggest sport event organisers in the world.

“Qatar is investing today in sport, culture, education, new technologies to build a new future, to organise a modern society. By investing in sport, we invest in education, in the future of the world, in stability, unity, friendship and peace.

The autonomy of the sport is very important. By protecting this autonomy, we protect human values. The principles of sport, such as fairness, respect, unity, friendship are the basic principles of our society.

Qatar has recently organised the most important sport events in the world: the FIFA World Cup as well as several World Championships. In this way, Qatar contributes to the legacy in the country, the region and around the world”. President M. VIZER hopes to have a successful World Judo Championship.

President M. VIZER thanks His Excellency Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Qatar Olympic Committee and judo family, the IJF judo family for their support and involvement in the organisation of this great judo event.

President M. VIZER says that today the world faces a big controversy. The current conflict affects the economy, social life, politics, and strategy. The stability of the world is in danger. President M. VIZER hopes this event to be a message and an inspiration for the leaders of the world to a dialogue and reconciliation in order to reassure the stability in the world.

President M. VIZER wishes everyone a successful Congress and a great World Judo Championship in Doha.

**Point 4. Welcome speech from IJF Guests****His Excellency Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al-Thani**

His Excellency Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al-Thani welcomes all the participants in Qatar. He says that it is a great pleasure to host the judo family for the IJF Congress and the World Judo Championship. He wishes everyone a productive meeting and looks forward to having an exciting World Judo Championship. His Excellency Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al-Thani is very happy to celebrate this special occasion with the judo family. He wishes good luck to the athletes during this great event which will showcase the best of judo. He hopes that everyone will enjoy their stay in Doha and will experience all that this city offers.

**Point 5. Election of one Voting Steward and 4 scrutineers****General Secretary Mr. ROUGÉ**

Mr. MARINESCU explains that first the electronic voting system by LUMI company was planned with the full collaboration of the National Federations. As an electronic device voting process could not be secured and following the test voting from the delegates, only 63 votes were received. In order to make the Congress more transparent and smooth running, it was decided that all the votes will be conducted using the paper voting cards handled to the delegates on the day of the Congress. Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot, if one-third (1/3) of the Member National Federations present at the Congress so demand.

Mr. ROUGÉ proposes, for the delegates' approval, the election of a President of the Voting Board and 4 scrutineers, these persons cannot have the same nationality as candidates for elections.

✓ **First resolution: Election of one Voting Steward and 4 scrutineers**

The below candidates were proposed:

Voting steward: Dr. Martin POIGER (AUT).

Scrutineers: Mr. Esa NIEMI (FIN), Mr. Raguib FAISSAL (DJI), Mr. Gilberto Antonio GARCIA PIÑA (DOM), Mr. Youssouf AL ANZI (KUW).

**Result:**

The representatives of the Member National Federations unanimously elect the Voting Steward and 4 scrutineers.

**Point 6. Approval of the 2023 IJF Ordinary Congress agenda**

**General Secretary Mr. ROUGÉ**

✓ **Second resolution: Approval of the 2023 IJF Ordinary Congress agenda**

Mr. ROUGÉ informs that the IJF Executive Committee during its meeting on Wednesday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, proposed one additional modification to the agenda of the 2023 IJF Ordinary Congress: the removal of Mr. Rovnag ABDULLAYEV from his position of the IJF Executive Committee member.

He asks if the delegates have any comments and proposes to the Congress the approval of the agenda ([Annex 1](#)).

**Result:**

The representatives of the member National Federations unanimously approve the 2023 IJF Ordinary Congress agenda.

**Point 7. Approval of the minutes of the 2021 IJF Congress**

**General Secretary Mr. ROUGÉ**

✓ **Third resolution: Approval of the minutes of the 2021 IJF Congress in Budapest**

Mr. ROUGÉ proposes to the Congress for approval the minutes of the 2021 IJF Congress that was held in Budapest on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 ([Annex 2](#)).

The Congress did not make any observation. It was proposed to proceed to the vote.

**Result:**

The representatives of the member National Federations unanimously approve the minutes of the 2021 IJF Congress in Budapest.

**Point 8. Statutory reports**

**8.1 Report of the President**

**Mr. VIZER**

President M. VIZER starts presenting his report of the activities 2021-2023 by saying that today judo is breaking borders, as it is a sport without discrimination, a sport which supports refugees, education, peace, and friendships.

• **Excellent standing with the Hungarian Government**

The IJF has an excellent relationship with the Hungarian Government where the IJF headquarters benefit from numerous advantages with, among others, the support of 1 million USD per year.

The "Hungaricum Stipendium" University Scholarships were obtained in 2022 for 3 judoka from Lebanon, Cuba and Morocco. In 2023 the scholarships were granted for 3 judoka from Tunisia, Kyrgyzstan and Paraguay.

• **Spectacular judo at Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games**

President M. VIZER thanks the Olympic Committee of Japan, All Japan Judo Federation and all people involved in the organisation of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. He underlines the first time ever Olympic Mixed Team Event with the participation of the Refugee Team.

- **Outstanding World Championships 2022 in Tashkent**

The total of 82 countries participated in the World Championships 2022 in Tashkent, with 571 judoka (310 men and 261 women). 25 countries got medals. It was the first edition with qualification eligibility criteria.

For the first time ever, the IJF organised a judo economic forum. It was a great success for the IJF, as well as for the country. The legacy includes the Memorandum of Understanding with Uzbekistan Judo Federation, Ministries of Education and Pre-School Education and Ministry of Sport (judo was introduced in 35 pre-school establishments and 80 schools).

- **World Judo Championships 2023 Doha**

President M. VIZER hopes the World Judo Championships 2023 Doha be the most successful ones. He informs that 128 countries are registered with the total of 660 judoka (345 men and 315 women). 47 countries are supported by the IJF.

- **Secured World Judo Tour Events for entire Olympic Cycle and beyond**

The World Judo Tour returned to approximately 20 events per year. The IJF is still negotiating with the candidates for the organisation of the World Championships 2024 and 2025. According to the current controversial situation in the world and the lack of political stability, some aspects are still to be clarified regarding these organisations.

- **Paris 2024 Olympic Games**

President M. VIZER informs that France is a great judo country which has always contributed to the development of sport in the world.

Judo competition will take place in a temporary venue with 8,663 seats capacity next to the Eiffel Tower. President M. VIZER details a quota of 378 places as follows:

- 169 men and 169 women
- 14 host country quota places (7 men and 7 women)
- 15 Universality Places
- 5 Mixed Team event invitation places
- 6 Refugees

- **IT, media and marketing**

President M. VIZER informs that social media are in a constant growth. Due to post-Covid consequences and the current economic situation, the broadcasting of events was considerably reduced. The IJF launched its own TV channel and directly works with the TV broadcasters. President M. VIZER highlights the numerous IJF partnerships, both historic and new ones.

- **Development and education**

President M. VIZER underlines the educational DNA of judo and informs about the IJF strategy whose goals are to support judo, to cooperate with IJF National Federations and to invest in judo development.

- **IJF donations**

President M. VIZER informs that the IJF donations and support in 2021-2023 represented 5,819,484 USD (equipment donations, financial support, support for participation to events, 'Judo in schools' projects, dojo building).

President M. VIZER informs that the IJF Training Centre in Hungary successfully welcomes the athletes in preparation for the Paris Olympic Games.

- **Judo in Schools**

Judo in Schools is one of the IJF most successful projects. The IJF will continue to invest in this programme for the promotion of values, ethics, principles of fair-play in the sport and in the world.

- **IJF Academy**

President M. VIZER informs that this year we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the IJF Academy. 130 National Federations and almost 6,000 students took part in IJF Academy courses. President M. VIZER congratulates Mr. GALEA, IJF Academy Chair, Mr. KOZSLA, IJF Academy Education Director, Mr. LASCAU, IJF Academy Sport Director, as well as all the members involved in this project.

- **Judo for Peace**

Since several years, the IJF has been supporting many programmes in refugees' camps around the world and promoting peace. The IJF supports a very cohesive Refugee team. President M. VIZER hopes that its members will find their way through judo.

- **Sustainability**

The IJF promotes carbon neutral events. The IJF bought the first carbon offsets in a hydraulic clean energy plant near Antalya.

- **European Union programmes and funds**

President M. VIZER congratulates all the National Federations involved in the European Union development programmes: Hungarian Judo Association, Slovenian Judo Federation, Italian Judo Federation and all those participating.

- **World Judo Day**

President M. VIZER announces that the theme of 2023 year is "Bring Your Friend to Judo".

President M. VIZER finishes his report by thanking His Excellency Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Qatar National Olympic Committee, the Qatar Judo Federation, the local Organisation Committee, all media partners, as well as all judoka, coaches, referees and the entire judo family around the world.

President M. VIZER hopes that the World Judo Championship 2023 in Doha will promote two values: first of all, the culture, the history, the traditions and the modern vision of the country, and the second message is the one of the peace, unity and reconciliation in the world.

No remarks from the delegates.

*The complete presentation can be found in [Annex 3](#).*

### **8.1.1. Report of the Director General**

**Mr. MARINESCU**

Mr. MARINESCU gives the information regarding the reintegration of Russian and Belorussian athletes.

"Following the IOC recommendations, the IJF Executive Committee voted to permit neutral athletes from Russia and Belarus to participate in IJF Competitions. The Russian Judo Federation provided the list of the athletes and officials. The IJF Executive Committee has commissioned independent background investigations regarding all the proposed representatives. Based on these results, the Executive Committee unanimously voted the participation of concerned Russian athletes as individual neutral athletes starting from the World Judo Championships 2023 in Doha. In addition, the Executive Committee decided to provide 2 Wild Cards to Belorussian delegation, as no athlete from this country could qualify for the World Judo Championships 2023. The background investigations were conducted and provided to the Executive Committee".

Mr. MARINESCU presents then the activities of IT, marketing and media matters whose final objectives are to bring more members and grow our judo family.

No remarks from the delegates.

*The complete presentation can be found in [Annex 4](#).*

## 8.2 Report of the General Secretary

**Mr. ROUGÉ**

Mr. ROUGÉ starts his report by saying that it's with great emotion that he attends this IJF Congress 2023 for the last time as IJF General Secretary. It was a big pleasure for him to hold this position during all these years.

Mr. ROUGÉ informs that he performed his activities as IJF General Secretary using the major judo principles: mutual help and prosperity, as well as the optimal use of energy. He says that the General Secretariat is at the service of all sectors of the IJF.

Mr. ROUGÉ presents the report of the activity of the General Secretariat for the period 2021-2023.

Mr. ROUGÉ thanks the IJF President, the IJF Presidential office, the IJF General Treasurer, all the IJF Commissions, the IJF member National Federations and his team of the IJF General Secretary office.

No remarks from the delegates.

*The complete presentation can be found in [Annex 5](#).*

## 8.3 Report of the General Treasurer

**Mr. AL TAMIMI**

Mr. AL TAMIMI presents the financial report for the period 2021-2023.

*The complete presentation can be found in [Annex 6](#).*

Mr. AL TAMIMI informs that since the World Championship in 2023 is held before the Hungarian reporting date, the General Secretary will send out the auditor's report as soon as it is finalised.

No remarks from the delegates.

- ✓ **Fourth resolution: Approval of the reports of the President, the General Secretary and the General Treasurer, the final discharge of the Executive Committee**

It is proposed to the Congress delegates to approve the fourth resolution.

### **Result:**

The representatives of the member National Federations unanimously approve the President's report, the General Secretary's report, the General Treasurer's report, giving the final discharge to the Executive Committee.

## **Point 9. Statutory and regulatory modifications**

**General Secretary Mr. ROUGÉ**

### **9.1 IJF Disciplinary Code modifications**

- ✓ **Fifth resolution: Approval of the IJF Disciplinary Code modifications**

Mr. ROUGÉ proposes to the Congress delegates the approval of the IJF Disciplinary Code modifications.

The Congress did not make any observation.

### **Result:**

The representatives of the member National Federations unanimously approve the IJF Disciplinary Code modifications.

## **9.2 Modifications of the IJF Statutes**

### ✓ **Sixth resolution: Approval of the modification of Article 1.2 of the IJF Statutes**

#### **1.2 – IJF**

*The International Judo Federation (hereinafter referred to as the "IJF"), is a non-for-profit Association founded for an unlimited period of time and governed by Hungarian law and the present Statutes. The IJF, by its associative status acts in an independent manner in accordance with the principle of autonomy.*

### **Result:**

The representatives of the member National Federations unanimously approve the modifications of Article 1.2 of the IJF Statutes.

### ✓ **Seventh resolution: Approval of the modification of Article 4.3 of the IJF Statutes**

#### **Article 4.3 A Defence of Federations**

#### **Article 4.3 B Defence of Federations**

*- IJF National Member Federations may only be composed of associations (clubs), or associative, private, social, school or state structures exclusively engaged in judo activities, **unless otherwise provided by the mandatory rules applicable to the National member Federation.***

*- These particular cases will be dealt with by the IJF Executive Committee.*

*Transitional provision: National Federations have a maximum of **2 years** to comply with this provision.*

*- **Member Federations may not be affiliated to another International Federation.***

*-The policy, administration and management of IJF can only be decided by its internal bodies (Board, Executive Committee, Congress) provided for in this Statutes approved by its member Federations.*

### **Abstention:**

The delegate from the Italian Judo Federation and the delegate from the San Marino Judo Federation.

### **Result:**

The representatives of the member National Federations approve by the majority (unanimity with two abstentions) the modifications of Article 4.3 of the IJF Statutes.

### ✓ **Eighth resolution: Approval of the modification of Article 1.4 of the IJF Statutes**

#### **1.4 Continental Union**

*[...] Continental Unions are in charge of implementing the policies of the IJF and the IOC.*

*The Continental Unions must apply and ensure the application by their member federations of the statutes, regulations, contracts and directives proposed by the IJF. However, if local obligations so require, the Union may request a derogation from the IJF EC for one of its members or for itself.*

### **Result:**

The representatives of the member National Federations unanimously approve the modifications of Article 1.4 of the IJF Statutes.

- ✓ **Ninth resolution: Approval of the modification of Article 27, of the deletion of Article 22.5 and of the re-numbering of Articles 22.5 – 22.6 – 22.7 of the IJF Statutes**

#### **Article 27 - Specific Regulations**

*The EC shall establish specific regulations in special fields that are not covered under these Statutes, or that are delegated to the competence of the EC. Regulations for specific operations and departments of the IJF are governed by specific rules proposed by the specific departments, which shall be subject to approval by the EC, in particular:*

- 1) *Disciplinary Code – IJF Disciplinary Code*
- 2) *Event Standards – IJF Event Organization Guide*
- 3) *Finance – IJF Financial Rules*
- 4) *Ethics – IJF Code of Ethics*

*As may be required, additional specific rules may be established and submitted to the vote of the EC. The EC shall put the ratification of the decision to adopt or amendment of these specific regulations to the agenda of the next Congress.*

**Deletion: Article 22.5 – Out of pocket expenses**

**Re-numbering: Articles 22.5, 22.6, 22.7.**

#### **Result:**

The representatives of the member National Federations unanimously approve the modifications of Article 27, the deletion of Article 22.5 and the re-numbering of Articles 22.5 – 22.6 – 22.7 of the IJF Statutes.

- ✓ **Tenth resolution: Ratification of regulations as provided for in Article 27 of the IJF Statutes**

#### **Ratification of regulations as provided for in Article 27 of the IJF Statutes:**

- IJF Disciplinary Code (ratified in the fifth resolution)
- IJF Event Organization Guide
- IJF Financial Rules
- IJF Code of Ethics

#### **Result:**

The representatives of the member National Federations unanimously ratify the regulations as provided in Article 27 of the IJF Statutes.

*The complete presentation can be found in [Annex 7](#).*

**Point 10. Provisional budget 2023-2025**

**General Treasurer Mr. AL TAMIMI**

*The complete presentation of the provisional budget 2023-2025 can be found in [Annex 8](#).*

- ✓ **Eleventh resolution: approval of the provisional budget 2023-2025**

#### **Result:**

The representatives of the member National Federations unanimously approve the IJF provisional budget 2023-2025.

#### **Point 11. Directors' speeches and propositions**

##### **11.1 Sport Commission**

**Mr. BARTA (Head Sport Director)**

Mr. BARTA presents the Sport Commission report for the period 2021-2023.



"2021 was strongly influenced by the pandemic restrictions and the Olympic qualification was prolonged until June 2021, closing at the World Championships 2021 in Hungary.

In 2021, the IJF organised 16 IJF events though, including 1 Masters, 8 grand slams, 1 grand prix and there were 6 World Championships.

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games were a success. Judo was again 3<sup>rd</sup> in terms of participation of nations and for the first time, we had full gender equality during the qualification process. It was also the first time that we had a mixed team competition, including an International Refugee Team.

In 2022 the IJF organised 21 IJF events: 1 Masters, 9 grand slams, 2 grand prix and 9 world championships.

The new Olympic qualification began. Today the World Ranking List counts more than 7,000 judoka from 169 nations, all considered as taking part in the Olympic qualification. The continental quota allows each continent to have many nations participating in the Olympic Games.

The IJF focuses on the IJF Refugee Team, which aim is to have refugee athletes taking part in the Paris Olympic Games 2024.

The test event for Paris 2024 will take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2023 and the Olympic judo event in Paris will be held from the 27<sup>th</sup> of July to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2024.

This year, the IJF will be involved with the organisation of the World Combat Games, with a mixed team event on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, a competition that will bring together 14 teams from 5 different continents.

No remarks from the delegates.

*The complete presentation can be found in [Annex 9](#).*

## **11.2 Referee Commission**

**Mr. LASCAU (Head Referee Director)**

Mr. LASCAU presents the Referee Commission report for the period 2021-2023.

Mr. LASCAU explained that "judo is an active and dynamic Olympic sport withstanding changes and developments. After the last Olympic cycle, we reviewed the refereeing rules and twelve points have been changed or adapted. The whole process was supported with competition videos. It was presented and implemented during the WJT events".

The work of the commission is articulated around regular referee training sessions, refereeing seminars and video analysis.

Mr. LASCAU gave statistical analysis: 5,898 contests were analysed covering 15 World Judo Tour events. The results show that 78.4% of the contests were concluded with a positive score (ippon, waza-ari-awasete, waza-ari), the other contests being won by penalties (three shido or hansoku-make) or by fusen-gachi or kiken-gachi.

Talking about golden score, 993 of those contests were won with a positive score.

As Mr. LASCAU underlines "sometimes we have the feeling that more penalties are given or that many contests are going to golden score, but the figures don't lie and it shows that judo is a dynamic sport, for which the goal remains to score ippon. The athletes and their coaches understand that".

No remarks from the delegates.

*The complete presentation can be found in [Annex 10](#).*

## **11.3 Education and Coaching Commission**

**Mr. MERIDJA (Education and Coaching Director)**

Mr. MERIDJA presents the Education and Coaching Commission report for the period 2021-2023.

7 technical courses for coaches were held in Africa (Tunisia, Comoros, Togo, Sierra Leone, Cape Verde), in Europe (Armenia) and in Pan-America (Chile).

12 scholarships were allocated: Africa (Botswana, Seychelles, Morocco, Nigeria, Mozambique), Asia (Tajikistan, Bahrain, Kyrgyzstan) and Pan-America (Chile, Uruguay, Peru, Dominican Republic).

As part of the development of the national sports system, four countries benefited from IJF support and expertise (Tajikistan, Paraguay, Bhutan and Seychelles). In the meantime, 108 athletes benefited from an Olympic Scholarship: Africa (37), Europe (30), Pan-America (16), Asia (23) and Oceania (2).

All information about athletes' interests is circulated through the IJF Athletes' Commission, which has been very active in recent months. The IOC Athletes' Reference Guide (Athlete365) is published and updated regularly on the IJF website, offering the possibility for everyone to stay up-to-date with all necessary information.

96 applications for a Master Coach Licence have been processed.

The judogi control rules were updated in 2021. A tolerance period was granted to the athletes to adapt to the new rules (length of the judogi jacket...). All breaches were notified to the federations to give the opportunity to the athletes to comply with the new rules. A special stamp (with optical reading) was designed so that all compliant judogi are stamped on the day before the competition.

A Fairplay Trophy was established in 2021 which can be awarded to a coach, a club, a country or a personality demonstrating great respect to judo values.

Regarding the kata activities, 102 pairs from 25 countries participated in the World Kata Championships in Portugal in 2021, while 119 pairs from 26 countries participated in the Kata World Championships in Krakow, Poland, a year later. 12 countries out of 26 won a medal.

No remarks from the delegates.

*The complete presentation can be found in [Annex 11](#).*

## **Point 12. Reports of the Continental Unions**

### **12.1 Report of the African Judo Union (AJU)**

**Mr. RANDRIANASOLONIAIKO**

Mr. RANDRIANASOLONIAIKO, IJF Vice-President and AJU President being excused, the report is presented by Mrs. PRIDGEON, AJU General Secretary.

No remarks from the delegates.

*The complete presentation can be found in [Annex 12](#).*

### **12.2 Report of the Judo Union of Asia (JUA)**

**Mr. AL-ANZI**

Mr. AL-ANZI, IJF Vice-President and JUA President presents the report for the period 2021-2023 of the JUA.

No remarks from the delegates.

*The complete presentation can be found in [Annex 13](#).*

### **12.3 Report of the European Judo Union (EJU)**

**Dr. TOTH**

Dr. TOTH, IJF Vice-President and EJU President presents the report for the period 2021-2023 of the EJU.

No remarks from the delegates.

*The complete presentation can be found in [Annex 14](#).*

#### 12.4 Report of the Oceania Judo Union (OJU)

Mr. DAVIO

Mr. ROUGÉ explains that following the allegations made by some OJU Executive Committee members, the IJF Executive Committee in reference to article 3.2 of the IJF Statutes, by its decision dated March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, postponed the OJU elections and agreed to set up an audit before the elections so that the members of the OJU can make an informed decision at the elective General Assembly. Consequently, the elections were postponed to a later date.

Mr. ROUGÉ informs that BDO New Zealand is an independent auditing company appointed for OJU audit. The report will be distributed to OJU stakeholders as soon as it is finalised. Consequently, there is no presentation of the OJU report.

No remarks from the delegates.

#### 12.5 Report of the Panamerican Judo Confederation (PJC)

Mr. ZEGARRA-PRESSER

Mr. ZEGARRA-PRESSER, IJF Vice-President and PJC President presents the 2021-2023 report of the PJC.

No remarks from the delegates.

*The complete presentation can be found in [Annex 15](#).*

### Point 13. Propositions from the Continental Unions and member National Federations

- Mr. KOSHIAK, President of the Ukrainian Judo Federation, takes the floor and expresses on behalf of the Ukrainian Judo Federation, his sincere gratitude to the International Judo Federation and to Mr. VIZER, for the great support of the Ukrainian community.

He gives the following information: "Since February 24, 2022, a full-scale war has been going on in Ukraine, we are defending ourselves against Russian aggression. Many people today do not fully understand the scale of our losses and suffering - thousands of killed civilians and children, hundreds of cities destroyed, millions of refugees, more than 285 athletes died at the front defending the country, including judokas. Every day we live and train under rocket fire, and we do not have equal conditions to prepare for competitions".

Mr. KOSHIAK informs that despite a full-scale war that is going on in Ukraine, 14 of the strongest Ukrainian athletes were preparing for the World Judo Championships in Doha. "We were forced to make a difficult decision to withdraw the team's application when we learned that athletes from Russia and Belarus had been admitted to the competition".

Mr. KOSHIAK is upset that Ukraine will not participate in the World Judo Championships and hopes that to create safe conditions during the competition, the International Judo Federation will once again carefully study all the details and reconsider its decision to allow Russian and Belarusian athletes to participate in all future competitions.

Mr. KOSHIAK thanks the IJF and its President for their steadfast support of Ukrainian judo.

- Mr. CASSINERIO, IJF Executive Committee member and IJF Development Director expresses the following opinion:

"On my behalf, I do not approve of the war, I am against the war. However, I would like to express my faith: the faith to live together, because we all love judo. The National Federations and the Continental Unions are under the umbrella of the IJF. I was so glad to hear all these speeches about peace, the support of refugees and the way that the IJF works with the international community to create a better society. I would like to remind the representative of the Ukrainian Judo Federation that the Russian-Ukrainian conflict is not the only one in our world: there are at least 10 ongoing wars.

We all work for peace. Today all judoka who are sanctioned and banned from competitions probably have nothing to do with the politics of their country. They do not have to pay the price for the decisions of political leaders.

As a father and the President of a PJC member National Federation, I will always fight for the judoka. I don't want to violate the IJF Statutes and regulations, but I will never sanction someone who is not guilty and has nothing to do with what is happening in his country. We cannot give up on youth, their hopes, and their future. We must protect the innocent who have nothing to do with it, we are here to defend the values of judo. Judoka should not have to pay the price for decisions they did not make themselves. We should not judge the athletes. The fact that athletes from the Ukraine or Russian Federation do not participate is not logical. We must continue to spread the message of peace. The Olympic Games is an opportunity to stop war. Sport is the ultimate bastion of peace. The IOC recommends and the IJF acts: every country must respect the IOC recommendations. There can be no discrimination because of origin, country, or race”.

- President M. VIZER repeats that for allowing the participation of the Russian and Belorussian teams, the IJF chose an independent international company to analyse individual background of each athlete and official. The IJF received a clear report and statements from the Russian Federation and the Belorussia that participating athletes and officials are not part of the army or special forces of their countries.

“All of us regret the tragedy of the Ukrainian people. However, for a war we need to have two parties. Unfortunately, there was no diplomatic decision and both parties chose the war.

The IJF has been supporting the Ukraine since all this period: 320 children were brought to Romania and 300 children to Hungary”.

President M. VIZER regrets very much the decision of the Ukrainian Judo Federation not to participate in the World Judo Championships 2023 in Doha, because of the participation of the Russian and Belarusian athletes.

“There is no place for war and discrimination in our sport. Interventions from governments, politicians, or media influence in decisions made in a sport body, which is an autonomous organisation, break the principles of democracy, transparency, and foster discrimination. Judo has its principles and values. Before this war there was no controversy in the judo family which was always united. We want to live in peace. Politicians should work for peace, not for war. It is a drama for both Ukraine and the Russian, as there are innocent victims on both sides.

The fact that Ukrainian delegation withdrawn the participation, is not a good image for our sport. The judo family is for friendship, peace and respect”.

- Mr. SOLOVEYCHIK, representing an “IJF neutral member” declares on behalf of his judo family, that in such a difficult historical moment, the contribution to peace is to follow the values and the principles of judo. He thinks that nowadays we all have to build the bridge between the countries, neither to destroy nor to burn it. Mr. SOLOVEYCHIK declares his deepest respect to Mr. KOSHIAK, President of the Ukrainian Judo Federation and to his judo family. He regrets the decision of the government about the non-participation of the Ukrainian athletes in the World Judo Championships 2023.

#### **Point 14. Election of the IJF General Secretary and IJF General Treasurer**

**President Mr. VIZER**

Mr. ROUGÉ asks if any delegate requests the election of the IJF General Secretary and the IJF General Treasurer to be conducted by a secret ballot. No request for a secret ballot from the delegates. Mr. ROUGÉ declares that both votes will be conducted by a show of hands.

##### **14.1 Presentation of the candidates: candidate for the office of General Secretary**

President M. VIZER presents the candidature of Dr. Lisa ALLAN, the only candidate for the office of the IJF General Secretary.

✓ **Twelfth vote: Election of the IJF General Secretary**

**Result:**

The representatives of the member National Federations unanimously elect Dr. ALLAN as IJF General Secretary.

**14.2 Presentation of the candidates: candidate for the office of General Treasurer**

President M. VIZER presents the candidature of Mr. Naser AL TAMIMI, the only candidate for the office of the IJF General Treasurer.

✓ **Thirteenth vote: Election of the IJF General Treasurer**

**Result:**

The representatives of the member National Federations unanimously elect Mr. AL TAMIMI as IJF General Treasurer.

**Point 15. Ratification of Executive Committee decisions concerning the composition of the Executive Committee** **President Mr. VIZER**

No request for a secret ballot was received from the Congress delegates regarding the ratification of the Executive Committee decisions concerning the composition of the Executive Committee. Mr. ROUGÉ declares that the ratification will be conducted by a show of hands.

President M. VIZER took the floor to proceed to the vote.

The following members were co-opted as IJF Executive Committee members:

- Mr. Michael TAMURA
- Mr. Skander HACHICHA
- Mr. Jean-Luc ROUGÉ
- Mr. Vlad MARINESCU

The following member was impeached from his position as an IJF Executive Committee member:

- Mr. Rovnag ABDULLAYEV

✓ **Fourteenth vote: Ratification of Executive Committee decisions concerning the composition of the Executive Committee**

**Result:**

The representatives of the member National Federations unanimously ratify the Executive Committee decisions concerning the composition of the Executive Committee

**Point 16. Distinctions** **Mr. ROUGÉ**

President M. VIZER receives a present from the IJF Academy, on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its creation.

President M. VIZER thanks Mr. ROUGÉ for his long and successful career as General Secretary. He wishes him all the best for the future and good luck to the newly elected members.

President M. VIZER closes the Congress by thanking the IJF National Federations, the IJF Executive Committee, all the athletes, coaches, referees, staff and all the persons who work hard for the judo family, for prosperity, development, peace, unity and friendship in our sport.

He wishes everyone a successful championship.

On conclusion of the agenda, the Congress is closed at 13:10.