

REPORT

Extraordinary Executive Board Meeting

22 January 2020 – Doha, Qatar

Place: The Torch Doha

Present: Dr. Tamás AJÁN, President, Mohammed JALOOD, General Secretary

Maj.Gen. Intarat YODBANGTOEY, 1st Vice President

Ursula PAPANDREA, Nicu VLAD, José QUINONES, Petr KROL, Vice Presidents

Karoliina LUNDAHL, Pyrros DIMAS, Maxim AGAPITOV, Birendra P. BAISHYA, Shakhriilo MAKHMUDOV,

Mahmoud MAHGOUB, Luis ZAMBRANO, Dr. Michael IRANI, Executive Board Members

Dr. Antonio URSO, Marcus STEPHEN, Willian OZUNA, Khaled MEHALHEL, M.Y. AL MANA, Continental Federation Presidents

As guests: Dr. Francois CARRARD, Mark COOPER, JTA, Dr. Tim FREY, FARNER Suisse Romande

ÁDÁMFI Attila, IWF Director General, IWF Secretariat members

Absent: Zhanat TUSSUPBEKOV

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Dr. Aján thanked everyone for participating despite short notice. One absentee noted: Mr. Zhanat Tussupbekov, Vice President.

Dr. Aján expressed deep gratitude to **Mr. Al Mana** for his invitation and for hosting the meeting in Doha.

Mr. Al Mana took the floor, emphasizing that the critical situation's origin was not only the ARD's allegations against the President, but he agreed that the future of weightlifting was to be considered. He was confident the Board was capable of taking the right decision.

Dr. Carrard spoke about the procedures underlining the importance of the EB's duty of loyalty and confidentiality.

Dr. Aján offered to cede the chairing of the meeting. After discussion, upon last proposal by the President, **Ms. Ursula Papandrea, Vice President** was voted by the Executive Board to chair the meeting.

2. IWF's Analysis of ARD Documentary and Rebuttal of Allegations

2.1 In case some Executive Board Members had not seen a translated version of the program, **Ms. Anikó Németh-Móra**, Director gave a synopsis of the documentary.

2.2 The IWF's media partner, **JTA**, represented by **Mr. Mark Cooper** informed the Board of the media context in a presentation.

2.3 **Mr. Ádámfi**, Director General informed the EB of a summary of actions since the ARD film had appeared.

Mr. Yodbangtoey read out a statement of TAWA; confirmed unethical behaviour by the ARD journalists and informed the Board that the athlete had reported it to the police. Furthermore, following the IWF's letter to TAWA to investigate the case, TAWA asked the Ministry of Sport and the Sport Authority of Thailand that an independent investigation be conducted.

Dr. Aján refused rumours that an investigation started against him in Hungary and confirmed that he had supplied due and satisfactory information to the authorities.

2.4 The document, elaborated by the IWF Secretariat "**IWF's ANALYSIS OF ARD DOCUMENTARY AND REBUTTAL OF ALLEGATIONS**", was presented with oral explanations from **Mr. Ádámfi**, **Ms. Németh-Móra** and **Dr. Lilla Sági**, Legal Counsel.

As the study of the document progressed, Executive Board members put questions and made comments, whereby clarifications were supplied, respectively, by those presenting.

After this, a closed executive meeting was ordered by Chair **Ms. Papandrea**. The Secretariat, advisors, guests left the room and only the Executive Board members remained.

The Board moved to go into executive session for a discussion about the future of the sport and the impact of the allegation of the ARD video. Each Executive Member expressed their thoughts on the topic.

The Board then took the decision to appoint a commission to spearhead the search for independent, external experts to investigate the ARD allegations. Birendra Baishya, Karolina Lundahl, Marcus Stephen, and Ursula Papandrea were appointed by the Board.

Executive Session Board actions:

1. President Tamas Ajan decided and the Board agreed that he would step aside from his duties as President the duration of 90 days starting January 22, 2020.
2. The Executive Board decided unanimously voted Madame Ursula Garza Papandrea as the Acting President of the IWF for the duration of 90 days starting January 22, 2020.

At the end of the executive session, a Statement / Press Release was issued.

Executive Board statement / Press Release

Doha, 22 January 2020;

Meeting in Doha yesterday, an extraordinary meeting of the IWF Executive Board (EB) responded to allegations made by a television report that aired on Germany's ARD, and acted decisively to restore the IWF's reputation. A point-by-point analysis of the allegations was considered by the IWF Executive Board before it entered into comprehensive discussions and decided on a detailed plan of action.

Consistent with the principle at the heart of the IWF's successful and widely-welcomed recent anti-doping reforms, the IWF will now convene a group of independent experts to assess the validity of the ARD allegations. This work is expected to be completed during a 90-day period, starting immediately.

For the 90-day period, and consistent with the practice of good governance, IWF President Tamas Ajan has delegated a range of operational responsibilities to IWF Vice President Ursula Papandrea, who will temporarily serve alongside Ajan in an Acting President role.

Papandrea will now head an ad hoc Oversight and Integrity Commission whose responsibilities will include identifying, nominating and recommending independent experts in fields including anti-doping and financial reporting. The experts will be appointed by the IWF EB. Serving alongside Papandrea on the commission will be fellow EB members H.E Marcus Stephen, Birendra Prasad Baishya and Karoliina Lundahl.

The Oversight and Integrity Commission will also ensure the provision of an interim report to the meetings of the IWF Executive Board and IWF Congress, scheduled for Bucharest on March 11-13.