

M/21/22 Monaco, 15 April 2022

To: MEMBER FEDERATIONS

Copy: Council Members

Executive Board Members Honorary Members Area Associations Dentsu Athletics

Re: Minutes of the 53rd World Athletics Congress – held virtually on 17 & 18 November 2021

Dear all,

It is my pleasure to send you the Minutes of the 53rd World Athletics Congress, which was held for the first time virtually by videoconference on 17 and 18 November 2021.

The Minutes have been drafted in accordance with the Constitution and the Rules of Congress, and in the order of the Congress Agenda.

Requests for correction should be addressed by email to congress@worldathletics.org. Any queries arising will be brought to the attention of the World Athletics Council during its next meeting following receipt of the email.

Kind regards,

Jon Ridgeon

Chief Executive Officer

Appendix: Minutes of the 53rd World Athletics Congress







53rd World Athletics Congress 17/18 November 2021 by videoconference

Introduction

These Minutes follow the programme of the 53rd World Athletics Congress and Convention, and the order of the Congress agenda.

At its meeting on 28/29 July 2021, in accordance with Rule 15.2 of the Rules of Congress, Council approved the 2021 Virtual Congress Procedure. As set out in the approved procedure, Member Federations were asked to submit questions on the procedure and/ or the Congress Documentation ahead of the meeting (none were received). During the Congress, Delegates had the opportunity to ask questions by typing them into the Zoom meeting chat function and also by raising their virtual hand to request the floor.

The decisions of the 53rd Congress were taken by electronic open voting via the online voting platform provided by Lumi Holdings LTD ("Lumi"). Prior to the Congress, Lumi provided each voting delegate designated by his/ her respective Member Federation with a unique confidential login to the voting platform. The online voting platform was managed remotely by Lumi technician Kyle Sleep from Lumi offices at Armoury House, Midhurst Road; Liphook, Hampshire (UK). Edward Gardiner, Notary of Cheeswrights Scrivener Notaries LLP (London, UK) was also present at Lumi offices over the two days of Congress, as the independent verifier to the conduct and validate the voting process, as well as the results of each round of voting.

The Convention programme, Congress Documents, as well as the 2021 Virtual Congress Procedure and RusAF's response (see 5.1 below) were sent to Member Federations by Circular M/30/21 on 16 September 2021.

World Athletics Convention

The Congress was preceded by the Convention on 16 November 2021. The Convention agenda was primarily focused on the presentation of the World Plan for Athletics 2022-2030 which was proposed by the Council to Member Federations for approval under item 8 of the Congress Agenda.

Delegates were provided with an overview of the World Plan for Athletics 2022-2030 led by the President, and Willie Banks, Chair of the World Plan Working Group. For each of the four strategic goals outlined in the World Plan, case studies and details were provided of key topics areas as summarised below:

Strategic goal	More Participation Participation in Athletics and the development of athletes by (i) growing the opportunities to participate and develop at all levels and ages; (ii) through changing the perception of what is perceived to be 'athletics' and (iii) through promoting all our disciplines as inclusive, diverse and accessible to all.
Speakers	Geoff Gardner, Vice-President and Chair of the Development Commission Ruth Mave, General Secretary of Athletics Cook Islands Adille Sumariwalla, President of Athletics Federation of India, Council Member, Development Commission member and World Plan Working Group member



	Beatrice Ayikoru, General Secretary of the Uganda Athletics Federation, Council Member, Development Commission member and World Plan Working Group member
Key topic	Kids' Athletics is a priority for World Athletics with a clear vision to make it as accessible as possible through online digital materials and a new modernised programme adaptable to local environments. Toolkits have also been developed to engage local governments and drive participation in schools which is linked to one of the key objectives of the World Plan, i.e., to include athletics in school curriculums.
Strategic goal	More People
otratogio goui	The people – coaches, officials, administrative personnel and volunteers – that run our sport are crucial to sustaining and improving its popularity, from grassroots to elite. Collectively as a sport, we will maximise the opportunities for these individuals to develop through working closely with MFs on recruitment and development and embedding gender equity in our plans to ensure our sport is truly representative.
Speakers	Sebastian Coe, President Karena Vleck, Director of Legal and Business Affairs at World Athletics Charlie Webster, a former GBR athlete who created and presented the critically acclaimed documentary "No Where to Run – Abused by Our Coach"
Key topic	A new Safeguarding policy has been adopted by World Athletics and the work of the Safeguarding Working Group focuses on developing a starter kit and guidance, and education material for Member Federations and Area Associations, as well as an online safeguarding module for Kids' Athletics. Charlie Webster, who also advises the UK Government on its sexual abuse policy and has spoken worldwide on the subject of abuse in sport including at the United States Senate and at the United Nations. She shared her story with delegates, emphasising the importance of educating children, parents, coaches and other groups working in the sport.
Strategic goal	More Fans Growing our fan base will help protect the long-term health of the sport but a significant mindset shift is required in how we engage with our current fans and acquire new fans.
Speaker	Willie Banks, Council Member and Chair of the World Plan Working Group
Key topic	A key element to driving fan engagement is to keep the sport relevant which includes increasing the visibility of and storytelling related to our elite athletes. This will be central to maintain engagement with existing fans, and also in attracting new fans to the sport – examples were provided to highlight the importance of the topic.
Strategic goal	More Partnerships Partnerships are critical to the development and growth of the sport, whether with
	commercial partners to help promote and contribute vital funding, media and broadcast partners which bring the sport to a global audience of billions, or to non-commercial partners such as governments and host cities that provide funding and our infrastructure and host our events. The mutual benefits of partnering with athletics, including the health and wellbeing benefits, will be made clear to all our stakeholders, increasing opportunities for partnerships with the sport around the world.
Speakers	Piotr Dlugosielski, General Secretary of the Polish Athletics Association Jon Ridgeon, Chief Executive
Key topic	The Polish Athletics Association has implemented a long-term strategy to host important national and international athletics competitions in Poland which have benefited from partnerships with local and national governments to provide funding and infrastructure. It



was explained how these partnerships were possible in large part because the government authorities recognised the importance of partnering with athletics to promote their health and wellbeing programmes in Poland.

During the Convention, delegates also received 2020 annual reports and updates on 2021 activities from each of the six (6) Area Associations presented by the Presidents from each Area.

1. Opening and Welcome by the President

President Sebastian Coe delivered the opening address and welcomed the delegates to the 53rd World Athletics Congress meeting that was held virtually for the first time on 17 and 18 November 2021. The address was as follows:

"I would like to formally open this 53^{cd} Congress which is being held virtually for the first time.

I would like to welcome and thank for being with us today:

- Our Member Federation Delegates
- The World Athletics Council and Executive Board Members
- The Chairs of our Commissions, EB Committees, Working Groups, and Independent Bodies
- Our Honorary Members
- The six Area Associations
- Other observers including members of our Commissions, Committees, Working Groups, and independent bodies
- HQ Teams
- And our invited guests.

It's obviously been challenging and unique circumstances that have led us to come together virtually rather than in-person. Given global time zones I appreciate for many of you, you are joining at a very unsociable time so thank you. We have shaped and will manage the meeting in the most efficient and timely way possible in consideration of colleagues around the world and I'll say a few more words on the meeting procedures shortly.

But first, before we get into the main order of business, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on those from the athletics family we have sadly lost since the last Congress, including amongst others, our good friend and Council colleague, Svein Arne Hansen. And I'd also like to offer my condolences to all of you who have lost loved ones and friends and family due to the pandemic. The pandemic has changed our lives and I'm proud of the way we've all risen and coped with the challenges and also encouraged and supported each other showing true solidarity and friendship across the sport."

2. Roll call and first announcement of voting strength of Member Federations (invited attendees)

Chief Executive Officer Jon Ridgeon announced (at 13:10 CET) that 136 Member Federations were registered present at the Congress meeting, exceeding the minimum required of 71 for the quorum and the first voting strength was established.



President Coe noted for the record the presence of the following invited attendees:

- Rune Andersen, Chair of the Russia Taskforce
- David Howman, Chair of the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU)
- Charles Hollander QC, Chair of the Disciplinary Tribunal and Ethics Board
- Esi Schimming-Chase, Vetting Panel Member (for Don Mackinnon, Chair of the Vetting Panel)
- Matthieu Pruvost from the Auditors, EY
- Paolo Barone from the Auditors, QSA
- Gordon Orlikow, Convenor of the Nominations Panel
- Brett Clothier, Head of the AIU
- Dentsu Athletics represented by Magnus Guthrie-Brown, Clarissa Hanae Nebuya, Naoya Kubo and Nigel Swinscoe.

3. Apologies (and overall attendance)

No formal apology was received in advance of the Congress meeting.

Over the two-day meeting, 192 Member Federations in total participated in the Congress.

The Russian Athletics Federation did not participate due to its suspension from membership (refer to item 5.1).

4. Approval of the Minutes of the 52nd Congress Meeting held in Doha, Qatar on 25/26 September 2019

President Coe confirmed that no comments or amendments to the minutes of the last Congress meeting had been received in writing from any Member. In the absence of any objection, the Congress approved the minutes of the 52nd Congress Meeting held in Doha, Qatar on 25/26 September 2019, as circulated, as a true and correct record of the meeting.

5. Membership

5.1. Council proposed resolution regarding the Russian Athletics Federation

President Coe presented a brief overview of the work of the Russia Taskforce and the decisions of the Council since the 52nd Congress meeting with regards to the suspension of the Russian Athletics Federation.

The Acting President of the Russian Athletics Federation (RusAF) Irina Privalova had accepted the invitation, following Council's proposed resolution regarding the continued suspension of RusAF's membership of the World Athletics, to address Congress and provided an update on RusAF's position.

The independent Chair of the Russia Taskforce Rune Andersen also addressed Congress and provided detail on the progress that had been made and on what remained outstanding with respect to the reinstatement conditions.

Following these presentations, Congress approved the World Athletics Council's recommended resolution that the RusAF continues to be suspended while the Council oversees completion of the Russian reinstatement plan.

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The Congress approved the following resolution by vote (126 votes in favour, 18 votes against, Simple Majority): Congress resolves, in exercise of its powers under Article 13.7 of the World Athletics Constitution, that the suspension of RusAF's membership of World Athletics will continue until Council decides that all of the conditions set by Council from time to time for the revocation of RusAF's suspension and the consequent reinstatement of RusAF's membership have been met.

The RusAF Acting President's speech, along with the Russia Taskforce Report were saved on the Lumi platform accessible to participating Members throughout the Congress meeting and can be found in Appendices A and B respectively.

6. Second announcement of voting strength

The Chief Executive Officer confirmed that following the decision by Congress to continue the suspension of RusAF's membership, there was no change to the total voting strength.

7. Annual Council Report

On behalf of the Council, President Coe introduced the Council Report which had been circulated to Member Federations as part of the Congress Documentation on 16 September 2021 (Circular M/30/21) and was also available on the Lumi platform. The 2020 Council Report comprised the President's report on behalf of Council and the Executive Board, the Financial report, the reports from the Auditors, and the reports from the Commissions and Working Groups. The audits covered the two-year period since the last Congress meeting.

7.1 Report from the President on activities

President Coe provided an overview of the Council's and the Executive Board's work and activities since the Doha 2019 Congress. He thanked his Council and Executive Board colleagues for their contributions and commitment and expressed his gratitude to the internal teams at headquarters, who had played a vital role in the delivery of the decisions taken by Council and the Executive Board. The full text of his report is set out below.

"So let me start with an overview of the report.

We have this year celebrated some jaw-dropping performances in Tokyo, at the World Athletics Under 20 Championships in Nairobi and through our 1-day meeting circuits – The Wanda Diamond League and the Continental Tour.

After 18 months of disruption and frustration, we have seen our athletes come back stronger, faster and in the main, fitter.

Against these most recent memories the year 2020 seems a lifetime ago, but I know that times are still difficult for many of our athletes as the Covid-19 global pandemic continues to restrict our movements and add layers of complexity to our lives.

As I re-read the 2020 Annual Council Report ahead of this Congress, I am immensely proud and grateful for the way we came together as a sport. Three words define 2020 for me: Resilience, Bravery and Flexibility.

Resilience in the way we managed to adapt to the circumstances of 2020. As most of the world adjusted to lockdown, our sport rose to new heights, moving into an online world. From home workouts

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and backyard competitions to online conferences and Athletics@Home, everyone worked hard to keep connected and keep athletics front and centre. By June we'd grown accustomed to virtual training sessions, virtual backyard competitions and even virtual in-stadium events – much to the delight of our fans, broadcasters and of course the athletes who finally got the chance to compete again.

Bravery in the way we didn't sit by and let the pandemic wash over us. We took action and made decisions to help our athletes navigate the year. We built a season when we could, and when it was safe to. We found ways to support our athletes through the Athlete Welfare Fund which gave some crucial level of respite in an unpredictable year to 197 athletes from 59 Member Federations. And we found ways to support each other. We worked hard at keeping our fans engaged in new and creative ways with a huge amount of help from our athletes and our Member Federations.

Flexible: flexible in the way we all adapted our ways of working, from our global decision-making forums going virtual to the staging of regular online Member Federation Information Sessions joined by over 2,500 participants and 85% of our Member Federations. This kept us connected in a strong and powerful way and led to all our six Area Associations running their own online information and education sessions which reached thousands of people that serve our sport.

In March 2020, when the pandemic moved from local to global, we had just held a successful World Athletics Indoor Tour with almost 600 athletes from 73 Member Federations. As the world closed its borders and, for the most part, subjected us to self-isolation in our homes, as a sport, we created priorities to see us through what, at that stage, was a sea of confusion and fog. Our four priorities kept us focused and helped us weather the uncertainty better than virtually any other sport. They were:

Getting our athletes back into competition as soon as possible, once it was safe to do so. We were able to preserve and create an outdoor season of one-day meetings in 2020, starting and ending later than usual, so athletes had access to competitions in every region. More than 600 events took place in 2020, including eight Diamond League and 28 Continental Tour meetings, which gave athletes vital competition in order to benchmark their performances and adjust their training accordingly for the Tokyo Games. This could in no way have been achieved without our network of fantastic meeting directors, cities, governments and organising committees across our World Championship and Continental Tour - the Diamond League - marathons and road events who were willing to be flexible and work with us. We have amazing partners who were working with us on schedules and opportunities and 214 determined federations who went out of their way to explore national and local opportunities. My immense gratitude to all of you.

Our second priority was expediting our review of the Olympic qualification system and releasing any changes to the process as soon as possible so athletes knew where they stood was also critical. We supported the IOC's proposal that all athletes that had qualified for Tokyo before postponement would remain qualified for the Games. We also listened to the athletes. Given the inconsistency of competition and training opportunities worldwide we agreed to freeze the qualification period to level the playing field and provide a fairer process for our remaining athletes to qualify. Once the qualification period resumed, we prioritised the preservation of outdoor competitions with a series of one-day meetings on each continent.

Our third priority was reorganising the global calendar, not just for 2020 and 2021, which saw some major disruptions, but for the long term. Not only were we the first International Federation to call for a postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games on the feedback we received right across our sport, particularly from our athletes, but we also took the lead to work with all sports to reorganise the sporting calendar in 2021 and 2022. We started a review of athletics' global calendar in February, bringing together a team from different elements of our sport and from different parts of the world to review the range of events that happen every year on a national, regional and global level. We put renewed effort

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and time into this and the expansion of our one-day meetings to deliver high quality events in all parts of the world so our athletes do not have to travel across the world to compete and also earn a living but could do so on their own continents and in their own countries. This was good for athletes, their families and friends and the legions of fans who follow our sport.

And finally developing our strategy to grow athletics. We published our four-year business plan for growth and our 10-year sustainability strategy. Our HQ teams planned a new kids' athletics programme; new events and competition formats like the World Athletics Road Running Championships; new partnerships to help get the world moving; new collaborations around sustainability, air quality and health; and the use of new technology to highlight the amazing talents of our athletes, their stories and their triumphs, taking them into the homes of millions of fans around the world. New technology also enabled us to launch our eLearning platform, which will be a key educational tool for you providing our stakeholders with increased access and opportunities to participate in courses and gain qualifications. And we set up a Working Group for our eight-year World Plan which we talked about yesterday. And we delivered on all four of these pillars and, actually, much more.

I was also delighted to welcome three new partners – Pinsent Masons providing legal services, Parkrun to support our community running legacy ambitions and Nielsen providing research services –and also in 2020 the new 10-year broadcast collaboration with NBC which will provide a key tool in growing our USA market in the lead up to both the World Athletics Championships Oregon 22 and the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

Our focus on creating strong collaborative relationships with our broadcast partners continues. I was delighted to announce this morning a new renewed agreement with the European Broadcasting Union, which runs from 2024-2029.

The new agreement offers exciting opportunities for digital content distribution, and a joint commitment to create a compelling documentary series about athletics, alongside live broadcasts on free-to-air TV of the World Athletics Championships and World Indoor Athletics Championships - and joint campaigning initiatives across 20 broadcasters.

Under the renewed partnership, 29 EBU Members have already been confirmed for World Athletics events over the six-year span of the contract.

Going back to 2020 - we were also prudent about how we managed our resources (which as a membership-based organisation are your funds) both financial and human, but we continued to deliver, where we could, competition and events, development initiatives and seamless support for our Member Federations and our Areas. Over the course of 2020, as many as 60% of our HQ staff were furloughed or partially furloughed and we are grateful to the Monegasque Government for their generous financial support at this time.

While three of our four World Championship events were postponed, I am proud of the fact we were able to host one of our World Championships in 2020 – the World Half Marathon in Gdynia, Poland. And my thanks go to the Polish Athletics Federation, who we actually talked to yesterday in the Convention, and the local and national Government of Poland for the enormous part they played in getting this event across the line. Their resilience and fortitude was exemplary.

And this really brings me to the point I want to share with you today ... Building Momentum.

As a sport we are in an incredibly strong position. The work we all did in 2020 provided us with a strong foundation for 2021 which has been a good year for athletics. We cemented our position as the number

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1 Olympic Sport coming out of Tokyo with some new nations and new athletes stepping on to the global stage.

I know times are still difficult for many of our athletes as Covid continues to restrict our movements and add layers of complexity to our lives. But we must not squander what we have achieved. We need to bank what we collectively and individually delivered this year and build on it – and certainly not allow ourselves to drift off the pace. I know many of you have started a review of your athlete performances - working out how to strengthen your structures and development pathways as we head into another year of global events – one that we all hope will be less troublesome.

We have the most God given talented athletes on the planet. Our sport is the most accessible and understandable of all sports. With our position as the number 1 Olympic sport firmly entrenched and the depth of talented athletes, we saw coming through our U20 Championships we have a perfect storm upon which to build momentum.

It's an opportunity that doesn't come along that often. But we must be visible. And we have to work harder and be braver when it comes to staging competitions. This, after all, is where our athletes shine and where our stakeholders and fans become invested in our sport. Yes, we have managed to get most of our global championships and one-day meetings back up and running but we need Area, regional and national events to resume fully in 2022 and we need more competitions across each continent so our athletes can compete closer to home and build their fan bases. This is critical in maintaining the sport's visibility. Our elite athletes are what keep people coming back to our sport and we need to recognise this.

I know there has been a huge effort from all of you in such a disrupted year and a half, and for that I thank you. We didn't just survive, we thrived. In a year when it would have been all too easy to let go of our ambitious goals, we rallied and delivered across all four of our strategic goals. You rallied and delivered domestic competitions with broadcast deals in a way that many other national sports federations in your countries did not do.

The priority for all of us right now is to build on that momentum in our sport in a pandemic environment that will, I fear, be with us longer than we had envisioned. We are investing heavily in the tools to facilitate greater access to our sport – through eLearning, gender leadership, a new Kids' Athletics Programme, communication toolkits and assets and a more affordable one-day meeting model that can be rolled out to more Federations. But these must all be used by you. Our ambition must be to drive more of your people, your athletes, their parents, your coaches, clubs and schools to use these tools and use more of the content that is being prepared to reach your stakeholders through your website and social media platforms. Our 8-year World Plan will help us do this. It is a practical and measurable guide that each and every one of us will be able to plan and deliver against.

The next four years offers unprecedented opportunities with athletics taking centre stage in the middle of each year. Next summer we have World championships in Oregon, the U20s in Cali followed shortly after by the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, the European multisport Championships. In 2023 we have the Budapest World Championships followed by the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, another World Championships in 2025 which will be awarded early next year. And, of course, we have both road and indoor Championships and meetings which bookend each year AND an Olympic Games in the USA in 2028.

[It is hardly ground-breaking analysis I know but the world has changed in the last 18 months and in many respects that change is permanent. Covid-19 has made us all revaluate our own lives, the lives of our families, the organisations we work in - in our case athletics. But my instinct is those admirable attributes, that inner strength and resilience was not driven from the centre. No one told you or forced you to do it.

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Not World Athletics HQ, not the Area Association. In our Monaco HQ, we focused on keeping our house safe in order to protect the continuity of funding. YOU got on with the job under extremely trying circumstances. What you did, you did very well, and you did it without big brother sitting on your shoulder. You kept your domestic competition alive and grew your Continental Tour 1-day meetings, you supported your athletes, you created content and fed innovative opportunities to your broadcasters – in short you were creative, innovative and, my goodness, productive. While other sports federations in your countries hibernated, you rolled up your sleeves and kept athletics at the forefront.

And from all this I have drawn some immutable conclusions which I would like to share with you today:

We are all trying to figure out what we are going to take from the last 18 months and make permanent. My overwhelming belief is that the thing we need to treasure most is your independence, your get up and go and your experience. Our teams at World Athletics are undertaking a root and branch review of development, specifically the funds we and you use to implement our development plans. Put simply, how effective is what we are doing and where are resources are allocated.

Every dollar, or Euro, we spend has to be effectively spent and properly accounted for, and here I will never forget that the end users are the Member Federations – the same Federations that kept our sport alive during the pandemic. And alongside the root and branch review of the funding model will also sit a tough review of our roles and responsibilities – World Athletics, our Area Associations and our Member Federations to determine unequivocally who is best placed to do what. Once we have settled upon that, our grant funding has to ruthlessly flow to those best placed to deliver.

We are not a one-size-fits-all sport. We have Member Federations that are large and small, some resourced and funded more than others in countries where the sport has different levels of popularity. But there is a place for everyone in our sport. When I talk about building on our momentum, I mean at global, regional and national level. I mean elite sport and community sport. It is for each of you, working with the teams in your Areas and at HQ to look at what you have achieved this year, where the momentum can come from and why, and to work on specific goals and actions that will build on that momentum. This is within the reach of every federation. We want you to be ambitious. We need you to be brave.

Brave in the way you plan next year and 23.

Brave in the way you find, build and deliver competition opportunities for your athletes.

Brave in the way you approach partnerships.

Brave and creative in how you reach out and engage the fans in your country, finding ways to keep our sport relevant, interesting and exciting.

And Brave in how you attract and retain coaches, teachers and parents, administrators, volunteers and technical officials who are our backbone. We need more people choosing to come into our sport and this has to be done locally.

I have always said the biggest threat to building on our momentum is our innate conservatism. When I sit with you, I see your burning ambition but we need that to permeate every aspect of development, competition and communication.

Let's grab the opportunity we have ahead of us by building on the momentum of 2021. Let's review our activities and set new ambitious goals that will drive our sport forward at both elite and community level.



Together we have come through this year stronger, more resilient, more innovative and creative, more connected – operationally and emotionally - and more confident about our sport and its future. And, dare I say it - a lot braver. Let's build on this momentum.

Thank you!"

7.2 Financial Report on annual financial statements for preceding two financial years

Chief Financial Officer, Vineesh Kochhar presented the Congress with a financial overview that consisted of a summary of the 2019 and 2020 final audited accounts, as well as the 2021 budget and reforecast.

7.3 Reports from the Auditors

7.3.1 Financial Audit Report

Matthieu Pruvost, Associate Partner, Audit at EY presented the financial audit report of the Consolidated Financial Statements, for the period from 1 January 2019 until 31 December 2020. These statements for 2019 and 2020 were prepared by EY, the appointed independent auditors, and as part of the Council Report were approved and recommended to Congress by the Council, in accordance with the Constitution.

7.3.2 Non-financial Audit Report

Matthieu Pruvost, Associate Partner, Audit at EY presented the first part of the non-financial audit report. The audit was conducted by EY, with the scope being to test World Athletics against its governance and ethical compliance obligations and responsibilities, as well as its integrity compliance obligations as set out in the Constitution, Rules and Regulations for the period from 1 January 2019 until 31 December 2020. As part of the Council Report, the audit reports for 2019 and 2020 were approved and recommended to Congress by the Council, as required by the Constitution.

Paolo Barone, Lead Auditor at QSA, provided the Congress with a summary of the second part of the non-financial audit report. The audit was conducted by QSA, specialist anti-doping auditors, with the objective to assess the compliance of the Athletics Integrity Unit in the application of World Athletics' anti-doping programme, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations for the period from 1 January 2019 until 31 December 2020. As part of the Council Report, the audit reports for 2019 and 2020 were approved and recommended to Congress by the Council, as required by the Constitution.

7.4 Reports from the Commissions

As the reports from the Commissions form part of the Annual Council Report, the President thanked the Commission Chairs and members for their contributions over the last 18 months and for the advice and recommendations they have provided to the Council. It was recognised that their efforts have contributed greatly to the progress and outcomes outlined in the Council Report.

The Commission reports were considered tabled as read with the Chairs of the four Commissions – Renaud Lavillenie for Athletes', Raul Chapado for Competition, Geoff Gardner for Development and Francis Dodoo for Governance available to answer any questions on the reports.

In response to a question regarding support to Member Federations as outlined in the Development Commission report, Vice-President Geoff Gardner (NFI) explained the proposed change in the new development model was to provide more tailored funding, services and support to Member Federation. The new model is based on offering appropriate levels and types of support to Member Federations in areas that reflect strategic need and capacity and capabilities as well as embedding greater accountability for delivery and the development of the sport at national level.

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7.5 Reports from the Working Groups

The Working Group reports also form part of the Annual Council Report, and the President thanked the chairs and members of these groups (Human Rights, Athletic Shoes and World Plan) for the significant amount of work undertaken on the critical projects and areas of focus for the sport. The working groups had all completed their work and their reports were considered tabled as read.

In relation to the Human Rights Working Group, the President highlighted that its work originated from the commitment made at the 52nd World Athletics Congress, Doha 2019 responding to the requests of the Swedish Athletic Association and Athletics South Africa for World Athletics to review how it addressed human rights. The Working Group's report, including recommendations was approved by Council at its July 2021 meeting and the executive summary of this report was also circulated to Members as part of the Congress Documents.

No comments and/ or questions were received from the floor on the reports.

The Congress approved the Annual Council Report by vote (140 votes in favour, 0 votes against, Simple Majority).

8. Approval of the World Plan

The proposed World Plan for Athletics was developed by Council, following an extensive process of consultation, to provide the roadmap for the growth and development of athletics for the period 2022-2030 and to set out the vision and goals for the sport globally, and the steps that World Athletics, Area Associations and Member Federations will undertake to achieve the goals. It had been circulated to Member Federations in advance of the meeting as part of the Congress Documents and was presented at the Convention, which had preceded the Congress meeting.

No comments and/ or questions were received from the floor.

The Congress approved the World Plan for Athletics 2022-2030 by vote (134 votes in favour, 0 votes against, Simple Majority).

9. Reports from the Independent Bodies

The reports from the Vetting Panel, Athletics Integrity Unit Board and Disciplinary Tribunal had been circulated to Member Federations in advance of the meeting as part of the Congress Documents. These reports were taken as read and Member Federations had the opportunity to ask questions to Esi Schimming Chase, Vetting Panel member (who was present on behalf of Chair Don Mackinnon); Brett Clothier, Head of the Integrity Unit on behalf of David Howman, Chair of the Athletics Integrity Unit Board; and Charles Hollander QC the Chair of the Disciplinary Tribunal based on the information they had received.

A question was raised by Interim CEO of UK Athletics Mark Munro about the role of the AIU in terms of safeguarding with regards to education and management of cases going forward. Head of the Integrity Unit, Brett Clothier replied that the first step is to build on the jurisdiction of the AIU through decisions of Council so it has the proper oversight in matters relating to, e.g., safeguarding issues and the proposed amendment to Article 75.1 of the Constitution (#59) is recommended to Congress for this purpose.



The Congress approved by vote the Reports from the Independent Bodies as follows:

- 9.1. Report from the Vetting: 141 votes in favour, 0 votes against, Simple Majority;
- 9.2. Report from the Athletics Integrity Unit Board: 123 votes in favour, 0 votes against, Simple Majority; and
- 9.3. Report from the Disciplinary Tribunal: 114 votes in favour, 0 votes against, Simple Majority.

10. Approval of the Independent Members of the Athletics Integrity Unit Board

Upon the recommendation of the Integrity Unit Board Appointments Panel, in accordance with Article 27.1(i) of the Constitution, Congress approved by vote the reappointment of Victoria Aggar (GBR) and Jill Pilgrim (USA) as independent members to the Athletics Integrity Unit Board for a term of two (2) years from 1 December 2021 until the first Council meeting after the 2023 Congress meeting (134 votes in favour, 4 votes against, Simple Majority).

No comments and/ or questions were received from the floor in relation to the recommendation.

11. Appointment of the Auditors

Upon the recommendation of the Executive Board, in accordance with Article 27.1(m), Congress took the decision by vote to approve the following Auditor appointments for a four-year period for 2021 until 2024 (144 votes in favour, 0 votes against, Simple Majority):

- Ernst & Young as Financial Auditors;
- Ernst & Young as Non-Financial Auditors of Governance & Ethical Compliance; and
- QSA as Non-Financial Auditors of Anti-Doping & Integrity programmes.

12. Proposals to amend the Constitution

The President outlined the recommended way forward to cover the 84 proposals to amend the Constitution that had been included in the Congress Documents circulated prior to the meeting, noting that all the proposed amendments were submitted to Congress by Council, as none had been received from Member Federations.

The proposed approach was to vote as follows:

- on the editorial and clarification amends together as one bundle; and
- on the more substantive proposals individually or grouped in the instances where the proposals have the same principles.

No objection was received to the recommended way forward and, in accordance with Articles 27.1(b) and 82.1 of the Constitution, Congress approved all proposals to amend the World Athletics Constitution received from Council by Special Majority votes.

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The decisions of Congress are listed below in the order of vote and by proposal number as set out in the table of proposed amendments to the Constitution in the Congress Documents.

- Substantive & consequential: 34 amendments voted on in nine ballots
 - Ballot 1: Proposals N° 6, 7, 4, 9, 13, 14, 15 and 75 (134 votes in favour and 1 vote against)
 - Ballot 2:

 - Proposals N° 12, 20, 22 and 72 (131 votes in favour, 1 vote against)
 - Ballot 3: Proposals N° 21, 40, 46, 65, 82 and 83 (140 votes in favour, 1 vote against)
 - Ballot 4: Proposal N° 26 (145 in favour, 2 against)
 - Ballot 5: Proposals N° 28 and 29 (143 in favour, 2 votes against)
 - Ballot 6: Proposal N° 32 (113 in favour, 37 votes against)
 - Ballot 7:
 - Proposal N° 35 (146 in favour, 5 votes against)
 - Proposal N

 ° 36 (122 in favour, 3 votes against)
 - Ballot 8:
 - Proposal N° 37 (145 in favour, 3 votes against)
 - Proposal N° 45 (144 in favour, 1 vote against)
- Purely editorial & consequential: 27 amendments bundled in one vote on one ballot
 - Ballot 10: Proposals N° 1, 5, 23, 24, 27, 30, 31, 33, 43, 49, 48, 54, 55, 56, 57, 61, 70, 77, 78, 84, 53, 63, 66, 76, 73, 74 and 81 (157 votes in favour, 0 against)
- Editorial & consequential amendments for clarification: 20 amendments bundled in one vote on one ballot
 - Ballot 11: Proposals N° 3, 8, 10, 39, 64, 69, 71, 80, 18, 25, 34, 41, 42, 44, 47, 51, 52, 60, 50 and 62 (154 votes in favour, 1 vote against)
- New or clarification: three amendments in separate votes on one ballot
 - Ballot 12:
 - Proposal N° 2 (154 votes in favour, 0 against)
 - Proposal N° 38 (135 votes in favour, 3 votes against)
 - Proposal N° 58 (135 votes in favour, 0 against)

During the meeting, the comments received regarding the proposed amendments are summarised as follows:

- Ballot 2: Proposals N° 11, 16, 17 and 19: providing flexibility regarding format for future Congresses
 - President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Amateur Athletic Association, Edith Skippings took the floor to request clarification about the nature of the proposed amendments. The President responded that these amendments were proposed to formalise the position to allow Council the flexibility to decide in exceptional circumstances to hold a Congress virtually or as a hybrid format and as to when that decision is made. It reflects the approach that was taken in agreement with the Membership in December 2020 to hold the present Congress meeting virtually.

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- Ballot 6: Proposal N° 32: exempting Athletes' Commission Members on the Council from the "1 Member Federation rule" (Article 41.1(d), Membership of Council)
 - President of Team Athletics Saint Vincent & The Grenadines, Keith Joseph (took the floor): It was time to recognise Athletes in their own right. Athletes are at the core of our business and as such should have appropriate representation of their group at the decision-making level of our sport. Athletes who are on the Council represent the athletes and not their respective Member Federation. Independent representation is critical to the enhancement of good governance and to sustain the opportunity for World Athletics to continue in a leading role.
 - President of the "Fédération Haïtienne d'Athlétisme Amateur", Alain Jean Pierre (took the floor): The problem lies with any potential bias that transpires from Member Federations having one more representative on the Council.
 - Vice-President of the "Fédération Française d'Athlétisme" Jean Gracia (took the floor): Adequate representation of the athletes on the Council is essential. In 2019, European Athletics (EA) amended its constitution to exclude the EA Athletes' Commission Chair, who sits on the EA Council, from the "1 Member Federation rule" and, although currently the Commission Chair is from the same country as the EA President, it has not brought prejudice to the decision-making process, as the Commission Chair's role is to voice the opinion of the athletes and best represent them.
 - President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Amateur Athletic Association, Edith Skippings (took the floor): As at the 2019 Congress meeting, the association does not support this amendment, if there are multiple members from the same Member Federation on Council, it would give the MF concerned an advantage and it was a bad precedent.
 - President of the Athletics Association of Guyana, Aubrey Hutson (via the meeting chat function): Once elected at Council (Athletes' Commission Members) leave MF at the door and take (into consideration) the interest of international/ global sport.
 - General Secretary of the Bhutan Amateur Athletic Federation, Dorji Tenzin (via the meeting chat function): No support on this proposal.

The approved amendments to the World Athletics Constitution came into force on 1 December 2021.

13. Grant of Service Awards

In accordance with the Honorary Member and Service Award Rules, the role of the Nominations Panel is to review the nominations received by the Area Associations and make recommendations to the Council for submission to Congress for approval. The proposals were circulated prior to the meeting as part of the Congress Documents.

Upon the recommendation of the Council, and as set out in Articles 27.1(o) and (p) of the Constitution, Congress took the following decisions (by Simple Majority vote) concerning awards for services to World Athletics and the sport of Athletics.

The Veteran Pin

By vote (149 votes in favour, 0 against), the Congress awarded the Veteran Pin to the following recipients:

Area	Nominees	Country	Gender
Africa	Leonie Etong	Cameroon	Female
	Joseph Ochieng	Kenya	Male
	Gezahegn Abera	Ethiopia	Male



Area	Nominees	Country	Gender
Asia	Tsewang Rinzing	Bhutan	Male
	Shen Chundu	China	Male
	Obeid Abud Aliyan	Yemen	Male
Europe	Frank Hensel*	Germany	Male
	Keith Davies	Great Britain & NI	Male
	Anthony Chircop	Malta	Male
NACAC	Maria de la Caridad Colon Ruenes	Cuba	Female
	Michael A. Serralta David Weicker	Puerto Rico Canada	Male Male
Oceania	Dame Valerie Adams	New Zealand	Female
	Sally Pearson	Australia	Female
	Semisi Fonua	Tonga	Male
South America	Ximena Restrepo	Chile	Female
	Dennis MacDonald	Suriname	Male
	Luis Vinker	Argentina	Male

^{*} Posthumously

The Plaque of Merit

By vote (150 votes in favour, 2 votes against), the Congress awarded the Plaque of Merit to the following recipients:

Area	Nominee	Country	Gender
Africa	Ahmed Ettannani	Morocco	Male
Asia	Loh Lin Kok	Singapore	Male
Europe	Erika Strasser*	Austria	Female
NACAC	Alberto Juantorena Danger	Cuba	Male
Oceania	Brian Roe	Australia	Male
South America	Marco Luque	Bolivia	Male

^{*} Posthumously

The Silver Order of Merit

By vote (154 votes in favour, 2 votes against), the Congress awarded the Silver Order of Merit to Honorary Life Personal Member of World Athletics Carl-Olaf Homen of Finland.

14. Other Notified Business for Discussion

There were no items for discussion notified.

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15. Date and Venue of Next Congress Meeting

The next Ordinary Congress is an Election Congress scheduled to be held in Budapest, Hungary on the occasion of the 2023 World Athletics Championships, on 17-18 August 2023, with the Convention organised alongside the Congress.

16. Closing of Congress Meeting

President Coe agreed to give the floor to Keith Joseph of Saint Vincent & The Grenadines. Mr Joseph congratulated the President, the Council, as well as the Chief Executive Officer and expressed gratitude for their support during the difficulties encountered during the Covid-19 pandemic. Through innovative events, athletes had opportunities to compete and their performances were outstanding throughout the Diamond League meetings, at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, as well as around the world. He highlighted his belief that Athletics is a true leader in sport and this was exemplified once again by the approval of the World Plan for Athletics 2022-2030.

President Sebastian Coe thanked the Delegates for their participation and officially declared the 53rd World Athletics Congress meeting closed.

Appendix A: Russian Athletics Federation Acting President's speech to the Congress Appendix B: Russia Taskforce Report to Congress (17 November 2021)



APPENDIX A: Russian Athletics Federation Acting President's speech to the Congress (17 November 2021)

Dear Lord Coe,

Dear Congress,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 1. First of all, I would like to thank you, Mr. Coe, and World Athletics for the opportunity to address this Congress. For me it's a great honor and sign of trust in the work that the Russian Athletics Federation is doing to restore full membership of the World Athletics. Let me introduce my colleagues our CEO Boris Grishin and General Secretary Alexander Cherkashin.
- 2. We believe that the Russian Athletics Federation is well on the way to recognition as a clean participant.
- 3. The Strategic Plan and The Operational Roadmap are being implemented step by step. The relevant documents are placed on the World Athletics website, giving the world athletics community the opportunity to see the changes that are now taking place in Russian athletics.
- 4. Russian athletes who participated as ANA in international competitions this year, including the Olympic Games in Tokyo, World U20 Championships in Nairobi, European U20 Championships in Tallinn showed absolute respect for clean sport and clean athletes.
- 5. The Russian Athletics Federation actively promotes a policy of zero tolerance to doping. Among athletes, coaches, regional federations and in the Russian athletics community as a whole the former culture of attitudes towards doping is undergoing a massive change.
- 6. The Russian Athletics Federation has developed and implemented a large education and communication program among the athletics community and various target groups including elite athletes, young athletes, coaches and other sports officials.
- 7. No athlete or coach in Russia can take part in competitions organized under RusAF jurisdiction without an anti-doping certificate I RUN CLEAN by European Athletics, RUSADA's platform or ADeL by WADA. I'd like to stress here that all age categories of athletes, their coaches have to pass one of the above tests before taking part in any competitions on the Russian Athletics Federation calendar. The test must be taken annually.
- 8. We are working hard and there is still a lot to do. But the main thing that has already been achieved is that there can be no return to the past. Clean sport and clean athletes are the only way to develop sport worldwide, and Russian athletics in particular. For us it is absolutely clear!
- 9. At present we have a completely new management of the Federation, we are under new management. The Federation's staff members took part in off-line anti-doping training and are well aware of personal responsibility for anti-doping rules violations. An independent anti-doping department has been established, the anti-doping strategy of RusAF valid until 2025 was approved. An updated Code of Ethics has been implemented in the Federation, as well as a pool of policies and procedures that note its provisions in detail.



- 10. We are carrying out extensive work to introduce ethical norms and rules at all levels of athletics in Russia. An independent Disciplinary Commission has been formed, which includes highly qualified specialists of the highest order.
- 11. Athletics is very important for Russia. The Russian Athletics Federation enjoys strong support from the Ministry of Sports of the Russian Federation and the Russian Olympic Committee on our path to rejoining the global athletics family.
- 12. I would like to mention separately the contribution of the World Athletics Taskforce for Russia and international experts, who are providing us with great help in this work, to focus and consolidate efforts on the step-by-step implementation of the key tasks of the Strategic Plan and the Operational Roadmap.
- 13. World Athletics international experts work in the Federation's office on a permanent basis, participate in all key meetings and provide invaluable assistance in the work of the Federation. We thank World Athletics for the decision to send international experts to us, this step largely predetermines the credibility and transparency of the reinstatement process.
- 14. We hope that this work will result in the restoration of the Russian Athletics Federation to the World athletics family in the near future.
- 15. Earlier I said about the Strategic Plan posted on the World Athletics website. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that one of the cornerstones of this plan is that after the reinstatement of the federation the Monitoring & Evaluation program is planned, where there will be active interaction between the Russian Athletics Federation and World Athletics to ensure stability of the changes achieved and not to go back. The program will continue for several years.
- 16. Dear friends, Athletics is my life. In my athletic career, I have worked hard to achieve my cherished dream of becoming an Olympic champion. The Sydney Olympic Games will be forever in my heart. The reinstatement of the Russian Athletics Federation is therefore a great personal goal for me, into which I put all my effort.
- 17. Thank you very much for your attention.

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APPENDIX B: Russia Taskforce Report to Congress (17 November 2021)

This is now the third Congress to which I have reported, as independent chair of the Russia Taskforce appointed by Council in 2015 to oversee RusAF's efforts to be reinstated as a full member of World Athletics.

RusAF was originally suspended from membership in November 2015, after a WADA Commission concluded that there was a deeply-rooted culture of doping in Russian athletics. Council determined that, in order to be reinstated to membership, RusAF must satisfy various requirements designed to rehabilitate RusAF and to ensure that:

- 1. RusAF establishes a culture of zero tolerance towards doping in Russian athletics.
- 2. RusAF, RUSADA, and the public authorities in Russia work together to create an effective anti-doping infrastructure that allows them and World Athletics (now the AIU) to work effectively on anti-doping activities in Russia and in respect of Russian athletes.
- 3. World Athletics and its members can accordingly be satisfied that the reintegration of Russian athletes into international competitions will not jeopardise the integrity of those competitions.

In 2016, Council determined that even while RusAF remains suspended, Russian athletes who can show they are not tainted by the culture of doping may apply to compete in international competitions (including the Olympics and the World Championships) as 'Authorised Neutral Athletes'.

The 2017 Congress and the 2019 Congress endorsed and ratified Council's decisions, and put the onus on RusAF to satisfy Council that the conditions set for its reinstatement have been satisfied.

This strong stance has won World Athletics and its member federations the respect of many observers, who believe this is exactly what is needed to protect public confidence in the integrity of the sport – an example that other sports should follow.

At the 2019 Congress, in Doha, I emphasised that changes to policies and procedures at RusAF will only work if RusAF's stakeholders are truly committed to a new and genuine culture of zero tolerance for doping. I noted that the AIU had just announced that it was investigating an apparent cover-up by the then-RusAF President and his officials of a whereabouts violation by high jumper Danil Lysenko. I said that allegation suggested that the change in culture required within RusAF may not have happened yet.

As you will recall, the RusAF President (Dmitri Shlyakhtin) and his alleged co-conspirators subsequently resigned their posts, and an independent disciplinary tribunal upheld the various charges against them and imposed lengthy bans from the sport. RusAF admitted the charges against it (failing to report anti-doping rule violations and interfering with the AlU's investigation of those ADRVs), and subsequently paid World Athletics a \$5 million fine (with another \$5 million suspended) plus \$1.3 million in costs. As a result, Council decided not to propose expulsion of RusAF, provided that RusAF developed a new reinstatement plan, setting out a series of detailed requirements to embed the required change in culture, together with milestones and Key Performance Indicators that would allow the Russia Taskforce to ensure RusAF was making steady progress towards meeting those requirements.

In November 2020, Peter Ivanov was elected as RusAF's new president. He had to step down in early 2021 when he was appointed deputy head of the federal government's Competition Commission (because the CAS decision in the WADA/RUSADA case stops Russian government officials serving as sport officials for two years), but Irina Privalova stepped in as acting president until Mr Ivanov's planned return in November 2022, and she has proved to be an able deputy.

Under the guidance first of Mr Ivanov and then of Ms Privalova, and with the input of three international experts appointed by World Athletics, RusAF developed a detailed reinstatement plan that was accepted by Council on the recommendation of the Taskforce in March 2021.

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Importantly the three international experts have since remained in post, and they have been able to provide detailed reports and advice to the Taskforce. One of those experts is in Moscow all of the time, another is there for much of the time, and between them they are able to observe directly what is happening at RusAF, and so are able to comment on whether the changes that are being made are just superficial, or whether they signal a real change in culture.

The Taskforce has been in regular communication with Ms Privalova and her colleagues at RusAF, and we have also received weekly reports from the international experts. Each month RusAF has provided a formal written report on the progress made against the Reinstatement Plan, and the international experts have provided their feedback on each of those reports. The Taskforce has also convened periodic calls with the international experts to discuss those reports and to address any issues as they arise.

Based on these reports and this feedback, I can report that:

- RusAF has made steady progress towards meeting the conditions set for its reinstatement to
 membership of World Athletics. The key milestones to date have been met, as well as the various key
 performance indicators set out in the Reinstatement Plan.
- Furthermore, based on input from the international experts, the Taskforce does feel that these changes
 are reflective of a new culture within RusAF, one that is generally looking to reject the doping practices
 of the past and to commit to competing clean moving forward, as a trusted member of the international
 community, and a trusted ally to the AIU in its efforts to protect the integrity of the sport.
- There are still people in Russian athletics who have not embraced this new culture, and there is still
 much work for RusAF to do to ensure that they do not exercise influence, and instead it is the new
 generation of athletes and coaches that push Russian athletics forward. But the new RusAF leadership
 has shown what seems to be a genuine commitment to lead this change and ensure it becomes deeprooted in Russian athletics.
- The status of RUSADA, the Russian national anti-doping organisation, remains an issue of concern. In December 2020, the CAS declared RUSADA non-compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code and imposed a series of consequences and reinstatement conditions that have to be met in order for RUSADA to be reinstated in December 2022. It is not clear, however, whether those reinstatement conditions are being met or whether RUSADA is able to perform its role as the independent Russian NADO effectively. In the meantime, to try to help fill the gap, RusAF has agreed to the AIU conducting extra testing of RusAF's athletes, at RusAF's cost.
- Importantly, the new RusAF leadership has recognised that a true change in culture will take years to achieve, and it has therefore engaged very positively with the Taskforce and the experts to develop a series of measures to apply after RusAF has been reinstated, to ensure that there is no back-sliding once reinstatement has been achieved. The Taskforce is encouraged by RusAF's positive approach on this issue, as it believes that such post-reinstatement measures will be really important to give Council and the member federations of World Athletics comfort that progress towards a genuine change in culture will continue in Russia even after reinstatement has been achieved.
- It is important also to note that to date RusAF has also reimbursed World Athletics for all of the costs of the reinstatement process, so that World Athletics and its member federations are not out of pocket as a result of RusAF's actions.

Based on all of these factors, I strongly encourage Congress to adopt the resolution proposed by Council, i.e., to resolve, in exercise of its powers under Article 13.7 of the World Athletics Constitution, that the suspension of RusAF's membership of World Athletics will continue until Council decides that all of the conditions set by Council from time to time for the revocation of RusAF's suspension and the consequent reinstatement of RusAF's membership have been met. Those conditions will include agreement on the post-reinstatement measures that I have referred to above.