

**Minutes of the General Assembly  
Rio De Janiero, Brazil**

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2013



1		WELCOME	
		Dr Bob Price welcomed all members to the meeting, and congratulated so many nations on their presence at the General Assembly - the highest number in several years.	
2		ATTENDANCE	
	2.1	<u>Roll Call</u> Argentina, Australia, Brasil, Canada, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Faroe Islands, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Italy, Japan, Macau, Mexico, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, Venezeula  32 nations out of a total of 49 members in good standing are present at the start of the meeting, and therefore the General Assembly was declared quorate.	
	2.2	<u>Apologies</u> Egypt, Cape Verde,	
	2.3	<u>Voting Rights</u> Dr Bob Price clarified the voting rights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•There are a total of 32 votes available.</li> <li>•Votes of a constitutional nature require a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority, ie. 22 votes</li> <li>•Votes of a normal nature require a simple majority, ie. 17 votes</li> <li>•An abstention will reduce the total number of votes (ie. 32 minus the number of abstentions)</li> <li>•With regards to elections, to ensure a simple majority is achieved, should any candidate not achieve at least 50%+1 of the votes, then the person with the lowest number of votes will be eliminated from the contest and a further vote will be taken until one person achieves a simple majority.</li> </ul>	
	2.4	<u>Appointment of Tellers</u> Sarah Ramirez (translator) and Claudia Albuquerque (Brazil) were appointed as tellers.	
3		RATIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS	
		The following nations were proposed for full membership by the Executive Committee:  Azerbaijan, Cape Verde, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Qatar, Nicaragua  Proposer – Canada    Seconded - Germany  Vote - For: 31            Against: 0            Abstain: 1  The members were accepted as full members.	
4		ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	

		<p>Dr Price advised the Assembly that the Executive Committee proposed to change the order of elections so that the meeting culminated in the election of the new President.</p> <p>After discussion, and after noting the concern of some nations, the proposal was supported.</p> <p>The agenda was also amended to include the election of the Technical Officer which had been omitted in error.</p> <p>The Executive Committee moved for the adoption of the Agenda:</p> <p>Proposer: UK            Seconded: Canada</p> <p>Vote - For: 18        Against: 0            Abstain: 12</p> <p>The agenda was adopted.</p>	
5		MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	
	5.1	<p><u>Accuracy</u> There were no points of accuracy</p>	
	5.2	<p><u>Matters Arising</u> There were no matters arising.</p> <p>The Executive Committee moved for the minutes to be adopted:</p> <p>Proposer: Australia    Seconded: Germany</p> <p>Vote - For: 25        Against: 0            Abstain: 3</p> <p>The minutes were adopted.</p>	
6		EXECUTIVE REPORT	
	6.1	<p>Dr Bob Price briefly introduced the report which had been made available through the website some weeks earlier.</p> <p>Dr Price congratulated everybody concerned for making 2011, and in particular 2012, such a successful period for the organisation. Much had been achieved, and though much still remained to do, Inas could look forward to a very healthy and successful future.</p> <p>The Executive Committee moved for the adoption of the report:</p> <p>Proposer: Australia            Seconded: Denmark</p> <p>Vote - For: 25        Against: 0            Abstain: 3</p> <p>The report was adopted.</p>	
7		FINANCE	

7.1	<p><u>Financial report including annual accounts 2011 and 2012</u>  Michel Chopinaud (Treasurer) presented his financial report (previously made available through the website) for 2011 and 2012. The report showed losses in 2011 caused by the cost of work to support the re-inclusion of athletes into the Paralympic Games, but a much healthier year in 2012.</p> <p>He outlined Inas' plans going forward for income generation and fundraising.</p> <p>As he was stepping down, Michel thanked the Executive and membership for their support in what was a difficult role, and wished the organisation well for the future.</p> <p>Great Britain - can the accounts reflect the voluntary contribution of members (eg. Their support for executive or technical officers). It was confirmed that this would be reflected in a note in future annual accounts</p> <p>Great Britain - are the accounts audited? It was confirmed that UK law does not require organisations with an income under £250,000 (such as Inas) to conduct an independent audit, but the Executive had already identified that this should be undertaken as an example of good practice.</p> <p>The Executive Committee moved for the accounts to be adopted:</p> <p>Proposer: Sweden                      Seconded: Iran</p> <p>Vote - For: 31 Against: 0                      Abstain: 0</p> <p>The report was adopted.</p>	
7.2	<p><u>Provisional Budget 2014</u>  Nick Parr explained that the 2014 budget was being prepared much earlier than in previous years to support fundraising and planning. It would be re-considered by the Executive Committee later in the year when the 2013 financial position was known.</p> <p>The Executive Committee moved for the budget to be adopted:</p> <p>Vote - For: 32                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0</p> <p>The report was adopted.</p>	
8	<p><b>RATIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP FEE 2014/2015</b></p>	
	<p>Nick Parr confirmed that the Executive were proposing to maintain membership fees at the 2012 level, ie. \$750 per year with discount for some new members in accordance with the established policy.</p> <p>The Executive Committee moved for the fee policy to be adopted:</p> <p>Proposed:    Hong Kong                      Seconded: Portugal</p> <p>Vote - For: 32 Against: 0                      Abstain: 0</p> <p>The provisional budget was adopted.</p>	

9	<u>MOTIONS</u>	
9.1	<u>Motions from the membership</u>	
	<p><u>Motion 1 - NPC Germany</u></p> <p>Karl Quade introduced the motion that <i>“The NPC Germany proposes to introduce a second class in table tennis competitions for athletes with a more severe intellectual impairment”</i></p> <p>Seconded: Portugal</p> <p>In answer to a question, it was confirmed that the proposal had not been discussed with the ITTF.</p> <p>Great Britain - explained that they could not support the motion as it went against Inas’ unique position of a single classification representing elite athletes, and may cause confusion with the role of Special Olympics.</p> <p>Russia - suggested that a further category for athletes with Down Syndrome might also be considered</p> <p>Denmark - proposed an amendment which sought to research the issue.</p> <p>Amended motion: <i>“That the Inas Executive consults where appropriate to ascertain the feasibility and viability of introducing a second class of competition in table tennis”.</i></p> <p>Seconded: Iran</p> <p>Vote - For: 24          Against: 6          Abstain: 1</p> <p>The amended motion was adopted.</p>	
	<p><u>Motion 2 - NPC Egypt</u></p> <p><u><i>Motion: “The creation of: Region 1 - Africa: Africa (A) and Africa (B), Region 2 - Asia - Asia and Middle East/North Africa, Region 3 - Europe, Region 4 - South America, Region 5 - North America, Region 6 - Oceania”</i></u></p> <p>As NPC Egypt were not present at the Assembly, the motion could not be proposed and was therefore dismissed.</p>	
	<p><u>Motion 3 - NPC Egypt</u></p> <p><u><i>Motion: “To encourage financially capable states to organise competitions which bear the cost of accommodation and organisation. Participating countries shall bear the cost of [travel] tickets only”</i></u></p> <p>As NPC Egypt were not present at the Assembly, the motion could not be proposed and was therefore dismissed.</p>	

	<p><u>Motion 4 - ANDII (Portugal)</u></p> <p>Fausto Perreira introduced the motion <i>“The Portugese Federation of Sports for the Disabled proposes that the General Assembly establish the ‘Independent Basketball Federation for the Intellectual Disability - IBA FID’</i></p> <p>Seconded: Russia</p> <p>Great Britain - Believe that sport should own the sport, and therefore the role of FIBA is paramount. Inas has an opportunity to establish a strong connection to FIBA through its incoming sport director.</p> <p>Australia proposed an amendment to the motion.</p> <p>Amended motion: <i>“That the General Assembly agree that INAS continue to work with and explore the re-inclusion of basketball with FIBA recognising FIBA as the International sporting Federation for Basketball. The Executive Committee should monitor progress being prepared to review fully its strategy for inclusion in no more than 2 years time”</i></p> <p>Portugal - Do not accept the amendment.</p> <p>Bob Price - Outlined the discussions with FIBA to date, and the shared hopes for inclusion in the 2020 Paralympic Games</p> <p>Portugal - Explained that it would take two years to undertake the work needed to establish an independent federation, should the motion be supported.</p> <p>The amended motion was seconded by Canada.</p> <p>Vote - For: 17          Against: 6          Abstain: 7</p> <p>With 17 out of a total of 23 votes cast, the amended motion was adopted.</p>	
9.2	<u>Motions from the Executive Committee</u>	

Motion 5 - Executive Committee

Nick Parr introduced the motion *"In order to strengthen Inas' membership across the World - particularly in less develop areas - the Executive Committee propose that a new category of 'Associate Membership' is introduced"*

Great Britain - Believe that the constitution already allows for IF's and developing organisation's to become members. Nick Parr confirmed that there is scope, but the rules regarding voting rights are unclear - particularly in relation to IF's.

UK - Proposed an amendment to the motion.

Amended motion: *"That a) the rights of provisional members are reviewed and clarified, and b) that the Executive explore a new category of 'associate members' open to international federations"*.

The amended motion was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Seconded: Canada

Vote - For: 27          Against: 1          Abstain: 2

With 27 out of a total of 28 votes cast, the amended motion was adopted.

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Motion 6 - Executive Committee

Nick Parr introduced the motion *"In line with the continuing development of the organisation, the Executive propose that the 'Executive Committee' is henceforth known as the 'Governing Board'"*

Seconded: Russia

Vote - For: 30          Against: 0          Abstain: 0

With 30 out of a total of 30 votes cast, the amended motion was adopted.

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Motion 7 - Executive Committee

Nick Parr introduced the motion *"To ensure the Constitution remains up to date, the following amendments are proposed: (see full motion for details)"*.

Seconded: Germany

Correction: Paragraph 3 should read "Executive 'Committee' and not Executive 'Director'.

Vote - For: 29          Against: 0          Abstain: 0

With 29 out of a total of 29 votes cast, the amended motion was adopted.

	<p><u>Motion 8 - Executive Committee</u></p> <p>Nick Parr introduced the motion <i>“Over the past two years, the Executive have researched and consulted upon a strategic plan for the period 2013-2017, with the final version to be published in April 2013. The Executive Committee therefore propose that all officers, staff, regions and member organisations endorse the Inas Strategic Plan 2013-2017 and work collaboratively to achieve the aims it sets out”.</i></p> <p>Seconded - UK</p> <p>Vote - For: 32          Against: 0          Abstain: 0</p> <p>The motion was adopted.</p>	
	<p><u>Motion 9 - Executive Committee</u></p> <p>Nick Parr introduced the motion <i>“Recognising that some Inas regions are independently constituted whilst others operate from within the Inas Constitution, the Executive Committee propose an amendment to Section 2.7 of the Inas Handbook. (See full motion for detail)”.</i></p> <p>Seconded - Colombia</p> <p>Vote - For: 31          Against: 0          Abstain: 1</p> <p>The motion was adopted.</p>	
	<p><u>Motion 10 - Executive Committee</u></p> <p>Nick Parr introduced the motion <i>“Under UK charity law, unincorporated charities such as Inas, can now apply to become Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO’s), thereby limiting personal liabilities of its officers and members. The Executive Committee recommend that Inas becomes a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, transferring all assets, operations and members to the new organisation”.</i></p> <p>Seconded - Australia</p> <p>Vote - For: 29          Against: 0          Abstain: 0</p> <p>The motion was adopted.</p>	
	<p><u>Motion 11 - Executive Committee</u></p> <p>It was confirmed that the Executive Committee had withdrawn Motion 11</p>	
10	<u>APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE</u>	



		<p>Bob Price confirmed that Tracey McCillen (Chair), Lizzie Vogel (South Africa) and David Ip (Hong Kong) were willing to continue in their role within the committee.</p> <p>Further nominations were received from the floor for Maureen Dowds (Canada), Anika Walther (Sweden).</p> <p>Vote - For: 29          Against: 0          Abstain: 0</p> <p>The nominations committee was adopted.</p>	
11		<u>Inas Global Games 2015</u>	
		<p>Bob Price confirmed that 3 bids had been received for the 2015 Inas Global Games - Colombia, Croatia and Ecuador. However, the Executive Committee had deferred a decision on the winning host to the incoming Governing Board in order that they have time to consult with the incoming Technical Committee.</p> <p>A decision would be announced as soon as possible, and no later than end-May 2013.</p>	
12		<u>ELECTIONS</u>	
	12.1	<u>Head of Eligibility</u>	
		<p>Nominee: Jan Burns - nominated by the Executive Committee</p> <p>There were no questions to Jan.</p> <p>Delegates asked why the ballot papers did not include an 'against' box. It was agreed that this was an oversight. Delegates should either place a cross against the nominee for which they wish to vote, or write 'NO' to vote against the delegate.</p> <p>Vote - For: 30          Against: 0          Abstain: 2</p> <p>Jan Burns was elected Head of Eligibility</p>	
	12.2	<u>Secretary General</u>	
		<p>Nominee: Barry Holman - nominated by USA</p> <p>It was confirmed that Michel Chopinaud (France) had withdrawn his nomination.</p> <p>Due to a family emergency, Barry was unable to attend the General Assembly at short notice. Barry joined the meeting by SKYPE.</p> <p>There were no questions to Barry.</p> <p>Vote - Due to confusion regarding the withdrawal of Michel Chopinaud (who still appeared on the ballot paper), the result was declared unsafe, and a second vote was ordered when new ballot paper could be produced.</p>	

12.3	<p><u>Technical Officer</u></p> <p>Nominee: Marc Truffaut - nominated by France</p> <p>There were no questions to Marc.</p> <p>Vote - For: 29      Against: 0      Abstain: 2      Void: 2</p> <p>Marc Truffaut was elected Technical Officer</p>	
12.4	<p><u>Treasurer</u></p> <p>Nominees: Karon Nicol - nominated by UK Jean-Claude Wach - nominated by France</p> <p>There were no questions for the nominees.</p> <p>Vote - Karon: 17      Jean Claude: 15      Abstain: 0</p> <p>Karon Nicol was elected Treasurer</p>	
12.5	<p><u>Secretary General - second vote</u></p> <p>The earlier vote was re-run.</p> <p>Vote - For: 25      Against: 1      Abstain: 6</p> <p>Barry Holman was elected Secretary General</p>	
12.6	<p><u>Vice President</u></p> <p>Nominees: Jens Boe Nielsen - nominated by Denmark Robyn Smith - nominated by Australia Mohammad Vaez - nominated by Iran</p> <p>There were no questions for the nominees.</p> <p>Vote - Jens: 12      Robyn: 11      Mohammed: 7      Abstain: 2</p> <p>As no candidate received at least 50% of the vote, a second voting round was needed. As the candidate with fewest votes, Mohammed Vaez is eliminated from the election.</p> <p>Second vote: Jens: 13      Robyn: 16      Abstain: 3</p> <p>Robyn Smith was elected Vice President</p>	

12.7	<p><u>President</u></p> <p>Nominees: Amaury Russo - nominated by Brazil Geoff Smedley - nominated by GB</p> <p>There were no questions for the nominees.</p> <p>Vote:           Amaury: 17           Geoff: 15           Abstain: 0</p> <p>Amaury Russo was elected President</p>	
13	CLOSE	
	<p>Robyn Smith read a short tribute to Dr Bob Price on behalf of AUSRAPID. Robyn congratulated Bob on everything he had achieved for Inas during his time as President and wished him well in his retirement.</p> <p>A video message from Xavier Gonzalez (IPC Chief Executive) was presented.</p> <p>Gifts were presented to Bob, and also Bengt Lindstedt and Michel Chopinaud who were also stepping down at this general assembly.</p> <p>President Amaury Russo thanked the membership for placing their trust in him as the person to succeed Bob. Amaury paid tribute to Bob for his work to overcome Paralympic exclusion.</p> <p>Bob Price thanked the entire membership and the Executive Committee for their help and support over the past 6 years, and wished the organisation every success for the future.</p> <p>The meeting was closed.</p>	