

## Minutes

World Taekwondo Ordinary Council Meeting  
Marriot Boulevard Baku, Baku, Azerbaijan (Hybrid format)  
May 28, 2023 | 09h00-12h00 (local time in Azerbaijan)

## AGENDA

- 1. Establish Quorum: Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. President Report**
- 3. Approval**
  - a. Approval of the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on February 1, 2023
  - b. Approval of the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting via Video Conference on April 3, 2023
  - c. Agenda of the General Assembly to be held on May 28, 2023
- 4. 2022-2023 Reports**
  - a. Approval of Operation Report
  - b. Approval of Finance Report
    - i. Treasurer's Report on 2022 Financial Statement
    - ii. Auditor's Report on 2022 Accounts
- 5. Report**
  - a. New Olympic Qualification System for LA 2028 Cycle
  - b. World Para Taekwondo Championships and Para Taekwondo Open Challenge
  - c. Olympic Esports Week
  - d. Updates on New Headquarters
  - e. Progress Report – Cultural Festival
  - f. Updates on Integrity Audit
  - g. MNA Survey 2022
  - h. Lifting suspension of Singapore Taekwondo Federation
- 6. Approval of Membership Status**
  - a. New Membership – Namibia
  - b. Status of Portugal Member National Association
- 7. Selection of the Host Cities**
  - a. 2025 World Taekwondo Championships
  - b. 2025 World Taekwondo Cadet Championships
- 8. Other Matters**
- 9. Next Council Meeting**
- 10. Closing of Meeting**

Appendices:

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on February 1, 2023  
Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting via Video Conference on April 3, 2023

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## 1. Establish Quorum: Call Meeting to Order

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1. The meeting was called to order by the **CHAIR** of the Meeting, **Dr. Chungwon Choue**, WT President. The **CHAIR** asked **Mr. Jeongkang Seo**, Secretary General, to announce the quorum.
2. **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** announced the attendance of thirty-three (33) Council members including the President, Secretary General and the Auditor. Among them, three (3) of them participated online. With this attendance, the meeting fulfills the requirement for a quorum, as stipulated in Article 6.10 of the WT Statutes.

1 member absent with prior notice:

*Ms. Anna Panka*

2 members absent without prior notice:

*Ms. Margaret Elizabeth Binga*

*Ms. Samira Asghari*

3. The **CHAIR** invited **Mr. Justin Hou**, a member of the IOC Culture and Heritage Commission, in to join the meeting.
4. He stated that **Mr. Justin Hou** is well-known to many of Council members, as he is actively involved in various organizations, including the IOC Culture and Heritage-Commission and the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee. Additionally, he is recognized as the husband of Olympic Champion **Jingyu Wu**. Both Justin and Jingyu have made generous donations to the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation (THF) and have dedicated their time to supporting refugees and displaced persons.
5. The **CHAIR** appointed **Mr. Justin Hou** as the World Taekwondo Humanitarian Ambassador recognizing his activism and unwavering support for Taekwondo.

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## 2. President Reports

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6. The **CHAIR** was pleased to open the 83rd Council Meeting on the same date as the Founding of World Taekwondo half a century ago.
7. He mentioned that this was the 56th time that he has opened the Council Meeting since he became President of World Taekwondo in 2004. He mentioned that last night's Golden Jubilee Gala was meaningful and truly enjoyable. He recalled that there was a Council Meeting here in 2009 on the occasion of the first-ever World Para Taekwondo Championships.
8. He added that, coincidentally, World Taekwondo share the same Founding date as Azerbaijan's establishment as a democratic republic on May 28, 1918.
9. He welcomed all the participating athletes and officials from more than 140 MNAs plus 1 Refugee Team, and the Individual Neutral Athlete. He noted that Baku 2023 is truly historic as WT is supposed to have the largest participation of refugee athletes.
10. He hoped that WT will have all 13 refugee athletes in Baku, including 7 of them who are in the IOC Olympic Solidarity Scholarship Programme for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, and WT

has an athlete from a refugee camp – **Yehya Al-Ghotani** for the first time. He mentioned that this is what Taekwondo represents – a sport that gives hope and dreams to all, and wished all athletes the best during the Championships.

11. He noted that WT has 14 Individual Neutral Athletes with passports from Russia and 9 from Belarus at the Championships. He thanked the Review Committee comprising Vice President **Sakis Pragalos**, Council Members **Mohamed Shaaban**, **Jean-Marie Ayer**, and **Nikita Glasnovic**, and **Kenneth Schunken** from the European Taekwondo Union for the efforts in this challenging situation.
12. He stressed that these Individual Neutral Athletes who have been verified by the Review Committee must receive the same rights and responsibilities like any other athlete who are participating in Baku.
13. He continued that WT was informed by Ukraine that its athletes would not be participating in Baku. He expressed his sadness by this decision; however, two days ago, he met with the president of the Ukraine Taekwondo Federation, had a positive meeting and WT urged him to re-consider the participation of Ukraine in WT-events.
14. He added that WT is committed to supporting Ukrainian athletes until the war is over and the situation has improved.
15. He announced that WT will welcome Namibia as our 213<sup>th</sup> MNA today, upon the approval of the General Assembly.
16. He stated that WT has also lifted the suspension of the Singapore Taekwondo Federation in cooperation with the Singapore National Olympic Committee, and met with the new President two weeks ago in Seoul, together with IOC Vice President **Ser Miang Ng**, and he committed to bid for the 2024 Grand Prix Final.
17. He addressed that Singapore will also play a major role in June, as the inaugural Olympic Esports Week will be held in the city-state, and Virtual Taekwondo will be featured as one of the competitions and is the only combat sport to be invited.
18. He said that this November on the occasion of the IF Forum, WT plans to unveil a Taekwondo statue at the Olympic Museum, where it will be located to the entrance and just next to the Olympic Flame and statue of Pierre de Coubertin.

*(Played the video on the exact location of the statue)*

19. He concluded his report by saying that IOC President **Thomas Bach** will be attending his third World Taekwondo Championships on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and at the Opening Ceremony tomorrow, WT will have IOC Vice President **Ser Miang Ng**. He mentioned that it is a great privilege to have the strong friendship and support of the IOC.

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### **3. Approval**

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- a. Approval of the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on February 1, 2023
20. He extended his gratitude to **Mr. Pimol Srivikorn**, WT Treasurer for his gracious hospitality and offered congratulations on his appointment as Chairman of Sport Policies to the Thai government.

21. The minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held in Bangkok on February 1, 2023 were distributed to the Council members, and one comment for adjustment was duly reflected. With no further comments raised, the **CHAIR** called for a motion to approve the minutes.
22. **The Council members** seconded the motion, signifying the official approval of the minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held in Bangkok on February 1, 2023.
  - **Decision: Minutes of Extraordinary Council Meeting held in Bangkok on February 1, 2023 are approved by the Council.**
- b. Approval of the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting via Video Conference on April 3, 2023
23. Moving forward, the **CHAIR** brought attention to the minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting conducted via video conference on April 3rd, during the **CHAIR's** presence in Wuxi. The meeting minutes were shared with the Council members without any additional comments. Consequently, he requested a motion to approve the minutes.
24. **The Council members** seconded the motion, resulting in the formal approval of the minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on April 3, 2023.
  - **Decision: Minutes of Extraordinary Council Meeting held via Video Conference on April 3, 2023 are approved by the Council.**
- c. Agenda of the General Assembly to be held on May 28, 2023
25. The **CHAIR** presented the agenda for the upcoming General Assembly, seeking the Council's approval. In the absence of objections or suggestions from the Council, he called for a motion to approve the agenda.
26. **The Council members** seconded the motion, approving the agenda for the General Assembly.
  - **Decision: Agenda of the General Assembly to be held on May 28, 2023 is approved by the Council.**

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#### 4. 2022-2023 Reports

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27. The **CHAIR** invited Secretary General **Jeongkang Seo** to present the 2022-2023 Operation and Finance Reports.
28. **Jeongkang Seo** provided a summary of the 2022-2023 Operation and Finance Reports. He acknowledged that the Annual Report had been distributed to Council Members prior to the meeting and, therefore, would not go into the details but focus on key figures only.
29. He highlighted that World Taekwondo's financial position remained strong in 2022, with net assets totaling USD 16,111,625, exceeding the average annual budget. The organization generated approximately USD 11.4 million in income while managing to reduce expenses to USD 9.3 million through ongoing efforts to streamline operational costs.
30. Looking ahead to 2023, he projected both income and expenses to reach USD 12.4 million. This increase in budget allocation was due to special events planned to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary. For a comprehensive overview of major operations, he directed the Council Members to consult the Annual Report and encouraged them to ask any questions

they may have.

31. The **CHAIR** thanked **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** for the comprehensive presentation of the Operation and Finance Reports. He then called upon the General Assembly to proceed with a motion to approve the reports.
32. **The Council members** seconded the motion, leading to the official approval of the Operation and Finance Reports.
  - **Decision: 2022-2023 Operation and Finance Report are approved by the Council.**

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## 5. Reports

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### a. New Olympic Qualification System for LA 2028 Cycle

33. **Mr. Jay Lee**, Senior Director of Sport & Event Management Department, presented a new Olympic qualification system for LA 2028 cycle, which the Olympic and world ranking points shall be reset to zero every two years.
34. Based on this change, he emphasized that this is a change from originally a 4-year cycle to a 2-year cycle. He presented a detailed timeline of the first ranking period and the LA 2028 qualification period within the entire LA 2028 cycle. In addition, the results of Paris 2024 will not be considered for the ticket to LA 2028.
35. He added that all the relevant rules shall be amended within 2023 as following: Ranking Bylaw, Grand Prix Standing Procedure, Grand Slam Standing Procedure, and Event Operation Rules

### b. World Para Taekwondo Championships and Para Taekwondo Open Challenge

36. **Mr. Jay Lee** gave an overview of the event schedule for World Para Taekwondo Championships and Para Taekwondo Open Challenge. He mentioned that Para Taekwondo Open Challenge will be hosted in Chuncheon, Korea from August 21 to 22, 2023 as a G-4 pilot event.
37. He added that the World Para Taekwondo Championships will be held as a G-14 event, from September 21 to 24 at Veracruz, Mexico.
38. Following Jay Lee's presentation of the reports, the **CHAIR** expressed gratitude and added his comments related to Para Taekwondo Open Challenge in Chuncheon, that there will also be a World Beach Taekwondo Championships, Diamond Games, and several other events including Demonstration event also scheduled in Chuncheon.
39. The **CHAIR** opened the floor for any comments or questions regarding the reports and there was no comment.

### c. Olympic Esports Week

40. The **CHAIR** stated that since this topic will be reported in detail during the General Assembly afternoon, next topic will be reported from Secretary General.

### d. Updates on New Headquarters

41. **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** reported that the ad-hoc evaluation committee was formed to select the preferred host city of the WT headquarters. He noted that WT Treasurer **Mr. Pimol Srivikorn**

chaired the committee and also Council member, **Mr. Maher Magableh** joined as a member. He noted that after site visits and meetings with the two candidate cities, the committee recommended the city of Chuncheon as the preferred host city on April 24 based on tradition in organization of international Taekwondo events, strong public support and well-prepared bid offer.

42. He continued that until July 30, WT and Chuncheon will continue discussions to reach the final agreement for relocation of WT headquarters.
  43. He mentioned that it is a great pleasure to have the Mayor of Chuncheon and Chair of the Organizing Committee for World Taekwondo Gangwon-Chuncheon Festival. He invited the Mayor of Chuncheon **Mr. Dong-han Yook** for his short presentation.
  44. **Mr. Dong-han Yook** expressed his gratitude for Chuncheon as the Preferred City for the new World Taekwondo headquarters. He mentioned that they have hosted “Korea Open” and “Chuncheon International Taekwondo Championship” for over 20 years and there are 300,000(three hundred thousand) citizens in Chuncheon who truly love Taekwondo.
  45. He emphasized on the values of the city: Experience, Passion and Love. He noted that Chuncheon is a place of natural beauty, situated in the perfect harmony of mountains and lakes. He added that the city is truly graced with outstanding scenery that leaves a lasting impression on guests.
  46. He stressed that they are fully committed to making progress and perfecting preparation for hosting world-class Taekwondo competitions, and the progress is on-going. He continued that Chuncheon is a city of education with six universities and is also future-oriented with high-technology industries such as digital and bio.
  47. He mentioned that they are fully competent to offer both educational and industrial support for the progressive development of Taekwondo. He believed that such dignity and status of Taekwondo will continue to soar in the generations to come.
  48. He stated that Taekwondo is more than a sport, and it is the resolution for today’s challenges the humanity face and Chuncheon is willing to accompany the noble and humanitarian path WT pursues. He said that the final decision of WT will be announced in three months, and until then, Chuncheon will continue to demonstrate its dedication and value.
  49. He addressed that he is standing here with the longing hearts and aspiration of the 300,000 citizens, united in their commitment for bringing the WT headquarters to Chuncheon.
  50. He concluded his presentation by saying that Chuncheon sincerely hopes to operate “WT Octagon Diamond Game”, “WT Demonstration Team Championship,” “World Para Taekwondo Challenge” in August for three consecutive years. He humbly requested for insightful resolution during the meeting
- e. Progress Report – Cultural Festival
51. **Mr. Sang-min Lee**, President of the Organizing Committee for the 2023 Gangwon Chuncheon World Taekwondo Cultural Festival, expressed his gratitude, then mentioned that **Mr. Jin-Tae Kim**, the Governor of Gangwon Province, promised fully generous support for the successful hosting of the World Taekwondo Federation Headquarters and the festival.

52. He stated that the 2023 Gangwon Chuncheon World Taekwondo Cultural Festival is a new paradigm festival that combines various cultural events centered on Taekwondo. He emphasized on the slogan “Chuncheon, Major City of Taekwondo, Chuncheon with the World, The World with Chuncheon”.
  53. He stressed that they are trying to promote the integration of sports and culture through cultural diversity and cross-border exchanges, and the festival promoted by World Taekwondo will run for seven days, from August 18 to August 24, 2023.
  54. He informed the main competitions of the event: WT Octagon Diamond Game, World Para Taekwondo Open Challenge, the 4<sup>th</sup> World Taekwondo Beach Championships, World Taekwondo Demonstration Championships. He wished to see Taekwondo family in Chuncheon in August 2023.
- f. Updates on Integrity Audit
55. **Mr. Corbin Min**, WT legal counsel, WT Legal Counsel and Integrity & Safeguarding Officer, presented a progress report and next steps for the WT’s 2023 Integrity Audit. This is the third briefing to the Council, following the January and March reports. He mentioned that the Integrity Audit Taskforce Team has conducted 11 meetings so far, including Integrity Committee Meetings with representatives from the Juridical Committee and MRD Commission, as well as Nominations Committee Meetings.
  56. He reported that, although the Audit Report is not scheduled to be completed until the end of the year, WT has already taken concrete actions on 3 recommendations: Continental Unions reporting standards related to MNA election; re-balance of MNA versus Athlete rights related to Global Athlete Licenses; and the establishment of ad-hoc Nominations Committee focusing on appointed positions.
  57. He noted that, based on conversations with Council and Committee members, it might be useful to clarify the Integrity Audit concept, because for some people “integrity” in the sports context has become associated with “antidoping”, while “audit” is associated with “a review of financial accounts”.
  58. In contrast, he described the WT’s “integrity audit” as a type of comprehensive organizational health check. A health check, in that it is intended as a preventive measure designed to identify and mitigate potential issues before they can impact the organization.
  59. He then presented an updated of the Integrity framework, the tool being developed to guide the taskforce team with the touchstones of transparency (what and when), accountability (who and how), and principles (why), as well as a list of the sixteen areas the Taskforce has tabled for review. Also presented is a draft WT Integrity Statement, which is to be circulated to the Council members after the Ordinary Council Meeting in order to receive their comments and feedback on how the statement can be refined.
  60. He added that, in addition to the risk management benefits, another goal of WT’s undertaking of this audit and implementing its recommendations in a transparent, accountable, and principled is to help increase the trust of athletes, members, and other stakeholders, including the general public. He also believes that WT is the first Olympic International Federation to implement an integrity review of this depth and scope.
  61. He wrapped up his presentation by outlining a target timeline for key processes and milestones

starting from end of June, 2023 – onboarding of additional taskforce team members and advisors; two Council Surveys in July and August; finalization of data collection and recommendations in September; and to circulate the 2023 World Taekwondo Integrity Report by the end of October, 2023.

g. MNA Survey 2022

62. **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** reported that MNA Survey, inspired by the ASOIF Good Governance Survey, was conducted for the third time in 2022, building upon the previous two editions. He informed that the survey had a response rate of 77%, with 163 MNAs participating, and it was available in four languages: English, French, Spanish and Arabic.
63. He mentioned that the survey consisted of five sections, focusing on governance, transparency, integrity, democracy, and development, each containing five indicators.
64. He continued to report that based on the survey results, six (6) MNAs were identified as excellent in governance, achieving a score range of 41-50, categorizing them as A1. Twenty-six (26) MNAs were categorized as A2, with scores ranging from 31 to 40. Fourth-six (26) MNAs were classified as B1, scoring between 21-30, while sixty (60) MNAs fell into category B2, scoring between 0-10. Forty-nine (49) MNAs did not participate in the survey and were categorized as F.
65. He mentioned that the survey results will not be published with the names of MNAs grouped by score. He added that each MNA will receive a personalized Per MNA Report, distributed as a hard copy during the General Assembly.
66. He also stated that the report will display the self-assessed score and the moderated score, highlighting any disparities and it will also showcase how a specific MNA's moderated score differs from the average score of all MNAs in each section. He concluded his presentation by saying that further explanations will be also reported during the General Assembly.

h. Lifting suspension of Singapore Taekwondo Federation

67. **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** provided an update on the status of the Singapore Taekwondo Federation (STF), noting that STF had been under suspension since May 2019 due to issues concerning its management and governance.
68. He informed the Council that WT had been working closely with the Singapore National Olympic Council (SNOC) to address these concerns and restore proper governance within STF. With the successful formation of new leadership, supported by SNOC and SportSG, he noted that the WT Council conducted an e-vote and decided to lift the suspension imposed on STF.
69. The **CHAIR** expressed appreciation to **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** for his update and opened the floor for comments or questions and no comment was made.
70. The **CHAIR** then introduced **Prof. Cheng Han Tan**, the new President of the Singapore Taekwondo Federation, who briefly addressed the Council.
71. **Prof. Cheng Han Tan** stated that they are committed to being an engaged and responsible member of WT and look forward to contributing to WT's continued success under the leadership of WT President Dr. Choue and the Council; therefore, as Singapore Taekwondo Federation itself celebrates its 50th anniversary next year, they are planning on how to strengthen Taekwondo in Singapore through new initiatives including working with people with

disabilities, disadvantaged children and senior citizens in line with WT's Taekwondo for All program.

72. **The CHAIR** thanked **Prof. Tan** and moved onto next agenda.

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## **6. Approval of Membership Status**

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a. New Membership – Namibia

73. **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** started to report that Namibia used to be one of the two countries in Africa that has not had WT Member National Association. With great support of AFTU, he stated that finally national Taekwondo association was established in the name of Namibia Taekwondo Federation and it completed relevant application process, and WT Member Relations and Development Commission reviewed and recommended acceptance of Namibia Taekwondo Federation.
74. He mentioned that if Council and General Assembly approves, Namibia Taekwondo Federation will become a full member of World Taekwondo, and it will make WT membership expanded to 213+1.
75. The **CHAIR** asked if there was any objection.
76. As there was no objection from the Council members, he expressed gratitude to the Council for accepting Namibia as the 213<sup>th</sup> Member National Association (MNA) of World Taekwondo and stated that the application of Namibia would be forwarded to the General Assembly for final approval during the session scheduled for this afternoon.

- **Decision: New Membership of Namibia Taekwondo Federation is approved by the Council**

b. Status of Portugal Member National Association

77. **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** provided an update on the provisional status of the Portugal Taekwondo Federation. He mentioned that in early 2020, the PORTKD faced the loss of its public utility status due to problematic findings, and WT and ETU collaborated to ensure that Portuguese athletes could still participate in the Tokyo Olympic Games. He said that despite continued efforts and engagement from WT and ETU, viable solutions were not found. He stated that it is unlikely that they will be found until 2025 if the current MNA continues to be recognized.
78. In light of these circumstances, the current member, PORTKD, voluntarily decided to withdraw its membership. He mentioned that this voluntary withdrawal allows WT to acknowledge and recognize another organization called the Federacao Portugal Taekwondo (FPTKD). He said that the FPTKD possesses the Sport Public Status granted by the government and has the support of the National Olympic Committee (NOC).
79. He stressed that to prioritize the best interests of athletes preparing for the Paris 2024 Olympic/Paralympic Games, there is an urgent need to seek recognition of the new national federation, FPTKD, as a conditional provisional member until the end of 2023. He addressed that full membership will be granted at the beginning of 2024 if the new federation demonstrates reasonable efforts to provide opportunities for former PORTKD athletes to participate in team selections and makes sincere efforts to incorporate PORTKD. He added that the process will be closely supervised and monitored by the ETU.

80. The **CHAIR** asked if there was any objection to the recognition of FPTKD replacing PORTKD. There was no objection from the Council Members.

- **Decision: Recognition of FPTKD, as the member national association of World Taekwondo, replacing PORTKD**

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## 7. Selection of the Host Cities

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81. **The CHAIR** announced the initiation of the bid process for selecting the host cities of the 2025 World Taekwondo Championships and the 2025 World Taekwondo Cadet Championships. He asked **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** to manage the voting process for the 2025 World Taekwondo Championships.

a. 2025 World Taekwondo Championships

82. **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** invited four candidates for the bid presentation, and the presentations were conducted in alphabetical order by country. Each candidate city was allocated 10 minutes for their presentation.

83. In accordance with the meeting tradition, he noted asked the Council members (*Mr. Inseon Kim, Mr. Richard Jay Warwick, Mr. Stephen Thomas Lambdin, and Mr. Chun Jae Park from the United States of America, and Ms. Nikita Glasnovic from Croatia*) representing the nations of candidate cities would be excused from the room during the presentation of the other candidates. They would be allowed to return to the room after the presentation of the other candidates.

84. **Sofia, Bulgaria – Mr. Slavi Binev**, President of Bulgarian Taekwondo Federation, made a presentation and expressed their strength in hosting various World Taekwondo events in the past showing the figures and facts. Sofia looks forward to 2025 with high standards to host the Championships using their experiences. He emphasized that they will try their best to host smooth and successful Championships.

85. The **CHAIR** thanked Mr. Binev for the presentation and opened the floor for comments or questions. There was none.

86. **Zagreb, Croatia – Prof. Dragan Primorac**, Vice President of Croatian Taekwondo Federation, made a presentation and emphasized that Croatia is part of EU and the Schengen Information System is fully working, supporting the free movement and access for European citizens without borders. He presented their compact transportation concept which the venue, Arena Zagreb, to all the accommodations in the city centre area is within no more than 6km and airport to the venue is about 25 minutes.

87. Since Croatia never hosted the World Championships before, they feel that it is now their turn to bring Taekwondo to their soil with a full support guaranteed from the central government if Croatia earns the opportunity to host the Championships.

88. The **CHAIR** thanked **Prof. Primorac** for the presentation and opened the floor for comments or questions. There was none..

89. **Wuxi, People's Republic of China – Mr. Jianmin Guan**, President of Chinese Taekwondo Association, made a presentation on their experience in many international sport events in the

past, as a home of World Taekwondo Grand Slam Champions Series, and that Wuxi was a successful bidder to host the Championships in 2021 but it was cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic.

90. In the lead up to the 2025 preparation, Wuxi will use the Wuxi Taihu International Expo Center as the main competition venue, along with a new supporting venue, Wuxi Huafa International Taekwondo Center, which will open in October, 2023.
91. Wuxi representatives made a point on their compact layout for mobility, as the main venue to city centre areas and accommodations are as closest as 5 minutes on foot or at most 2km in distance apart.
92. The **CHAIR** thanked Mr. Guan for the presentation and opened the floor for comments or questions.
93. **Mr. Driss El Hilali**, Council member asked the approximate opening date or month of the Championships in 2025.
94. **Mr. Jianmin Guan** answered that if Wuxi was awarded to host the Championships in 2025, it could be held in May.
95. There were no further questions.
96. **Charlotte, United States of America – Mr. Sam Konduros** from US Performance Center, made a presentation on the strong support system and athlete representation of Taekwondo in their country, and Charlotte is home to US Performance Center and has established USA Taekwondo National Training Center in 2022.
97. For the United States of America, it will be a grand opportunity for the acceleration of US and global sports movement, increased popularity for the sport of Taekwondo in the USA with media coverage from NBC, and promised a seamless provision of visas for athletes and support teams.
98. **The CHAIR** thanked **Mr. Konduros** for the presentation and opened the floor for comments or questions.
99. **Ms. Aicha Garad Ali**, Vice President inquired about the visa issuance as countries in Africa generally experience difficulties especially when visiting the US.
100. **Mr. Sam Konduros** made sure to provide seamless provision and will proactively prepare with USOPC's support, and Charlotte has received a positive intent from US Senators and governors in the region to ensure that there are no visa related issues.
101. **Mr. Jean-Marie Ayer**, Council member made an additional inquiry and recommendation to Charlotte providing a strategy for the seamless visa approvals
102. **Mr. Sam Konduros** reaffirmed his previous points on a seamless provision of visas, and that this will be and has always been their priority issue to be solved. Therefore, he assured again that visa process would not be an issue.

103. In addition, he mentioned about the situation during LA 2028 bid on how IOC was pushing for LA to resolve visa issues in their decisions to choose for 2028 and reiterated that Charlotte has all the political resources and power to support to solve the problem.
104. **The CHAIR** thanked all bidders for their presentations and asked **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** to proceed the voting.
105. The voting was conducted in a confidential and anonymous manner, utilizing a hybrid format that allowed for on-site and online participation. A total of twenty-six (26) council members took part in the voting, including three (3) online voters, while five (5) council members of the candidate nations were excluded due to same nationalities as the bidders. The physical ballot papers were collected by the auditor, while the online voting proceeded simultaneously. The auditor subsequently counted the ballots and reported the result to **the CHAIR**.
106. **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** invited the bidders into the room for the announcement of the CHAIR.
107. **The CHAIR** announced the result of the votes for the 2025 World Taekwondo Championships.
108. **Voting Results**  
*Total eligible votes: 26*  
*Total casted votes: 26*  
*Sofia, Bulgaria 0 votes*  
*Zagreb, Croatia 6 votes (includes 1 online vote)*  
**Wuxi, People's Republic of China 14 votes**  
*Charlotte, United States 6 votes (includes 2 online votes)*
109. **The CHAIR** congratulated Wuxi on securing the highest number of votes and invited the winning city to take the floor and share a few words.
110. **Mr. Jianmin Guan** re-emphasized their experience in hosting large scale events, thus expressed their full confidence to successfully host the Championships in 2025.
- b. 2025 World Taekwondo Cadet Championships
111. **The CHAIR** proceeded to the next bid for selecting the host city of the 2025 World Taekwondo Cadet Championships. The candidate from Fujairah, UAE was invited to present their bid.
112. **The CHAIR** asked the bidder to leave the room for discussion among the Council.
113. **The CHAIR** spoke to the Council that Fujairah was the only bidder for this event and has vast experiences of hosting World Taekwondo events such as Grand Prix Final and Fujairah Open tournaments. Then he asked the Council to accept Fujairah as the host city of the 2025 World Cadet Championships unless there is any objection. There was no objection to the proposal.
114. **The CHAIR** then called the candidate back to the room and announced the decision of the Council to award the 2025 World Taekwondo Cadet Championships to Fujairah. He thanked Fujairah and invited the candidate to say a few words.
115. **Mr. Ahmed AlZeyoudi**, WT Council member as well as President of U.A.E. Taekwondo Federation, has expressed his sincere gratitude for the full support from the **CHAIR**, Vice Presidents and Council members and ensured to provide the best Cadet Championships.

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## 8. Other Matters

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116. The **CHAIR** asked the Council if there were any matters to be raised before closing the meeting, and no matters were addressed.

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## 9. Next Council Meeting

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117. The **CHAIR** formally announced that the next Ordinary Council Meeting (OCM) will be held in Chuncheon in the Republic of Korea, in conjunction with the 2024 World Taekwondo Junior Championships. He assured the Council that the exact date and meeting detailed arrangement for the meeting will be communicated in due course.
118. Additionally, the **CHAIR** also anticipated to organise a few Extraordinary Council meetings virtually before the next OCM to provide important updates to Council members.

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## 10. Closing of Meeting

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119. The **CHAIR** expressed gratitude to the Council for their contribution and the productive outcomes achieved during the 83<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting of World Taekwondo.
120. The **CHAIR** adjourned the Ordinary Council Meeting.