



INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS COMMITTEE FOR DISABLED
A Standing Committee of the International Paralympic Committee

AFRICAN-MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL TABLE TENNIS ASSEMBLY

Minutes of a meeting of the African-Middle East regional table tennis assembly held on Monday 19 August 2002 at 15h10 during the World Championships in Taipei in the audio-visual room, third floor of the competition venue.

PRESENT: nations widely practising table tennis: South Africa, Islamic Republic of Iran (late)

APOLOGIES: Algeria, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen

ALSO PRESENT: Christian Lillieroos (Chairperson, ITTC), Alison Burchell (Secretary General)

OBSERVERS: South Africa

WELCOME: the Chairperson welcomed the two countries present, noting that there was no quorum as seven countries were needed so this would be an unofficial meeting. The idea was to elect a representative for the region which was large geographically. Nigeria was not eligible as it was not in good standing with the IPC and the most active countries were South Africa, Jordan and Iran.

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** there were no minutes as this was the “first” regional meeting.
2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:** as this was the “first” meeting, there were no matters arising.
3. **ITTC REPORT:** the Assembly noted the Chairperson’s report as circulated for the Table Tennis Assembly following this meeting and that:
 - the SAEC had changed its structure as from 1996 to 2000, each member had an area allocated to him or her while now a member chairs a subcommittee for example the tournament committee had a secretary and representation from the regions and sanctioned events;
 - thus there were selection, tournament, technical, medical, development and regional committees together with an athlete representative;
 - the secretary general and ranking director/webmaster were not elected but appointed due to their expertise;
 - in the area of ITTF-ITTC relations, including rules for wheelchair events and the joint certification of umpires was being investigated;
 - the hope was that the ITTC would integrate with the able-bodied, while remaining in the Paralympic programme;
 - an IPC sport was directly affiliated to the IPC as the ITTC currently was with no marketing rights independent of the IPC, with funding from the IPC of US\$15 000,00;
 - an independent sport was like the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation or the World Organisation of Volleyball for the Disabled;
 - table tennis was growing fast;

- various motions were included in the Table Tennis Assembly about doubles as in 1996, doubles was only included in factor 50 tournaments and as ranking did not make it worthwhile and took an extra day, it was taken out in 2000.

4. ELECTION OF A REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE 2002 – 2005: the Assembly recalled the resolution taken at the assembly held in October 2000 in Sydney that the regional representatives should be elected at the regional championships starting the year after the Sydney Paralympic Games for a four-year term of office and that voting for these positions should be by that region's national members and not by the whole world.

The Assembly noted the job description for the regional representative which included the ideal candidate being:

- a) supported by his or her NPC, with the NPC undertaking to provide financial assistance to the candidate to attend ITTC meetings and assist with some administrative costs;
- b) committed to serving table tennis in the region from now until the next regional elections in 2005;
- c) in serving table tennis, to be committed to the further development of the sport in all countries in the region and in all aspects (coaching, player development, administration, refereeing, technical delegates, classifiers);
- d) able to communicate in English as this was the official language of the IPC and ITTC;
- e) able to develop good communication with all countries in the region and with the ITTC.

The Assembly noted that one nomination from Iraq had been received which was late and the candidate was not present. The Assembly agreed to ask South Africa to consult IR Iran and Jordan about recommending a representative to act in the interim until the elections to be held during the next regional championships.

5. ELECTION PROCEDURES FOR THE FUTURE: the Assembly agreed to confirm the above procedures to be used in future elections for its regional representative.

6. FUTURE REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS BIDS: the Assembly noted that a formal bid had been received from IR Iran to host the regional championships from 16 to 26 May 2003. Due to the specific religious rules in IR Iran, the SAEC had recommended to the IPC that the bid not be accepted. However, the Assembly noted that the potential existed for single gender events, the World Singles Cup or a factor 20 tournament, as the technical bid had been good. Some interest in hosting the regional championships had been expressed by Egypt, Jordan and South Africa. IR Iran was considering a competition for men only and would communicate this to the nations. The Assembly noted the SAEC's appreciation for IR Iran's cooperation and understanding.

7. OTHER TOURNAMENTS: the Assembly noted that Jordan would host a factor 20 tournament in December 2002 which would form part of the qualification process for the Paralympic Games.

8. OTHER BUSINESS: the Assembly noted that ideally Africa should be separated from the Middle East region but that there would have to be an increase in activity. The Assembly noted that Egypt would be hosting a seminar in Cairo from 23 to 27 September 2002 to introduce five sports, including table tennis, to those working at a grassroots level. The Assembly noted that the financial situation had to be improved before there could be increased participation and that

perhaps smaller tournaments should be organised along the lines of consecutive tournaments over two weekends.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 15h58.

READ AND CONFIRMED AT THE MEETING

HELD ON

CHAIRPERSON

AMB/

8 September 2002