



**International  
Handball  
Federation**



# **Council Meeting No. 1**

*02.03.2026 – by video conference*



## Present

Dr Hassan MOUSTAFA (EGY)  
Philippe BANA (FRA)  
Mansourou ARÉMOU (BEN)  
Bader AL-THEYAB (KUW)  
Michael WIEDERER (AUT)  
Anna RAPP (SWE)  
Narcisa LECUSANU (ROU)  
Francisco V. BLÁZQUEZ GARCÍA (ESP)  
Pascal JENNY (SUI)  
Per Morten SØDAL (NOR)  
Dietrich SPÄTE (GER)  
Dr Yannick MOSSUS (CMR)  
Tomislav GRAHOVAC (CRO)  
Marcel Amos MBAYO KITENGE (COD)  
Ahmed AL-SHAABI (QAT)  
Mario GARCIA DE LA TORRE (MEX)

Marcel MANCILLA BRAVO (CHI)

Amal KHALIFA (EGY)  
Patric STRUB (GER)

Not present:

Gonzalo PÉREZ DE VARGAS MORENO (ESP)  
Predrag BOSKOVIC (MNE)  
Ricardo BLAS (GUM)

President  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President  
IHF Vice-President Africa  
IHF Vice-President Asia  
IHF Vice-President Europe  
Treasurer  
Executive Committee Member  
Executive Committee Member  
COC Chairman  
PRC Chairman  
CCM Chairman  
MC Chairman  
CD Chairman  
IHF Representative Africa  
IHF Representative Asia  
IHF Representative North America and  
the Caribbean  
IHF Representative South and Central  
America

General Director  
Competitions Director

AC Chairman  
IHF Representative Europe  
IHF Representative Oceania

MEETING TIME: 14:00-15:30

Notes: These minutes constitute a record of decisions taken and only contain the most important spoken contributions. The proceeding of this meeting was recorded. The record is kept at the Head Office in Basel.

President Moustafa as usual abstained from voting.



# Agenda

## **1. Minutes**

- 1.1.** Council Meeting No. 9, 1 October 2025 in Cairo, EGY
- 1.2.** Executive Committee Meeting No. 1, 10 February 2026 by video conference

## **2. President's activities**

## **3. Competitions**

- 3.1.** Return of Russian and Belarusian national teams to international younger age category handball competitions
- 3.2.** 2026 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship – Awarding
- 3.3.** 2027 Men's Junior (U21) World Championship – Awarding
- 3.4.** Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games
  - 3.4.1.** Confirmation of IF Delegates
  - 3.4.2.** Dates of IHF Olympic Qualification Tournaments
- 3.5.** 2029 Men's World Championship in FRA/GER – Request from Organising Committee
- 3.6.** Creation of IHF Men's and Women's Junior (U19) Beach Handball World Championships

## **4. Appointment of Commission members**

- 4.1.** Commission of Organising and Competition (COC)
- 4.2.** Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC)
- 4.3.** Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM)
- 4.4.** Medical Commission (MC)
- 4.5.** Commission for Development (CD)
- 4.6.** Arbitration Tribunal
- 4.7.** Arbitration Commission
- 4.8.** Ethics Commission

## **5. IHF Regulations**

- 5.1.** Duties of IHF Permanent Commissions

## **6. Continents**

- 6.1.** Report from the continents
- 6.2.** Minutes of EHF Executive Committee Meeting in Herning, DEN, 31 January and 1 February 2026

## **7. Miscellaneous**

- 7.1.** IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group
- 7.2.** Council decisions made by electronic communication



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President Moustafa opened the meeting, welcoming the Council members to the meeting held by video conference. He expressed his hopes that all Council members as well as their families are in good health.

He conveyed his congratulations to those Council members who have been re-elected or reconfirmed by the Congress for another four-year period. He also congratulated the six new Council members, Mr Philippe Bana, Mr Francisco V. Blázquez García, Mr Pascal Jenny, Dr Yannick Mossus, Mr Marcel Amos Mbayo Kitenge and Mr Ahmed Al Shaabi, on their election/confirmation and welcomed them to the Council meeting. He wished all Council members good luck for the upcoming four years and every success with their activities. He expressed his hopes for a fruitful collaboration with all Council members for the benefit of the further development of handball.

Furthermore, in compliance with the good governance policy of the ASOIF, it was confirmed that no Council member had any conflict of interest with any agenda item.

## 1. Minutes

### 1.1. Council Meeting No. 9, 1 October 2025 in Cairo, EGY

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, which was held in Cairo, Egypt, on 1 October 2025, including all the Council decisions taken by electronic communication since the previous meeting.

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#### Decision

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**The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Council Meeting No. 9 held in Cairo, EGY, on 1 October 2025.**

### 1.2. Executive Committee Meeting No. 1, 10 February 2026 by video conference

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Committee Meeting, which was held by video conference on 10 February 2026, including all the Executive Committee decisions taken by electronic communication since the previous meeting.

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#### Decision

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**The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Executive Committee Meeting No. 1 held by video conference on 10 February 2026.**

## 2. President's activities

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented an overview of the President's activities since the last IHF Council meeting in October 2025, stressing that it is just a summary in view of the many activities carried out by the IHF President between the two IHF Council meetings:

*October-December 2025:* Several meetings in Egypt, including a series of meetings with representatives of the Egyptian Handball Federation and Sports United, the organising company, as well as with local authorities, to facilitate preparations for the 40<sup>th</sup> Ordinary IHF Congress, ensuring that all organisational and logistical aspects are aligned with IHF standards and requirements, reviewing planning progress, addressing challenges and coordinating efforts.

*24 October-1 November 2025:* Attendance at numerous matches of the 1<sup>st</sup> IHF Men's U17 World



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Championship in Casablanca, Morocco, and participation in several meetings on the fringes of the event, including meetings with the Presidents of the Continental Confederations in attendance as well as with representatives of the competing teams, such as USA Team Handball CEO Michael King. Constant contact with the Royal Moroccan Handball Federation to ensure the players experienced the best possible conditions and meetings with IHF ball partner Molten and the chairpersons of IHF CCM and PRC.

*19-22 December 2025:* 40<sup>th</sup> Ordinary IHF Congress with approximately 400 participants representing 176 nations at the 5-star luxury resort St. Regis New Capital Cairo, Egypt, the agenda including the presidential elections, as a result of which Dr Moustafa was re-elected as IHF President for another four-year term. Alongside the International Handball Federation, the six Continental Confederations and other regional bodies, such as the Commonwealth Handball Association and the Mediterranean Handball Confederation, conducted meetings and assemblies, with Dr Moustafa present to facilitate the procedures and reaffirm the commitment to ongoing support on behalf of the IHF.

*12 January 2026:* Gratitude reception in Cairo, Egypt, for the different stakeholders involved in the successful organisation and hosting of the 40<sup>th</sup> Ordinary IHF Congress, including but not limited to the Egyptian Handball Federation (EHF), Sports United and the Administrative Capital for Urban Development (ACUD), which were attending the reception with various representatives.

*13 January 2026:* Meeting with the President of Iraq Handball Federation, Dr Ahmed Riyadh Taleb, in Cairo, Egypt, to exchange opinions and discuss the current situation of the Iraq Handball Federation following their General Assembly held on 27 December 2025, the further development of handball in the country and the support of the IHF.

*3/4 February 2026:* Attendance at the 145<sup>th</sup> IOC Session, held in Milan, Italy, ahead of the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games, the meeting agenda including the President's report by IOC President Kirsty Coventry, amendments to the Olympic Charter, the presentation of numerous reports, and elections to positions within the International Olympic Committee.

*10 February 2026:* Meeting with the newly elected 1<sup>st</sup> IHF Vice-President, Philippe Bana, at the IHF Head Office in Basel prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> IHF Executive Committee Meeting and engagement in constructive discussions on matters concerning their respective roles and responsibilities, as well as on topics related to the ongoing activities and initiatives of the IHF.

*10 February 2026:* 1<sup>st</sup> meeting by video conference of the newly formed IHF Executive Committee, the meeting agenda including the PRC report for the 2025 IHF Men's Club World Championship, other continental and national updates, as well as the discussion of financial matters, such as the offer related to the IT infrastructure at the new IHF headquarters in Basel.

*11 February 2026:* Meeting with CAHB President Mansourou Aremou, Sidikou Karimou, President of Benin Handball Federation, and Yazid Souadi, Secretary General of Royal Moroccan Handball Federation, at the IHF Head Office, the meeting including discussions on the recent African Men's Championship held in Rwanda, exchanges on IHF projects in Africa, such as the IHF Trophy, as well as on additional opportunities to further strengthen the popularity of handball in Benin and Morocco as well as throughout the African continent.

*17 February 2026:* Meeting with representatives of the Serbian Handball Federation, namely President Bozidar Djurkovic and Head of the Sports Department Zeljko Radojevic, at the IHF Head Office, for discussions on the current state and development of handball in Serbia, the meeting providing an opportunity to exchange views on the recent sporting results of the men's and women's national teams, as well as on ongoing development programmes implemented by the National Federation, and to address matters of mutual interest and future cooperation between the IHF and the Serbian Handball Federation, including but not limited to the organisation of future IHF competitions in Serbia.

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## Decision

**The Council took note of and approved the President's activities and appreciated the efforts he made for the worldwide development of handball.**



## 3. Competitions

### 3.1. Return of Russian and Belarusian national teams to international younger age category handball competitions

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who reminded the attendees that following the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board's recommendation, the IHF Council decided on 4 March 2022 to ban all teams, officials, referees, lecturers and experts from Russia and Belarus from taking part in IHF events and activities with immediate effect and until further notice, due to the breach of the Olympic Truce by the Russian government and the government of Belarus. President Moustafa emphasised that the original decision was taken by the IOC and that the IHF followed their recommendation. Furthermore, on 7 August 2025, the IHF Council decided on a scenario for the return of Russian and Belarusian national teams to international handball competitions. The reintegration was limited to the U17/U16 level as well as the fulfilment of strict conditions by the two teams. President Moustafa stated that the IHF has been in constant contact with the IOC and IOC Sports Director Pierre Ducrey regarding this matter. The General Director highlighted that the IOC now made a substantial shift in their position and informed the IFs by letter dated 19 December 2025 that the Olympic Summit decided on 11 December 2025 to support the IOC Executive Board's recommendation that youth athletes with a Russian or Belarusian passport should no longer be restricted in their access to international youth competitions, in both individual and team sports. She explained that, in its letter, the IOC clarifies that Russian or Belarusian athletes should be allowed to compete in all international youth competitions, in both individual and team sports, without additional IF eligibility requirements, such as background checks, while the definition of youth competitions depends on the regulations of each IF. In this context, the IOC also specifies that IF or event organiser protocols regarding flags, anthems, uniforms and related elements should apply, provided that the relevant national sports organisation is in good standing. However, the General Director also remarked that, according to the IOC, IFs should continue to refrain from organising or supporting international sports events in Russia (this latter recommendation no longer applying to Belarus) and that government officials from Russia or Belarus should still not be accredited or invited to international sports events or meetings for both senior and youth competitions.

The General Director then informed the attendees that, in view of the 2026 IHF Women's U16 World Championship and the European qualification for the competition, the IHF officially addressed the European Handball Federation on 22 January 2026, referring to the decision made by the IHF Council on 7 August 2025 and informing the EHF about the IOC's recommendation to allow Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete in international youth competitions. In its letter, the IHF highlights that the Council decision of 7 August 2025 shall be applicable and that both teams from Russia and Belarus may compete under the following strict conditions approved by the IHF Council on 7 August 2025:

#### ***Neutral Team Status***

- Competing under the name "Neutral Handball Athletes" (NHA) or another IHF-approved label.
- Russian/Belarusian national symbols (flag, anthem, federation logo, etc.) must not be used or shown.
- IHF flag and IHF anthem will be used for walk-in.
- Uniforms in IHF-approved colours (blue, white, gold) with only neutral identifiers shall be used.

#### ***Athlete & Staff Eligibility***

- All athletes, coaches and staff must sign a declaration confirming as follows:
  - having no relation whatsoever to military or government security agencies;
  - political neutrality without any public political positions;



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- no involvement in any ongoing international conflicts;
- not showing any Russian/Belarusian symbols.

## ***Anti-Doping Compliance***

- Up-to-date negative results as reported by the WADA-accredited laboratories are required before participation.
- Not currently facing an Anti-Doping Rule Violation.
- Full access to doping records; athletes may face additional independent testing.

## ***Financial & Logistical Independence***

- Funding must come from non-governmental sources only (proof required).
- Travel and logistics to be organised by themselves, including potential visa.

## ***Media & Public Communication***

- All athletes, coaches and staff must avoid any political statements or gestures before, during or after the event, including on social media platforms.
- NHA must not be considered as representing the Russian/Belarusian state, especially on the media outlets of the two federations concerned.

The General Director stated that the Handball Federation of Russia as well as the Handball Federation of Belarus have been informed accordingly by the IHF by email dated 2 February 2026. Moreover, she informed the attendees that the Handball Federation of Russia contacted the IHF by email dated 9 February 2026, asking for clarifications regarding the stage at which reinstated athletes would enter the upcoming IHF competitions (qualification rounds or later stage), the possibility to protect the rankings of Russian teams, by awarding ranking points for each year of suspension, to safeguard the sporting merit of the teams during the period of suspension, and the possibility to grant athletes full eligibility, allowing them to compete under their national flag and with their national anthem, considering the importance of collective preparation, synergy and national identity in team sports like handball.

Referring to the definition of youth competitions which depends on the regulations of each IF according to the IOC, the General Director presented the proposal to define "youth"/"younger age category" as all age categories up to and including U21, in line with the Regulations for IHF Competitions.

The Treasurer took the floor and expressed her sympathy for all the people in Ukraine affected by the conflict as well as for the Russian and Belarusian athletes who are not able to compete in international sports competitions. She also stressed that the situation has not changed since the beginning of the Russian invasion and that the war in Ukraine is still ongoing. In her opinion, there is thus no reason to change the current approach by allowing Russian and Belarusian national teams to compete in international younger age category handball competitions. Moreover, she pointed to potential negative feedback in case of a change, in particular from European countries and sponsors. She concluded that she is not in favour of the proposed return of Russian and Belarusian national teams to international younger age category handball competitions. The PRC Chairman took the floor and agreed with the Treasurer. He also mentioned potential organisational issues, as the legislation in many countries prevents Russian and Belarusian athletes and national teams from travelling to and taking part in international competitions. In this context, President Moustafa highlighted the important distinction between sports and politics.

The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor and stressed the need to reintegrate Russian and Belarusian teams following the IOC's recommendation. However, the challenges in organising matches involving Russian and Belarusian national teams need to be taken into account, since several nations in Europe, as per



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governmental decisions, may currently not host and/or compete against Russian and Belarusian teams, which could result in rather complicated situations during competitions. In any case, a potential return would have to be coordinated with the European Union. Furthermore, he pointed out that the EHF Executive Committee has already started discussions about a potential involvement of Russian and Belarusian individuals as EHF delegates, as they would represent the Continental Confederation of Europe rather than the individual countries. He also informed the attendees that the EHF has been in regular contact with the National Federations of Russia and Belarus. He emphasised that the European Handball Federation must be involved in any discussions related to the reintegration of Russian and Belarusian teams, as Europe will be directly affected by any decision, especially with regard to organisational consequences. He recommended to consider the situation carefully, also in terms of other current conflicts such as in Iran, before taking a decision. The entire matter is not only a technical, but rather a pragmatic question; therefore the consequences of any potential decision need to be considered thoroughly.

The Competitions Director took the floor and explained that most other Olympic sports are in the same situation as handball and that the corresponding discussions are ongoing. He also remarked that some sports, such as water polo, have opened a pathway for the return of Russian and Belarusian national teams. The General Director added that the IHF was approached by the FIBA Secretary General during the recent IOC Session in Milan to discuss the matter. As reported by the FIBA Secretary General, basketball is currently in the same situation, trying to explore ways to address the challenges surrounding the reintegration of both countries into international competitions.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President took the floor and reported on several meetings he had with representatives from various National Olympic Committees on this topic and stated that, in his opinion, the IHF should follow the IOC's recommendation. In addition, he suggested that the IHF COC could develop a more detailed concept for the return of Russian and Belarusian national teams to international younger age category handball competitions. The COC Chairman took the floor and remarked that all sports should speak with one voice. He suggested that Europe, with the mandate of the IHF, discusses the matter directly with the IOC to find a solution.

President Moustafa proposed to ask the IHF Executive Committee to study the potential return of Russian and Belarusian national teams to international younger age category handball competitions and submit a corresponding proposal to the IHF Council for decision.

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## Decision

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**The Council unanimously decided to ask the Executive Committee to study the potential return of Russian and Belarusian national teams to international younger age category handball competitions and submit a corresponding proposal to the Council for decision.**

### 3.2. 2026 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship – Awarding

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Competitions Director who informed the attendees that the Chinese Handball Association has expressed interest in hosting the 2026 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship for several months, but was subject to governmental decisions regarding the organisation of the event. Eventually, the Chinese Handball Association submitted an event concept, which had been submitted to the Council members as part of the working documents, and an on-site inspection was carried out by IHF Inspection Working Group Chairman Assem El-Saadany together with IHF Event Delegate Marco Tosi Brandi from 24 to 28 January 2026. The Competitions Director remarked that the event is planned to be organised in the city of Jinzhong during the period from 24 June to 5 July 2026 and that the proposed participation fee for the teams amounts to EUR 170 per person per day (EUR 185 for additional days and persons).



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## Decision

**The Council unanimously decided to award the 2026 IHF Women's Junior (U20) World Championship to the Chinese Handball Association.**

### 3.3. 2027 Men's Junior (U21) World Championship – Awarding

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Competitions Director who informed the attendees that the Macedonian Handball Federation is the only bidder that has expressed interest in the organisation of the 2027 IHF Men's Junior (U21) World Championship, adding that they submitted an event concept, which had been submitted to the Council members as part of the working documents, and an on-site inspection was carried out by IHF Event Delegate Marco Tosi Brandi from 20 to 23 February 2026. He explained that the event will be organised in well-known arenas and accommodation sites in Skopje during the period from 23 June to 4 July 2027 and that the proposed participation fee for the teams amounts to EUR 170 per person per day (EUR 185 for additional days and persons).

The PRC Chairman took the floor and remarked that adjustments might be required in two of the proposed venues in Skopje, especially with regard to the safety zones surrounding the playing court, in order to protect the health of the players.

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously decided to award the 2027 IHF Men's Junior (U21) World Championship to the Macedonian Handball Federation.**

### 3.4. Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games

#### 3.4.1. Confirmation of IF Delegates

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who explained that as usual in the lead-up to the Olympic Games, the IHF was requested to nominate two IF Delegates (Technical Delegates) for the handball competitions at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. Similar to previous Olympic Games, the IHF nominated the Chairperson of the IHF Commission of Organising and Competition (COC), Mr Pascal Jenny, and the Chairperson of the IHF Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC), Mr Per Morten Sødal, who both confirmed their availability to carry out this function.

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously confirmed the nominations of the Chairperson of the IHF Commission of Organising and Competition, Mr Pascal Jenny, and the Chairperson of the IHF Playing Rules and Referees Commission, Mr Per Morten Sødal, as IF Delegates for the handball competitions at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.**

#### 3.4.2. Dates of IHF Olympic Qualification Tournaments

President Moustafa gave the floor to the COC Chairman who informed the attendees that the national team week for women, during which the Women's Olympic Qualification Tournaments will be played, is scheduled from 28 February to 5 March 2028, while the national team week for men, during which the Men's Olympic Qualification Tournaments will be staged, is scheduled from 3 to 9 April 2028. He mentioned that each



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tournament shall consist of three match days (in principle Wednesday, Friday and Sunday). The COC Chairman explained that for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the Men's Olympic Qualification Tournaments were played first, specifying that for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, the IHF would return to the same Olympic Qualification Tournament order applied for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games and initially planned for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, i.e. the Women's Olympic Qualification Tournaments will be played first, followed by the Men's Olympic Qualification Tournaments. The COC Chairman stated that, as stipulated in the Regulations for IHF Competitions and defined in the Qualification System Principles agreed upon with the International Olympic Committee, three Olympic Qualification Tournaments per gender, consisting of four teams each, will be held, adding that the best two teams of each tournament will qualify for the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Moreover, the COC Chairman informed the attendees that the draw for the 2028 Men's and Women's Olympic Handball Tournaments is planned to take place shortly after the end of the Men's Olympic Qualification Tournaments, in order to allow all further coordination with the IOC, LA28 and the Olympic Broadcasting Services (OBS) well in advance. He added that the first match day of the 2028 Olympic Handball Tournaments is scheduled to be played on 12 July 2028, i.e. two days prior to the Opening Ceremony of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously approved the following dates of the 2028 IHF Olympic Qualification Tournaments:**

- ✦ **Women's Olympic Qualification Tournaments: during national team week for women (28 February to 5 March 2028)**
- ✦ **Men's Olympic Qualification Tournaments: during national team week for men (3 to 9 April 2028)**

### **3.5. 2029 Men's World Championship in FRA/GER – Request from Organising Committee**

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Competitions Director who informed the attendees that the Organising Committee of the 2029 Men's World Championship (French Handball Federation and German Handball Federation) submitted an official request to the IHF on 14 January 2026 to amend the dates of the World Championship concerned, specifying that they suggest to hold the event during the period from 17 January to 4 February 2029 instead of the period from 10 to 28 January 2029. He explained that the request is based on the French Handball Federation's proposal to stage the final round at the Paris La Défense Arena, which is available only if the finals are played on 4 February 2029. The Competitions Director emphasised that up to 25,000 spectators are expected per match at the Paris La Défense Arena, which could result in a new overall World Championship attendance record. However, he remarked that according to Article 2.1 (Chapter 2) of the Regulations for IHF Competitions (Indoor Handball), Men's World Championships shall be held in the second half of January (ending 2 February at the latest), adding that the request submitted by the OC would thus result in the event taking place two days beyond the end date stipulated in the regulations. He pointed out that the event calendar planning for 2029 is still under discussion, and that, from a technical perspective, a rescheduling of the Men's World Championship would be feasible. He stated that the release period for national team players remains limited to 29 days, in accordance with the agreement concluded between the IHF and Forum Club Handball. Furthermore, the Competitions Director emphasised that it is worth considering that the World Championship will take place after the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, and that a potential break between New Year's Day and the start of national team preparations could be beneficial for the players. At the same time, there would still be opportunities for the various leagues to schedule an additional match day, for example between Christmas and New Year. The Competitions Director also mentioned that the IHF



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was invited to the "EHF Competition Calendar Consultation Seasons 2028/29 and beyond" and informed the participants about the request from the Organising Committee, adding that the EHF did not raise any objection to the request concerned.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, who is at the same time President of the French Handball Federation, took the floor, confirming that the amended dates of the 2029 Men's World Championship will help to enhance the overall organisation of the World Championship concerned.

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously approved the request from the Organising Committee of the 2029 Men's World Championship to amend the dates of the World Championship and to hold the event during the period from 17 January to 4 February 2029 (instead of the period from 10 to 28 January 2029).**

### **3.6. Creation of IHF Men's and Women's Junior (U19) Beach Handball World Championships**

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented the idea of creating IHF Men's and Women's Junior (U19) Beach Handball World Championships to close the age gap between the existing U17 competitions and the senior Beach Handball World Championships, adding that a lot of players are lost for beach handball because there is no gradual transition from the U17 team to the senior national teams. She emphasised that U19 Beach Handball World Championships will present an opportunity for higher retention rates of beach handball players as it will provide international competition during their entire handball development. Furthermore, she remarked that the younger age category beach handball events should take place every two years to bolster development across all continents by providing opportunities to the players to learn different cultures and styles of play more frequently. She explained that continental competitions should serve as qualification events and that two events (U19 and U17) are to be organised consecutively by one host. The General Director also highlighted that the new competition would underline the IHF's commitment for the development of the discipline to other international organisations like the IOC and would lead to more beach handball visibility for developing federations. Moreover, she stated that the new competition would lead to more attractive beach handball through smoother transition and would create a solid foundation for beach handball development. It would also provide year-round competition for young athletes and improve their tactical and technical development, which would in turn lead to more accurate and reliable talent identification. She informed the attendees that the first edition of the IHF Men's and Women's Junior (U19) Beach Handball World Championships is planned to take place in 2027. As the IHF Vice-President Europe remarked that the Continental Confederations, as a consequence, would have to organise qualification events in 2026, the General Director explained that, for the first edition in 2027, the Continental Confederations would be allowed to nominate their participating teams in case no qualification event is taking place. She reminded the attendees that the IHF followed the same approach for the first edition of the Men's U17 World Championship in 2025.

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously approved the creation of the IHF Men's and Women's Junior (U19) Beach Handball World Championships to be organised as of 2027.**



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## 4. Appointment of Commission members

### 4.1. Commission of Organising and Competition (COC)

President Moustafa gave the floor to the COC Chairman who informed the Council that the following nominations have been submitted by the respective Continental Confederations and National Federations with regard to the Commission of Organising and Competition (COC):

- Mr Yazid SOUADI (MAR) – *Representative Africa*
- Mr Kang Jae WON (KOR) – *Representative Asia*
- Mr Bozidar DJURKOVIC (SRB) – *Representative Europe*
- Mr Kurt LAURITSEN (GRL) – *Representative North America and the Caribbean*
- Ms Makiroa MITCHELL-JOHN (COK) – *Representative Oceania*
- Mr Martín Miguel CHILACA (BOL) – *Representative South and Central America*
- Mr László NAGY (HUN) – *New nomination*

According to Article 16.1.3 of the IHF Statutes, seven members shall be appointed to the COC which must have a representative from each continent. In addition to the six continental representatives nominated by the respective Continental Confederations, the COC Chairman proposed to appoint Mr László NAGY (HUN) as COC member. Furthermore, he suggested to appoint Mr Roger KELLER (SUI), Mr Hans-Jørgen LYTHJE (DEN) and Mr Bruno SOUZA (BRA) as COC experts.

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### Decision

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**In accordance with Article 16.1.5 of the IHF Statutes, the Council unanimously approved appointing the following members to the COC until 2029:**

- **Mr Yazid SOUADI (MAR) – Representative Africa**
- **Mr Kang Jae WON (KOR) – Representative Asia**
- **Mr Bozidar DJURKOVIC (SRB) – Representative Europe**
- **Mr Kurt LAURITSEN (GRL) – Representative North America and the Caribbean**
- **Ms Makiroa MITCHELL-JOHN (COK) – Representative Oceania**
- **Mr Martín Miguel CHILACA (BOL) – Representative South and Central America**
- **Mr László NAGY (HUN) – Member**

**In addition, the Council unanimously approved appointing the following individuals as COC experts until 2029:**

- **Mr Roger KELLER (SUI)**
- **Mr Hans-Jørgen LYTHJE (DEN)**
- **Mr Bruno SOUZA (BRA)**

### 4.2. Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC)

President Moustafa gave the floor to the PRC Chairman who informed the Council that the following nominations have been submitted by the respective Continental Confederations and National Federations with regard to the Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC):

- Mr Mamoudou DIABATE (CIV) – *Representative Africa*
- Mr Saleh BINASHOUR (UAE) – *Representative Asia*
- TBD – *Representative Europe*
- Mr Majid KOLAHDOUZAN (USA) – *Representative North America and the Caribbean*
- TBD – *Representative Oceania*
- Mr Thedy ADJEMIAN (ARG) – *Representative South and Central America*



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- Mr Per OLESEN (DEN) – *New nomination*
- Mr Ángel Luis SABROSO RAMÍREZ (ESP) – *New nomination*

According to Article 16.1.3 of the IHF Statutes, seven members shall be appointed to the PRC which must have a representative from each continent. In addition to the six continental representatives nominated by the respective Continental Confederations, the PRC Chairman proposed to appoint Mr Per OLESEN (DEN) as PRC member. In addition, he suggested to appoint Mr Ángel Luis SABROSO RAMÍREZ (ESP) as PRC expert who would join the commission meetings on a regular basis and work on specific projects. The complete list of PRC experts shall be presented to the Council in its next meeting.

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## Decision

**In accordance with Article 16.1.5 of the IHF Statutes, the Council unanimously approved appointing the following members to the PRC until 2029:**

- **Mr Mamoudou DIABATE (CIV) – Representative Africa**
- **Mr Saleh BINASHOUR (UAE) – Representative Asia**
- **TBD – Representative Europe**
- **Mr Majid KOLAHDOUZAN (USA) – Representative North America and the Caribbean**
- **TBD – Representative Oceania**
- **Mr Thedy ADJEMIAN (ARG) – Representative South and Central America**
- **Mr Per OLESEN (DEN) – Member**

**In addition, the Council unanimously approved appointing Mr Ángel Luis SABROSO RAMÍREZ (ESP) as PRC expert until 2029.**

### 4.3. Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM)

President Moustafa gave the floor to the CCM Chairman who informed the Council that the following nominations have been submitted by the respective Continental Confederations and National Federations with regard to the Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM):

- Ms Nahla BOUDHINA (TUN) – *Representative Africa*
- Dr Taiysir MANSI (JOR) – *Representative Asia*
- Mr Pedro SEQUEIRA (POR) – *Representative Europe*
- Mr Franklyn GUEVARA (CUB) – *Representative North America and the Caribbean*
- Dr Eoin MURRAY (AUS) – *Representative Oceania*
- Mr Eduardo Gabriel GALLARDO (ARG) – *Representative South and Central America*
- Mr Paul LANDURÉ (FRA) – *Re-nomination*

According to Article 16.1.3 of the IHF Statutes, seven members shall be appointed to the CCM which must have a representative from each continent. In addition to the six continental representatives nominated by the respective Continental Confederations, the CCM Chairman proposed to appoint Mr Paul Landuré (FRA) as CCM member. Furthermore, he highlighted the important and successful work of the CCM expert group which was formed in 2022 (besides the commission) and is currently composed of 8 CCM experts, who are experienced technical experts from various fields such as youth/talent training, goalkeeper training and handball methodology. The complete list of CCM experts shall be presented to the Council in its next meeting.

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## Decision

**In accordance with Article 16.1.5 of the IHF Statutes, the Council unanimously approved appointing the following members to the CCM until 2029:**



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- **Ms Nahla BOUDHINA (TUN) – Representative Africa**
- **Dr Taiysir MANSI (JOR) – Representative Asia**
- **Mr Pedro SEQUEIRA (POR) – Representative Europe**
- **Mr Franklyn GUEVARA (CUB) – Representative North America and the Caribbean**
- **Dr Eoin MURRAY (AUS) – Representative Oceania**
- **Mr Eduardo Gabriel GALLARDO (ARG) – Representative South and Central America**
- **Mr Paul LANDURÉ (FRA) – Member**

## 4.4. Medical Commission (MC)

President Moustafa gave the floor to the MC Chairman who informed the Council that the following nominations have been submitted by the respective Continental Confederations and National Federations with regard to the Medical Commission (MC):

- **Dr Sokhna DIOUM (SEN) – Representative Africa**
- **Dr Katsuhiko SAKUMA (JPN) – Representative Asia**
- **TBD – Representative Europe**
- **Dr Llewellyn HARPER (BAR) – Representative North America and the Caribbean**
- **Dr Luis CRUZ (GUM) – Representative Oceania**
- **Dr Alejandro Javier ORIZOLA (CHI) – Representative South and Central America**
- **Dr François RAOUX (FRA) – New Nomination**

According to Article 16.1.3 of the IHF Statutes, seven members shall be appointed to the MC which must have a representative from each continent. In addition to the six continental representatives nominated by the respective Continental Confederations, the MC Chairman proposed to appoint Dr François RAOUX (FRA) as MC member.

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## Decision

**In accordance with Article 16.1.5 of the IHF Statutes, the Council unanimously approved appointing the following members to the MC until 2029:**

- **Dr Sokhna DIOUM (SEN) – Representative Africa**
- **Dr Katsuhiko SAKUMA (JPN) – Representative Asia**
- **TBD – Representative Europe**
- **Dr Llewellyn HARPER (BAR) – Representative North America and the Caribbean**
- **Dr Luis CRUZ (GUM) – Representative Oceania**
- **Dr Alejandro Javier ORIZOLA (CHI) – Representative South and Central America**
- **Dr François RAOUX (FRA) – Member**

## 4.5. Commission for Development (CD)

President Moustafa gave the floor to the CD Chairman who informed the Council that the following nominations have been submitted by the respective Continental Confederations and National Federations with regard to the Commission for Development (CD):

- **Mr Sidikou KARIMOU (BEN) – Representative Africa**
- **Mr Hassan HILLAL (KSA) – Representative Asia**
- **TBD – Representative Europe**



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- Ms Carline CHOUTE (HAI) – *Representative North America and the Caribbean*
- Ms Joann AQUINO (MNP) – *Representative Oceania*
- Ms Ana Cecilia HERNANDEZ (ESA) – *Representative South and Central America*
- Mr Stefan ALBRECHTSON (SWE) – *Re-nomination*
- Mr Erno KELECSENYI (HUN) – *New nomination (by SVK)*

According to Article 16.1.3 of the IHF Statutes, seven members shall be appointed to the CD which must have a representative from each continent. In addition to the six continental representatives nominated by the respective Continental Confederations, the CD Chairman proposed to appoint Mr Stefan ALBRECHTSON (SWE) as CD member, and Mr Erno KELECSENYI (HUN) as CD expert.

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## Decision

**In accordance with Article 16.1.5 of the IHF Statutes, the Council unanimously approved appointing the following members to the CD until 2029:**

- **Mr Sidikou KARIMOU (BEN) – Representative Africa**
- **Mr Hassan HILLAL (KSA) – Representative Asia**
- **TBD – Representative Europe**
- **Ms Carline CHOUTE (HAI) – Representative North America and the Caribbean**
- **Ms Joann AQUINO (MNP) – Representative Oceania**
- **Ms Ana Cecilia HERNANDEZ (ESA) – Representative South and Central America**
- **Mr Stefan ALBRECHTSON (SWE) – Member**

**In addition, the Council unanimously approved appointing Mr Erno KELECSENYI (HUN) as CD expert until 2029.**

## 4.6. Arbitration Tribunal

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who referred to the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress decision, according to which the IHF Council was authorised to fill the six vacant places of the IHF Arbitration Tribunal for the four-year term 2025-2029. She then informed the Council that the following nominations have been submitted by the respective National Federations with regard to the Arbitration Tribunal:

- Mr El Hanafi EL ADLI (MAR)
- Ms Bibiana Bárbara FERREA (ARG)
- Ms Judith Amandine A. GOUDE-DJESSIN (BEN)
- Mr Terence VEMBE (NGR)

The General Director added that all candidates comply with the relevant requirements stipulated in Article 13.7.2 of the IHF Statutes.

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## Decision

**Following the authorisation of the IHF Congress, the Council unanimously decided to appoint the following members to the Arbitration Tribunal until 2029:**

- **Mr El Hanafi EL ADLI (MAR)**
- **Ms Bibiana Bárbara FERREA (ARG)**
- **Ms Judith Amandine A. GOUDE-DJESSIN (BEN)**
- **Mr Terence VEMBE (NGR)**



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## 4.7. Arbitration Commission

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who referred to the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress decision, according to which the IHF Council was authorised to fill the four vacant places of the IHF Arbitration Commission for the four-year term 2025-2029. She then informed the Council that the following nominations have been submitted by the respective National Federations with regard to the Arbitration Commission:

- Mr David HERNÁNDEZ GONZÁLEZ (MEX)
- Mr Santiago Nicolás LORENZATTO (ARG)

The General Director added that all candidates comply with the relevant requirements stipulated in Article 13.7.2 of the IHF Statutes.

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### Decision

**Following the authorisation of the IHF Congress, the Council unanimously decided to appoint the following members to the Arbitration Commission until 2029:**

- **Mr David HERNÁNDEZ GONZÁLEZ (MEX)**
- **Mr Santiago Nicolás LORENZATTO (ARG)**

## 4.8. Ethics Commission

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who referred to the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress decision, according to which the IHF Council was authorised to fill the three vacant places of the IHF Ethics Commission for the four-year term 2025-2029. She then informed the Council that the following nominations have been submitted by the respective National Federations with regard to the Ethics Commission:

- Mr David BARRUFET BOFILL (ESP)
- Mr Mamadouba CAMARA (GUI)
- Mr Guy Oswald YAKASS (TOG)

The General Director added that all candidates comply with the relevant requirements stipulated in Article 13.7.2 of the IHF Statutes.

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### Decision

**Following the authorisation of the IHF Congress, the Council unanimously decided to appoint the following members to the Ethics Commission until 2029:**

- **Mr David BARRUFET BOFILL (ESP)**
- **Mr Mamadouba CAMARA (GUI)**
- **Mr Guy Oswald YAKASS (TOG)**

## 5. IHF Regulations

### 5.1. Duties of IHF Permanent Commissions

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented proposed amendments regarding the Duties of IHF Permanent Commissions, aiming to ensure activities of the commissions throughout the



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year:

## **Preamble**

The following general provisions shall be applicable to the COC, PRC, CCM, MC and CD:

1. Virtual Commission meetings shall be held every three months, with at least one physical meeting per year.
2. Each Commission shall review the IHF strategic plan confirmed by the IHF Congress.
3. Each Commission shall present its activity plan within the scope of the IHF strategic plan.
4. The continental representatives of each Commission shall be actively involved in activities related to their respective continents.
5. The continental representatives of each Commission shall organise regular meetings with their counterparts in the Member Federations and report to the Commission Chairperson accordingly.
6. The continental representatives of each Commission shall present activity reports of their respective continents to the Commission Chairperson every three months.
7. The Commission Chairperson shall present an overall activity report at the IHF Council meeting.

## **Justification:**

The above-mentioned preamble is proposed to be included at the beginning of the Duties of IHF Permanent Commissions, aiming to define general conditions for the COC, PRC, CCM, MC and CD besides the specific tasks of each Commission stipulated in Articles 1 to 5.

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## **Decision**

**The Council unanimously approved the proposed amendments regarding the Duties of IHF Permanent Commissions.**

## **6. Continents**

### **6.1. Report from the continents**

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Vice-President Asia who reported on the men's and women's handball competitions at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Youth Games, which took place in Bahrain from 19 to 30 October 2025. He also referred to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Asian Men's Championship, which took place in Kuwait from 15 to 29 January 2026. As the event served as qualification for the 2027 Men's World Championship, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and Japan will represent the Asian continent in the competition. He then reported on the 25<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Congress of the Asian Handball Federation, which took place in Cairo, Egypt on 20 December 2025 on the fringes of the 40<sup>th</sup> Ordinary IHF Congress. Various elections took place during the AHF Congress, including the election of the new AHF President, Mr Bader Al-Theyab (KUW). He also provided an outlook for the coaching courses planned for 2026, specifying that two A Licence, three B Licence, eight C Licence, twelve D Licence, one Goalkeeper course and one Multiplier Course are planned to take place. He also provided an outlook for the AHF and IHF courses for referees and technical delegates, both for indoor and beach handball, which are planned for 2026, 2027 and 2028. Furthermore, he emphasised the AHF's plans to establish a base of young male and female referees and technical delegates.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Vice-President Africa who provided an overview of the activities of the CAHB. He reported on the organisation of the 24<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Electoral Congress of the CAHB, which was held in Cairo, Egypt, on 20 December 2025 on the fringes of the 40<sup>th</sup> Ordinary IHF Congress. He stated that 52 member federations participated and that, in terms of governance, emphasis was placed on modernising the statutes, developing men's and women's handball on the continent and strategic planning. Furthermore, he informed the attendees that, as part of its new composition, the CAHB Executive Committee has been



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expanded to seven members: President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President, Treasurer and two elected members of the Executive Committee. He also highlighted the successful meetings held by the Executive Committee and the Council of the CAHB, as these bodies approved strategic reforms, the future direction of African handball and the organisation of major competitions. Moreover, he stated that the appointments of the members of the specialised commissions were announced as part of an effort to promote professionalism and ensure good coverage of all areas, thereby ensuring better supervision and proper management of activities in accordance with the defined standards. He then provided more detailed information on the 2026 CAHB competitions, remarking that the 27<sup>th</sup> African Men's Championship took place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 21 to 31 January 2026 with 16 participating nations. As the event served as qualification for the 2027 Men's World Championship, Egypt, Tunisia, Cape Verde, Algeria and Angola will represent the African continent in the competition. He also informed the attendees that the African Handball Confederation is preparing the 33<sup>rd</sup> Super Cup Final Four and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Men's and Women's African Clubs Championship for the Winner's Cup, which will take place in Kinshasa, DR Congo, from 25 to 26 May 2026 and from 28 May to 6 June 2026, respectively. On behalf of CAHB, he expressed his sincere gratitude to the IHF for the invaluable support and expertise. He emphasised that the CAHB is approaching 2026 with ambition, despite a complex economic environment and the need to make adjustments to improve efficiency, adding that he is convinced that the collective commitment of the IHF and the CAHB will help them to reach their future goals.

The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor and reported on the Men's EHF EURO 2026, the 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the Men's EHF EURO, which was co-hosted by Denmark, Norway, and Sweden in the cities of Herning, Oslo, Malmö, and Kristianstad in January/February 2026. He highlighted the great collaboration between the three host nations, while praising the level of the competition, as many teams, such as the Faroe Islands, were able to challenge the top teams. In addition, he remarked that the event was defined by its high-tech approach to the game, utilising advanced performance analytics and real-time "Handballytics" to engage a digital audience that grew by over 100,000 followers during the tournament and is now set at 2.8 million. He then provided more detailed information on other national team competitions, such as the EHF Wheelchair Handball EURO Four-a-Side that took place in Vilnius, Lithuania in November 2025. He added that the beach handball season finished in October 2025 with the Champions Cup in Porto Santo, Portugal, and stressed that the EHF continues to make all efforts to further develop the sport in the interest of placing beach handball at the Olympic Games. In this context, he also stressed that the EHF remains fully supportive of the common ambition of the IHF and the EHF to advocate for Wheelchair Handball Four-a-Side's inclusion in the Paralympic Games. He remarked that 2026 will see the commencement of initial qualification processes and draw preparations for the Women's EHF EURO 2026, IHF Men's World Championship 2027, and the Men's EHF EURO 2028. He then provided a review of the 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary EHF Congress, which took place in Andau, Austria in September 2025 and during which the leadership, including EHF President Michael Wiederer, was unanimously re-elected. In addition, he reported on various other meetings that took place since the last IHF Council meeting, including but not limited to meetings of the men's and women's Stakeholder Groups, working sessions of the EHF Executive Committee as well as meetings of the representatives from the recognised stakeholder groups for men's clubs, leagues, and national teams (FCH, EHLB, NCM). With respect to executive and governance outcomes, he stressed that the most significant decisions pertained to club competition restructuring, set to take effect from the 2026/27 season. He specified that the Men's EHF Champions League will expand to twenty-four teams, and the Men's EHF European League will adopt a new thirty-two team format, beginning with the group phase and later being combined with clubs coming from the Champions League, aiming to increase competitive and market value. Moreover, he informed the attendees that the EHF Executive Committee also approved the introduction of a revised European qualification for World Championships in the future and the "European Handball Games" starting in 2030 and that this initiative is designed as a new flagship national team event and intended to serve as a key tournament for European qualification to the Olympic handball competitions, which requires coordination and partnership with the IHF for final approval. With regard to the status of the 2025/26 European club season, he stated that the season



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has begun in early September 2025 and that all major competitions are now in full swing, including the Machineseeker EHF Champions League, the Women's EHF Champions League, the EHF European League for both men and women and the EHF European Cup. Commercially, EHF Marketing secured another major partnership, announcing Raiffeisen Bank International as the new title partner for the EHF FINAL4 Women 2026, underlining the continued appeal and professionalisation of the premier women's club event. Referring to the projects of the EHF, he informed the attendees that the Christensen Grassroots Charter, which outlines a strategic framework for developing foundational handball, was formally signed by nineteen member federations and specified that today 20 nations are listed as members, demonstrating widespread commitment to sustainable participation across all levels. He also referred to current educational and administrative activities, including but not limited to various webinars, courses, conferences and publications. He specifically highlighted the 8<sup>th</sup> EHF Scientific Conference, which took place in Zagreb, Croatia in November 2025, and explained that the event provided the opportunity for 111 sport experts from the academic sphere to meet the specialists from the handball sport. He also provided an outlook for the upcoming EHF activities, including the Final4 tournament events, the stakeholder spring session and the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference for Secretaries General.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Representative South and Central America who informed the attendees that 22 championships were organised during the report period, 59% women's competitions and 41% men's competitions. He then provided more detailed information on the individual competitions. He explained that the development strategy of the SCAHC is divided into five categories: senior, junior, youth, cadets and infant. Furthermore, he pointed out that a total of 19 IHF courses have been conducted, including D, C and B Licence courses. He added that the organisation of A Licence, Multiplier and Goalkeeper courses is also planned. Moreover, he remarked that Google for Nonprofits, a secure, scalable, AI-enabled digital infrastructure at no cost and with ongoing support from Google, will allow the SCAHC to advance the technology of the confederation. The IHF Representative North America and the Caribbean took the floor and informed the attendees that the NACHC is currently preparing to organise the 2026 North America and the Caribbean Men's and Women's Beach Handball Championships (qualification event for the 2026 IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships) in Saint Kitts and Nevis planned to be held from 23 to 27 April 2026. He pointed out that it will be the first-ever organisation of such tournament in the country concerned, which underlines the growth of handball in North America and the Caribbean. He seized the opportunity to convey his sincere gratitude to the IHF for the support provided in this regard.

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## Decision

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**The Council took note of the activity reports provided by the continental representatives.**

### **6.2. Minutes of EHF Executive Committee Meeting in Herring, DEN, 31 January and 1 February 2026**

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the Council about the following paragraph which was included in the minutes of the EHF Executive Committee Meeting held in Herring, Denmark, on 31 January and 1 February 2026:

#### ***10. International Handball Federation***

*Following the IHF Congress, the importance of maintaining a constructive yet firm stance within a challenging international environment was highlighted. To address coordination gaps and administrative delays that affect activities, the EHF envisages the drafting of a 'standards of cooperation' to a view of inter-organisational roadmap for success to offer support and define clear developmental expectations. In parallel, the EHF will strengthen alliances with other continental bodies to foster global stability of the sport.*



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The IHF Vice-President Europe commented that a joint meeting between the IHF and the EHF has taken place in the meantime and that the issues mentioned in the minutes have been addressed. The General Director highlighted that the IHF received the initial request from the EHF for a mutual meeting only in September 2025, which was during the preparatory phase for several World Championships (2025 Men's Club World Championship, 2025 Men's U17 World Championship, and 2025 Women's World Championship) and the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress. She emphasised that a reply to the meeting request was immediately sent to the EHF Secretary General, who in turn did not express any complaint, adding that the most urgent topic was discussed virtually between the two entities. The IHF Vice-President Europe remarked that even after the Ordinary IHF Congress, the meeting had been postponed three times and that the EHF has to defend itself in front of its stakeholders, adding that the EHF always fulfils the IHF's requests. The General Director pointed out that the use of the term "administrative delays" in the EHF Executive Committee Meeting minutes is inappropriate and incorrect, as the IHF is usually responding to urgent matters immediately. President Moustafa stressed the importance of maintaining the fruitful collaboration between IHF and EHF, adding that any potential issues shall be discussed internally in the interest of handball.

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## Decision

**The Council took note of the information regarding the minutes of the EHF Executive Committee Meeting held in Herning, DEN, on 31 January and 1 February 2026, and agreed to President Moustafa's remark to maintain the fruitful collaboration between IHF and EHF.**

## 7. Miscellaneous

### 7.1. IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented the proposed composition of the IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group. She pointed out that it is proposed to continue the involvement of Dr Frantisek Taborsky (CZE) who has chaired the working group concerned since its creation in 2018 (as per the IHF Council decision dated 18 October 2018) and has gained extensive experience in this position. She added that the proposed members have previously been approved by the IHF, also representing their respective continents:

#### ✚ *Chairperson*

- Dr Frantisek Taborsky (CZE)

#### ✚ *Members*

- Flavio Anderson Pedrosa de Melo (BRA)
- Khalil El Haddaoui (CAN)
- Muhammad Shafiq (PAK)
- Dr Hossam Eldin Mostafa Saad (EGY)
- Dr Eoin Murray (IRL/AUS)
- Pedro Sequeira (POR)

Furthermore, she informed the attendees that the IHF submitted its application for wheelchair handball to be included in the programme of the Brisbane 2032 Paralympic Games by 15 December 2025.

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously approved the proposed composition of the IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group:**

#### ✚ *Chairperson*



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- Dr Frantisek Taborsky (CZE)

## ✚ Members

- Flavio Anderson Pedrosa de Melo (BRA)
- Khalil El Haddaoui (CAN)
- Muhammad Shafiq (PAK)
- Dr Hossam Eldin Mostafa Saad (EGY)
- Dr Eoin Murray (IRL/AUS)
- Pedro Sequeira (POR)

## 7.2. Council decisions made by electronic communication

The Council members confirmed the following via electronic communication:

- **2026 IHF Women's Youth (U18) World Championship**

Reference was made to the organisation of the IHF Younger Age Category events in the upcoming years.

As outlined in the memorandum prepared by the IHF Competitions Director, the IHF opened the bidding process for the YAC events from 2026 to 2029 on 6 May 2025. After several Member Federations expressed their interest in organising the respective events through official letters of intent, the hosting requirements were distributed to all interested Member Federations on 22 August 2025, with a deadline for submissions set for 26 September 2025. Unfortunately, the responses – particularly for the 2026 events – did not meet the IHF's expectations. Federations that had initially expressed interest either withdrew their letters of intent or failed to submit the required documentation.

As for the 2026 IHF Women's Youth (U18) World Championship, the Romanian Handball Federation submitted an event concept, and an on-site inspection was carried out by IHF Inspection Working Group Chairman Assem El-Saadany from 23 to 26 October 2025. Based on the inspection feedback, further discussions took place with the Romanian Handball Federation, and outstanding questions could only be fully clarified on 15 December 2025.

According to the basic event concept from the Romanian Handball Federation, the event is planned to be organised in the cities of Mioveni, Pitești, Craiova, and Râmnicu Vâlcea during the period from 29 July to 9 August 2026. The inspected hotels and arenas have been approved in principle by the IHF Inspection Working Group. Further coordination is planned to take place in January/February 2026. The proposed participation fee for the teams amounts to **EUR 170 per person per day**.

As for the 2026 IHF Women's Junior (U20) World Championship, discussions between the IHF and potential hosts are ongoing and shall be finalised soon. Those 2027-2029 IHF Younger Age Category events for which no bid has been received shall be reannounced, and the corresponding event concepts will be submitted to the IHF Council for approval in 2026.

Consequently, in order to allow further planning, the IHF Council was kindly requested to accept the proposal of awarding the 2026 IHF Women's Youth (U18) World Championship to the **Romanian Handball Federation**, considering that the participation fee will amount to EUR 170 per person and day.

Date of communication: 16 December 2025

Date of decision: **19 December 2025**



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- *Withdrawal of motions regarding IHF Statutes (Article 22.1.3 and Article 23.3)*

Reference was made to the motions regarding the IHF Statutes which were unanimously approved by the IHF Council in its meeting in Basel, SUI on 4 June 2025, in particular the motions related to Article 22.1.3 and Article 23.3 of the IHF Statutes (prohibiting any recourse to, or appeals before ordinary courts of law).

In light of the findings of the Court of Justice of the European Union in Case C-600/23, as set out in its decision of 1 August 2025, and having regard to Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the following provisions shall be revoked:

### **Article 22.1 – IHF Adjudicating Bodies – General Principles**

~~3. The Continental Confederations and National Federations shall insert a clause in their statutes or regulations, stipulating that handball disputes may not be challenged in ordinary courts of law, unless otherwise stated in the IHF Statutes and Regulations. Instead of recourse to ordinary courts of law, provision shall be made for arbitration in accordance with Article 23 of the IHF Statutes.~~

### **Article 23 – Court of Arbitration for Sport**

~~3. Recourse to ordinary courts of law is prohibited unless specifically provided for in the IHF Regulations. Recourse to ordinary courts of law for all types of provisional measures is also prohibited.~~

The numbering shall be updated accordingly. The remainder of the motions shall remain in force and shall be subject to approval by the IHF Congress taking place in Cairo on 21 December 2025.

Date of communication: 19 December 2025

*For information only (no Council decision)*

President Moustafa thanked the participants for the constructive meeting and closed the session. He conveyed once again his wishes for continued good health and safety to all participants.

## **INTERNATIONAL HANDBALL FEDERATION**

Dr Hassan Moustafa  
President