

## **AIBA Extraordinary Congress Meeting**

12 December 2021, 12:00 CET via Zoom

### **1. Opening of the Congress by AIBA President**

President Kremlev thanked everyone for joining the AIBA Extraordinary Congress and, firstly, proposed a memorial ten count to remember the late Jordanian boxer Rashed al Swaisat who passed away in Kielce during the 2021 AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships. The delegates joined the commemorative bell and then the President passed the floor to Ms Anastasiya Dlala, AIBA Head of Administration.

Ms Dlala gave the technical instructions to National Federations (NFs) and explained the system of the vote. She introduced Mr Edward Gardiner, public notary in charge of the voting procedures, and passed the floor to the LUMI representatives.

### **2. Roll call**

Mr Edward Gardiner explained the voting process and conducted a test vote through the LUMI platform.

A quorum was reached with 138 NFs in total eligible for the Congress.

### **3. Approval of the previous Congress minutes 2020**

The floor was given to the President. Mr Kremlev stressed that the agenda had been circulated a month prior to the Extraordinary Congress as per AIBA statutes. No comments or additions were received therefore the Agenda items were considered approved. The President suggested that the latest report from Professor McLaren and the constitutional amendments, as well as the approval of the Boxing Integrity Unit be discussed in more detail during the Congress.

The previous Congress minutes were unanimously approved by the delegates.

### **4. AIBA Membership Issues**

Mr Claude Ramoni presented the issues with 3 NFs who did not show any kind of activity. On June 30, 2021, the Board voted to suspend the NFs of St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent & the Grenadines and Vanuatu for a lack of compliance with the membership policy and an apparent lack of any activity. Congress could either approve the confirmation of the suspension or vote to terminate the membership of such NF.

St Vincent & the Grenadines were showing almost no activity, but were trying to resume their operations, so the proposal was made to confirm the suspension of the NF and let AIBA monitor its activities.

The current executive body of the Vanuatu National Boxing Federation was no longer active, but the Vanuatu NOC indicated that they were in the process of relaunching the activities of this Federation by appointing an interim Executive Committee. However, Vanuatu needed time to restart their activities. The same proposal was put for this NF: to confirm the suspension of Vanuatu until the next Congress, and continue the monitoring of their activities.

Regarding St Kitts and Nevis, no contact and activities from the part of the NF were registered by AIBA. That is why the Board suggested the Congress terminate the membership of this Federation, provided that AIBA would undertake all possible efforts to allow the constitution of a new Federation in St Kitts and Nevis, to replace the excluded one.

No questions were raised. The Barbados Federation made a comment that St Vincent & the Grenadines were trying to restart their activities, which Mr Ramoni confirmed.

By the majority of the votes the three decisions mentioned above were approved by the Congress.

## **5. Reports on AIBA activities and projects**

The President stressed that over the past year AIBA had delivered huge progress in governance, financial integrity and sporting integrity. It was crucial for the organisation to be a leading example for International Federations. AIBA managed to become a real social lift to create conditions for the athletes; the organization allocated 4.4 M USD for prize money; 32 countries were provided with financial support within the framework of the Financial Support Program. Moreover, with the help of the President, the Fair Chance Team had been created and allowed for boxers in a vulnerable situation to take part in the 2021 AIBA Men's World Championships.

None of this work would have been possible without proper financial foundations. The President reminded everyone about his promise to resolve the debts of AIBA six months before his election. Less than six months later, Gazprom was announced as AIBA's general partner. As it could be seen from the audited financial statements, the debts had been wiped off.

Financial stability allowed AIBA to make progress in the two other vital areas: governance reform and sporting integrity. On governance reform, the President promised to go in further detail about the work of Professor McLaren and the work of Professor Haas.

On sporting integrity, the President drew the Congress' attention to the changes that had been implemented in Belgrade, such as background checks for officials and the AIBA Committees working hard on improvements for the future. Mr Kremlev highlighted that AIBA needed a transparent refereeing and judging system without any manipulation. Due to all the efficient work, boxing had not been removed from the Olympic Program. AIBA may have the chance to run boxing again at the Olympic Games Paris 2024. Finally, the IOC announced the possible end of the suspension of AIBA in 2023 if all the necessary recommendations were implemented by this time. Therefore, AIBA was planning to develop a roadmap together with the IOC.

AIBA should be given a new foundation and a new face. The organization had a proud history, but the term AIBA and the logo had become associated with a period where the decisions of the organization had not always been correct. To attract new sponsors, a new face of the organization was also needed.

The President invited the member delegates to vote on the adoption of the new IBA acronym. The name of the organization would remain the International Boxing Association. Approval was needed to change the acronym from AIBA to IBA.

Uganda Boxing Federation raised a question about the previous point on the agenda, i.e. the termination of the NF membership. Mr Muhangi Moses, Uganda Boxing Federation President, would like AIBA to provide a clear and detailed explanation regarding the reasons why certain NFs are excluded.

The President answered that AIBA and its legal department would help each NF that was facing challenges to restore itself if needed, and that the organization did not wish to expel any NF forever.

Mr Claude Ramoni added that terminating a NF membership was a serious decision that was taken in accordance with the AIBA Membership policy. Each Federation should fill in the reporting form, and that had not been done by those NFs that were under discussion. According to Article 7 of the AIBA Constitution, each NF should be responsible for governing the sport of boxing within the country. The 3 NFs mentioned in point 4 of the agenda were not able to comply with Article 7. That is why they were all suspended; two of them were restarting their activities and may have their suspension lifted, while the third NF was subject to exclusion in order to allow the organisation of a new structure in the country.

Then the Polish Boxing Association President asked to take the floor. He stressed that one year ago the Polish NF fully supported the candidacy of Mr Kremlev, and that it turned out to be the best choice. Mr Kremlev took care of boxers and gave them opportunities that contributed to the fact that 2021 AIBA Men's World Championships in Belgrade was a record-breaking success in all aspects. In addition, the 2021 AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships in Poland would have never been such a success without Mr Kremlev's help. Mr Grzegorz Nowaczek thanked the President and initiated to turn on the microphones and give applause for the President.

The microphones of all the delegates were switched on and applause for the President was given. President Kremlev, in his turn, thanked the NFs for their trust, their support and their work that would make AIBA even stronger.

Ms Anastasiya Dlala gave the floor to Mr Gethin Jenkins, CEO of England Boxing, who thanked the President for the significant work. Mr Jenkins inquired whether the name change from AIBA to IBA would influence the Constitutional provisions as well, in particular, if the reference to Article 34.4 would be then applied to IBA or to AIBA. Mr Claude Ramoni stated that there was only an acronym change, requiring the Constitution to be adapted to the new acronym, but the rest of the Constitution was not changed. The acronym change did not change the rule on the term limits and these limitations would still stay in place.

Mr Louis Raymond Nguema from Gabon Boxing Federation congratulated the President for mobilizing the AIBA situation and that his actions had managed to improve the state of affairs within the organisation. Mr Nguema stated that his federation's activities had been blocked due to non-compliance with the Statutes, and the NF couldn't conduct the activities and take part in the competitions. He asked AIBA to establish an ad hoc group to rapidly resolve the issue in order for the Gabon Federation not to be suspended.

The President stressed again that AIBA didn't have the aim to suspend NFs, therefore the necessary financial or legal support would be provided in the near future.

Ms Dlala gave the floor to Boris van der Vorst from the Dutch Boxing Federation for the last question before proceeding to the vote. Mr Van der Vorst inquired about the Gazprom sponsorship contract, asking whether it had been shown to the IOC and to AIBA BoD members. Ms Dlala noted that all the financial questions would be addressed by AIBA CFO later during the meeting.

The President also added that the IOC had sent EY auditors to conduct an external audit of AIBA. In particular, the auditors visited the AIBA office where the contract with Gazprom was shown to them, AIBA CFO was to clarify all details later.

The President gave the floor to Mr Gardiner for the IBA acronym change vote, and the proposal was approved by the majority of the votes. President Kremlev initiated a visual switch from AIBA to IBA branding with another applause from the delegates.

The President briefly presented upcoming (A)IBA tournaments in 2022: Global Boxing Cup in Russia and Women's World Boxing Championships in Istanbul, as well as the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in the UK, and the World Games in Birmingham in the USA. He expressed hope that all the recommendations of Professor Haas would be implemented to ensure the best future for the sport of boxing at the Olympic Games.

Then Ms Anastasiya Dlala gave the floor to (A)IBA Secretary General Mr Istvan Kovacs for his first Congress report. Mr Kovacs was proud to work for (A)IBA, highlighting lots of great and important plans ahead of the organisation, and stressing the hard work and dedication of President and the whole (A)IBA team.

The report included the presentation of a new competition system that was strengthened by significant prize money for the athletes, amounting to about 4.4 M USD in 2021. In some cases, the (A)IBA team was handling very important projects that had not been delivered by the organization for a very long time, like the distribution of development funds. In other cases, completely new projects were addressed, like delivering the payment of prize money for continental competitions.

Mr Kovacs reiterated the (A)IBA's achievements in the past few months, including in good governance, in financial integrity and in sporting integrity, recognizing the very hard and very professional work of the whole team. The Secretary General also stated that the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) had measured the way (A)IBA was delivering for boxing and concluded crucial progress had been made that had moved the organization up towards the front of the Olympic Sports.

At the same time, (A)IBA has been delivering opportunities for athletes to compete at the very highest level. At the 2021 Youth World Championships in Kielce, 414 boxers competed, and the medalists came from 23 countries. At the 2021 Men's World Championships in Belgrade, 510 boxers from 88 national federations took part in the competitions. Medals and prize money went to 25 of those countries and in both of the events the innovations like live scoring and bout reviews were integrated. Moreover, thanks to the leadership of the President, (A)IBA had

the chance to define the weight categories for the Olympic Games Paris 2024 and create a new Olympic Qualifying System.

At the end of his speech, the Secretary General promised to make a full report at the (A)IBA Congress expected before the end of June 2022. Mr Kovacs encouraged the delegates to work together for a bright future of the sport of boxing and gave the floor to (A)IBA Director of Finance and Operations, Mr Rob Garea, to provide a financial update.

Mr Garea first presented the financial progress report. Three important points were highlighted: Budget, Audit committee, Statutory audit. The budget for the current period was approved by (A)IBA BoD. A new Audit Committee was established in May 2021 and became an active part of (A)IBA financial processes. Mr Garea provided the link to the website where the full-scope Statutory audit report for the last business year could be found (<https://www.iba.sport/document-category/annual-reports/>).

Regarding the assets, for 30 June 2021 they amounted to about 40 M USD, among which about 36 M USD were in cash and equivalents. As for the liabilities, Mr Garea pointed out the zero amount of long-term debt that had been fully cleared earlier that year as confirmed previously by the President. The deferred income had been collected in the amount of about 46 M USD and would turn into profit within the next 12 months. That clearly highlighted (A)IBA's return to financial health.

Looking at the equity section, over the last years progress was made. The financial performance of 2021 was the strongest in (A)IBA's history. Mr Rob Garea thanked the President again for his leadership that contributed to such a performance.

Ms Anastasiya Dlala then gave the floor to Mr Chris Roberts, Chair of (A)IBA R&J Committee, to provide his report.

Mr Roberts stressed the importance of changes within (A)IBA's officiating system for the organization to be able to deliver fair fights to boxers. With regard to the credibility of the boxing competitions, it was planned to change (A)IBA's R&J processes to ensure its integrity under the monitoring of PwC, including a monitoring period for (A)IBA's own competitions ahead of the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

Mr Chris Roberts noted that (A)IBA had gained ground and made excellent changes: background checks, cognitive assessment, random draw process, internal insurance and validation mechanisms, continuous professional development of boxing personnel were crucial for (A)IBA to be reintegrated within the IOC.

Then Mr Roberts pointed out 5 spheres that needed to be managed efficiently at the same time: regulations, processes, people, resources, and culture. For regulations, a new scoring system was expected, and it was already being developed. It would put athletes as a first priority and would be convenient for spectators watching boxing all over the world. For processes, (A)IBA was learning from the best experiences of other sports to tackle subjective judging. For people, Mr Roberts stressed the importance of having dedicated people in the team, starting at the highest level from the President himself. Thanks to the President's efforts, (A)IBA also had the opportunity to attract necessary resources, for example, independent external experts that would contribute to (A)IBA moving forward as an organization. For

culture, constant education was crucial and that had been clearly demonstrated at the 2021 AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships in Belgrade. In conclusion, Mr Roberts promised to continue to move forward and to implement new changes within (A)IBA R&J Committee.

The President gave the floor to the delegates to ask questions regarding the reports.

Mr Komron Fayzov, Secretary General of Tajikistan Boxing Federation, thanked President Kremlev for his work and his promises to NFs that he had all kept.

Mr Sadanobu Uchida, President of Japan Boxing Federation, asked to comment on the new scoring system. Mr Marko Petric, (A)IBA Head of Sport, answered that the current scoring system was a pilot project that would be tested and then implemented in the upcoming (A)IBA Championships. Currently the system was under development, and its concept was to bring live scoring and divide one round in two parts that would be scored accordingly. The principles being used to officiate would not be changed – changes would be made only in the way that R&J looked at the bout and provided their score at the end of each minute of a round. The system itself was in development, and (A)IBA was looking forward to cooperating with other committees and special taskforce to implement it within 6 months.

Finally, Mr Issoufou Abdoumalam, President of Nigeria Boxing Federation, took the floor to congratulate the (A)IBA President on the successes of the organization.

Ms Anastasiya Dlala encouraged the delegates to put any additional queries in writing after the Congress, to be addressed in due time, and the Congress moved to the next item of the agenda - Reports by Professor Richard McLaren.

## **6. Follow-up further to the publication of the McLaren report**

President Kremlev stated that earlier that year (A)IBA had appointed Professor Richard McLaren and his expert group to provide a thorough report on the state of the organization's internal affairs, with the aim to root out any and all sources of corruption, past or present. The Phase 2 report had recently published, and the President invited Mr Yury Zaytsev to present updates on the published report.

Mr Yury Zaytsev, (A)IBA Legal Counsel, presented the follow-up of the MGSS independent investigation. He highlighted the purposes of the investigation, the mandate of the MGSS and explanation of the three stages of the report. Key findings of Stage 1 and Stage 3, the possible follow-up, as well as the measures that had already been undertaken, were also reported to the Congress.

The (A)IBA Board of Directors had decided to initiate a fully Independent Investigation in order to: better understand the mistakes and misconducts of the past; obtain information to properly sanction the persons responsible for such misconducts (if applicable); adopt / improve its policies to prevent such misconducts from occurring in the future.

The mandate of the Independent Investigation Group was established as follows:

Stage 1: Investigate the activity of all (A)IBA individuals, contractors and sponsors involved in the 2016 Rio Olympics to establish whether there has been corruption or manipulation of sporting results, identify where possible the responsible persons and recommend the appropriate courses of action;

Stage 2: Investigate the activity of the individuals involved in the management and administration of (A)IBA during the presidency of C.K. Wu and Gafur Rahimov and after their presidencies, to establish whether there have been acts of corruption, violations of (A)IBA policies or lack thereof, manipulation of sporting results or of results of elections, mismanagement of (A)IBA funds and to identify if possible the responsible persons and recommend the appropriate courses of action;

Stage 3: Investigate the activity of all (A)IBA individuals involved in the Refereeing and Judging at the 2021 ASBC Asian Boxing Championship in Dubai and other competitions at the level of (A)IBA and Confederations to establish whether there has been corruption or manipulation of sporting results, identify where possible the responsible persons and recommend the appropriate courses of action.

The results of the Stages 1 and 3 of the investigation demonstrated that the R&J manipulations had indeed taken place, therefore the governance and sporting integrity needed to be enhanced. For instance, in order to ensure fair refereeing and judging, a pilot project with background vetting checks on all R&Js and ITOs was implemented before 2021 MWBCH in Belgrade. Cyber software “Seeker” searched the candidates (through social media etc.), then Challenger Voice Analytics Tool was used for the background checks. Randomly selected individuals were chosen to undertake a further automated test, that resulted in the fact that 2 officials were not admitted to the 2021 MWBCH in Belgrade, and another 2 R&Js were eliminated after the assessment at the beginning of the Championships.

Among further steps to be undertaken, the Legal Counsel stressed the following: Boxing Independent Integrity Unit (BIIU) shall be established by (A)IBA in 2022 to be responsible for conducting disciplinary and ethics proceedings; Stage 1 and Stage 3 Reports would be referred to the Nomination Unit for vetting of the candidates for (A)IBA elections; violations confirmed by IIG would be referred to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee (or to BIIU once it was constituted); recommendation made by IIG would be implemented, particularly, necessary regulations would be amended accordingly.

President Kremlev noted that the Ethics Committee and Legal Department should deal with the follow-up regarding the individuals mentioned in the McLaren’s report.

Regarding the previous point of the agenda, the President asked Mr Rob Garea to answer the question of Mr Boris van der Vorst about Gazprom sponsorship. Mr Garea stressed that the contract with Gazprom was confidential and could not be publicly distributed. Nevertheless, the contract had been shown in the (A)IBA office to EY auditors on the IOC’s mandate. Regarding the question on the marketing expenses, those expenses had been made to promote (A)IBA. Launching a new brand as well as a new competition system was a significant investment that, in the long run, would enable (A)IBA to increase and diversify its revenues as well as reinforce financial stability.

President Kremlev stressed again that the results achieved were opening opportunities for (A)IBA to further work on the benefit of sports. The McLaren's report was very important for the boxing community because (A)IBA's activities had previously lacked transparency; the organisation needed to assess the past, improve the future and attract independent experts. Mr Kremlev proposed to move to point 7 of the agenda and give the floor to Professor Ulrich Haas.

## **7. Presentation and vote on amendments to AIBA Constitution/regulations**

Professor Ulrich Haas presented the conclusions of the Government reform group report approved by the (A)IBA Board of Directors on 26 November 2021.

First, Prof. Haas provided an overview of the new structure of (A)IBA highlighting on the establishment of a Boxing Independent Integrity Unit (BIIU) that would consist of the following Units:

- BIIU Compliance Unit, in charge of processing, investigating and prosecuting all ethical and disciplinary issues;
- BIIU Nomination Unit, in charge of eligibility checks and assessment of appointments and elections;
- BIIU Education and Development Unit, in charge of organising and developing educational programmes.

Other recommendations of the GRG would be the following:

- Reduce the number of Board members from 22 to 15-17, including 10 independent Directors, to be elected from a pool of at least 20 candidates and following a number of clear and comprehensive eligibility criteria;
- Conduct eligibility checks not only for a position as Director, but also members of a Corporate Governance Committees (comprising Audit Committee, Finance Committee, Strategy Committee, Athletes Committee) in accordance with the specific criteria which will allow them to assess the reputation and integrity of each candidate; the eligibility checks are to be conducted by BIIU Nomination Unit with the support of an independent vetting firm;
- Dissolve the (A)IBA Council;
- Strengthen the independence of the Audit Committee that shall consist of 3 independent members;
- Replace the Finance Adviser of the Finance Committee;
- Create Strategy Committee in charge of developing and adopting strategic plans;
- Establish Diversity Commission and Member Federation Commission;



- Strengthen the (A)IBA Headquarters for it to be the single location without any divisions to the main office and the President's office;
- Provide a long-term strategic plan to be developed by Strategy Committee together with SG under the direction of the Board, including key technical developments, key competitions, key measures to promote boxing and the financial plan.

Regarding the emergency matters, Prof. Haas highlighted 3 major points:

1. **Fresh Start:** In order to quickly restore confidence in (A)IBA and to avoid poor governance culture carrying over to the future, a "fresh start" was required. The GRG, therefore, recommended minimizing any overlaps between the current Board members and the Board members to be elected/appointed in 2022.
2. **Restore relationship with IOC:** The Board shall appoint an external Liaison Officer who shall work closely together with the IOC and take all measures necessary to improve the working relationship with the latter. The Liaison Officer shall be the point of contact between (A)IBA and the IOC.
3. **External restructuring expert:** (A)IBA should hire a restructuring expert for the management of the current financial crisis. This expert should advise (A)IBA on appropriate restructuring measures to restore (A)IBA's financial viability.

Finally, Prof. Haas stated that the GRG had discussed the recommendations with the IOC, and the work accomplished by the GRG seemed to have been received by the IOC very positively and with benevolence. It was the GRG's impression that the IOC, even in the absence of a formal approval, expected (A)IBA to adopt the recommendations to the fullest extent possible in order for (A)IBA to be reinstated within the Olympic family.

The President thanked Prof. Haas for his report and invited the delegates to ask questions only related to the report and stay on topic.

Mr Boris van der Vorst asked when the BIIU Nomination Unit would be fully established and operational and how it could be fully independent. Secondly, Mr Van der Vorst asked whether Prof Haas could confirm that the Constitution changes proposed for vote fully reflected the GRG recommendations to improve (A)IBA's government.

Prof Haas answered that the proposed amendments of the Constitution fully reflected the recommendations by the GRG. There was only one slight diversion regarding the number of Board members: the GRG proposed 15-17 Directors, and the final number was 18. However, it was described as a minor change that would not compromise any of the recommendations. It was clear that the first Nomination Unit would be a transitional one, the GRG was in close contact with (A)IBA Legal Team, and the Nomination Unit would surely be fully operational before the elections.

Mr Van der Vorst thanked Prof Haas for his reassuring answer and wished the GRG to keep on doing their good work.

Then a delegate from Oceania expressed his appreciation of the diversity and inclusion provided by GRG recommendations. Prof Haas stressed that the diversity and inclusion were crucial. With the establishment of the new units and institutions, (A)IBA would be steps ahead of other international federations, and the implementation of the recommendations would be an important part of the IF governance.

After the questions, President Kremlev thanked the Board of Directors for leading by example, when they approved this report unanimously. Mr Kremlev passed the floor to Mr Gardiner to open the vote for the report by the GRG. The Congress, by majority of votes, approved the GRG Report issued on 15 November 2021.

The President congratulated the delegates decision and stressed that it was crucial to implement the GRG recommendations as soon as possible, that is why the floor was given back to the (A)IBA Legal Team to present and explain the respective amendments to the (A)IBA Constitution.

### **8. Decision on the principle of the constitution of an organizationally independent boxing integrity unit**

Mr Claude Ramoni briefly presented the amendments to the (A)IBA Constitution which purposes were the following:

- To immediately start the implementation of the recommendations by the Governance Reform Group
- To prepare the (A)IBA elections, to take place in 2022
- To increase efficiency.

Regarding the draft Constitution, it was approved by the Board on 26 November, 2021 and sent to the member federations. In the course of that week, the Board approved a further change, to be submitted to the vote of the Congress. Article 27.11 of the draft Constitution had been provided for a 60-day deadline for National Federations to submit nominations for offices to the Board (currently 40 days). The Board proposed not to put any deadline in the Constitution but to let the Board fix the deadline for submitting nominations for offices on the Board.

As for the Congress, it was proposed to hold an Ordinary Congress each year, while elections would continue to take place once every 4 years.

For the creation of BIIU, the Congress was invited to vote for its establishment and structure provided and explained earlier during the session by Prof Ulrich Haas. BIIU was expected to be fully operational in the course of the year 2022. Answering the previous questions of the Congress delegates, Mr Ramoni confirmed that the BIIU Nomination Unit members would be completely independent, as they would be appointed by the Board based on the GRG recommendations. As for the BIIU Units, Mr Ramoni also mentioned that the Anti-doping Unit would not be established, since (A)IBA had delegated anti-doping tasks to the International Testing Agency (ITA) and the CAS Anti-doping Division (CAS ADD).

According to the GRG recommendations, the number of Directors on the Board would be reduced to 18, with the following positions:

- ✓ President (no change);
- ✓ 5 Continental Presidents, elected by the Congress of each Confederation (no change);
- ✓ 2 members of the Athletes Committee, elected by the athletes (no change);
- ✓ 10 Independent Directors who shall be elected by the Congress from candidates having successfully passed a selection process (new).

The Independent Directors should be nominated by their NFs or Confederation, each NF would be entitled to propose several candidates. In order to ensure gender balance and continental representation, 10 Independent Directors shall include at least 5 women, and at least 1 representative from each continent, with a maximum of 3 Independent Directors from the same continent. The Congress shall be invited to elect the Independent Directors from a pool of at least 20 candidates, who would be selected by the BIIU Nomination Unit based on the specified eligibility criteria and vetting process conducted by an independent vetting firm.

Among other amendments to the (A)IBA Constitution, Mr Claude Ramoni highlighted the suppression of the (A)IBA Council, changes to the Audit Committee, replacement of the Finance Advisor by the Finance Committee and the establishment of the Strategy Committee. Moreover, the Board proposed to add a provision in the Constitution allowing for the Board to appoint honorary officials without any authority, who could perform tasks entrusted by the Board, such as cooperation and contacts with National Federations, Confederations, partners and sponsors, or visiting events as (A)IBA representatives.

Regarding the first Election Congress meeting, the Board proposed to change the term and to provide that Board elections needed to take place at the latest by 30 June 2022, at a date to be communicated to National Federations by the end of December 2021. The elections of the Continental Presidents needed to occur no later than on the day of the first election Congress meeting.

As for the Transitional Committee, it was proposed to suppress it due to the irrelevancy of such a body under the current circumstances of fundamental and tremendous reforms implemented by (A)IBA.

Clarifying transitional provisions, Mr Ramoni stated that the new 2021 Constitution required some adjustments and clarification of the wording of some provisions, without substantive changes. The Board also proposed to add a provision dealing with how partial terms of office must be taken into consideration when determining the maximum number of terms of office as per the Constitution. In case of partial term of office, the BIIU Nomination Unit shall decide whether the partial term of office shall be taken into consideration for the purpose of calculating the maximum number of terms of office or not.

Finally, Mr Ramoni stressed that after further review of the draft Constitution of 26 November, 2021, it appeared that there were still some minor formal issues to be corrected, therefore it

was requested for the Congress to authorize the Board to make some formal changes to the draft.

No questions were raised, and the President gave the floor to Mr Gardiner. The motion to approve the amendments to the Constitution as per the updated draft dated 26 November 2021, as further amended by the Board on 8 December 2021, required a 2/3 majority of the votes. The Congress, unanimously, approved the amendments to (A)IBA Constitution.

### **9. Closing Speech by AIBA/IBA President**

Mr Kremlev thanked the delegates of the Congress for making steps towards a better future. He stressed that (A)IBA and its members had a lot of hard work to implement to change the sport for the better. This year the organisation celebrated its 75-year anniversary, and the work that all its stakeholders had completed could be seen. The President stressed that he looked forward to seeing the Congress delegates again and thanked them for their unity. The organisation was moving in the right direction, and its members' trust and support were encouraging the International Boxing Association to adopt reforms and improve the sport of boxing.

Finally, the video for 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of (A)IBA was shown to the delegates, and the (A)IBA Congress session was announced closed.



Istvan Kovacs OLY  
Secretary General of the International Boxing Association (IBA)

May 13th 2022, Istanbul