

**Minutes of 2024 WFSA General Assembly
Sunday, 3 March 2024 14.15-17.45 (GMT+8)
Suntec Congress Centre, Singapore**

Member Societies represented by Delegates in attendance.

Albanian Society of Anesthesiologists & Intensivists	Nigerian Society of Anaesthetists
American Society of Anesthesiologists	Norsk Anestesiologisk Forening (Norway)
Anaesthesiologists Society of Namibia	Pacific Society of Anaesthetists
Anaesthesiology Society of Cyprus	Pakistan Society of Anaesthesiologists
Asociacion Guatemalteca de Anestesiologia, Reanimación y Tratamiento del Dolor	Philippine Society of Anaesthesiologists
Association of Anaesthesiologists of Mauritius	Royal College of Anesthesiologists of Thailand
Association of Anaesthesiologists of Uganda	Rwanda Society of Anesthesiologists
Association of Anaesthesiologists-Reanimatologists of Latvia	Finnish Society of Anaesthesiologists
Association of Anaesthetists, UK and Ireland	Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Anästhesiologie und Reanimation (Switzerland)
Australian Society of Anaesthetists	Serbian Association of Anaesthesiologists and Intensivists
Bangladesh Society of Anaesthesiologists, Critical Care and Pain Physicians	Sierra Leone Society of Anaesthetists
Brazilian Society of Anesthesiology (SBA Sociedade Brasileira de Anestesiologia)	Singapore Society of Anaesthesiologists
Cambodia Society of Anaesthetists	Slovak Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Medicine
Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society	Sociedad Colombiana de Anestesiología y Reanimación
Chinese Society of Anesthesiology	Sociedad de Anestesiología de Chile
College of Anaesthesiologists and Intensivists of Sri Lanka	Sociedad Española de Anestesiología, Reanimación y Terapéutica del Dolor
Croatian Association of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine	Sociedad Hondureña De Anestesiologia, Reanimacion Y Dolor
Czech Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine	Sociedad Panameña de Anestesiología
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Anaesthesiologie und Intensivmedizin e.V. (Germany)	Sociedad Paraguaya de Anestesiología
Egyptian Society of Anaesthesiologists	Sociedad Peruana de Anestesia, Analgesia y Reanimación
Eswatini Society of Anaesthetists	Sociedade Portuguesa de Anetesologia
Federación Argentina de Asociaciones de Anestesia, Analgesia y Reanimación	Société Congolaise d'Anesthésie Réanimation Urgences (SOCARU)
Federación Mexicana de Colegios de Anestesiología, A.C.	Société d'Anesthésie, de Réanimation et de Médecine d'Urgence du Burkina
Federation of Anaesthesiologists and	Société Sénégalaise d'Anesthésie-Réanimation et de Médecine d'Urgence
	Société Tunisienne d'Anesthésie et de

Reanimatologists (Russia)	Réanimation
Ghana Anaesthetist Society	Society of Anaesthesia and Reanimatology of the Republic of Moldova
Hungarian Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Therapy	Society of Anaesthesiologists of Nepal
Indian Society of Anaesthesiologists	Society of Anaesthesiologists of Tanzania
Indonesian Society of Anesthesiologists and Intensive Therapy	Society of Anaesthesiologists, Brunei Darussalam
Israel Society of Anesthesiologists	Society of Anaesthetists of Papua New Guinea
Japanese Society of Anesthesiologists	Society of Anaesthetists of Zambia
Kenyan Society of Anaesthesiologists	South African Society of Anaesthesiologists
Korean Society of Anesthesiologists	Sudanese Society of Anaesthesiologists
Lebanese Society of Anesthesiologists	Taiwan Society of Anaesthesiologists
Libyan Society of Anaesthesia, Intensive Care and Resuscitation	The Romanian Society of Anaesthesia - Intensive Care
Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists	The Society of Anaesthetists of Hong Kong
Mongolian Society of Anesthesiologists	Turkish Anaesthesiology and Reanimation Society
Moroccan Society of Anesthesia, Analgesia and Critical Care	Venezuelan Society of Anesthesiology
Myanmar Society of Anaesthesiologists (Myanmar Medical Association)	Vietnam Society of Anaesthesiologists
Nederlandse Vereniging voor Anesthesiologie	Zimbabwe Anaesthetic Association
New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists	

1. Welcome to delegates by the President (Dr Morriss)

Dr Morriss welcomed all delegates to the General Assembly held at the start of the 18th World Congress of Anaesthesiologists. He thanked the delegates for their efforts to attend the General Assembly and represent their respective Member Societies in person, in Singapore.

2. Report of Credentials Committee (Dr Mellin-Olsen)

Dr Mellin-Olsen informed the Assembly that we had a quorum with 69 Member Societies present with voting delegates. 40 Societies are required for a quorum. (During the General Assembly proceedings, a further 11 Member Societies registered late which brought the overall total to 80 Member Societies in attendance with voting delegates).

3. Adoption of the Agenda (Professor Filipescu)

During this section of the agenda, Professor Filipescu also shared general voting instructions for the attention of all voting delegates.

Motion: That the General Assembly adopts the agenda: *Approved unanimously.*

4. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure (Professor Filipescu)

Professor Filipescu noted that the Rules of Procedure had been sent out with the General Assembly papers and remained unchanged.

Motion: That the General Assembly adopt the Rules of Procedure: *Approved unanimously.*

5. President's Report (Dr Morriss)

Dr Morriss provided an overview of the essential role of WFSA, its programmes, significant achievements, challenges, and opportunities during the period 2020-24. (See slides 8-38).

6. Ratification of decisions made during the pandemic period (Professor Filipescu)

Motions for ratifying/approving the following decisions taken during the pandemic period (2020-24) were made and voted on:

- Election of 2020-24 Board and Council: ***Approved unanimously.***
- Approval of Minutes from 2021 Business Meetings (virtual): ***Approved with 99.47% of votes in favor.***
- Approval of Minutes from 2016 General Assembly: ***Approved with 99.49% of votes in favor.***
- Approval of Extraordinary Resolution 2021/1: To hold the next ordinary meeting of the General Assembly in Singapore in 2024 during the 18th World Congress: ***Approved with 94.79% of votes in favor.***
- Approval of Extraordinary Resolution 2021/2: To hold, during the 17th World Congress, a Member Society Business Meeting(s) which will update Member Societies on matters of relevance to them and provide opportunity for questions and answers, leaving any matters for vote / decision to be decided by additional Extraordinary Resolution(s), such resolutions to be circulated for approval before the end of September 2021: ***Approved with 98.48% of votes in favor.***
- Approval of Extraordinary Resolution 2021/3: To adopt the WFSA 4-year budget 2021-2024: ***Approved with 97.94% of votes in favor.***
- Approval of Extraordinary Resolution 2021/4: To adopt the proposal to freeze Membership Dues until the end of 2022 and increase WFSA Membership Dues for 2023 and 2024 by US \$0.10 respectively: ***Approved with 85.57% of votes in favor.***

A further motion was then voted on:

- Proposal for ratifying all acts performed by persons who acted as member of the Board and as member of the Council: ***Approved with 94.87% of votes in favor.***

7. Constitutional amendments (Professor Filipescu)

Professor Filipescu reminded delegates that all Member Societies had received copies of the revised constitutional documents three months in advance of the General Assembly. She took the Assembly through the major changes, explaining that the overall aims of the

updates are to increase flexibility and engagement, while ensuring compliance with relevant law.

These amendments to the Constitution having been submitted to Member Societies over three (3) months prior to this General Assembly and having received no further comments or any objections to the changes, Professor Filipescu moved for approval of the revised Constitution.

Motion 1: Proposal for amendment of the Articles of Association of the Federation in accordance with the draft deed prepared by Hermans & Schuttevaer Notarissen N.V. 2. **Motion passed with the following results: 97.35% voted in favor.**

Motion 2: Proposal for granting authorisation to each employee of Hermans & Schuttevaer Notarissen N.V. to execute the deed of amendment of Articles of Association of the Federation. **Motion passed with the following results: 98.97% voted in favor.**

Motion 3: Proposal for amendment of the Constitution (new name: By-Laws) in accordance with the draft deed prepared by the Board. **Motion passed with the following results: 99.50% voted in favor.**

8. New Member Societies (Professor Filipescu)

New Member Societies were presented and were noted by the General Assembly:

Azerbaijan (2023), Burundi (2018), Cayman Islands (2024), Chad (2024), Cyprus (2017), Eswatini (2022), , Madagascar (2016), Malawi (2017), Namibia (2019), Oman (2018), Sierra Leone (2023), Somalia (2019) and Yemen (2022).

The following Societies also re-joined WFSA: Iraq, Kazakhstan, Libya, Montenegro, Mozambique, and Uzbekistan.

9. Confirmation of suspended Member Societies

Member Societies suspended by the Board and Council between 2016-2024 were presented for General Assembly ratification:

Algeria (2018), Angola (2021), Belarus (2018), United Arab Emirates (2021).

Motion was passed that the General Assembly ratifies the suspension of these Member Societies: Approved with 93.14% of votes in favor.

10. Treasurer's report and budget and dues proposal (Professor Cheng)

Professor Cheng presented the financial report for the period 2021-24 and a recap of the period 2016-2020 presented at the 2021 virtual business meeting. (See slides 63 to 76; full audited accounts are available on the WFSA website).

He presented the reserves policy of the WFSA (USD 1.5M) and highlighted the performance of WFSA's investment holdings.

Motions for the following were made and voted on:

- Resolution to discharge from liabilities the Board for their management during 2016-2020, and 2020, 2021 and 2022 fiscal years: **Approved with 96.17% of votes in favor.**
- Resolution to accept auditors' reports for fiscal years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022: **Approved with 98.40% of votes in favor.**
- Resolution to assign as auditor Hartley Fowler in collaboration with Bentley Bratcher & Associates for 2023 and 2024 fiscal years: **Approved with 98.95% of votes in favor.**
- Resolution to approve delay of accounts for 2023 fiscal year until June 2024: **Approved with 98.97% of votes in favor.**
- Resolution to note 2023 annual report: **Approved with 98.93% of votes in favor.**

Professor Cheng introduced the dues proposal for 2025 and 2026, noting that WFSA has slowly increased the membership dues rate over time with the General Assembly's approval (Dues were frozen in 2021 and 2022 due to the impact of COVID-19). He noted that had dues kept up with inflation they would currently be around USD 11 per member of a Member Society.

Motion: To approve the WFSA subscription per individual society member increases at a rate of \$0.25 per declared member each year for 2025 and 2026:

2025 – USD 4.35

2026 – USD 4.60

Approved with 72.68% of votes in favor.

11. Approval of membership of the WFSA Committees (Dr Haylock Loor)

Dr Haylock Loor presented the composition of all Committees (full listing available on the WFSA webpage), having described the nomination and selection process. The General Assembly were asked to ratify the selection of Committee Chairs who will form part of the Council

Motion: That the General Assembly ratify the selected Committee Chairs. Approved with 99.41% of votes in favor.

12. Election of President and President-Elect of the WFSA (Dr Morriss)

Dr Morriss presented the voting procedure for the Presidential elections, noting that there was one candidate for President and one for President-Elect. Professor Daniela Filipescu for President and Dr Carolina Haylock Loor for President-Elect addressed the General Assembly and then all delegates voted.

Results: Proposal to appoint Professor Daniela Filipescu as member of the Board with title President for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved with 99.43% of votes in favor.**

Results: Proposal to appoint Dr Carolina Haylock Loor as member of the Board with title President-Elect for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of

Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. Role to include automatic progression onto the President position for term starting in 2026 until 2028. **Approved with 96.20% of votes in favor.**

The candidates were applauded on their successful elections.

13. Election of the Board Officers for 2024-26 (Dr Morriss)

Dr Morriss presented the candidates and noted the voting procedure where more than two candidates were standing for one position. Run-off elections were held for the Secretary and Director of Memberships positions to ensure that one candidate received at least a simple majority of votes cast.

Proposal to appoint Dr Balavenkatsubramanian Jagannathan as member of the Board with title Secretary for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved with 54.36% of votes in favor, following a run-off election**

Proposal to appoint Dr Walid Habre as member of the Board with title Treasurer for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved with 97.38% of votes in favor.**

Proposal to appoint Dr Faye Evans as member of the Board with title Director of Programmes for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved with 78.57% of votes in favor.**

Proposal to appoint Dr Pedro Ibarra as member of the Board with title Director of Partnerships for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved with 96.28% in favor.**

Proposal to appoint Dr Luiz Fernando Falcao as member of the Board with title Director of Memberships for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved with 58.24% of votes in favor, following a run-off election.**

The following were duly elected to the WFSA Board for the term 2024-26:

President: Professor Daniela Filipescu, Romania
President-Elect: Dr Carolina Haylock-Loor, Honduras
Treasurer: Dr Walid Habre, Switzerland
Secretary: Dr Balavenkatsubramanian Jagannathan, India
Director of Programmes: Dr Faye Evans, USA
Director of Partnerships: Dr Pedro Ibarra, Colombia
Director of Memberships: Dr Luiz Fernando Falcao, Brazil

14. Election of the members of the Council 2024-2026 (Dr Morriss)

Dr Morriss explained the nominations and election process for electing members of WFSA Council, including the protected seats for sub-regions in Africa & the Middle East and Asia.

a) **Africa & Middle East**

The delegates from the region then proceeded to vote for 3 of the 5 candidates (in alphabetical order by country).

Patricia Yazbeck, Lebanon – Mohamed Adnane Berdai, Morocco – Elizabeth Ogboli Nwasor, Nigeria, were elected to Council by the regional vote and put to the full General Assembly for approval:

Proposal to appoint Dr Patricia Yazbeck as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Africa & Middle East for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved unanimously.**

Proposal to appoint Dr Mohamed Adnane Berdai as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Africa & Middle East for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved unanimously.**

Proposal to appoint Dr Elizabeth Ogboli Nwasor as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Africa & Middle East for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved unanimously.**

b) **Asia**

The delegates from the region then proceeded to vote for 4 of the 7 candidates (in alphabetical order).

Hailong Dong, China – Il-Ok Lee, South Korea - Kumudini Ranatunga, Sri Lanka – Suraphong Lorsomradee, Thailand, were elected to Council by the regional vote and put to the full General Assembly for approval:

Proposal to appoint Dr Hailong Dong as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Asia for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved unanimously.**

Proposal to appoint Dr Il-Ok Lee as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Asia for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved unanimously.**

Proposal to appoint Dr Kumudini Ranatunga as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Asia for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved unanimously.**

Proposal to appoint Dr Suraphong Lorsomradee as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Asia for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved unanimously.**

c) **Australia, New Zealand & the Pacific Islands**

The delegates from the region then proceeded to vote for 1 of the 1 candidate.

Christopher Bowden, Australia, was elected to Council by the regional vote and put to the full General Assembly for approval:

Proposal to appoint Dr Christopher Bowden as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Australia, New Zealand & the Pacific Islands for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved unanimously.**

d) **Central and South America, Mexico and the Caribbean Islands**

The delegates from the region then proceeded to vote for 2 of the 2 candidates (in alphabetical order by country).

Nicolás Sergi, Argentina – Vicente Faraon Fonseca, Brazil, were elected to Council by the regional vote and put to the full General Assembly for approval:

Proposal to appoint Dr Nicolás Sergi as member of the Council with title Regional Representative South and Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean Islands for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved unanimously.**

Proposal to appoint Dr Vicente Faraon Fonseca as member of the Council with title Regional Representative South and Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean Islands for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved unanimously.**

e) **Europe**

The delegates from the region then proceeded to vote for 3 of the 3 candidates (in alphabetical order by country).

Else-Marie Ringvold, Norway – Carlos Tornero, Spain – Hilal Ayoğlu, Turkey, were elected to Council by the regional vote and put to the full General Assembly for approval:

Proposal to appoint Dr Else-Marie Ringvold as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Europe for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved unanimously.**

Proposal to appoint Dr Carlos Tornero as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Europe for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved unanimously.**

Proposal to appoint Dr Hilal Ayoğlu as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Europe for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved unanimously.**

f) **North America**

The delegates from the region then proceeded to vote for 2 of the 2 candidates (in alphabetical order by country).

Dylan Bould, Canada – Elizabeth Drum, United States of America, were elected to Council by the regional vote and put to the full General Assembly for approval:

Proposal to appoint Dr Dylan Bould as member of the Council with title Regional Representative North America for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved unanimously.**

Proposal to appoint Dr Elizabeth Drum as member of the Council with title Regional Representative North America for a term starting on the day of execution of the deed of amendment of Articles of Association and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2026. **Approved unanimously.**

15. Open Forum

Four interventions were made by delegates. Discussions are briefly outlined below:

- Statement by the Malaysian Society (Dr Yong Chow Yen) regarding the ongoing human rights issues in healthcare facilities within war-torn regions in the world, in particular the lack of access to safe anaesthesia care for patients undergoing surgery in these regions. Dr Yong requested the WFSA Board to set up a working group to develop a position statement on this topic. Dr Morriss noted that the Board will take this under advisement.
- Statement by the Senegalese Society (Dr Helene Bassama) regarding the challenges of communicating in English and the need for additional educational programmes in French. Dr Morriss noted the increased emphasis on multilingualism within WFSA but that this remains a work in progress.
- Statement by the Kenyan Society (Dr Stephen Okello) suggesting that Member Societies in Africa and the Middle East be de-linked for the purposes of applying to host future World Congresses. Dr Morriss noted that Member Societies will, during this year's membership survey, be asked which regional grouping they prefer to be identified with.
- Statement by Dr Medhat Shalabi regarding the difficulty of gaining endorsement/nominations from one's Member Society (of origin), if working in another country at the time of the nominations process. This was noted by Dr Morriss and Professor Filipescu.

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Accurately recorded as approved by:

Professor Daniela Filipescu, WFSA Secretary
Kristine Stave, Chief Executive Officer

