Minutes of 2024 WFSA Extraordinary General Assembly
Sunday 30 June 2024 13.00-14.00 (GMT+1)
Dean Bradley House, London (hybrid meeting)

Member Societies represented by Delegates for the Extraordinary General Assembly

Albanian Society of Anesthesiologists & Intensivists ASAI	Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists
All-Russian Public Organization Federation of Anaesthesiologists and Reanimatologists (FAR)	Morrocan Society of Anesthesia, Analgesia and Critical Care (SMAAR)
American Society of Anesthesiologists	New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists
Anaesthesiologists Society of Namibia (ASN)	Nigerian Society of Anaesthetists
Anaesthesiology Society of Cyprus	Österreichische Gesellschaft für Anasthesiologie, Reanimation und Intensivmedizin
Asociación de Médicos Anestesiólogos de el Salvador	Pakistan Society of Anaesthesiologists
Asociacion Guatemalteca de Anestesiologia, Reanimación y Tratamiento del Dolor	Philippine Society of Anaesthesiologists*
Association of Anaesthesiologists of Malta (AAM)	Polish Society of Anaethesiology and Intensive Therapy
Association of Anaesthesiologists-Reanimatologists of Latvia	Royal College of Anesthesiologists of Thailand
Association of Anesthesiologists and Reanimathologists of FBiH	Serbian Association of Anaesthesiologists and Intensivists (SAAI)
Australian Society of Anaesthetists	Sierra Leone Society of Anaesthetists
Bangladesh Society of Anaesthesiologists, Critical Care and Pain Physicians	Singapore Society of Anaesthesiologists
Brazilian Society of Anesthesiology (SBA Sociedade Brasileira de Anestesiologia)	Sociedad Colombiana de Anestesiología y Reanimación (SCARE)
Cambodia Society of Anaesthetists	Sociedad de Anestesiología de Chile
Chinese Society of Anesthesiology	Sociedade Portuguesa de Anetesiologia
College of Anaesthesiologists and Intensivists of Sri Lanka	Sociedad Hondureña De Anestesiologia, Reanimacion Y Dolor (SHARD)
Croatian Association of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine*	Sociedad Venezolana de Anestesiología
Eswatini Society of Anaesthetists	Société Congolaise d'Anesthésie Réanimation Urgences (SOCARU)
Federación Argentina de Asociaciones de Anestesia, Analgesia y Reanimación	Société d'Anesthésie, de Réanimation et de Médecine d'Urgence du Burkina
Federación Mexicana de Colegios de Anestesiología, A.C.	Société d'Anesthésie, de Réanimation et de Médicine d'Urgence du Mali

Ghana Anaesthetist Society*	Societé Sénégalaise d'Anesthésie-Réanimation et de Médicine d'Urgence (SOSEAR)
Guyana Anesthesiologist Society	Société Tchadienne d'Analgésie, d'Anesthésie-Réanimation et de la Médecine d'Urgence (STARMU)
Indian Society of Anaesthesiologists	Societé Tunisienne d'Anesthésie et de Réanimation*
Indonesian Society of Anesthesiologists and Intensive Therapy	Society of Anaesthesia and Reanimatology of the Republic of Moldova
Israel Society of Anesthesiologists	Society of Anaesthesiologists, Brunei Darussalam
Japanese Society of Anesthesiologists	Society of Anaesthesiologists of Nepal
Kenya Society of Anaesthesiologists	Society of Anesthesiology at Intensive Care of Kosova - (SAICK)
Korean Society of Anesthesiologists	South African Society of Anaesthesiologists
Lebanese Society of Anesthesiologists	Swedish Society for Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine
Libyan Society of Anaesthesia, Intensive Care and Resuscitation (L.S.A.I.R)	The Romanian Society of Anaesthesia - Intensive Care
Macedonia Society of Anaesthesiologists and Intensive Care	Turkish Anaesthesiology and Reanimation Society

**In attendance only.*

Panellists and attendees

Panellists	
Professor Daniela Filipescu (Romania)	President, WFSA
Dr Carolina Haylock-Loor (Honduras)	President-Elect, WFSA
Dr Balavenkatasubramanian Jagannathan (India)	Secretary, WFSA
Prof Walid Habre (Switzerland)	Treasurer, WFSA
Dr Pedro Ibarra (Colombia)	Director of Partnerships, WFSA
Dr Faye Evans (USA)	Director of Programmes, WFSA
Dr Jannicke Mellin-Olsen (Norway)	Chair, WFSA Credentials Committee
Apologies	
Dr Luiz Fernando dos Reis Falcão (Brazil)	Director of Memberships, WFSA
Attendees	
Kristine Stave	CEO, WFSA
Niamo Yassin	Governance Manager, WFSA

1. Welcome to delegates by the President (Professor Filipescu)

Professor Filipescu welcomed all delegates to this Extraordinary General Assembly, the first such hybrid meeting held by the Federation. She thanked the delegates for their efforts to attend the General Assembly and represent their respective Member Societies.

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

Dr Mellin-Olsen informed the Assembly that we had achieved a quorum with 45 Member Societies participating, including Delegates who represented their Member Societies during the pre-voting period. 40 Societies are required for a quorum. (During the General Assembly proceedings, a further 17 Member Societies joined the live webcast resulting in representation from a total of 62 Member Societies).

3. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Balavenkatasumbramanian)

During this section of the agenda, Dr Balavenkatasumbramanian also shared general voting instructions for the attention of all voting delegates. A test resolution was presented for approval to ensure voting delegates were able to use the voting platform correctly.

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

4. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure (Dr Balavenkatasumbramanian)

Dr Balavenkatasumbramanian 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. Approval of the Minutes from the 3 March 2024 General Assembly (Dr Balvavenkatasubramanian)

Dr Balavenkatasumbramanian noted that the minutes had been sent out with the General Assembly papers.

Motion: That the General Assembly approve the minutes from 3 March 2024: ***Approved unanimously.***

6. Treasurer's Report (Professor Habre)

Professor Habre went through the 2023 financial statements, noting that membership dues income was up from 2022 and the Federation had made unrealized gains on its investments during the preceding financial year.

Motion: That the General Assembly approve the 2023 financial statements: *Approved unanimously.*

Professor Habre then presented the 2024 budget, as approved by the Board in January. He noted that a mid-year budget revision would take place.

In response to a question from the American Society, Professor Habre noted that the Federation expects to end 2024 with a surplus as a result of income from the 18th World Congress of Anaesthesiologists held in Singapore in March 2024.

Motion: That the General Assembly approve the 2024 budget: *Approved with 99.28% of votes in favour.*

7. WFSA Statement on the safety of the anaesthesia workforce in regions of conflict 2024

Professor Filipescu gave thanks to the Working Group which had worked on the statement and noted that this had been chaired by Dr Mellin-Olsen with representation from all WFSA regions. Dr Mellin-Olsen gave a brief comment on the statement.

The following questions and comments were asked regarding the statement *(Note: These were received after voting on this item had concluded):*

- I would say (paragraph 2) that safe anaesthesia care for patients in regions of conflict is a "major" concern rather than "continuing" (Australian Society)
    - Professor Filipescu noted that the Statement had now been approved as circulated, but it could be updated in future years.
- How can Member Societies, especially in Africa, a continent ravaged by conflict, play a role in ensuring the safety of staff in conflict zones? (Senegal Society)
    - Professor Filipescu noted the importance of working together and of Member Societies trying to work with governments. We could provide examples of other societies influencing governance.
- Considering the statement, should we underscore the critical importance of ensuring that safe anaesthesia is consistently administered by medical personnel, specifically prioritising qualified anaesthesiologists, to uphold the highest standards of patient safety and care, particularly in critical situations and disaster zones? (Argentinian Society)
    - Professor Filipescu noted that when we attended the World Health Assembly in May, we underscored the vital role of anaesthesiologists in emergency and critical care. In September, WHO is organising a meeting with different stakeholders on strengthening acute care, as requested by the

2023 ECO Resolution. Professor Filipescu and Dr Haylock-Loor will be attending this meeting representing anaesthesiologists globally.

- Will the resolution/statement be sent to various governments? In Nigeria anaesthetists and other healthcare personnel are under constant threat from bandits/kidnappers. (Nigerian Society)
    - Professor Filipescu noted that it would likely be more effective for Member Societies to send themselves the statement to their governments. WFSA is happy to support and discuss the process.
- Can this declaration which is in English be translated and signed by WFSA so that we can send it to our governments? (Senegal Society)
    - Professor Filipescu agreed that this would be done and circulated to all Member Societies.
- Should we be considering supporting the mental health of healthcare providers working under extreme stress? (Indian Society)
    - Professor Filipescu noted that WFSA held two webinars on the topic of wellbeing of anaesthesiologists, with future webinars on this topic planned in coming months. The WFSA Workforce Wellbeing Committee is considering other wellbeing activities and initiatives this year as part of our annual theme.

Motion: That the General Assembly approve the 2024 statement: ***Approved with 99.25% of votes in favour.***

8. Open Forum

The following questions were asked by attendees and answered by Professor Filipescu and the other panelists:

- What are the next action items? (American Society)
    - Professor Filipescu noted work with WHO on a new triennial workplan for the years 2025-27, planning for the World Congress of Anaesthesiologists (WCA) in Marrakech in 2026, and next year's hybrid General Assembly.
- Do you know when the Capnography monitoring programme will start? (Guatemala Society)
    - Dr Faye Evans, WFSA Director of Programmes, noted that work is underway with Lifebox and Smile Train to assess the global capnography gap and to raise funds for distribution of this equipment. There is going to be a needs assessment to understand country-level resourcing gaps.

- Dr Haylock-Loor noted that in line with our strategic words - Educate, Collaborate and Advocate - we are keen to support to this programme, and a range of other education activities.

- How is WFSA managing shortages of essential anesthesia drugs, equipment, and supplies? (Indian Society)
  - Professor Filipescu noted we are currently working on the topic of halothane production in Africa, as the main producer in the region stopped supplying it. Noted that the WFSA Safety and Quality Committee established a group to work on the halothane problem; together with relevant Member Societies solutions are being sought to suggest relevant alternatives. There is also a group within WFSA led by Past President Professor Gelb which is preparing to review the Essential Medicines List (EML); this topic will be worked on in collaboration with WHO and Member Societies.

- Would WFSA play a role in facilitating the attendance of National Society Presidents (visa issuing) to the events sponsored by WFSA like WCA and regional events? (Libyan Society)
  - Professor Filipescu highlighted the Federation's work with organisers of regional and global events to make delegates aware of visa requirements well in advance of congress dates. Unfortunately visa restrictions are a global issue.

- Can you share your list of essential medicines with us? (Senegal Society)
  - Professor Filipescu noted that this is the World Health Organization Essential Medicines List which is available through the WHO website at https://www.who.int/groups/expert-committee-on-selection-and-use-of-essential-medicines/essential-medicines-lists.

- How many anaesthetists are required per 100000 population.? What is WFSA's recommendation. Is there any country variation? (Bangladesh Society)
  - Professor Filipescu noted that a couple of WFSA articles and our workforce survey recommend specific numbers of anaesthesiologists, obstetricians, surgeons and other specialties with whom we work closely with; noted that these figures are helpful for governments in order to allocate appropriate resourcing.
  - Dr Mellin-Olsen commented that our most recent Global Anaesthesia Workforce Survey recommends that 20 anaesthesiologists, obstetricians and surgeons are required per 100,000 population – of this 20, at least 5 should be anaesthesiologists.
  - Acknowledged that the required number will depend on country contexts and its particular workforce model.
  - Professor Filipescu reminded Member Society representatives of the importance of completing the WFSA annual survey which in addition to

requesting most recent membership numbers, also requests data on estimated numbers of anaesthesiologists within your country. Noted that workforce data is essential to our advocacy efforts.

- Is there a fund to help societies practicing in countries experiencing war or economic crisis to organise their annual congress or scientific activity? (Lebanese Society)
    - Professor Filipescu noted that the Federation can provide loans upon request by regional sections organising regional congresses.

- Does the WFSA have any minimum safety recommendations for an anaesthesiologist's daily practice? (Mexican Society)
    - Professor Filipescu noted the WHO-WFSA International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anesthesia which can be accessed here. In 2023, the WFSA Safety and Quality Committee published a morbidity and mortality toolkit, this can be accessed here.

- Any consideration for annual fees for low economy countries? (Nepalese Society)
    - Professor Filipescu noted that this had been raised during the business meetings at the virtual WCA in 2021. The Board Finance & Audit Committee is currently reviewing different models, however, membership dues for 2025 and 2026 were approved by the General Assembly in March 2024.

- What role should WFSA play in organizing a conference in a lower-middle-income country like Nepal? (Nepalese Society)
    - Professor Filipescu noted that we could provide support by providing speakers either in person or virtually; we are also open to collaborating on the scientific programme of the conference.

- When will the fellowship programmes which were on hold since COVID-19 start? (Nepalese Society)
    - Dr Evans noted that many of these are now 'live' and that any Society keen to recommence or start new Fellowships should contact the Secretariat directly (Lauren.hyland@wfsahq.org).

- Is WFSA aware of the frustrating results from Outcomes after surgery for children in Africa ASOS Paeds? (Libyan Society)
    - Professor Filipescu echoed the frustration expressed regarding the poor reported outcomes of patients in Africa, both children and adults. Professor Filipescu also provided an example, in the context of Romania, where outcomes were improved after participating in this kind of research (the EuSOS and ISOS studies). Professor Filipescu noted that at a global level we can aim to improve outcomes by working collaboratively.

- Any specific way we could contribute to World Anaesthesia Day? (Indian Society)
    - Professor Filipescu noted that the annual theme for 2024 is Workforce Well-being; this will also be the theme for WAD 2024. Further communications will be shared with all Member Societies in the coming months.

- Is it essential to increase the annual fee for every country? (Bangladesh Society)

    Please see the answer above: The Board Finance & Audit Committee is currently reviewing different models, however, membership dues for 2025 and 2026 were approved by the General Assembly in March 2024.

In addition, thanks and greetings were offered by the American Society, Bangladesh Society, Japanese Society, Serbian Society and Turkish Society.

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Accurately recorded as approved by:

Dr Balavenkatasubramanian Jagannathan, WFSA Secretary
Kristine Stave, Chief Executive Officer