



# WFSA

WORLD FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES OF ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS

Uniting and empowering anaesthesiologists around the world to improve patient care

**Minutes of 2026 WFSA General Assembly  
Wednesday 15 April 2026  
Palais de Congres Marrakech, Morocco**

Member Societies represented by Delegates in attendance.

American Society of Anesthesiologists	Myanmar Society of Anaesthesiologists
Anaesthesiologists Society of Namibia	New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists
Asociación de Médicos Anestesiólogos de Costa Rica,	Nigerian Society of Anaesthetists
Asociación Guatemalteca de Anestesiología, Reanimación y Tratamiento del Dolor	Norsk Anestesiologisk Forening
Association of Anaesthesiologists and Intensivists of Malta	Pacific Society of Anaesthetists
Association of Anaesthesiologists of Mauritius	Pakistan Society of Anaesthesiologists
Association of Anaesthesiologists-Reanimatologists of Latvia	Palestinean Society of Anaesthesia & Intensive Care
Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland	Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists
Association of Anesthesiologist, Reanimatologist and Intensivist of Republic of Srpska	PNG Society of Anaesthetists & Intensivists
Australian Society of Anaesthetists	Republic of Kazakhstan - Republican Social Union
Austrian Society of Anesthesiology, Resuscitation and Intensive Care Medicine	Romanian Society of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care (SRATI)
Azerbaijan Society of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care	Royal College of Anesthesiologists of Thailand
Bangladesh Society of Anesthesiologists, Critical Care & Pain Physicians	Russian Federation of Anesthesiologists and Reanimatologists
Brazilian Society of Anesthesiology	Rwanda Society of Anesthesiologists
Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society	Sénégalaise d'Anesthésie Réanimation et de Médecine d'Urgence
Chinese Society of Anesthesiology	Sierra Leone Society of Anaesthetists
Croatian Society of Anesthesiology, Reanimatology and Intensive Medicine	Singapore Society of Anaesthesiologists
Czech Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine	Sociedad Boliviana de Anestesiología Reanimación y Dolor
Democratic Republic of Congo - Kinshasa	Sociedad Colombiana de Anestesiología y Reanimación
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Anästhesiologie und Intensivmedizin e. V.	Sociedad de Anestesiología de Chile
Ethiopian Society of Anesthesiologists	Sociedad Ecuatoriana de Anestesiología



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Mongolian Society of Anesthesiologists	Sociedad Española de Anestesiología, Reanimación y Terapéutica del Dolor
Federación Argentina de Asociaciones de Anestesia, Analgesia y Reanimación	Sociedad Hondureña De Anestesiología, Reanimación Y Dolor
Federación Mexicana de Colegios de Anestesiología A.C. (FMCA, A.C.)	Sociedad Paraguaya de Anestesiología
Guyana Anaesthesiologist Society	Societa Italiana di Anestesia, Analgesia, Rianimazione e Terapia Intensiva
Indian Society of Anaesthesiologists	Société Camerounaise d'Anesthésie Reanimation
Indonesian Society of Anesthesiology and Intensive Therapy	Société d'Anesthésie, de réanimation et de Médecine d'Urgence du Burkina (SARMUB)
Israel Society of Anesthesiologists	Société Marocaine d'Anesthésie, d'Analgesie et de Réanimation (SMAAR)
Japanese Society of Anesthesiologists	Société Tunisienne d'Anesthésie et de Réanimation
Jordan Society of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care	Society of Anaesthesiologists, Brunei Darussalam
Kenya Society of Anesthesiologists	Society of Anaesthetists of Hong Kong
Korean Society of Anesthesiologists	Society of Anaesthesiologists of Tanzania
Kosovo Society of Anaesthesiologists and Intensivists	Society of Anaesthetists of Zambia
Lebanese Society of Anesthesiologists	Society of Anesthesiology and Reanimatology of the Republic of Moldova
Libyan Society of Anaesthesia, Intensive Care and Resuscitation	South African Society of Anaesthesiologists (SASA)
Macedonia Society of Anaesthesiologists and Intensive Care	Taiwan Society of Anaesthesiologists
Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists	The College of Anaesthesiologists and Intensivists of Sri Lanka
Mongolian Society of Anesthesiologists	Turkish Society of Anaesthesia and Reanimation
	Viet Nam Society of Anesthesiologists

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

Prof. Filipescu welcomed all delegates to the General Assembly held at the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Anaesthesiologists. She thanked all delegates for their efforts to attend the General Assembly and represent their respective Member Societies in person, in Marrakech.



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She led the attendees in one minute silence for previous leaders of the Federation who had passed away during the past two years.

## **2. Report of Credentials Committee (Dr Morriss)**

Dr Morriss informed the Assembly that we had a quorum with 77 Member Societies either pre-voting, or present and in attendance.

## **3. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Balavenkatasubramanian)**

Dr Balavenkatasubramanian shared general voting instructions for the attention of all voting delegates.

**Motion: That the General Assembly adopts the agenda: Approved with 100% in favour.**

## **4. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure (Dr Balavenkatasubramanian)**

Dr Balavenkatasubramanian 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 with 100% in favour.**

## **5. Approval of Minutes of 2025 General Assembly**

Dr Balavenkatasubramanian presented the minutes of the 29 June 2025 General Assembly which had been held as a hybrid meeting. No matters arising were reported from this.

**Motion: That the General Assembly approve the minutes of the 2025 General Assembly: Approved with 99.4 % in favour.**

## **6. President's Report (Prof. Filipescu)**

Prof. Filipescu provided an overview of the essential role of the WFSA, its programmes, significant achievements, challenges, and opportunities during the period 2024-26. (See slides 18-60)

## **7. New Member Societies (Professor Falcão)**

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

Full members:



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- Cayman Islands Society of Anesthesiologists (Cayman Islands) - 2024
- Société Tchadienne D'anesthésie Réanimation et Médecine d'urgence (Tchad) – 2024
- Montenegrin Society of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care (Montenegro) – 2024
- Somali Society for Anesthesiology and Intensive Medicine (Somalia) - 2024
- Société Mauritanienne d'Anesthésie, de Réanimation et de Médecine d'Urgence (Mauritania) – 2024
- Emirates Anaesthesia & Pain Management Society (United Arab Emirates) – 2025
- Société Togolaise d'Anesthésie d'Analgésie de Réanimation de Médecine d'Urgence et de Catastrophe (Togo) – 2026
- Afghanistan Society of Anesthesiologists (Afghanistan) – 2026
- Kyrgyz Society of Anaesthesiologists and Resuscitation Specialists (Kyrgyzstan) – 2026

#### Corresponding members:

- South Sudan Society of Anaesthesiologists (South Sudan) - 2025
- African Society for Regional Anesthesia (AFSRA) – 2025
- Asociación Latinoamericana de Anestesia Regional (LASRA) – 2025

#### **8. Termination of Membership (Professor Falcão)**

No members were presented for termination at this meeting.

#### **9. Treasurer's Report (Professor Habre)**

Professor Habre presented the financial report for the last year. (See slides 64-82 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.

Proposals for the following were made and voted on:

- **Resolution to discharge from liabilities the Board for their management during the 2025 fiscal year:** Approved with 95% in favour.
- **Resolution to note 2025 annual report:** Approved with 98% in favour.
- **Resolution to approve the 2026 budget:** Approved with 99 % in favour.
- **Resolution to assign auditor for 2026 fiscal year:** Approved with 100 % in favour.



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- **Resolution to approve delay of accounts for 2025 fiscal year until June 2026:**  
Approved with 98 % in favour.

Professor Habre noted that we have slowly increased the memberships dues rate over time with the General Assembly's approval and introduced the dues proposal for 2027 and 2028. noted that had dues kept in line with inflation they would currently be around USD 12 per member. He further noted that following a request made in 2024, the Board has looked into the possibility of a differentiated dues rate. This would not be feasible or sensible for the Federation and a uniform rate will therefore be kept.

**Motion: To approve the WFSA subscription per individual society member increases at a rate of \$0.35 for 2027 and 2028 for all members:**

**2027 – USD 4.95**

**2028 – USD 4.95**

***Approved by majority***

***For: 81.36 %***

***Against: 18.64 %***

Professor Habre outlined a historical tax issue the Federation is handling in the United Kingdom with the help of PricewaterhouseCoopers. He noted that a voluntary disclosure of said issue has been made to the UK tax authorities and that the Board hopes to have further news of this to share for the Extraordinary General Assembly to be held on 28 June this year.

## **10. Approval of membership of WFSA Committees (Dr Evans)**

Dr Evans 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 97 % in favour.***

## **11. Election of President-Elect of the WFSA (Prof. Filipescu)**



Prof. Filipescu presented the voting procedure for the Presidential election, noting that there was one candidate standing for President-Elect. Dr Balavenkatasubramanian Jagannathan addressed the General Assembly and then all delegates voted.

**Results:** Proposal to appoint Dr Balavenkatasubramanian Jagannathan 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 2028. **Approved with 94% in favour.**

## **12. Election of the Board Officers for 2026-28 (Prof. Filipescu)**

Prof. Filipescu presented the candidate, noting that there were no contested positions which may require a run-off election to ensure that one candidate receive a majority of votes.

Proposal to appoint Prof. Luiz Fernando Falcão as member of the Board with title Secretary for a term starting on the day of registration with the Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028. **Approved with 98% in favour.**

Proposal to appoint Dr Kathleen Ferguson as member of the Board with title Treasurer for a term starting on the day of registration with the Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028. **Approved with 98 % in favour.**

Proposal to appoint Dr Sean Chetty as member of the Board with title Director of Programmes for a term starting on the day of registration with the Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028. **Approved with 100 % in favour.**

Proposal to appoint Dr Pedro Ibarra as member of the Board with title Director of Memberships for a term starting on the day of registration with the Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028. **Approved with 93 % in favour.**

Proposal to appoint Dr Faye Evans as member of the Board with title Director of Partnerships for a term starting on the day of registration with the Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands and ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028. **Approved with 97 % in favour.**



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The following were elected to the WFSA Board for 2026-28 where they will join Dr Carolina Haylock-Loor who assumes the Presidency following her election as President-Elect at the March 2024 General Assembly:

- President-Elect: Dr Balavenkatsubramanian Jagannathan, India
- Treasurer: Dr Kathleen Ferguson, Great Britain & Ireland
- Secretary: Professor Luiz Fernando Falcao, Brazil
- Director of Programmes: Dr Sean Chetty, South Africa
- Director of Partnerships: Dr Faye Evans, USA
- Director of Memberships: Dr Pedro Ibarra, Colombia

### **13. Election of the members of the Council 2026-2028 (Prof. Filipescu)**

Prof. Filipescu 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 6 candidates (in alphabetical order by country):

**Nesrine Refai, Egypt – Vanda Abi Raad, Lebanon – Mohamed Adnane Berdai, Morocco – Elizabeth Ogboli Nwasor, Nigeria – Abdullahi Said Hashi, Somalia – Sompwe Mwansa, Zambia**

Dr Abi Raad, Dr Berdai and Dr Mwansa were elected to Council by the regional vote and put to the full General Assembly for approval:

Proposal to appoint Vanda Abi Raad as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Africa & Middle East for the term 2026-28, ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028.

Proposal to appoint Mohamed Adnane Berdai as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Africa & Middle East for the term 2026-28, ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028.



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Proposal to appoint Sompwe Mwansa as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Africa & Middle East for the term 2026-28, ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028.

## **b) Asia**

The delegates from the region then proceeded to vote for 4 of the 5 candidates (in alphabetical order):

**Hailong Dong, China – Naveen Malhotra, India – Hiroshi Morimatsu, Japan – Hasmizy Bin Muhammad, Malaysia – Kumudini Ranatunga, Sri Lanka**

Dr Dong, Dr Malhotra, Dr Muhammad and Dr Ranatunga were elected to Council by the regional vote and put to the full General Assembly for approval:

Proposal to appoint Hailong Dong as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Asia for the term 2026-28, ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028.

Proposal to appoint Naveen Malhotra as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Asia for the term 2026-28, ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028.

Proposal to appoint Hasmizy Bin Muhammad as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Asia for the term 2026-28, ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028.

Proposal to appoint Kumudini Ranatunga as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Asia for the term 2026-28, ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028.

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

The delegates from the region then proceeded to vote for 1 of the 1 candidates:

**Christopher Bowden, Australia**

Was elected to Council by the regional vote and put to the full General Assembly for approval:



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Proposal to appoint Dr Christopher Bowden as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Australia, New Zealand & the Pacific Islands for the term 2026-28, ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028.

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

The delegates from the region then proceeded to vote for 2 of the 3 candidates (in alphabetical order by country):

**Nicolás Sergi, Argentina – Catia Govêia, Brazil – Rodrigo Rubio, Mexico**

Dr Sergi and Dr Govêia were elected to Council by the regional vote and put to the full General Assembly for approval:

Proposal to appoint Nicolás Sergi as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Central and South America, Mexico and the Caribbean Islands for the term 2026-28, ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028.

Proposal to appoint Catia Govêia as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Central and South America, Mexico and the Caribbean Islands for the term 2026-28, ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028.

#### **e) Europe**

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

**Vladimir Cerny, Czech Republic – Leonard Azamfirei, Romania – Miodrag Milenovic, Serbia – Marina Varela Duran, Spain – Aykut Saritas, Türkiye**

Dr Cerny, Dr Azamfirei and Dr Saritas were elected to Council by the regional vote and put to the full General Assembly for approval:

Proposal to appoint Vladimir Cerny as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Europe for the term 2026-28, ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028.

Proposal to appoint Leonard Azamfirei as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Europe for the term 2026-28, ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028.



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Proposal to appoint Aykut Saritas as member of the Council with title Regional Representative Europe for the term 2026-28, ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028.

## f) North America

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

### **Ronald George, 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 Ronald George as member of the Council with title Regional Representative North America for the term 2026-28, ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028.

Proposal to appoint Dr Elizabeth Drum as member of the Council with title Regional Representative North America for the term 2026-28, ending at the closing of the General Assembly to be held in 2028.

**All Council Regional Representatives were then ratified by the full General Assembly with 99% in favour.**

## 14 Open Forum

Three statements were made by delegates. Discussions are briefly outlined below:

- **Why some countries are not members of the WFSA and what barriers prevent their participation.**

It was explained that the main challenges include the absence of national anaesthesiology societies in some countries, the presence of non-physician-led societies in others, and difficulties in communication or maintaining contact due to leadership changes or limited organisational structures. WFSA is addressing these issues through outreach and support via regional representatives, aiming to help establish physician-led national societies and improve global engagement.

- **Inequities in WFSA Congress registration fees based on World Bank income classifications.**



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It was noted that the current system places some lower-middle-income countries at a disadvantage, as colleagues may face disproportionately high costs relative to local income levels, resulting in reduced participation and barriers to access for education and networking opportunities.

In response, it was explained that the WFSA has maintained reduced fees for low- and middle-income countries and higher fees for high-income countries. The choice of venue and hybrid/on-demand access options were intended to improve accessibility. However, it was acknowledged that unforeseen travel costs, particularly airfare for delegates from Africa, remain a significant barrier. The WFSA also highlighted efforts to expand scholarships and increase financial support for participants from low-resource settings and reaffirmed its commitment to improving equitable access and participation.

- **Concerns about physician wellbeing in Latin America, reporting recent deaths among anaesthesia residents and highlighting high rates of burnout, depression, substance use, and workforce shortages.**

A delegate stressed the impact on patient safety and called for stronger prevention, education, and systemic support, particularly in low-resource settings.

In response, WFSA acknowledged awareness of these concerns in Latin America and confirmed that its Wellbeing committee is working with member societies to develop appropriate support measures and address physician wellbeing globally.

Accurately recorded as approved by:

Dr Balavenkatasubramanian, WFSA Secretary  
Kristine Stave, Chief Executive Officer