



## **MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS HELD ON 24 AUGUST 2023**

In accordance with the Notice of Extraordinary Congress dated June 22, 2023 and noting the prior consent of federations to proceed with the Extraordinary Congress on an urgent basis, the Extraordinary Congress proceeded on a virtual basis via Zoom commencing at 7:00 pm Eastern Time.

Present were:

Maureen Croes, President  
David de Vlieger, Secretary Treasurer  
Van Donkersgoed, Vice President  
Luiz Fernando Coelho, Vice President  
Brenda Villa, EC Member  
Rafael Radhames Tavares, EC Member  
Virginia Jasontek, EC Member  
Margo Mountjoy, EC Member  
Ivonne Shoucair, Executive Director  
Mel Goldstein, Financial Director  
Jay Thomas, Chair PAQ SW Committee, Special Moderator

National Federations in Attendance:

Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, US Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts & Nevis, Suriname, Turks & Caicos, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay, United States of America, Venezuela, St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Special Guests included:

AQUA Treasurer Dale Neuberger  
AQUA Bureau Members Algernon Cargill (delegate), Ana Fortin, Cheryl Gibson and Victoria Stanham (delegate)

## **1. Accreditation of Delegates and Roll Call of National Federations**

The Secretary Treasurer proceeded with the roll call of federations in accordance with the notices provided by the federations. All nations listed above were present at the outset of Congress.

## **2. Declaration of Quorum**

The Secretary Treasurer reported that with 45 Members present, with all four zones represented, there was a legal quorum in accordance with Article 18 of the Constitution and declared the Extraordinary Congress properly constituted.

## **3. Opening remarks and Welcome**

The President welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Special mention was made of the exemplary attendance of 45 members in attendance – believed to be a first in the Organization's history.

The President reviewed the circumstances and steps pre-dating this Congress, noting that AQUA had requested all Continental Organizations to ensure their Constitutions were compliant with recent amendments to the AQUA Constitution by the end of this calendar year. She referenced the formation of a special independent committee to review and recommend changes to the PAQ Constitution and thanked its members: Darren Kane, Diana Dominguez, Pablo Barahona Fuentes, Ronald Corke, Dale Neuberger and Bill Shaw – aided by PAQ Executive Liaison Van Donkersgoed. The President noted that since the first draft of the Constitution was circulated in early June there had been significant discussion and input resulting in some changes to the draft – and improving the document. She provided a brief summary of major issues and noted the pre-approval of AQUA to the proposed amendments.

The President expressed regrets on behalf of FINA President Husain Al Musallam and Executive Director Brent Nowicki who were unable to attend, but did send a video message that was played for the participants. Mr. Nowicki welcomed everyone and noted that PAQ was on the verge of being the first Continental Organization to comply with the new AQUA Constitution. He noted the advancements in governance reflected in the proposed amendments and asked the national federations to support the amendments being put forward.

#### **4. Presentation, Discussion and Vote on Constitutional Amendments**

Mr. Jay Thomas acted as the moderator of the discussion and voting process. Mr. Thomas started by reviewing the etiquette and rules, as had been made available to the federations in advance. Voting then proceeded in accordance with those rules, starting with a call for any discussion on individual chapters by individually naming all X chapters to see if any members wished to pull a chapter to allow debate prior to a vote. Chapter 10 was pulled by the moderator noting a clerical error that needed to be corrected. No other chapters were pulled.

A question was raised by Mr. Cargill, delegate for Bahamas, recommending that the moderator ask the delegates to vote to approve proceeding by way of a virtual meeting over Zoom and requesting that the vote proceed by secret ballot. He noted such steps could help shield the process from future challenge, and stated he was raising a point of order. The Moderator ruled that the process presented was in order and would proceed, noting it was consistent with process followed by AQUA.

The final version presented to the Extraordinary Congress is attached as Exhibit A.

*MOTION: Be it resolved that all chapters of the amended Constitution, save Chapter 10, as presented at this Extraordinary Congress be taken en masse and approved.*

*Moved: Puerto Rico – Fernando Delgado  
Seconded: Cayman Islands – Steve Broadbelt*

*Passed: 88 in favour, 2 abstentions – votes from all 4 zones*

Chapter 10 – The moderator noted that a clerical omission had been made in respect of Article 46 as circulated, and presented the proposed amendments on the screen. Congress approved, by majority vote including all 4 zones, to proceed with a vote to amend Article 46 as presented.

*MOTION: Be it resolved that Article 46 of the proposed Constitution be amended as presented.*

*Moved: Puerto Rico – Fernando Delgado  
Seconded: Cayman Islands – Steve Broadbelt*

*Passed by special majority including all 4 zones*

## 5. Adjournment

There being no other matters on the agenda, the President wished thanked the federations for their support and participation, the special committee for their efforts, and the Executive Committee for their support and adjourned the Extraordinary Congress.

**Prepared by:**

David de Vlieger



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**Secretary Treasurer**

**Confirmed By:**

Maureen Croes



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**President**