



## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### **22<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting – Dubrovnik, Croatia, May 2022**

Dear All,

I am happy to welcome the new Council members to this first Council meeting in person.

Firstly, let me say that our thoughts go out to members of the Gymnastics community who cannot be here. Right now, there are Ukrainian Gymnastics members who are scared that their families may be killed in the war. We must also not forget the Russian and Belarusian athletes, who are confused and unable to participate in international competitions.

As Council members, I expect you to treat members of all Gymnastics communities with the same respect. As I always say, I would ask you, in your thoughts and discussions at Council meetings, to show equal respect to all Gymnastics communities around the world and not to take into consideration your own interests, federations and continents.

#### **Russia's invasion of Ukraine**

I would like to start by explaining the FIG's decisions in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The decisions made by the Executive Committee followed the IOC's stance. By invading Ukraine, Russia violated the Olympic Truce, and we cannot accept this violation.

Gymnasts from Russia and Belarus have not been allowed to participate in international competition since 7 March. This is not a sanction; it is a protective measure. Following the invasion, strong anti-Russian and anti-Belarusian resentment emerged in many countries, making it impossible to guarantee the safety of athletes and officials. The purpose is not to eliminate gymnasts from Russia and Belarus. The purpose is to give the priority to the safety of gymnasts and competitions.

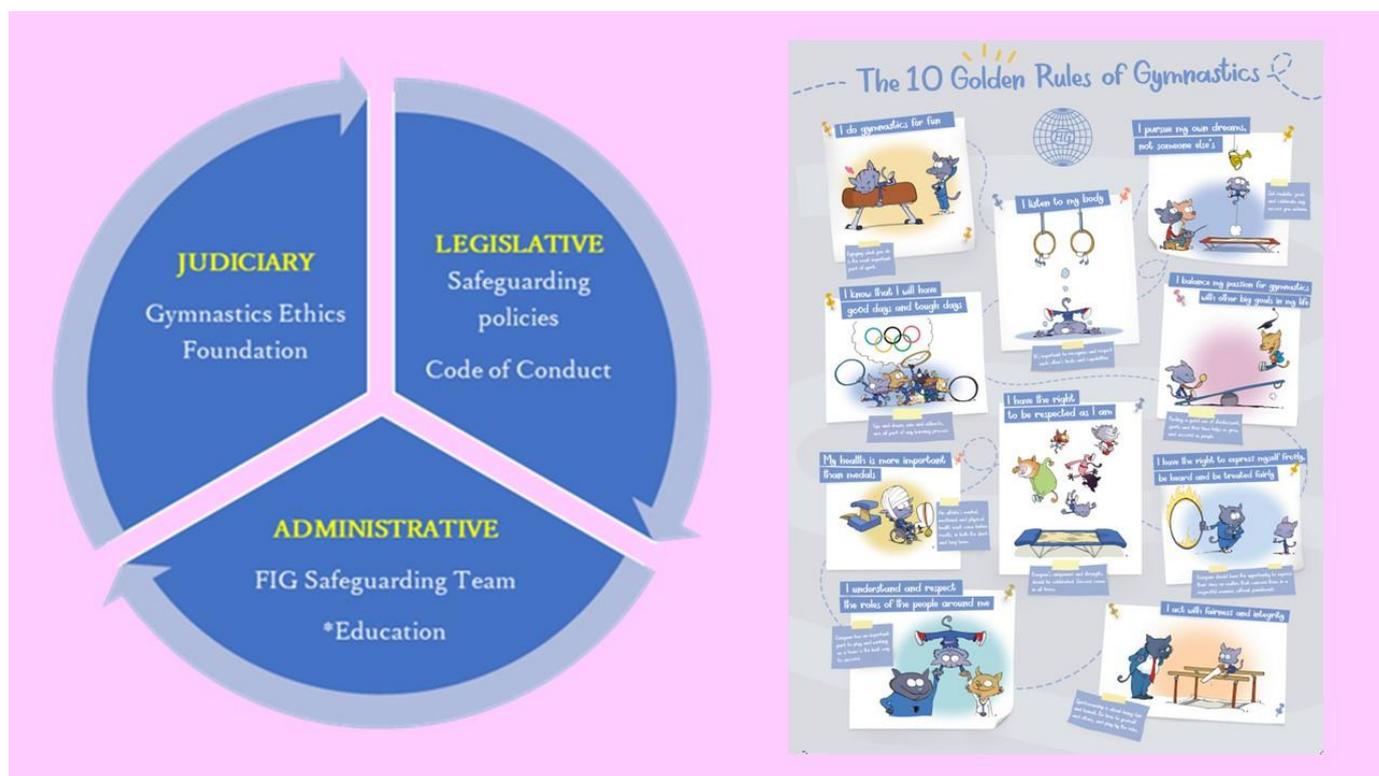
However, the FIG will never tolerate any act in support of the war at Gymnastics events. The FIG should and will impose strict punishments against those who take part in such acts. They will be severely punished, as the Disciplinary Commission of the Gymnastics Ethics Foundation did with a young Russian gymnast who stood on the podium at the Doha World Cup.

I believe that punishment must be individual, not for an entire organisation. War crimes are also punished individually. Unnecessary punishments create new hatred. When the war eventually ends, we must minimise whatever hatred might remain. I think we should avoid allowing hatred to be part of the future of the Gymnastics family.

Some have questioned why the FIG did not decide to exclude Russian and Belarusian officials. That is because officials from international organisations have duties. When you are elected as a member of an international organisation, your position is not based on your country of origin. Basically, you are in a neutral position. Without this policy, international organisations cannot exist. That is why neither the United Nations nor the IOC has excluded Russia or Belarus. And above all, international organisations must make efforts to maintain, not to cut, a channel with Russia and Belarus. The FIG, as an international organisation, will convey our views to the Russian and Belarusian officials. And we, the FIG, must also listen to their opinions.

After the war, we must all be one team again. Otherwise, we cannot create a bright future.

### Harassment by coaches

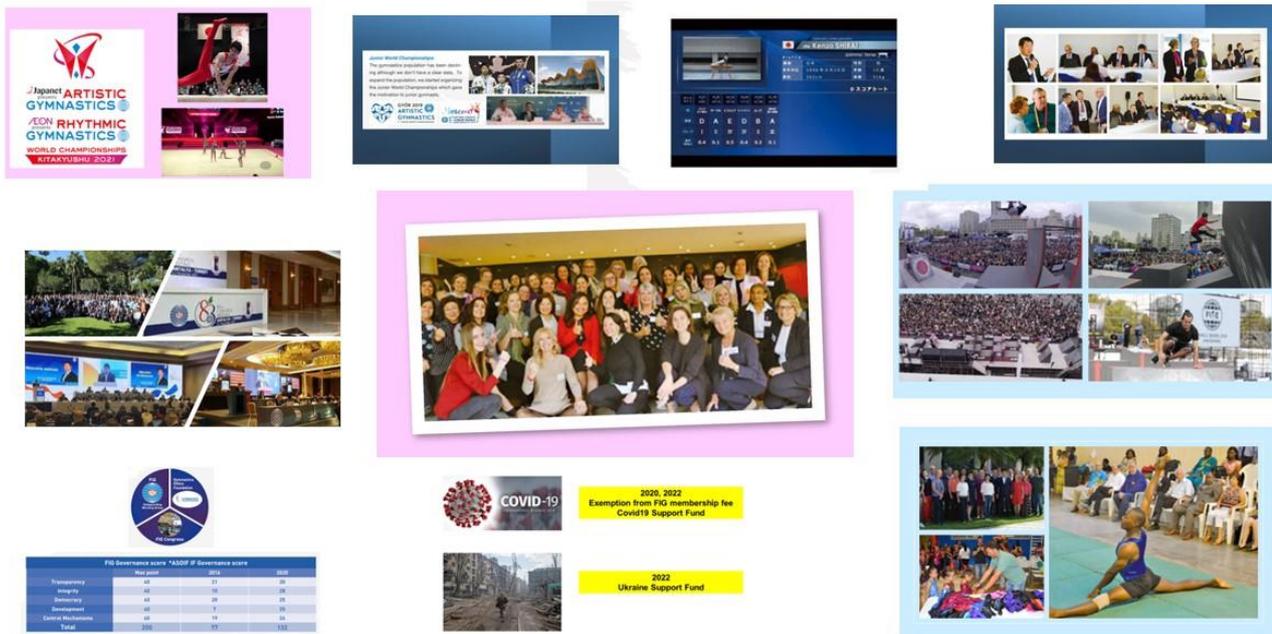


The IOC has begun to address harassment by coaches on a full scale. This is not only an issue for the sporting community, but will be treated as an international human rights issue and a children’s rights issue. It is a problem that exists in all sports. But unfortunately, Gymnastics is perceived as the main offender on the issue of harassment by coaches. I think that this is an opportunity. Problems of harassment still exist underground in many countries. The wound will not heal unless we let the pus out. It is important to remain strong in our convictions to bring everything to light and make a fresh start. The FIG will take the lead in proposing solutions and putting forward good practices.

### Our challenges in the last cycle

I would like to review the challenges we addressed during the last cycle. We should not forget that this cycle was in a way shortened, as the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our daily lives and prevented us from running our activities for two years.

# 11 Challenges (2017-2021)



There were 11 challenges, four of which were related to improving governance:

- The FIG decided to pay for the participation expenses of member federations at the Congress.
- The FIG established the Women in Sports Commission to promote gender equality – it was renamed the Gender Equality Commission in 2019.
- The FIG organised coaches' round tables at all the World Championships to hear coaches' opinions and better take them into consideration in the FIG's operations.
- The FIG established the Gymnastics Ethics Foundation, with the aim of having an independent body in charge of fighting injustice and harassment.

As a result, the FIG's score in the governance assessment for international federations led by the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) has nearly doubled in four years.



| FIG Governance score *ASOIF IF Governance score |            |           |            |
|---|------------|-----------|------------|
|   | Max point  | 2016      | 2020       |
| Transparency                                    | 40         | 21        | 30         |
| Integrity                                       | 40         | 10        | 28         |
| Democracy                                       | 40         | 20        | 25         |
| Development                                     | 40         | 7         | 25         |
| Control Mechanisms                              | 40         | 19        | 24         |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>200</b> | <b>77</b> | <b>132</b> |

Two challenges related to enhancing Gymnastics' development:

- We held the Executive Committee meeting in a developing country once a year, so that members can get a better understanding of the situations in developing countries with their own eyes.
- The FIG established two funds: the Covid-19 Support Fund and the Ukraine Support Fund. We will continue to respect and support each other in case of an emergency of this kind.



**2020, 2022**  
**Exemption from FIG membership fee**  
**Covid19 Support Fund**



**2022**  
**Ukraine Support Fund**

Four challenges related to sporting events:

- The FIG organised the first Junior World Championships in Artistic and Rhythmic Gymnastics. The Junior World Championships help to raise the motivation of junior gymnasts.
- The FIG introduced Parkour as an urban sport. One of the current projects is to take part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan through the development of Parkour. In the same way Parkour has become popular among young people in Syria in recent years, it can help to promote the physical and mental health of young people in Afghanistan.
- The FIG implemented the Judging Support System, developed by Fujitsu, to enhance the transparency and integrity of scoring. Fujitsu has become a new sponsor of the FIG, providing financial support.
- For the first time, the Artistic and Rhythmic World Championships were held back-to-back in the same city: Kitakyushu, Japan. Having all the World Championships in the same place over the same period is an avenue to explore in light of the advantages and positive results obtained.



The last challenge was raising the presence of Gymnastics within the Olympic movement. This presence has been clearly reinforced since, as FIG President, I became an IOC member in 2018 and was elected as a member of the ASOIF Council.

### **FIG strategy for the medium and long terms**

I think that it is important to put Gymnastics at the centre of society. The disciplines of Gymnastics are magnificent sports. Gymnastics is at the foundation of humankind's physical abilities.

The proportion of elderly people compared to young children in the world's population has been increasing. The population aged 65 and over has now exceeded the population aged 5 and under. We can observe that the global birth rate is declining. It is not medicine that can maintain the health of seniors – it's Gymnastics.

I am convinced that in a near future Gymnastics will be at the centre of society. I believe Gymnastics has three main responsibilities in society:

- One is the future of children.
- One is the health of the elderly.
- The third is Gymnastics as a sporting event.

## **The mission of Gymnastics**

### **Promote people's health**



#### **Children**

*Children's health will be the health of the country in the future*



#### **Elderly people**

*Help to reduce social security costs*



#### **Top athletes** **Advertising**

*Top athletes become the hope and power of their country*

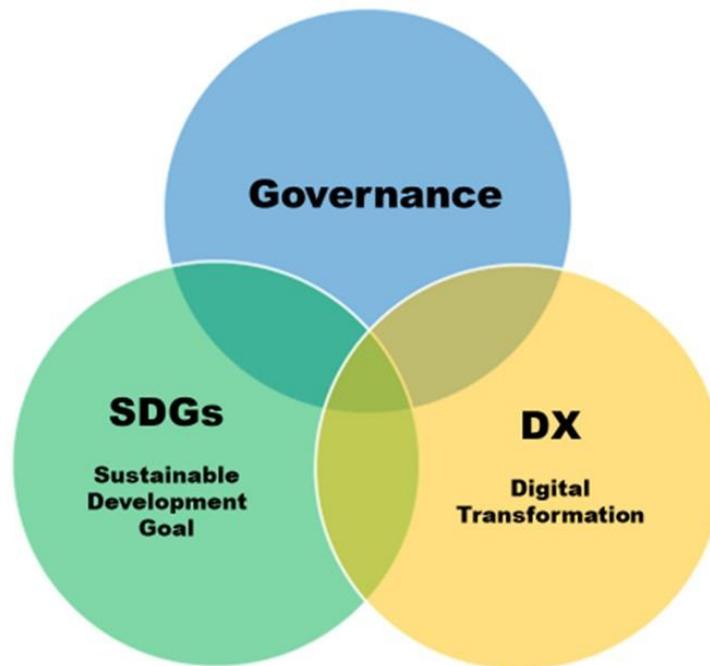
Most of the time Gymnastics is discussed only as entertainment. I do not think that is good. If that were the case, the FIG would be just an events company. The FIG must put forward how Gymnastics can contribute to society; that is our real asset.

Senses of values and standards in the world have changed with COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine. For example, something happened during the Tokyo 2020 Games that had never happened before. Viewing figures were higher on the internet than on TV. Another of the biggest changes was that people also started to show more interest in demonstrations of friendship and solidarity than in competitions.

People started to express more interest in the ways athletes cared for their competitors and respected each other

than in the ways they competed for gold medals. Of course, we had already seen nice stories in previous Olympics, but they became much more significant during Tokyo 2020 under COVID-19. Some sponsors will now shift their support away from the Olympics to the Paralympics. I am sure that people's sense of values in the matter of sports has been changing. When the world changes, we must also change. If we refuse to change, we will decline.

In view of these new trends, I would like to carry out a reform of the FIG based on three pillars. The first pillar is Governance; the second is Digital Transformation (DX); the third is the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



- **Governance**

One initiative is to enhance the integrity of Gymnastics when looking at the FIG from the outside. The Gymnastics Ethics Foundation has been established. We must be a role model for society by enhancing the sense of ethics in all our member federations.

Another priority is to strengthen our internal organisation. We must question whether it is right to select Technical Committee members through political elections. The election system also needs to be reformed. Also, our old Statutes will be overhauled to be clearer and to enable the FIG to operate in line with the current times.

- **Digital transformation in Gymnastics**

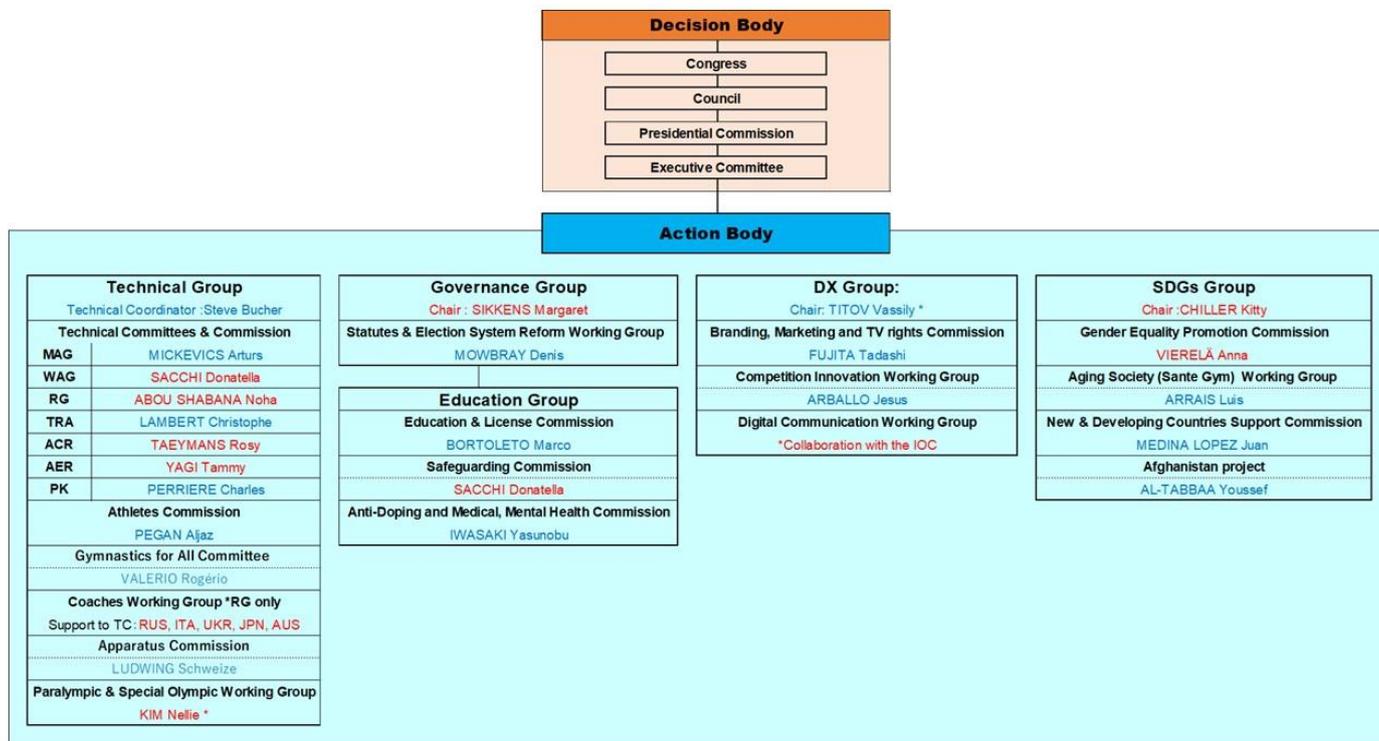
Through DX, information technology and reality will be merged and integrated, gradually leading to a new change. As the era of television, which has been the mainstream media until now, is coming to an end, our challenge is to improve the values of Gymnastics in digital society. The relationship between the FIG and the Gymnastics family must also be enhanced through a wider use of digital technology.

- **Sustainable Development Goals**

The FIG promoted some of the SDGs at the Artistic Gymnastics World Championships in Kitakyushu. The IOC also strongly suggested the promotion of SDGs in its Agenda 2020 + 5. The SDGs are initiatives that all organisations around the world must address in order to create a sustainable world. We need to create a sustainable Gymnastics world for future generations.

I would like to build an organisation based on these three pillars to carry out our activities. We have deliberative and decision-making bodies, with the Congress being at the top and, right underneath it, the Council, the Executive Committee and the Presidential Commission.

I propose that, in addition to the above, we set up action bodies – either commissions or working groups – to support the achievement of the goals in each of the pillars.



My intention is to appoint to these action bodies as many people as possible who are not part of the decision-making bodies, because all over the world, there are young people who want to contribute to the development of Gymnastics. They have a lot of wonderful ideas and passion. I want to give them a chance. It is crucial to gather ideas and passion from all over the world.

To conclude, I would like to ask for your support so that the Gymnastics communities of the world can work together as one team. Thank you very much for your collaboration !