

Dear honourable presidents of the GAC, vice presidents, delegates, alternate delegates and observers, ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to welcome you here in Lausanne and to address you in person, after three years of Zoom meetings due to Covid. I think you will agree that we have all missed the personal contacts and meetings together.

So, this meeting is a special one. I hope that in the future we will have our regular face to face meetings again.

The year 2022 was the first aviation season for the GAC to be active again.

It started off with the FAI WPFC in Albi, France. Thank you to France for hosting a very successful championship. A special thank you to FFA and the championship director, Philippe Muller, and his team for the organization. It was wonderful to have the aviation family together again.

The 2nd event in 2022 was the FAI WRFC in Brits, South Africa.

This event was actually scheduled to take place in Stellenbosch in November 2020. Due to the Covid pandemic unfortunately SA was forced to postpone it twice.

The FAI WRFC were then re-scheduled to take place in November 2022 in Brits SA.

Thank you to SAPFA (South African Power Flying Association) for hosting this event. A special thank you to the championship director, Rob Jonkers and his team for his tremendous input and never giving up, to make this event possible.

I hope that in the coming years we will be able to continue with our regular and planned competitions.

I urge all the countries and their delegates to come forward with bids for future competitions, to keep our aviation sport alive.

For your information -I attended all the monthly commission presidents Zoom meetings under the leadership of the FAI president, David Monks.

The GAC bureau and extended bureau also had regular Zoom meetings to keep in touch and to discuss championships and related issues.

I have also attended the FAI General Conference, held as a Zoom meeting in November 2022

Art Greenfield attended the CASI meetings on behalf of the GAC.

I would like to thank my bureau Ralf Grunwald (Treasurer) Manfred Kunschitz (Secretary)

And the sub-committee chairmen Allen Hansen (Precision), Frank Eckard (Rally) Maurice Ducret (ANR) and Art Greenfield (Records) for their support and input for the last year.

We have changed our meeting schedule from November to February, this was on request of the FAI.

I would also like to thank the FAI bureau, under the leadership of the FAI secretary general Markus Haggerty for their support during the last year.

May the year ahead be a good and successful one.

And to all of you here, thank you for your presence and support.

My best wishes to you all for 2023 and safe flying!

Best Regards

Hans Schwebel
FAI/GAC President
06.02.2023