



Report of the Chair of the One FAI Working Group to the General Conference – 2019

The One FAI Working Group was originally established in August 2018 with five members and an open mandate to examine the future of FAI. The group was expanded in response to feedback at the 2018 General Conference to include two representatives of the Air Sport Commission Presidents, and subsequently the group was directed to focus on ways of responding to issues that had been identified in the FAI workshops in 2017 and 2018.

The Working Group held several teleconference meetings via Zoom, and one brief opportune meeting of six of the seven members in person. In hindsight, the extensive use of zoom rather than face-to-face meetings inhibited the open exchange of ideas and debate. Nonetheless, there were many avenues explored, including:

- the importance of making more FAI information accessible to more people; tailoring output for both inside FAI and outside FAI;
- what the role should be for the EB liaison to each Air Sport Commission (ASC);
- a need for better communication between the EB and the ASCs;
- whether there is sufficient communication on common interests between ASCs, and whether there really are many common interests; and
- whether the General Conference could become a more effective decision-making body.

The WG discussions were stimulating exchanges of information and views, leading to the following recommendations:

- The Aims and Objectives section of the Statutes should be updated and revised to ensure the objectives outlined during the August 2018 workshop are included. However, no specific revisions were developed by the WG.¹
- We all agreed that ASCs should be involved in decision-making on sporting matters, but could not reach consensus on the mechanics of how that should happen.

¹ The proposal from the 2018 workshop defined the objectives of FAI as: *determining and recognizing achievements and performances, developing and maintaining frameworks to support FAI events and achievements, and promoting and developing air sports. In a workshop of the EB last year the purpose of FAI was summarized as "Promotion of recreational and sports flying globally."*

- We quickly agreed that the agendas and minutes of EB meetings should be regularly shared with the ASCs and the NACs in a timely fashion. (*We have since learned that this is not as simple as it sounds.*)
- We all agreed that communications between and among the various parts of the FAI do not function well, although there is appreciation for recent improvement of general communication through vehicles such as the President's Musings. We also reached consensus that the FAI website is dysfunctional for any of our purposes, however we do not have a fully developed proposal to address the website issue and have concerns about the cost that would be involved in a significant revision.
- We considered two diagrams, including an older diagram of the structure and information flow of FAI and a new diagram of an innovative communications scheme that would have as many sources as possible feeding news of interest to any part of FAI into a central database where they would be compiled and distributed through a variety of channels, possibly with automated criteria or with basic moderation. This proposal would expand both the draw and distribution of information so that anyone involved in any aspect of any air sport would receive something of interest.
- We agreed that the communication that occurred concerning the WAG is an example of poor communication between parts of FAI. We cannot go back in time to undo mistakes that were made, but we can commit to doing better in future.
- Most of the group members agreed that many of the problems surrounding the roles and responsibilities within the organisation could be resolved if all parties fully understood and applied the Constitution as it stands.

As presented at last year's General Conference, there has also been significant work done on other aspects of One FAI outside the Working Group. A small group has drafted a handbook that is intended to support NACs and all other segments of FAI in understanding the various parts of FAI and how they work. Your input to that initiative is strongly encouraged. Another small group worked on the development of the Sporting Licence concept, which, as a first step, has resulted in the proposal to introduce the FAI Supporter Identity Card, to be discussed in the Statutes proposals presented to this General Conference. We also look forward to a preliminary discussion of the concept of a Sports ID and Officials ID. In addition, Members, ASC Presidents and FAI delegates are now being sent a quarterly information digest intended to improve communications. Your feedback on this initiative is encouraged.

I acknowledge that a working group need not reach consensus on every point. Alternatively, it should strive to create a synthesis of ideas and develop those endorsed by a majority of members. As a group, however, we were unable to deliver consistent, viable outcomes at a strategic level. Subsequently, the two invited ASC presidents decided to withdraw from the

Working Group. The reason they provided was that the WG had failed to capitalise appropriately on the foundation work established in the preceding workshops held in 2018.

The difficulties the FAI is currently facing as an organisation seem to have overtaken the original idea behind this initiative, so it makes sense that all resources should now be applied to re-focusing the organisation. I therefore recommend that the One FAI working group activity be terminated in favour of a wider organisational review, as signalled by the FAI President.

I sincerely thank all of the working group members for their efforts and for their contribution to the discussions. I know that we would have preferred to have developed innovative solutions for all of the issues. Instead we advanced our understanding of the variety of perspectives on those issues, and I believe that will assist us in the work ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Stevens