

ASBC Extraordinary Congress
October 14, 2023
Bangkok-Thailand

1. Opening Speech by ASBC Secretary General Ali Salameh

Mr. Ali Salameh opens with a warm welcome, thanks the host, Thailand Boxing Federation for its hospitality. He extends a warm welcome to President of ASBC Mr. Pichai Chunchavajira, and legal counsel. And acknowledges the presence of the ASBC board of directors and ASBC staff. He informs all present that this meeting is recorded and broadcast live. Mr. Ali Salameh clearly goes over all procedures of the congress, and the instructions for a manual voting process and who is eligible to vote. He then presents the agenda for the day.

2. Meeting agenda

ASBC Secretary General Mr. Ali Salameh presents the agenda and asked anyone if had anything to add to the agenda:

- 1: Opening Speech by the ASBC President**
- 2: Welcoming Speech by the Local Organising Committee (LOC)**
- 3: Roll Call**
- 4: Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes**
- 5: Approval of the ASBC Annual Report 2022**
- 6: Discussion of the Ongoing Situation between IBA and IOC**
- 7: Appointment of Mr. Chaiwat Chowtime as ASBC Honorary Vice President**
- 8: Closing Speech by the ASBC President**

The **Secretary General of Pakistan** makes a motion to move agenda item number 7 to be discussed before agenda item number 6. The **UAE Delegate** seconds the motion, and Mr. Ali Salameh calls for a vote to amend the order of items on the agenda.

The Motion to change agenda order is passed by a Majority vote.

Mr. Ali Salameh instructs colleagues to change the agenda order and the presentation of the meeting accordingly. He also highlights that this agenda was sent to all National Federations two months ago and ASBC had not received any comments or additions on the agenda.

Mr. Ali Salameh welcomes ASBC President Mr. Pichai Chunhavajira for his opening speech.

3. Opening Speech by ASBC President

ASBC President Mr. Pichai Chunhavajira, thanks all delegations for coming to Bangkok for this important congress. And mentions that it is an unsure time for the boxing community as the IOC has chosen not to recognise the International Boxing Association (IBA), he is confident that today the right discussions and decisions will be made. He also congratulates the boxers who earned their Olympic spot at the 19th Asian Games. And closes by thanking everyone for their support and commitment, he hopes for a productive congress.

Mr. Ali Salameh invites the LOC, Mr. Chaiwat Chowtime from the Thailand Boxing Federation for his welcoming speech.

4. Welcoming Speech by Mr. Chaiwat Chowtime

Mr. Chaiwat Chowtime welcomes everyone on behalf of the Thailand Boxing Federation to the beautiful city of Bangkok for the ASBC Extraordinary Congress. He thanks the Asian Boxing Confederation for entrusting them with the responsibility of hosting the congress. And highlights that it is a testament to Thailand's rich boxing culture and history, he wishes all a pleasant and productive congress.

3. Roll Call

Mr. Ali Salameh, the ASBC Secretary General, welcomes all delegations and proceeds with roll call by stating that ASBC is comprised of 43 national federations, and he will call in the order of countries. As each federation is called the delegate should raise their hand to indicate your presence.

Afghanistan	Present
Bahrain	Present
Bangladesh	Present
Bhutan	Present
Brunei	Present
Cambodia	Present
China	Present
Chinese Taipei	Present
Korea	Absent
East Timor	Absent
Hong Kong	Present

India	Present
Indonesia	Present
Iran	Present
Iraq	Present
Japan	Present
Jordan	Present
Kazakhstan	Present
Kuwait	Present
Kyrgyz republic	Absent
Laos	Present
Lebanon	Absent
Macau	Present
Malaysia	Present
Mongolia	Present
Myanmar	Present
Nepal	Present
Pakistan	Present
Palestine	Absent
Philippines	Present
Qatar	Absent
Saudi Arabia	Present
Singapore	Present
Sri Lanka	Present
Syria	Present
Tajikistan	Present
Thailand	Present
Turkmenistan	Present
United Arab Emirates	Present
Uzbekistan	Present
Vietnam	Absent
Yemen	Present

Mr. Ali Salameh announces that 35 National Federations are present, which is 84%. He declares to the President that there is Quorum.

4. Approve previous minutes of meeting

Mr. Ali Salameh proceeds to review the minutes of the previous ASBC General Assembly held on March 12, 2022, in Amman, Jordan. And mentioned, these minutes were sent to all members two months ago, and no objections or changes have been received thus far.

The summary was an overview of the key points discussed and decisions made during the 2022 General Assembly.

1. The majority of the voting delegates voted in favour to approve the Administration Report 2021- till March 2022
2. The majority of the voting delegates voted in favour to approve the Financial Report 2021- till March 2022
3. The majority of the voting delegates voted in favour to discharge the current board.
4. Regarding the ASBC Election: After counting the whole ballots publicly, Mr Bader Alhammadi ASBC Ethics Commission Chairman, declared the winner and the new ASBC President Mr Pichai Chunhavajira from Thailand who won by 18 votes against 11 votes to Mr Saken Polatov from Uzbekistan and one failed ballot due to multiple selections. Mr Bader Alhammadi announced that there are 11 eligible candidates and all of them won by acclamation.

Mr. Ali Salameh clarified that the meeting minutes had been sent to all and opened the floor to any questions regarding these minutes.

There were no comments, and he proposed all delegates vote.

Do you vote in favour of approving previous minutes of meeting?

The delegate from Iraq asked that before every vote, the information be translated in Arabic for clarification. Mr. Ali Salameh proceeds to translate.

Mr. Ali Salameh declares the motion to approve the previous minutes of meeting is passed by majority.

5. APPROVAL OF THE ASBC ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Mr. Ali Salameh proceeds to the next point on the agenda, which is the approval of the ASBC Annual Report 2022. He mentions that the annual report was shared with all delegates two months ago, and no objections or changes have been received thus far.

He provides a summary of the ASBC Annual Report 2022. A summary of the three main parts of the report, Governance, Technical, and Financial, giving an overview of the key highlights and achievements in each area. He also points out that all of this information is public knowledge and can be found published on the ASBC website.

For the financial summary, the ASBC Finance Director, **Mr. Wail Elsadig** addresses the congress on the financial summary of the ASBC Annual Report 2022. He covered the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position, statement of cash flow and note of accounts.

Mr. Ali Salameh proceeds to open the floor to anyone who may have any questions and reiterates that this is all public information.

There were no comments, and he proposed all delegates vote.

Do you vote in favour of approving ASBC Annual Report 2022?

Mr Ali Salameh Announced the Motion is passed unanimously.

Mr. Ali Salameh thanks everyone for approving the Annual Report and announces that before moving onto the next point on the agenda he would like to congratulate the Uzbekistan Boxing Federation for being ranked number one in 2022 and receiving the most medals in that year. And he invites the Uzbekistan Delegate to come to the stage and receive his award from the ASBC President Mr. Pichai Chunhavajira.

6. APPOINTMENT OF ASBC HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT

ASBC Secretary **Mr. Ali Salameh** moves onto agenda item number six, which involves the appointment of Mr. Chaiwat Chowtime as ASBC Honorary Vice President.

Mr. Ali Salameh kindly requests Mr. Chaiwat Chowtime to temporarily leave the room while the members of the extraordinary congress discuss this point. He also highlights that as per the ASBC constitution, any appointments recommended by the board of directors must be voted upon and approved by the congress.

And he reminds the congress that the ASBC board of directors nominated Mr. Chaiwat Chowtime, the VP of the Thailand Boxing Federation for the position of Honorary Vice President. Mr. Ali Salameh discusses briefly the reasonings behind the nomination and opens the floor for **Mr. Pichai Chunhavajira** to say a few words on this nomination and why he proposes the position as Honorary Vice President.

Mr. Ali Salameh thanks ASBC President for his words and opens the floor up for discussion.

Mr. Anas Al Otaiba from UAE speaks on the integrity and credibility of Mr. Chowtime and agrees with this nomination.

The **delegate from Pakistan and India** also agree with the delegate from UAE, and support the motion to vote in favour of Mr. Chaiwat Chowtime as ASBC Honorary Vice President.

Mr. Ali Salameh ask the president if he may call for a vote on the nomination of Mr. Chaiwat Chowtime as ASBC Honorary Vice President. **Mr Pichai Chunhavajira** agrees to proceed.

Do you vote in favour of appointing Mr. Chaiwat Chowtime as Honorary ASBC Vice President (non-voting)?

The motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Chaiwat Chowtime as Honorary ASBC Vice President has passed unanimously.

Mr. Ali Salameh thanks everyone, and calls Mr. Chaiwat Chowtime to rejoin the room and congratulates him on his new position. Informing him that the congress voted unanimously on this point. He opens the floor to Mr. Chaiwat Chowtime to say a few words to the congress after his new appointment.

Mr. Ali Salameh requests a coffee break for 20 minutes before moving to the final agenda point of the meeting, ASBC President agrees to adjourn for the break.

The meeting is adjourned for a 20-minute break.

Mr. Ali Salameh returns to the congress and mentions that during the break the President of the Syrian Boxing Federation had a point he wanted to raise.

The floor is opened to **Mr. Mohammed (Syria Boxing Federation).**

Mr. Mohammed discusses how strong ASBC competitions are and that he is grateful for the integrity and high level of professionalism from ASBC's ITOs / R&Js. He states that ASBC makes every tournament with authority. He highlights that ITOs /R&Js come from other continents to the Asian competitions, however based on the stats in the Annual report – he wants to understand why they are not going to other continental championships. This is his question.

Mr. Ali Salameh thanks him and looks to answer the question from the ASBC stance on this situation. He mentions that to make confirm that all ASBC championships are transparent, ASBC decided a long time ago to make sure that there were a minimum of 50% neutral R&J and ITOs. Since Asia has such strong competitors, with a majority

of bouts being close – it is the intention of ASBC to have very high standard of criteria for selection – as well as taking into consideration gender equality. In line with the recommendation of the IOC, which is minimum of 30% in every championship. He highlights that he agrees the best officials in the world are from Asia, however he mentions that he is not able to answer for the other. He wants to be humble, but Asia's level is higher than anywhere else in the world. He understands the question, and he is in discussion with the European Confederation and hopes there will be more collaborations. That ASBC will keep an eye on the situation, and work towards it. When it comes to qualification events for the Olympics, it is headed by the Asian delegates, and the same for the World championships with IBA – most are from Asia as well.

ASBC Vice President Aziz Kozhambetov asks to speak on the matter. He agrees this is an important subject. He discusses the criteria for competitions. He mentions that one area of weakness for ASBC is the lack of evaluators and observers – and that this is something ASBC should address to get them qualified.

Mr. Ali Salameh continues the discussion by mentioning that the ASBC education programme is under way for all levels. He also highlights that Asia lacks women officials and asks the federations to encourage more women to qualify – to strengthen Asian officials. ASBC is ready to provide courses.

Proceeds to the last point on the agenda.

7. Discuss the ongoing situation between IOC and IBA

Mr. Ali Salameh opens by stating that he will provide a brief overview of the historical background between the IOC and IBA. This will enable delegates to have the necessary context for their deliberations. To note that he will present the information objectively, without any intention to influence their decision.

He starts by going through the boxing history timeline and highlighting that this situation has happened before to FIBA who was removed due to corruption and was replaced in a similar fashion by AIBA. He goes through the historical points from 1904 until June 2023.

1904 -Boxing In Olympic Games

1912 -Boxing Absent from Olympic due to Swedish law allegation

1920 -Official foundation of FIBA -Loss of credibility caused by the behaviour of some

leading officials

2004 -IOC freeze the funding comments on system of judging selection of the officials

2011 -Suspected results manipulation media allegation of money against medals

2016 -

- Objection on the results.
- New scoring system
- Strong criticism raised by athletes and media.
- 36 R&J suspended

2017 -Concerned about AIBA Governance, Management, Financials & sporting integrity.

2018 -IOC Suspension of all transaction financials freezing all contacts except working

2019 -AIBA suspended serious governance issue R & J issues -ethics & financials

2020 -IOC Monitoring progress: deadline - Tokyo

2021 -AIBA lack of progress in Governance

2021 -IOC Establish Road Map.

- AIBA to IBA

2022 -IOC Drop Boxing from LA 2028 Initially. IOC - Reform Required from IBA on the ongoing concern. Boxing task Force Created for 2024

2023 -Qualification System Published. IOC Mandated 3 External Expertise to IBA (PWC for Referring – EY For Finance -Ms Kendrah Potts for Haas' governance recommendations).

2023 -IOC BD Recommended to withdraw recognition from IBA.

- IOC Comprehensive report shared.
- IBA Reply to IOC

Mr. Ali Salameh concludes the points by discussing that in June 2023 the IOC withdrew recognition in accordance with Rule 3.7 of the Olympic Charter and on the same day ASBC Board of Directors met to form their recommendation. They decided to postpone all championships and to call an extraordinary congress to discuss the current situation.

IBA immediately opened a case against IOC and it is currently in progress. Which brings everyone here today at the Extraordinary Congress and make a final decision.

The two options are as follows for ASBC:

1. Continue with IBA or 2. Continue without IBA

Mr. Ali Salameh then states that is all he has to say on the subject, he has presented the facts and ASBC is ready to hear all the discussions.

He highlights again, that ASBC is neutral and not present to influence anyone's decision and that once all the deliberations have taken place, we will proceed with the vote.

ASBC President Mr. Pichai Chunhavajira speaks to all the delegates. That it is paramount to reach a decision and he believes that everyone has the information and data required. And that it is crucial to discuss together with respect and an open mind to all perspectives. He opens the floor for discussion, but firstly welcomes **Mr. Anas Al Otaiba from UAE** to open the discussion due to his experience with IBA and as the former ASBC President.

Mr. Anas Al Otaiba begins by thanking everyone as well as the Thailand Boxing Federation for hosting the meeting. He highlights that he respects the IOCs decision, and we must address this situation to find a solution that does not jeopardize the future of Asian athletes. Therefore, each shall put aside politics for them – so they may achieve their Olympic goals. He proposes these questions to all delegates to assist in their discussions.

1. Is it the right time to disengage from IBA?
2. What are the advantages or disadvantages of this discussion?
3. What other options are there right now? Boxing is at the heart of the Olympic movement.

These are his questions to all delegates.

Delegate from Uzbekistan, Mr. Malik speaks on this point. He thanks all of you for the award. He congratulates all who participated in Hangzhou. He proceeds to discuss the IOC and IBA situation. He highlights that Uzbekistan is one of the strongest boxing federations in the world, so their boxers are of the most importance to them. He speaks of the level of championships that IBA has produced recently and mentions that Tashkent was the event of the year. He discusses all the benefits of IBA with training, competitions and for coaches as well the option to fight for good prize money. He believes that IBA has great potential and doesn't see an alternative at this time. He believes that staying with IBA is the right decision at this time and to not rush into making decisions without options. That when there are strong boxing alternatives, this discussion should be reopened.

Delegate from Pakistan, Mr. Mohammed Naser takes the floor. Mr. Naser clarifies that he agrees with Mr. Malik from Uzbekistan that the situation is very critical and that we must protect our athletes. He states that as an organisation they are participating in events by IOC and by IBA, neither is stopping the athletes from participating. And as of today, there is no organisation recognised by the IOC. It is in his opinion that at this time, until a clear decision from IOC that ASBC should not disengage from IBA.

Delegate from India, Secretary General Mr. Hemanta Kalita takes the floor. He clarifies from India's position is to save the athletes. Like the previous colleagues expressed, that the main target is the Olympic Movement, however it is important to wait for clarity about IBA and a future boxing federation. ASBC is a powerhouse, and everyone is looking forward to the result of this meeting. He requests that we not forget that the Olympic movement is important and that the ASBC president keep this in mind, and that everyone moves forward together.

Delegate from Iraq Ali Takleef takes the floor in Arabic. Mr. Wael translates. The question he proposes to the congress is why R&Js from Asia aren't participating in other competitions outside of Asia.

Mr. Ali Salameh requests to answer him in Arabic and will translate to English. He clarifies that this question had been asked earlier, and he answered with the same information.

Mr. Ali Takleef continues his discussion in Arabic, and **Mr. Ali Salameh** translates. The question is why we should have neutral R&Js from other continents when we are the strongest continent and have good options here, no need for Neutral R&Js from other continents. **Mr. Ali Salameh** replies in Arabic and translates after to English. The answer is the same answer as was previously given and that he will forward this question to the Technical Commission.

Mr. Ali Salameh asks to continue the discussion on the IBA and IOC subject, opens the floor to the **delegate from Tajikistan**.

Delegate from Tajikistan opens by thanking everyone. And wants to briefly state that Tajikistan wants to continue working with IBA.

Delegate from UAE, Mr. Anas Al Otaiba takes the floor again. He states that based on the discussion and that he would like a motion to continue with the IBA until we have clarity on a future organisation.

Delegate from Indonesia requests the floor, he would like to ask ASBC to communicate with IBA because it is not easy to build an International Federation – if they leave IBA, where will ASBC go? So, he requests that communication with IBA and other Confederations be opened.

Mr. Ali Salameh highlights that there is a motion from the UAE Delegate. As Mr. Pichai Chunhavajira is the chair of the meeting, the power comes from him to decide the voting method. And he decided to have a secret ballot. **Mr. Ali Salameh** will explain the procedure while the ASBC staff will prepare the voting tables.

Mr. Ali Salameh asks that democracy reign, that others look at ASBC due to the strength of its unity. He asks that everyone moves forward together, stronger.

Motion put forward for the vote by UAE:

Continue with IBA until we have future clarity.

Mr. Pichai asks to clarify the details of the motion; he requests to ask what ASBC is waiting for – so there is clear direction.

Mr. Anas Al Otaiba agrees, and states that the motion should be:

Continue with IBA until IOC finds an alternative solution.

Mr. Aziz, Vice President of ASBC requests to add a clarification.

Until a new International Federation is recognised.

Mr. Ali Salameh clarifies the new motion:

Continue with IBA until a new International Federation is recognised by the IOC

Delegate from Japan has a question before moving to the vote. If there is an option to leave IBA, what will happen. There has been no talk of this. That ASBC should be discussing with IBA to discuss what the options for the future, that is what the ASBC

President should be doing, and they would the decision of ASBC President. He is worried that there are no discussions, and it is concerning. And that ASBC President should be discussing with other Confederations before deciding.

ASBC President Mr. Pichai replies by clarifying, he also points out he is happy to open the floor for discussion of 'moving without IBA'.

Mr. Ali Salameh clarifies that the motion answers the question. That there is not a closed door to IBA, and there is daily work with them. ASBC has no issue with any organisation including IOC or IBA. The importance of the congress today is to make any decision in unity.

Delegate from Japan replies that he would appreciate if regional federations and ASBC could discuss how to solve the issues that IOC has with IBA.

Ali Salameh clarifies that ASBC does not have the power or position to discuss the IOC decision and if so, should have been done before. This discussion is now based on the consequences of the IOC decision. The only way to find a resolution is through the ballot and proposes that Mr. Pichai Chunchavajira meet directly with Japan to discuss this important matter and the next steps forward.

Ms. Carina delegate from Philippines takes the floor and asks for clarification on what happens if ASBC resigns from IBA. And if staying with IBA, what happens between ASBC and the IOC?

Mr. Ali Salameh replies that the IOC has not answered this question. They made the decision to withdraw recognition of IBA but they did not give any direction. ASBC contacted IOC and they have yet to give an answer.

Delegate from Philippines asks again, that if to move forward without IBA, can ASBC exist independently?

Mr. Ali Salameh replies that it opens a lot of legal issues concerning who governs and observes tournaments – that legal amendments would need to be made. Which is why he clarifies that today the congress has stated no decision can be made that will affect the boxers. In this situation, he has no confirmed answer, it has been discussed but it will put ASBC under legal action from IBA.

The new motion from **Mr. Anas Al Otaiba** is seconded by the **Pakistan Delegate Mr. Mohammed Naser**.

Mr. Ali Salameh points out that it is time to proceed with the vote, in a secret ballot, and highlights only the voting delegate will be allowed to vote.

Vote:

Continue with IBA until new International Federation is recognised by IOC

Or

Continue without IBA

Mr. Pichai Chunhavajira, ASBC President opens the floor for last time before proceeding to the vote.

Delegate from Saudi Arabia. What are the implications of our choice? If we decide to stay with IBA and a new entity is recognised by the IOC, what happens then?

Mr. Ali Salameh clarifies that depending on the answer to leave, there will need be another congress to decide on the best course and the legal ramifications. Also, he clarifies that this decision must be 2/3 of the attending congress to pass.

Mr. Pichai Chunhavajira requests the members to vote for the motion.

There is a total of 35 ballots, which is one for every attending delegate:

31 voted to Continue with IBA until new International Federation is recognized by IOC

3 voted to Continue without IBA

1 vote was invalid

Mr Pichai Chunhavajira Announced the Motion is passed by Majority

Mr. Ali Salameh gives the floor to ASBC President Mr. Pichai Chunhavajira for his closing words. The president thanks everyone for their contribution and point of views, and for participating in the vote. That the based on the board's recommendation from June 2023 to follow the guidance of the IOC.

Today they have a resolution, and on behalf of the ASBC everyone will work closely with the IOC and IBA. He thanks the 35 countries that came which expressed the continent's general opinion on the subject.

Mr. Ali Salameh opens the floor for final statements from **ASBC Vice President Aziz Kozhambetov** and **Honorary Vice President Mr. Chowtime**.



+669-7887-7878 

info@asbcnews.org 

Bangkok, Thailand 

www.asbcnews.org 

8: Closing Speech by the ASBC President

Mr. Pichai Chunhavajira thanks everyone and hopes to see all at the diner after. He declares the meeting over.

Meeting is adjourned.