



# **AITA/IATA asbl**

## **40<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

**15 June 2024 by Zoom**

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# **Agenda of the online 40<sup>th</sup> AITA/IATA asbl General Assembly**

**15 June 2024 opening 13:00 Paris time**

1. Welcome to online National Centre and Associate Member delegates
2. Appointment of the Presiding Chair of the 40th General Assembly
3. Roll call of Members represented
  - a. Confirmation of voting rights
  - b. Notification of proxies
4. Agree the agenda of the General Assembly Vote of GA
5. Acceptance of new Members (National Centre and Associate Member) Vote of GA
6. Approval of the Minutes of the 39th General Assembly, Debrecen Vote of GA
7. AITA/IATA asbl Reviews 2023 - 2024
  - a. Council's Review by the President Aled Rhys-Jones Vote of GA
8. Financial Review by the Treasurer Patrick Schoenstein
  - a. Approval of the Financial Report 2023 - 2024 Vote of GA
9. Discharge to Councillors Vote of GA
10. Budget for 2024 – 2025 Vote of GA
11. Other proposals submitted for consideration by the General Assembly Vote of GA
12. Announcement of host venue for 41st GA in 2025 in Monaco
13. Antwerp, Belgium World Festival of Children's Theatre 2026
14. Written questions from Members (received by the deadline of 18:00 UK time on 10 June 2024)

Closing of the 40<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of AITA/IATA asbl

# Constitution of AITA/IATA asbl

## I. NAME, REGISTERED OFFICE, PURPOSE AND DURATION

### Article 1

The association is named "Association Internationale du Théâtre Amateur - International Amateur Theatre Association - Asociación Internacional del Teatro Amateur", in short "AITA/IATA asbl", hereinafter referred to as "the Association".

### Article 2

The Association is constituted as a Belgian non-profit organisation, according to the Belgian Code of Companies and Associations of 23 March 2019, published in the Belgian Moniteur on 4 April 2019 (hereinafter referred to as the "Belgian CCA").

The registered office of the Association is established in Belgium, Brussels Region.

The registered number of the Association is 0863.683.050.

### Article 3

The Association is formed for the purpose of:

- a) Fostering dramatic art by all theatrical groups of the world devoted, without remuneration, to artistic and cultural aims;
- b) Promoting by permanent international contact and relationships those activities common to its members;
- c) Co-ordinating the actions of its members in their purpose of enriching human experience and educating through the medium of theatre;
- d) Facilitating international exchanges between all groups belonging to amateur theatre.

To establish these aims, the Association will employ the following means:

- a) The organisation or participation in the organisation of international congresses, conferences, seminars, festivals, courses, exhibitions and any other activity;
- b) The publication or assistance in the publication and distribution of books, periodicals and stage plays;
- c) The maintenance of one or more support, information or study centres on amateur theatre;
- d) Co-operating with other international organisations having similar aims or devoted to theatre and culture in general.
- e) The Association may undertake or support any initiative and organise any activity that may contribute to establishing its aims or objectives.

### Article 4

The Association has been constituted for an unlimited period of time.

## II. MEMBERSHIP

### Article 5

The number of members of the Association is unlimited. Its minimum is fixed to two (2).

### Article 6

The General Assembly of the Association is composed of the Members.

The admission of National Centre Members is decided by the General Assembly (hereinafter referred to as the GA) following the proposition of the Council. The Council may grant provisional admission to new Members, which must, however, be confirmed at the next GA.

The organisation accepts 2 (two) categories of Members:

- A **National Centre Member** is an organisation or a federation of organisations who are networks, concentrators of activity, local and global, working proactively in the field of amateur theatre and/or representing amateur theatre activity on a national basis, where "national" indicates a nation, a self-governing territory, or self-governing territories.

**National Centre Members** are hereinafter referred to as "**National Centres**".

- An **Associate Member** is an organisation, a federation of organisations, or an individual with an interest and/or activity in the field of amateur theatre.

**Associate Members** are hereinafter referred to as "**Associates**".

### **Article 7**

All Members are required to pay the appropriate annual Membership Fee, relevant to their Membership category, as determined by the GA. The maximum amount of this Membership Fee is set at five thousand (5,000) Euro.

Non-payment of the Membership Fee will automatically result in resignation by default of the Member.

## **III. GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Article 8**

A **National Centre** who is up to date with their membership payments is entitled to six (6) votes in the GA. These votes have to be cast in one block of six (6) votes.

An **Associate** who is up to date with their membership payments is entitled to one (1) vote in the GA.

A Member can delegate their votes by proxy to another Member. Each Member is limited to carrying one proxy.

A natural person can represent a maximum of two (2) Members.

### **Article 9**

Resigning and resigned, suspended or expelled Members, as well as their heirs or those having rights over a deceased Member, have no rights over the assets of the Association. They cannot reclaim Membership Fees, claim or request statements, rendering of accounts, nor inventories. Neither can they affix seals or proceed to precautionary attachment ("saisie conservatoire").

### **Article 10**

The legislative power of the Association is held by the GA. In accordance with the Belgian CCA, powers that are exclusively reserved for the GA are the following:

- a) Alterations to the Constitution;
- b) The appointment and dismissal of Councillors and of the President of the Association;
- c) Granting discharge to Councillors regarding their obligations as Councillors of the Association;
- d) The approval of the budget and the accounts of the Association;
- e) The dissolution of the Association and the destination of the net assets of the Association following such dissolution;
- f) The expulsion of Members of the Association;
- g) The conversion of the Association into a company with a social purpose;
- h) All cases required by the articles of the Association.

In addition to the powers mentioned above, it is the authority of the GA to appoint one or more independent persons, who cannot be Councillors, as "third party" examiners of the accounts.

### **Article 11**

The GA is chaired by the President of the Association or by any other chair appointed by the GA at the beginning of the GA.

## **Article 12**

The President of the Association, on behalf of the Council, or upon request of at least one fifth (1/5) of the Members of the Association, will convene the GA by any appropriate means of communication as agreed by the Council. In both cases, notification which will include the draft agenda of the GA, will take place at least eight (8) weeks before the GA.

Any proposal to be considered by the GA must be supported by at least one twentieth (1/20) of the Members of the Association before it can be added to the agenda of the GA. Proposals must reach the Secretariat not later than four (4) weeks before the GA. The final agenda of the GA, containing all proposals by Members and all relevant documents, will be distributed to Members not later than fifteen (15) days before the GA.

The GA can be held in any physical or digital format considered appropriate by Council.

## **Article 13**

### **1. Attendance in the GA**

Regardless of the number of Members in attendance (present or represented), the GA is **constitutionally valid**, except for the decisions relating to:

- a) The expulsion of a Member;
- b) alterations to the Constitution;
- c) changing the purpose of the Association
- d) the dissolution of the Association.

Decisions relating to the expulsion of a Member alterations to the Constitution, changing the purpose of the Association and to the dissolution of the Association require the attendance of at least two thirds (2/3) of Members (present or represented).

A second GA may be called if, in compliance with the Belgian CCA, the abovementioned attendance criteria are not met, regardless of the number of Members in attendance (present or represented). Such a second GA may not be held within fifteen (15) days following the first GA.

### **2. Decisions in the GA**

All **decisions** are taken by a simple majority (fifty percent (50%) plus one (1)) of the votes of Members in attendance at the GA (present or represented), except, as is compliant with the Belgian CCA, for decisions relating to:

- a) the expulsion of a Member;
- b) alterations to the Constitution;
- c) changing the purpose of the Association;
- d) the dissolution of the Association.

Decisions relating to the expulsion of a Member, as well as decisions relating to alterations to the Constitution, require a majority of two thirds (2/3) of the votes of the Members in attendance (present or represented).

Associates do not have voting rights with regard to the decision of the expulsion of a National Centre.

Decisions relating to alterations to the Constitution concerning the purpose of the Association, as well as decisions relating to the dissolution of the Association, require a majority of four fifths (4/5) of the votes of Members in attendance (present or represented).

### **3. Voting in the GA**

Voting procedures and/or systems in the GA are decided by the Council. Voting may be manual, postal, electronic, or digital or by any means that the Council considers to be appropriate.

Abstentions and/or invalid votes are not taken into account when counting the votes and/or when defining majorities, neither in the numerator nor in the denominator.

The GA can vote only on issues that are included in the Agenda.

#### **IV. THE COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND NETWORKS**

##### **Article 14**

The GA delegates the governance and day-to-day management of the Association to the Council.

The GA will, through an election process, appoint one (1) President and a maximum of eight (8) Councillors. The President and the Councillors jointly form the Council. Their mandate ("the Mandate") is not remunerated by the Association.

The Council has the authority to appoint and dismiss from among the Councillors, officers as appropriate ("the Officers"), for example: Treasurer, Secretary, or any other function the Council considers appropriate. Officers may resign or be dismissed from their assigned functions without effecting their Mandate as a Councillor.

The President and the Councillors of the Association are natural persons.

##### **Article 15**

The President of the Association and Councillors are elected for a mandated period of four (4) years ("the Mandate Term").

An individual can serve a maximum of three (3) consecutive Mandate Terms on the Council, of which a maximum of two (2) consecutive Mandate Terms as Councillor, or a maximum of two (2) consecutive Mandate Terms as President.

In exceptional circumstances, the GA can extend the Mandate Term of the President, a Councillor and/or several Councillors, for a period to be decided by the GA. This decision requires a majority of two thirds (2/3) of the Members in attendance at the GA (present or represented).

The Mandate of a Councillor and/or the President will cease:

- a) At the end of the Mandate Term;
- b) Should the GA decide to end the Mandate. This decision requires a simple majority by the GA;
- c) Upon receipt of a written resignation (by letter, email or any other form of text message) to the Council.

Should a Councillor (including the President) be unable to complete their Mandate irrespective of cause, this Mandate will count as a fully completed Mandate Term.

Should a position on the Council become vacant, owing to the death, incapacity or resignation of an appointed Councillor, the Council may appoint a temporary replacement until the following GA. The appointee will function as a Councillor without voting rights.

##### **Article 16**

The Council is convened by the President of the Association by any means that the Council considers appropriate and will meet at least twice between two GA's. The Council is constitutionally valid (quorate) if 5 out of 9 Councillors are present or represented.

Council meetings can be held in any physical or digital format considered appropriate by the Council. Voting procedures and/or systems during Council meetings are decided by the Council. Voting may be manual, postal, electronic or digital or by any means that the Council considers to be appropriate.

A Councillor can delegate their vote by proxy to another Councillor. Each Councillor can carry only one proxy.

##### **Article 17**

The Council has unlimited executive powers in matters relating to the governance and day-to-day management of the Association.

Unless a power is, under the Belgian CCA or under this Constitution, explicitly stated to belong exclusively to the GA, all powers are under the authority of the Council.

The Council may appoint any contracted individual and determine their job description and remuneration.

The Council has the right to delegate the day-to-day management of the Association, including the authority of signature in relation to the day-to-day management, to any contracted individual.

## **Article 18**

### a) External relations

The Council can establish or terminate any operational relationship, at any time, with any appropriate party, natural person, de facto association or legal entity, in the interest of the Association. These operational relationships are called **Networks**.

### b) Internal relations

The Council can establish or terminate, within the organisation, one or more **Committees**, where appropriate chaired by a coordinator or coordinating team. The Council will approve a Committee's internal rules.

The Council will appoint the members and the coordinator of any Committee. The Council can terminate the appointment of any coordinator or Committee member, at any time.

## **V. LANGUAGE**

### **Article 19**

The languages to be employed in all official business conducted by the Association are French, English and Spanish. In case of difficulties of interpretation of the Constitution and/or official documents of the Association, the French language will take precedence.

It is the responsibility of the Council to ensure that sufficient skills are available in the Council in order to address the Association's official languages and cultural issues.

## **VI. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Article 20**

The Association is represented in legal agreements, including those where a public officer or a law official intervenes, and in legal actions, either by the President of the Association or by two Councillors.

### **Article 21**

The financial year will run from 1 April to 31 March of each year.

### **Article 22**

In case of voluntary dissolution of the Association, the GA will appoint two (2) liquidators and determine their powers.

### **Article 23**

In case of voluntary or judicial dissolution of the Association at any time and for any reason, the net assets of the Association will be allocated to an Association involved in similar works and with similar aims to the Association, as agreed by the GA.

This decision will be taken by a simple majority (fifty percent (50%) plus one (1)) of the votes of the Members in attendance (present or represented).

### **Article 24**

All decisions of the GA and of the Council are recorded in the form of minutes and signed by the President of the Association. The record is kept at the registered office where all Members and third parties may consult it.

### **Article 25**

All that is not explicitly stated in this Constitution will be determined by Belgian Law, in particular the Belgian CCA.

Made in Monaco, 22 August 2021

Signed, Béatrice CELLARIO, President

# Draft Minutes of the 39th AITA/IATA asbl General Assembly, Debrecen, Hungary 24 June 2023

## 1. Official opening 09:40 and welcome to the 39<sup>th</sup> AITA/IATA asbl General Assembly

– Zsigmond Lakó welcomed delegates to the University of Debrecen and to the AITA/IATA asbl General Assembly (GA). He introduced the University's Dean of the Faculty of Humanities Dr Professor Róbert Keményfi who welcomed delegates to the University's auditorium on behalf of the University of Debrecen. He quoted from Peter Brook who said that the purpose of theatre is making an event in which a group of fragments are suddenly brought together in a community and that the strength of amateur theatre lies in its ability to forge a community. He referred to the motto of the festival - *PEACE – Bring peace and harmony to the world* - and asked delegates to look at the beautiful stained-glass windows that had been restored in 2011 following their destruction in WWII. Like the phoenix, the symbol of the city of Debrecen, the mission of the University has always risen in the midst of adversity and promoted peace between peoples, international relations and internationalism: the same goals as those of AITA/IATA. He concluded with a quote from Peter Brook "a stage space has two rules: Anything can happen; and Something must happen" and he encouraged all delegates to keep up their good work. Zsigmond Lakó thanked the Dean and introduced AITA/IATA President Aled Rhys-Jones.

## 2. Introduction and welcome from the President of AITA/IATA asbl, Aled Rhys-Jones

– President Aled Rhys-Jones welcomed delegates to the festival and thanked the Dean for his words of welcome. He noted that it had already been quite an exceptional week of theatre and recalled a couple of conversations that related to the understanding of amateur theatre. Over lunch he had been asked by one of the members of the Sri Lankan company about the meaning of amateur theatre, because in Sri Lanka no-one gets paid to be a performer. There followed a fascinating conversation about the relationship between us as individuals and the artforms that we choose to fulfil our creative instincts; how individuals become involved in amateur theatre and about their life journey travelled through theatre and their lifelong relationship with theatre as an artform. The relationship between the individual and the artform is a constant and is part of a creative continuum. Whereas the relationship between the individual and payment, which can be used to define whether a creative is a professional or an amateur, constantly changes - the love of theatre, of the artform, is the constant that sustains us throughout life.

a. He was delighted to see so many friends of the AITA/IATA family in Debrecen. There had been concern that having the GA available online might deter delegates from attending in person. He stated that he had been coming to Hungary almost every year for over 30 years and that most of his visits had a connection with the amateur arts and especially with theatre. This connection confirmed the importance of Hungary in the world of theatre and of their ability to make something happen. This placed them very firmly on the international cultural scene. AITA/IATA was hugely indebted to the 10<sup>th</sup> Theatre Olympics for their support which had enabled the festival to happen. The President reflected on the 6-year journey to bring the Debrecen event to fruition that had started as an initiative of former President Rob Van Genechten back in 2017 and, he was pleased to note, Rob was attending the event online. He noted that delegates had already seen



excellent quality theatre in a superb new venue and he thanked Rob for starting the ball rolling. He also thanked the Dean and the University for hosting the General Assembly in the magnificent hall. Zsigmond Lakó thanked President Aled Rhys-Jones and closed the opening of the festival.

b. President Aled Rhys-Jones asked delegates to stand and asked for a round of applause in memory of Bernard Cellario, a key personality and long-time worker within the Mondial du Théâtre in Monaco who had passed recently.

**3. Appointment of the Presiding Chair of the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly** – Council proposed Dirk De Corte, Flanders (SGT) as the Presiding Chair of the GA.

**Unanimously approved by a show of hands**

a. The Presiding Chair asked delegates to mute their microphones and introduced the President of AITA/IATA, members of the Council in Debrecen and Councillor Patrick Schoenstein attending online. He also introduced delegates to Ben Schutz, who was sitting next to him, a US citizen working at the University, who would assist him with Zoom voting procedures.

**4. Roll call of all Members represented in Debrecen and online** – The Presiding Chair asked those who were either present in Debrecen or attending online to confirm their presence. Delegates from the **26** Members (National Centres) had registered to vote but not all were present at the start of the GA. The following National Centre (NC) Members responded to the roll call:

Austria – 6 votes; Catalonia (SGT) – 6 votes; Denmark – 6 votes; Estonia – 6 votes; Faroe Islands – 6 votes; Flanders (SGT) – 6 votes; France – 6 votes; Germany (BAG & BDAT) – 6 votes; Great Britain (SGT) – 6 votes; Hungary – 6 votes; Italy – 6 votes; Japan – 6 votes; Latvia – 6 votes; Lithuania – 6 votes; Monaco – 6 votes; Russian Federation – 6 votes; Slovenia – 6 votes, South Tyrol – 6 votes; Spain – 6 votes. Those joining the Zoom later included Indonesia – 6 votes; Finland – 6 votes (carry the proxy of Iceland) and others may have also joined later but did not make themselves known.

a. The Presiding Chair then invited the Associate Members who were either present in Debrecen or attending online to confirm their presence. Delegates from **11** Associate Members had registered to vote but not all were present at the start of the GA. The following Associate Members responded to the roll call:

Patrick Russell (Australia) – 1 vote; Josef Hollos (Austria) – 1 vote; Stephen Tobias (Canada, The Saint John Theatre Company) – 1 vote; Rob Van Genechten (Flanders (SGT) - 1 vote; Guy Verzele (Flanders (SGT), de WAANzin) – 1 vote; Mary Pears (Ireland) – 1 vote; Paul Percy (New Zealand, Theatre New Zealand) – 1 vote; Matías González Pinos (Spain, Federació de Teatre Amateur de la Comunitat Valenciana) – 1 vote. Other Associate Members may have joined during the GA.

b. The Presiding Chair launched a Dummy Poll to test the system which was successful. He noted that the result of the polls would be announced but they would not be shown on the screen. He reminded delegates that voting would be as in previous years, namely that the first round of voting would be for NC with the Associates in the waiting room and the second round for Associates with the NC in the waiting room. There would be a third round of voting because Finland was carrying a proxy and the Finnish delegate could not be in two rooms at the same time.

## 5. Agree the Agenda of the General Assembly

**The Agenda of the GA was agreed by a show of hands.**

## 6. Council's proposal to terminate the mandate of Councillor Anna-Karin

**Waldemarson** – President Aled Rhys-Jones explained that Council had received a letter dated 13 June 2023 from Anna-Karin Waldemarson tendering her resignation as a Councillor which had made this point on the agenda redundant.

**7. Appointment of Tellers and appointment of Drafting Committee** - The Presiding Chair explained that in the unlikely case that drafting of text was needed, Council recommended Kevin Dowsett (English), Beatrice Cellario (French) and Brigitte and Councillor Carlos Taberneiro (Spanish) as the Drafting Committee. Tellers – neutral eyes - were required to count the numbers of votes and to confirm the final numbers on screen. While Ben Schutz would look at the Zoom voting figures on the computer, Council recommended that Paul Percy (New Zealand) and Ragnhild Arntsen (Observer from Norway) should also view the screen and provide an independent scrutiny of the numbers.

## 8. Acceptance of new Members (National Centre and Associate) 2022 – 2023

The Presiding Chair explained that under Article 6 of the Constitution, all Members (National Centres and Associates) proposed by Council to become a Member of AITA/IATA needed the approval of the GA. Three new National Centre Members and six Associate Members were listed in the Forum Book (FB) on page 15<sup>1</sup>. The Presiding Chair explained the voting procedures and asked for the patience of members as the process would take some time. He noted that two organisations from Sweden had asked to join as a NC which was perfectly possible under the revised Constitution. He reminded delegates that when voting, abstentions would not count. The result was as follows:

a. To accept National Centre FCAT - La Fédération Centrafricaine de Théâtre, Central African Republic as a National Centre Member of AITA/IATA asbl

**Using the online poll, FCAT - La Fédération Centrafricaine de Théâtre was approved as a National Centre Member (91%) (125 votes)**

b. To accept Sveriges Arbetarteaterförbund – ATF, Sweden as a National Centre Member of AITA/IATA asbl

**Using the online poll, Sveriges Arbetarteaterförbund – ATF was approved as a National Centre Member (87%) (119 votes)**

c. To accept National Centre Amatörteaterns Riksförbund – ATR, Sweden as a National Centre Member of AITA/IATA asbl

**Using the online poll Amatörteaterns Riksförbund – ATR, was approved as a National Centre Member (100%) (137 votes)**

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<sup>1</sup> The inclusion in the list of an Associate Member from Australia was an error.

d. The Presiding Chair noted that because of technical issues, voting to approve Associates would take place later and The Presiding Chair asked the GA to approve a change in the order of the agenda.

**Unanimously approved by a show of hands.**

**9. Call for written questions to Candidates for Election to Council** – The Presiding Chair confirmed that no delegates wished to submit a written question.

**10. Approval of the Minute of 38<sup>th</sup> Online General Assembly by Zoom 23 July 2022 -** The Presiding Chair noted that the minutes of the 38<sup>th</sup> GA were in the Forum Book on pages 9 – 14. There were no questions and delegates were asked to approve the minutes by a show of hands.

**The Minutes of the 38th General Assembly (GA) were agreed by a show of hands.**

**11. AITA/IATA asbl review 2022 – 2023**

a. *Council review by President Aled Rhys-Jones* – President Aled Rhys-Jones reported on a busy year, especially now that the GA was held annually rather than every other year. The biggest event had been the online *Curtain Up! The Kids are Back* Conference held on 5 March 2023. This had been the creation of Councillors on the CY Theatre Group: Sofia Wegelius; Ksenia Nesterova; Frank Katoola; and MA Student Edith Coen. President Aled Rhys-Jones asked Vice President Sofia Wegelius for a short report on the successes of the event.

b. Sofia Wegelius referred delegates to the information on pages 19 – 21 in the Forum Book. This was a new way for AITA/IATA to work and considerable thought had been put into the event given the range of languages and time zones involved. The CY Theatre Group were proud of the final programme which had been very versatile with speakers from around the world talking about how to work in theatre with children and young people. The CY Theatre Group would have liked a bigger audience, but much had been learned and they were looking to plan a similar event in the future. She asked if delegates had thoughts and ideas for future themes she would love to hear about them.

c. Council had wanted events to offer to Members something that they could offer to their members and the programme had included discount codes for AITA/IATA Members and workshops that were free for young people and those young at heart. One lesson learned was not to hold events in parallel as translation is not possible for both events. The CY Theatre Group hoped to offer a new event within the next year.

d. President Aled Rhys-Jones noted that the spread of countries attending had been good and the event had included speakers and new contacts from the Philippines, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Peru, Pakistan, Uganda, and Hong Kong. He noted that building these bridges and making contact with new people was a priority for Council.

e. Building on his last council report, Council had tried to create a team of people who would take on responsibilities and deliver something for the organisation and this was largely working well. But sadly, he had to report on a weak link in the team and he read from his report in respect of the former Treasurer, Councillor Anna-Karin Waldemarson. After Council came across issues

with the financial management of the Association, they decided on 30 May 2023 to suspend the mandate of Anna-Karin Waldemarson to prevent damage to the reputation of the Association. Ms Waldemarson submitted her resignation on 13 June which had been her first communication with Council since the end of March. Council had taken positive steps to manage the situation and had initially removed the role of Treasurer from her on 2 May 2023.

f. AITA/IATA had subscribed to a new accounting package and with the support of former Treasurer Villy Dall and the Financial Controllers Mats Wenlöf and Dirk De Corte, Secretariat Anne Gilmour and the President worked with Michalis Karampelis to create a new and full set of accounts. For the future, with full training support, Anne Gilmour will manage the day-to-day bookkeeping. A new PayPal account will be set up and Council would look to appoint a new Treasurer on Council without voting rights until the next GA as described in Article 15 of the Constitution.

g. President Aled Rhys-Jones noted that it had been a difficult time and he was limited in what he could say but, the failure to communicate, absence from meetings and failure to make payments and deal with the day to day running of the Association had led to Council taking immediate action. He was pleased to note that AITA/IATA was almost there in terms of resolving this issue.

h. Council would report on planned future festivals and events towards the end of the GA, but President Aled Rhys-Jones reassured delegates that a lot of work was taking place behind the scenes to make these events come to fruition. Here in Debrecen, delegates could meet and discuss matters and it was an opportunity for delegates to let Council know if they thought they could host a festival, perhaps one that was different and did not follow the 'usual' model. The highly successful 2017 AITA/IATA Spots Op West festival held in Westouter, Flanders (SGT), had been an international festival held in a small village and was very different from the 'normal' AITA/IATA Festival, but it had worked and worked well. He thought there were many possible 'models' with which AITA/IATA could work and a festival could have a different focus - perhaps Senior Citizen, Disability, Children, Youth etc. He asked delegates to see if AITA/IATA could change the picture of a festival presented every other year and he asked delegates for their help. Council also looked for people to host Council for face-to-face meetings and while it was possible to use Zoom, face-to-face meetings were needed to build a team and bring people together to create new ideas. While a couple of offers had been received, Council was always looking for new ones. He asked delegates to consider why not attaching a meeting to an event whether a festival, a training session or conference, and urged delegates to come and talk to Council with suggestions.

i. President Aled Rhys-Jones noted the elections were to be held and Council would lose two members: Tim Jebesen, a Vice President for the last two years; and Frank Katoola who have both played a full role in the organisation. Frank had served for a long time on the former Standing Committee for Children and Youth but had not always been able to engage in Council Meetings because of the difficulty in how an international NGO is perceived in Uganda. He offered thanks to both Tim and Frank for their work and input over the last couple of years and delegates gave them a round of applause.

j. There were no questions.

**Council's review was agreed to by a show of hands.**

**12. Finance review 2022 - 2023**

- a. *Review of finance and approval of finance report* – The Presiding Chair referred delegates to page 37 and 38 of the Forum Book and noted that President Aled Rhys-Jones would report on finance in the absence of a Treasurer.
- b. President Aled Rhys-Jones reported that the accounts had only recently been prepared which explained the late publication of the Forum Book but he wished to stress that they had been done so very carefully as accuracy was the important issue. AITA/IATA was confident that an accurate bottom line has been established in an accurate set of accounts.
- c. In respect of the income for the Financial Year (FY) 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023, he thought these were self-explanatory in terms of what AITA/IATA had received. He noted the figure of € 2,300 which were funds received from the Goethe Institute for the *Curtain Up!* Conference. The main differences in these accounts from last year's figures were the € 1,222.81 for Miscellaneous operating income which was mostly the Commercial Fee from the Canadian Associate the Saint John Theatre Association who paid AITA/IATA to brand the online theatre event held in February 2023. This was also a new departure for AITA/IATA, who had worked with Councillor Stephen Tobias to select the plays and run the application process.
- d. The Subcontracting Fee was the Fee for Secretariat and he also noted the substantial increase under Internet and Web which reflected the upgraded Zoom package which offered a translation facility. The Legal Fees of € 1,391.50 reflected the need for advice and action to address the situation brought about by the difficulties with the former Treasurer.
- e. President Aled Rhys-Jones noted that under Extraordinary revenues and costs, the Write-back Provisions of € 1,257 referred to a fund to develop the World Theatre Day (WTD) website which was underspent and therefore brought back in. The other Extraordinary Charges related to the PayPal account: this facility enabled Members to pay their Fee into a PayPal account which was a better arrangement for some countries. This option had been run efficiently for some years by previous Treasurers, but the recent financial hiatus had prevented Council from producing a statement testifying to the amount received into the PayPal Account (€ 1,640) when the accounts were drawn up on 31 March 2023. Therefore, an extraordinary charge of € 1,640 had to be accounted for as the Paypal Account had to appear in the books at € 0 where it should have been € 1,640.
- f. In summary there was a total operating income of € 22,037.78 and a total operating cost of € 20,910.01 which gave an operational surplus of € 1,127.77. But, taking into account the Extraordinary charges that had to be deducted, and the Extraordinary income that had to be added, left a small surplus of € 400.38.
- g. Turning to the balance sheet, President Aled Rhys-Jones noted that the € 3,300 was the funds from the Goethe Institute and the Saint John online Commercial Fee which related to activity in 2022/23 and which had not arrived before the 31 March 2023 but had since been received. He

drew delegates attention to the Provision for Legal Fees of € 1,391.50 and offered an explanation of the Fees at the bottom of the page: the Deferred Charges and accrued income of € 15,463. He noted that AITA/IATA invoiced Members for the Fee in January for the following Financial Year and this figure represented the Members who have paid in advance for the following year. The total on 31 March 2023 in the bank account was € 14,680.10 and the total in the savings account was € 65,430 totalling € 80,110, which, with the expected receivables, gives a total of € 83,410.

h. The Presiding Chair thanked President Aled Rhys-Jones for his explanation and noted that the overall profit for the FY 2022 / 23 was € 400.38 after a provision for the PayPal account of around € 1,640. There were no questions.

**Using the online poll, the finance report was unanimously accepted.**

i. *Discharge to Councillors* – The Presiding Chair explained to delegates that this was a legal requirement. Delegates were members of an organisation and legally were the owners although, as AITA/IATA is a non-profit organisation, delegates did not own shares. By electing a Council, Members delegate the power and the responsibility to run the Association to these Councillors and trusted them not do anything against the interest of the organisation. Every year the Council presents itself to the Members through a General Assembly and, the Presiding Chair explained if they felt that Council had done a good job delegates would grant them discharge. This meant that delegates could not take any legal action against Council unless they committed criminal offences such as theft. Given the peculiarity of the situation outlined by President Aled Rhys-Jones in respect of Anna-Karin Waldemarson, the proposal was to give discharge to Councillors except for Anna-Karin Waldemarson. President Aled Rhys-Jones confirmed that this procedure had been recommended by legal advisers.

**Using the online poll, the discharge to Council with the exception of Anna-Karin Waldemarson, was unanimously accepted.**

**13. Preparation for the Elections** – The Presiding Chair noted that every two years the GA elected four Councillors (apart from the President). There were four vacancies and four candidates had offered themselves for election. Because of the late resignation of Anna-Karin Waldemarson, Council would continue with eight rather than nine Councillors. Two of the candidates were already on Council, Councillors Stephen Tobias, and Carlos Taberheiro and two new people had put themselves forward. They were Kelli McCloud-Schingen, USA and Heidi Troi, Sud Tyrol. All candidates' statements of intent were in the Forum Book but they were asked if they wished to make an additional statement.

a. Stephen Tobias, Canada said he was proud to be in Debrecen and privileged to be on Council for two years and thanked President Aled Rhys-Jones and Council for their work, and specially thanked Tim Jebesen and Frank Katoola for their work and it had been great working with them. He placed a high value on what he had learned in the last few years about remaining connected using technology and he was proud that his company had been able to host an online digital festival. They had been able to share with the world from a fairly isolated community in Canada and he hoped to continue this in the future. It had been great to meet delegates this week and he hoped to have the opportunity to talk with more delegates.

- b. Carlos Taberheiro, Spain referred to his statement in the Forum Book and asked delegates to read the last three sentences which expressed his real intention that it was important that in this organisation all the opinions and views were considered, as more Members were needed. He also wanted to thank all the work done by the President and, despite the technical difficulties, he also wanted to salute the new Members.
- c. The third candidate Kelli McLoud-Schingen from USA was not present in Debrecen nor was she in the digital room, so delegates were referred to her statement in the Forum Book.
- d. The fourth candidate Heidi Troi from Sud Tyrol was in the digital room and the Presiding Chair welcomed her and asked if she wished to add anything. She noted she was from the German-speaking part of Italy, but she did not wish to add much to her statement but noted that she was arranging festivals on a regular basis and wanted to promote more festivals in the future in AITA/IATA.
- e. The Presiding Chair noted that the technical difficulties of approving the six Associate Members would be resolved over lunch. After this voting process, the election of the Councillors would take place.

### **Lunch**

**Return to Agenda Item 8** - The Presiding Chair asked delegates to turn to the approval of six Associate Members using a new technical procedure. He asked delegates to look at the chat function in the Zoom where they would find a link to a Google voting form which would offer the possibility to tick multiple boxes. If all the new Associate Members were accepted, they would then be able to vote in the election of the Councillors. He noted there would be two break-out rooms, one for NC and one for Associates. Each break-out room would have a link to the Google Form where delegates could vote. The one exception was the delegate from Finland who was carrying the proxy of Iceland and she would vote by paper.

- f. To accept Sighnaghai Theater, Georgia as an Associate Member of AITA/IATA asbl

**Using the online poll, Associate Sighnaghai Theater, was unanimously approved as an Associate Member**

- g. To accept Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University's theatre "skhveni", Georgia as an Associate Member of AITA/IATA asbl

**Using the online poll, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University's theatre "skhveni, was unanimously approved as an Associate Member**

- h. To accept Dramatic Troupe for Artistic Creation, Morocco as an Associate Member of AITA/IATA asbl

**Using the online poll, Associate Dramatic Troupe for Artistic Creation, was unanimously approved as an Associate Member**

- i. To accept Proster Theatre, Serbia as an Associate Member of AITA/IATA asbl

**Using the online poll, Proster Theatre, was unanimously approved as an Associate Member**

j. To accept Theatre Association Partizánske, Slovakia as an Associate Member of AITA/IATA asbl

**Using the online poll, Theatre Association Partizánske, was unanimously approved as an Associate Member**

k. To accept Koma Sanoe, Syria as an Associate Member of AITA/IATA asbl

**Using the online poll, Koma Sanoe, was unanimously approved as an Associate Member**

**Return to agenda item 13 - Election of the Candidates** – The Presiding Chair reminded delegates that these were multiple-choice questions, and that voting would take place in waiting rooms not break-out rooms. After voting, the Presiding Chair confirmed that the candidates had received the following votes:

- Candidate Stephen Tobias received 100% of the votes (126 votes)
- Candidate Carlos Taberheiro received 95% of the votes (120 votes)
- Candidate Kelli McLoud-Schingen received 98% of the votes (124 votes)
- Candidate Heidi Troi received 100% of the votes (126 votes)

l. The Presiding Chair noted from the Agenda that this was the moment that retiring Council members leave and newly elected Council members take their place. Retiring Vice President Tim Jebesen vacated his place and joined the body of the GA.

**14. AITA/IATA future plans** - President Aled Rhys-Jones welcomed Heidi Troi and Kelli McLoud-Schingen to Council and welcomed the return of Councillors Carlos Taberheiro and Stephen Tobias. He noted the immediate priority of Council would be to address the absence of a Treasurer and implement in-house book-keeping training. In respect of the Treasurer, Council would bring a suitable person onto the Council as an appointee without voting rights. He thanked Mats Wenlöf, one of the two AITA/IATA Financial Controllers, who would stand down from this role for his work. He asked that anyone interested in taking on the role of Financial Controller should get in touch with him. The individual would be appointed at next year's GA, but it was acceptable for AITA/IATA to continue with one Financial Controller.

a. The Presiding Chair explained that the role was to check that everything in the accounts is financially compliant and has been correctly carried out; that the cash balances at the end of the Financial Year; and that the bank statement confirms the funds in the bank. It is also necessary to check that the expenses that have been made are compliant with the decisions of Council and the budget that was voted on. It is, therefore, mainly a procedural check of decision making. Under Belgian Law it is not obligatory to have Financial Controllers for not-for-profit organisations of the size of AITA/IATA, but AITA/IATA has done so from the start.

b. President Aled Rhys-Jones noted that three working groups had been set up following his election in Monaco in 2021 and they would be refreshed following the elections. He asked Sofia Wegelius to report on *Digital Capability* matters. She noted that Council wanted to use technology to find a way to reach the many groups out there that know nothing about AITA/IATA. The Association wanted to try and visualise the amount of amateur theatre out there in the world



which would help when AITA/AITA spoke to politicians. She announced a new feature on the AITA/IATA website, a map which would show the location of our Members from around the world, which she hoped would be working very soon and would enable Members to pin themselves to the map. She asked delegates to please let their theatres know about this and encourage them to show themselves on this map.

c. She also announced the launch of an Instagram account [weareamateurtheatre](#). This would be hosted by a different amateur theatre group each week to enable them to showcase their work to the world. She asked delegates to please let the Secretariat know if they had a company or a theatre event that would like to host the site for one week. Council was aware that not every country allowed access to Instagram, but AITA/IATA could post on their behalf. President Aled Rhys-Jones found this project exciting and innovative and urged delegates to sign up and get involved.

d. President Aled Rhys-Jones noted that Carlos Taberheiro would lead on the review and relaunch of the World Theatre Day project after Christmas. The Children and Youth Sub-Group would hold a full de-brief of the online *Curtain Up! The Kids are Back* event to capture the lessons learned and to help create new events. Council would also work with the [Drama in Education Event](#), 22 – 27 March 2024, about which delegates would hear more from Dagmar Höfferer shortly.

e. Council would also undertake a concerted Membership drive to encourage groups to join AITA/IATA, especially now it was possible to encourage people to become Associates on a relatively affordable Membership Fee. President Aled Rhys-Jones noted the priorities outlined in Monaco in 2021 included the need to look at the administration of the organisation and start creating events. He felt that now was the time to show groups what AITA/IATA could offer which would encourage groups to join. AITA/IATA would seek the help of its Members to find new groups and Members to join the AITA/IATA family.

f. He noted that Council hoped to have a face-to-face Council Meeting before Christmas as well as one or two online Zoom meetings. There were no comments.

**15. Other proposals submitted for consideration by the General Assembly** – the Presiding Chair noted that no proposals had been submitted. He also noted following the approval of the six Associate Members, AITA/IATA had 32 National centres and 59 Associate Members bringing the total to 91. He hoped that by the time of the next GA the total could reach 100.

**16. Budget 2023 – 2024** – President Aled Rhys-Jones referred delegates to the final page of the Forum Book which detailed the one-year budget which was based on expenditure patterns of the last two years. He noted the Membership income of around € 19,000 and it was also planned to raise € 3,000 a figure which had been managed in the year just gone, making a total projected income of € 22,000. The expenses included € 13,200 which was the Secretariat contract which has been static for the last 10+ years. As AITA/IATA becomes more pro-active and the workload increases he noted that an initial 10% increase in this figure had been included. Delegates had been informed about the increase in the use of technology, particularly Zoom, but the other figures were mainly in line with past expenditure. There is no figure for depreciation because we

don't have depreciable fixed assets. The figure for the write-off of PayPal funds of € 1,250 reflected the uncertainty about the funds that would be received from the PayPal account. The day before yesterday the Bank account had received funds from the PayPal account, but there had not been sufficient time to reconcile what had been received against what was expected. This figure, therefore, represented the anticipated figure at the time of publishing the budget. A breakeven budget had been prepared but as monies had been received from the PayPal account the overall picture would look a little better at the end of the day. The Presiding Chair stepped into his role as the Financial Controller and noted that the Write-Off would, in reality, be € 0 because the provisions made for PayPal funds have been received. There were no questions.

**Using the online poll, the budget was unanimously accepted.**

**17. Report on PAT Toyama 2022<sup>2</sup>** – Mr Yukihito Funamoto, Japanese President of the Japan National Centre and Vice Chairman of PAT (Performing Arts Toyama) was invited to the microphone to report on PAT 2022. A video of the event was shown to delegates while he spoke. He handed over to Tamami Arikawa the PAT Secretary General. She noted that PAT and Toyama worked hard together to realise the festival which had been held for 20 years. The festival had been over 5 days - 30 July – 3 August 2022 - but had been postponed in 2020 because of COVID. For the 2022 event, applications had been received from 46 groups from 35 countries from which 19 groups from 19 countries were selected. But, because of the COVID restrictions there was final participation from 9 countries but a total of 69 international and local groups performed with around 2,000 participants. Various intercultural exchanges such as workshops and an art exhibition with 150 pictures from across the world were also held. They had also introduced a system of streaming the event for those outside the festival. PAT was delighted to host so many children on the stage and welcomed the participation of about 420 volunteers. The children said that they would deepen their friendship and pass on their friendly feelings through participation and creation with grownups. Toyama sincerely hoped that this activity would contribute to world peace and on behalf of PAT and the committee of Toyama, Tamami thanked President Aled Rhys-Jones for his support and all those who came to the event including Béatrice Cellario and Mary Pears, who has participated in all PAT events since 1983 and Mr Paddy O'Dwyer and Mr Josef Hollos and all international friends who participated.

**18. 25<sup>th</sup> Drama in Education Congress, 22 – 27 March 2024<sup>3</sup>** – Dagmar Höfferer was invited to the microphone and spoke to her PowerPoint presentation and invited all delegates to come to the Drama in Education Congress in March in Retz, Austria. She noted that the topic of the Congress was: Every Child Matters... the place of young people in the world, which is a UNESCO sustainable development goal and which will be discussed during the Congress. There was a call for papers and best practice and there would be many additional programmes. Dagmar noted that this would be a celebration of 50 years of Drama in Education in Austria and all were invited to the event which is in a beautiful location with good wine.

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<sup>2</sup> The presentation and video are on the AITA/IATA Website on the page with the FB of the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

<sup>3</sup> The presentation is on the AITA/IATA Website on the page with the Forum Book of the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

a. President Aled Rhys-Jones thanked Dagmar and added that AITA/IATA would look to offer 3-4 bursaries to help young people attend the event in Austria although details are yet to be agreed by Council, the aim would be to help those in less developed countries.

**19. Host venue for 40<sup>th</sup> GA in 2024** – President Aled Rhys-Jones noted there is no physical event planned yet and it would be possible to have a Zoom event. But as all delegates appreciated the benefits of meeting in person, he asked them to please get in touch and let him know if they would like to host this event.

**20. Lingen World Festival of Children’s Theatre 2025** – Stephan Schnell came to the microphone and read from text on behalf of his colleague Nils Hanraets who sent his regards to delegates but unfortunately was not able to join the GA in person. He reported that due to various circumstances including the impact of COVID, the World Festival of Children’s Theatre due to be held in Lingen in 2024 had been postponed to 2025. He thanked President Aled Rhys Jones for his excellent co-operation and willingness to find a common solution and was now able to announce that TPZ and the City of Lingen would host the event 27 June - 4 July 2025 as part of the 1,050 anniversary of the town of Lingen and would welcome theatre friends from around the world. Stephan asked delegates to save the date.

**21. Notification of host venue for 41<sup>st</sup> GA 20 – 27 August 2025 (Monaco)<sup>4</sup>** – Béatrice Cellario came to the microphone and thanked everyone for the opportunity to make this presentation as the President of the Studio de Monaco: the Vice President of the Studio de Monaco was also present. The event would last eight days - Wednesday 20 – Wednesday 27 August - and would be the 18<sup>th</sup> Mondial du Théâtre in Monaco. It was first held in 1957 and then every four years. It used to be a ten-day festival, but that was reduced in 2021 to 6 days with 15 companies but in 2025 it will be an eight-day festival with 22 groups, 18 of which would come from AITA/IATA. There will be colloquies and two workshops of 3 days each as well as a closing night soirée. There will be a call for applications in Jan 2024 which will be sent to all AITA/IATA Members with a deadline for applications of October 2024 and the joint committee (to select the groups) will be held in January 2025. The GA of AITA/IATA will be held in the middle of the festival over the weekend with regional committees on Friday 22 August and the Forum and GA over two days (23 - 24 August) at the weekend. The contact details are [mondialdutheatre@monte-carlo.mc](mailto:mondialdutheatre@monte-carlo.mc) She looked forward to seeing everyone in Monaco.

**22. Other business** – Joke Quaghebeur, Opendoek, the NC of Flanders (SGT) came to the microphone. She noted that they hoped to hold a World Festival of Children’s Theatre in 2026 in the city of Antwerp. They had been working together with Event Flanders and AITA/IATA. They hoped to connect with as many drama teachers as possible and wanted to collaborate with Dagmar Höfferer. The dates were not yet agreed but it was likely to be in July 2026 and she asked delegates to spread the word.

**23. Closing of the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of AITA/IATA asbl** – The Presiding Chair thanked delegates for their patience and apologised for the technical difficulties and thanked the

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<sup>4</sup> The presentation is on the AITA/IATA Website on the page with the Forum Book of the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

technicians and the translators. He offered special thanks to Ben Schutz his right-hand assistant who 24 hours ago knew nothing about AITA/IATA.

a. President Aled Rhys-Jones thanked everyone for attending the GA and staying for the day and noted no-one would be in Debrecen were it not for the Theatre Olympics about which he wanted to know more. In future, perhaps AITA/IATA should try and coincide with similar events. He thanked Janos Regős, Zsigmond Lakó and his wife Alexandra Mihály for their amazing work organising the event. He hoped that delegates appreciated that the last few months had been difficult for the organisation and thanked everyone for bearing with us. He thanked Anne Gilmour for the considerable work she had undertaken and also thanked Ben for his work with the Presiding Chair. Thanks also went to Ragnhild Arntsen and Paul Percy for their work as 'innocent eyes' scrutinising the votes. While they were both totally new faces to ATIA/AITA, because they kept coming up to the stage all delegates now knew who they were. He also thanked Michalis Karampelis for his work behind the scenes bringing the accounts together which had been a considerable effort. He offered grateful thanks to the Presiding Chair Dirk De Corte, a gentleman and a good friend whom he had known for many years and, if it were not for his knowledge of Belgian Law and ability to manage Zoom, he could not imagine how AITA/IATA would have got on: his corporate knowledge, his work as a 'constitutional chamber' of AITA/IATA and his input to the organisation was immeasurable. And last but not least Council: he remarked that we do make things happen, despite the recent 'hiccup'. He thanked them and delegates for their patience and continued trust and for the unanimous support for the budget.

39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of AITA/IATA asbl closed at 15:30.

# Current Membership of AITA/IATA asbl

## AITA/IATA asbl Membership Figures at 29 May 2024:

• Member (National Centres)	25
• Members (Associates)	58
<b>Countries and territories represented</b>	<b>48</b>

## New Membership Applications to be Accepted by the General Assembly

<b>Bangladesh:</b>	Associate Member – Blackflame Theatre
<b>Germany:</b>	Associate Member - Theater am Olgaek e.V.
<b>Georgia:</b>	Associate Member - Theater School-Studio „Berikebi“
<b>Malaysia:</b>	Associate Member - Chow Drama Theatre
<b>Mexico:</b>	Associate Member - Monterrey Performing Arts Academy
<b>Turkey:</b>	Associate Member - Melike Ersoy
<b>USA:</b>	Associate Member - Georgian Youth Theatre

## **AITA/IATA asbl Council 2023 – 2024**

President	Aled Rhys-Jones (Great Britain)
Councillor (Vice President)	Sofia Wegelius (Finland)
Councillor (Treasurer from 25/10/2023)	Patrick Schoenstein (France)
Councillor	Kelli McLoud-Schingen (USA)
Councillor	Ksenia Nesterova (Russia)
Councillor	Carlos Taberheiro (Spain)
Councillor	Stephen Tobias (Canada)
Councillor	Heidi Troi (South Tyrol, Italy)
Councillor (Treasurer to 2/5/2023)	Anna-Karin Waldemarson (Sweden) <b>Resigned</b> <b>13/06/2023.</b>

## **AITA/IATA asbl Council Meetings 2023 – 2024**

Since the last hybrid General Assembly held at the University of Debrecen, Hungary and via Zoom on 24 June 2023, the Council of AITA/IATA has met:

- 25 June 2023 Debrecen (post-GA)
- 5 September 2023 Zoom meeting online
- 30 Nov – 2 December 2023 Midland Theatre, Texas, USA
- 11 January 2023 Zoom meeting online
- 8 March 2023 Zoom meeting online
- 10 May 2023 Zoom meeting online

## **Council Activity Report 2023 – 2024**

Dear AITA/IATA Members

The last time we met together for our General Assembly was at the AITA/IATA asbl World Festival in Debrecen, Hungary 2024, held in partnership with the Hungarian Amateur Theatre Association and the 10<sup>th</sup> Theatre Olympics. The festival was an outstanding success and the location and theatre spaces provided for a truly positive and wholly collaborative, egalitarian, international amateur theatre festival. Festival participants, theatregoers and GA delegates alike, came together to enjoy a fantastic well-organised event with an extremely high quality of theatre. Local organisers: János Regös, Zsigmond Lakó and Alexandra Mihály did a remarkable job in bringing together a wonderful, feel-good festival. Debrecen 2023 will be remembered fondly... and one abiding memory for me, is the photograph posted on social media all over the AITA/IATA membership, of the opening session of the hybrid GA at the University of Debrecen... with delegates gathering around the podium to troubleshoot some internet connection issues... this casual image, captured by Noomi Reinert of the Faroe Islands, of 14 different nationalities cooperating in the best interests of the organisation... symbolising the very ethos of AITA/IATA...

Following the resignation of our former Treasurer, and the difficulties we experienced in addressing the financial management of the association in preparation for the Debrecen GA, Council appointed Patrick Schoenstein as Treasurer. In order to facilitate the management of the accounts moving forwards, Council agreed to contract an external Bookkeeper. More information on this matter will be presented in the Financial Report to the online GA on 15 June 2024.

It has been a busy year and yet we would have liked to have achieved even more...

I was very happy to attend the FITAG Festival in Girona, Spain for a second year running in August 2023. Under the new directorship of Xavier Valenti, I supported what has become one of the largest annual amateur theatre festivals in Europe. I also took the opportunity to sit down for a coffee and have a good chat with the new President of the Spanish National Centre ESCENAMATEUR, Alejandro Cavadas.

I had booked flights to attend the FITAS Festival in Agadir, Morocco. Tragically a major earthquake in Morocco caused this event to be postponed until later in the year and I was then unable to attend the new dates owing to a clash with a Council meeting. Maybe this year...

In an observational capacity, I attended the third and final 'Stage 1' session of the NEATA Network Development Project in Reykjavik, Iceland from 10 to 12 October 2023. This was my second opportunity to engage with the AITA/IATA members who form part of NEATA: Denmark, Estonia, Faeroes, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden. With the exception of Norway, who we hope will come back into membership soon, all these countries are established members of AITA/IATA. I also attended a reception hosted by the Cultural Minister of Iceland representing AITA/IATA asbl. The cooperation between the nine countries of NEATA has been both positive and heartening and it is hoped to secure funding to continue this initiative. The work undertaken by Sofia Wegelius (FSU – Finland) and Jacob Galtung Melchior (DATS – Denmark), to inspire and motivate the region; stimulating new mini-collaborations and initiatives, has been remarkable.

The Council was invited to hold a face-to-face meeting in Midland, Texas in November 2023. Former Vice President Tim Jebesen was until recently the Director of the Midland Community Theatre, and Council Members were hosted in the homes of local friends of the theatre. We had three productive days of meetings at the theatre with two Council members joining us remotely via zoom. We were taken care of very well and, in addition to our lengthy daytime meetings, we were able to attend a top notch production of 'The Sound of Music' by Midland Community Players, a Christmas Music Concert at the Wagner Noel Theatre, and a site visit at the Yucca Theatre in downtown Midland. The Yucca Theatre was opened in 1929 and is home to the Summer Mummer's Festival which celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in 2023. The Europeans amongst us were puzzled by a theatre event where the audience come to throw bucket-loads of popcorn at the performers on stage! But then it's not a far step from the groundlings reputedly pelting the actors they didn't like with rotten fruit and vegetables in 17<sup>th</sup> Century London... The Council meeting in Texas provided the Council with a valuable opportunity to team-build and to integrate our two new members Heidi and Kelli, who are both welcome additions to the team.

I attended the hybrid GA of the European Theatre House in Lingen, Germany on 19 March 2024 via Zoom. AITA/IATA has a seat on the steering committee of the European Theatre House. Plans

for the AITA/IATA World Festival of Children's Theatre were reported to the meeting by Nils Hanraets Director of TPZ Lingen, (Theaterpädagogisches Zentrum der Emsländischen Landschaft e.V.).

Council solicited applications to receive a full bursary to attend the 25<sup>th</sup> Drama in Education (DIE) Congress in Retz, Austria. We received 11 applications from around the world and the Children and Youth Working Group worked with the Director of the DIE Congress, Dagmar Höfferer to select two individuals to receive support via the designated Children and Youth Funds of the association. The two successful candidates were from Sri Lanka and Uganda. Unfortunately, the bursary recipient from Uganda was not able to attend as they were refused an entry visa to Austria. Councillor Heidi Troi attended the DIE Congress to represent AITA/IATA and reported a well-attended (90+ participants), and very interesting event. On 20 May 2023, Dr Kathiresu Rathitharan our bursary recipient, gave a lecture on his experiences attending the DIE Congress in Austria to a packed audience at KALAM, a place for cultural encounters on the Jaffna Peninsula in northern Sri Lanka. We hope to maintain this link with Dr Rathitharan and to offer members an online session with him soon.

For World Theatre Day 27 March 2024, we celebrated the event by sharing the message of the International Amateur Theatre Institute delivered by Norwegian writer and playwright, Nobel Prize Winner Jon Fosse. We also invited amateur theatre companies from around the world to share information about their events scheduled to take place as part of World Theatre Day. On behalf of the AITA/IATA Members, I also wrote a message to mark the occasion. We were extremely fortunate that our Secretariat, Anne Gilmour was able to secure a personal video message from theatre legend, Sir Ian McKellen supporting amateur theatre in general and supporting the international work of AITA/IATA.

On April 21, 2024, the first AITA/IATA Masterclass took place online. This first masterclass, led by Elodie Foray, focused on Intimacy in Theatre. Elodie discussed methods of establishing protocols and dialogue, within the rehearsal and creative processes to support performers through scenes or devised work that require intimate contact. The hour-long session offered an introduction into the subject with an opportunity towards the end to ask questions of the facilitator. Feedback from attendees was very positive and we are considering a repeat of this session. A charge was levied for attending the class and AITA/IATA members were offered a 50% membership reduction. This was the first in a series of online masterclasses. In Autumn 2024, the council will arrange two more masterclasses, one in French and one in Spanish.

On 25 April 2024, we convened an online meeting with TPZ Lingen and OPENDOEK to discuss the future development of the World Festival of Children's Theatre. The next AITA/IATA World Festival of Children's Theatre will take place in Lingen, Germany 27 June – 4 July 2025 and OPENDOEK, the amateur theatre organisation for Flanders is consulting with potential sponsors and partners with a view to hosting the event in 2026. The meeting discussed the appropriate age ranges for children's theatre festivals and festivals for young people. We also discussed the legacy of each festival. How can we ensure that there remains a lasting legacy at the end of each event and, what is the potential role of AITA/IATA in safeguarding that legacy?



The first Joint Committee meeting for the 2025 Mondial du Théâtre in Monaco was held online on Saturday 4 May. AITA/IATA asbl was represented by the President, Sofia Wegelius, Patrick Schoenstein and Kelli McLoud-Schingen. The meeting discussed the general rules of the festival, confirmed the dates, and some of the programme details of the event. It was agreed that the World Festival would invite 18 companies to the festival and offer 6 nights' accommodation. This is a slight reduction in the number of invited companies but they are being offered a longer supported stay at the festival. The application process for the festival is now open and may be found [HERE](#).

Our Secretariat Anne Gilmour and I attended a meeting with our account manager at Belfius Bank in Antwerp – Berchem in May 2024. We were accompanied by Dirk de Corte who helped with language issues and with some practical matters regarding administering our account. Anne and I took the opportunity whilst in Antwerp to attend the Festival of European Anglophone Theatrical Societies (FEATS). FEATS is an annual four-day festival established in 1976 of theatre companies based in continental Europe who perform in the English language. All performances are in English and there is a full daytime programme of fringe events and three one-hour performances on each night. For the 2024 FEATS, the 12 main companies selected to present an evening performance came from Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland and The Netherlands. A well-supported and healthy event hosted by BATS – British American Theatrical Society who are members of OPENDOEK.

Anne Gilmour and I have been invited to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lingua – International Festival of Theatre Through Minority Languages. The festival will take place in Barcelos, Portugal from 7 to 10 June 2024. I attended the first Lingua in 2022 and was inspired by the theatre performances and the uplifting discussions and I look forward very much to seeing how the event develops.

The Council team have undertaken to work both individually and in small groups on specific areas of work to help deliver the strategic priorities of the organisation, reporting back to Council at regular meetings.

Vice President Sofia Wegelius is leading on matters relating to Children and Youth and coordinating our Digital Shop Window and Digital Events. Sofia and Councillor Ksenia Nesterova are planning towards an online Curtain Up! Conference in the autumn of 2024, focusing on how we demonstrate and articulate the value of participating in international amateur theatre. As I write this report, I am listening in to an online Forum of young people involved in amateur theatre from 9 countries from across the world. This initial pilot forum has been brought together by the Children and Youth working group with invited participants and the session is being led by Councillor Kelli McLoud-Schingen. The young people are helping us with our thinking regarding what and how we could be delivering to youth theatre in the future. Future sessions are planned which will be advertised through the AITA/IATA membership to bring together a wide and diverse group of young people to help influence our work in this area. More below in the section on Children's and Youth Theatre.

Councillor Patrick Schoenstein is our UNESCO representative who ensures that we remain in operational relations with UNESCO by attending occasional meetings and reporting back to Council. Patrick has also taken on the responsibility of Treasurer.

Councillor Carlos Taberheiro administers the AITA/IATA World Theatre Day event. The World Theatre Day website experienced a fatal cyber-attack, and we took the decision to close it down. It has now been re-created through the kind pro-bono support of Michalis Karampelis and is now linked as a separate page accessible from the main AITA/IATA website.

Councillor Stephen Tobias has agreed to investigate fundraising options and the possibility of attracting sponsorship in the form of donations. Stephen will now lead the working group on Fundraising.

Councillor Kelli McLoud-Schingen is involved in the Children and Youth working groups and has also undertaken to conduct some groundwork into the issues surrounding the granting of entrance visas for international amateur theatre festivals and events. Council experienced difficulties with a group from Morocco selected to participate in the AITA/IATA International Festival in Debrecen being refused entry visas to Hungary. Similarly, a Ugandan Youth Theatre Leader who successfully applied for a bursary to attend the Drama in Education Congress in Austria, was denied an entry visa to Austria. Council is keen to hear the experiences of other festival organisers who have experienced difficulties in this area.

Councillor Heidi Troi is involved in the Children and Youth working group and is leading on an internal Council project to create new merchandising for AITA/IATA to be made available for online purchase. We are currently working with students following a digital design course in the South Tyrol. Heidi represented AITA/IATA asbl at the Drama in Education Congress in Retz, Austria as I was prevented from attending owing to some health issues.

Council remains in contact with Associate Member, Theatre New Zealand with a view to them hosting the 2027 AITA/IATA International Amateur Theatre Festival. Discussions are currently taking place locally and focusing on Christchurch as the potential location for the festival. If everything goes to plan, this will be the first AITA/IATA event to be held in the southern hemisphere. It will also need to be held at a different time of year to benefit from the summer weather and festival season and is anticipated to take place in late February/early March 2027. It will not be possible to hold the General Assembly at the same time as the operational/financial year 2026/2027 will still be ongoing to 31 March 2027, therefore it will be necessary to convene a General Assembly to take place later in the year. If any group, festival or National Centre would like to host a face-to-face General Assembly in July/August of 2027, please get in touch...

## **CYTheatre**

### **Report by Sofia Wegelius**

#### **Youth Think Tank**

On May 19, 2024, the council arranged the first test run of a think tank for youth around the world. The idea is to let young theatre makers meet and define what activities they hope the association could offer in the future. The hope is also that some of the young people attending will

be interested in collaborating with the association to fulfil some of the ideas that come up. This first think tank was led by Councillor Kelli McCloud-Schingen and attended by 17 young people from 9 different countries. The council plans to expand the think tank and offer the same opportunity in French and Spanish.

### **Workshop Day in Collaboration with NEATA**

On 21 October 2023, NEATA organized in collaboration with AITA/IATA, a free workshop day with relevant workshops for those active in amateur theatre. The workshops were all online and open to anyone interested. They were offered to all AITA/IATA members through social media and the organization's webpage. During the one-day event, participants could take part in workshops on topics such as online improvisation, voice training, and the connection between a moving body and mind.

## **Digital Capabilities**

### **We Are Amateur Theatre**

During the last GA in Debrecen, Hungary, the International Amateur Theatre Association launched the Instagram account [Weareamateurtheatre](#). The idea behind the account is to showcase amateur theatres from around the world. Groups and events can host the account one week at a time. We are building an audience for the account and during the last 90 days the Instagram followers have grown by 24%. The facility is well-subscribed, and activity is building. Amateur theatre companies are sharing via the Instagram account in this new opportunity of connecting amateur theatre activity across the globe; sharing unique stories of how they make their theatre.

### **Pin Yourself on the Map**

In Autumn 2023, the Council launched a new feature on the association's webpage. The map, which can be found on the [homepage](#), offers amateur theatre companies the opportunity to pin themselves and show the world where they are located. The map was created for us by Erik Ramm-Schmidt. To pin your theatre to the map, visit the AITA/IATA website and fill out the form [HERE](#).

### **Digital Newsletter**

In Spring 2024, the council launched a new digital newsletter for anyone interested in amateur theatre in an international context. The first newsletter was sent to subscribers as part of the World Theatre Day celebration on March 21, 2024. Anyone interested can subscribe to the newsletter on the AITA/IATA webpage at [www.aitaiata.net](http://www.aitaiata.net). The plan is to send 4-6 newsletters per year.

On behalf of the Council.

### **Aled Rhys-Jones**

President

## **AITA/IATA asbl Finance 2023 - 2024**

To delegates at the General Assembly 15 June 2024

### **Financial statements follow:**

- AITA/IATA Profit and Loss Statement 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024
- The Statement of Balance at 31 March 2024
- The Account Controllers Certificate 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024
- Budget Proposals 2024 – 2025
- Council's Proposal to Increase Membership Fees to take Effect for the Membership Year 2025/26

On behalf of the AITA/IATA asbl Council as Treasurer, I submit the accounts for your approval.

*Patrick Schoenstein*

**Patrick Schoenstein**

30 May 2024

Treasurer

# AITA/IATA asbl Profit and Loss Statement

## 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024

	2023		2022	
	Closing balance (Debit)	Closing balance (Credit)	Closing balance (Debit)	Closing balance (Credit)
<b>PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT</b>				
<b>Operation Profit and costs</b>				
<b>Operating income (code 70/74)</b>				
<b>Membership, donations, legacies and subsidies</b>				
730010 - Membership Fees National Centres		13.995,68		11.375,00
730020 - Membership Fees Associate Members Groups		4.180,22		4.979,43
730030 - Membership Fees Associate Members Individuals		686,06		1.161,21
732010 - General Grants				2.300,00
<b>Total: Membership, donations, legacies and subsidies</b>		<b>18.861,96</b>		<b>19.815,64</b>
<b>Other operating income</b>				
740000 - Other operating income		114,30		
740102 - Withdrawals from Children and Youth Fund		792,15		
740500 - Other Extraordinary Income				999,33
743000 - Miscellaneous operating income				1.222,81
<b>Total: Other operating income</b>		<b>906,45</b>		<b>2.222,14</b>
<b>Total: Operating income (code 70/74)</b>		<b>19.768,41</b>		<b>22.037,78</b>
<b>Operating charges</b>				
<b>Services and other goods</b>				
610900 - Subcontracting Secretariat	13.200,00		12.000,00	
610905 - Subcontracting Accounting	3.000,00			
611011 - Office Expenses	32,00		57,42	
611015 - Telephone			709,47	
611016 - Internet & Web	3.380,13		2.484,31	
613100 - Phone	505,89		0,00	
615000 - Registration Belgium	389,20		384,20	
615002 - Congresses, Forum, AGM	500,00		2.200,00	
615006 - Legal Fees	121,00		1.391,50	
615007 - Subscription Accounting Package	500,94			
616002 - Travel expenses and grants paid	3.293,17		1.210,16	
<b>Total: Services and other goods</b>	<b>24.922,33</b>		<b>20.437,06</b>	
<b>Other operating charges</b>				
644000 - Miscellaneous operating charges	571,00		472,95	
<b>Total: Other operating charges</b>	<b>571,00</b>		<b>472,95</b>	
<b>Total: Operating charges</b>	<b>25.493,33</b>		<b>20.910,01</b>	
<b>Total: Operation Profit and costs</b>		<b>5.724,92</b>		<b>1.127,77</b>
<b>Financial revenues and costs</b>				
<b>Financial income</b>				
<b>Income from financial fixed assets.</b>				
750100 - Bank interest		454,89		
<b>Total: Income from financial fixed assets.</b>		<b>454,89</b>		
<b>Total: Financial income</b>		<b>454,89</b>		
<b>Financial charges</b>				
<b>Other financial charges</b>				
651002 - Bank fees	110,00		75,00	
657000 - Other financial charges	274,81		269,15	
<b>Total: Other financial charges</b>	<b>384,81</b>		<b>344,15</b>	
<b>Total: Financial charges</b>	<b>384,81</b>		<b>344,15</b>	
<b>Total: Financial revenues and costs</b>		<b>70,08</b>	<b>344,15</b>	
<b>Extraordinary revenues and costs</b>				
<b>Extraordinary income</b>				
<b>Adjust./ provisions for extraordinary liabilities and charges</b>				
762100 - Write-back Provisions				1.257,00
<b>Total: Adjust./ provisions for extraordinary liabilities and charges</b>				<b>1.257,00</b>
<b>Other extraordinary income</b>				
764000 - Other extraordinary income		1.640,24		
<b>Total: Other extraordinary income</b>		<b>1.640,24</b>		
<b>Total: Extraordinary income</b>		<b>1.640,24</b>		<b>1.257,00</b>
<b>Extraordinary charges</b>				
<b>Other extraordinary charges</b>				
664000 - Other extraordinary charges			1.640,24	
<b>Total: Other extraordinary charges</b>			<b>1.640,24</b>	
<b>Total: Extraordinary charges</b>			<b>1.640,24</b>	
<b>Total: Extraordinary revenues and costs</b>		<b>1.640,24</b>	<b>383,24</b>	
<b>Result</b>		<b>4.014,60</b>	<b>400,38</b>	
<b>Total: Profit and loss statement</b>	<b>5.724,92</b>	<b>5.724,92</b>	<b>1.127,77</b>	<b>1.127,77</b>

# The Statement of Balance at 31 March 2024

	2023		2022	
	Closing balance (Debit)	Closing balance (Credit)	Closing balance (Debit)	Closing balance (Credit)
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>				
<b>Assets</b>				
<b>Current assets</b>				
<b>Deferred charges and accrued income (Asset)</b>				
490000 - Accruals Deferred charges - invoices to send out		0,00		3.300,00
491000 - Accrued income		125,90		
<b>Total: Deferred charges and accrued income (Asset)</b>		<b>125,90</b>		<b>3.300,00</b>
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>				
550000 - Belfius Current Account		14.167,90		14.680,10
550001 - Belfius Savings Account		65.759,81		65.430,82
<b>Total: Cash at bank and in hand</b>		<b>79.927,71</b>		<b>80.110,92</b>
<b>Total: Current assets</b>		<b>80.053,61</b>		<b>83.410,92</b>
<b>Total: Assets</b>		<b>80.053,61</b>		<b>83.410,92</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
<b>Social fund</b>				
<b>Associate funds</b>				
<b>Starting capital</b>				
100000 - Association Funds		1,00		1,00
<b>Total: Starting capital</b>		<b>1,00</b>		<b>1,00</b>
<b>Total: Associate funds</b>		<b>1,00</b>		<b>1,00</b>
<b>Allocated funds</b>				
131011 - Fund for Children and Youth		5.800,85		6.593,00
131012 - Strategic Development Fund		7.823,00		7.823,00
<b>Total: Allocated funds</b>		<b>13.623,85</b>		<b>14.416,00</b>
<b>Accumulated profits / Lost</b>				
140000 - Profits carried forward		52.139,38		51.739,00
<b>Total: Accumulated profits / Lost</b>		<b>52.139,38</b>		<b>51.739,00</b>
<b>Total: Social fund</b>		<b>65.764,23</b>		<b>66.156,00</b>
<b>Provisions</b>				
<b>Provisions for liabilities and charges</b>				
<b>Other liabilities and charges</b>				
161500 - Provision for Legal Fees		0,00		1.391,50
<b>Total: Other liabilities and charges</b>		<b>0,00</b>		<b>1.391,50</b>
<b>Total: Provisions for liabilities and charges</b>		<b>0,00</b>		<b>1.391,50</b>
<b>Total: Provisions</b>		<b>0,00</b>		<b>1.391,50</b>
<b>Debts</b>				
<b>Amounts payable within one year (toel. X)</b>				
<b>Trade debts</b>				
<b>Suppliers</b>				
161501 - Provision for secretariat fees		3.300,00		
161502 - Provision for accounting services		3.000,00		
161503 - Provision for Internet costs		68,94		
161504 - Provision for phone charges		130,89		
<b>Total: Suppliers</b>		<b>6.499,83</b>	<b>0,00</b>	
<b>Total: Trade debts</b>		<b>6.499,83</b>	<b>0,00</b>	
<b>Total: Amounts payable within one year (toel. X)</b>		<b>6.499,83</b>	<b>0,00</b>	
<b>Deferred charges and accrued income (Liabilities)</b>				
493100 - Accruals pre paid income - invoices to receive		11.454,15		15.113,04
493110 - CEC Fees		350,00		350,00
<b>Total: Deferred charges and accrued income (Liabilities)</b>		<b>11.804,15</b>		<b>15.463,04</b>
<b>Total: Debts</b>		<b>18.303,98</b>		<b>15.463,04</b>
<b>Total: Liabilities</b>		<b>84.068,21</b>		<b>83.010,54</b>
<b>Result</b>				
Result for selected periods: 1 - 12		4.014,60		400,38
<b>Total: Result</b>		<b>4.014,60</b>		<b>400,38</b>
<b>Total: Balance sheet</b>		<b>84.068,21</b>	<b>84.068,21</b>	<b>83.410,92</b>

# Account Controller Certificate

## 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024

### AITA/IATA Account Control Certificate

Bookyear 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024

Ghent, 30 May 2024

We have examined the financial statements of AITA/IATA asbl ("the Association") for the accounting year 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024 which comprises the Profit and Loss Account, the Balance Sheet and related notes together with supporting accounting reports and copies of Bank Statements. We have also been supplied with copies of all Council Meeting Minutes which outline decisions taken with regard to financial transactions during the accounting year 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024.

We have obtained all the information and explanations that we considered necessary to carry out our role as Account Controller and can confirm that proper books of account have been kept by the Association, the financial statements are in agreement with the books of accounts, and that accounts are compliant with Belgian Accounting Practices for Not for Profit Organisations (*verenigingen zonder winstoogmerk-associations sans but lucratif*).

2023-2024 shows an accounting loss of 4,014.60 EUR. It should be noted that this results takes into account an extraordinary income of 1,640.24 EUR (the write back of a provision taken in the 2022-2023 year) as well as a withdrawal from the Children & Youth Fund of 792.15 EUR. Therefore, the 2023-2024 years shows an operating loss of 6,446.99 EUR.

As a result of this the net worth of the Association on 31 March 2024 (Allocated Funds plus Carried Forward Results) is 61,748.63 EUR

Although the accounting loss warrens attention, we see no reason to question the Association's status as a going concern.

Signature



Dirk De Corte

# **Council’s Proposal to Increase Membership Fees to take Effect for the Membership Year 2025/26**

## **Introduction**

At the 2019 GA in Saint John, New Brunswick, the Members considered and approved a proposal to increase the subscription fees. The HDI 1 Subscription rate increased by €125, with effect from Year 2020.

Since then, subsequent General Assemblies have agreed to retain subscriptions at this level to acknowledge the impact of the COVID pandemic and the financial difficulties that ensued for many of our Members.

Council forewarned Members at the 2023 General Assembly in Debrecen, Hungary that it would be necessary to increase the subscription fees at the 2024 GA. Council are proposing to the General Assembly that the subscription rate is now increased with the new rate becoming effective from 2025.

## **Historic Changes in Subscription Rates & Current Requirements**

Below are listed the most recent changes to the HDI 1 Subscription Rates:

- 2016 HDI 1 Subscription Rate € 620 (reduced in 2017 Ypres GA)
- 2019 HDI 1 Subscription Rate € 350
- 2020 HDI 1 Subscription Rate € 475

Our income from subscriptions has remained static, however, in the meantime our expenditure has increased following 5 years of high inflation. In real terms this approximates to a 29% decrease in the value of our income from subscriptions. In 2023-24 this was €18.862 whilst our operational deficit for the year was €5.725.

In order to balance our accounts, we would require increasing subscription fees to the 2016 levels, however, we appreciate that such an increase may cause challenges for some of our Members.

## **Proposed Increase in the Membership Fees**

Council proposes a reasonable increase in the Membership Fees as follows:

<b>HDI Category</b>	<b>National Centre Euro</b> Current Fee in ( )	<b>Associate Euro</b> Current Fee in ( )
Category 1	595 (475)	90 (75)
Category 2	435 (350)	60 (50)
Category 3	250 (200)	60 (50)
Category 4	60 (50)	30 (25)

This proposed increase will still leave us with an operational deficit of around €1.500. It's clear that to balance our accounts we cannot solely rely on increasing subscriptions and Council has made a commitment to diversifying the Organisation income base.



# Council's Proposed AITA/IATA asbl Budget

## 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025

<b>INCOME</b>	
Fees National Centres & Self-Governing Territories	€ 14.000
Fees Associate Members	€ 5.000
<b>SUM Membership fees</b>	<b>€ 19.000</b>
Grants	€ 2.000
Income from Activities	€ 500
From Designated Funds	€ 3.000
<b>SUM Other Income</b>	<b>€ 5.500</b>
Bank interests	€ 500
Realised exchange gains	€ 0
<b>SUM Financial income</b>	<b>€ 500</b>
<b>TOTAL Income</b>	<b>€ 25.000</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
Subcontracting Secretariat	€ 13.200
Subcontracting Accounting	€ 3.000
<b>SUM Personnel</b>	<b>€ 16.200</b>
Miscellaneous Office Expenses	€ 0
Postal address (MAI)	€ 300
Postage & freight	€ 50
Telephone	€ 500
Internet & Web	€ 3.300
Archives	€ 0
Subscription for Accounting Package	€ 550
<b>SUM Office expenses</b>	<b>€ 4.700</b>
Registration Belgium	€ 500
Auditing	€ 0
Legal Fees	€ 300
Forum/congress	€ 0
Other organisations (UNESCO & FAIB)	€ 615
Other expenses	€ 500
<b>SUM Running costs</b>	<b>€ 1.915</b>
Meeting expenses	€ 1.000
Travel expenses & grants	€ 1.200
Children & Youth (Bursary DIE Congress)	€ 3.000
Representation	€ 500
<b>SUM Operation costs</b>	<b>€ 5.700</b>
Bank fees	€ 110
Realised exchange losses	€ 280
<b>SUM Financial costs</b>	<b>€ 390</b>
Depreciations	€ 0
<b>SUM Depreciations</b>	<b>€ 0</b>
<b>TOTAL Expenses</b>	<b>€ 28.905</b>
<b>SURPLUS / DEFICIT</b>	<b>(€ 3.905)</b>