



UWW-Asia General Assembly Meeting 2023

Date: June 09, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. (Bishkek Time)

Format: In Person/Online

MINUTES

Present at the meeting:

UWW Asia Executive Committee:

1	Daulet Turlykhanov	UWW-Asia President
2	Kenneth Lee	UWW-Asia Vice-President
3	Buyandelger Peljee	UWW-Asia General Secretary
4	Melis Turganbayev	Executive Committee Member
5	Koji Fukuda	Executive Committee Member
6	Abdullah Al Maghrebi	Executive Committee Member
7	Yuriy Mayer	UWW America Development Officer
8	Olzhas Beisembayev	UWW Asia Development Officer
9	<i>Carlos Roy</i>	<i>UWW Secretary General, online</i>
10	<i>Deqa Niamkey</i>	<i>UWW Development Director, online</i>
11	<i>Jean Daniel Rey</i>	<i>UWW Sports Director, online</i>
12	<i>Zhang Ye</i>	<i>UWW Bureau Member, UWW Asia Executive Committee Member, online</i>

Item 1 Opening of the meeting by UWW Asia President

Mr. Turlykhanov welcomed delegates to the 2023 Asia General Assembly in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan for the U17 & U23 Asian Championships in three wrestling styles. He expressed his gratitude to the Wrestling Federation of Kyrgyzstan for their great assistance in organizing the Assembly, as well as the U17 and U23 Asian Wrestling Championships for the second time since last year and thanked the various federations of Asia for coming to the meeting and to the competitions.

Mr. Turlykhanov extended his heartfelt gratitude to the United World of Wrestling (UWW) and its President, Mr. Nenad Lalovic. Under his tireless leadership, the wrestling community of the continent is actively working to develop the sport, organizing various events and competitions. Notably, an increasing number of countries and athletes are participating in these competitions, while valuable seminars for coaches, judges, and organizers, along with specialized training camps for athletes, are also being conducted. As the governing body for international wrestling, UWW-Asia and UWW should ensure the highest possible representation for Asian federations in important meetings and tournaments, so that we can collectively cooperate and develop our favorite sport in our continent and the world, so that our wrestlers can realize their dreams by achieving the best results on the world stage.

The meeting was held in a hybrid format, as several speakers of the meeting spoke online, and some federations asked to be present online as well. Mr. Turlykhanov strongly stressed that national federations should take all necessary measures to ensure their physical presence at the General Assembly meetings, since a relatively small quorum has a negative impact on the overall quality of the events. It must be understood that the Continental General Assembly Meetings, the UWW Congress and especially Continental Championships are special events that must be attended with maximum representation of all stakeholders.

Item 2 Welcome note by the Organizer

Mr. Turlykhanov introduced the members of the UWW office present at the meeting online and offline, and the UWW-Asia Executive Committee Members, followed by Mr. Kylychbek Sarbagishev, Secretary General of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of Kyrgyzstan. The mic was handed to Mr. Sarbagishev.

Mr. Sarbagishev, on behalf of the organizing committee and the NOC, thanked and welcomed the delegates to the gracious land of Kyrgyzstan as this was a milestone event for UWW-Asia and for the Wrestling Federation of Kyrgyzstan. He thanked UWW-Asia for the opportunity and mentioned that more than 10 continental and international sporting events are taking place in the country in 2023. The most noted by the local media being the Ranking Series and U17&U23 Asian Wrestling Championships. The allocation of 9 (out of 15) scholarships provided by the NOC of Kyrgyzstan to wrestling illustrates that wrestling has deep and legitimate roots in the Kyrgyz Republic. At the end of his speech, Mr. Secretary General promised that all necessary assistance will be provided by the Organizing Committee and the NOC of the country to the event and wished everyone in attendance the best of luck as well as good results for all the athletes.

Mr. Turlykhanov thanked Mr. Sarbagishev for his speech and handed the mic to Mr. Melis Turganbayev, Deputy Chairman of the Organizing Committee; President of the Kyrgyzstan Wrestling Federation and UWW-Asia Executive Committee Member, for welcome words.

Mr. Turganbaev thanked UWW Asia President Mr. Daulet Turlykhanov, UWW Staff Members, UWW Asia Executive Members, all delegates and guests of the General Assembly on behalf of the Wrestling Federation of Kyrgyzstan, of the Kyrgyz Organizing Committee and welcomed them to the hospitable land of Kyrgyzstan. He also expressed his gratitude to UWW and its President Mr. Nenad Lalovic for his trust and for the opportunity to host the U17 & U23 Asian Championships in Bishkek for the second time as it is a great honor to host such an event, and he assured that the Organizing Committee will do their best to in hosting this event. He also expressed best wishes to wrestlers of the Asian Championships and spectacular bouts to the viewers in audience.

Mr. Turlykhanov presents memorable gift to Mr. Sarbagishev, Secretary General of Kyrgyzstan NOC.

Item 3. Rollcall

Mr. Turlykhanov asks Ms. Buyana Pelje to proceed to the third point of the agenda. Roll calls were taken. Six out of seven Executive Committee Members were present on spot and one member (Ms. Zhang Ye) - online, and eighteen out of forty-five National Federations (NF) were in attendance while four nations joined via online. The President thanked everyone for attending but regretted that more countries did not attend in person.

	federations	present on spot	joined online
1.	Afghanistan		
2.	Bahrain		
3.	Bangladesh		
4.	Cambodia		+
5.	China	+	
6.	Hong Kong, China		
7.	India		
8.	Indonesia		
9.	Iran	+	
10.	Iraq	+	
11.	Japan	+	
12.	Jordan		
13.	Kazakhstan	+	
14.	DPR Korea		
15.	Korea	+	
16.	Kuwait		
17.	Kyrgyzstan	+	
18.	Laos		
19.	Lebanon		
20.	Macao, China		
21.	Malaysia		
22.	Mongolia	+	
23.	Myanmar		
24.	Nepal	+	
25.	Palestine	+	
26.	Pakistan		
27.	Philippines	+	+
28.	Qatar		+
29.	Saudi Arabia	+	
30.	Singapore	+	+
31.	Sri Lanka		
32.	Syria		
33.	Chinese Taipei	+	
34.	Tajikistan	+	
35.	Thailand	+	
36.	Turkmenistan		

37.	UAE	+	
38.	Uzbekistan		
39.	Vietnam		
40.	Yemen	+	
	total	18	4

Item 4 Approval of the minutes of the hybrid UWW Asia General Assembly 2022 in Bishkek

Mr. Turlykhanov reminded the agenda of the UWW Asia General Assembly meeting held on the occasion of the 2022 U17&U23 Asian Championship, were held also in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) last year at the same place.

No comments were made, the minutes of the meeting of UWW Asia General Assembly 2022 **approved unanimously**.

Item 5. Report on the UWW Asia activity from 2022

Mr. Turlykhanov noted that the Asian Council's work is inextricably linked with the activities of all members of the Executive Committee, National Wrestling Federations and UWW Departments.

Since the beginning of 2022, the UWW Asian Wrestling Council, with the support of UWW, has organized several events, including those related to enhancing the development and promotion of wrestling in Asia.

2022 Asian wrestling year began with the Asian Senior Wrestling Championships in Mongolia. The second sporting event of the past year was the 31st South-East Asian Games which were held in Hanoi (Vietnam) in May 2022. Southeast Asian Games were included in the list of the Regional Games in the ranking system in order to test the possibility of their future use.

In 2022, the United Wrestling World-Asia witnessed new trends in the geography of Championships-for example, Bahrain successfully held the first ever Asian Championships in a unified format in its country and this format demonstrated high opportunities.

2023 year started with the Asian Senior Championships, which was scheduled to be held in India, but then, for objective reasons, was moved to Kazakhstan.

The 32nd Southeast Asian Games were organized in May in Cambodia, in cooperation with UWW and with the Southeast Asian Games Federation.

United World Wrestling has received applications to organize competitions in 2023 from countries that have never hosted a continental wrestling competition, but have a great desire to do so, particularly Jordan, which will host the Asian U20 & U15 Wrestling Championships in July.

For the second time since last year Kyrgyzstan was a host for U23&U17 Asian Wrestling Championships. In addition, UWW Development Department, in cooperation with UWW Asia and the Kyrgyz Wrestling Federation, organized the "More Than Medals" annual comprehensive development program in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan.

In regard to the UWW official meetings for the reported period, Mr. Turlykhanov mentioned that he took part at the 8 meetings of UWW Bureau and in UWW Congress in Serbia, and also in 3 meetings of UWW Commissions. Also, he made 4 visits in his capacity as Technical Delegate to Mongolia, Vietnam, Bulgaria and Kyrgyzstan.

A detailed report on the UWW-Asia activity can be found in the working papers of the meeting (attached).

- Financial Report for 2022/Adoption of the Budget for 2023

Ms. Seifullina, UWW Asia Treasurer, delivered the financial report for the fiscal year 2022 and the budget for 2023 (attached to the report).

No questions were asked, and the General Assembly **unanimously adopted** the UWW Asia reports.

Item 6. Activities of the United Wrestling World Development Department in 2022

Mr. Turlykhanov pointed out that UWW and its various departments are doing their best to assist wrestling development in the continent-for instance, the Development Department provides lots of initiatives, including the "More than Medals" project, various courses for coaches and referees, and many other programs. He passed the floor to Ms. Deqa Niamkey, UWW Development Director, for her presentation.

Ms. Niamkey (who joined the assembly via online) thanked Mr. Turlykhanov for joining the assembly and gave a brief report on the works of the United World Wrestling Development Department in Asia during the past year:

The regional educational programs hosted in Cambodia and Saudi Arabia achieved remarkable success, thanks to the invaluable support from various parties. UWW Development Department fathered financial support from multiple parties, including the National Olympic committees of the respective host countries, UWW, and other associated entities.

The fundamental objective of these programs revolves around nurturing wrestling nations; enabling them to host various coaches and referees' courses; along with tournaments for athletes. This approach ensures a seamless transition of theoretical knowledge into practical application. Moreover, UWW Development has been unwavering in providing technical assistance for the Senior World Championship 2022. This yearly support extends to national federations, athletes, and coaches,

encompassing both senior and cadet categories, particularly considering the financial constraints faced by Asia and other regions.

In the previous year, the program disbursed approximately 15,000 CHF for these endeavors. For the current year's 2023 Asian Championship in Kazakhstan, the initiative offered support to 35 athletes and coaches, incurring an expenditure of 24,400 CHF. These initiatives exemplify UWW Development Department's strong commitment to empowering wrestling communities worldwide and fostering the growth of talent within the sport.

Bishkek received technical assistance, benefiting a total of 11 athletes and coaches from Vietnam and Saudi Arabia. It is anticipated that all teams participating in the Championship will also attend the More than Medals camp. Across Asia, 7 technical courses for coaches and referees have been conducted, with active participation from countries like Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and Iraq, all of whom played pivotal roles in ensuring the success of these courses.

Asia's wrestling community is on a growth trajectory, having triumphed over various challenges faced by the regions. National federations are now actively engaged at the regional level, a crucial milestone for wrestling's development in Asia. This emphasis on regional efforts marks a significant step forward for the sport in the continent.

The Development Department also places great emphasis on various critical areas, including gender equality, youth development, digital transformation, and the preservation of traditional wrestling. In promoting gender equality, UWW has established a significant partnership with the IOC through the Women in Sports Leadership (WISH) program. Regrettably, in the last edition, a participant from Kazakhstan was unable to complete the scholarship program, but she will be given the opportunity to do so at a later date. Additionally, for the upcoming August edition, a beneficiary from Sri Lanka will represent Asia in this program, further advancing the cause of gender equality in sports.

In addition to focusing on the gender equality program, UWW has taken significant strides in promoting women referees. With the upcoming Olympic Games in Paris, a key objective is to increase the representation of female referees. The aim is to ensure greater participation of women both as athletes and referees in all events. To achieve this, UWW is collaborating closely with the Sports Department to implement this program effectively.

For the upcoming course in June, which will be held in Turkey, three candidates from Asia have been selected to take part. Among them, one candidate hails from Kazakhstan, while the other two come from Korea. This initiative marks a crucial step forward in fostering gender diversity within the wrestling community and encouraging women's participation at all levels of the sport.

The upcoming 2023 "Women in Wrestling" forum will be organized in collaboration with the French Wrestling Federation (Ms. Niamkey has encouraged all national federations from Asia to send female participants to the forum). Invitations to the event will be sent out in due course. Additionally, the IT Department has successfully implemented the registration process for development courses and training camps in the Athena system. This system aims to streamline the registration process, making it similar to competition registrations, but with a lighter approach.

The referee's scholarship program has been a resounding success, with most nations supporting their referees to attend competitions. This initiative has been pivotal in fostering the growth and expertise of referees in the sport.

A valuable addition to the Academy is the "Wrestle for Fun" program, comprising 75 lessons divided into 4 programs. This initiative aims to promote and implement wrestling for children starting from the age of 4, providing a fun and recreational approach. National federations can utilize this program to lay the foundation for wrestling's development in their countries.

Soon, video analysis of events from 2020 to 2024 will be made available on the UWW Academy, offering a valuable resource for national federations to review and implement with their coaches, referees, and athletes.

The UWW Development team is also working on administration courses, designed to support national federations in structuring themselves in a more professional and administrative manner. These courses cover various aspects, including human resources, finances, sports administration, and competition management.

The "More than Medals" project is set to commence in Cholpon Ata following the competitions in Bishkek. The Wrestling Federation of Kyrgyzstan is once again thanked for hosting this event, which aims to engage young athletes and provide them with a memorable experience, fostering a sense of family spirit, and offering a relaxing and fun holiday atmosphere. This project plays a crucial role in the holistic development of athletes beyond their competitive achievements. In addition, the World "More than Medals" will be held in Istanbul 7-12 August, and all participants are welcomed to join the project.

Finally, Ms. Niamkey invited the audience to take part in the "National Federation Seminar" in the afternoon after the General Assembly.

Mr. Turlykhanov thanked Ms. Niamkey as well as her team, for the development of wrestling in the world and particularly for Asia. Her information was noted and taken into account.

Decision: information is **taken into account**.

Item 7. UWW-Asia Competition Calendar for 2023 - 2025

According to **Mr. Turlykhanov**, between January 2022 and June 2023, several major continental and world tournaments took place in Asia. During these years, five Asian Championships were successfully organized, thanks to the efforts of the hosting federations. They efficiently managed their events, ensuring a high level of execution. The same level of dedication and proficiency is expected from the organizers of the 2023 Championships in Bishkek and Amman.

To allow potential organizers sufficient preparation time, UWW has implemented a system of searching for championships three years in advance. This allows events to be planned and incorporated into the working and financial calendars in a timely manner, thereby ensuring the delivery of top-quality events.

The schedule for major events has been determined for the next few years, extending up to 2025. However, it has been observed that there are only a few countries that have offered to host events in the aftermath of the pandemic. Notably, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan have demonstrated their willingness to take on hosting responsibilities. Encouragingly, new countries such as Bahrain and Jordan have also joined this process. The involvement of Arab World countries is especially valuable as it helps in popularizing wrestling in the region and expanding its geographical footprint.

On the downside, developed countries such as Korea, Japan, China, Iran, and Qatar have refrained from nominating themselves to host major tournaments in the UWW calendar. This development raises concerns about the availability of potential hosts from these prominent wrestling nations.

Mr. Turlykhanov mentioned that the events calendar for the coming three-year period was in the folder with working documents as well as on the screen, and suggested federations present at the meeting to nominate themselves as potential future hosts.

Mr. Lee started the call for bid for the upcoming Asian Championships 2024-2025.

Mr. Hassan of Palestine has expressed his desire for the Palestine Wrestling Federation to host the 2024 Asian Championship. He mentioned that they have been sending bids to UWW for the past three years, demonstrating their commitment to staging an event. Mr. Hassan believes that hosting such a significant championship in Palestine will serve as a great stimulant for younger wrestlers, encouraging them to participate more actively in wrestling events, as well as grow the sport within the region.

He also highlighted that Palestine has already conducted referees and coaches' courses with the support of UWW, and they are planning to repeat the course in August of this year. The success of these courses has significantly contributed to promote wrestling in Palestine.

Mr. Hassan further mentioned that the Palestine Wrestling Federation has received support from the local National Olympic Committee (NOC) and Sports Ministry for organizing the 2024 Asian Championship. They are considering hosting either the U17&U23 age category or the U15&U20 category. With Jordan being a neighboring country, he expressed hope that the Jordan Wrestling Federation could provide support to the Federation of Palestine in staging the events. Such collaboration between neighboring nations would not only enhance the organization of the championship, but also strengthen the ties between the wrestling communities in both countries.

Mr. Lee continued asking for candidacies from the federations. He noted, that hosting the event is kind of difficult task, and on behalf of UWW Asia he assured that staff members of the Asian Council, and Ms. Deqa Niamkey from UWW Development Department, as well as Mr. Jean Daniel from UWW Sports Department are available any time to provide their full support, so there is no need to be afraid of applying for bids.

Mr. Turganbayev asks for support in applying for 2024 Asian Olympic Qualifier in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Mayer of UWW took the floor and announced that the Sports Department has opened candidacies for the 2026 calendar year. There will be qualifiers for the Youth Olympic Games in Dhaka, making it an appealing opportunity for countries to host. Additionally, countries can also apply for 2026 competitions.

Mr. Lee emphasized the significance of the 2024 Olympic Qualifier, which occurs once every four years and serves as a crucial platform for Olympic athletes to compete and earn qualifications. Many countries have shown interest in hosting the qualifiers, which Mr. Lee appreciates on behalf of UWW and UWW Asia. He highlighted the importance of consistent efforts in hosting events and suggested a long-term, four-year plan for successful hosting. For instance, countries like Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan have been hosting consistently for the past four to eight years, making them well-equipped with experience, logistics, and manpower to conduct successful Olympic qualifiers. Mr. Lee encourages all countries to apply for the Olympic qualifier, and he particularly hopes for Kyrgyzstan's success in hosting the event.

Mr. Turlykhanov notified that all Asian national federations have the right to apply for official sports events, international tournaments, Olympic qualifiers, and asked federation to be active in this process.

Decision: UWW Asia Executive Committee by the end of July 2023 to submit proposals to UWW Asia with candidates to fill in UWW Calendar for 2024-2025.

	2023	2024	2025
U15+U20	Amman, Jordan	candidate - Jordan	India
U17+U23	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	candidate - Palestine	India
Seniors	Astana, Kazakhstan		-
Asian Games	Hangzhou, China		
Olympic qualifier		candidate - Kyrgyzstan	

8. The Qualification Process for the 2024 Olympics

Mr. Turlykhanov moved on to the 8th item of the agenda, and delivered the floor to Mr. Jean Daniel Rey, UWW Sports Director.

Mr. Rey expressed gratitude for the meeting invitation and offered his full support to the federations for any candidacy-related requests. He agreed with Mr. Turlykhanov's point about the need for more candidates from Asia, acknowledging the scarcity of international tournaments on the continent. Mr. Rey emphasized that organizing international tournaments in Asia is essential for the continent's development.

Regarding candidacies, especially for the Youth Olympic Games – candidacies are open for the year 2026, and UWW happy to have Beach Wrestling at the Youth Olympic Games, and there is a need for Beach Wrestling qualification. So, organizer of 2026 U17 Asian Championship might be able to host Beach Wrestling qualifiers.

Mr. Rey urged federations to reach out to UWW Sports and Development Departments for any inquiries. He encouraged active participation and communication to ensure more candidacies are submitted for hosting events. Mr. Rey emphasized that increasing the number of hosting applications is crucial for the development of wrestling in Asia.

Mr. Turlykhanov asked Mr. Rey to inform the attendees about the qualification process for the Olympic Games 2024 in Paris.

Mr. Rey proceeded to make a presentation (attached to these minutes).

- 5th of August to the 11th of August 2024 – 7 days of competition
- Olympic Styles: Greco-Roman Wrestling / Women's Wrestling / Freestyle Wrestling
- 6 weight categories per style – 18 weight categories total
- 16 athletes qualified per weight category – total of 288 Wrestlers

Grand Palais éphémère, Arena Champ-de-Mars

- Walking distance from the ITOs and IF Hotels
- Capacity 9000 seats
- Share the venue with:
 - Judo
 - Para-Rugby
 - Share the Champ-de-Mars with Beach Volleyball

Competition Schedule

- Women's Wrestling every day
- Greco-Roman Wrestling the first half
- Freestyle Wrestling the second half

- Day 1
- Start at 15h – time for the change over with Judo
- Evening session starts later
- Day 2 to Day 6
- Morning Session: 11h – 13h30
- Evening Session: 18h15 – 22h
- Day 7
- Repechage and Finals 11h – 14h30
- Closing Ceremony

About qualification tournaments – The IOC Executive committee has approved the qualification system for the Paris Olympics. Before the Senior World Championships, the Bureau Members will decide on the host for the World Qualifiers for Paris. Kyrgyzstan Wrestling Federation has expressed interest in organizing the qualifiers in Asia and combining the Asian Championships and Asian Qualifier, similar to the approach taken in the Americas. The final decision on this will be discussed by the Bureau Members, and if approved, the dates in the calendar will be adjusted, likely in the middle of April.

About qualification phase: there have been some changes compared to Tokyo. From the current World Championship, five athletes will qualify in each weight category, including all medalists. Additionally, the two losers of the bronze medal matches will compete for the final spot in each weight category. This is a departure from Tokyo, where six places were provided at the 2019 World Championship in Kazakhstan.

About Continental qualifiers – the system will remain the same as in Tokyo, with two athletes per weight category qualifying. The last phase is the World Qualifiers, where three athletes per weight category will qualify. This change was implemented because having only two quotas per weight category made the repechage phase less meaningful. To address this, an extra quota was added to the World qualifier, ensuring that both winners of the bronze medal matches will have a chance to compete for the final quota, giving athletes in the repechage a fair opportunity to qualify.

Mr. Asylbek Uulu from Kyrgyzstan asked, how will the 5th quota of the World Championship be allocated, and at the World Qualifier how the 3rd quota will be allocated, as there two bronze medalists in wrestling.

Mr. Rey replied that 5 athletes are to be qualified at the World Championships, then 4 continents (because Africa and Oceania are together), and it's two athletes multiply by four, so there are 8 athletes qualified at the continental phase, plus three from the World qualifier, and there are 16 athletes qualified.

Concerning the question about quotas at the World Championships - all medalists: gold, silver, and bronze, will get quotas, then two losers of the bronze medal matches will compete for the last quota. About the World Qualifier – almost the same situations, but

only the gold and silver medalists will get the quotas, but two losers of the bronze medal match will compete to get the third quota.

Mr. Turlykhanov emphasized the importance of the Asian Games in Hangzhou, often referred to as the "Olympic games of Asia," and called on the national wrestling federations of Asia to pay attention to this prestigious event. He made a request to representatives of the Wrestling Federation of China for information regarding the preparation process for the Asian Games.

Ms. Ye from China provided an update on the Asian Games preparation. The testing event for the Asian Games has been successfully completed, and the standard is set at a very high level, like the Beijing Olympic Games. Volunteers and staff have shown great dedication and reliability. However, there was an initial plan to accommodate the wrestling family in the athletes' village, which is located about 63 km away from the wrestling venue. This distance could create various challenges, including transportation, meals, and late-night travel after doping control.

Due to the concerns raised by the Wrestling Federation of China, a decision was made to relocate the wrestling family, including coaches, athletes, officials, UWW Asia, and UWW representatives, to hotels near the venue. Further details will be communicated via email later.

Mr. Turlykhanov thanked Ms. Ye and asked her to keep Asian federations informed about the news to this matter. He also thanked Mr. Rey for his presentation and information.

Decision: information on the item 8 of the agenda **taken into account.**

Item 9. United World Wrestling Asia Annual Journal

Mr. Turlykhanov informed, that to date, the wrestling community does not produce enough wrestling publications in the form of annual magazines. With such publications, federations, athletes, and coaches, official representatives, will be able to familiarize themselves with the most relevant information for the year.

In order not to spend large financial investments, as well as time for the preparation of such a publication, which can also have an electronic version and sent to national wrestling federations, it is necessary to create a working group that will collect information and begin to collect materials for the magazine on an annual basis.

Next year there might be an opportunity to realize this project if the working group starts working on the project. It is proposed to start publishing the annual UWW Asia magazine in print and electronic form starting with the 2022 magazine, with the 2023 edition to follow.

Mr. Turlykhanov invited delegates to nominate candidates for the working group, consisting of a maximum of 3 persons, which proposed to be - 1 member of the Executive Committee, 1 Federation Manager, and 1 spokesperson or journalist who can do the layout and design of the magazine.

After questions and discussion, it was decided to proceed to collection of nominations through e-mails.

Mr. Roy requested the floor and began by greeting the audience and expressing gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the meeting. He acknowledged the importance of the issues raised by his colleagues, Deqa and Jean Daniel. Mr. Roy conveyed greetings from President Lalovic, who couldn't be present online or onsite during the meeting.

He highlighted a significant topic concerning safeguarding athletes against abuse and harassment, particularly referencing an ongoing investigation in India. Recognizing that such issues exist in all sports and countries, United World Wrestling is intensifying its efforts to educate athletes and coaches about this matter. To address this, three new safeguarding officers have been appointed, including Yuri Mayer, who was present at the meeting, Ley Liang from the UWW Development Department, and Carlos Garcia from the Refereeing Commission. They will work diligently to raise awareness, provide education, and be available for athletes and participants to address this critical matter.

Another important topic in the circular letter sent one day before this meeting was about antidoping education. From this year UWW is working with the International Testing Agency for the education of athletes, coaches and education in antidoping will be mandatory for the athletes participating in the senior world championships. UWW will be monitoring this, and this means that if any of federations' athletes have not followed or haven't course on antidoping within the national antidoping agency, then they will have to follow this course, which will consist of five webinars. But if the athletes have already had certificate from the National Antidoping Agency about antidoping education, then they can send it to UWW, so they can be clear for the World Championships.

About the United World Wrestling strategy 2022-2026, which was presented already few years ago during the Congress – this project is going well, UWW is investing in digital transformation, and also in the other areas of this strategy, which are youth, women, and associated styles. Mr. Roy encourages all federations to try to create some new projects in these areas, and UWW Departments at disposal to help federations in any of these areas. There are two of them which are really important – youth and women, as gender equality is a big topic within the Olympic movement.

Last topic as well which is linked – is governance. Governance of the International federation is really scrutinized by the Olympic movement and also the general public. Normally the governance of the international federations and national federations are also being scrutinized, and there is kind of monitoring that must be done by international federations on the national federations. UWW will work on this matter to improve some

governance aspects, whether its transparency, democracy, integrity, development or as well controlling. Questionnaire was already sent to all federations from the Development department, with few questions regarding the governance, and Mr. Roy invited federations to look at it and to complete this survey.

Mr. Turlykhanov thanked Mr. Roy for his words and expressed his apologies for not giving the possibility to Mr. Roy to speak at the beginning. He agreed with Mr. Roy the topics about Indian Wrestling Federation and about doping. Using this opportunity, he also thanked Mr. Roy, Mr. Rey and Ms. Niamkey for joining the assembly at such an early hour in their place and expressed gratitude to all UWW team for their important activity for the good of wrestling in the world.

10. Coach Traveler Program 2023-2024 (overview)

Mr. Turlykhanov mentioned that first mission of the Traveling Coach Project took place in 2021 and three films about the results of the project have already been released last year.

This year, according to the decision of the UWW Asia Executive Committee Meeting on December 19, 2022, it was decided to send the second mission of the project to the countries of the South-East Asian region, in order to realize the original idea of the project - to implement a full training process of national teams of developing countries with the participation of qualified travel coaches.

This decision was made due to the fact that, firstly, this region, as well as some others in Asia needs to unlock its potential, and secondly, the logistics costs were minimized in the context of the number of countries and distances between them. Moreover, UWW Asia was able to get general information and an overview of the state of wrestling development in the region in order to identify needs and build relationships for future work.

Artem Kotov, former wrestler with serious regalia, head coach of the national teams of Thailand and Singapore, currently head coach of UWC (United World College) and Grappling Academy of Southeast Asian Wrestling in Singapore, was confirmed as the traveling coach.

The three-member UWW Asia team traveled to the Southeast Asian region just last month, from May 7-24, covering 5 countries in the region. The group also traveled to the 32nd Asian Games 2023 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Using the opportunity Mr. Turlykhanov expressed his gratitude to the Presidents and staff of the National Federations of Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, for their help in organizing the reception of the project team, despite the limitations in their budgets, and for providing conditions for the implementation of the project activities.

Mr. Turlykhanov proposed delegates to watch the teaser for the upcoming video about the project "Travel Coach in Southeast Asia, prepared by Mr. Dulat Karybaev UWW Asia Media Manager for brief view of the mission, and then the mic was passed to Mr. Artem Kotov, the coach traveler.

Mr. Kotov greeted the delegates and thanked them for being present at the meeting. He also thanked UWW Asia Council President and its members for the decision to nominate his candidacy, and for the opportunity to participate in the Coach Traveler Part Two Project in Southeast Asia:

He mentioned the countries of the South-East Asia that assisted in the realization of the Travel Coach project: Indonesia, Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore. During the project the team visited these countries and cities, saw the life, culture, and traditions. They also got acquainted with the wrestling federations and conditions where athletes train and live and had joint training with local wrestlers.

He also noted that in these countries there are a lot of talented athletes who can perform at a high level, but they need support to achieve results. Federations are working on the development of wrestling in the countries as much as they can and such a project as Coach Traveler is a huge boost for developing countries.

He expressed his hope that in the future the project will continue and gain more momentum and expand its borders to other countries and continents.

Mr. Hassan from Palestine asked a question. He said that in Palestine they wish to have such a mission, as they really need this type of programme. Also, he thanked Tajikistan Wrestling federation for sending two coaches to Palestine earlier this year for one month. And he thanked Japanese Wrestling Federation for sending four athletes and one coach every year to Japan to participate at the tournaments and to get some experience. Wrestling is growing in Palestine, and they want to get involved in all these programmes.

No more questions were asked.

Decision: information is **taken into account**.

11. Beach Wrestling - Asia

Mr. Turlykhanov reported that several e-mails were sent to Asian federations with the recommendation to add beach wrestling.

Beach wrestling is already the fastest growing style on the Unified World calendar.

It has been recognized for its incredible athleticism, non-stop action, easy to understand scoring system and rules, and recognition in the sports world.

Beach wrestling competitions are popular among fans and athletes alike due to the festival atmosphere of sunshine, lots of sand, music playing, and cheers from the audience.

With beach wrestling being named as one of the core disciplines of the ANOC Beach Games for 2023 and 2025, the popularity of the sport will undoubtedly continue to grow at a rapid pace. Asia, with a large number of beaches all around our mainland, should pay special attention to the development of this wrestling sport.

He passed the mic to Ms. Buyana Pelje, Secretary General of the Asian Council, to report on this agenda item.

Ms. Pelje delivered some information about Beach wrestling in Asia, including its current status, and the Beach Wrestling World Series tournaments.

Over the past few years, Beach wrestling has been growing and becoming increasingly popular worldwide. United World Wrestling is working hard to promote Beach wrestling and include it in the program of the Olympic Games, and since 2019 United World Wrestling has created a Beach World Series and schedule of major Beach Wrestling events worldwide. While many national federations are putting efforts into hosting, organizing and participating in beach wrestling tournaments, Asia needs more attention to this style. Therefore, UWWA is sending recommendations to Asian wrestling federations to include beach wrestling in their federations' activities.

Beach wrestling will be part of the next ANOC World Beach Games that will be held in Bali in August, and it is truly expected that Asian national federation to be more active and participate in every Beach wrestling tournament and further in the World Beach Games.

Singapore is hosting currently the second Beach Wrestling World Series and the last qualifier for the ANOC World Beach Games. There are 37 countries, and about 130 athletes are participating in the Beach Wrestling World Series in Singapore

From Asia SGP, THA, CHN, MGL, IND, JPN, BAN, CAM, PAK are participating.

Sincere gratitude goes to the Singapore Wrestling Federation for their dedication and effort to develop Beach wrestling in Asia. She expressed a hope that other Asian national federations will also take interest in promoting this beautiful and challenging style, which has simple rules.

Mr. Turlykhanov addressed a request to Mr. Carlos Roy, and to Mr. Jean Daniel to provide Asian national federations with the rules and other technical documents for Beach wrestling, and to see the possibility to stage referees and coaches' courses in beach wrestling during the Asian championships.

Mr. Rey thanked Mr. Turlykhanov for request and Ms. Pelje for the report about Beach wrestling. He also thanked Singapore wrestling federation for their tough decision to take the organization of the Beach wrestling World series. There were only 9 countries in Asia, but it was a really good start. UWW is trying to organize beach wrestling events in other continents and rules can be found at the UWW website. Mr. Rey expressed his

hope that other hosts could be found in Asia for the beach wrestling events in the near future.

No questions were asked.

Decision: Information under point No.11 of the agenda is **taken into account**.

12. Awarding ceremony UWW Asia Awards 2022 - "Asia's Best Wrestler, Asia's Best Coach", The Most Active National Federation of Asia.

Mr. Turlykhanov proceeded to the awarding ceremony. On behalf of the United World of Wrestling Asia, the following representatives have been awarded with commemorative plaques and cash prizes for the 2022 results:

The Best Greco-Roman Wrestler 2022

Akzhol Makhmudov of Kyrgyzstan unquestionably secured the title of the *"Best Greco-Roman Wrestler of Asia 2022"*.

Best freestyle wrestler 2022

In the category of *"Best Freestyle Wrestler of Asia 2022,"* **Taishi Narikuni** from Japan emerged as the winner.

The Best Female Wrestler of Asia 2022

Zhamilya Bakbergenova from Kazakhstan emerged as the *"Best Female Wrestler of Asia 2022."*

Best Greco-Roman wrestling coach 2022

Mohammad Bana, the Greco-Roman national team coach of Iran, was honored as the *"Greco-Roman Wrestling Coach of the Year 2022"*.

Best freestyle wrestling coach 2022

In the category of *"Best Freestyle Wrestling Coach 2022,"* **Pejman Dorostkar**, the head freestyle wrestling coach of Iran, emerged as the winner.

Best Women's Wrestling Coach 2022

Ryo Kanehama, the coach of the Japanese national women's wrestling team, was honored as the *"Best Coach in Women's Wrestling 2022."*

The Best National Federation 2022

The award for the *"Best National Wrestling Federation of Asia 2022"* was granted to the Wrestling Federation of Kyrgyzstan, as decided by the UWW Asia Executive Committee meeting held on December 19, 2022.

13. Miscellaneous

No questions were asked under point 13, and Mr. Turlykhanov concluded the meeting with the invitation to join the lunch on behalf of the Organizing committee and to the UWW NF's workshop in the afternoon.

He thanked delegates and UWW staff presented at the meeting online and offline for their hard work and great contribution to the work of the meeting and to wrestling development in Asia.

No more questions were asked. The meeting adjourned at 13:30 p.m.



Daulet Turlykhanov
President