

MINUTES OF THE 21st IFCAI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

held in Manama, Bahrain

March 24, 2015, 10.30am

PRESENT

Stefano Azzali - Secretary Treasurer (CAM – Italy)
Mohamed Abdel Raouf (CRCICA – Egypt)
Nassib Ziadé (BCDR-AAA – Bahrain)
Andrea Carlevaris (ICC – France)
India Johnson (AAA – USA)
Nina Berggren on behalf of Annette Magnusson (SCC – Sweden)
Nasser Al Mogahwi (GCC – Bahrain)
Dirk De Meulemeester (CEPANI – Belgium)
Olivier Caprasse (CEPANI – Belgium)
Marc Dal (CEPANI – Belgium)
Frederico José Straube (CAM-CCBC – Brazil)
Nasri Marco (CHIAAC – Egypt)
Daisoo Kweon (KCAB – Korea)
Rainer Füeg (Swiss Chambers – Switzerland)

Guest:
Bill Slate

1. WELCOME

The Vice President, Mohamed Abdel Raouf, on behalf of the President who could not attend, chairs the current meeting and thanks all those present for attending; he especially thanks Nassib Ziadé and the BCDR-AAA for the hospitality.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda for the General Assembly, which had been circulated earlier and is now tabled, is adopted by unanimous agreement.

3. MINUTES OF THE 20th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The minutes of the 20th General Assembly, held in Miami, USA, on April 7, 2014 and circulated on November 10, 2014, are considered by the attendees to be an accurate record and are approved by the Assembly and will be signed by the President in due course.

4. FINANCES AND MEMBERSHIP

At the Vice President's invitation, the Secretary Treasurer updates the General Assembly on IFCAI's finances and membership.

4.1 The Secretary Treasurer reports that, as at March 1, 2015, IFCAI's bank account stood at US\$ 89.626,40.

4.2 As at the date of the present meeting and with reference to the 2014 subscriptions, there are 53 fully paid-up members and 4 whose subscription is outstanding only for 2014. The subscription of the Permanent Arbitration Court at the Croatian Chamber of Commerce is outstanding for 2013 and 2014: this member will be struck off for non-payment in accordance with the Constitution. The Lewiatan Court of Arbitration (Poland) and the Permanent Court of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry have ended their membership.

4.3 IFCAI is now made up of 58 members, including the following three new members: CAM-CCBC from Brazil, MAC from Malta, and CEA from Spain (that are welcomed by the General Assembly).

4.4 As far as the expenses are concerned, the Secretary Treasurer reports that, from last General Assembly held in Miami on April 2014, the Federation has covered the expenses for the organization of the Miami meetings and for the new website. During 2015 the Federation will also have to cover the reimbursement of the 2014 secretarial activities for IFCAI as well as the web hosting expenses.

5. IFCAI 13th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

5.1 The Secretary Treasurer congratulates with Nassib Ziadé and the BCDR-AAA staff for the tremendous work done for the Biennial Conference held the previous day: the quality of the discussion was very high, as well as the efficiency of the organization and the number of attendees (there were approximately 170 registered participants).

5.2 He reports that there was no cost for IFCAI and the hosting organization did not suffer any loss even if the event was quite expensive; this is a good signal for the IFCAI members who might want to host and organize a Biennial Conference in the future. The General Assembly thanks Mr. Ziadé and the hosting organization for the fruitful and successful event.

6. IFCAI WEBSITE

The Secretary Treasurer illustrates the new IFCAI website, which is now finished and currently online.

6.1 The reserved area of the website is the most important part for the IFCAI members: this is a place to share best practices and to exchange information (i.e. regarding the pathological clauses of the institutions, the hearing rooms to be booked in different part of the world, etc.). The Secretary Treasurer shows that the Milan Chamber of Arbitration has already uploaded its pathological clauses and invites the other members to do the same by sending information to Lucia Santucci who is taking care of the website.

6.2 He also invites IFCAI members to send information regarding their international events to be posted on the “News and events” section, as well as to put the link of the IFCAI website on their own website.

6.3 He underlines that the Constitution will be moved to the public area of the website, while the “Minutes” section will soon be filled with other minutes of the past.

6.4 He reminds that it has been decided not to activate the online payment via credit card because of the high costs of the gateway and the very few requests received during these last years.

6.5 He reminds that each member can find its own 2015 subscription invoice on its private page of the reserved area. He also underlines that, once the 2015 subscription fee will be paid, each member will receive a new password to access the reserved area.

7. IFCAI PROJECTS

Membership policy

The Secretary Treasurer underlines that in the Federation there are members who do not administer cases and it may be the occasion to define whether IFCAI wants to create a new group of members that do not administer cases (and could be invited to join the Federation only as observers) or it may be better to keep the Federation exclusively limited to institutions that do administer cases actively. This issue will be discussed within next Council with the aim to make a draft of the relevant section in the Constitution to be submitted to the General Assembly.

Preferential rates template

The Secretary Treasurer illustrates the draft template that has been recently sent to IFCAI members. He reminds that the idea of this project is to guarantee preferential rates to the staff members of the institutions part of IFCAI in case of their participation to training activities of another IFCAI member. He further states that, if this is done on a reciprocal basis, it might be a good way to encourage young people to attend events that may be too expensive for their institution. Of course the impact of this commitment would be stronger for the institutions that are more involved in organizing international activities (i.e. ICC, LCIA, AAA...).

The General Assembly agrees that each member will fill in the template and send it to the IFCAI Secretariat.

Insurance coverage template

The Secretary Treasurer reminds that this template is intended to collect information regarding the IFCAI members’ policy on the delicate issue of insurance coverage for staff members, arbitrators, etc. He underlines that both smaller and larger institutions are exposed to claims and legal actions by their users and this project could be very helpful. He states that no sensitive information is requested in the template. He finally invites the members to help making a better version of this first draft of the template by implementing it with other information.

8. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

8.1 The next General Assembly will take place on the occasion of next ICCA Congress to be held **in Mauritius on 8-11 May 2016**. Further details shall follow in due course.

8.2 The Secretary Treasurer also reminds that the next IFCAI Biennial Conference will be held in Hong Kong on October 2017, as agreed with Chiann Bao during last IFCAI meetings.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretary Treasurer asks Bill Slate, who has been invited as guest, to illustrate his Dispute Resolution Data project.

9.1 Bill Slate reports that data has always been of interest to arbitration institutions and the Dispute Resolution Data (DRD) was established to grow the fields of arbitration and mediation through access to additional trusted, aggregated data, which importantly maintains confidentiality of individual cases. This project provides institutions and users insights into issues related to time, cost, and the process related to international commercial cases. The integrity and security of confidential information is achieved because information such as the identity of the parties, the arbitrators or mediators, and the names of the advocates are never disclosed to DRD. The data are collected through a template on the DRD website. Institutions receive compensation for the data contributed and has access to all aggregated data at no costs. Bill Slate finally invites IFCAI members to take a look at the "alpha" version of the website at www.disputeresolutiondata.com.

9.2 Andrea Carlevaris underlines the importance to know the number of data that are requested and the impact that this contribution would have on the work of the institution. Bill Slate proposes to send the templates to show the number and type of the data requested.

9.3 The Secretary Treasurer proposes to send a short message to all IFCAI members (to reach also the members who could attend the current meeting) to inform them about this project; he further underlines that this project goes forward IFCAI's goals.

10. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting is declared closed at 12.30pm.

President

Date