



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

World Olympians Association elects 2 new Vice Presidents and welcomes 5 IOC representatives to Executive Committee

*Summer and Winter Olympians represented on WOA Executive Committee and alignment between
IOC and WOA to be strengthened by new appointments*

Lausanne, Switzerland: 21 January 2021

World Olympians Association's (WOA) Executive Committee has met for the first time since the successful online 2020 WOA General Assembly. The Executive Committee welcomed five International Olympic Committee (IOC) representatives to its ranks and elected its new Vice-Presidents.

Chaired by President Joël Bouzou OLY, the inaugural meeting of the WOA Executive Committee for 2021-2024 committed to reviewing WOA's 2021-2024 Strategic Plan and further consultation with the global National Olympians Association (NOA) community.

The Executive Committee will also explore launching **OLY Day** which will celebrate the day of the Olympic Opening Ceremony by signing up National Olympians Associations and individual Olympians to run Service to Society programmes that spread the Olympic values and benefit their communities.

During the meeting, WOA's Executive Committee elected two new Vice-Presidents for the next four years who will be:

- Mikako Kotani OLY (Japan)
- Pernilla Wiberg OLY (Sweden)

Five IOC representatives joined the WOA Executive Committee following their appointment by IOC and WOA Honorary President, Thomas Bach OLY, including:

- Valerie Barlois OLY (France)
- Zhang Hong OLY (China)
- Venuste Niyongabo OLY (Burundi)

- Carlos Santiago OLY (Puerto Rico)
- James Tomkins OLY (Australia)

WOA President Joël Bouzou OLY said:

“The first meeting of the new World Olympians Association Executive Committee was highly productive and set a positive tone and direction for our future. During this period of uncertainty, WOA will continue to support Olympians at every stage of their lives and provide them with the tools to inspire their communities.

“I look forward to working closely alongside our new Executive Committee members and to continuing the significant work we have started alongside re-elected members. I am confident each member will make an important contribution to the ongoing development of WOA and support the crucial roles played by Olympians globally.”

IOC President and WOA Honorary President Thomas Bach OLY, said:

“Fostering the engagement with Olympians and their role as strong ambassadors of the Olympic values is very important for the IOC. The WOA has and continues to play an important role in these areas. The appointment of IOC representatives to the WOA Executive Committee will guarantee that our collective effort to support the global Olympian community throughout their life is as impactful as possible.”

WOA Executive Committee 2021-2024

WOA President – **Joël Bouzou OLY (France)**

WOA Secretary General – **Anthony Ledgard Grimm OLY (Peru)**

WOA Treasurer – **Patrick Singleton OLY (Bermuda)**

WOA Vice-President and Executive Committee Member Asia – **Mikako Kotani OLY (Japan)**

WOA Vice-President and Executive Committee Member Europe – **Pernilla Wiberg OLY (Sweden)**

Executive Committee Member Africa – **El Hadji Amadou Dia Ba OLY (Senegal)**

Executive Committee Member Africa – **Abeer Essawy OLY (Egypt)**

Executive Committee Member Americas – **Aliann Pompey OLY (Guyana)**

Executive Committee Member Americas – **Salvador Enrique Salguero Goodall OLY (El Salvador)**

Executive Committee Member Asia - **Malav Shroff OLY (India)**

Executive Committee Member Europe – **Igor Boraska OLY (Croatia)**

Executive Committee Member Oceania – **Natalie Cook OLY (Australia)**

Executive Committee Member Oceania – **Carl Probert OLY (Fiji)**

Executive Committee Member IOC representative – **Valerie Barlois OLY (France)**

Executive Committee Member IOC representative – **Zhang Hong OLY (China)**

Executive Committee Member IOC representative – **Venuste Niyongabo OLY (Burundi)**

Executive Committee Member IOC representative – **Carlos Santiago OLY (Puerto Rico)**

Executive Committee Member IOC representative – **James Tomkins OLY (Australia)**

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

About World Olympians Association

WOA is an IOC recognised organisation supporting the 100,000 Olympians worldwide. Its remit is to work for the benefit of all Olympians at all stages of their lives, empowering them to serve society and help make the world a better place through sport. With 96 member National Olympians Associations and more to come spread across all five continents, WOA provides support to Olympian-run events and projects based on the Olympic ideals laid down by the founder of the modern Olympic Games, Pierre de Coubertin. www.olympians.org

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For more information

Jules Perkins

Vero Communications

jperkins@verocom.co.uk

+44 7961 119065