

INTERNATIONAL OMBUDSMAN INSTITUTE

Board of Directors Meeting

14 May 2024 (The Hague, The Netherlands)

Summary of Decisions

Present were:

Executive Committee

<i>President:</i>	Ms. Nashieli Ramírez Hernández (Mexico)
<i>Second Vice-President:</i>	Mr. Peter Boshier (New Zealand)
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Ms. Caroline Sokoni (Zambia)
<i>Secretary General (SG):</i>	Ms. Gaby Schwarz (Austria)
<i>RP¹ Europe:</i>	Mr. Reinier Van Zutphen (The Netherlands)

RPs & Directors

<i>RP Australasia & Pacific:</i>	Ms. Niki Rattle (Cook Islands)
<i>Africa:</i>	Ms. Kholeka Gcaleka (South Africa) Ms. Grace Malera (Malawi)
<i>Asia:</i>	Mr. Yong-Hak Joo (South Korea) Mr. Mokhammad Najih (Indonesia) Mr. Somsak Suwansujarit (Thailand)
<i>Caribbean & Latin America:</i>	Mr. Keursly Concincion (Curaçao) Ms. Gwendolien Mossel (Sint Maarten) Mr. Gabriel Savino (Argentina)
<i>Europe:</i>	Mr. Marc Bertrand (Belgium) Mr. Peter Svetina (Slovenia) Mr. Joseph Zammit McKeon (Malta)
<i>North America:</i>	Mr. Paul Dubé (Canada) Ms. Nadine Mailloux (Canada) Ms. Diane Welborn (USA)

¹ RP = Regional President

Non-attendance / Apologies:

<i>Africa:</i>	Mr. Mohamed Benalilou (Morocco)
<i>Asia:</i>	Mr. Chul-Hwan Ryu (South Korea)
<i>Australasia & Pacific:</i>	Mr. Chris Field (Australia)
<i>Caribbean & Latin America:</i>	Mr. Gabriel Savino (Argentina)
<i>Europe:</i>	Mr. Marino Fardelli (Italy)

IOI General Secretariat

Mr. Michael Mauerer, Chief of Cabinet of the Secretary General
Ms. Hannah Suntinger, IOI Executive Director, Head of General Secretariat
Ms. Ulrike Grieshofer, Consultant to the Secretary General
Ms. Karin Wagenbauer, Project Management, IOI General Secretariat

Accompanying Staff

Mr. Paul Borg (Office of the Ombudsman, Malta)
Mr. Jurgen Cassar (Office of the Ombudsman, Malta)
Ms. Bwalya Chipasha (Office of the Public Protector, Zambia)
Mr. David Dannevoye (Office of the Ombudsman of Wallonia and the Wallonie-Brussels Federation, Belgium)
Ms. Jordana Dawson Hayes (Office of the Ombudsman of New Zealand)
Mr. Randolph Duggins (Office of the Ombudsman of Sint Maarten)
Ms. Barbara Finlay (Office of the Ontario Ombudsman, Canada)
Mr. Jong-Dae Ji (Seoul Metropolitan Citizens' Ombudsman Commission, South Korea)
Mr. Chishala Kawesha (Office of the Public Protector, Zambia)
Mr. Ga-Yeon Kim (Seoul Metropolitan Citizens' Ombudsman Commission, South Korea)
Mr. Alinafe Malunga (Office of the Ombudsman, Malawi)
Mr. Raymond Mathilda (Office of the Ombudsman, Curaçao)
Ms. Nina Omerza (Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman, Slovenia)
Ms. Kitiyabhorn Onchulee (Office of the Ombudsman, Thailand)
Ms. Nancy Pérez Garcia (Human Rights Commission of Mexico City)
Mr. Bobby Hamzar Rafinus (Office of the Ombudsman of Indonesia)
Ms. Junika Rajagukguk (Office of the Ombudsman of Indonesia)
Mr. Alex Schröder (Office of the Ombudsman, New Zealand)
Mr. Stephan Sjouke (Office of the National Ombudsman, The Netherlands)
Ms. Nalinpun Waisuebkao (Office of the Ombudsman, Thailand)
Ms. Kanokkwan Wongdontri (Office of the Ombudsman, Thailand)
Ms. Benita Young (Office of the Public Protector, South Africa)

During the inaugural meeting of the IOI Board of Directors, held in The Hague (The Netherlands) from 14 May 2024, the Board took decisions as outlined in this document.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

DECISION: President Ramírez formally opened the meeting and welcomed all Board members present. The Board of Directors unanimously approved the agenda for the meeting, the recording of the meeting, and the list of participants. The Board further approved English as the working language of the meeting.

COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

DECISION: The Board of Directors agreed to establish a standing committee to deal with matters relating to the IOI By-laws, a so-called By-laws Committee.

DECISION: The Board of Directors agreed to reconvene the UN Working Group with its current membership and an option for new members to join if interested. The Board further agreed that membership is not limited to Board members, but can include members, who bring expertise on UN matters to the group.

DECISION: The Board of Directors agreed to introduce a working group on the matter of a code of ethics, with a view to bringing together already existing documents on that matter from the regions, and to discuss and elaborate whether and/or how there is common ground on ethics and a code on deontology among Ombudsman colleagues around the world.

DECISION: The Board of Directors acknowledged that – while committees and working groups are a good way to move certain matters forward quickly and efficiently – their number should remain within a range that is feasible and manageable. The Board therefore endorsed a proposal that the Executive Committee should convene (by electronic means) as soon as possible, to discuss the establishment of other committees and working groups, which could discuss topic, such as: reviewing the IOI travel policy and travel fund; developing an election regulation for the election of the IOI Officers; establishing an editorial board to lend quick advise to the General Secretariat in relation to the publication of information in the IOI Newsletter, or on the Website and Video Portal; as well as establishing rules and criteria for awarding Honorary Life Membership.

FINANCES

DECISION: The Board of Directors approved to commission Mazars Austria Ltd. to carry out the IOI's annual audit for 2024/2025 based on the quote of 4,356.00 EUR inclusive of VAT.

DECISION: The Board of Directors endorsed a recommendation from the Secretary General and authorized the signatories of the IOI account, i.e. the President and the Secretary General, to open a fixed term deposit account for the IOI with UniCredit Bank Austria AG. The Board approved that a maximum amount of 150,000.00 EUR will be put into this account for one year, with a view to earn interests. The Board took this decision under the prerequisite that the above mentioned amount is accessible at all times and can be reclaimed whenever necessary, knowing that the interests will then be lost.

REGIONAL SUBSIDIES

DECISION: The Board of Directors approved that a total amount of 42,000.00 EUR should be made available for the IOI's Regional Subsidy Program in 2024/2025 and that the money will be distributed equally among the regions, i.e. 7,000.00 EUR per region.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

DECISION: The Board of Directors agreed to postpone a decision on Honorary Life Membership for Ms. Florence Kajuju, outgoing African Regional President and Ombudsman of Kenya. The Board agreed that detailed criteria and rules need to be established first, and that the application brought forward for Ms. Kajuju will be considered at a later stage, when such criteria have been reviewed and approved by the new Board.

14TH IOI WORLD CONFERENCE

DECISION: The Board of Directors approved to launch a call for proposals, inviting Voting members in good standing to come forward if they are interested in hosting the 14th IOI World Conference and General Assembly in 2028. The Board entrusted the General Secretariat to launch such a call for proposals with a deadline until spring 2025. The Secretariat will collect the submitted applications and present them to the Board at its next meeting for consideration and approval.

NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD

DECISION: The Board of Directors acknowledged a call from the Secretary General for Board members to come forward, if they are interested in hosting the next in-person meeting of the Board in 2025.

ANNEX: Financial Summary

PROJECTS	approved amount in EUR
Audit 2024/2025 by Mazars Austria Ltd.	4,356.00
Regional subsidies 2024/2025	42,000.00
TOTAL (if max. amounts apply)	46,356.00