

Montevideo, July 5, 2017.

Dear Friends,

In recent years, with the effort and contribution of the entire FINA Family, we have driven our International Federation to an exceptional level of development. We have worked intensively, continuously and passionately for the best for our athletes and of our Sport.

In the 2013-2017 four-year report to be presented to the delegates attending the General Congress, you can see in detail the accomplishments made.

In this letter, I would like to summarise what has been done and achieved, so that FINA could continue moving forward.

In 2017, FINA is more important and more recognised worldwide than in 2013. This outcome was only possible by progressing together, in a great spirit of unity.

With the recent approval by the IOC Executive Board of three new swimming events for Tokyo 2020, the IOC has moved FINA to an unprecedented top place in the Olympic movement.

This means that for the first time in the 121-year history of the modern Olympic Games, FINA will be the International Federation with the highest number (49) of medal events.

There was also an improvement in the number of teams for the water polo women's tournament, from 8 to 10.

Aquatics, with its five disciplines, is the #1 sport in terms of Olympic television broadcast viewership and also leader in terms of online reach, according to the IOC.

The last two FINA World Championships - Barcelona 2013 and 2015 Kazan – were also memorable and highlighted by the entry of new events in the programme.

This effort was well rewarded by all those following our competitions. In Kazan 2015, 6.8 billion cumulative TV viewers followed the action in the capital of Tatarstan.

We have improved the financial assistance to the National Federations, their athletes and officials taking part at the FINA World Championships, and we have also increased the amount of prize money paid to the best athletes in the competition.

Besides the achievement of its events, FINA has continued giving high priority to its Development programmes, with very good results: the number of national federations who managed to qualify at least one swimmer with "A" or "B" Olympic standard time, increased from 82 in London 2012 to 108 in Rio 2016.

We have substantially raised our financial contribution to the Development areas, and many initiatives are now included in the programme: scholarships for promising young athletes, coach certification programmes, and seminars, clinics and schools for coaches and officials.

Moreover, FINA has recently undertaken decisive steps in a new and very important initiative: the "Swimming for All, Swimming for Life" project. Every year, more than 350,000 human lives are lost due to drowning. As guardian of Aquatics, FINA could not remain insensitive to these tragic numbers: swimming is not only a sport, it is also a basic life-saving skill, as stated in UNESCO/CIGEPS resolutions.

We seek to closely work with the National Federations and governments so that they can efficiently implement learn-to-swim programmes for their children and youth, thus raising the global levels of familiarity with water, while improving the volume of physical activity globally.

Our communication strategy to report and promote these achievements has greatly evolved during this period.

The FINA website was rebuilt and is now presenting a more friendly and fan-based approach. Social media platforms have also progressed and are presently a valuable source of information and entertainment for our supporters worldwide.

Our FINA MAGAZINE is now available everywhere, anytime, on every mobile platform. Recently, a new OTT (Over-the-top) platform was launched in time for the World Championships in Hungary, giving access to the subscribers of the TV player to live and on-demand content about FINA competitions, but also about their stars and behind-the-scene features.

In September 2016, we moved to our new location in Lausanne. For the first time, we have our own headquarters. It will be officially opened in a few months, with the presence of all our members. It is the FINA House, the house of all our Federations. Our, Your House.

Throughout this four-year period, we faced enormous challenges in relation with doping, governance, and integrity.

We are 100% determined to eradicate doping from our sport. We are proud to say that FINA remains at the forefront of this battle.

The FINA anti-doping effort must continue having all the necessary support so that we can guarantee a drug-free sport to our athletes

FINA will remain in close relation with both the IOC and WADA to provide a programme that meets the highest standards within international sport. Moreover, we will continue to closely monitor the proposal to create an independent agency by the IOC and WADA that will provide greater transparency and equity.

In a spirit of democracy and transparency, we have also progressed in the fields of good governance and integrity. Some important changes were made at an Extraordinary Congress in 2015, and more are anticipated at the FINA General Congress in Budapest later this month, which we hope will be approved.

Integrity in our sport is of paramount importance, in all situations and circumstances.

A Code of Ethics and an Ethics Panel were created to revise all internal procedures and solve matters connected with violation of integrity principles.

The Ethics Panel will be, as we are proposing, an independent body elected by the Congress.

Proposed changes to the FINA Constitution will provide greater clarity and transparency related to our financial affairs.

A new Finance Committee and Audit Committee will be established, and will include recognised and experienced members on these matters.

FINA has achieved solid financial success in the last years, which are detailed in the financial statements that we are presenting to the Congress. While maintaining necessary reserves, FINA is now in a position to implement new initiatives aimed at helping our developed members, and also and in a very special way all developing Federations in our five Continental Associations.

FINA is especially committed to raise the level of financial support to its Federations in the areas of administration and technology. We will seek additional ways to fund athletes' participation in FINA events, especially at junior level in competitions such as the FINA World Junior Swimming Championships.

We are in a good situation, but if we are truly united in our diversity, we can do even better. That is our goal and obligation - to progress always further.

The work of our Continental Associations – Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania – and their respective National Federations has been and will continue being essential for the success of Aquatics.

We are a big Family, we respect each other, we are strongly united and nobody is able to damage this solidarity.

We are quite well, in an excellent position. We have done a lot, but there is a lot more to be done, all together, for the progress of our aquatic disciplines. We must continue working tirelessly, united in our diversity, to be even better. To keep our status, but moving forward, this must be our objective and motivation.

Thank you so much for your support and continuous confidence.

Sincerely yours,

  
Dr. Julio Cesar Maglione