



## Report on the AITA/IATA Council Meeting 23 July 2025 by Zoom

Dear National Centre & Associate Members

**Introduction** - On 23 July 2025, AITA/IATA Council members held a Council Meeting by Zoom. President Aled Rhys-Jones chaired the meeting. Contact details of Council Members are on the AITA/IATA Website [HERE](#).

1. *Finance and legal* – Council agreed to reinstate the Stratford 2016 surplus fund (Canadian found) to its original amount of €6,593.26, reallocate previously charged expenses to reserves, formally apologise to Ron Dodson, organiser of the 2016 World Festival of Children’s Theatre held in Stratford Ontario, and sought confirmation regarding future use of the fund exclusively to supporting children from underdeveloped countries to attend AITA/IATA festivals. President noted that a final budget with a total projected income of €17,840 will be circulated to Council for approval by email.
2. *AITA/IATA General Assembly (GA) 23 August 2025*
  - a. Council confirmed the GA agenda and Forum arrangements for Monaco 2025, approved the circulated Council report. Outstanding Forum Book items will be finalised before circulation.
  - b. It was agreed that late nominations could not be accepted, that no further response be made regarding invitation requests, and that the Open Forum will include a data presentation by Alejandro Cavadas López followed by an interactive networking session led by the Vice-president Sofia Wegelius and Councillor Kelli McLoud-Schingen.
3. *Lingen Festival of Children’s Theatre 27 June – 4 July 2025* – Council noted that the Lingen Festival was well organised overall despite weather disruption and acknowledged criticism regarding limited AITA/IATA Council representation and absence at official events, highlighting the need for clearer communication from Council. Council further noted the potential revival of a World Festival of Children’s Theatre in Rizhao, China.
4. *AITA/IATA International Amateur Theatre Festival February / March 2027 Wellington, New Zealand* – Council welcomed the Wellington, New Zealand proposal, noting strong local commitment and the potential for a high-quality festival marking AITA/IATA’s 75th anniversary and its first event in the Southern Hemisphere, subject to formal adoption at the GA in Monaco. It was noted there will be no General Assembly during 2027 AITA World Festival, further possibilities will have to be investigated.



5. *Online events – Masterclass and Curtain Up!* – The next Masterclass will be in Spanish, but the date and subject have yet to be decided. Children & Youth event is postponed to 2026.
6. *Children & Youth Festival - Louder Together 14 – 30 August 2026* – Council noted that the Antwerp 2026 festival - Louder Together is now open for applications (deadline 30 September 2025), the possibility of hosting a GA during the Antwerp Festival requires follow-up.
7. *IDEA Conference* – Council noted the existence of a prior Memorandum of Agreement with IDEA, agreed to re-open discussions with its current President regarding potential partnership (including support for future festivals), and recognised that any further steps will require Council decision.
8. *Denial of visas* - It was also noted that visa issues will be flagged at the Monaco GA, with support offered to affected participants, and that while no problems were reported for Lingen, changing international visa requirements remain a concern.
9. *Secretariat succession* - Council noted that Alexandra Mihály (Debrecen, Hungary) remains interested and available to assume the Secretariat role and has relevant festival organisation experience. Council agreed on her appointment based on a contractual relationship.
10. *New members* – organisations and individuals continue to respond to the online application form where those interested to join AITA/IATA register their interest. Council considered three new applications and agreed that they were an appropriate match for Associate Membership. Delegates at the GA will be asked to accept formally each new organisation as a Member of AITA/IATA.
11. *Future meetings* – the next AITA/IATA Council meeting will be held in Monaco on 21 August 2025 and the new Council will hold a meeting on 24 August 2025, following the General Assembly.

The Council of AITA/IATA offers best wishes and good health to all Members.

The Council of AITA/IATA

July 2025