AITA/IATA asbl
Legal address :
MAI, Rue Washington, 40 – 1050
Brussels, Belgium

To Promote Understanding and Education Through Theatre

Report on the AITA/IATA Council Meeting 20 April 2026 held ONLINE

Dear National Centres & Associate Members

Introduction - On 20 April 2026, AITA/IATA Council held an Online Council Meeting, three councillors, Heidi Troi, Carlos Taberneiro and Patrick Schoenstein were excused from the meeting. President Sofia Wegelius chaired the meeting. Contact details of Council Members can be found on the AITA/IATA Website **HERE**.

1. *Finance and Legal*

All issues with Belfius Bank have been resolved. Secretariat reported a slight improvement in membership fee payments, but a deficit of approximately €8,000 remains due to unpaid fees from 9 National Centres and 42 Associate Members (both newly accepted and 'old' members). Council noted that in case of the PayPal transactions the existing additional €3 charge is no longer sufficient, adjustment should be made before next year's billing period. Council noted that the Membership Solidarity Fund currently totals €353.

2. *Ongoing projects*

2026 Autumn Masterclass dates to be announced at the General Assembly, Antwerp.

A Jubilee logo for the 75th Anniversary of AITA/IATA is in progress. Responsible subgroup: 75th Jubilee of AITA/IATA Subgroup

A revised and simplified version of the Festival Handbook is currently in preparation. Responsible subgroup: Festival Handbook Revision Subgroup

The Media and Marketing Subgroup is working to improve the visibility of AITA/IATA at Festivals and to develop promotional materials to be distributed at these events.

Council noted that monthly article sharing continues.

3. New Members – Council agreed to ask more information from possible new-old National Centre Zimbabwe before a decision is made on their admission as a national centre.

Council approved the following associate member application from India.

4. World Theatre Day – Council considered the World Theatre Day campaign successful and thanked the video editing team. Council agreed that future submission guidelines should be improved in preparation for potentially higher participation next year.

5. *Festivals*

Preparations for the *World Children's & Youth Performing Arts Festival – Louder Together* are progressing, with ticket sales launching shortly, General Assembly registration arrangements being coordinated with Opendoek. The final call for the *Festival Iberoamericà de Teatre Amateur* organised by Catalonia National Centre has not yet been forwarded to Council. Council noted that no confirmed host exists yet for the 2030 AITA/IATA World Festival for Children and Youth but acknowledged a preliminary proposal from Councillor Zsigmond Lako, Debrecen, Hungary. Italy National Centre, FITA intends to submit a official proposal at the next General Assembly to host the *2031 AITA/IATA World Festival* for Adults.

Council decided that a clear explanation of the festival cycle will be added to the website, members may find it on THIS link, bottom of the page.

New Zealand Festival **updates: Steering Committee** reported that the application process opened in mid-March.

6. General Assembly

Preparations for the 2026 AITA/IATA General Assembly will begin shortly, including preparation of the annual report, Forum Book, proposed 2027 budget, and 2025/2026 financial accounts, in coordination with the external financial examiner Dirk de Corte and AITA/IATA accountant Sue Pound. Council noted that among NEATA, CIFTA, CTC - formerly CEC- and ARC, only CTC will hold a meeting during Louder Together, NEATA will meet earlier during the summer.

7. Possible Collaborations:

Council discussed a possible collaboration with the Catalonia National Centre on a UNESCO cultural heritage initiative.

8. *Future meetings* –

Council agreed to schedule the next online meeting after 10 May, with Secretariat coordinating the date by email. The next **physical Council Meeting** is scheduled during the **Louder Together Festival in Antwerp on 21 August 2026**. The date of the 2nd physical **Council Meeting in France is scheduled for 9–11 December 2026** (accommodation is covered by the Treasurer, Patrick Schoenstein). Council discussed a possible future physical meeting in Tulsa, USA in either 2027 or 2028.

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

The Council of AITA/IATA

20 April 2026