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To Promote Understanding and Education Through Theatre

Report on the AITA/IATA Council Meeting 24 August 2025 Monaco

Dear National Centres & Associate Members

Introduction - On 24 August 2025, AITA/IATA Council held a hybrid Council Meeting in Monaco, two councillors, Stephen Tobias and Heidi Troi attended the meeting via Zoom. Newly elected President Sofia Wegelius chaired the meeting. Contact details of Council Members are on the AITA/IATA Website **HERE**.

1. *Representation, sustainability and* visibility

Council is planning to **strengthen communication through social media** and video content. **New members** will still have the opportunity to **introduce themselves on Facebook** if they wish to do so. Council is planning to **launch the next newsletter (~300 subscribers)**. Council agreed that leadership and representation of the Organization should be a shared responsibility among all council members, and councillors who live closest to a given festival/event will always be more likely to participate in that festival for the sake of **sustainability**. **Councillor's will be introduced on social media** in the coming weeks. AITA will launch an open **call for articles**, so that members and representatives of amateur theatres around the world can show what projects they are working on in their own theatres and countries.

2. *Masterclasses*

AITA will **continue organising** online Masterclasses, including one in **Spanish**.

3. Youth event

Council is planning to organise an online **meeting in September for young participants** of the previous online discussion and they are planning to launch a new youth call as well.

4. World Theatre Day

An open call will be released with the aim of preparing a **collaborative video** made from short clips of members and theatre people worldwide sharing what theatre means to them. They would have to answer the following question: "How has theatre changed your life?"

5. Subgroups

Council schedules the **rearrangement of subgroups** for the next meeting.

6. Reflections on General Assembly

Council agrees that the introductions of new members will be included into the General Assembly - Forum Book. Council **confirms that next General Assembly will be held during the *2026 AITA/IATA World Festival for Children & Youth – Louder Together***, in Antwerp. **2027** General Assembly cannot be held during the New Zealand festival due to timing; council **will continue to explore further** possibilities.

7. *AITA/IATA International Amateur Theatre Festival in February / March 2027 Wellington, New Zealand*

The president of AITA/IATA will provide a **letter of confirmation** to festival organiser Paul Percy while they are in Monaco.

8. *Finance and Legal* – **Patrick Schoenstein confirms he will continue serving as Treasurer**, working with the organisation's accountant and secretariat. President reminds Councillors to send their ID documents and utility bills to Anne G. who will forward them to the Belgian law firm entrusted with registering AITA/IATA at Belgian Moniteur.

9. Misssion Statement – Council agrees to **release a mission statement**, Kelli Mcloud Schingen will prepare the draft of the statement.

10. *Secretariat succession* - Council noted that Anne Gilmour has stepped down but will continue to assist with the transition until the AITA/IATA **laptop handover** as there are certain tasks that only can be performed through the AITA/IATA laptop.

11. *Future meetings* – **the next AITA/IATA Council meeting will be held via Zoom** but the date will be discussed in email following the festival. President suggests having the **next in-person meeting in late 2025 in Helsinki**.

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

The Council of AITA/IATA

24 August 2025