AITA/IATA asbl
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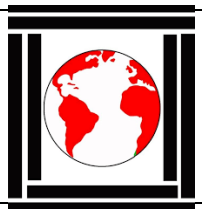

To Promote Understanding and Education Through Theatre

Reports on AITA/IATA Council Meetings
9 October 2025 Online

Dear National Centres & Associate Members

Introduction – On 9 October 2025, AITA/IATA Council held an online Council Meeting, councillor Stephen Tobias was excused from the meeting. President Sofia Wegelius chaired the meeting. Contact details of Council Members are on the AITA/IATA Website **HERE**.

1. *General Assembly*

The **2026 General Assembly will take place 22 August 2026 in Antwerp** as part of the Louder Together festival.

The 2027 General Assembly will likely be held digitally, with the option of a hybrid meeting hosted in Hungary.

The 2028 General Assembly will be organised during the Lingen Festival.

2. *New subgroup divisions*

- **Festival Handbook Revision Subgroup** – role: updating the outdated guide for future festival organisers; members: Joke Quaghebeur, Stephen Tobias, Zsigmond Lako, and Alexandra Mihály
- **Financing Subgroup** – role: exploring new income sources; members: Heidi Troi, Kelli McLoud-Schingen, Stephen Tobias and Zsigmond Lako
- **Media and Marketing Strategy Subgroup** – role: developing a clearer communication and social media approach; members: Heidi Troi, Joke Quaghebeur, Sofia Wegelius and Alexandra Mihály
- **75th Jubilee of AITA/IATA Subgroup** – members: Cândido Sobreiro, Heidi Troi, Joke Quaghebeur and Zsigmond Lako
- **AITA Youth subgroup** – members: Heidi Troi, Kelli McLoud-Schingen and Sofia Wegelius, and AITA/IATA Youth Ambassadors
- **Global Inclusion subgroup** – role: increasing participation from regions outside Europe; members: Cândido Sobreiro, Carlos Taberneiro, Kelli McLoud-Schingen and Patrick Schoenstein

Each subgroup will report progress at future council meetings.

3. Masterclass programme

The council will continue the series, and is constantly searching for further speakers and interesting topics.

4. Article call

Members will also be invited to contribute **articles, research, and festival experiences** to the AITA/IATA website.

5. Youth event

A new international AITA Youth initiative is underway.
24 young applicants from different countries will begin meeting online to co-design a youth event planned for 2026.

6. Administrative Updates

The Council approved new communication arrangements for the Secretariat, including an **official phone number for social media** and member communication through **WhatsApp Business**. The Secretariat transition from Anne to Alexandra is underway, including the handover of the laptop and responsibilities. Council approved **Alexandra's travel to London still in October 2025 to pick up the AITA/IATA laptop**.

7. *AITA/IATA World Festivals and other events*

Preparations continue for the World Children's & Youth Performing Arts Festival – Louder Together (Antwerp, 21–30 August 2026). Work is beginning with organisers of the AITA/IATA International Theatre Festival in Wellington, New Zealand (5–13 March 2027). Council also started planning AITA/IATA's 75th anniversary in 2027, with an emphasis on projects that involve members worldwide.

8. *New Members* – Council approved several new associate members from: Italy, Tunisia, United Kingdom, Greece, Spain

9. *Future meetings* – **The next Council meeting will take place 10–12 December 2025 in Helsinki.**

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To Promote Understanding and Education Through Theatre

11 December 2025 Helsinki

Introduction – On 11 December 2025, AITA/IATA Council held a hybrid Council Meeting in Helsinki and via Zoom, councillor Stephen Tobias was excused from the meeting. President Sofia Wegelius chaired the meeting. Contact details of Council Members are on the AITA/IATA Website **HERE**.

1. *Finance and Administration*

The Council is resolving banking and legal administration issues related to the Belgian registry and bank access. A transition **guideline for future Council** will be created to avoid similar administrative issues in the future.

Cooperation with the current legal firm Officium BV will likely end due to high costs and limited effectiveness.

The digital documentation of AITA/IATA will move from Dropbox to Google Drive to reduce costs. The Council is also reviewing **cost-saving measurements.**

2. *75th Anniversary of AITA/IATA*

A **special anniversary logo** will be created and the association's **history booklet would also be updated.**

3. Theatre Twin Programme

Council approved the launch of a **Theatre Twin initiative**, connecting member theatres from different countries for **non-financial cultural exchange**.

4. *Louder Together Festival – Antwerp 2026*

81 performance applications received. 238 conference participants have applied. Council members are invited to attend the conference and festival activities. The Council agreed to allocate **€2,000 from the Canadian Children and Youth Fund** to help theatre groups from financially disadvantaged regions participate in the **Louder Together Festival**.

5. New Members

Council approved several new Associate Members from: Malaysia, Nigeria, Canada, Bangladesh

6. Future AITA/IATA World Festivals

Early discussions are underway for future world festivals: 2030: no news about the possible Children & Youth Festival in China and in 2031: possible World Festival in Italy (Rome) or Slovakia (Martin)

7. Next Council Meetings

Next Online Council Meeting: 3 February 2026

Next in-person Council Meeting: 21 August 2026 in Antwerp (during the Louder Together festival)

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

The Council of AITA/IATA

11 December 2025