



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

WASHINGTON D.C. (USA)

13th November 2012 (10.00 – 13.00)

14th November 2012 (14.30 – 18.30)

15th November 2012 (10.00 – 12.30)

Session of 13th November 2012

Present: the President, Mrs. Fatoumata Diakité, the First Vice-President, Mr. Gerhard Reissner, the Vice-Presidents Mr. Robert Blair, Mrs. Cristina Crespo, Mr. Cagney Musi, Mr. Christophe Régnard and Mr. Virgilijus Valancius; the Honorary Presidents Mr. Sidnei Beneti, Mr. José Maria Bento Company, Mr. Ernst Markel, Mr. Ramon Rodriguez Arribas, Mrs. Maja Tratnik and Mr. Gunter Woratsch; the Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Mura; the Deputy Secretaries-General, Mr. Giacomo Oberto, Mr. Lucio Aschettino and Mr. Galileo D'Agostino; the IAJ representatives at the UN seats Mrs. Louise Mailhot, Mrs. Joanna Seybert and Mr. Pierre Zappelli, as well as the following national associations, represented by the delegates whose names are on the list attached to these minutes (see enclosure No. 1):

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| ALBANIA (EXTR. MEMBER) | KAZAKHSTAN |
| ALGERIA | LATVIA (PROXY TO LITHUANIA) |
| ARGENTINA | LIECHTENSTEIN |
| ARMENIA | LITHUANIA |
| AUSTRALIA | LUXEMBOURG |
| AUSTRIA | MALI (PROXY TO IVORY COAST) |
| BELGIUM | MEXICO |
| BENIN | MOLDOVA |
| BOSNIA AND HERZEGOWINA (EXTR. MEMBER) | MONGOLIA (EXTR. MEMBER) |
| BRAZIL | MOROCCO |
| BULGARIA (EXTR. MEMBER) | MOZAMBIQUE (EXTR. MEMBER) |
| CAMERUN | NETHERLANDS |
| CANADA | NICARAGUA (EXTR. MEMBER) |
| CHILE | NIGER |
| COLOMBIA (OBSERVER) | NORWAY |
| COSTA RICA | PANAMA |
| CROATIA | PARAGUAY |
| CYPRUS | PERU (OBSERVER) |
| CZECKIA | POLAND |
| DEM. REP. OF CONGO (EXTR. MEMBER) | PORTUGAL |
| DENMARK | PUERTO RICO |
| DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (OBSERVER) | REP. OF CHINA (TAIWAN) |
| EL SALVADOR | RUSSIA (OBSERVER) |
| ESTONIA | SENEGAL |
| FINLAND | SERBIA (EXTR. MEMBER) |
| FRANCE | SLOVAKIA |
| GEORGIA | SLOVENIA |
| | SOUTH AFRICA |

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| GERMANY | SPAIN |
| GREECE | SWEDEN |
| GUINEA CONAKRY (EXTR. MEMBER) | SWITZERLAND |
| HUNGARY | TOGO |
| IRELAND | TURKEY (EXTR. MEMBER) |
| ISRAEL | UKRAINE |
| ITALY | UNITED KINGDOM |
| IVORY COAST | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA |

The official inauguration ceremony took place at 9.00 a.m. chaired by Mrs. Fatoumata Diakité, President of the IAJ. During this event, the President of the Federal Judges Association, Mr. Royal Furgeson, welcomed the participant and read a letter of greetings signed by the President of the United States of America, Mr. Barak Obama. Then, Mr. Thomas Hogan, Director of the Administrative Office of United States Courts, Mrs. Shira Palmutter, Administrator of Policy and External Affairs – US Patent and Trade Office, and the President of the IAJ, Mrs. Fatoumata Diakité, took the floor and delivered their speeches.

After this ceremony, President Diakité opened the meeting of the Central Council at 10.00, by welcoming all present. She expressed the deepest gratitude of the IAJ to the local Authorities as well as to the FJA for the perfect organization of the meeting and then passed onto the examination of the points in the agenda.

1. Checking the votes and proxies

The Secretary-General carried out a check on votes and proxies: 57 ordinary members and 10 extraordinary members were present. There were two proxies: from the association of Mali to the association of Ivory Coast and from the association of Latvia to the association of Lithuania.

2. Appointment of delegates to count the votes

The President asked the assembly if there were three or more delegates who agreed to assume the responsibility of counting the votes. Mr. Pol van Iseghem (Belgium), Mr. Falalou Nassirou Mahaman Sofo (Niger), Mrs. Julie Dutil (Canada) were unanimously given the responsibility of counting the votes.

3. Appointment of auditors to examine the accounts and the financial report and to report

Upon proposal of the President, the assembly unanimously appointed Mr. Walter Barone (Brazil) and Mr. Tony Pagone (Australia) as auditors responsible for scrutinising the annual accounts and financial report and for reporting on it to the Central Council.

4. Candidatures for President, six Vice-Presidents, Secretary-General and Deputy Secretaries General

Secretary-General Mura mentioned first of all the contents of the letter that the IAJ President had sent to all associations prior to the meeting about requirements for submission of candidatures according to IAJ statutes. He informed the assembly that so far the General Secretariat had received the candidatures (in writing) for the post of Vice-President of the following delegates: Mrs. Marit Bergendhal (Sweden); Mr. Robert Blair (Canada); Mrs. Cristina Crespo (Uruguay); Mr. José Manuel Igreja Matos (Portugal); Mr. Cagney Musi (South Africa); Mr. Christophe Regnard (France); Mr. Đuro Sessa (Croatia); Mr. Reinier Van Zutphen (the Netherlands); Mr. Virgilius Valancius (Lithuania).

Mr. Mura explained that the candidatures of the members of the General Secretariat had been submitted in writing by the IAJ President: Mr. Giacomo Oberto for the post of Secretary-General, Mr. Raffaele Gargiulo, Mr. Galileo D'Agostino and Mr. Lucio Aschettino for the posts of Deputy Secretaries-General.

5. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held in Istanbul

President Diakité pointed out that the minutes of the meeting of Istanbul had been sent to all national associations and that no remarks had been raised within one month. The assembly submitted no objections; therefore the President stated the minutes of the meeting held in Istanbul as unanimously approved.

6. Amendment of the IAJ Constitution: discussion and vote

The Secretary-General recalled the mailing of the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Regulations and announced some slight linguistic and stylistic changes in the text distributed to the member associations.

President Diakité recalled the work done by the ad hoc Working Group chaired by Vice-President Regnard and the long and successful search for a compromise that could satisfy all IAJ members and invited Mr. Regnard to summarize the proposal.

Mr. Regnard briefly presented the main aspects of the proposed amendments and explained to the assembly the content of a new proposal forwarded by the ANAO Group, according to which the extraordinary members having applied for ordinary membership to be voted during the current meeting, and for which, therefore, there had been a process of evaluation by rapporteurs appointed by the Presidency Committee, should be exempted from the presentation of the report envisaged by new art. 6 of the Constitution and by new art. 13, § 1 – 6, of the Regulations.

President Diakité thanked again Mr. Regnard and then gave the floor to the First Vice-President Mr. Reissner who, in his capacity as President of the EAJ, illustrated to the assembly the proposal of amendment expressed by the Group in its meeting on Sunday, November 11th: the EAJ proposed to change the quorum needed for the admission and exclusion of members (three quarters) using instead the same requested for the amendment of the Statute (two thirds).

President Diakité then invited the assembly to vote on the sub-amendment. The delegates of the associations of Italy, Israel and Ireland requested a secret vote.

While the staff of the General Secretariat arranged the voting procedure, President Diakité passed onto the next item in the agenda.

7. Report by the President of the IAJ

President Diakité referred to her written report and informed the assembly that no news occurred in the meantime, inviting the delegates to ask any possible clarification they needed on the report.

Since the assembly had no such request, President Diakité gave the floor to Secretary-General Mura to start the voting procedure.

Mr. Mura explained the procedure, the content of the proposal to be voted and its consequences and announced that the total number of associations admitted to the voting (directly or by proxy) was 57. The voting followed by secret ballot. After that, the commission of delegates elected to count the votes performed its task.

11. Reports by IAJ's Representatives at the United Nations

While the commission scrutinized the ballot papers, President Diakité invited Mr. Pierre Zappelli, IAJ representative at the UN seat in Geneva, to take the floor and to inform the assembly on his contacts with the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Mrs. Gabriela Knaul.

Mr. Zappelli explained to the assembly Mrs. Knaul's proposal of cooperation between the IAJ and her office, aimed at the training of judges on human rights law, and underlined that this proposal proved the importance of permanent relations between the IAJ and UN institutions.

Secretary-General Mura informed the assembly about the absence of Mrs. Knaul, who had been invited to the meeting and accepted the invitation, but was prevented to come by family problems.

The commission charged to count the votes informed the Secretary-General about the results of the scrutiny. Mr. Mura then announced that the requested majority was of 38 votes, the proposal

of sub-amendments made by the EAJ received 53 votes in favor, 4 against and no abstention and therefore the proposal was approved.

Mr. Mura then informed the assembly that the entire project of amendment of the Constitution and of the Regulations should be voted. The delegates of the associations of Italy, Israel and Australia asked for a secret vote.

President Diakit  gave the floor to Mr. Regnard to explain again the project and the proposal made by the ANAO Group exonerating some associations from the presentation of a report after their upgrade as ordinary members.

Secretary-General Mura then gave start to the voting procedure. 56 associations were present (directly or by proxy).

During the work of the commission charged to scrutinize the ballot papers, the Secretary-General took note of the rectifications asked by the delegates of Paraguay, Portugal, Turkey and Uruguay of the names of their respective associations as published in the IAJ website.

8. Report by the Secretary-General and presentation of the new IAJ website

Secretary-General Mura referred to his written report and recalled his decision not to present himself as a candidate again for the position of IAJ Secretary-General. He declared himself grateful and honoured for having worked for the IAJ during 12 years and briefly summarized in front of the Central Council the path made in that capacity and the main achievements of the Association during that time. In 2000, when Mr. Mura was elected Secretary General for the first time, the IAJ gathered 57 member associations. At the end of 2012 they were 77 and 18 associations were submitting applications. In the same period the Central Council convened for seven times in Europe, for two times in South America, in North America and in Africa. The organisation of the General Secretariat has been renewed and all archives have been computerized. The papers dating since the foundation of the IAJ in 1953, as well as all records, have been scanned. M. Mura presented also the new website, its graphics, its content and the new interactive functions such as the search engine, the wiki, the forum, announcing that the site will go live at the beginning of new year. Finally, he thanked the Deputy Secretaries-General and his assistant for their precious cooperation along the years.

President Diakit  thanked Mr. Mura for his report and for the work done in his capacity as Secretary-General of the IAJ. She then asked the commission to communicate the results of the scrutiny. The proposal of amendment of the IAJ Constitution and Regulations was approved with 52 votes in favor, 4 against and no abstention. The new Constitution and the Regulations under the Constitution are attached to these minutes (see enclosure no. 2).

President Diakit  congratulated the ad hoc Working Group, thanked the Regional Groups and praised the delegates for their spirit of compromise and mutual understanding and for their will to foster friendship between the IAJ members, to keep the IAJ united and to strengthen it.

9. Reports by the Vice-Presidents responsible of the Regional Groups

10. Reports by the Executive-President of the Foundation "Justice in the World"

11. Reports by IAJ's Representatives at the United Nations

President Diakit  then passed onto the items 9 to 11 in the agenda and asked whether anybody needed clarifications on the reports that were distributed by the General Secretariat before the meeting. Having received a negative answer, she invited Secretary-General Mura to deal with the following point.

12. Associations which have not paid their contributions for several years

Secretary-General Mura informed the assembly that no association risked losing its membership in the IAJ because of arrears in the payment of annual contributions.

13. Budget of the International Association of Judges

Secretary-General Mura informed the assembly that the balance sheet and the budget for the forthcoming financial year will be distributed and commented during the Wednesday's session of the Central Council.

14. Report by the auditors

Due to the need for the auditors to have time to examine the financial documents they received at the beginning of the meeting, their report was postponed to the next session of the Central Council.

15. Applications for ordinary membership submitted by the associations of Bulgaria, RD Congo and Mongolia

President Diakit  informed the assembly that, taking into consideration the approval of the new IAJ Constitution and the content of paragraph 1 of the Transitional Provision of the Regulations under the Constitution, according to which “after the adoption of the new Constitution and the general Regulation under the Constitution, extraordinary members will automatically become full members”, point 15 in the agenda will not be dealt with.

She then called the delegations of the extraordinary members attending the meeting, i.e. those of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Serbia and Turkey, and on behalf of the Presidency Committee and of the Central Council congratulated them on the transformation of their respective associations in IAJ ordinary members.

16. Applications for membership: Colombia, Dominican Republic, Peru

President Diakit  asked the delegates of the associations of Colombia, Dominican Republic and Peru to quit the room in order for the Central Council to examine and vote on their associations’ application for membership.

She then informed the Central Council that, due to the absence of both rapporteurs on the application of the Colombian Association, Vice-President Crespo will present the report and answer any question on it. Mrs. Crespo then took the floor to illustrate the situation in the country and the role and activities of the “*Corporaci n de jueces y magistrados de Colombia*”. At the end, President Diakit  took note that there were not questions or remarks on the report and that no delegation asked for a secret vote; therefore she called for an open vote on the application. The assembly unanimously approved the admission of the Colombian association as a member of the IAJ.

The delegate of the *Corporaci n de jueces y magistrados de Colombia*, Mr. Luis Fernando Ramirez, delivered a speech of thanks to the Central Council.

The session was closed at 1.00 p.m.

Session of November 14th, 2012

Present: the President, Mrs. Fatoumata Diakit , the First Vice-President, Mr. Gerhard Reissner, the Vice-Presidents Mr. Robert Blair, Mrs. Cristina Crespo, Mr. Cagney Musi, Mr. Christophe R gnard and Mr. Virgilijus Valancius; the Honorary Presidents Mr. Sidnei Beneti, Mr. Jos  Maria Bento Company, Mr. Ernst Markel, Mr. Ramon Rodriguez Arribas, Mrs. Maja Tratnik and Mr. Gunter Woratsch; the Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Mura; the Deputy Secretaries-General, Mr. Giacomo Oberto, Mr. Lucio Aschettino and Mr. Galileo D’Agostino, as well as the delegates of the following national associations:

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| ALBANIA | KAZAKHSTAN |
| ALGERIA | LATVIA (PROXY TO LITHUANIA) |
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| ARMENIA | LITHUANIA |
| AUSTRALIA | LUXEMBOURG |
| AUSTRIA | MALI (PROXY TO IVORY COAST) |
| AZERBAIJAN (PROXY TO GEORGIA) | MEXICO |
| BELGIUM | MOLDOVA |
| BENIN | MONGOLIA |

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| BRAZIL | MOROCCO |
| BOSNIA AND HERZEGOWINA | MOZAMBIQUE |
| BULGARIA | NETHERLANDS |
| CAMERUN | NICARAGUA |
| CANADA | NIGER |
| CHILE | NORWAY |
| COLOMBIA | PANAMA |
| COSTA RICA | PARAGUAY |
| CROATIA | PERU (OBSERVER) |
| CYPRUS | POLAND |
| CZECKIA | PORTUGAL |
| DEM. REP. OF CONGO | PUERTO RICO |
| DENMARK | REP. OF CHINA (TAIWAN) |
| DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (OBSERVER) | RUSSIA (OBSERVER) |
| EL SALVADOR | SENEGAL |
| ESTONIA | SERBIA |
| FINLAND | SLOVAKIA |
| FRANCE | SLOVENIA |
| GEORGIA | SOUTH AFRICA |
| GERMANY | SPAIN |
| GREECE | SWEDEN |
| GUINEA CONAKRY | SWITZERLAND (PROXY TO GERMANY) |
| HUNGARY | TOGO |
| IRELAND | TURKEY |
| ISRAEL | UKRAINE |
| ITALY | UNITED KINGDOM |
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The session was opened at 2.45 p.m. by President Diakit  who resumed the treatment of point 16 of the agenda.

16. Applications for membership: Colombia, Dominican Republic, Peru

President Diakit  asked the delegates of the associations of Dominican Republic and Peru to quit the room in order for the Central Council to examine and vote on their associations' application for membership. She then invited Mrs. Mirinda Vicenty Nazario, Rapporteur on the application of the Dominican Republic's Association, to take the floor. After the report, having took note that no questions were raised, President Diakit  called for an open vote on the application. The assembly unanimously approved the admission of the *Asociaci n Jueces Dominicanos para la Democracia* as a member of the IAJ. The delegates of the Dominican Association, Mrs. Rosalba Garib Holgu n, Mrs. Rosanna V squez Febrillet and Mr Teofilo And jar S nchez, delivered a speech of thanks to the Central Council.

President Diakit  then gave the floor to the rapporteurs on the application of the Peruvian association, Mr. Leopoldo Llanos Sagrista and Mrs. Virginie Valton. After the report, having took note that no questions were raised, President Diakit  called for an open vote on the application. The assembly unanimously approved the admission of the *Asociaci n Nacional de Magistrados del Peru* as a member of the IAJ. The delegate of the Peruvian Association, Mr. Osvaldo Ordonez, delivered a speech of thanks to the Central Council.

President Diakit  congratulated the new member associations on their admission and passed onto the other items of the agenda.

13. Budget

Secretary-General Mura recalled that books and documents had been given to the auditors and were at disposal of each delegate and then summarized the financial report that was distributed to all associations attending the meeting and is attached to these minutes (see enclosure no. 3).

First of all, the Secretary-General informed the assembly that in September 2011 the Italian *Associazione Nazionale Magistrati* gave a special contribution (amounting to Euro 12.395) for the salary of the professional staff of the General Secretariat.

Mr. Mura then underlined that it had been quite a long financial year (14 months) and because of this there had been some excess of item. He pointed out also that the IAJ is facing increasing expenses for the missions of the rapporteurs on applications for membership.

Mr. Mura informed the assembly that after the accounts had been closed some associations settled their arrears: Mali settled the contribution due for 2011; Algeria, Cyprus, Ivory Coast, Panama and Togo settled the 2012 fees. The Irish association had some arrears and settled them by bank transfer, documented even though not yet credited on the IAJ bank accounts due to banking schedule.

As for the budget for the financial year 2012-2013, Mr. Mura explained that it was agreed with Mr. Oberto on the basis of the expected incomes and recalled the rule according to which the Central Council authorizes the Secretary-General to determine, according to the needs, the allocation of the further incomes arising from the admission of new members. This amendment of the budget will be done by Mr. Oberto.

14. Report by the auditors

After the report of the auditors, who had been charged with examining the accounts (Mr. Barone and Mr. Pagone), the assembly unanimously approved the financial report and the closed budget for the year 2011-2012 and discharged the Secretary-General of any responsibility in this respect.

17. Election of the President, First Vice-President and other Vice-Presidents, Secretary-General and Deputy Secretaries-General

The Secretary-General, upon delegation by the President, introduced this item by recalling the statutory provisions on elections. He added that all members attending the meeting had voting right. He then explained that there was just one candidate for the post of President of the IAJ, i.e. the present First Vice-President Gerhard Reissner. The Honorary President Mr. Gunter Woratsch and the delegates from Switzerland (Mr. Gass), Serbia (Mrs. Boljevic) and Turkey (Mr. Mehmet) endorsed this candidature. President Diakit  called for an open vote and Mr. Reissner was elected President by acclamation. Mr. Reissner took the floor to thank the assembly. He asked President Diakit  to go on presiding over the session.

Secretary-General Mura then recalled the rules for the election of the IAJ Vice-Presidents and, in particular, the obligation to include in every vote at least one candidate of each Regional Group. He then listed the names of candidates for the posts of Vice-President.

Mr. Juenemann (Germany) underlined that Mr. Jos  Manuel Igreja Matos, being Portuguese, should be considered both a candidate for the European Association and the Ibero-American Group. Delegates from Brazil and Puerto Rico took the floor to explain that the only candidate of the Ibero-American Group was Mrs. Crespo and President Diakit  informed the assembly that the Presidency Committee had met Mr. Igreja Matos, who clearly stated that he was not running for the post of President of the IBA Group.

Secretary-General Mura then started the voting procedures and announced that the total number of associations admitted to the voting (directly or by proxy) was 71.

Since Mr. Falalou Nassirou Mahaman Sofo, one of the members of the commission charged to count the votes, was not present, the assembly designated Mrs. Esther Ngo Moutngui (Cameroun) to replace him. Elections followed by secret ballot. After that, the commission of delegates elected to count the votes performed its task.

Following the results of the elections by secret ballot, Mr. Musy (71 votes), Mr. Blair (71 votes), Mrs. Crespo (71 votes), Mr R gnard (64 votes), Mr. Igreja Matos (52 votes) and Mr. Valancius (49 votes) were elected IAJ Vice-Presidents. Mr. Van Zutphen obtained 18 votes, Mrs. Bergenghal 16 and Mr Faress 14. No ballot was declared null and void.

Secretary-General Mura informed the assembly that there were two candidates for the post of First Vice-President of the IAJ, i.e. Mr. Blair and Mrs. Crespo. Delegates from USA (Mr. Hall), Norway (Mr. Holm) and Switzerland (Mr. Gass) endorsed the candidature of Mr. Blair. Delegates from Algeria (Mr. Boussouf), Poland (Mr. Pieback) and Panama (Mrs. Pereira), endorsed the candidature of Mrs. Crespo. President Diakit  called for a secret ballot vote for this post.

Following the results of the vote, Mrs. Crespo (47 votes) was elected First Vice-President of the IAJ. Mr. Blair got 24 votes. No vote was declared null and void.

President Diakit  called for an open vote on the candidatures for the posts of Secretary-General and Deputy Secretaries-General. Mr. Oberto was elected by acclamation Secretary-General of the IAJ. Mr. D'Agostino, Mr. Gargiulo and Mr. Aschettino were unanimously re-elected Deputy Secretaries-General.

President Diakit  proposed to the assembly the designation of Mr. Mura as Honorary President of the IAJ, in due recognition of the role he played in strengthening and enlarging the International Association of Judges. The assembly unanimously approved the proposal.

Mr. Reissner then assumed the presidency and asked the assembly to designate the former President, Mrs. Fatoumata Diakit , as Honorary President of the IAJ. The assembly approved by acclamation.

Secretary-General Oberto took the floor to thank the assembly: he briefly summarized the story of his engagement in the IAJ, started in 1985 as a delegate of the Italian Association and then continued with his election as Deputy Secretary-General in 1994; he recalled the President and Vice-Presidents he worked with, the former Secretary-General Mr. Bonomo, prematurely deceased, and then thanked Mr. Mura, the Deputy Secretaries General as well as the assistant to the Secretary-General for the work done together.

President Reissner took the floor to welcome Mr. Oberto as new Secretary-General and Mr. Igreja Matos as new member of the Presidency Committee and to congratulate the other Vice-Presidents and the Deputy Secretaries General for having been re-elected.

The session was closed at 6.30 p.m..

The IAJ President
Mrs. Fatoumata Diakit 

the Secretary-General
Mr. Antonio Mura

Session of November 15th, 2012

Present: the President, Mr. Gerhard Reissner, the First Vice-President, Mrs. Cristina Crespo, the Vice-Presidents Mr. Robert Blair, Mr. Jos  Manuel Igreja Matos, Mr. Cagney Musi, Mr. Christophe R gnard and Mr. Virgilijus Valancius; the Honorary Presidents Mr. Sidnei Beneti, Mr. Jos  Maria Bento Company, Mrs. Fatoumata Diakit , Mr. Antonio Mura, Mr. Ernst Markel, Mr. Ramon Rodriguez Arribas, Mrs. Maja Tratnik and Mr. Gunter Woratsch; the Secretary-General, Mr. Giacomo Oberto; the Deputy Secretaries-General, Mr. Lucio Aschettino and Mr. Galileo D'Agostino, as well as the delegates of the following national associations:

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| FRANCE | SLOVENIA |
| GEORGIA | SOUTH AFRICA |
| GERMANY | SPAIN |
| GREECE | SWEDEN |
| GUINEA CONAKRY | SWITZERLAND (PROXY TO GERMANY) |
| HUNGARY | TOGO |
| IRELAND | TURKEY |
| ISRAEL | UKRAINE |
| ITALY | UNITED KINGDOM |
| IVORY COAST | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA |
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The session was opened at 9.20 a.m. by President Reissner.

18. Reports by the Presidents of the Study-Commissions. Selection of the new subjects

President Reissner called on the Presidents of the four Study Commissions to report on the conclusions of the Commissions on the following subjects: “The extent to which specialization of courts and judges affects judicial independence” (1st Study Commission: Mr. Pol Van Iseghem); “Aspects of intellectual property disputes: protection of artistic or literary reputation; the Court's use of experts or assessors” (2nd Study Commission: Mrs. Zila Zfat); “Violation of copyrights and other intellectual property rights, especially through the use of Internet” (3rd Study Commission: Mrs. Mary Moreau); “Aspects of intellectual property and competition law in employment relationship” (4th Study Commission: Mrs. Julie Dutil).

The Presidents also proposed the subjects to be dealt with by the Study Commissions in 2013: “How to promote in practical way the independence of judges as protectors of the International Human Rights Law” (1st Study Commission); “Aspects of civil procedure: a) access to justice for self-represented litigants; b) civil process reforms” (2nd Study Commission); “Environmental pollution: is criminal law a good instrument?” (3rd Study Commission); “Rights of sick and disabled employees” (4th Study Commission).

The Central Council approved the conclusions as well as the proposed topics for 2013.

The Boards of the 4 Study Commissions will be the following:

1st – President: Mr. Peter Hall (USA); Vice-presidents: Mr. Thed Adelsward (Sweden), Mr. Odet Maor (Israel), Mr. Mehmet Tank (Turkey); Secretary: Mrs. Esther Ngo Moutngui (Cameroun).

2nd – President: Mrs. Zila Zfat (Israel); Vice Presidents: Mr. Max Carette (Belgium), Mrs. Jennifers Davies (Australia) and Mr. Reiner von Zutphen (the Netherlands).

3rd – President: Mr. Frans Bauduin (the Netherlands); Vice-Presidents: Mrs. Marit Bergendhal (Sweden), Mrs. Virginie Duval (France) and Mr. Charles Simpson (USA).

4th – President: Mr. Philippe Bron (Belgium); Vice-presidents: Mrs. Julie Dutil (Canada) and Mrs. Karin Frikkee (the Netherlands).

19. Meetings of the IAJ in the next years

President Reissner briefly summarized the events that caused the withdrawal of the Brazilian candidature to host the meeting in 2013 and then gave the floor to the President of the Ukrainian Association, Mr. Oleg Prysiashniuk, who expressed the willingness of his association to host the next IAJ annual meeting in his country in autumn 2013.

President Reissner then gave the floor to Honorary President Beneti, who informed the assembly that the Brazilian Association is willing to host the 2014 meeting in Foz de Iguazu. Mr. Beneti then invited Mr. Geraldo Dutra, judge of the State of Paraná, to present the venue of the meeting.

The Central Council approved both proposals unanimously and President Reissner thanked the representatives of the Associations of Ukraine and Brazil for their offers.

20. Impact of economic crises on the judiciary

President Reissner recalled that the crisis and its impact on the judiciary were already discussed within all Regional Groups and informed the assembly that the Presidency Committee prepared a draft statement on the issue. Mr. Reissner mentioned also the case of Greece, where the Government envisaged a further decrease of the salary of judges to a total amount of 60% of the present remuneration. The EAJ already made a statement on the Greek situation during its Spring meeting in Amsterdam, but during the meeting in Washington decided to ask the support of the entire IAJ.

A lively debate took then place on the type and quantity of documents that the Central Council should release and on the necessity to adopt a specific text devoted only to the situation of Greece. Finally, the Central Council adopted unanimously:

- a statement on the impact of the economic crisis on the judiciary (see enclosure no. 4);
- a resolution on the reduction of the wages of judges (see enclosure no. 5);
- a resolution on the remuneration of Greek judges (see enclosure no. 6).

21. Miscellanea

Mrs. Virginie Duval (France) thanked the Federal Judges Association for the organization of the meeting and asked the Ivory Coast delegation to convey the Central Council's thanks to Mrs. Fatoumata Diakité for her wise presidency during which the IAJ carried out, among many important goals, the eagerly awaited reform of its Constitution.

Mrs. Boljevic, delegate of the Serbian Association, took the floor to underline a recent successful intervention of the IAJ, through its European Regional Group and the efforts of the EAJ President, Mr. Reissner, in favor of the reinstatement of judges who had had permanent tenure and who had not been re-elected.

President Reissner expressed the IAJ's gratitude to the Federal Judges Association for its professional and warm hospitality, which gave also the chance to have contacts with relevant US judicial and cultural institutions, in particular Universities, and thanked all delegates for their attendance and their attentive and committed participation in the works of the Central Council.

Finally, President Reissner heartily thanked the Italian *Associazione Nazionale Magistrati* for the special contribution with which it supports the activities and functioning of the IAJ General Secretariat.

The meeting was closed at 12.15 a.m.

The IAJ President
Mr. Gerhard Reissner

the Secretary-General
Mr. Giacomo Oberto

Enclosures:

1. List of participants (13 November 2012);
2. IAJ Constitution and Regulations under the Constitution;
3. Financial report and budget documents;
4. Statement on the impact of the economic crisis on the judiciary;
5. Resolution on the reduction of the wages of judges;
6. Resolution on the remuneration of Greek judges.