



Report

Always moving forward

ICF Congress, Pattaya, Thailand

3-5 November 2022

NAME: Cecilia L. Farías

ICF Position: Vice-president

1. Major Meetings since last Congress

- **South American Canoe Confederation (COSURCA) Sprint Championships, November 2021. Montevideo. URU**

I attended this Championships together with the ICF President, Thomas Konietzko and the Vice-President Lluís Rabaneda, where we met government and NOC authorities. This versatile venue can host high level sprint events. It is at 5 minutes distance from the international airport and has hotels on the lake and in the vicinity. It should be considered as a potential host of major continental and world class events.

- **Participation at the WOMEN LEAD SPORTS online program ASOIF 2022 Gr.1** online courses. March 9th-April 6th.

I participated in this event, and the ICF supported the participation of Adriana Valderrama Morones (MEX NF Vice President and coach) and Miki Bando (JPN Managing Director of the Kyoto Sports Association).

- **Olympic Solidarity opportunities.** meeting in person, May 23rd, 2022.

The host was Sheila Stephens Desbans, Head of Sport Development Unit; Carina Dragomir, Project Manager and Marc Faraci, Project Manager. I attended the meeting together with the ICF Development Manager.

- **ICF/IOC Gender Equality Catch-Up online meeting on July 27th**

The meeting purpose was to analyse the ICF gender equality evaluation. Hosts: Ricarda Pinto, Sandra Lengwiler and Chris Marsh.

- **IOC Human Rights Strategic Framework**, online meeting. Sept. 13th 2022. Informative meeting host by Magali Martowicz, Jean-Benoit Charrin and C. Marsh
- **ACODEPA (PAN AMERICAN SPORTS CONFEDERATIONS) EXCO.** meeting in person. Colorado Springs, USA. 12-13 April.
- **ACODEPA (PAN AMERICAN SPORTS CONFEDERATIONS) General Assembly** in person. Santiago de Chile. September 1st, 2022.
- **Meeting with the Paraguayan Canoe Federation President and Vice President** in person, Asuncion. September 10th. Evaluation of the development status and next steps.

2. Tasks undertaken for this period

- **Fit For Future, ICF Strategy. Project Manager**

The ICF President appointed me as Project Manager and since November 2021 until October 2022 I organized and led most of the meetings of the 8 strategic pillars. The members of the groups were BOD members, ICF staff, members of NF's and advisory companies. The intensive discussions were not limited to the initial proposals. Based on the produced recommendations, I worked with the Consultant on the preparation of the final document which is available to the Congress.

- **Participation at the ASOIF Sustainability, Development and Education Consultative Group ASDEG FORUM.** In person. Lausanne May 24-25.

The forum is designed for ASDEG to continue to support its member IFs in development, education, and sustainability in the best way possible. The topics of the workshop included:

- Benchmarking and allocating funds for National Federations
- Online education tools & apps / monetizing education
- Olympic Solidarity update on the next quadrennial budget
- Balance between working virtually and in person
- Defining key areas of sustainability relevant for IFs.

- **International Partnership Programme: in partnership with British Canoeing and UK Sports**

The first Pilot Project was delivered to the IRI NF on a webinar format and there are plans to continue with the delivery to other NFs in Asia upon request

- **Sustainable Development Programme:**

As responsible of this Programme, I will provide detailed explanation during the Congress, together with the Development Manager.

- **Diversity and Inclusion: Trans-gender athletes' policy**

Dr. Tim Brabans is central to the effort of determining an appropriate policy regarding trans-gender athletes. At the moment the BOD received the visit of Dr. Shane Heffernen who provided scientific information and planned to make a survey

Swansea University conducts detailed generic online surveys, the results of which are automatically sent to the researchers. After the analysis, the researchers can give an indication of how our female athletes feel towards competing against trans female athletes.

Following the proposal of Canoe Ireland, we plan to have a Women Canoeing forum in Dublin, March 2023. More details will be provided soon.

- **IOC Evaluation of the ICF Gender Equality status:**

Gender Equality: The equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. (UN Women).

Gender Equity: The process of being fair to men and women. To ensure fairness, measures must often be put in place to compensate for the historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from operating on a level playing field. **Equity is a means to a result. Equality is the result. (UNESCO)**

The ICF annually reports to ASOIF and is evaluated. Our score significantly improved based on: Safeguarding policies, equal number of events for men and women and judge's groups composition for the Tokyo Olympic Games. Other positive aspect is the election of two women Chairs of Standing Committees (SC) plus several others to the SC, which on the best cases have equal number of women and men.

The Sustainable Development Programme is gender equal, and we appreciate the cooperation of the NFs that submit gender equal nominations.

As part of good governance, the IOC encourages IFs to transition to gender balanced representation in their decision-making bodies, with a minimum of 30 per cent women's representation, and this is clearly an area on which we must continue our work. We also need to improve the attendance of women to the ICF Congresses.

Women represent 10% of coaches at the Olympic Games, the IOC coordinates the development of an action plan in collaboration with the ICF which took part at the WHISH Programme and will create the guidelines for women coaches in 2023. Gender Equality is transversal to all the ICF activities and as such, we all are responsible, at the ICF, Continental Associations and NFs.

- **Sustainability:**

I was also appointed as responsible of this Project which will be explained in detail during the Congress.

- **Participation as ITO:**
 - Chair of the Jury at Sprint and Paracanoe World Championships and at the Pan American Championships and Continental Games' Qualifier, both in Halifax NS, CAN, 2022.
 - Chair of the Jury at the Sprint competition, ODESUR GAMES, Asuncion, PAR.
- **ACODEPA (Pan American Sports Confederations) General Assembly** in person. Santiago de Chile. September 1st, 2022.
- **Meeting with the Paraguayan Canoe Federation President and Vice President** in person, Asuncion. September 10th. Evaluation of the development status and next steps.
- **Seminar for Sprint Continental Judges and Event Organisers** on behalf of COPAC, Bonaio, Dominican Republic, October 2022.

3. Issues and Main Points of Report

This report reflects an important volume of work and initiatives and verifiable actions that contribute to reach some of the objectives of our International Federation, in line with the Agenda 2020+5.

The pathway is challenging and complex and to succeed it is necessary the collaboration of the staff, the Continental Associations which should replicate or even better, improve the ICF programs, the NFs and other key stakeholders.

To complete projects is not easy, it is worthwhile to mention that the Fit For Future Strategy faced resistance, however the consensus was built based on the understanding that an IF up to the level of the 21st century requires several actions that will occur based on a realistic plan and a reasonable budget to be allocated.

4. Future Initiatives and Tasks

- **Cooperate with the organization of the Canoeing Women's Forum** in Dublin, March 2023.
- **Follow up** and support the realization of the tasks identified on the FFF Strategy related to the areas under my responsibility: Sustainable Development (which includes sustainability) and Diversity and Inclusion.
- **Continue with the promotion and sponsoring of women in canoeing in all its possible roles.**
- **Promote the incorporation of Paracanoe in the Para-Pan American Games, Barranquilla 2027.**

- **Continue with the promotion and sponsoring of women in canoeing in all its possible roles.**
- **Promote the incorporation of Paracanoe in the Para-Pan American Games.**
- **Promote the participation of the NFs at the Continental Events and at the ICF events.**
- **Continue delivering seminars for judges and event's organisers within the frame of Multi Sport Games.**
- **Run for election of the position of 1st Vice-President of ACODEPA (Association of All Sports Pan American Confederation) in 2023.**

This will signify a better ranked position as now I am one of the 3 Vice-Presidents.