



MINUTES OF THE WASLI 2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JEJU, SOUTH KOREA ON 6th JULY 2023

The General Assembly started at 1pm, Jeju time.

The General Assembly was held as a hybrid meeting, with National Members attending in-person and online. Voting online was done through a secured mentimeter website link.

1. Welcome

The WASLI President welcomed all delegates.

The WASLI President introduced the Executive Board members present: Susan Emerson (VP; in person), Dr Isabelle Heyerick (Secretary; in person), Arūnas Bražinskas (DIA; in person), Nigel Howard (Treasurer; in person); Michèlle Berger (Swiss Board Member, online).

A warm welcome was extended to the Regional Representatives.

The President thanked all interpreters working at the GA, in person and online. He also thanked ASLI UK (Association of Sign Language Interpreters in the UK) for sponsoring one of the IS<>ENG interpreters working at the GA and conference.

The following opening announcements were made:

1. National Members are voting members. Each National Association can have two delegates at the GA, who together have one vote. Observers are welcomed to the GA, but do not participate in the meeting.
2. National Members were asked to register for the GA. Only those National members registered will be able to vote.
3. All National Members received the GA information package prior to the meeting which contained all information. This package contained the agenda of the GA. The Secretary did not receive any comments or requests regarding the agenda.
4. The Secretary did not receive any proxy votes.

WASLI has 52 National Members representing 48 different countries. 41 National Members have registered to attend the GA representing 39 countries. Please refer to Appendix B for the Official List of National Members attending the General Meeting.

The President made sure 25% of the registered National Members were in attendance before starting the GA.

2. Apologies

The Secretary received apologies from SCOSLI (Scottish Collaborative of Sign Language Interpreters).

3. Remembering members of our community no longer with us

National Members, Board members, and attendees observed a minute's silence to remember members of our community who are no longer with us. The Vice President especially recognised the departed Proscovia Suubi Nantongo and Anna Komarova for their work and leadership.

4. Approval of tellers

The tellers were presented: Seohee Lim & Seonmi Kim (WASLI conference volunteers, Malaysia)

National Members were asked to approve the tellers.

The question was put forward if National Members requested a secret vote. No secret vote was requested. Voting was done by show of hands by in person attending National Members and through online voting by online attending National Members.

In person vote: approved by all

Online vote: approve 11; against 0; abstain 3

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5. Approval minutes General Meeting 2019 (Paris, France)

Corrections and Approval

Minutes were distributed to members and no corrections were tendered.

National Members were asked to formally accept the WASLI 2019 GM Minutes.

No secret vote was requested. Voting was done by show of hands by in person attending National Members and through online voting by online attending National Members.

In person vote: approve 12; against 0; abstain 4

Online vote: approve 14; against 0; abstain 0

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6. Approval Executive Board Annual Report 2022-2023

Please refer to the annual report in Appendix A

National Members were given the opportunity to ask questions to the Executive Board.

There were no questions. National Members were asked to formally accept the report.



No secret vote was requested. Voting was done by show of hands by in person attending National Members and through online voting by online attending National Members.

In person vote: approve 15; against 0; abstain 1

Online vote: approve 14; against 0; abstain 1

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7. Approval Report of the Treasurer: Financial report

Please refer to the financial report in Appendix A

The Treasurer presented the Financial report. The Current Balance was presented.

National Members were given the opportunity to ask questions to the Treasurer.

There were no questions. The President asked National Members to formally accept the report.

No secret vote was requested. Voting was done by show of hands by in person attending National Members and through online voting by online attending National Members.

In person vote: approve 16; against 0; abstain 1

Online vote: approve 13; against 0; abstain 1

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8. Approval Regional Representatives Annual Report

Please refer to the Regional Representatives Reports in Appendix A

The Vice President and DIA asked the Regional Representatives present in the room to come to the stage, and those attending online were featured on screen through Zoom. The Vice President and DIA expressed the Board's gratitude for their 4 years of service.

National Members were given the opportunity to ask questions to the Regional Representatives.

There were no questions. National Members were asked to formally accept the report.

No secret vote was requested. Voting was done by show of hands by in person attending National Members and through online voting by online attending National Members.

In person vote: approve 14; against 0; abstain 1

Online vote: approve 11; against 0; abstain 3

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9. Approval admittance new National Members

The President explained that following the WASLI Articles (new since 2019), new National Members need to be approved by the General Assembly. The Executive Board does a first administrative check of founding documents regarding eligibility.

The General Assembly needs to formally accept the membership.

a. Guatemala

Executive Board position: accept.

There were no questions. National Members were asked to formally accept Guatemala as a new National Member.

No secret vote was requested.

Voting was done by show of hands by in person attending National Members and through online voting by online attending National Members.

In person vote: approve 18; against 0; abstain 0

Online vote: approve 15; against 0; abstain 0

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b. Malaysia

Executive Board position: accept.

Lucy Lim, delegate of the Interpreters and Translators Association for Selangor and KL Deaf Community (JUPEBIM) asked the floor. Miss Lim remarked that JUPEBIM would not support the membership as the Malaysian organisation applying for membership represents deaf people, was a WASLI member 25 years ago, but did not engage with interpreting advocacy work since then.

Wan Zuraidah Abu, delegate of the Malaysian Association of Sign Language Interpreter delegate attending online clarified that MyAsli is not the organisation for deaf people, but a newly established NASLI, was never a member of WASLI before, and is not the same organisation Miss Lim is referring to.

The discussion was closed.

National Members were asked to formally accept Malaysia as a new National Member. No secret vote was requested. Voting was done by show of hands by in person attending National Members and through online voting by online attending National Members.

In person vote: approve 17; against 2; abstain 2

Online vote: approve 11; against 1; abstain 5

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c. Morocco

Executive Board position: accept.

There were no questions. National Members were asked to formally accept Guatemala as a new National Member.

No secret vote was requested. Voting was done by show of hands by in person attending National Members and through online voting by online attending National Members.

In person vote: approve 21; against 0; abstain 0

Online vote: approve 8; against 1; abstain 6

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d. Zambia

Executive Board position: accept.

There were no questions. National Members were asked to formally accept Guatemala as a new National Member.

No secret vote was requested. Voting was done by show of hands by in person attending National Members and through online voting by online attending National Members.

In person vote: approve 22; against 0; abstain 0

Online vote: approve 8; against 0; abstain 6

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e. Indonesia

Executive Board position: accept.

There were no questions. National Members were asked to formally accept Guatemala as a new National Member.

No secret vote was requested. Voting was done by show of hands by in person attending National Members and through online voting by online attending National Members.

In person vote: approve 17; against 0; abstain 0

Online vote: approve 9; against 0; abstain 8

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10. Determination of membership fees

The President gave an overview of WASLI's current membership fee structure:

National Members	15 USD (1 year)	30 USD (1 year)	60 USD (1 year)	125 USD (1 year)	250 USD (1 year)
Regional Members	60 USD (4 years)	120 USD (4 years)	240 USD (4 years)	500 USD (4 years)	1000 USD (4 years)
Provisional Members					
Sponsoring Members	5 USD (1 year)	10 USD (1 year)	15 USD (1 year)	20 USD (1 year)	25 USD (1 year)

Attendees were reminded of the four WASLI Membership categories. The fees are determined on the country's GDP, resulting in a Category A, B, C, D, and E. National Members were reminded of the fact that they can renew membership for a period of four years. This ensures voting rights at the General Assembly.

KASLI (Korean Association of Sign Language Interpreters) raised the question whether it was possible to pay in person (cash) for one year now at the conference, and pay for the 3 years via PayPal. The Treasurer responded that he will sort this out with KASLI while here at the conference.

11. Ratification of the annual budget

Please refer to Appendix C

The Treasurer presented the annual budget.

ASLIN (Association of Sign Language Interpreters in Nigeria) asked the WASLI Board to for future meetings send the annual budget out prior to the General Assembly.

The Secretary responded that the annual budget was sent to all National Members on Tuesday July 4th. She acknowledged that this was late, but the Board wanted to include the financial overview of the WASLI 2023 conference. These accounts were presented to the Board on July 4th after which the Annual Budget was updated and sent to all National Members. For future meetings the Board will aim to have this information with the National Members earlier.

There were no other questions. The President asked National Members to formally accept the report.

No secret vote was requested. Voting was done by show of hands by in person attending National Members and through online voting by online attending National Members.

In person vote: approve 17; against 0; abstain 3

Online vote: approve 20; against 0; abstain 3

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12. Presentation of Reports and Accounts

a. ISO Expert Group

The President announced that outgoing WASLI Secretary Dr. Isabelle Heyerick will chair the WASLI ISO Expert Group, which was previously chaired by Samuel Chew. The President thanked Samuel and the members of the working group for their work and contribution.

Dr. Isabelle Heyerick gave an account in International Sign of the ISO Expert Group report (*Please refer to the Report in Appendix A*). There were no questions.

b. ISAAB

Honorary President Dr. Debra Russell gave an account in International Sign of the ISAAB report (*Please refer to the Report in Appendix A*). There were no questions.

c. WASLI Conference accounts

The President called the Conference Convenor, Dr. Anthony Chung to the floor. The President expressed his gratitude to Anthony and Lucy Lim for organising this successful conference.

Dr. Anthony Chung gave an account in International Sign of the WASLI Conference accounts (*Please refer to the overview in Appendix D*). There were no questions.

COMFORT BREAK with stroopwafels from the Dutch delegation – NBTG
(Association of Sign Language Interpreters of the Netherlands)

13. Appointment Regional Representatives

For each of the nine regions two Regional Representatives are elected: one deaf and one hearing.

The National Members of each region were asked to nominate representatives. Consequently, the National Members of each region could vote for the RRs for their own region. At the GA the results were announced of the regional voting which was held online and closed on July 5th at noon Jeju time.

- a. African Region: Leonida T. Kaula (hearing) & Bibi Ayesha Ramjugernath (deaf)
- b. Arab Region: no valid nominations received within deadline
- c. Asian Region: Dr. Lydia Kho (hearing), Megumi Kawakami (deaf), & Dr. Anthony Alexander Chong Vee yee (deaf)
- d. Australasia & Oceania Region: Krishneer Sen (deaf), & Inise Tawaketini (hearing)
- e. Balkan Region: Daša Peperko (deaf), & Nives Gotovac (hearing)

- f. EECAC Region: Ekaterina Golovanova (hearing) & Ken Goulston (deaf)
- g. Europe Region: Dr. Christian Rathmann (deaf) was nominated. We received a nomination from the floor for the hearing representative: Anja Saft (hearing) supported by the National Members of the Europe Region. Anja Saft was elected as hearing RR.
- h. Latin American & Caribbean Region: Laura Astrada (hearing) & Christian Ramírez Valerio (deaf)
- i. North American & Mexico: Ronise Barrera (deaf) & Eduardo Daniel Maya Ortega (hearing)

Question (online): ANILSEC Is it correct that the new hearing RR for the Asian region is also candidate for the VP position? Is this allowed? Can one person hold the same position?

Question from the floor by ASLI India: same question: what happens if the same person is elected as VP?

The Secretary answered: Dr. Lydia Koh was nominated for both positions. It is possible to be nominated for more than one position. However, it is not possible to combine two WASLI Board positions. We will need to carry out the vote for VP (as there is another candidate). Dr. Lydia Koh has informed the Secretary that if she is elected as VP, she will not take on the position as Asian RR. In that case, we will need to discuss this with the Region and see if the other nominated candidate (Noriko) is happy to take on the mandate. All depends on the results of the vote for the VP position.

The President asked the appointed RRs to either come to the stage or turn their camera on and congratulated them on their appointment. The WASLI Board looks forward working with them the upcoming four years.

14. Appointment Executive Board

This part was led by outgoing Vice President Susan Emerson and outgoing Secretary Dr. Isabelle Heyerick.

The candidates had been announced in the GA Information Package which contained their picture, bio, and motivation.

At the GA, the candidate(s) were presented and were asked to make themselves known. National Members had the opportunity to ask questions before moving on to the vote.

For the positions of Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer a secret ballot was requested by more than five National Members.

National Members in the room voted by paper ballot. National Members voted online. The votes in the room were collected by the tellers, and at the end of the procedures they were counted. The Secretary checked the count of the paper ballots, and the results of the online voting before announcing the results. No counts were made public.

a. President

President	1. Dr. Christopher Stone	1. Российская ассоциация переводчиков жестового языка (Russian Association of Sign Language Interpreters)
		2. Interpreters & Translators Association for Sign Language Interpreters for Deaf Community Selangor & KL (JUPEBIM)
		3. Association of Sign Language Interpreters and Translators (ASLI UK)

National Members were asked to accept the appointment.

No secret vote was requested. Voting was done by show of hands by in person attending National Members and through online voting by online attending National Members.

In person vote: approve 17; against 0; abstain 0

Online vote: approve 15; against 1; abstain 2

Dr. Christopher Stone (UK) was declared President of WASLI for 2023 – 2027. The President left the room for the remainder of the appointment of the Executive Board.

b. Vice President

Vice President	1. Dr. Kounghée Lydia Koh	1. Interpreters & Translators Association for Deaf Community Selangor & Kuala Lumpur
		2. Korean Association of Sign Language Interpreters
		3. National Association of the Sign Language Interpreters Nepal (NASLI-NEPAL)
	2. Isabel Rey Clemente	1. Asociación de Intérpretes y Guías Intérpretes de Lengua de Señas del Perú

Results of vote count (in-person and online total):

Dr. Kounghée Lydia Koh 19

Isabel Rey Clemente 14

Abstain 3

Dr. Kounghée Lydia Koh (South Korea) was declared Vice President of WASLI for 2023 – 2027.

c. Secretary

Secretary	1. Erin Trine	1. Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (US)
	2. Timothy Tinat Gwazah	1. National Association of Sign Language Interpreters - Ghana

Results of vote count (in-person and online total):

Erin Trine 13
Timothy Tinat Gwazah 23
Abstain 0

Timothy Tinat Gwazah (Nigeria) was declared Secretary of WASLI for 2023 – 2027.

d. Treasurer

Treasurer	1. Jovana Gisela García	1. Asociación de intérpretes y traductores de lengua de señas venezolana y guías intérpretes para sordociegos
	2. Suzane J. Giroux	1. The Canadian Association of Sign Language Interpreters (CASLI)

Results of vote count (in-person and online total):

Jovana Gisela Garcia 25
Suzane J. Giroux 9
Abstain 2

Jovana Gisela Garcia (Venezuela) was declared Treasurer of WASLI for 2023 – 2027.

e. Deaf Interpreter Advisor

Deaf Interpreter Advisor	1. Arūnas Bražinskas	1. Asociación Nacional Costarricense de Intérpretes, Traductores e Investigadores de Lenguas de Señas
		2. Lithuania Association of Sign Language Interpreters (LASLI)

National Members were asked to accept the appointment.

No secret vote was requested. Voting was done by show of hands by in person attending National Members and through online voting by online attending National Members.

In person vote: approve 17; against 0; abstain 0

Online vote: approve 17; against 0; abstain 4

Arūnas Bražinskas was declared Deaf Interpreter Advisor of WASLI for 2023 – 2027.

d. Swiss Board Member

Swiss Board Member	1. Michèle Berger	1. Association of Sign Language Interpreters and Translators (ASLI UK)
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National Members were asked to accept the appointment.

No secret vote was requested. Voting was done by show of hands by in person attending National Members and through online voting by online attending National Members.

In person vote: approve 17; against 0; abstain 0

Online vote: approve 16; against 0; abstain 3

Michèle Berger was declared Swiss Board Member of WASLI for 2023 – 2027.
The President returned to the General Assembly.

15. Motions put forward by the Executive Board

16. Motions put forward by National Members

The President noted that the time was 4:25pm and the GA ends at 4:30.

Four agenda items remained to be discussed

1. Motions put forward by the Executive Board
2. Motions put forward by the LAC Region
3. Any other Business – none was received by the Secretary
4. Closing of the General Assembly

The President expressed his thanks to the LAC Region for putting forward their motions, and acknowledged that some of the motions will improve the structure of WASLI. There are also important motions put forward by the Executive Board in order to align WASLI's work with the Swiss Articles and legal framework. As both agenda items aim to improve WASLI's organisation, structure, and work, the President suggested to move the discussion of the motions to an Extraordinary General Meeting and not to discuss them now with only 5 minutes left.

National Members were asked to vote on the suggestion to move discussion of the motions put forward by the Executive Board and by the LAC Region to an Extraordinary General Meeting.

No secret vote was requested. Voting was done by show of hands by in person attending National Members and through online voting by online attending National Members.

In person vote: approve 17; against 0; abstain 0

Online vote: approve 12; against 8; abstain 1

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17. Any Other Business

None

18. Closing of the General Assembly

The President closed the General Assembly at 4:32pm, thanked all attendees and wished all a wonderful WASLI 2023 conference.

Minutes taken by the Secretary Dr. Isabelle Heyerick (Belgium/Ireland)

Appendix A – WASLI 2022-2023 Annual Report

Appendix B – List of National Members attending WASLI 2023 GA



Appendix C – Annual Budget 2023
Appendix D – WASLI GA 2023 PowerPoint
Appendix E – WASLI Articles