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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## United in pursuit of a better future

FIA President tells Assembly that diversity and unique experience of Clubs strengthens Federation in pursuit of its goals

FIA President Jean Todt today insisted that unity and a sense of common purpose are helping the Federation and its Member Clubs to drive positive change across the worlds of Mobility and Sport.

Speaking at the FIA Annual General Assembly in Vienna, Austria, President Todt said: "We live in a troubled world. Some of our members travelled here under extreme difficulty, and I thank them for that. The important thing is that we are all here together, united by a common purpose, no matter what our cultural, social, political, religious or economic differences may be.

"We share membership of a worldwide Federation, pursuing the same goals in safety, sustainability, the further development of our sport and the benefits these bring," he added. "I firmly believe that international organisations such as the FIA have a very important role. In fact, more than just a role, it is a duty.

"We must demonstrate to others that by working together we can achieve so much more. This is the lesson organisations such as ours can teach the world. That the individual and unique experiences we each bring to our global family do not divide us but, instead, make us so much stronger.

"This tapestry of differences that we share, when seen and applied in a positive way, can only help make our world a better and safer place for future generations."

His remarks came at the end the FIA's largest ever Assembly week, with 446 delegates from 175 clubs in attendance, and after thanking event hosts the ÖAMTC and its outgoing President Werner Kraus, the FIA President also spoke about the progress the Federation has made across its activities over the past year.

Referring back to the goals set in 2009 with regard to governance, which "had to be the cornerstone of future growth and development", the President said: "At last year's General Assembly, I announced there would be an independent review of our internal operations by Deloitte. That review was completed in the first half of this year. Since then their recommendations have been considered by the Senate, the Statutes Review Commission, the two World Councils and the Ethics Committee."

The recommendations of the review, including the creation of the position of a Compliance Officer and a better definition of conflicts of interest, were all approved by the Assembly.

In Sport, the FIA President referenced the growth of the Regional Congresses, with six taking place in 2016 and the same number set for 2017, as an indicator of the continued positive development of the FIA's Club development efforts.

He also pointed to the development of a single-seater pyramid to take young drivers from karting to Formula One as an important step in growing motor sport globally. "We have F4 and F3 in place and are focusing our efforts on the development of an F2 championship."

Speaking of the body's efforts to boost the growth of Mobility Clubs, he said: "We are providing support through the Club Development Program to encourage learning, mentoring and



exchange. The FIA University, which was developed by Mobility, provides leadership and other management training to all FIA members at both the regional and global levels.

"Financial assistance from the FIA to its Clubs and ASNs has grown to a total of 6 million euro this year and this support should continue into the future."

The President then moved on to the FIA's increasing global influence in the areas of road safety and sustainable mobility.

"As an example, I was recently able to facilitate the signing of an important road safety agreement in Madagascar, involving the leaders and governments of the French-speaking nations of the world," he said. "Importantly, road safety has now been recognised in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and earlier this year the UN General Assembly adopted its most far reaching resolution on road safety. I was privileged to address the United Nations on this important matter."

He added the UN resolution calls for the development of a new Fund for Road Safety to provide additional resources for this crucial challenge in the areas where it is most needed.

He also highlighted the creation and development of the FIA High Level Panel for Road Safety as a mechanism by which positive change can be brought about.

"We have brought together a coalition of leaders from the global business community, international institutions, leading NGOs and our own FIA network," he said. "Over the past year, the High Level Panel has begun to implement an active work programme addressing global funding for road safety, the widespread uptake of UN road safety regulations and international standards for vehicle safety, the development of new regional observatories for road safety, and support for 'in-country' missions to assist the work of our Clubs and global partners, where we can make a difference."

President Todt also mentioned the improved finances of the Federation, adding that thanks to renewed sporting agreements, continued funding from the FIA Foundation and additional revenue through sponsorships and commercial agreements, the FIA's annual revenue has increased significantly in recent years. The

Federation's strengthened financial positionnot only guarantees its ongoing security but also its independence.

In closing, the FIA President looked ahead to the final year of his current mandate.

"During the next few months, I have to consider whether or not to stand for a third and final term as your President," he said. "It is not a decision that can be taken lightly, as the role of FIA President is a demanding one. Despite that, I must admit that because of what we have been able to achieve together, I have also found it a rewarding experience. Your continuing support is a strong encouragement for me."

Concluding a successful week in Vienna, the full agenda presented to the the AGA was approved.





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