

ASSEMBLY +

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BUILDING A JOINT FUTURE



FIA ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GROWTH AND DIVERSITY: THE FIA'S FUTURE

The FIA Annual General Assembly brought the year to a close in Paris this morning, with FIA President Jean Todt celebrating the growth and diversity that 2019 has brought to the Federation's two pillars — Sport and Mobility — whose shared aim of a green and sustainable future actively enjoyed by all global citizens is cementing the FIA's role in a climate-forward world.



Prior to the President's address, the Assembly was treated to an exclusive film summarising the Federation's achievements across both Mobility and Sport during 2019. It was a bittersweet moment, the highs of competition tempered by the remembrance of those lost in the last twelve months.

One such loss was Formula One Race Director Charlie Whiting, who had served in the role for two decades before passing away on the eve of the F1 season in Melbourne. To commemorate his years of service, President Todt announced the creation of the Charlie Whiting Award, an annual honour whose recipient will be trained and mentored so that they can become an expert in circuit race direction.



In his opening remarks to the Assembly, President Todt spoke of the universal goals of FIA Member Clubs, and celebrated the differences that, through collaboration and shared objectives, have become strengths in a body that encompasses 144 countries.

"When you talk to your colleagues, you find you all face challenges," he said. "Some are similar and some different. They include the growth and development of sport, improvements in road safety, achieving a cleaner environment, and meeting the rapidly changing needs of society and your members.

"We have strong Clubs in every one of our regions, and some who are still developing. The Federation has a role to play in assisting you, as you have one to play in assisting each other. In some areas this already happens. Clubs and Associations have found that if they work together, they learn from each other. This should be the case everywhere."

Both the Sporting and Mobility arms of the Federation must be ready to face future change, President Todt said, emphasising that change is simply an opportunity for growth.

"For Mobility, these are in the way your members move about, and the rapid adoption of new technology," he said, pointing to automated vehicles, electric powertrain development, and the use of live data as examples.

"These innovations are often seen as a 'developed-country-phenomena', but they will spread," Todt said. "Manufacturers,



tech companies, governments and your own members — who are the world's mobility consumers — will ensure this.

"The 'new' mobility is also likely to spread faster than we expect, and a lot of work is needed to ensure we are prepared. Certainly, it will be challenging, but it can also be a wonderful and exciting opportunity. FIA programmes such as FIA Smart Cities and the FIA University can assist you prepare for this future.

"By partnering with Clubs and the corporate sector on projects like City Trips, and the Mobility Data Hub, we are developing tools for you to use."

In Sport, the adoption of new financial regulations for the FIA Formula One World Championship was the welcome result of several years of negotiations. The introduction of a cost cap aimed at levelling the competitive playing field and creating a sustainable sport for all stakeholders is an achievement to be celebrated.

"I cannot stress how ground-breaking this is, as it follows two years of intense research and development," President Todt said. "The new agreement marks an exciting step forward in the history of our premier championship. Importantly, all stakeholders — the promoter, teams, drivers, engine and tyre suppliers, as well as circuit designers — have contributed to these new regulations."

Formula E, the all-electric championship, has been granted FIA World Championship status, cementing its position in global motor sport. The World Endurance Championship will see the introduction of a new Le Mans Hypercar classification for the 2020-21 season, attracting manufacturers including Aston Martin, Peugeot and Toyota. In World Rallycross, the FIA is advancing plans to make the series all-electric from 2021.

Environmental concerns are hardly specific to sport, and technologies developed for sport trickle down to ordinary road users.

"In all categories, we are creating cleaner racing through engine and fuel development, and hybrid and electric technology," President Todt said. "We are making exciting progress in an E-Fuel development programme that has the potential to be a real game-changer. It should be of benefit to both Motor Sport and Mobility.

"In 2019, motor sport has not only provided a great show across all categories, it has increasingly become an important laboratory for manufacturers and suppliers. It is our intention to continue pushing greater innovation because so many of the new developments in safety and in the environment flow to road vehicles.

"Great progress has been made in the ongoing effort to increase female participation in motor Sport at all levels," Todt said.

"Pleasingly, the efforts we are making to attract more women to motor sport are starting to bear fruit. And while 2019 marked the end of the European Young Women Programme, a new initiative, 'Girls on Track', is proving popular. It will continue in collaboration with Formula E.

"We should congratulate those who have never permitted preconceived ideas and barriers to stand in their way," the President said. "And within your own Organisations, I urge you to support the advancement of talented women."

The Assembly later approved a number of appointments to its Sporting and Mobility Commissions, and also welcomed new Clubs to the FIA Family. A more detailed list of the appointments ratified by the 2019 FIA General Assembly can be found here.









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The annual global meeting of FIA Club Correspondents, aiming to give Club Correspondents an insight into a wide-range of FIA programmes and activities to help them in assisting their Clubs to get the most out of the FIA network, is still ongoing at the Intercontinental Paris Le Grand. More information on the content of the meeting will soon be published on fia.com

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