

ICF Ordinary Congress
Rome, Italy
4-6 November 2021

Name of the BoD Member: Cecilia Liliana Farías

Function on BoD: Vice-President

1. Major events since last ICF Congress

Participation at the Congress of the Association of Pan American Sport Confederations (ACODEPA):

It is strategic for the ICF the possibility of its members occupying key roles in Sport Organisations.

I am the first woman Vice President of ACODEPA. 2015-2019 and re-elected for 2019-2023.

Appointed by the ACODEPA President of the Commission of Prevention of Harassment and Abuse in Sports.

Pan American Canoe Confederation (COPAC):

I regularly take part at the COPAC meetings and Congresses.

COPAC Awarded me the position as “COPAC Life Honorary President” in 2017, upon ceasing the presidency after my election as VP at the ICF.

South American Canoe Confederation (COSURCA)

Awarded me as “life Honorary Member” in 2017.

Participation at the IOC-ASOIF Women Forum online sessions

March 2021

Participations as Chair of Jury:

2017: Sprint Pan American Championship Ibarra, ECU.

2018: Slalom World Championships Pau, FRA. XI Juegos Suramericanos Cochabamba, BOL.

2019: Sprint World Championship Szeged HUN. Marathon World Championships. Shianxing, CHN.

2021: Sprint World Championship Copenhagen, DEN.

Member of the Jury:

XVIII Pan American Games, Lima 2019. Sprint and Slalom.

2. Tasks undertaken since the last ICF Congress

Development Programme (DP):

The ICF President entrusted me with the responsibility of the DP. Since then, we have made important progress on the following areas:

Policies:

I prepared the DP Policies and Procedures which were approved by the Board of Directors in August 2019. This document was based on the consultation with the experts who run the programme along many years: Csaba Szanto and Pierrick Gosselin. The main purpose of having policies is to have a regulation known by all our Federations that will allow a fair, transparent, and effective allocation process of the benefits of the DP.

Human Resources data base:

We currently count with a data base with details of the coaches who have been educated through the ICF seminars and are available to work in our sport around the globe. The registered specialties as of now are sprint, slalom and dragon boat.

Sport Equipment:

It was prepared a well organised record of sport equipment donated, distributed, on waiting list, with estimated shipping costs and requirements for customs clearance. We also have Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) signed between the ICF and the beneficiary's and photographic evidence of the equipment reaching destination and even more important in use.

TIP camps for Sprint, Slalom and Marathon:

The ICF supports with staff and funding the celebration of the camps with invitation and participation of athletes and coaches from all the continents maintaining gender equality. It is important to recommend to the NFs the importance of registering female athletes to ensure the equity at the participation on the ICF events.

We are very grateful to the Hungarian Canoe Federation for their financial support which allowed us to run 4 sprint TIPs and 1 of SUP with many athletes and coaches helped by this generous contribution.

It was also developed and educational package to be delivered at the TIPs. To the already established antidoping education, it was added: nutrition, athlete's recovery and prevention of injuries, and prevention of harassment and abuse.

We also incorporated the support to the marathon TIPs in connection with the World Championships.

Domestic Boat Production Project:

This project had been run since several years ago. It was improved with the incorporation of the requirement of a well justified business plan that secures continuity of the project beyond the production of the first committed boats.

We added the donation of 60 paddles to each allocated project plus a detailed list of requirements for the boat's workshops.

All parties can understand their responsibilities and standards to be provided to protect workers, facilities and a clear statement that child labour is totally rejected by the ICF.

Working methodology with the Continental Associations:

We established a consented working methodology with the Continental Associations. They identified a key contact person as liaison with the ICF DP. Each Association can express its needs in accordance with their strategic plans which shall follow the one of the ICF. It is in this lane that the Associations had been requesting support for actions that lead to secure the incorporation of canoeing to regional and Continental Games.

We encouraged mutual support and partnership between National Federations of proximity and between others that have a situation that permits to support athletes with less opportunities.

We advise the National Federations to actively pursue the support of Continental and IOC Olympic Solidarity for their development and improvement through their NOCs, increasing in such a way the opportunities for their athletes.

Webinars:

Nine (9) webinars for coaches were presented following the new trend during the period of high restrictions for traveling and having competitions along the pandemic.

DP a page within a page:

Within the Planet Canoe webpage, you will find a section dedicated to the DP. There you will be able to see the actions and find useful information as well as a library for consultation. It is still under construction but growing quickly. Your contributions will be always welcomed!

On August 10th, 2019, Sebastian Cuatrin was incorporated to the ICF staff as Development Manager initiating the reorganisation of the above-mentioned projects providing transparency and reliability. Two years later we can say that this incorporation provided a professional upgrade to the DP work.

International Partnership Programme: (IPP)

This idea was born not less than 13 years ago. The fortunate coincidence of the British Canoe Union and UK Sports proposing to support our sport through an educational project funded with 30.000 British Pounds made possible the preparation of the IPP. The main objective is to develop and improve the management skills of NFs officers and staff. Often, we remark that the actions of the DP flourish when they are received by NFs with a structure that allow continuity and it is on this lane that we are working. Details about the IPP will be explained by the BCU. I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to BCU, UK Sport, David Joy, Gemma Wiggs and Sue Hornby who have embraced this new project with enthusiasm and dedication. We look forward for the delivery of the pilot project as soon as possible.

Diversity and Inclusion Commission: Mr. Perurena has also given me the responsibility of chairing this Commission which members are the women of the BOD and Standing Committees. Traditionally our Commission includes women and men in all its activities, and we open the meetings to various interested persons.

I promoted and organised meetings connected with the ICF BOD meetings where we discussed related matters or invited a presenter to contribute with knowledge and expertise to the strategy and improvement of the work of the Commission. Women also make presentations sharing their own experiences on the advancement of the gender equality on their Federations and clubs. In November 2018 we received the visit of the Executive and personal Coach Gabriela Müller Mendoza.

Diversity and Inclusion webinars:

I organised and ran the following sessions.

- June 2020: Diversity and Inclusion
- April 2021: Inclusion

We built up a women's working net directorate which is growing fast as more women show interest in being part of the movement while men also take part at our webinars.

Special thanks to Narelle Henderson (ICF Technology and Services Manager) for her support, to Andrea Corbin, Fatima Fernandes as presenters and to all the women and men who contributed with their opinions and work towards a more equal sport environment.

Women in positions of decision:

The IOC requires to all its constituents to have a 30 % of women on their governing bodies by 2030. The advancement of women in positions of decision at the ICF Exco and BOD, and the incorporation of women in all the Standing Committees continues as a firm commitment taken by the ICF and particularly by me as Chair of the Commission.

Today the American Continent has two women Continental Representatives and me as ICF Vice-president, including a paracanoe chairwoman.

The Oceania Canoe Federation has women President and Secretary General, while Asia, Africa and Europe are also represented by women at the ICF BOD.

All the continental Associations are doing a good job, maintaining, and increasing the number of women in positions of decision through the election of women Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretary Generals and CEOs.

It is also increasing the number of women ITOs and event organisers. I take this opportunity to thank for their commitment the women and to the people in general for their support.

There are also women candidates to different roles on this Congress, which is commendable. Their knowledge and expertise shall be always considered firstly for a fair composition of the board.

IOC-ASOIF Women Leadership Forum:

A formative tool that we have available is this annual forum to which we increase the participation funded by ASOIF with the addition of the ICF support.

Each Continent has representation at this important Forum every year:

- 1st Forum: Helen Brownlee (Australia), Maree Burnet (New Zealand) and Cecilia Farias (Argentina)
- 2nd Forum: 6-8 of March 2017, Magda Abdallah Chaher (Djibouti), Tatyana Mamatkulova (Uzbekistan), Marta Felpeto Lamas (Spain)

- 3rd Forum online: March 2021. Katayoon Ashraf (Iran) Danielle Woodward (Australia) Paula Lima Matoso (Angola)

IF Gender Equality Webinar Series (IOC, ASOIF; AIOWF) on 7, 14 and 23 September 2020 with the main topics being Leadership (Governance, Coaches and Technical Officials); Portrayal; and Safe Sport.

Safeguarding:

I initiated this project in December 2018 consulting the IOC guidelines for IFs and NOCs, the IOC Prevention of Harassment and Abuse in Sport (PHAS) consultants and documents produced by other IFs.

Special attention was given to the IPC policies, particularly considering the paracanoe athletes, children and women which are the three most vulnerable groups.

We worked along two years for the preparation of the safeguarding policies. I chaired a working group to which members I am grateful for their wise contribution and commitment. Following the IOC guidelines, the composition of the working team included a female lawyer Chairperson (myself); Athletes and Medical Chairs Tim Lodge and Don McKenzie, Legal background through the participation of a BOD member who is also a sport lawyer, Mario Santos; a female member of the Diversity and Inclusion commission who is a Federal Police in Australia, Danielle Woodward, and the Chairman of the Ethics Commission, Mike Chambers. We enlarged the working team on some occasion in order to challenge our work and produce a clear body of rules Greg Smale also joined us providing his experience as Detective Constable working in the Safeguarding Command for Hertfordshire Constabulary UK.

The policies were approved in July 2019 and are available at the ICF webpage.

Our policies shall be applied by the 5 Continental Associations and reproduced by the NFs that do not have, yet their own policies. The NFs that already have policies are not required to make changes.

With this work the ICF is not just compliant with requirements of the ASOIF and IOC but most important is regulating on the safeguarding of the entire canoeing community.

Preparation and delivery of other Seminars:

- Seminar and exams for Continental Sprint Judges. Santiago de Chile 16-18 December 2016.
- Olympic Solidarity Seminar: Women in Wrestling by United World Wrestling; Mexico DF November 2017
- Seminar for Sprint Judges. Buenos Aires, Argentina. April 2019
- Seminar for Sprint Judges, Lima. Perú, June 2019.
- COPAC 'Seminar for event's organisers. Viedma, Río Negro, Argentina May 2019.

3. Issues and Main Points for the function since last ICF Congress

Along the past years there had been several obstacles that made difficult the task. Particularly related to funding of travel of the members of the Safeguarding Commission from three continents. The current working system proved that there are other tools to facilitate meetings, but still sensitive matters demand a long face-to-face discussion and analysis.

The job took two years while it could be finished much faster. The conclusion is that when there is a Commission with a clear objective and a working team the funding must be available to speed up the process.

The other point is the access to all the information that make our work as elected board members much easier. A better level of cooperation and follow up of the ICF business in support of the volunteer members of the BOD is required, particularly considering that many of us are still active on our careers and must fulfil professional obligations with our employers. We need more support.

4. Future Initiatives and recommendations to be considered

To finalise, in addition to the above-described duties, I can say that I am an active participant in the ICF life contributing with the best of my professional knowledge and expertise to any discussion and commission that I am required to be part of as well as the ICF and Continental events.

It had been and will continue to be my intention to work for the ICF for the benefit of the athletes and officials of the National Federations of the five continents, and therefore for the best of our sport now and for future generations.

As this is the finalisation of my mandate as Vice-President, please see my manifesto for future initiatives and recommendations.