



PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

30 June 2020

Dear Friends

This edition of my musings is devoted to the 2020 General Conference.

I think that it is unreasonable to expect many of you to travel to central Europe for the GC under the present and continuing public health environment. The reasons have been rehearsed already – the age demographic of our delegates and attendees at the GC creates a risk; the continuing community transmission of the virus means that any meeting in a confined space creates a risk; and border restrictions mean that many may face enforced isolation of 14-days to cross borders both going to the GC and going home.

The Swiss Government has recognised the adverse impact on the governance of organisations because the usual face-to-face annual meetings cannot be held. They have enacted a Covid-19 Statute which empowers all Switzerland resident organisations to conduct their annual meetings electronically. This Statute prevails over the Constitution of the organisation.

As a result, the Executive Board has formally agreed that the 2020 GC will be held via electronic means at the beginning of December 2020. It will be an “eGC”.

A team from the EB and Office, coordinated by the Sec Gen, are fine tuning the details and these will be provided shortly. An on-line voting process has been identified that enables the weighting of votes and ensures anonymity of voting. Tutorials are being organised to demonstrate the voting system.

Elections are planned for the EB this year and these will proceed. Nominations will be called this week and will include a formal call for nominations for the position of President. It is my opinion that the whole board, including the president, should be accountable to the members. The call for nominations for the position of president facilitates this accountability.

The president is currently elected for a term of 4 years (as a result of a GC decision in 2017). At the 2019 GC this decision was overturned and in future the president will serve for terms of 2 years.

The General Conference week also includes the CASI meeting and CASI elections. The Sec Gen will coordinate with the CASI President to enable the meeting and to facilitate the elections.

As always, I welcome your feedback and your views on FAI matters of importance to you.

Best regards and stay safe

Bob Henderson
President, FAI
30 June 2020

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