



Canadian Dental Association Association dentaire canadienne

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of Saskatchewan

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FDI World Dental Federation
Chemin de Joinville 26,
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Switzerland

Sent via email to divosevic@fdiworlddental.org

Subject: Digital Voting Suggestion and Reform of FDI Membership Fees

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Nordic Suggestion for Digital Voting and the Council's response. For convenience, two letters sent by the Canadian Dental Association (CDA) dated July 18, 2022 and September 20, 2022 requesting consideration of a hybrid option for the meetings in Geneva in addition to consideration of proxy voting that emerged given CDA's inability to participate during the active pandemic are included for reference. Canada's request was discussed with the FDI presidents and Council members at the Chicago midwinter meeting in February 2023 and again this year in Chicago.

The Canadian Dental Association would like to add its voice of full support to the Nordic countries' suggestion for the full consideration of digital voting given the factors they have advanced. We have reviewed the Councils' response and appreciate that digital voting may pose challenges for FDI's financial model. However, the assessment must take into consideration the realities of growing number of FDI members like ourselves who cannot ignore health and safety concerns, geopolitical tensions, imposed travel restrictions and disruptions that are part of appropriate financial and risk management planning for FDI members. Canada is increasingly facing the reality of continual travel disruptions related to extreme weather now associated major forest fires, flooding and power outages that are unforeseen. This has meant we have had adapted our meetings and have virtual options for those who simply cannot attend but need to be able to participate.

CDA would therefore urges the Council to consider:

1. A thorough review of how digital voting virtually could be implemented
2. In the interim, reform the FDI Congress to permit proxy voting at the General Assembly. This would permit member Countries who are unable to attend because of factors such as the significant financial barriers given the time away and cost of attendance, as well as provide consideration for those members who are restricted from attending given other reason to participate in FDI fully.

Re: Reform of FDI Membership Fees

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Nordic call for reform of the FDI membership and the Council's response. We appreciate that the Council will present a recommendation covered in the documents referenced. The proposed measures would provide Canada relief from the pattern of the last few years of successive significant increases in the annual subscription fee. What is unclear is FDI's plan for future years and whether there will be efforts made by FDI Council, as Norway has suggested, to develop an approach to the determination of the annual subscription fees that would ensure greater equity and sustainability for the future by the General Assembly. We look forward to learning more from the Council during the meetings in Istanbul about the plans of Council to address the need for a more equitable and sustainable subscription fee.

Sincerely,



Dr. Aaron Burry
Chief Executive Officer CDA and National Liaison Officer

- c.c. Dr. Joel Antel, CDA President
Dr. Bruce Ward, CDA President-Elect
Dr. Kirk Preston, CDA Vice-President
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