



2025 IPC GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS CANDIDATE BOOKLET

FIRST PUBLISHED 1 AUGUST 2025

INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	4
1.1 Composition of the IPC Governing Board	4
1.2 Candidates	4
1.3 Candidate presentations	5
1.4 The election.....	5
2. Candidates for President.....	7
2.1 Dong Hyun Bae	8
2.2 Andrew Parsons	11
3. Candidates for Vice-President.....	14
First Vice President:	14
Second Vice-President:	14
Election process for Vice-President	14
Key Points	14
Election Process	15
3.1 Chelsey Gotell	16
3.2 Leila Marques Mota.....	19
3.3 Ming-Chu Mu.....	22
3.4 Kurt Fearnley	24
3.5 John Petersson.....	27
3.6 Juan Pablo Salazar.....	30
3.4 Nick Webborn.....	32
4. Candidates for Member-at-large	35
Election Process for Member-at-Large	36
Key Points.....	36
How candidates are elected	37
4.1 Murat Aksu	38
4.2 Debra Alexander.....	41
4.3 Mohamed Duaij Alkhalifa	45
4.4 Gbapeba Analene	48
4.5 Abdulaziz Baeshen.....	51
4.6 Hamid El Aouni	53

4.7 Kurt Fearnley	57
4.8 Chelsey Gotell	60
4.9 Ionna Karyofylli	63
4.10 Leila Marques Mota	66
4.11 Miki Matheson.....	69
4.12 Ming-Chu Mu.....	72
4.13 Dieudonne Mutangana.....	74
4.14 Karl Quade	77
4.15 John Petersson.....	79
4.16 Ilgar Rahimov	82
4.17 Milos Ranitovic.....	85
4.18 Majid Rashed	87
4.19 Fernando Riaño	90
4.20 Jose Rodrigo Bejarano Restrepo.....	93
4.21 Juan Pablo Salazar.....	96
4.22 Robyn Smith	98
4.23 Bradley Snyder	101
4. 24 Qiang Song	104
4.25 Liliana Suarez Carreón.....	107
4.26 László Szabó.....	110
4.27 Tomas Varga	113
4.28 Nick Webborn	116

1. INTRODUCTION

On Saturday 27 September 2025 at the 22nd IPC General Assembly, elections will be held for the IPC Governing Board.

This booklet aims to provide IPC members with a brief overview about the election process and further details about each candidate standing for election.

Full details of IPC Governing Board elections can be found in the [IPC Handbook](#) under the General Assembly Regulations.

1.1 COMPOSITION OF THE IPC GOVERNING BOARD

Under the new IPC Constitution which has been effective since 28 June 2024, the IPC Governing Board will be comprised of:

- the President
- two Vice-Presidents.
- seven Members-at-Large
- the chairperson and first-vice chairperson of the Athletes' Council (as ex officio voting members)
- two appointed members

The President, two Vice-Presidents and seven Members-at-Large will be elected by the IPC General Assembly and the term of office will be four years commencing at the time of their election and ending at the close of the next election for their position on the Governing Board.

In relation to the Vice-Presidents, the First Vice-President is the candidate that achieves the highest Simple Majority and who is not of the same gender as the President. The Second Vice-President cannot be of the same gender as the First Vice-President.

Of the seven Members-at Large, at least three must be female and at least three must be male.

1.2 CANDIDATES

A total of 30 people were nominated by an IPC Member (NPCs, IFs and ISODs) in Good Standing and approved by the IPC following a vetting process to stand for election:

- Two (2) for President
- Seven (7) for Vice-President
- Twenty-eight (28) for Member-at-Large

All nominee applications are subject to a vetting process in accordance with the IPC Handbook.

The two independent members of the Nominations Panel – Gordon Orlikow and Ilona Meyer – are responsible for determining the eligibility of each nominee. The IPC Nominations Panel has over the last several weeks and in cooperation with an external vetting agency undertaken vetting of the candidates' backgrounds. All candidates' integrity and background checks for IPC Governing Board positions have been completed

1.3 CANDIDATE PRESENTATIONS

This booklet provides information about each candidate standing for election, including:

- Nationality
- Nominating body/bodies
- Current role(s)
- Social Media Channels
- Who am I?
- Why should I be elected?
- Manifesto

All information included in this booklet has been provided by the candidates themselves who had to supply responses with set word counts.

The IPC is not responsible for fact-checking or correcting any spelling or grammar.

On Thursday 25 September, each candidate will have the opportunity to make a presentation of their candidature to the IPC Membership during the Governing Board candidates' session.

Candidates standing for President or Vice-President will have fifteen (15) minutes to present, while nominees standing for Member-at-Large will have seven (7) minutes to present.

There will be no opportunity for questions and answers during the formal presentations.

1.4 THE ELECTION

The election of Governing Board Members will be by secret ballot and held in the following order:

- First: election of the President
- Second: election of the Vice-Presidents
- Third: election of the Members-at-Large

To be elected candidates require a Simple Majority i.e. 50% of the valid votes cast plus one vote.

2. CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT

There are two candidates for the role of IPC President:

(Listed in alphabetical order)

Name	Nationality	Gender	Nominated by
Dong Hyun Bae	Korean	Male	NPC Korea
Andrew Parsons	Brazilian	Male	NPC Brazil

One candidate needs to be elected and requires 50% of the valid votes cast plus one vote.

2.1 DONG HYUN BAE

<p>Nationality: Republic of Korea</p> <p>Nominating bodies: Korea Paralympic Committee</p> <p>Current role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chairman of the BDH Foundation - President of Korea Para Nordic Skiing Federation - President of Changsung Group - Chairman of Changsung Scholarship Foundation 	
<p>Social Media Channels</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>From an early age, sports have been an inseparable part of my life. In 2012, I discovered Para sports and was moved by the pressing need for greater support.</p> <p>I took it upon myself to collaborate with the government and the Korea Paralympic Committee, resulting in the creation of the Korea Para Nordic Skiing Federation, which I proudly lead today.</p> <p>I also founded and supported professional Para Nordic skiing and shooting teams, establishing stable training environments and career pathways. Serving twice as Chef de Missin, at PyeongChang 2018 and Paris 2024, I gained invaluable insight into athletes' journeys.</p> <p>Through the BDH Foundation, dedicated solely to Para sports, I have led initiatives across five continents and fully embraced the values and impact of the Paralympic Movement. Now, as an IPC President candidate, I am determined to leverage my experience and global connections to drive meaningful and lasting change.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I believe the IPC must serve as a supportive and facilitative body, empowering all members to act independently while fostering collaboration. My experience as Chef de Mission for Summer and Winter Paralympic Games, President of the</p>	

National Federation, and founder of Para Nordic skiing and Shooting teams has given me leadership grounded in the field and practical governance expertise.

Through the BDH Foundation, I have supported projects across five continents, working closely with various members to deliver meaningful change. I have always listened to athletes, coaches, and administrators, striving to understand their real challenges and needs. This commitment to listening and empathy convinced me that support must go beyond symbolic gestures and develop into tangible policies and actions - a belief that drives my candidacy.

I will prioritize concrete improvement: better training conditions, broader equipment access, and expanded development programs. I also plan to introduce bold reforms to the classification platform. I will work with partners to secure funding beyond the IPC's core budget by broadening corporate engagement to create a sustainable development fund for all members.

I am committed to transparent, inclusive leadership, ensuring that the IPC is a place where everyone is respected and no one is left (*word count exceeded*)

Manifesto:

A. Sustainable Financial Growth and Balanced Governance

I will prioritize financial stability by creating a Sustainable Development Fund, ensuring fair and transparent resource allocation with all stakeholders – including ROs, NPCs, IFs, IOSDs, and athletes. To solidify IPC's financial foundation, I will diversify revenue through standardized "Para sport" branding and expanded strategic partnerships. This approach will support sustainable, balanced growth for the Paralympic Movement's future.

B. Member-Friendly IPC

NPC Support: I will compile best practices in policies - such as laws, systems, institutions, and budgets from advanced countries - into easy-to-use manuals and host regular capacity-building workshops for NPCs. To foster inclusive growth, I will expand opportunities for refugee athletes and underrepresented groups, bridge information gaps, and ensure knowledge-sharing. The IPC Solidarity Program will be expanded to better support developing nations, while a Priority Assistance Program will be introduced to safeguard athlete participation and ensure the continuity of NPC operations.

RO, IF, and IOSD Engagement: I will create IPC liaison units for ROs, IFs, and IOSDs, and launch a Paralympic Planning & Coordination Ad Hoc Committee for expert support. I will push for their ex-officio participation in IPC decision-making bodies. Beyond the Games, I will promote new events such as Youth Paralympics, sports-specific leagues, and World Championship

series. To support these initiatives, I will develop a joint sponsorship program with APSO to strengthen financial sustainability and partnerships.

C. Fair and Transparent Classification Reform

In partnership with ROs and IFs, I will establish a structured training framework for regional and sport-specific classifiers and implement a year-round classification system. Five regional Classification Hubs will be created, each with dedicated managers and operational funding. I will also launch Para sport-specific data initiatives and invest in sport science research.

D. Supporting Athletes Beyond Sport

Athlete success extends beyond competition. I will develop comprehensive programs for career planning, health, education, and welfare, ensuring that athletes thrive after retirement. Through a Leadership Academy, I will empower retiring athletes to become future leaders, advocates, and role models.

E. Para Sport Equipment Support System

A structured equipment support program will be introduced, prioritizing critical sports equipment. Functional second-hand items, such as sport wheelchairs, will be refurbished and redistributed to members with limited resources. In collaboration with manufacturers, IFs, and research institutes, I will also launch a global initiative to develop low-cost equipment, ensuring broader accessibility for all athletes.


F. Strengthened Global Partnerships

I will continue ties with the IOC to secure sustainable growth for Paralympic sports, expanding athlete quotas. The IPC Honorary Board will be strengthened to engage global visionaries. Additionally, I will pursue lasting partnerships with international organizations, NGOs, and corporate partners, ensuring that our collective efforts leave a lasting legacy of inclusion, opportunity, and excellence in the Movement.

G. Transparent Governance

I will adopt International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and internationally recognized accounting practices to ensure transparent and accountable financial management. A new ombudsman system, composed of member organizations, and stronger compliance monitoring will guarantee transparency, accountability, and ongoing dialogue with all stakeholders.

2.2 ANDREW PARSONS

<p>Nationality: Brazilian</p> <p>Nominating bodies: Brazilian Paralympic Committee</p> <p>Current role: IPC President</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Instagram</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am a passionate leader for the Paralympic Movement who truly believes that change starts with sport. I'm absolutely convinced that the IPC exists to serve its Membership and Athletes. Having spent 20 years in an NPC, I clearly understand the expectations, demands, and, at times, the frustrations Membership may have toward the IPC.</p> <p>I have devoted the last 28 years of my life to the Paralympic Movement. To serve it is the greatest honour I will ever have.</p> <p>I am a strategic thinker, but also a doer—someone who has been on the ground for decades and deeply understands the challenges and opportunities within the Paralympic Movement, with a unique ability to build bridges for the benefit of all.</p> <p>I am transparent, honest, and a man of my word.</p> <p>On a personal note, I am a father, a husband, and a son who considers family his most cherished treasure.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I should be elected because I am the best prepared to lead the IPC and the Paralympic Movement over the next four years. I bring the right experience, network, skills, and leadership style to guide us into a new era of development and growth.</p> <p>I have a proven record of transforming organizations – including the IPC – into stronger, more relevant institutions. You all have seen me in action in very challenging moments, and I never backed down. I have faced pandemic, wars, financial difficulties but look where we are: the Paralympic Movement is stronger than ever, having just delivered the most transformational Games in history.</p>	

The IPC is now a truly athlete-centred, membership-driven organization, with solid governance and global recognition as a driver of social change – advancing inclusion for the 1.3 billion persons with disabilities worldwide. I am proud of how far we've come, but we are not done.

The next four years will focus on converting that growth into meaningful support for Members, enabling better structures and services for athletes. With LA28 and beyond on the horizon, our mission is clear: to grow the Paralympic Movement and positively impact every person with a disability across the globe.

Manifesto:

It would be my final term, the opportunity to **complete** the implementation of the changes we initiated years ago:

An organisation for all. That exists to serve and empower its members so they can provide the best possible support to athletes. That is one of the **best high-performance sport organisations in the world and a fundamental platform for the inclusion of persons with disabilities** globally.

Impact & Inclusion

To strengthen the Paralympic Movement's position at the intersection between entertainment and purpose. Paris 2024 inspired millions of spectators in France and captured the attention of billions around the world. The unique power that only the Paralympic Movement has. We must be the best sport organisation possible, building pathways from grassroots to elite levels and delivering fantastic Paralympic Games; and meaningfully connecting with the broader disability rights movement.

IPC & IOC Relations

To bring the relationship between IPC and IOC to its next level. Our current agreement with the IOC has provided stability and has laid the groundwork for trust and collaboration. Now it is time to grow and, together, shape a stronger and more ambitious partnership, allowing more support for the IPC Membership and athletes, while also increasing participation in the Paralympic Games.

More resources to the Paralympic Movement

We need to find more resources for our Movement and our Membership to continue growing. By positioning the Paralympic Movement as a platform for inclusion of persons with disability through sport we will actively pursue partnerships with organisations that normally do not invest in sport or partner with sport governing bodies, such as development banks and agencies, supporting the growth of our Membership.

Paralympic Games Review

How can we make the Games more attractive and reach new audiences? How can we position the Games as the most transformational sport event on Earth? How can we set the framework so that the NPCs and International Federations can align with the direction of future editions of the Games? To answer those questions and develop a long-term plan for the Games, I want to lead on the implementation of a **Paralympic Games Review 2026-2027**, a consultation process involving all our members and stakeholders to collectively define the future of the Paralympic Games.

Classification

The future of Classification is connected to the use of technology supporting the amazing work done by classifiers. There are exciting new technologies, such as AI, that may contribute to addressing some of the challenges we face in classification. I'll make sure IPC establishes partnerships with organisations as universities, research institutes and technology companies to explore what new technologies have to offer in the area of Classification.

Safeguarding

IPC must make sure that we offer members organisations the best possible information, orientation and tools to create safe environments at all levels in the Paralympic Movement, encouraging long-term participation. Working with the Management Team, I am committed to restructuring and strengthening how we work in this area – ensuring the IPC has the right systems and structures in place to deliver leadership.

3. CANDIDATES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

There are seven candidates for the two roles of IPC Vice-President.

The First Vice President must not be of the same gender as President. The Second Vice-President cannot be of the same gender as the First Vice-President.

(Listed in alphabetical order)

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

Name	Nationality	Gender	Nominated by
Chelsey Gotell	Canadian	Female	NPC Canada / World Boccia
Leila Marques Mota	Portuguese	Female	NPC Portugal
Ming-Chu Mu	Republic of China (Taiwan)	Female	NPC Chinese Taipei

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT:

Name	Nationality	Gender	Nominated by
Kurt Fearnley	Australian	Male	NPC Australia
John Petersson	Danish	Male	NPC Denmark
Juan Pablo Salazar	Colombian	Male	NPC Colombia
Nick Webborn	British	Male	NPC Great Britain

ELECTION PROCESS FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

KEY POINTS

There will be separate elections for each of the Vice-President positions. As identified in the IPC Constitution, the First Vice-President cannot be of the same gender as the President, and the Second Vice-President cannot be of the same gender as the First Vice-President.

A candidate who receives a Simple Majority (50% of the valid votes cast plus one vote), in any round of voting will be elected to the relevant position.

In each round of voting, each IPC Member in Good Standing may cast one vote.

ELECTION PROCESS

Where there is one candidate for election to the relevant Vice-President position on the day of the election, that person will be elected to the relevant Vice-President position by a Simple Majority. If a Simple Majority is not achieved, the incoming Governing Board will appoint a Vice-President (as applicable) from within the newly elected Governing Board.

Where there are two or more candidates for election to the relevant Vice-President position on the day of election, the following process will take place:

1. Initial Voting Round


- a. A first round of voting will take place. If a candidate receives a Simple Majority, they are elected to the relevant position in the first voting round.
- b. If no candidate receives a Simple Majority, additional voting rounds will be held.

2. Additional Voting Rounds

- a. The three candidates with the highest number of votes will move forward to the next round of voting.
 - i. If there is a tie for third place, and where removing both candidates would leave only one candidate, a re-vote will take place between these two individuals to see who proceeds to the next round.
- b. An additional round of voting takes place and the candidate who receives a Simple Majority will be elected.
 - i. If no candidate receives a Simple Majority, the candidate with the fewest votes will be eliminated, and two candidates progress to another round of voting.
 - ii. If all three candidates are tied, a re-vote will be held to determine who advances to the next round of voting.
- c. When there are two candidates remaining, additional rounds of voting take place until a candidate achieves a Simple Majority and is elected.
 - i. In the event of a tie, further voting rounds will be held until one candidate achieves a Simple Majority.

In the event that there are no candidates for election to the relevant Vice-President position on the day of election, the incoming Governing Board will appoint a Vice-President (as applicable) from within the newly elected Governing Board.

3.1 CHELSEY GOTELL

<p>Nationality: Canada</p> <p>Nominating bodies: NPC Canada and World Boccia</p> <p>Current role:</p> <p>Member at Large, IPC Governing Board</p> <p>International Representative, Canadian Paralympic Committee</p> <p>Member, World Para Sport Unit Board</p> <p>Member, IPC Membership Engagement Committee</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Website</p> <p>Facebook</p> <p>Instagram</p> <p>LinkedIn</p> <p>X</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am a strategic leader, builder, and relentless advocate for equity and excellence in the Paralympic Movement. With 25 years of lived experience—as a three-time Paralympian, 12-time medallist, sport administrator, coach, and governance leader—I bring deep insight, steady leadership, and a bold vision for our future.</p> <p>As a professional Osteopath and clinic owner, I know that performance stems from a foundation of well-being. I lead with a people-first lens and draw on strategic and operational experience across sport management, communications, governance, and Games delivery.</p> <p>I've served nine years on the IPC Governing Board—as Member at Large and Chair of the Athletes' Council—and on the CPC Board since 2016, bringing trust and continuity.</p> <p>I've driven policy change, supported member nations, empowered athlete leaders, and championed inclusive systems. I lead with purpose, challenge the status quo, and work shoulder-to-shoulder with others to deliver lasting, global impact.</p>	

Why should I be elected?

This is a pivotal moment for the Paralympic Movement—one that calls for leadership rooted in experience, insight, and decisive action. I'm running for Vice President to strengthen our foundation, challenge outdated systems, and build a future where every member can thrive.

As an athlete, sport administrator and board member—I know the fight to be seen, heard, and included. That journey fuels my commitment to equity and progress. I understand how personal this work is—because it's personal for me too.

As Vice President, I will work with the President, Governing Board, members and management to deliver on what matters most: credible, trusted classification, athlete pathways; and growth that supports all members—regardless of size, region, or resources. I'm committed to continuing to drive impact on the ground and across society. I'll work to expand and diversify revenue in ways that fuel programs, elevate members, and harness the power of Para sport as a force for good.

I bring global perspective and operational expertise, with the ability to navigate complexity with clarity and purpose. I've seen and lived how policy decisions affect people on the ground. I know how to bridge vision with action.

I've never shied away from (*word count exceeded*)

Manifesto:

Twenty years from now, I want every person with a disability to feel the impact of the Paralympic Movement, not just on the field of play, but in classrooms, workplaces, and communities around the world. I want the Games to represent a new global story: from exclusion to opportunity, from limitation to breakthroughs.

That means transforming the IPC into a global changemaker—one that leads by example, through courage, clarity, and deep commitment to those it serves.

My manifesto is built on six core pillars that guide our mission and values:

Sustainable Revenue Generation

We must grow our financial capacity through purpose-driven funding, long-term planning, and values-aligned partnerships. From social impact investors to high-impact donors, new revenue will enable the IPC to lead globally—while ensuring all members, regardless of size or region, can access the resources they need to succeed.

Rising Together: Supporting Members

The foundation has been built—now it's time to transform. We must support members where they are, while helping them grow through tailored tools: governance support, sustainable programs, and shared innovation. Every member must benefit from our shared success.

Strengthening Our IOC Partnership, Upholding Our Identity

The partnership between the IPC and IOC has been critical to our stability, but it, too, must evolve. With new IOC leadership, an opportunity arises to reimagine this relationship in a way that elevates both Movements. We must strengthen collaboration where goals align, while firmly protecting the IPC's independence and mission-driven priorities. We must step into our power as a global movement with unique value, insight, and impact.

Evolving the Paralympic Games Programme

To stay globally relevant, our sport and event selection process must be collaborative and aligned. Current processes leave IFs/IOSDs in a reactive position, limiting innovation and clarity. NPCs struggle to plan long-term when event inclusion is uncertain. A modernized approach will bring predictability, empower strategic planning, and allow us to co-create clear priorities with members. This will strengthen sports, support member planning, and ensure the programme reflects the diversity, sustainability, and excellence of the Movement.

Future-Proofing Classification

Classification is our foundation. We must set a long-term vision grounded on the principles of science, technology, and trust. With investment in global research and cross-sector expertise, we can build a system that supports classifiers, earns athlete confidence, and remains accessible and scalable across all member types.

Athlete Leadership: A Strategic Asset

The IPC must embed the untapped strength of athlete leadership into its long-term strategy—working with members to co-create sustainable, scalable pathways for athlete leadership across the Movement. This investment will future-proof our Movement through those who understand it most deeply and will carry it forward with authenticity, insight, and purpose.

This is a decisive moment in our history. The IPC has a chance to lead through change and innovation. That is the legacy I am ready to help shape as Vice President—a future where the IPC is a global force for change: driven by sport, defined by equity, and powered by a united, future-ready community.

3.2 LEILA MARQUES MOTA

<p>Nationality: Portuguese</p> <p>Nominating bodies: Vice-President Member at Large</p> <p>Current role: NPC Portugal Vice-President</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Instagram</p> <p>LinkedIn</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>A self-driven, professional, and hardworking woman, passionate about sport and medicine. I hold a degree in Medicine from the University of Lisbon. I'm a Graduate Assistant in General Practice and Family Medicine, and I hold a Postgraduate Diploma in Sports Medicine from the IOC.</p> <p>As a Paralympic swimmer (four-time Paralympian: Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000, Athens 2004, and Beijing 2008), I've learned from an early age the value of consistency, goal-setting, and teamwork. My organizational, management, and leadership skills led to my appointment as Chef de Mission of the Portuguese National Team at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.</p> <p>Currently, Currently, I hold the position of Vice-President of the Portuguese Paralympic Committee, with a strong commitment to athletes and the development of the Paralympic Movement. I also serve on the Executive and Directors Board of the Portuguese Sports Foundation.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I bring a unique combination of lived experience, professional expertise, and deep commitment to the Paralympic Movement. As a four-time Paralympian and a medical doctor specialized in Sports Medicine, I understand firsthand the challenges athletes face both on and off the field. This journey has shaped me into a resilient and purpose-driven leader.</p> <p>Currently serving as Vice-President of the Portuguese Paralympic Committee and board member of the Portuguese Sports Foundation, I have a proven track record in inclusive leadership and strategic planning. Leading Portugal's delegation as Chef de Mission at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games strengthened my belief in athlete-centered governance.</p> <p>I am a strong advocate for integrity, transparency, and collective progress. My motivation to serve is rooted in gratitude for the Movement that shaped my life</p>	

and in a vision of a future where every athlete is seen, heard, and truly empowered.

I offer not only experience and knowledge, but also a genuine commitment to contribute meaningfully – with energy, courage, and a strong sense of purpose. I am ready to listen, to act, and to help lead with heart and determination.

Manifesto:

My candidacy for Vice-President of the International Paralympic Committee is guided by three core principles: **Inclusion, Innovation, and Global Impact.**

As a four-time Paralympian, medical doctor, and dedicated sports leader, I bring a comprehensive and intersectional perspective to the future of the Paralympic Movement. My path – from elite athlete to national and institutional leadership – has shaped a deep commitment to equity, athlete empowerment, and transformational change.

I currently serve as Vice-President of the Portuguese Paralympic Committee and as a board member of the Portuguese Sports Foundation. In the past, I was appointed by the Portuguese Government to coordinate the national Working Group on Gender Equality in Sport, developing public policy recommendations to promote equal opportunities. I also served as President of the Women and Sport Commission of the Portuguese Olympic Committee, leading strategic advocacy for women's inclusion in sport and leadership.

VISION

I believe in a stronger, more connected IPC, where collaboration, representation, and transparency guide every decision. My candidacy is anchored in the belief that sport must have a purpose – a vision I define through my motto:

Sport with a Purpose - every action generates impact, inclusion and inspiration.

STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS

1. Participation and Representation

- Strengthen dialogue with athletes, NPCs, regional bodies, and IFs.
- Ensure real, diverse representation across all levels of the Movement.

2. Equity and Gender Equality

- Promote participation of girls and women, especially with disabilities, in sport and governance.
- Break structural barriers and expand solidarity programmes for underrepresented regions and athletes with greater support needs.

3. Classification Integrity

- Invest in scientific research, innovation, and training to ensure fair, transparent, and globally accessible classification systems.

4. Athlete Wellbeing and Dual Careers

- Prioritize mental health, holistic development, and transition support for athletes beyond competition.

5. Innovation, Communication and Partnerships

- Use digital tools and global partnerships to increase reach, visibility, and resources for the Paralympic Movement.

6. Sustainable Development and Legacy

- Promote environmentally responsible practices and lasting impact in local communities.

7. Good Governance and Ethics

- Champion transparency, accountability, and athlete protection through ethical, data-informed leadership.

FINAL COMMITMENT

I am ready to serve the Paralympic Movement with experience, empathy, and strategic vision. Together, we can ensure **every athlete is seen, every voice is valued, and every decision truly makes a difference.**

Let us lead with purpose – because every action matters.

3.3 MING-CHU MU

<p>Nationality: Republic of China (Taiwan)</p> <p>Nominating bodies: Chinese Taipei Paralympic Committee</p> <p>Current role: President</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am President of the Chinese Taipei Paralympic Committee (CTPC) since 2019 and had served two terms as CTPC President from 1992 to 2000. I am also President of the Chinese Taipei Wheelchair Basketball Association since 2017. Meanwhile, I was elected into the APC Executive Board as Chairperson of the Women in Sport Committee in November 2023. For the past decades, in addition to involving myself in the Paralympic Movement, I am also committed to the well-being and welfare of the disabled, women, underprivileged schoolchildren and single-parent families in various capacities. For instance, I served two terms as a member of the National Legislative Yuan (the unicameral legislature of my country, equivalent to the US Senate) from 1999 to 2005, when I was involved in the National Legislation and amendment of laws, including the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Mental or Physical Disabilities Act and the Workplace Gender <i>(word count exceeded)</i></p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I've been working for the cause of the Paralympic Movement for some time. But the reach and impact of my undertakings are more or less confined to my own country. That is why I ran for Chairperson of the APC Women in Sport Committee and got elected in 2023. But I'd like to devote my passion, skills and knowledge to benefit the Paralympic Movement in an even greater extent and a broader scope that covers not only Asia but the whole world. I see joining the IPC Governing Board as the best way to achieve that goal.</p>	

Manifesto:

- Fulfilling the IPC vision of making for a more inclusive world through Para sport by working within the IPC Governing Board, as well as with NPCs, IFs, ROs and IOSDs.
- Remembering Sir Ludwig Guttman's noble cause, the Stoke Mandeville Games and the history of the Paralympic Games by organizing activities and events to raise awareness of the public and reminding our Para athletes, coaches and administrators of where they came from.
- Developing and sharing best practices in each aspect of the advancing of the Paralympic Movement; strengthening exchanges and cooperation between and among the IPC, NPCs, IFs, ROs and IOSDs.
- Optimizing IPC membership engagement by relocating/ posting membership engagement coordinators to the sub-regions that they are responsible for, which would help them better understand their sub-regions and offer better service to their sub-regional clients.
- Calling on more NPCs, IFs, ROs and IOSDs to sign the Brighton plus Helsinki 2014 Declaration on Women and Sport; drawing lessons from the International Working Group on Women and Sport reports when pushing forward with gender equality in Para sports.

3.4 KURT FEARNLEY

<p>Nationality: Australian</p> <p>Nominating bodies: Paralympics Australia</p> <p>Current role: Nil</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Instagram</p> <p>X</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am an Australian Paralympian, former wheelchair athlete, athlete representative and governance leader. I competed at 5 Paralympic Games, from Sydney 2000 through to Rio 2016, medalling at each and Co-Captaining the Australian team at Rio. In 2016, I was elected to the IPC Athlete Council by my peers and more recently, nominated to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee. I have held a range of governance roles, including as a director of Paralympics Australia, Commissioner of Sport Australia - the Australian Government's sport organisation and funding body, and am currently the Chair of the National Disability Insurance Agency, who oversee the distribution of more than \$45 billion AUD in annual funding to support the lives of more than 700,000 Australians with a disability. I host a Para sport dedicated podcast and have been a member of broadcast teams for the Paralympics since I retired from racing.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I know the difference that Paralympic sport makes and am the ideal candidate to contribute to the IPC Governing Board as a General Member and Vice President. The movement changed my life and I am driven to ensure that as a collective, we are able to challenge and change what it means to be a Paralympian and as a person with a disability around the world.</p> <p>I've lived the Paralympic movement as an athlete for more than 20 years, advocated for my colleagues and the movement, informally and formally as a representative on planning bodies, and have an extensive governance career, spanning Paralympic and mainstream sport, disability and foreign aid.</p>	

I'm excited to share my experience in governance and understanding of the Paralympic movement from a variety of perspectives to successfully align the IPC with member organisations, as well as fulfilling the IPCs own strategic priorities.

As the movement builds on the success of recent games, with athletes becoming household names and change-leaders in their own nations, I am excited to take the games to the next level as we build towards an Australian Paralympics in Brisbane 2032.

Manifesto:

I grew up in a small town of 300 people in rural Australia in the 1980s. I was just a kid who loved sport, playing and watching with my siblings, cousins, and neighbours. But while they treated me the same, I knew I was different. I used a wheelchair—and I had never played against someone like me or even seen anyone in sport, on TV, or in public life.

In my world, the only wheelchair users were temporary: it was something you used to recover from injury or were pushed around in your last few years when you couldn't walk anymore. So where did that leave me? A young, growing man who loved sport and competition but couldn't run down the field to score a goal or race on a grass track to victory.

Then, one day, everything changed.

A schoolteacher introduced my classmates and me to wheelchair basketball. It was more than just a game—it was a revelation. For the first time, I wasn't the only one in a wheelchair. And for the first time, I had an advantage. That moment didn't just change my life. It planted a seed in my community—a new understanding of disability, ability, and inclusion.

I became an athlete, chasing excellence on the global stage. But everywhere I went, I saw the same story: people with disabilities excluded, underrepresented, and underestimated. We trained as hard as anyone. We competed fiercely. But we raced in empty stadiums, earned less, and were rarely seen. Even in sport—a place meant to level the playing field—we were still on the margins.

My personal experience in a small town in Australia had taught me: sport had the power to do more than entertain. It could transform lives, shift perceptions, and build a better world—not just for athletes with disabilities, but for everyone.

I stand for a Paralympic movement that follows this ethos - it leads change, not just reflects it.

A movement that empowers athletes to be seen, heard, and valued equally.

A movement that partners with communities to dismantle barriers and create opportunity.

A movement that refuses to settle for inclusion as an afterthought and instead puts it at the heart of everything we do.


This is my commitment:

- To champion the next generation of Paralympians, giving them the platform, recognition, and respect they deserve.
- To work collaboratively—with IPC members, stakeholders, media, athletes, and communities—to drive meaningful progress.
- To ensure that through LA 2028 and into Brisbane 2032, we're not just growing the Games—we're growing a movement that changes lives.

The Paralympic movement changed mine.

Now, I dedicate myself to helping it continue to change the world.

3.5 JOHN PETERSSON

<p>Nationality: Denmark</p> <p>Nominating bodies: NPC Denmark</p> <p>Current role: President NPC Denmark and IPC Governing Board Member</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Facebook</p> <p>LinkedIn</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I have been involved with Para sports since 1982, first and foremost as an athlete, a Para swimmer, and a proud Paralympian. At the 1984 Paralympic Games in New York, at the age of 14, I was able to win the first of 15 Paralympic medals.</p> <p>Following the retirement after the Paralympic Games in Sydney 2000, I chose to further dedicate myself to the continued development of the great Paralympic movement. I have proudly served the movement internationally as an IPC Governing Member, Chairperson of the IPC Regions Council, Chairperson of the Supervisory Board of the Agitos Foundation and President of the European Paralympic Committee.</p> <p>In 2018, I was elected President of the Executive Committee of Parasport Danmark (NPC Denmark) after serving as vice-president since 2005, and I understand the great opportunities as well as the challenges of being a smaller part of the growing Paralympic Family.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>Born in 1970 with impairment, I have lived with and continue to face the barriers of inclusion, and I am as determined as ever to change the way the world perceives and reacts to people with disabilities.</p> <p>For over 40 years, I have been at the forefront of the Paralympic Movement. I have witnessed and played my part in the incredible evolution of Para sport and the development of our Paralympic family.</p> <p>There is, however, still much more work to do to continue along this exciting path, that we have set for ourselves. We must do even more to ensure that no member, no sport, and no athletes are disregarded or left behind, and that the</p>	

strength of the IPC benefits regional and national development to an even greater degree.

But we must also look outside our immediate family. Change starts with sport, and I believe the IPC has an important role to play in breaking down the barriers of inclusion around the world.

Manifesto:

As a member of the IPC Governing Board, I will be a strong voice for:

Fairness

The Paralympic Games are arguably the highlight of our Movement, showcasing the sporting excellence of our athletes and inspiring people all over the world. As the Games continue to expand in reach and scope, we must do everything to protect the reputation and secure a high level of fairness in the competitions. To that end, we need an athlete-focused classification system and constant vigilance in our common fight against doping and cheating.

Breaking down barriers and ending discrimination

Together, we can break down the barriers that keep us apart. The WeThe15 campaign will continue to unite people with disabilities all around the world in a single human rights movement with a common goal: Social inclusion, disability visibility and accessibility.

The IPC must continue to champion the cause over the next decade, bringing governments, businesses, and the public together to create enduring change.

Youth development

The development of young athletes and role models is for me at the very heart of our Paralympic Movement, and the IPC should continue to play a very active role in supporting and encouraging youth development and athlete pathways everywhere.

Our first aim must always be to provide the best possible support for our athletes, and we have a big responsibility to protect especially the younger generations. I consider sport a basic right for every child – no matter their ability or where they live in the world. Therefore, I want the IPC to actively support NPCs in championing youth development.

Togetherness

I will work for an IPC development that is driven by a balanced interaction with no member left behind. Our Paralympic Family is a family for all, and we must acknowledge the diversity of our member organizations, athletes, and sports.

To that end, I consider the Regional Organizations an asset within the structure of the IPC, and it is integral that their efforts are commended and supported as


they continue to play a key part in organizing regional sporting events, coordinating development activities, and providing support to the IPC members in the respective regions.

Strength through unity

As President of NPC Denmark, I have worked to establish strong relations with the Danish Olympic Committee, and an important milestone in the partnership has been achieving equal rights and possibilities between Paralympians and Olympians.

Internationally, I am very happy to see that the relationship between the IPC and the IOC is also on the right path. I believe that it is very important that we continue to strengthen the alliance, adding value to all stakeholders and benefitting all IPC members.

3.6 JUAN PABLO SALAZAR

<p>Nationality: Colombian</p> <p>Nominating bodies: NPC Colombia</p> <p>Current role: Director of Inclusion at CAF, the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean.</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Instagram:</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>Expert in the global Movement for the rights of persons with disabilities, with emphasis on communication and sports. Juan has worked on this agenda from multiple National and International bodies including the Colombian Government and the International Paralympic Committee. He is currently the Inclusion Director at CAF, the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I have the credentials to show that I can serve the Paralympic Movement effectively. I have proven this in civil society, I have proven it in government, and I 'm now proving it in a multilateral organization. I 'm not new to the Movement—many people already know my track record and my commitment. I 'm at a point in my life where I can continue to serve and focus my energy on further promoting Paralympics as the most powerful tool for achieving the inclusion of persons with disabilities.</p>	
<p>Manifesto:</p> <p>For over twenty years, I have dedicated my professional life to a cause that transcends borders and disciplines: the full inclusion of persons with disabilities. This commitment has taken many forms—from civil society to government, and now from within a multilateral organization—but it has always had the same purpose: to uphold human rights, promote dignity, and create real opportunities for millions of people.</p> <p>I'm a communicator by training and by vocation. Throughout my career, I have worked in public speaking, telling stories that move people, producing audiovisual content that shifts perspectives, and writing proposals that have</p>	

been supported by international cooperation. Today, from my role at CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, I have the opportunity to be on the donor side, supporting projects that truly generate impact across the region.


My background in marketing, a leadership course at Harvard University, and a Master's in Diplomacy from The Fletcher School at Tufts University have complemented my field experience. I have led teams across every sector in which I have worked: first as founder and director of a civil society organization, then in government as High Presidential Advisor for Disability Policy under President Juan Manuel Santos in Colombia, and now as part of a team committed to development from within an international financial institution.

The Paralympic Movement has been both a school and a source of inspiration for me. I have experienced it from all angles: as an athlete, sports leader, Chef de Mission at two Paralympic Games, President of a National Paralympic Committee, and government official. Today, as an international public servant, I want to give back to a Movement that has given me so much. I know its transformative power, and I bring a 360-degree vision—strategic and operational—to help take it to the next level.

I firmly believe that the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has a historic opportunity to strengthen its presence in global forums, work more closely with Development Banks in all regions, and position sport as a concrete tool for inclusion and sustainable human development.

I deeply value the IPC's democratic principles, the diversity of the Movement, and the power of sport as a driver of social change. This is not just my career—it is my life's calling. And I have no other plan than to continue working, every day, for a more just and inclusive world for persons with disabilities.

3.4 NICK WEBBORN

<p>Nationality: British</p> <p>Nominating bodies: British Paralympic Association</p> <p>Current role: Chair UK Sport</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Facebook</p> <p>Instagram</p> <p>LinkedIn</p> <p>TikTok</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I have a lifetime's experience in high performance sport as an athlete, medical practitioner, researcher and as President of the British Paralympic Association (BPA). I'm a leader in Paralympic sport and sports medicine, with over 30 years of service to the Paralympic movement and 44 years of lived experience with disability. Now Chair of UK Sport I am responsible for funding Olympic and Paralympic sports and bringing major sporting events to the UK.</p> <p>I am a former international wheelchair tennis player and have attended 13 Paralympic Games, summer and winter, in different capacities. I was part of the team to bid for and deliver London 2012 and then served as BPA Chief Medical Officer. I'm a world-leading academic in Paralympic research and professor at Loughborough University, with over 110 peer-reviewed publications. I have been honoured with an OBE and a CBE for services to Paralympic Sports Medicine and to Sport.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I bring a blend of strategic leadership, scientific expertise, and personal experience for finding innovative solutions to complex problems. As such I am uniquely positioned to help guide the IPC in building a more inclusive, athlete-focused, and socially impactful global movement. I will add value through my experience, extensive knowledge and ability to build excellent relationships.</p> <p>As former President of the BPA and current Chair of UK Sport, I have demonstrated the ability to deliver successful high performing teams through</p>	

strategic planning, innovation and strong governance. As a former Para athlete in wheelchair tennis, I bring an athlete-centred perspective to championing welfare, inclusion and integrity at the highest levels.

Known to many members as a committed volunteer, through 24 years of service to IPC Medical, Sports Science and Anti-Doping committees, I have built trusted relationships across the movement. My impact has included initiating Games-time research that has shaped athlete health and safety since 2002, writing the initial IPC Anti-Doping code and developing the IPC Boosting policy.

My deep connection as an injured serviceman to Stoke Mandeville, the birthplace of the Paralympic movement, underscores my commitment to its legacy and future with a responsibility of bringing Guttman's global vision to life.

Manifesto:

My vision is grounded in over three decades of service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the Paralympic movement. My journey began in 1981 as a patient at the National Spinal Injuries Unit in Stoke Mandeville, where I was introduced to the pioneering work of Sir Ludwig Guttmann, and to the Paralympic movement's history and heritage. Sport became a vital part of my recovery—and later, my life's purpose. This has been driven by a deep belief in the values of courage, determination, inspiration, and equality.

It's been said that *'The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you can see'* and my extensive knowledge of the movement has helped shape my strategic vision for the future.

Longer-Term Strategic Thinking

We must move beyond a four-year cycle which limits ambitions for growth and development, to provide clarity for federations and NPCs to develop and prepare the athletes of tomorrow. The Olympic Games has grown by 40% in disciplines since 1992 by responding to the needs and sports of the youth of today. By consultation with sports, nations and disabled people we can move forward with the growth of our movement.

Stronger Commercial Base

The commercial value of the Paralympic brand has grown significantly, and we must ensure that this is not only reflected in a more equitable partnership with the IOC, but with other partners outside the TOPS programme and with philanthropic donors. Stronger commercial foundations will allow us to better support the entire Paralympic ecosystem, especially smaller International Federations and NPCs that are vital to the Games' diversity and quality.

Social Impact

Part of driving increased commercial income and philanthropic donations is the demonstration of social impact outcomes. At the BPA we used sport to drive societal change by focusing on young disabled persons' lack of participation in sport at school. We produced a documentary, amplified by athlete experiences, to articulate the problem, develop policy solutions for the Government, and provide support programmes for teachers. This has secured the UK Prime Minister's commitment for change. I will bring this experience to the IPC to ensure our movement delivers meaningful global impact.

Athlete-Centred Approach

Athletes are the heart of our movement. My work in healthcare and at the BPA has always centred on athlete welfare. I founded the BPA Athlete Alumni Community to ensure that former athletes remain valued and connected. I will continue to advocate for athlete health and for evidence-based classification systems that deliver fair and equitable competition. I will ensure that athlete welfare is included in every future strategy.

Credibility and Trust

My leadership within the movement is built on my principles and long-established relationships with members. I am recognised globally as a leader in Paralympic sport and medicine, having worked with multiple International Federations and with the IOC Medical Department.

For me this is more than a campaign - it's a continuation of my life's work. I offer experience, integrity, and a clear strategic vision for a stronger, more inclusive future for the Paralympic Movement.

4. CANDIDATES FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

There are twenty-eight candidates for the role of Member-at-Large:

(Listed in alphabetical order)

Name	Nationality	Gender	Nominated by
Murat Aksu	Turkish	Male	NPC Türkiye
Debra Alexander	South African	Female	NPC South Africa / World Triathlon / World Ability Sport
Mohamed Duaij Alkhalifa	Bahraini	Male	NPC Bahrain
Gbapeba Analene	Togolese	Male	NPC Togo
Abdulaziz Baeshen	Saudi	Male	NPC Saudi Arabia
Hamid El Aouni	Morocco	Male	NPC Morocco
Kurt Fearnley	Australian	Male	NPC Australia
Chelsey Gotell	Canadian	Female	NPC Canada / World Boccia
Ionna Karyofylli	Greek	Female	NPC Greece
Leila Marques Mota	Portuguese	Female	NPC Portugal
Miki Matheson	Japanese	Female	NPC Japan
Ming-Chu Mu	Republic of China (Taiwan)	Female	NPC Chinese Taipei
Dieudonne Mutangana	Rwanda	Male	NPC Rwanda
Karl Quade	German	Male	NPC Germany
John Petersson	Danish	Male	NPC Denmark
Ilgar Rahimov	Azerbaijan	Male	IBSA
Miloš Ranitović	Montenegrin	Male	NPC Montenegro
Majid Rashed	United Arab Emirates	Male	NPC United Arab Emirates

Fernando Riaño Riaño	Spanish	Male	NPC Spain
Jose Rodrigo Bejarano Restrepo	Cabo Verde	Male	NPC Cape Verde
Juan Pablo Salazar	Colombian	Male	NPC Colombia
Robyn Smith	Australian	Female	Virtus
Bradley Snyder	American	Male	NPC United States of America
Qiang Song	Chinese	Male	NPC China
Liliana Suárez Carreón	Mexican	Female	NPC Mexico
László Szabó	Hungarian	Male	NPC Hungary
Tomas Varga	Slovak	Male	NPC Slovakia
Nick Webborn	British	Male	NPC Great Britain

ELECTION PROCESS FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

There are seven Member-at-Large positions on the IPC Governing Board, of which at least three must be female and at least three must be male, and one position is open.

KEY POINTS

- In each voting round, each IPC Member can vote for as many candidates as there are available positions (e.g. three votes if there are three positions remaining).
- IPC Members cannot select and vote for the same candidate multiple times within the same round of voting.
- All IPC Members who vote are counted once when calculating whether a candidate has received a Simple Majority (50% of the valid votes cast plus one vote).
- The number of positions remaining vacant will be used to determine the candidates that proceed to subsequent rounds of voting.

HOW CANDIDATES ARE ELECTED

1. Rounds 1-3: Voting to achieve a Simple Majority

- a. If a candidate receives a Simple Majority in rounds one to three, they are elected to the position.
- b. If positions still remain open for election after each round, the remaining relevant candidates move to the next round.
- c. Up to three rounds can take place for candidates to be elected with a Simple Majority.
- d. In the case of a tie for the final position of a gender category, a separate vote is held between the tied individuals to break the tie.

2. Final (4th) Round


- a. If any positions are still available for election after three rounds, a fourth and final round of voting takes place.
- b. Candidates are ranked highest to lowest by the number of votes they receive, and positions are filled from highest to lowest in line with gender requirements.
- c. A Simple Majority is not required in this round.
- d. In the case of a tie for a position, a separate vote is held between the tied individuals to break the tie.

3. If multiple candidates achieve a Simple Majority in the same round (Rounds 1-3)

- a. Candidates are ranked from highest to lowest by how many votes they receive.
- b. Positions are given in order, from highest to lowest, to those with a Simple Majority until either the positions are filled or there are no more individuals in that round with a Simple Majority.
- c. In the case of a tie for the final position of a gender category, a separate vote is held between the tied individuals to break the tie.

In an event where there are not enough candidates in the running or eligible to fill all seven Member-at-Large positions, the incoming Governing Board will appoint the remaining Members-at-Large to serve until the next Ordinary General Assembly.

4.1 MURAT AKSU

<p>Nationality: Turkish</p> <p>Nominating bodies: National Paralympic Committee of Türkiye</p> <p>Current role: President, National Paralympic Committee of Türkiye</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Instagram</p> <p>LinkedIn</p> <p>X</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am Dr. Att. Murat Aksu, a dedicated leader with over 30 years of experience in sports administration, law, and civil society. My career includes serving as Vice President of both Beşiktaş Sports Club—one of Türkiye's largest and most prestigious sports organizations—and the Turkish Football Federation. I have also held executive roles in amateur sports federations and currently serve as President of the Turkish National Paralympic Committee. Throughout my career, I have championed the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities, led national and international projects, and built strong partnerships across the Paralympic Movement. My background as a lawyer and sports executive has enabled me to drive positive change, promote ethical governance, and foster innovation. I am passionate about creating equal opportunities for all athletes and believe in the transformative power of sport to break down barriers and unite communities.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>With over three decades of leadership in sports administration, law, and civil society, I bring a unique combination of strategic vision, ethical governance, and a deep commitment to inclusion. As President of the Turkish National Paralympic Committee, I have successfully led transformative projects, increased athlete participation, and built strong partnerships at both national and international levels. My experience spans organizing major events, securing sustainable resources, and advocating for the rights of people with disabilities.</p> <p>I am dedicated to strengthening the core values of the Paralympic Movement—equality, transparency, and athlete-cantered decision-making. I believe in</p>	

building bridges between cultures and stakeholders, fostering innovation, and ensuring that every athlete's voice is heard. My proven ability to unite diverse teams and deliver results in complex environments will help advance the IPC's mission globally.

If elected, I will work tirelessly to promote good governance, expand opportunities for all athletes, and contribute to a more inclusive, accessible, and successful Paralympic Movement. My commitment is to serve with integrity, listen to all voices, and help shape a future where every person with a disability can achieve their full potential through sport.

Manifesto:

Dr. Att. Murat AKSU's Manifesto

Candidate for IPC Governing Board Member

Shared Vision, Shared Success: Empowering the Paralympic Family

With over 30 years of experience in sports administration, law, and civil society, I have dedicated my career to advancing the rights and opportunities of people with disabilities. As President of the Turkish National Paralympic Committee, I have led transformative projects, increased participation, and built strong partnerships at both national and international levels. My leadership is defined by strategic vision, ethical governance, and a collaborative approach that unites diverse stakeholders for common goals.

Vision: Inclusion, Equality, and Excellence

I am committed to strengthening the core values of inclusion, equality, and excellence within the Paralympic Movement. Sport is a powerful tool for ensuring the full and active participation of people with disabilities in society. My goal is to help create, under the leadership of the IPC, an accessible and fair sporting environment where every athlete can realize their full potential.

Leadership and Experience

Throughout my career, I have guided organizations through periods of growth and change. I have successfully managed major national and international events, secured sustainable resources, and promoted innovative solutions. My experience working across cultures and leading digital transformation initiatives has prepared me to contribute to the IPC's global impact.

Inclusion and Accessibility

I believe that all athletes, regardless of background or geography, deserve equal opportunities. Within the IPC, I will work to develop inclusive policies, enhance the accessibility of sports facilities and programs, and ensure the full participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of society.

Transparency and Good Governance

Transparency, accountability, and ethical values are essential for the sustainable growth of the Paralympic Movement. Drawing on my extensive board experience, I will help strengthen the IPC's governance standards and ensure open communication with all stakeholders.

Athlete-Centred Approach

Athletes must be at the heart of every decision. I will work to strengthen athlete representation, ensure their voices are heard, and enhance support systems. Safeguarding the physical and mental well-being of every athlete, and supporting their personal and professional growth, will be my top priorities.

International Collaboration and Innovation

I will strive to expand the IPC's global impact, foster new partnerships, and promote innovative solutions for the future of Para sport. Building bridges between countries, cultures, and stakeholders will be central to my approach.


Global Partnerships and a Stronger Paralympic Family

The sustainable success of the Paralympic Movement depends on international cooperation and a shared global vision. I will support solidarity, knowledge sharing, and joint projects among all member nations and athletes, ensuring the Movement becomes even more visible, effective, and inclusive worldwide.

My Commitment

I am wholeheartedly dedicated to the values and goals of the Paralympic Movement. If elected, I will bring my strategic vision, diplomatic skills, and ethical leadership to the IPC Governing Board. Together, we will continue to break down barriers, change perceptions, and build a more inclusive world through the transformative power of sport.

4.2 DEBRA ALEXANDER

<p>Nationality: South African</p> <p>Nominating bodies: World Triathlon; SASCOC – South African NPC; World Abilitysport</p> <p>Current role: Governing Board Member At Large International Paralympic Committee (IPC); 1st Vice President World Triathlon; Board Member South Africa Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Sports Confederation (SASCOC) ex-officio; Board Member Triathlon South Africa – ex-officio.</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Facebook Instagram LinkedIn Wikipedia</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am a Clinical Psychologist, mentor, and respected global sport leader committed to inclusion, integrity, and excellence. I was drawn into health, education and sport leadership through a fortuitous blend of an ability to connect with people, a purpose to serve and a passion for equity, healthy living and making a difference.</p> <p>I have held leadership roles in sport from grassroots, national, continental, and international sport boards, to 2 terms on the IPC Governing Board, championing athlete well-being, mental health, safeguarding, classification, inclusive governance and ethical leadership. I lead with vision, compassion, and courage and bring a calm presence to complex situations.</p> <p>The values that shape how I listen, connect, and lead are authenticity, love for family, nature and loyalty. Appreciated across sectors – from government to sport, my work is grounded in service, inspired by learning, and guided by a deep knowledge and belief in sports power to transform lives. (150)</p>	

Why should I be elected?

I am a respected leader and team player valuing good governance, transparency and accountability. I lead by example, ethically, with vision, competence, compassion, determination and integrity.

I bring a unique blend of professional expertise in health, education, and global sport leadership spanning every level of sport from grassroots to the Paralympics, and every layer of governance.

Serving on the boards, of the IPC, World Triathlon, NOC/NPC South Africa, Africa Paralympic and Triathlon Committees, Triathlon South Africa and collaborating with International Organisations Sport for the Disabled and Association Paralympic Sports Organisations, and working with Paralympians and Para sport communities, across diverse cultures, helps me know and understand the needs of diverse Paralympic Family stakeholders and makes me an excellent advocate for athletes and members, and especially for communities grappling for resources.

I consistently deliver in areas such as IPC Governance, Safeguarding, Science & Research, VISTA Conference, and play a central role in elevating athlete and sport development, athlete mental health, classification, and equity across the Paralympic movement.

My re-election will ensure continuity of leadership and stakeholder relationships. If re-elected, I will continue to lead, with purpose, passion, integrity and unwavering commitment to serving the Paralympic Movement, the IPC and our athletes. (200)

Manifesto:

It is with immense gratitude for the trust the IPC membership bestowed on me that I present my manifesto for re-election as Member-at-Large, for a third term.

As an active, engaged IPC Board Member, I bring experience and continuity. It is a privilege to serve on the Board, contributing meaningfully to shifts in the organizational culture and structure, management leadership, processes and policies, member and athlete engagement, enhanced communications and knowledge sharing, ensuring the IPC remains relevant, progressive, inclusive and diverse in all areas.

In the next term, I will continue to provide leadership, oversight and support of the IPC business - corporate governance, risk and financial management, sustainable revenue streams, IOC and stakeholder engagement and relationships, the Paralympic Games, Games programme, equity in Para sport - across sports, development, gender, disability, and severity of impairment, classification, anti-doping and safeguarding policies, athlete health, evidence-based practices, science and research, VISTA conference, communications, and

membership engagement, ensuring enhanced recognition and value of the Paralympic brand especially in the Disability Human Rights space, through spotlighting the power of Para sport to change the world.

I will continue supporting Regions, NPCs, IFs and IOSDs with knowledge sharing and guidance across multiple platforms from classifier training to safeguarding and mental health.

As the IPC continues to evolve from its role as an International Federation, its purpose will further advance, with greater emphasis on the Games, membership, athlete safety, equity and well-being, leading on ethical governance, evidence-based practices, global reach and championing human rights.

I stand for:

1. Athlete-Centred Leadership - Keeping athletes' voices and actions central to every decision, with athletes' lived experiences informing policies, structures, and strategies.

2. Excellence in Governance - Leading with open communication, transparency, accountability and modelling best practice in ethical leadership, rigorous governance processes, strong knowledge-sharing systems and evidence-informed policies.

3. Innovative and Inspiring Paralympic Games - Enhancing athlete, fan and spectator experience by displaying diversity in competition, sport, disability, and athlete excellence.

4. Legacy of Accessibility - Advocating for accessible infrastructure and inclusive planning beyond the Paralympic Games and leaving a legacy of inclusion with host cities and partners' taking ownership of creating long-term social change, and actively dismantling discrimination against people with disabilities.

5. Global Equity in Membership and Para Sport Development

Further strengthening capacity-building and support to NPCs, IFs, Regions and IOSDs, to build strong foundations in governance, athlete and sport development, also tailoring support to under-resourced members to adjust for imbalances.


6. Visibility, Innovation, and Global Reach

Advocating for a global spotlight on Para Sport through enhanced media partnerships, technology investment, and digital storytelling that elevates and celebrates Paralympic athletes and sports, inspires the youth, grows the Movement, and attracts new partnerships.

As a respected, loyal servant leader, driven by the belief that sport can transform lives and society, I reaffirm my commitment and time to leading with

purpose, integrity, care for our athletes, our values, and our shared future. With your vote, together we can continue building a Movement that is transformative, athlete-centred, and future-ready. (499)

4.3 MOHAMED DUAIJ ALKHALIFA

<p>Nationality: Bahraini</p> <p>Nominating bodies: Member at Large, Governing Board</p> <p>Current role: President of the Bahrain Paralympic Committee</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Instagram</p> <p>Linkedin</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>My name is Mohamed Duaij Alkhalifa, founding President of the Bahrain Paralympic Committee and Board Member of the Asian Paralympic Committee. With a background in investment and real estate, I have served on multiple corporate boards, including as Chair of an investment bank.</p> <p>My sports management journey began in sailing and evolved through my work with the Bahrain Disabled Sports Federation, where I led the creation of the Bahrain Paralympic Committee. I am committed to advancing Paralympic sports and promoting inclusion for people with disabilities. My roles span national and continental levels, including contributions to the Asian Paralympic Committee and the GCC Organizing Committee for Disabled Sports.</p> <p>Integrity, transparency, and innovation guide my leadership. I am passionate about empowering athletes, expanding participation, and building strong partnerships to grow the Paralympic Movement. I believe in creating a more inclusive, impactful, and united sporting community for all.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I believe I should be elected to the IPC Governing Board because I bring a proven record of leadership, vision, and dedication to the Paralympic Movement, demonstrated through the many events delivered in Bahrain, including the IPC General Assembly in 2023. My experiences as President of the Bahrain Paralympic Committee and my roles within both the Asian Paralympic Committee and the GCC Organizing Committee for Disabled Sports have given me a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Paralympic sport locally and globally.</p>	

I am committed to the values of integrity, transparency, and inclusion, and I have consistently worked to empower athletes and expand their opportunities. My background in sport governance, policy advocacy, and partnership building enables me to approach challenges with innovative solutions and a collaborative mindset. I have a deep personal commitment to advancing the rights and representation of people with disabilities, demonstrated through strategic initiatives that grow participation, support athlete development, and promote sustainable progress.

If elected, I will work tirelessly to amplify transparency, champion equal opportunities, and foster an environment where every member of our community can thrive and be inspired. Together, we can shape a stronger, more inclusive future for the Paralympic Movement.

Manifesto:

Sh. Mohamed Duaij Alkhalifa

As a passionate advocate for inclusion and the transformative power of sports, my manifesto for the IPC Governing Board is guided by a vision of a stronger, more equitable Paralympic Movement. If elected as Member at Large, I will focus on the following priorities:

1- Vision for the Paralympic Movement

My vision is a world where high-performance adaptive sports continue to grow, and where every individual, regardless of ability, has equitable access and opportunity to participate. I believe the Paralympic Movement should remain a global beacon of courage, resilience, and inspiration.

2- Core Values

I am committed to upholding:

- Integrity and transparency in all governance and decision-making processes.
- Inclusion at every level: athlete, leadership, and membership.
- Empowerment of athletes and IPC members.
- Strategic partnership with stakeholders to grow and protect the Movement.
- Innovation in athlete development, accessibility, and media.

3- Key Commitments

If elected, I pledge to:

- Enhance transparency: Enable clear insight into the Governing Board's decisions while respecting necessary confidentiality.

- Grow the Paralympic Games: Advocate on behalf of the IFs for an increased number of sports and disciplines, ensuring all athletes have equal opportunities to compete.
- Promote financial sustainability: Support innovative partnership and funding models to strengthen the IPC's mission and reduce dependency on limited sources.
- Advance media presence: Work to improve visibility of Paralympic athletes in mainstream and digital media, raising awareness and commercial appeal.
- Invest in youth and grassroots: Expand Para Youth Games and grassroots development to broaden participation and inspire future generations.
- Embrace technological innovation: Champion the use of advanced technology in sports, administration, and accessibility.
- Advocate a service culture: As a membership organization, the IPC thrives on its diversity, and I will ensure this remains at the heart of the Movement.

4- Experience and Approach

With my years of experience in national, regional, and continental sports leadership roles, I bring a global perspective grounded in local engagement while ensuring financial robustness. My background in governance, policy advocacy, and inclusive project development has equipped me to address challenges with collaboration and creativity. I have consistently prioritized the empowerment and representation of people with disabilities throughout my career.


5- A Shared Future

I believe that progress is built through shared challenges and collective action. My leadership is driven by the conviction that together, we can write the next chapter of the Paralympic Movement—one that is more inclusive, transparent, and impactful than ever before.

6- Conclusion

I respectfully ask for your support and trust to serve as your board member at large. I am committed to empowering our community through sports and leading with inclusion, integrity, and innovation. Let us move forward together, united in purpose and ambition.

4.4 GBAPEBA ANALENE

<p>Nationality: Togo</p> <p>Nominating bodies: NPC Togo</p> <p>Current role: President</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Facebook</p> <p>LinkedIn</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>Born on (removed), 1977 in Lomé-Togo, my name is ANALENE GBAPEBA, a man with a physical disability.</p> <p>I am a civil servant working at the Togolese Federation of Associations of Disabled People as the coordinator in charge of advocacy for the inclusion of disabled people.</p> <p>As a basic university study, I hold a diploma in secretarial studies and a master's degree in political sociology and communication. I then obtained a Master's degree in Peacebuilding and Development.</p> <p>My work is focused on many projects (education, employment, health, rehabilitation, etc.) targeting disabled people, capacity building and awareness raising and the advocacy for disability mainstreaming.</p> <p>From university to today, I have been successful in leading my association life. Regarding the sport, I have been interested since my young age and my top two sports were football and cycling.</p> <p>My focus within NPC-TOGO is on strategic reforms to professionalize the Para sport.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>My aim for being elected is to contribute my expertise and experience to the IPC's work. As I am aware that sport is a crucial factor in promoting positive change in disability, it is a good reason for me to be part of this amazing adventure.</p>	

As a **MEMBER AT LARGE** of the new IPC Board, I would like to contribute to the global development of Paralympic sports with an emphasis on the African region which is behind other parts of the world. Apart from developing advocacy and new partnerships for Para sport, I will propose to the future President the appointment of the IPC Focal Points at the level of the 5 regions of Africa (West, East, North, South, Center). This will bring the IPC closer to NPCs and athletes.

By focusing efforts on Africa, I hope it will enable a change in prejudices about disability and promote rapid social inclusion of disabled people through sports.

Finally, I aspire to be elected to gain additional knowledge and experience while working for the IPC. By doing this, I can enhance my abilities and put them to use in my original organization and the Paralympic movement as a whole.

Manifesto:

Convinced that **Change starts with sport**, I pleased to add to my experience in the advocacy, that of promoting Para sport. I am strongly motivated to bring to the IPC my experience and skills in advocating for inclusion and using sport as a tool to change perceptions leading towards a real inclusion of disabled people.

Inclusion, Solidarity, Diversity, Equity and Responsibility are the core values that guide my candidacy to the IPC. I need the support of all the NCPs and International Federations to achieve reforms within our IPC Family for the benefit of everyone, and particularly for the development of African NPCs.

Dear friends, the African continent has enormous potential in terms of Para sport but which remains insufficiently exploited. The main reasons are the lack of resources, the lack of adequate infrastructures for Para sport, and the low political will at the country level regarding the inclusion of disabled people. Despite the support of the IPC, it is absolutely necessary to strengthen advocacy towards governments, the private sector, and reinforce the commitment of the IPC in Africa.

Dear colleagues, through a quick analysis of the situation let me share some strengths and weaknesses in the African Paralympic movement. In terms of strengths, there are the youth of athletes, the willingness of athletes to compete and become professionals, the will of NPC leaders to advance Para sport, the gradual evolution of mentalities on disability and inclusion. However, there are also challenges that must absolutely be addressed, including the lack of resources, the lack of professionalism at the level of the NPCs, the weak collaboration between disabled people's organizations and the NPCs, the weak institutionalization of the NPCs, the low professionalization of Para athletes, the lack of infrastructure adapted to Para sport, the inadequacy of classifiers and technical trainings.

Thus, there are some actions to be taken once elected:

- ✓ *Strengthen advocacy to mobilize more human, financial and material resources for Paralympic sport globally and especially in Africa*
- ✓ *Enhance the professionalism of NPCs and athletes in Africa*
- ✓ *Develop stronger partnerships for African Para sport*
- ✓ *Advocate for the adaptation of sports infrastructures to the needs of disabled people*
- ✓ *Advocate for the revision of the IPC Constitution with the appointment of 5 IPC Focal Points at the level of the 5 blocks of Africa (Western, Southern, Northern, Central and Eastern)*


Dear friends of the Paralympic Movement, in the event of my election, I reaffirm my commitment to prioritizing Africa in my actions without neglecting the other continents. For that, I need all of you to achieve this dream. Your advice and guidance will be necessary to impact my decisions within the IPC.

I need your voices! I am optimistic that the reforms I will implement once elected will improve the image of Para sport worldwide and particularly in Africa. It will help the IPC better align with the NPCs and better support their professionalization for greater efficiency.

Together, we can achieve this goal by utilizing your valuable voices!

Thanks to all of you!

4.5 ABDULAZIZ BAESHEN

<p>Nationality: Saudi</p> <p>Nominating bodies: Saudi Olympic and Paralympic Committee</p> <p>Current role: CEO / Secretary General</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>LinkedIn</p> <p>X</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>An experienced sports leader, I am the Secretary General of the Saudi Olympic and Paralympic Committee, overseeing the rapid development of sport and Para sport in the Kingdom. I played an instrumental role in the merger of the Saudi Arabian Olympic Committee and Saudi Paralympic Committee, which further strengthened our commitment to Para sport.</p> <p>Prior to my work at the SOPC, I worked as an Assistant Minister within the Ministry of Sport in Saudi Arabia and helped found the Saudi Sailing Federation, securing it recognition from the SOPC.</p> <p>Additionally, I maintain oversight of another key area of the global sporting landscape through my board positions with the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games Riyadh 2026 and the Asian Games and Asian Para Games Riyadh 2034.</p> <p>My determination to drive Para sport to greater heights has been enhanced through close personal experience of its benefits.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>Through my roles, I bring a global understanding of the sporting landscape alongside a unique insight into the challenges facing NPCs.</p> <p>I have first-hand experience of implementing solutions that enhance support for Para athletes. This makes me an authentic voice on ensuring that NPCs and their athletes remain central to every decision.</p> <p>For the IPC to strengthen its support of the Paralympic Movement, increased investment is vital. I would use my position to seek new investment opportunities from my region, including potential facility development and event hosting</p>	

capabilities in the Kingdom that could benefit the broader Paralympic community.

My commitment stems from both professional experience and personal understanding of Para sport's profound impact on individuals and communities. I am driven to ensure these benefits reach athletes worldwide, particularly in under-resourced regions.

I am ready to bring this perspective, experience, and commitment to drive meaningful progress for the Paralympic Movement globally.

Manifesto:

My manifesto centers on three strategic pillars that will advance the Paralympic Movement: securing sustainable growth, empowering National Paralympic Committees, and expanding our global impact.

1. Supporting investment and progress in Para sport

Long-term sustainable financial security is vital for the Movement. I aim to complement the IPC's efforts to diversify income, develop new commercial and philanthropic opportunities, and leverage Saudi Arabia's proven track record in sports investment and public-private partnerships.

2. Championing National Paralympic Committees


I will be a strong voice for NPCs, informed by direct experience of their day-to-day realities. Having successfully overseen the merger of our NPC with the National Olympic Committee, I understand the practical support needed to help all NPCs grow and succeed, regardless of size or resources.

3. Maximizing the Paralympic Movement's impact globally

Having witnessed first-hand the mental and physical benefits of Para sport, I will work to extend the reach and impact of the Paralympic Movement, especially in the Global South and under-resourced countries.

My journey has demonstrated the power of listening, learning and collaboration. I bring both regional expertise and global perspective, positioning me to help the Paralympic Movement achieve unprecedented growth and impact worldwide.

4.6 HAMID EL AOUNI

<p>Nationality: Moroccan</p> <p>Nominating bodies: National Paralympic Committee of Morocco</p> <p>Current role: President</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Facebook</p> <p>Instagram</p> <p>LinkedIn</p> <p>Website</p> <p>YouTube</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>My name is Hamid EL AOUNI, President of the NPC of Morocco since 2005. I am also an Administrator at the National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water in Morocco. With a background in geology and computer science, I have been actively involved in Para sport development for over three decades.</p> <p>I have held key positions at national and international levels, including Vice-President of the African Paralympic Committee, Secretary General of Virtus Africa, Vice-President of World Amputee Football Federation and President of IWBF Africa. I have led the Moroccan delegation as Chef de Mission at five Paralympic Games.</p> <p>Fluent in Arabic, French, and English, I have completed various international training programs in sport management. My mission is to promote inclusion, empower athletes with disabilities, and strengthen the Paralympic movement in Morocco, Africa, and beyond.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I bring over 30 years of experience in promoting and managing sports for people with disabilities, both in Morocco and internationally. As President of the Royal Moroccan Federation of Sports for People with Disability (NPC of Morocco) since</p>	

2005, I have successfully led numerous national and international events, including the Marrakech World Para Athletics Grand Prix and five Paralympic Games as Chef de Mission.

My leadership has extended beyond Morocco, serving as former Vice-President of the African Paralympic Committee, Secretary General of Virtus Africa, Vice-President of World Amputee Football Federation and Former President of IWBF Africa, where I contributed to strengthening continental cooperation and athlete development.

I am committed, results-driven, and deeply passionate about inclusion through sport. I combine strong organizational skills with international training in sport federation management. I also work closely with governments, partners, and grassroots organizations to build sustainable structures for Para sport.

I believe my experience, vision, and dedication make me well-qualified to serve and bring real added value to our movement.

Manifesto:

Candidate Manifesto for the IPC Governing Board

My name is Hamid EL AOUNI, and I am honored to submit my candidacy for the Governing Board of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). With over three decades of unwavering dedication to the Paralympic Movement as an athlete, leader, and advocate, I bring a wealth of experience, a clear vision for inclusion, and an unyielding commitment to empowering athletes with disabilities globally.

Leadership and Experience

As **President of the Moroccan National Paralympic Committee since 2005**, I have spearheaded the growth of Para sports in Morocco, successfully organizing prestigious events such as the **Marrakech World Para Athletics Grand Prix** and the **World Team Cup Wheelchair Tennis African Qualifier**. I have also led the Moroccan delegation as **Chef de Mission at five Paralympic Games (Beijing 2008, London 2012, Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020, and Paris 2024)**, ensuring our athletes compete on the world stage with pride and excellence.

My leadership extends beyond Morocco. I have served as:

- **Vice-President of the African Paralympic Committee (2012–2021)**, fostering continental collaboration.
- **President of IWBF Africa (2007–2020)**, advancing wheelchair basketball across the continent.

- **Secretary General of Virtus Africa**, promoting sports for athletes with intellectual impairments.
- **Vice-President of the World Amputee Football Federation**, championing inclusivity in adaptive sports.

Professionally, I am an **Administrator at Morocco's National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water**, where I have honed my strategic and managerial skills. My academic background in **geology and computer science**, coupled with specialized training in sports federation management, equips me with a unique blend of technical and organizational expertise.

Vision and Commitment

If elected, I will prioritize:

1. **Strengthening NPCs** : Enhancing governance and operational capacities, particularly in underrepresented regions, through mentorship and institutional support.
2. **Expanding Access** : Advocating for equitable funding, affordable adaptive equipment, and regional centers of excellence to level the playing field.
3. **Youth and Grassroots Development** : Mobilizing young athletes with disabilities through school programs and community initiatives.
4. **Technical Excellence** : Elevating coaching standards and organizing training seminars for referees, classifiers, and technical staff.
5. **Clean Sport** : Upholding integrity by combating doping and promoting ethical practices.
6. **Global Representation** : Ensuring the voices of the Global South are heard in IPC decision-making.

A Call to Action

My journey from Para athlete to leader has taught me that sport transforms lives. I am driven by the belief that **every athlete, regardless of geography or economic status, deserves the chance to thrive**. With your support, I will work tirelessly to build a more inclusive, equitable, and dynamic Paralympic Movement.

Together, we can empower the next generation and redefine what's possible.

Hamid EL AOUNI

President, Moroccan NPC

Vice President, World Amputee Football Federation (WAFF)

Secretary General, Virtus Africa

Administrator, National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water (Morocco)

4.7 KURT FEARNLEY

<p>Nationality: Australian</p> <p>Nominating bodies: Paralympics Australia</p> <p>Current role: Nil</p>	
<p>Instagram</p> <p>X</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am an Australian Paralympian, former wheelchair athlete, athlete representative and governance leader. I competed at 5 Paralympic Games, from Sydney 2000 through to Rio 2016, medalling at each and Co-Captaining the Australian team at Rio. In 2016, I was elected to the IPC Athlete Council by my peers and more recently, nominated to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee. I have held a range of governance roles, including as a director of Paralympics Australia, Commissioner of Sport Australia - the Australian Government's sport organisation and funding body, and am currently the Chair of the National Disability Insurance Agency, who oversee the distribution of more than \$45 billion AUD in annual funding to support the lives of more than 700,000 Australians with a disability. I host a Para sport dedicated podcast and have been a member of broadcast teams for the Paralympics since I retired from racing.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I know the difference that Paralympic sport makes and am the ideal candidate to contribute to the IPC Governing Board as a General Member and Vice President. The movement changed my life and I am driven to ensure that as a collective, we are able to challenge and change what it means to be a Paralympian and as a person with a disability around the world.</p> <p>I've lived the Paralympic movement as an athlete for more than 20 years, advocated for my colleagues and the movement, informally and formally as a representative on planning bodies, and have an extensive governance career, spanning Paralympic and mainstream sport, disability and foreign aid.</p> <p>I'm excited to share my experience in governance and understanding of the Paralympic movement from a variety of perspectives to successfully align the</p>	

IPC with member organisations, as well as fulfilling the IPCs own strategic priorities.

As the movement builds on the success of recent games, with athletes becoming household names and change-leaders in their own nations, I am excited to take the games to the next level as we build towards an Australian Paralympics in Brisbane 2032.

Manifesto:

I grew up in a small town of 300 people in rural Australia in the 1980s. I was just a kid who loved sport, playing and watching with my siblings, cousins, and neighbours. But while they treated me the same, I knew I was different. I used a wheelchair—and I had never played against someone like me or even seen anyone in sport, on TV, or in public life.

In my world, the only wheelchair users were temporary: it was something you used to recover from injury or were pushed around in your last few years when you couldn't walk anymore. So where did that leave me? A young, growing man who loved sport and competition but couldn't run down the field to score a goal or race on a grass track to victory.

Then, one day, everything changed.

A schoolteacher introduced my classmates and me to wheelchair basketball. It was more than just a game—it was a revelation. For the first time, I wasn't the only one in a wheelchair. And for the first time, I had an advantage. That moment didn't just change my life. It planted a seed in my community—a new understanding of disability, ability, and inclusion.

I became an athlete, chasing excellence on the global stage. But everywhere I went, I saw the same story: people with disabilities excluded, underrepresented, and underestimated. We trained as hard as anyone. We competed fiercely. But we raced in empty stadiums, earned less, and were rarely seen. Even in sport—a place meant to level the playing field—we were still on the margins.

My personal experience in a small town in Australia had taught me: sport had the power to do more than entertain. It could transform lives, shift perceptions, and build a better world—not just for athletes with disabilities, but for everyone.

I stand for a Paralympic movement that follows this ethos - it leads change, not just reflects it.

A movement that empowers athletes to be seen, heard, and valued equally.

A movement that partners with communities to dismantle barriers and create opportunity.

A movement that refuses to settle for inclusion as an afterthought and instead puts it at the heart of everything we do.


This is my commitment:

- To champion the next generation of Paralympians, giving them the platform, recognition, and respect they deserve.
- To work collaboratively—with IPC members, stakeholders, media, athletes, and communities—to drive meaningful progress.
- To ensure that through LA 2028 and into Brisbane 2032, we're not just growing the Games—we're growing a movement that changes lives.

The Paralympic movement changed mine.

Now, I dedicate myself to helping it continue to change the world.

4.8 CHELSEY GOTELL

<p>Nationality: Canada</p> <p>Nominating bodies: NPC Canada and World Boccia</p> <p>Current role:</p> <p>Member at Large, IPC Governing Board</p> <p>International Representative, Canadian Paralympic Committee</p> <p>Member, World Para Sport Unit Board</p> <p>Member, IPC Membership Engagement Committee</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Website</p> <p>Facebook</p> <p>Instagram</p> <p>LinkedIn</p> <p>X</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am a strategic leader, builder, and relentless advocate for equity and excellence in the Paralympic Movement. With 25 years of lived experience—as a three-time Paralympian, 12-time medallist, sport administrator, coach, and governance leader—I bring deep insight, steady leadership, and a bold vision for our future.</p> <p>As a professional Osteopath and clinic owner, I know that performance stems from a foundation of well-being. I lead with a people-first lens and draw on strategic and operational experience across sport management, communications, governance, and Games delivery.</p> <p>I've served nine years on the IPC Governing Board—as Member at Large and Chair of the Athletes' Council—and on the CPC Board since 2016, bringing trust and continuity.</p> <p>I've driven policy change, supported member nations, empowered athlete leaders, and championed inclusive systems. I lead with purpose, challenge the status quo, and work shoulder-to-shoulder with others to deliver lasting, global impact.</p>	

Why should I be elected?

This is a pivotal moment for the Paralympic Movement—one that calls for leadership rooted in experience, insight, and decisive action. I'm running for Vice President to strengthen our foundation, challenge outdated systems, and build a future where every member can thrive.

As an athlete, sport administrator and board member—I know the fight to be seen, heard, and included. That journey fuels my commitment to equity and progress. I understand how personal this work is—because it's personal for me too.

As Vice President, I will work with the President, Governing Board, members and management to deliver on what matters most: credible, trusted classification, athlete pathways; and growth that supports all members—regardless of size, region, or resources. I'm committed to continuing to drive impact on the ground and across society. I'll work to expand and diversify revenue in ways that fuel programs, elevate members, and harness the power of Para sport as a force for good.

I bring global perspective and operational expertise, with the ability to navigate complexity with clarity and purpose. I've seen and lived how policy decisions affect people on the ground. I know how to bridge vision with action.

I've never shied away from (*word count exceeded*)

Manifesto:

Twenty years from now, I want every person with a disability to feel the impact of the Paralympic Movement, not just on the field of play, but in classrooms, workplaces, and communities around the world. I want the Games to represent a new global story: from exclusion to opportunity, from limitation to breakthroughs.

That means transforming the IPC into a global changemaker—one that leads by example, through courage, clarity, and deep commitment to those it serves.

My manifesto is built on six core pillars that guide our mission and values:

Sustainable Revenue Generation

We must grow our financial capacity through purpose-driven funding, long-term planning, and values-aligned partnerships. From social impact investors to high-impact donors, new revenue will enable the IPC to lead globally—while ensuring all members, regardless of size or region, can access the resources they need to succeed.

Rising Together: Supporting Members

The foundation has been built—now it's time to transform. We must support members where they are, while helping them grow through tailored tools: governance support, sustainable programs, and shared innovation. Every member must benefit from our shared success.

Strengthening Our IOC Partnership, Upholding Our Identity

The partnership between the IPC and IOC has been critical to our stability, but it, too, must evolve. With new IOC leadership, an opportunity arises to reimagine this relationship in a way that elevates both Movements. We must strengthen collaboration where goals align, while firmly protecting the IPC's independence and mission-driven priorities. We must step into our power as a global movement with unique value, insight, and impact.

Evolving the Paralympic Games Programme

To stay globally relevant, our sport and event selection process must be collaborative and aligned. Current processes leave IFs/IOSDs in a reactive position, limiting innovation and clarity. NPCs struggle to plan long-term when event inclusion is uncertain. A modernized approach will bring predictability, empower strategic planning, and allow us to co-create clear priorities with members. This will strengthen sports, support member planning, and ensure the programme reflects the diversity, sustainability, and excellence of the Movement.

Future-Proofing Classification


Classification is our foundation. We must set a long-term vision grounded on the principles of science, technology, and trust. With investment in global research and cross-sector expertise, we can build a system that supports classifiers, earns athlete confidence, and remains accessible and scalable across all member types.

Athlete Leadership: A Strategic Asset

The IPC must embed the untapped strength of athlete leadership into its long-term strategy—working with members to co-create sustainable, scalable pathways for athlete leadership across the Movement. This investment will future-proof our Movement through those who understand it most deeply and will carry it forward with authenticity, insight, and purpose.

This is a decisive moment in our history. The IPC has a chance to lead through change and innovation. That is the legacy I am ready to help shape as Vice President—a future where the IPC is a global force for change: driven by sport, defined by equity, and powered by a united, future-ready community.

4.9 IONNA KARYOFYLLI

<p>Nationality: Greek</p> <p>Nominating bodies: NPC Greece</p> <p>Current role: President Hellenic Paralympic Committee</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Facebook</p> <p>Instagram</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>My name is Ioanna Karyofylli and I am the President of the Hellenic Paralympic Committee. Who I am has been shaped not by titles but by moments of challenge, responsibility and deep human connection, I am committed to inclusion, social change, and authentic expression. My journey has been shaped by both personal experience and collective struggle – especially through my active role in advocating for the rights and visibility of people with disabilities, and promoting diversity in all its forms.</p> <p>My work has contributed meaningfully to the development of the Paralympic Movement, helping build spaces where accessibility, dignity, and equity are not just goals but shared responsibilities.</p> <p>I see identity as something fluid – a mix of lived experiences, evolving values, and chosen commitments. Through creativity, community, and critical reflection, I strive to live and act with care, depth, and accountability. I believe in advancing a movement where ability knows no limits.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I believe I should be elected because I bring a voice rooted in lived experience, long-term strong commitment to inclusion and justice. I have consistently worked to amplify underrepresented perspectives, particularly those of people with disabilities, and to create more accessible, equitable, and athlete-centered structures within our communities.</p> <p>My contribution is not only personal but also collective: I have helped grow the disability inclusion movement in Greece, challenging both visible and invisible</p>	

barriers. I know what it means to push forward in spaces that weren't designed for us – and I know how to help transform them.

Beyond advocacy, I also bring strong organizational skills, the ability to collaborate across differences, and a clear vision for how culture, policy, and sports can work together.

I don't believe in leadership that speaks from above, but in leadership that listens, connects, and empowers. My goal is not to represent just myself, but to carry forward the energy, ideas, and demands of the Athletes.

If elected, I will approach this role with dedication, responsibility, and care – and I will continue working to ensure that no Athlete is left behind in the narratives we build for the future.

Manifesto:

Dear Paralympic Friends,

It is my great honor to stand as the Hellenic Paralympic Committee's candidate for the IPC Governing Board.

For more than 30 years, I have devoted myself to advancing the values of the Paralympic Movement – from grassroots advocacy to international leadership. My journey has taken me from a volunteer in disability sport to serving in key leadership roles, including President, Secretary General, and member of the NPC Greece Governing Board. I have worked tirelessly to promote inclusion, equal access, and dignity in sport for all.

A defining chapter of this journey was my role as General Manager of the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games. Together with an extraordinary team, we delivered one of the most inclusive and impactful Paralympic Games in history. For the first time, no participation fees were charged to athletes. Olympic and Paralympic athletes, along with IOC and IPC members, were treated with equal status. That milestone set a precedent for equity that continues to shape my vision: a movement where no athlete is left behind, and no effort is wasted in the pursuit of respect, excellence, and fairness.

Dear friends,

The Paralympic Movement today stands at a critical juncture – of global recognition, growing responsibility, and renewed opportunity. If elected to the IPC Governing Board, I will bring with me not only my institutional experience in public administration and sports governance, but also my unwavering commitment to athlete-centered policy and ethical leadership. I have been honored to organize and contribute to IPC and EPC General Assemblies, World and European Para Championships, and multiple international summits

focused on the future of Paralympic sport.

I understand both the operational and financial challenges facing our community. But I also believe in solutions built through transparency, collaboration, and strategic innovation. As the world evolves, the IPC must lead – not follow – in reimagining what inclusive, empowering, and sustainable sport systems can look like.

My vision is clear:

A truly inclusive IPC that reflects the voices and realities of all athletes, across all regions

A strong support system for under-resourced NPCs, ensuring that every athlete, regardless of geography or background, has a fair shot

A bold commitment to gender equity, youth development, and the visibility of women in Para sport

The integration of education, ethics, and social justice into every layer of policy and practice

Paralympic sport is not just competition – it is a vehicle for transformation, human dignity, and connection. It changes lives, changes attitudes, and – if led with vision – can change the world.

If you place your trust in me, I pledge to be a bridge between tradition and progress, local realities and global aspirations. I will listen, act and serve – always guided by the values that brought me here: integrity, equity, and hope.

Please feel free to reach out to me at (removed) or call me directly at (removed). I welcome your ideas, questions, and partnership.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Yours sincerely,

Ioanna Karyofylli

NPC GREECE President, NOMINATED Member at Large for the IPC GB

4.10 LEILA MARQUES MOTA

<p>Nationality: Portuguese</p> <p>Nominating bodies: NPC Portugal</p> <p>Current role: NPC Portugal Vice-President</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Instagram</p> <p>LinkedIn</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>A self-driven, professional, and hardworking woman, passionate about sport and medicine. I hold a degree in Medicine from the University of Lisbon. I'm a Graduate Assistant in General Practice and Family Medicine, and I hold a Postgraduate Diploma in Sports Medicine from the IOC.</p> <p>As a Paralympic swimmer (four-time Paralympian: Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000, Athens 2004, and Beijing 2008), I've learned from an early age the value of consistency, goal-setting, and teamwork. My organizational, management, and leadership skills led to my appointment as Chef de Mission of the Portuguese National Team at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.</p> <p>Currently, Currently, I hold the position of Vice-President of the Portuguese Paralympic Committee, with a strong commitment to athletes and the development of the Paralympic Movement. I also serve on the Executive and Directors Board of the Portuguese Sports Foundation.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I bring a unique combination of lived experience, professional expertise, and deep commitment to the Paralympic Movement. As a four-time Paralympian and a medical doctor specialized in Sports Medicine, I understand firsthand the challenges athletes face both on and off the field. This journey has shaped me into a resilient and purpose-driven leader.</p> <p>Currently serving as Vice-President of the Portuguese Paralympic Committee and board member of the Portuguese Sports Foundation, I have a proven track record in inclusive leadership and strategic planning. Leading Portugal's delegation as Chef de Mission at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games strengthened my belief in athlete-centered governance.</p> <p>I am a strong advocate for integrity, transparency, and collective progress. My motivation to serve is rooted in gratitude for the Movement that shaped my life</p>	

and in a vision of a future where every athlete is seen, heard, and truly empowered.

I offer not only experience and knowledge, but also a genuine commitment to contribute meaningfully – with energy, courage, and a strong sense of purpose. I am ready to listen, to act, and to help lead with heart and determination.

Manifesto:

My candidacy for Vice-President of the International Paralympic Committee is guided by three core principles: **Inclusion, Innovation, and Global Impact.**

As a four-time Paralympian, medical doctor, and dedicated sports leader, I bring a comprehensive and intersectional perspective to the future of the Paralympic Movement. My path – from elite athlete to national and institutional leadership – has shaped a deep commitment to equity, athlete empowerment, and transformational change.

I currently serve as Vice-President of the Portuguese Paralympic Committee and as a board member of the Portuguese Sports Foundation. In the past, I was appointed by the Portuguese Government to coordinate the national Working Group on Gender Equality in Sport, developing public policy recommendations to promote equal opportunities. I also served as President of the Women and Sport Commission of the Portuguese Olympic Committee, leading strategic advocacy for women's inclusion in sport and leadership.

VISION

I believe in a stronger, more connected IPC, where collaboration, representation, and transparency guide every decision. My candidacy is anchored in the belief that sport must have a purpose – a vision I define through my motto:

Sport with a Purpose - every action generates impact, inclusion and inspiration.

STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS

8. Participation and Representation

- Strengthen dialogue with athletes, NPCs, regional bodies, and IFs.
- Ensure real, diverse representation across all levels of the Movement.

9. Equity and Gender Equality

- Promote participation of girls and women, especially with disabilities, in sport and governance.
- Break structural barriers and expand solidarity programmes for underrepresented regions and athletes with greater support needs.

10. Classification Integrity

- Invest in scientific research, innovation, and training to ensure fair, transparent, and globally accessible classification systems.

11. Athlete Wellbeing and Dual Careers

- Prioritize mental health, holistic development, and transition support for athletes beyond competition.

12. Innovation, Communication and Partnerships

- Use digital tools and global partnerships to increase reach, visibility, and resources for the Paralympic Movement.

13. Sustainable Development and Legacy

- Promote environmentally responsible practices and lasting impact in local communities.

14. Good Governance and Ethics


- Champion transparency, accountability, and athlete protection through ethical, data-informed leadership.

FINAL COMMITMENT

I am ready to serve the Paralympic Movement with experience, empathy, and strategic vision. Together, we can ensure **every athlete is seen, every voice is valued, and every decision truly makes a difference.**

Let us lead with purpose – because every action matters.

4.11 MIKI MATHESON

<p>Nationality: Japan</p> <p>Nominating bodies: Japanese Paralympic Committee</p> <p>Current role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Governing Board Member of the International Paralympic Committee -Steering Committee member of the Japanese Paralympic Committee -DEI Consultant 	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>LinkedIn</p> <p>X</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am a Paralympic gold medallist from the Nagano 1998 Winter Games, in Ice Sledge Speed Racing. Over the past 20 years, I have worked as an athlete, journalist, advocate, and leader committed to promoting equity, youth participation, and access in Para sport.</p> <p>As Project Manager of the Japanese Paralympic Committee's school-based education programme, I collaborate with local and national partners to promote inclusion across Japan. I have contributed to social change through the power of Para athletes—shifting perceptions, influencing policy, and empowering communities in Japan and globally.</p> <p>I serve on the IPC Governing Board and have held positions on the Education Committees of both the IPC and the IOC, as well as contributed to UN disability and sport initiatives.</p> <p>My lived experience as a Paralympian, educator, mother, and long-time advocate provides me with a holistic perspective—balancing elite performance with sustainable growth, integrity, and social impact.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I am who I am today because of the Paralympic Movement. It gave me the chance to compete, grow, and develop the vision needed to build a more inclusive society. Now, I want to give back by helping lead its future.</p> <p>As an athlete, educator, and advocate, I bring a unique blend of lived experience and leadership. I have developed educational programs, mentored young athletes, and worked to break down barriers in underserved communities. I understand the operational, social, and cultural dynamics that influence sport at every level.</p>	

If elected, I will promote initiatives that amplify athlete voices, strengthen regional equity, and create sustainable, inclusive pathways for the next generation.

Ahead of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, I represented Japan at the International Disability Inclusion Conference, co-hosted by the IPC and UNESCO. Building on that experience, I am committed to advancing Para sport as a force for social change—through ethical leadership and meaningful partnerships. The IPC plays a vital role in leading by example. With experience, empathy, and an action-oriented mindset, I will help connect people and regions and advance bold, inclusive progress within the global Paralympic Movement.

Manifesto:

The Paralympic Movement is more than a platform for sporting excellence. It is because of that excellence that we can drive social change, inclusion, and empowerment. Para sport has the power to transform systems, challenge perceptions, and leave a lasting legacy in communities around the world. That is the true strength of our Movement.

This vision aligns with the IPC's mission: to support members, elevate athletes, and lead with lasting impact.

If elected, I will focus on three key areas:

1. Youth Engagement

The future of our Movement depends on young people. All youth—especially those with disabilities—must be able to see themselves in sport and feel they belong.

As an educator and programme leader, I will:

- Support inclusive teaching initiatives
- Foster school collaborations
- Share best practices for youth engagement in Para sport

I will also promote **mentoring structures** that connect young people with athlete and leadership role models in their communities. With attention to cultural and regional context, I will help create **accessible pathways** that uplift individuals and entire communities.

2. Regional Equity

Despite progress, many regions still face limited access to resources, infrastructure, and opportunities. I will:

- Listen to underrepresented communities
- Help create platforms for their voices
- Encourage collaboration across member organisations

By sharing knowledge and building partnerships, we can ensure that **everyone—regardless of geography—has the opportunity to grow, lead, and compete** through Para sport.

3. Games Legacy and Sustainability

The Paralympic Games are the pinnacle of our Movement, but their value must extend beyond the field of play. While legacy planning is now included from the early stages, its success depends on **ongoing commitment and shared ownership**.

I will work closely with Organising Committees—not just to advocate, but to **co-develop meaningful, realistic, and inclusive legacy goals** that align with community needs.


Legacy must not be symbolic. It must result in accessible infrastructure, inclusive programmes, and long-term social impact. I will also support innovative, sustainable approaches that reduce environmental burdens and strengthen the global credibility of the Movement.

These priorities align with the IPC's strategic goals: **supporting members and athletes, delivering transformative Games, and driving impact through Para sport**. They are also deeply personal.

As a Paralympic gold medallist, educator, and advocate for disability inclusion, I have seen this Movement from many angles. My journey - from searching for belonging as an athlete to building inclusive systems as a leader - drives my belief in ethical governance, athlete-centred leadership, and collaboration that amplifies diverse voices.

I offer my experience, passion, and full commitment to helping the Paralympic Movement move forward with excellence, equity, and empathy at its core.


4.12 MING-CHU MU

<p>Nationality: Republic of China (Taiwan)</p> <p>Nominating bodies: Chinese Taipei Paralympic Committee</p> <p>Current role: President</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am President of the Chinese Taipei Paralympic Committee (CTPC) since 2019 and had served two terms as CTPC President from 1992 to 2000. I am also President of the Chinese Taipei Wheelchair Basketball Association since 2017. Meanwhile, I was elected into the APC Executive Board as Chairperson of the Women in Sport Committee in November 2023. For the past decades, in addition to involving myself in the Paralympic Movement, I am also committed to the well-being and welfare of the disabled, women, underprivileged schoolchildren and single-parent families in various capacities. For instance, I served two terms as a member of the National Legislative Yuan (the unicameral legislature of my country, equivalent to the US Senate) from 1999 to 2005, when I was involved in the National Legislation and amendment of laws, including the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Mental or Physical Disabilities Act and the Workplace Gender <i>(word count exceeded)</i></p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I've been working for the cause of the Paralympic Movement for some time. But the reach and impact of my undertakings are more or less confined to my own country. That is why I ran for Chairperson of the APC Women in Sport Committee and got elected in 2023. But I'd like to devote my passion, skills and knowledge to benefit the Paralympic Movement in an even greater extent and a broader scope that covers not only Asia but the whole world. I see joining the IPC Governing Board as the best way to achieve that goal.</p>	

Manifesto:

- Fulfilling the IPC vision of making for a more inclusive world through Para sport by working within the IPC Governing Board, as well as with NPCs, IFs, ROs and IOSDs.
- Remembering Sir Ludwig Guttman's noble cause, the Stoke Mandeville Games and the history of the Paralympic Games by organizing activities and events to raise awareness of the public and reminding our Para athletes, coaches and administrators of where they came from.
- Developing and sharing best practices in each aspect of the advancing of the Paralympic Movement; strengthening exchanges and cooperation between and among the IPC, NPCs, IFs, ROs and IOSDs.
- Optimizing IPC membership engagement by relocating/ posting membership engagement coordinators to the sub-regions that they are responsible for, which would help them better understand their sub-regions and offer better service to their sub-regional clients.
- Calling on more NPCs, IFs, ROs and IOSDs to sign the Brighton plus Helsinki 2014 Declaration on Women and Sport; drawing lessons from the International Working Group on Women and Sport reports when pushing forward with gender equality in Para sports.

4.13 DIEUDONNE MUTANGANA

<p>Nationality: Rwanda</p> <p>Nominating bodies: National Paralympic Committee of Rwanda (NPC Rwanda)</p> <p>Current role: Secretary-General, National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Rwanda</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Facebook</p> <p>LinkedIn</p> <p>X</p> <p>YouTube</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am a dedicated disability rights advocate with over 20 years of experience in the Paralympic Movement. As a pioneer, I founded the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Rwanda, leveraging sport as a platform to advance disability rights. My career is a unique blend of academic and sports leadership; I hold a PhD in Biotechnology and serve as an Associate Professor at the University of Rwanda, while also leading as the Secretary-General of both the NPC Rwanda and the National Union of Disabilities Organizations of Rwanda (NUDOR). My direct experience as a Para athlete since 2001 and a coach for over 10 years provides me with a deep, personal understanding of the movement. This multifaceted journey, driven by a commitment to scientific innovation and social justice, has shaped me into a proven leader dedicated to fostering a more inclusive society</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I offer a unique 360-degree perspective as an athlete, coach, and administrator who has built the Paralympic Movement from the ground up. My proven leadership in founding NPC Rwanda and heading a national disability NGO directly supports the IPC's goal to "Collaborate with members in advancing their organisational strengths and capabilities".</p> <p>My scientific background in Biotechnology provides a data-driven mindset to "Innovate systems, processes and capabilities" across the Movement. I turn vision into reality, as demonstrated by guiding Rwanda's Women's Sitting</p>	

Volleyball team to their historic Paris 2024 qualification. This achievement is a testament to creating "optimal conditions for a diverse group of Paralympic athletes and members to achieve excellence".

I am prepared to apply this blend of grassroots experience, scientific innovation, and proven results to the IPC Governing Board to drive global growth and social inclusion

Manifesto:

My vision for the IPC is for it to be a dynamic and inclusive global force, relentlessly driving social transformation through the power of Para sport, underpinned by technological innovation and sustainable growth. I envision an IPC that champions athletic excellence while truly reflecting the diverse voices and aspirations of people with disabilities worldwide. To achieve this, I will focus on four strategic priorities that are in the lockstep with the IPC's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan:


1. **Serve Our Members and Athletes by Accelerating Grassroots Development and Athlete Pathways:** The Movement's strength lies in its accessibility. I will champion increased investment and support for emerging regions, particularly in Africa, aligning with the IPC's goal to "Collaborate with members in advancing their organizational strengths and capabilities in order to serve Para athletes". My experience founding NPC Rwanda from the ground up and guiding our team to the Paris 2024 Games demonstrates that targeted development yields historic results. I will advocate for robust, sustainable programs that create clear pathways for athletes from local communities to the Paralympic stage.
2. **Showcase Athlete Excellence by Leveraging Digital Transformation and Data-Driven Strategies:** The future of sport lies in technology. My background in Bioinformatics provides a unique perspective on harnessing data to "Increase global engagement and understanding of the Paralympic Games". I will promote the use of data science for enhancing athlete performance, ensuring classification accuracy through the continued development of the "IPC Classification Code", and creating engaging digital content that expands our global fanbase and creates new revenue opportunities.
3. **Drive Impact Through Para Sport and Enhance Financial Sustainability:** To secure the IPC's future, we must "innovate financial resource streams to drive organization and member advancement". My experience as a Head of Department at the University of Rwanda involved creating strategies to secure additional income, and as Secretary-General of NUDOR, I have direct experience with the non-profit funding landscape. I will bring this experience to the board to explore new commercial

ventures and partnerships that ensure the IPC's long-term financial health. As the IPC's motto states, "*Change Starts With Sport*," and by strengthening our financial base, we can better "leverage the IPC's influence in advancing disability inclusion".

4. **Strengthening Global Advocacy by Building a Professional and Collaborative Organization:** Our most powerful tool for social change is the stories of our athletes. With over 20 years as a dedicated disability rights advocate, I am skilled in using sport as a platform to challenge perceptions and advocate for systemic change. I will work to amplify these narratives globally, ensuring the IPC's voice is a leading force in the global conversation on human rights and inclusion. This aligns with the IPC's goal to "support members in their efforts as catalysts for social change for people with disabilities" and to "continue to build a professional organization that rigorously pursues excellence in service of the Paralympic Movement".

My candidacy offers a unique blend of lived experience, proven leadership, and scientific acumen to help realize this vision.

4.14 KARL QUADE

<p>Nationality: German</p> <p>Nominating bodies: NPC Germany</p> <p>Current role: Vice President Top-Level Sport</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>Following my studies in Physical Education, I completed a PhD in Biomechanics and Training Theory. My academic work focused on prosthetics in sport, especially track and field events.</p> <p>For 32 years, I held positions at the Federal Institute of Sport Science and later within the Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>As a three-time Paralympian and later as a sports official, I want to contribute my experience to the Governing Board.</p> <p>From 1996 to 2024, I was Germany's Chef de Mission at the Paralympic Games. I spent five years as a member of the IPC Paralympic Games Committee and held a Board position within the European Paralympic Committee.</p> <p>For the German National Paralympic Committee, I played a key role in establishing the high-performance sport system for athletes with disabilities. This included developing frameworks for dual careers, training centers, etc.. I have also been deeply committed to ensuring integrity in classification practices.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I am a former Head of Department in Germany's Federal Ministry of the Interior, where I focused on supporting countries in hosting major sporting events, with a strong emphasis on integrity and good governance. My role involved close collaboration with Olympic sport and addressed the growing economic and environmental challenges of large-scale events. I believe that such events must be held globally to foster development and inclusion, especially within the Paralympic movement.</p>	

Paralympic sport is gaining greater public attention, and its visibility is vital for the financial sustainability of athletes and organizations. As the commercial value of the sport increases, fair and technically sound classification becomes even more critical. The future of Paralympic classification must uphold the highest ethical and technical standards.

I am committed to contributing my experience to the IPC, supporting its mission, and helping to strengthen Paralympic sport worldwide.

Manifesto:

What do I stand for?

With decades of experience as both a Paralympic athlete and official, I am committed to contributing my knowledge and dedication to the IPC Governing Board. The IPC is an athlete-centered organization, and I understand firsthand the needs and challenges of athletes. In Germany, I helped build the high-performance sport system for athletes with disabilities, including structures for dual careers and training centers—experience I now wish to bring to the global level.


International sport faces serious challenges, including corruption in the awarding of major events and misuse of TV rights. The IPC has the potential to be a stabilizing force and a role model for integrity and good governance across all sports federations. It also plays a critical role in advancing inclusion, as shown by initiatives like #WeThe15.

As a former official in Germany's Ministry of the Interior, I worked to help more countries host major sporting events while emphasizing transparency and ethical standards. If elected, I will step down from my current role as Chef de Mission.

Why should I be elected?

As a Paralympian (1984, 1988, 1992) and gold medalist with Germany's volleyball team in Seoul 1988, I bring deep experience to this role. I have served as Germany's Chef de Mission at every Paralympics from 1996 to 2024 and was honored with the 2007 Paralympic Sport Award for Exemplary Games Official. I'm ready to continue serving the Paralympic movement at the highest level.

4.15 JOHN PETERSSON

<p>Nationality: Denmark</p> <p>Nominating bodies: NPC Denmark</p> <p>Current role: President NPC Denmark and IPC Governing Board Member</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Facebook</p> <p>LinkedIn</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I have been involved with Para sports since 1982, first and foremost as an athlete, a Para swimmer, and a proud Paralympian. At the 1984 Paralympic Games in New York, at the age of 14, I was able to win the first of 15 Paralympic medals.</p> <p>Following the retirement after the Paralympic Games in Sydney 2000, I chose to further dedicate myself to the continued development of the great Paralympic movement. I have proudly served the movement internationally as an IPC Governing Member, Chairperson of the IPC Regions Council, Chairperson of the Supervisory Board of the Agitos Foundation and President of the European Paralympic Committee.</p> <p>In 2018, I was elected President of the Executive Committee of Parasport Danmark (NPC Denmark) after serving as vice-president since 2005, and I understand the great opportunities as well as the challenges of being a smaller part of the growing Paralympic Family.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>Born in 1970 with impairment, I have lived with and continue to face the barriers of inclusion, and I am as determined as ever to change the way the world perceives and reacts to people with disabilities.</p> <p>For over 40 years, I have been at the forefront of the Paralympic Movement. I have witnessed and played my part in the incredible evolution of Para sport and the development of our Paralympic family.</p> <p>There is, however, still much more work to do to continue along this exciting path, that we have set for ourselves. We must do even more to ensure that no member, no sport, and no athletes are disregarded or left behind, and that the</p>	

strength of the IPC benefits regional and national development to an even greater degree.

But we must also look outside our immediate family. Change starts with sport, and I believe the IPC has an important role to play in breaking down the barriers of inclusion around the world.

Manifesto:

As a member of the IPC Governing Board, I will be a strong voice for:

Fairness

The Paralympic Games are arguably the highlight of our Movement, showcasing the sporting excellence of our athletes and inspiring people all over the world. As the Games continue to expand in reach and scope, we must do everything to protect the reputation and secure a high level of fairness in the competitions. To that end, we need an athlete-focused classification system and constant vigilance in our common fight against doping and cheating.

Breaking down barriers and ending discrimination

Together, we can break down the barriers that keep us apart. The WeThe15 campaign will continue to unite people with disabilities all around the world in a single human rights movement with a common goal: Social inclusion, disability visibility and accessibility.

The IPC must continue to champion the cause over the next decade, bringing governments, businesses, and the public together to create enduring change.

Youth development

The development of young athletes and role models is for me at the very heart of our Paralympic Movement, and the IPC should continue to play a very active role in supporting and encouraging youth development and athlete pathways everywhere.

Our first aim must always be to provide the best possible support for our athletes, and we have a big responsibility to protect especially the younger generations. I consider sport a basic right for every child – no matter their ability or where they live in the world. Therefore, I want the IPC to actively support NPCs in championing youth development.

Togetherness

I will work for an IPC development that is driven by a balanced interaction with no member left behind. Our Paralympic Family is a family for all, and we must acknowledge the diversity of our member organizations, athletes, and sports.

To that end, I consider the Regional Organizations an asset within the structure of the IPC, and it is integral that their efforts are commended and supported as


they continue to play a key part in organizing regional sporting events, coordinating development activities, and providing support to the IPC members in the respective regions.

Strength through unity

As President of NPC Denmark, I have worked to establish strong relations with the Danish Olympic Committee, and an important milestone in the partnership has been achieving equal rights and possibilities between Paralympians and Olympians.

Internationally, I am very happy to see that the relationship between the IPC and the IOC is also on the right path. I believe that it is very important that we continue to strengthen the alliance, adding value to all stakeholders and benefitting all IPC members.

4.16 ILGAR RAHIMOV

<p>Nationality: Azerbaijani</p> <p>Nominating bodies: International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA)</p> <p>Current role: IBSA President</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>X</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I was born on (removed) 1964, in Baku, Azerbaijan. I hold a degree in economics and have dedicated over three decades to public service, including roles in the Ministry of Finance, the Presidential Administration, and as Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection. Throughout my career, I focused on policies promoting inclusion, accessibility, and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. In 1996, I founded the National Paralympic Committee of Azerbaijan and led it until 2023. In 2003, under my leadership, the world's first Children's Paralympic Committee was established. Azerbaijan's national team achieved historic results, including a top-10 finish at the Tokyo Paralympic Games. In 2020, I also founded the national Abilympics Committee. Since 2021, I have served as Vice President of IBSA, and in 2023, I was elected President. I bring extensive international cooperation experience and believe that true leadership is based on trust, respect, and service.</p>	
<p>Why You Should Elect Me?</p> <p>I believe true leadership is built on responsibility, honesty, and open dialogue. It is not about personal ambition, but about service – listening, understanding, and taking action. You should elect me because I am ready to represent all regions and athletes, especially those who are too often underrepresented or unheard. Every voice matters, and every contribution strengthens our movement.</p> <p>My experience in the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) has taught me the value of inclusion, fairness, and shared responsibility. I have worked closely with athletes, national federations, and partners from across the world to improve access, equality, and opportunity in sport. I understand the challenges</p>	

many regions face, and I am committed to addressing them through concrete, realistic solutions.

I will advocate for transparent and fair financial mechanisms, including revenue-sharing from broadcasting and sponsorship, to ensure that resources support those who need them most. I will be a working, contributing member of the IPC Governing Board – ready to listen, engage, and act.

If you place your trust in me, I will serve with dedication, humility, and purpose.

**Together, we can build a movement that truly represents all.
Every Voice – One Movement**

Manifesto:

Sport is not just about medals or records. It is a universal language that unites people across borders, backgrounds, and abilities. It inspires individuals, connects communities, and has the power to transform society. The Paralympic Movement represents the highest expression of these values – and my mission is to help ensure it grows stronger, fairer, and more inclusive for all.

I believe in a Paralympic Movement where no region, no athlete, and no voice is left behind. That means more than visibility; it means meaningful support. A central priority for me is regional development – especially in areas where access to sport and resources is still limited. These regions don't need charity – they need inclusion, collaboration, and long-term investment. Together, we can build pathways where more athletes from underrepresented regions rise to the global stage.

Fairness is not only about access to sport, but also about how we manage and share our resources. I strongly support greater transparency in financial matters, including revenue generated from broadcasting and sponsorship. These funds should be distributed in ways that strengthen national programs, support emerging sports, and empower all athletes to compete with dignity and pride.

But policies alone are not enough. We need open and honest dialogue – not only within the IPC Governing Board, but with the wider community. I see listening as the foundation of good leadership. I want to engage with you – athletes, federations, NPCs, staff, volunteers – to better understand your challenges and ideas. I do not pretend to have all the answers. But I promise to ask the right questions, to act when needed, and to always lead with integrity and respect.

My leadership style is collaborative. I believe that diverse voices lead to stronger decisions. We must reflect the richness of our global community – and that includes people with different experiences, from different countries, with different needs. True representation is more than symbolic; it must be effective, consistent, and proactive.


As a current President of IBSA and someone who has worked in both sport and government for decades, I bring experience – but more importantly, I bring perspective. I've seen how policy can shape opportunity, how inclusion can transform lives, and how sport can become a tool for national pride, social change, and personal growth.

If elected, I will devote my full energy to strengthening the Paralympic Movement – not through slogans, but through action. I will work to ensure that every athlete, every federation, and every member of our community feels seen, heard, and valued.

Let us build a future together where access, fairness, and excellence are not privileges, but principles. Let us lead with unity, and grow with purpose.

Every Voice – One Movement

4.17 MILOS RANITOVIC

<p>Nationality: Montenegro</p> <p>Nominating bodies: Paralympic Committee of Montenegro</p> <p>Current role: Secretary General at the Paralympic Committee of Montenegro</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Facebook</p> <p>Instagram</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>As an active Para athlete Para sport has shaped my identity and been far more than just a passion – it has been a powerful teacher. Through years of dedication, I've learned the values of discipline, resilience, and hard work, as well as how to approach challenges with a solutions-focused mindset. It has taught me how to persevere through adversity and grow from it. At the same time, Para sport has connected me with people from all walks of life, helping me develop the ability to communicate with and understand a wide range of personalities. These experiences have strengthened my empathy, adaptability, and confidence – qualities that define me not only as an athlete, but as a person.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I believe I offer a unique and valuable perspective to the IPC Governing Board combining the energy of a young leader with the lived experience of a Para athlete. Having competed in Para sport, I understand the challenges athletes face, both on and off the field, and the transformative impact of the Paralympic Movement in breaking down barriers and shaping more inclusive societies.</p> <p>My engagement extends beyond competition. I've actively contributed to organizing Para sport events and promoting inclusive opportunities at all levels. As a youth leader within the Paralympic Committee of Montenegro, I've worked to create more accessible environments and empower persons with disabilities through sport.</p> <p>This work is rooted in a strong commitment to human rights. I see sport not only as a platform for excellence, but as a tool to advocate for dignity, equality, and</p>	

full societal participation. The core values of the Paralympic Movement courage, determination, inspiration, and equality align deeply with this mission.

As a representative from a smaller NPC, I bring the voice of underrepresented regions. I am ready to contribute to a more inclusive, athlete-centered future, ensuring the Paralympic Movement continues to grow in equity, opportunity, and impact worldwide.

Manifesto:

As a Para athlete and active member of the Paralympic Movement, I have experienced firsthand how sport can shape character, provide direction, and open doors to opportunities that once seemed out of reach. I am committed to creating systems that make sport accessible to all persons with disabilities, regardless of their background, level of impairment, or stage in life.

I believe that sport is not only about performance or medals it is a powerful driver of self-development, empowerment, and social transformation. My mission is to help the public understand that Para sport is not charity it is competitive, dynamic, and inspiring. By raising awareness and **visibility of Para sport**, we can challenge outdated perceptions and foster greater respect, inclusion, and support for athletes with disabilities.


Promoting sport for persons with disabilities goes hand in hand with **protecting and advancing their human rights**. Participation in sport should be an elementary right, not a privilege. Every person, regardless of geography or background, should have access to safe, inclusive, and well-structured environments that allow them to grow not only as athletes, but as people. Everyone deserves a chance to discover their potential, to belong to a community, and to thrive through sport in all parts of the world.

Through leadership, advocacy, and collaboration, I want to help shape a future where **Para sport is recognized as an integral part of society not an exception**, but the standard norm. A future where persons with disabilities are not just included, but fully represented, empowered, and celebrated.

If given the opportunity I would focus on both grassroots and elite levels. I would advocate for programs that bring more people with disabilities into sport, especially in underrepresented and rural areas. On the other, I would support initiatives that raise the standards of high-performance Para sport and ensure athletes receive the recognition and resources they deserve and most adequate conditions to practice.

This is the vision I bring, and the work I am committed to continuing through my whole career.

4.18 MAJID RASHED

<p>Nationality: United Arab Emirates</p> <p>Nominating bodies: NPC UAE</p> <p>Current role: President of the Asian Paralympic Committee and Governing Board Member of the International Paralympic Committee</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Instagram</p> <p>TikTok</p> <p>X</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am Majid Rashed, President of the Asian Paralympic Committee and a Board Member of the International Paralympic Committee.</p> <p>My journey began as a national Para athlete, which inspired my lifelong dedication to advancing the rights and opportunities of persons with disabilities through sport. Over the past years, I have led initiatives to strengthen Para sport structures across Asia, championed inclusive policies, and forged strong partnerships with governments, international organizations, and the private sector. I have also played a key role in developing athlete-focused programs, supporting grassroots development, and enhancing the visibility of the Paralympic Movement in the region.</p> <p>I am a leader who listens, a bridge-builder who values collaboration, and a passionate believer in a more inclusive future – one where athletes with disabilities are celebrated, supported, and given every chance to succeed.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I believe I should be elected because I bring a unique combination of personal experience, proven leadership, and a strong commitment to advancing the Paralympic Movement at all levels. Having started my journey as a Para athlete, I deeply understand the challenges and aspirations of athletes with disabilities. This perspective fuels my passion to create an inclusive sporting environment that empowers athletes to reach their full potential.</p> <p>As President of the Asian Paralympic Committee and a Board Member of the International Paralympic Committee, I have successfully led initiatives that</p>	

strengthen governance, enhance athlete development programs, and promote the values of fairness, equality, and integrity across Asia. I have worked closely with National Paralympic Committees, governments, and partners to build sustainable support systems and increase visibility for Para sports.

My leadership style is collaborative and transparent, always focused on listening to athletes and stakeholders to make informed decisions. I am committed to driving innovation, improving classification systems, and advocating for greater inclusion of women and athletes with high support needs.

By electing me, you choose a dedicated advocate who will tirelessly work to grow Para sport, foster unity, and elevate the voices of all athletes in the global Paralympic community.

Manifesto:

Majid Rashed

Candidate for 2025-2029 IPC Governing Board

My manifesto for the next four years is anchored on five core pillars:

1. The Paralympic Games First: sporting excellence - women's sports - athletes with high support needs - the classification system - anti-doping - fairness.

Sporting excellence is the foundation of our Movement. To preserve the Games' integrity, we must ensure a robust classification system, clean competition, and fair opportunities for all athletes—including women and those with high support needs. I am fully committed to upholding anti-doping standards and maintaining a strong focus on athletes throughout the Paralympic cycle. Our competitions must continue to inspire by prioritising fairness and inclusivity at every level.

2. Future Generations: Inspiring youth - sustainability commitments - embracing technology and artificial intelligence.

The Paralympic Games must remain a beacon of hope and ambition, especially for young people with disabilities. I will strengthen development programmes that connect with youth on key global issues—diversity, inclusion, mental health, and sustainability. I will support the use of AI and technology to modernise sport delivery and talent identification. Since 2009, the Youth Para Games in Asia have become the world's largest sustainable youth multisport event. These young athletes are not just our future—they are already reshaping our Movement.

3. Athletes at the Centre: Wellbeing - secure retirement - involvement in the decision making - enjoying the games experience.

Athletes are the heart of the Paralympic Movement. Their well-being—mental, physical, and financial—must be supported at all stages of their journey. I will expand programmes to prepare athletes for life beyond competition and ensure their active participation in all decisions that affect them. No policy should be made without their input. Their voice must shape the future of the Movement.


4. Financial Stability: New resources - smart partnerships - increase our brand awareness.

To sustain and elevate the Paralympic Games, we must grow our financial resources and global reach. With the sports market expected to hit \$700 billion by 2028, we must transform sponsorships into strategic partnerships rooted in shared values. I will advocate for smarter, long-term collaborations and enhanced digital engagement. By listening to our audiences and engaging meaningfully with partners, we can unlock new opportunities—particularly in Asia and Africa—where our message can grow and resonate more deeply.

5. Empowerment: of all the IPC Members, athletes and Strategic Partners.

Unity and inclusion are vital to the strength of our Movement. Members have voiced concern over centralised decision-making. I will lead efforts to democratise our governance model, ensuring all IPC members—regardless of impairment, gender, region, or background—have a voice in shaping the future. Transparency, dialogue, and true collaboration will guide us forward. Only by working together can we realise our full potential.

4.19 FERNANDO RIAÑO

<p>Nationality: Spanish</p> <p>Nominating bodies: Spanish Paralympic Committee</p> <p>Current role: Head of International and Sustainability Affairs at the Spanish Paralympic Committee.</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>LinkedIn</p> <p>X</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am Fernando Riaño, dedicated to inclusion, sports, sustainability, and the international representation of people with disabilities. I am happily married and with three children. I hold a Law degree and an MBA. I have dedicated my career to institutional relations, sustainability, and strategic management in complex and multicultural environments, including the sporting world. I serve as the Head of International and Sustainability Affairs at the Spanish Paralympic Committee and as Director of Institutional Relations and Sustainability at ONCE Social Group. I combine these roles with that of First Vice President of the World Blind Union (finishing my term on 5th of September 2025) and as Chair of the Board at the International Disability Alliance (IDA). From 2006 to 2011 I worked at Barclays Western Europe. As an athlete, I have been world champion in cross triathlon and long-distance duathlon, and seven-time champion of the Paralympic Triathlon World Cup.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>Committed to advancing the IPC's mission through inclusive leadership, international advocacy, and sustainable development. With the support of my NPC and extensive experience in global disability diplomacy—as Vice President of the World Blind Union and Chair of the Board at IDA—I bring a strategic vision to strengthen the IPC's voice in key international forums.</p> <p>I have worked closely with multilateral agencies and human rights institutions to promote inclusive policies and elevate sport as a tool for social transformation. I believe that the IPC should have a strong position and a clear</p>	

message in all bodies where decisions affecting Paralympic movement are made.

Sustainability is central to my vision. Leading initiatives through different platforms that integrate sport with environmental, social, and governance goals, proving that sport can drive systemic change.

I advocate for greater inclusion of voices from the Global South and for building strategic alliances with the private sector—not just as funders, but as partners in impact.

I believe in staying close to athletes. We must continue to expand opportunities, visibility, and autonomy for Paralympic athletes.

I offer experience, commitment, and a collaborative spirit to help shape a stronger Paralympic Movement.

Manifesto:

The International Paralympic Committee stands at a pivotal moment. As we look to the future, we must embrace a bold, inclusive, and strategic vision that strengthens our global impact and ensures that no one is left behind. The Spanish Paralympic Committee candidacy is grounded in six guiding principles that reflect this commitment:

1. International Influence

We must elevate the IPC's presence in multilateral platforms and regional networks. By becoming a more active and recognized voice in international sports policy, we can shape decisions that directly affect the Paralympic Movement. My experience in global disability diplomacy equips me to contribute meaningfully to this effort.

2. Real and Measurable Sustainability

Sustainability must be embedded in everything we do—from strategy to the Games themselves. We must align with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and support initiatives like the UN's Sports for Climate Action. Paralympic sport is uniquely positioned to highlight the social dimension of sustainability: without inclusion, sustainability is incomplete.

3. Global Justice

Athletes and committees from the Global South face structural inequalities that limit their potential. We must ensure equitable access to resources, representation, and visibility. A truly global movement must reflect the diversity of its members and actively work to close these gaps.

4. Business Dialogue

Promote a collaboration model with companies based on shared value and direct social impact. Generate synergies that benefit both the Paralympic ecosystem and the companies themselves, integrating the values of inclusion, resilience, and excellence into their corporate social responsibility strategies and brand positioning.

5. Relationship with the IOC


A stronger, balanced relationship with the International Olympic Committee is essential. We must advocate for greater equity in athlete quotas and explore new sponsorship opportunities that reflect the unique value of the Paralympic Games. This dialogue must be strategic, respectful, and focused on long-term gains for our athletes.

6. Athletes with Intellectual Disabilities.

While progress has been made, we must go further. Strengthening collaboration between the IPC, VIRTUS, National Paralympic Committees and International Federations is key to ensuring that qualification and participation opportunities are fair, transparent, and expanding. Every athlete deserves a pathway to the Games.

This manifesto is not just a vision—it is a commitment. A commitment to action, to collaboration, and to the values that define the Paralympic Movement. I believe in the power of sport to transform lives and societies. With your support, I will work tirelessly with the rest of the Team to ensure that the IPC continues to lead with purpose, integrity, and impact.

4.20 JOSE RODRIGO BEJARANO RESTREPO

<p>Nationality: Cape Verde</p> <p>Nominating bodies: Paralympic Committee of Cape Verde</p> <p>Current role: President</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Facebook</p> <p>Facebook</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am José Rodrigo Bejarano Restrepo, a global citizen born in Latin America, educated in Europe, and currently living in Africa. With over 25 years of experience advancing Paralympic sport in Africa and collaborating with other regions, I founded the movement in Cape Verde and led initiatives such as the African Para Games (2011, 2015) and the African IBSA Football-5 Championship (2017).</p> <p>Since 2010, I have integrated 30 African nations into the Paralympic family as Secretary General of the African Paralympic Committee, driven by a commitment to inclusion and equal opportunity for every athlete.</p> <p>Thanks to my international studies in sports management, I possess proven skills in financial oversight and governance. My multicultural leadership and linguistic abilities ensure collaborative and transparent dialogue. I am fully committed to serving the IPC with integrity, leveraging my experience to empower athletes and strengthen our global movement.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I should be elected because I am driven by a deep commitment to advancing the Paralympic Movement globally. My extensive leadership experience within the Movement, uniquely qualifies me for this role.</p> <p>As the Founder and President of the NPC Cape Verde and a member of the Executive Committee of the African Paralympic Committee, I have advocated for years for the inclusion and representation of athletes at international level. As Secretary General (2010-2021), I oversaw the crucial integration of 30 African</p>	

NPCs into the IPC Movement, significantly expanding its reach and recognition across the continent.

My two international master's degrees in Sports Management, provide me with a solid global perspective essential for the effective development and implementation of IPC policies. Additionally, I have proven experience in elevating the visibility of athletes by successfully organizing major events, such as the African Games in Mozambique (2011) and Congo Brazzaville (2015).

Beyond administration, I am a dedicated advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities. My passion, proven leadership in expanding representation, educational background, event management experience, and unwavering advocacy align perfectly with the IPC's mission and to serve the IPC and drive greater progress for athletes worldwide.

Manifesto:

My name is José Rodrigo Bejarano Restrepo, and I am honored to present my candidacy for Member at Large of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). With deep humility and unwavering commitment, I seek to serve the IPC, fueled by a lifelong dedication to adaptive sports, inclusion, and equal opportunity.

Proven Leadership in Paralympic Sport

As the founder and president of the NPC Cape Verde, I have dedicated over 25 years to advancing Paralympic sport across Africa. My journey began with a vision to elevate these sports, leading to my involvement in organizing major Para sport events like the All African Games in 2011 and 2015, and the African IBSA Football-5 Championship in 2017. These experiences have shown me the transformative power of sport in promoting social inclusion and empowering communities.

Commitment to Social Impact and Inclusion

The Paralympic movement holds significant social importance, and I have worked tirelessly to integrate 30 African nations into this global family since 2010. My unwavering commitment to inclusion means I believe every athlete, regardless of background or circumstance, deserves the opportunity to thrive and be celebrated.

Administrative Expertise

I possess two international master's degrees in sports management and administration, equipping me with the financial and governance skills essential for effective oversight. My experience in managing budgets ensures accountability and transparency, upholding the highest standards of integrity within the IPC.

Multicultural and Multilingual Competence

Having operated within diverse, multicultural, and multilingual environments, I excel in fostering collaboration among stakeholders from different backgrounds. My role in the AfPC has sharpened my ability to navigate complex cultural dynamics and promote inclusive dialogue.

My Vision

Paralympic sport is more than competition; it is a catalyst for social transformation, inclusion, and empowerment. My vision includes:

- Enhancing visibility and global recognition of Para sports.
- Ensuring equal opportunities and equitable access to resources for all athletes, regardless of gender, religion, nationality, or socioeconomic status.
- Promoting innovation in technology, accessibility, and training to elevate athlete performance and enrich the spectator experience.
- Building strategic partnerships with governments, sports organizations, and society to expand the social impact of the Paralympic movement.

My Commitments

If elected to the IPC, I pledge to:


- Uphold the core values of the Paralympic movement: respect, courage, equality, and excellence.
- Ensure absolute transparency, ethical governance, and inclusion in all decisions.
- Listen attentively to athletes, coaches, and federations, effectively representing their voices and needs.
- Promote programs that support the development of adaptive sports in under-resourced and underrepresented regions.
- Champion initiatives that guarantee the environmental and social sustainability of Paralympic events.

Serving as a member of the IPC is a profound responsibility and an incredible honor. I am ready to bring my experience, passion, and dedication to foster a stronger, more inclusive, and impactful Paralympic movement.

Together, we can advance the IPC's mission and create a world where athletes of all abilities are empowered to reach their fullest potential.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I look forward to the opportunity to serve and contribute to the continued success of the Paralympic movement.

4.21 JUAN PABLO SALAZAR

<p>Nationality: Colombian</p> <p>Nominating bodies: NPC Colombia</p> <p>Current role: Director of Inclusion at CAF, the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean.</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Instagram</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>Expert in the global Movement for the rights of persons with disabilities, with emphasis on communication and sports. Juan has worked on this agenda from multiple National and International bodies including the Colombian Government and the International Paralympic Committee. He is currently the Inclusion Director at CAF, the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I have the credentials to show that I can serve the Paralympic Movement effectively. I have proven this in civil society, I have proven it in government, and I 'm now proving it in a multilateral organization. I 'm not new to the Movement—many people already know my track record and my commitment. I 'm at a point in my life where I can continue to serve and focus my energy on further promoting Paralympics as the most powerful tool for achieving the inclusion of persons with disabilities.</p>	
<p>Manifesto:</p> <p>For over twenty years, I have dedicated my professional life to a cause that transcends borders and disciplines: the full inclusion of persons with disabilities. This commitment has taken many forms—from civil society to government, and now from within a multilateral organization—but it has always had the same purpose: to uphold human rights, promote dignity, and create real opportunities for millions of people.</p> <p>I'm a communicator by training and by vocation. Throughout my career, I have worked in public speaking, telling stories that move people, producing audiovisual content that shifts perspectives, and writing proposals that have</p>	

been supported by international cooperation. Today, from my role at CAF - Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, I have the opportunity to be on the donor side, supporting projects that truly generate impact across the region.


My background in marketing, a leadership course at Harvard University, and a Master's in Diplomacy from The Fletcher School at Tufts University have complemented my field experience. I have led teams across every sector in which I have worked: first as founder and director of a civil society organization, then in government as High Presidential Advisor for Disability Policy under President Juan Manuel Santos in Colombia, and now as part of a team committed to development from within an international financial institution.

The Paralympic Movement has been both a school and a source of inspiration for me. I have experienced it from all angles: as an athlete, sports leader, Chef de Mission at two Paralympic Games, President of a National Paralympic Committee, and government official. Today, as an international public servant, I want to give back to a Movement that has given me so much. I know its transformative power, and I bring a 360-degree vision—strategic and operational—to help take it to the next level.

I firmly believe that the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has a historic opportunity to strengthen its presence in global forums, work more closely with Development Banks in all regions, and position sport as a concrete tool for inclusion and sustainable human development.

I deeply value the IPC's democratic principles, the diversity of the Movement, and the power of sport as a driver of social change. This is not just my career—it is my life's calling. And I have no other plan than to continue working, every day, for a more just and inclusive world for persons with disabilities.

4.22 ROBYN SMITH

<p>Nationality: Australian</p> <p>Nominating bodies: Virtus – International Sport Federation for Athletes with an intellectual impairment</p> <p>Current role: CEO, Sport Inclusion Australia; Board Member, International Paralympic Committee; Board Member, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee; Board Member, Virtus; Board Member, Australian Sporting Alliance for People with Disability</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Instagram</p> <p>LinkedIn</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am Robyn Smith, a female leader in sport and a dedicated advocate for Inclusion for All – Humanity at Heart. For nearly four decades, I've championed athletes with a disability, especially those with an intellectual impairment, across grassroots, elite and global platforms. I proudly serve on the IPC Governing Board, lead Sport Inclusion Australia and contribute to the Brisbane 2032 OCOG. At Paris 2024, I was honoured to carry the Paralympic torch and witnessed performances across every sport except one, reaffirming the unifying power of sport. I bring inclusive leadership, deep understanding of IPC systems and lived experience—combined with relentless energy, preparation and respect for athlete voice. I've worked across regions including Oceania, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and Middle East, ensuring no nation is left behind. I stand for equity, access and action and I'm ready to continue serving the Paralympic Movement with purpose and pride.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I seek re-election to the IPC Governing Board to continue championing Inclusion for All – Humanity at Heart. My intention is clear: to represent with integrity, advocate with purpose and ensure that the Paralympic Movement remains inclusive, athlete-centred and globally representative.</p> <p>Over the past four years, I've contributed to the IPC Strategic Plan, brought athlete-first perspectives into every conversation, and upheld IPC's</p>	

humanitarian values. I've read every paper, attended every meeting, asked questions and offered perspectives shaped by lived experience and a deep commitment to equity.

If re-elected, I will bring an even stronger voice, with a clearer understanding of how IPC systems work—and where they must improve. What's next is a focus on deeper partnerships across the Africa region, renewed efforts to advance gender equality and dedicated support for underrepresented nations and small island nations. These are the voices that must be included if we are to live our values.

With your trust, I will continue to serve with compassion, energy and accountability—amplifying athlete voice, driving inclusive policy and ensuring that we work towards no nation, no athlete and no region left behind.

Manifesto:

Inclusion for All - Humanity at Heart

Dear Paralympic Friends,

It is a privilege to stand again as a candidate for IPC Member at Large. I offer leadership shaped by lived experience, a deep commitment to athletes of all abilities and a proven ability to bring people together around shared purpose.

I was honoured to be a Paris 2024 torchbearer, symbolising unity, hope and progress; witnessed incredible performances across every Paralympic sport except shooting and proud to see the first ever athlete with an intellectual impairment recognised by his peers and elected to the IPC Athletes' Council. **Sport doesn't just build champions—it changes communities, attitudes and futures.**

Towards Brisbane 2032, we have a rare opportunity to build on the relationships and groundwork I've supported through my IPC role on the OCOG. If re-elected, I will continue to ensure inclusion, equity and athlete voice shape genuine legacy outcomes for people with a disability.

My mission is rooted in equity, dignity, social justice and access:

Equity: I will build partnerships that grow participation and representation, especially for women, people from Indigenous backgrounds and emerging NPCs. We must continue to break barriers for women, including women with a disability, to choose pathways as athletes, leaders, coaches and decision-makers.

Included: From refugees to small island nations, I will champion efforts to ensure every athlete and country can belong. I actively support Pacific Island nations to join the Paralympic Family and worked with countries such as Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Cook Islands and Solomon Islands to build sustainable pathways

for athletes, access classification and national leadership, to ensure no nation is left behind and all voices are heard.

Track Record: I bring nearly four decades of results-driven leadership advancing inclusion in sport. As CEO of Sport Inclusion Australia, I have embedded inclusive sport into national systems ensuring athletes with an intellectual impairment have access to competition, recognition and opportunity. Through Virtus, I've strengthened international pathways, eligibility and hosted the 2019 Global Games and 2022 Oceania Asia Regional Games - world-class, inclusive multi-sport events.


I've helped shape strategies across Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Timor Leste, Japan, Korea, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Egypt, UAE, Qatar, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, El Salvador, Colombia, and recently the Caribbean members - always with a focus on opportunity, respect and athlete-centred outcomes.

As an IPC Governing Board Member, I've shown up, read every paper, joined every meeting, asked questions and brought new perspectives, especially from athletes and nations who are often overlooked. I've learned how systems work and where they don't. If re-elected, I will be a more impactful advocate for all.

Voice: I lead with a shared spotlight—amplifying all athletes, including those with an intellectual impairment and from underrepresented nations. I believe in building systems where athlete voice is heard and embedded in decision-making.

If re-elected, I will bring compassion, accountability and global understanding. Let's build a movement where every athlete belongs, every nation is respected and Humanity stays at the Heart of every decision.

4.23 BRADLEY SNYDER

<p>Nationality: United States of America</p> <p>Nominating bodies: NPC USA</p> <p>Current role: USOPC Board of Directors</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Facebook</p> <p>Instagram</p> <p>LinkedIn</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am Brad Snyder – a blind U.S. Navy veteran, world-record Paralympic swimmer, Para triathlon gold medalist, and passionate advocate for the Paralympic Movement. After I lost my vision in the military, I returned to the water just one year later to win two golds and a silver at the London 2012 Paralympic Games. I followed that with three golds and a silver in Rio 2016 breaking a 30-year-old 100m freestyle world record. At the Tokyo 2020 Games, I became the first American man to claim Paralympic triathlon gold.</p> <p>I've leveraged my platform to champion resilience, inclusion, and integrity. Serving on the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee Board (USOPC) since 2019, I aim to bring athlete-centric governance, global accessibility, and ethical leadership to the IPC board. I am driven by the belief that sport transforms individuals and societies – and I'm ready to help guide that change on a global scale.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I believe I bring a unique combination of lived experience, institutional leadership, and ethical conviction to the IPC Governing Board. As a military veteran and Paralympic gold medalist, I've learned to lead in high-stakes environments—first on the battlefield, then on the world stage of sport. As a member of the USOPC's board, I currently chair the Ethics & Compliance Committee, where I've helped drive reforms that prioritize the athlete voice, Paralympic inclusion and parity, along with organizational transparency, and integrity.</p>	

Now, at the U.S. Naval Academy's Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership, I help shape the next generation of leaders—work that reinforces my belief in servant leadership and accountability. I hold master's degrees in international relations from Tufts and in public policy from Princeton University, where I'm nearing the completion of a PhD. This education has equipped me with the perspective and expertise to navigate governance challenges.

I don't seek this role for personal acclaim, but because I believe in the Paralympic Movement's power to inspire change. If elected, I'll listen first, act with integrity, and serve with humility—committed to a future where all athletes can flourish and where the IPC leads with courage, purpose, and global impact.

Manifesto:

When Paralympians Flourish, the World Flourishes

While serving in the military, an IED took my sight—but it did not take my will. Like many wounded veterans, I stood at a crossroads: retreat into loss or fight toward renewal. Through sport, I found not just recovery, but the opportunity to rediscover identity, purpose, and joy.

The Paralympic Movement offered that path. In the pool, I found clarity. On the podium at the London 2012 Paralympic Games, I discovered a new mission: to serve a global community united by resilience and potential. My story echoes the Stoke Mandeville spirit, where WWII veterans turned trauma into triumph. That lineage of dignity and transformation is one I'm proud to carry forward.

Over the last decade, I've competed globally, won medals, broken records—and led. As a USOPC board member and Chair of its Ethics Committee, I've worked to empower athletes and uphold institutional accountability. I've learned to lead with conviction, deepened my understanding of governance, and committed myself to positive change.

If elected to the IPC Governing Board, I will work collaboratively towards:

1. Protect the Prestige of the Podium through Trusted Classification

The podium's integrity relies on a transparent, consistent classification system. I support the 2025 IPC Classification Code and will promote its adoption and understanding across all stakeholders. I will champion efforts to educate, enforce, and uphold trust in classification to preserve the honor of competition.

2. Expand Global Access through Commercial Partnerships

Para sport's reach is both a responsibility and an opportunity. By strategically leveraging commercial markets—especially the U.S.—and renegotiating our partnership with the IOC, we can unlock new value. My ties to the USOPC and

key partners position me to help grow the Paralympic footprint and reinvest in NPCs.

3. Strengthen Governance and Transparency

Strong governance is essential. I led the integration of Para sport governance within U.S. national federations, improving structure and competitiveness. I will advocate globally for reforms that institutionalize ethical leadership, empower athletes, and protect the integrity of our institutions.

4. Advance Equity and Inclusion


I will focus on gender parity, greater inclusion of underrepresented groups, and expanded access for athletes with intellectual disabilities. We must build systems—pipelines, not just pathways—that reflect the full richness of the global disability experience.

5. Champion Holistic Athlete Well-Being

Gold must not come at the expense of dignity. I've championed a holistic approach to athlete development in the U.S.—investing in mental health, education, and life beyond sport. I will bring that vision to the IPC to ensure athletes are seen, supported, and safeguarded.

The United States is poised to host two historic and transformational Paralympic Games, and we need strong and engaged leadership to optimize the effect on the Movement. If elected, I will help ensure they're not just celebrations of excellence, but engines of global impact. Para sport is a movement for dignity and hope. Together, we can ensure the Games ignite excellence in every nation, on every podium, and in every human heart.

4. 24 QIANG SONG

<p>Nationality: China</p> <p>Nominating bodies: NPC China</p> <p>Current role: Deputy Director-in-General of the China Administration of Sports for Persons with Disabilities (CASPD); Vice President of China Sports Association for the Deaf.</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am 50 years old, an engineer who loves the Paralympic Movement, a PhD. Doctor who specializes in applying systematic thinking to enhance the development of sports for people with disabilities since 2002. I have been involved in the organization and delivery of the 2004 and 2008 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, participated in the bidding, organization and delivery of the 2022 Winter Olympic and Winter Paralympic Games, and played an important expert role in the preparation for the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Para Games, 2025 Harbin Asian Winter Games and other events. Today, I am still on the front line of my work, providing quality services to Chinese Para athletes, and I hope to have the opportunity to provide the same quality services to Para athletes all over the world, in the spirit of the Paralympic Movement, and aiming for inclusiveness and professionalism.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>Because I am one of you—someone who carries a shared dream in my heart. Having been engaged in Para sports for more than 20 years, I have developed profound understanding to the community of people with impairments. My dream is to draw strength from the Paralympic Vision, to promote the values of inclusiveness, and to integrate into society with greater dignity for each of us.</p> <p>Because I have the confidence and the capability, to dedicate my passion to the Paralympic Movement. As a PhD, I am familiar with the Paralympic Games. I had been involved in dozens of specific functional areas of Games operation, and fully understood the needs of our athletes. These experiences gave me confidence.</p>	

Because I believe in the power of unity. I believe, all people are part of the community of human destiny. Asia had successfully hosted several Summer and Winter Paralympic Games, with the rapid development of Paralympic Movement over the past decades. I would like to share the experience, as well as the vast sports resources, and provide more developing opportunities for our athletes from the globe.

In a word, I am the person you deserve to trust.

Manifesto:

Dear Paralympic Family friends,

It's my great honor to introduce myself and my candidacy to you.

As we know, any organization needs to regularly renew its membership by taking in innovative, younger and stronger new power. Leaders of enthusiastic, caring, professionally qualified and experienced enough will take up the challenges of the future. I am one of the best people who meets all these requirements.

1. I have been directed venue accessibility and Games integration for Beijing 2008/2022, creating the award-winning Beijing 2022 Accessibility Guide. I led liaison with IOC/IPC Games Operation Office during both Games, mastering the complex interplay between athletes' needs and operational delivery.

2. I'm good at strengthening the Sustainability-Driven Governance. As an environmental Ph.D., I pioneered eco-friendly protocols and athlete-centred venues initiative for mega-events. Through strategic collaboration with the IOC/IPC, corporate sponsors, and international stakeholders, I fostered cross-cultural partnerships to advance sustainable development in elite sports.

The Paralympic Movement embodies equality, respect, and the transformative power of sport. My vision is to amplify these values globally, ensuring that athletes with disabilities are centred in every decision, and that inclusiveness becomes a universal standard.

MY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Global Inclusiveness: Leverage China's successful experiences to support developing nations in building more accessible programs.

Sustainable Development: Establish economic-sustainable frameworks to ensure long-term growth for Paralympic sports, empowering NPCs worldwide.

Athlete-Centred Innovation: Enhance athlete representation in governance, ensuring their voices shape policies on competition, training, and welfare.

VALUES IN ACTION

I believe in the Paralympic spirit as a catalyst for social change. My work has consistently emphasized:

Equality: Advocating for policies that dismantle barriers to participation.

Collaboration: Bridging cultures through sport, as seen in my roles liaising with international stakeholders.

Transparency: Upholding the highest ethical standards in governance and financial oversight.

COMMITMENT

If elected, I will dedicate my heart to:

Champion Global Inclusion: I'll work to bridge gaps between regions, especially supporting less developed NPCs with resources and knowledge empowered by our policy strength. Every disabled person deserves the chance to participate in sports, and I'll strive to make that into reality.


Amplify Athlete Voices: Athletes are at the heart of our movement. I'll ensure their needs drive decision-making—from competition conditions to long-term support—so their courage and spirit would continue to inspire the world.

Strengthen Unity: With experience collaborating across cultures and languages, I'll foster trust among IPC families. Together, we can build a more connected, resilient Paralympic family.

I will serve with integrity, humility, and a relentless focus on results. The IPC's mission—"to make for an inclusive world through Para sport"—is one I have lived for decades. Together, we will turn ideals into more fruits.

Vote for me please, for fantastic future for all of us.

4.25 LILIANA SUAREZ CARREÓN

<p>Nationality: Mexican</p> <p>Nominating bodies: Comité Paralímpico Mexicano A.C. (COPAME)</p> <p>Current role: President, NPC Mexico</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Facebook</p> <p>Instagram</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am a Mexican woman, based in Mexico City and graduated from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) with a degree in Psychology and complemented her academic training with a diploma in Public Administration Management and Sports Administration.</p> <p>I have been into the Paralympic Movement for over two decades in different positions, being the most remarkable, President of NPC Mexico since 2016, Secretary General of the Americas Paralympic Committee (IPC) since 2021 and since 2024 I am part of the World Para Athletics (WPA) Sport Committee</p> <p>I am a person dedicated full time to Para Sport in Mexico, with the firm commitment to expand that work beyond the Mexican boundaries, in benefit of the Paralympic Movement and its athletes.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I have witnessed disability where Para Sport was not even possible, I have witnessed the Paralympic Games from the stands in London 2012 and I have witnessed three times the Paralympic Games as NPC President.</p> <p>This has allowed me to build a vision of the Paralympic Movement from different scopes, which has taken our NPC to be an important actor in the international scenario; this is result of, no more than, firm and solid steps that we have been taken at the inside of our organization and that, I can guarantee, can also become important and a contributing factor among the nations and the Paralympic Movement.</p>	

I am also certain that the care, that we have by working with human beings with different ways of thinking and feeling, can certainly give us the precise touch to work with people coming from various nations and places from all over the globe.

I am willing and committed to put all my efforts, expertise and vision to keep and elevate the impact and legacy of Paralympic Sport among individuals, family, communities and nations.

Manifesto:

It is among the individuals, the family, the community and the nations that, our Sport has its true impact, because it is the human nature to seek for triumph, glory and strength and it is only the same individuals that can bring that.

Therefore, it must always be our aim, as an organization, to drive Para sport into a Pathway that can lead and allow those individuals, call Para Athletes, to reach achievements of excellency through high performance sport, because that is Paralympic Sport, the biggest expression of human exceptionality.

After Paris 2024 Paralympic Games -in which more than 50,000 souls witnessed Para Sport at the Stade de France, and where Para athletes performed, as never seen before in each of the competition venues- the standard of how Para Sports requires being managed, has been elevated and, therefore, the organization that governs our sport must comply with it.

This will permit that Para Sport, and the Paralympic Movement itself, can guarantee its existence, but also its message and legacy to humankind, its engagement with partners and its expectation among every human being.

It is my commitment, to contribute from my position to continue the construction of what has already been excellent built, but also what and how it also needs to be built for the upcoming years and decades.


The history of Paralympics has been full of challenges and sacrifice, but up to now, it also comes with glory and triumph; we must take learning from those challenges and sacrifice, to embrace that glory and triumphs for the eternal existence of our Movement.

It is true that Para Sport changes lives, starting from the grassroots, where the individual has its first impact and then its family, and when the individual has its transit to mayor level competitions, it is the community, where it comes from, that receives the next impact, as the sense of belonging and proud will always be part of the human being.

Then it is the nation that has the last and mayor impact, because Para Sport has that power, to change lives, and it changes lives because it does so with thoughts, believes, scopes and visions.

Finally, it is the legacy that the impact, on the above mentioned, it is created; that legacy is the awareness of inclusion, through the highest performance that can be reached by human beings through Paralympic Sport

4.26 LÁSZLÓ SZABÓ

<p>Nationality: Hungarian</p> <p>Nominating bodies: Hungarian Paralympic Committee</p> <p>Current role: President</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Facebook</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>László Szabó</p> <p>President of the Hungarian Paralympic Committee since 2015, and President of the Hungarian National Student and Leisure Sport Association for Disable more than 10 years.</p> <p>I have gained extensive experiences in many fields of the Hungarian disability sports, endeavouring to launch a dynamic development and achieving excellent results with our athletes in national and international level of Para sport over the past decade.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>"Sport is primarily a spiritual concept. Sport opens up the soul through the body." said Professor Albert Szent-Györgyi, a famous Hungarian Nobel Prize winner for discovery vitamin C.</p> <p>I am convinced that every sport is for everyone, whether we are able bodied or disabled people. I think the Para sport goes beyond itself, it's one of the core values of the world's social and business life, its common affair. The intellectual accessibility has already started but we have to continuously work on it! The societies of the world could help to understand that the common communication with the people with disabilities, the collective work and the acceptance have a positive impact on the economic and spiritual life of the countries.</p>	

The sport is the most complex activity, connecting athletes with their team and fans, fulfils its global mission by the result of common thinking and goals. Living with disability not equal being loser. Stronger athletes create more powerful memberships, more powerful memberships bring about more power and inspiration to the worldwide Paralympic Movement. Let's do it together!

Manifesto:

László Szabó, IPC member at large candidate

Motto : Living with disability not equal being loser.

Stronger athletes create more powerful memberships, more powerful memberships bring about more power and inspiration to the worldwide Paralympic Movement. Let's do it together!

Athletes first:

- Athletes' voice in the focus
- Enhance their positive appreciation
- Support the athletes beyond their sport career

EQUAL WORLD IN PARA SPORTS

- Well-structured classification system
- Equal opportunities for the athletes, fair play

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

- Strengthen the work with the IOC
- Increase global sponsorship cooperations
- Involve more stakeholders

E = MC²ENERGY = MOTIVATION OF COMMUNITY AND CAPABILITY

- More than a team, we are a family
- More transparency, creative teamwork

- Inclusivity and integrity in society, culture and sports

DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Business & marketing field development
 - Accessibility must become universal
 - A Voice for Unity. A Vision for Inclusion
 - Driven by Athletes, Focused on the Future.
1. Empowering Para Sport. Elevating Every Athlete. I will work to strengthen unity across continents, cultures, and committees within the Paralympic Movement – because only together can we grow stronger.
 2. I will advocate for equal visibility and recognition of all Para sports, ensuring every athlete and every discipline has a voice.
 3. I will promote athlete-centered leadership, where decisions are made with and for those who compete. I will drive innovation in inclusion – from grassroots programs to elite sport – so that the Paralympic values truly reach every corner of society.
 4. I will support a transparent and effective governance structure, where trust and collaboration guide our actions.
 5. I will amplify the global voice of the Paralympic Movement through partnerships, diplomacy, and bold communication.


NEW HORIZONS

- Talent showcase
- Education of new generations
- New sports

Facebook: /laszloszaboofficial

contact: *removed*

4.27 TOMAS VARGA

<p>Nationality: Slovak</p> <p>Nominating bodies: The Slovak Paralympic Committee</p> <p>Current role: Games and International Relations Director</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>LinkedIn</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I am a lifelong advocate for inclusive sport and currently serve as the Games and International Relations Director at the Slovak Paralympic Committee. With over 15 years of experience in international sports diplomacy, event coordination, and athlete advocacy, I've represented Slovakia at multiple Paralympic Games. I am also an active committee member within the International Table Tennis Federation and regularly serve as Technical Delegate and Competition Manager for Para table tennis events around the world. My background in public policy and stakeholder engagement helps me build bridges across cultures and institutions. For me, leadership begins with listening – and change begins with collaboration.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I am running for the IPC Governing Board to help shape a stronger, more connected Paralympic community. My candidacy reflects a professional commitment and a personal mission: to ensure that athletes with disabilities have equitable opportunities to compete, thrive, and be heard.</p> <p>As Games and International Relations Director for the Slovak Paralympic Committee, I've led strategic initiatives, built global partnerships, and elevated Slovakia's visibility in international Para sport. I am also deeply involved in the International Table Tennis Federation, where I serve as a committee member, Technical Delegate, and Competition Manager for Para events across the globe.</p> <p>I bring the lived experience of working within a smaller NPC – navigating limited resources while achieving high-impact outcomes. I want to be a voice for these perspectives.</p>	

The Paralympic Movement needs innovation, transparency, and regional diversity. I am ready to serve with integrity, humility, and purpose – and to help lead the IPC into its next chapter.

Manifesto:

Sport has the power to change lives – and the Paralympic Movement shows this better than anywhere else. I'm running for the IPC Governing Board because I want to help make sure this power reaches even more people, in more places, with fairness and ambition.

My goals are based on three key principles:

1. ATHLETE EMPOWERMENT

Athletes should always come first. They must be part of the decisions that affect them. We need to support athletes during their sports careers and after – through better leadership opportunities, stronger support programs, and fair classification systems.

As a Technical Delegate and Competition Manager for the International Table Tennis Federation, I work closely with Para athletes at events around the world. I see every day how much it matters that events are well-organized and inclusive. I will use this experience to make sure all athletes feel respected, safe, and supported.

2. GLOBAL EQUITY

Not every country has the same resources. I come from Slovakia – a smaller NPC – and I know how hard it can be to do a lot with very little. I want to represent those voices and help make the Paralympic Movement more fair for everyone.

I will push for better access to funding, easier qualification systems, and more cooperation between countries. I want every NPC, big or small, to have the chance to grow, share knowledge, and support their athletes in the best way possible.

3. ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

Trust in leadership is important. People want to know that decisions are fair, clear, and made for the right reasons. In my role as Games and International Relations Director at the Slovak Paralympic Committee, I've managed

partnerships, organized events, and helped build long-term plans for sport development.


I believe the IPC should lead by example – with transparency, strong planning, and regular communication with its members. I want to make sure everyone has a voice and feels included in the future of our Movement.

I've worked in sport for over 15 years – at Games, in boardrooms, and on the ground at competitions. I've built relationships from grassroots clubs to government ministries. I understand how the system works – and where it needs to improve.

If elected, I will listen, work hard, and represent all members with respect and energy. Together, we can build a Movement that is not only strong, but also fair and united.

Let's make sure every Paralympic athlete has the tools and support they need to reach their full potential – wherever they come from.

4.28 NICK WEBBORN

<p>Nationality: British</p> <p>Nominating bodies: British Paralympic Association</p> <p>Current role: Chair UK Sport</p>	
<p>Social Media Channels</p> <p>Facebook</p> <p>Instagram</p> <p>LinkedIn</p> <p>TikTok</p>	
<p>Who am I?</p> <p>I have a lifetime's experience in high performance sport as an athlete, medical practitioner, researcher and as President of the British Paralympic Association (BPA). I'm a leader in Paralympic sport and sports medicine, with over 30 years of service to the Paralympic movement and 44 years of lived experience with disability. Now Chair of UK Sport I am responsible for funding Olympic and Paralympic sports and bringing major sporting events to the UK.</p> <p>I am a former international wheelchair tennis player and have attended 13 Paralympic Games, summer and winter, in different capacities. I was part of the team to bid for and deliver London 2012 and then served as BPA Chief Medical Officer. I'm a world-leading academic in Paralympic research and professor at Loughborough University, with over 110 peer-reviewed publications. I have been honoured with an OBE and a CBE for services to Paralympic Sports Medicine and to Sport.</p>	
<p>Why should I be elected?</p> <p>I bring a blend of strategic leadership, scientific expertise, and personal experience for finding innovative solutions to complex problems. As such I am uniquely positioned to help guide the IPC in building a more inclusive, athlete-focused, and socially impactful global movement. I will add value through my experience, extensive knowledge and ability to build excellent relationships.</p> <p>As former President of the BPA and current Chair of UK Sport, I have demonstrated the ability to deliver successful high performing teams through</p>	

strategic planning, innovation and strong governance. As a former Para athlete in wheelchair tennis, I bring an athlete-centred perspective to championing welfare, inclusion and integrity at the highest levels.

Known to many members as a committed volunteer, through 24 years of service to IPC Medical, Sports Science and Anti-Doping committees, I have built trusted relationships across the movement. My impact has included initiating Games-time research that has shaped athlete health and safety since 2002, writing the initial IPC Anti-Doping code and developing the IPC Boosting policy.

My deep connection as an injured serviceman to Stoke Mandeville, the birthplace of the Paralympic movement, underscores my commitment to its legacy and future with a responsibility of bringing Guttman's global vision to life.

Manifesto:

My vision is grounded in over three decades of service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the Paralympic movement. My journey began in 1981 as a patient at the National Spinal Injuries Unit in Stoke Mandeville, where I was introduced to the pioneering work of Sir Ludwig Guttman, and to the Paralympic movement's history and heritage. Sport became a vital part of my recovery—and later, my life's purpose. This has been driven by a deep belief in the values of courage, determination, inspiration, and equality.

It's been said that *'The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you can see'* and my extensive knowledge of the movement has helped shape my strategic vision for the future.

Longer-Term Strategic Thinking

We must move beyond a four-year cycle which limits ambitions for growth and development, to provide clarity for federations and NPCs to develop and prepare the athletes of tomorrow. The Olympic Games has grown by 40% in disciplines since 1992 by responding to the needs and sports of the youth of today. By consultation with sports, nations and disabled people we can move forward with the growth of our movement.

Stronger Commercial Base

The commercial value of the Paralympic brand has grown significantly, and we must ensure that this is not only reflected in a more equitable partnership with the IOC, but with other partners outside the TOPS programme and with philanthropic donors. Stronger commercial foundations will allow us to better support the entire Paralympic ecosystem, especially smaller International Federations and NPCs that are vital to the Games' diversity and quality.

Social Impact

Part of driving increased commercial income and philanthropic donations is the demonstration of social impact outcomes. At the BPA we used sport to drive societal change by focusing on young disabled persons' lack of participation in sport at school. We produced a documentary, amplified by athlete experiences, to articulate the problem, develop policy solutions for the Government, and provide support programmes for teachers. This has secured the UK Prime Minister's commitment for change. I will bring this experience to the IPC to ensure our movement delivers meaningful global impact.

Athlete-Centred Approach

Athletes are the heart of our movement. My work in healthcare and at the BPA has always centred on athlete welfare. I founded the BPA Athlete Alumni Community to ensure that former athletes remain valued and connected. I will continue to advocate for athlete health and for evidence-based classification systems that deliver fair and equitable competition. I will ensure that athlete welfare is included in every future strategy.

Credibility and Trust

My leadership within the movement is built on my principles and long-established relationships with members. I am recognised globally as a leader in Paralympic sport and medicine, having worked with multiple International Federations and with the IOC Medical Department.

For me this is more than a campaign - it's a continuation of my life's work. I offer experience, integrity, and a clear strategic vision for a stronger, more inclusive future for the Paralympic Movement.



INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

Dahlmannstraße 2, 53113 Bonn, Germany / paralympic.org
info@paralympic.org / Tel: +49 228 2097-200 / Fax: +49 228 2097-209

© 2025 International Paralympic Committee - all rights reserved