30th IAP General Meeting
09 September 2025 Singapore
MINUTES

The IAP President, Juan Bautista Mahiques, chaired the meeting. Roel Dona (Secretary-General), Shenaz Muzaffer (General Counsel) and Janne Holst Hübner (Executive Director) were also on the panel.

1. Opening by the President

The President opened the General Meeting by welcoming members. He also conveyed sincere gratitude to Mr Lucien Wong, Attorney-General of Singapore, and the Attorney-General's Chambers of Singapore for hosting the conference.

The President recalled that, under the IAP Constitution, the Association is required to convene a General Meeting annually. He further confirmed that the meeting materials had been published on the IAP website in accordance with the applicable regulations.

The President reiterated that the General Meeting constitutes the supreme decision-making body of the IAP, comprising Organisational Members, Individual Members, Honorary Members, and Members of the Senate.

He then formally declared the meeting open.

2. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

The Secretary-General reminded the General Meeting that, pursuant to Article 14.8 of the IAP

Constitution, the General Meeting was empowered to adopt its own Rules of Procedure. He confirmed that the proposed Rules of Procedure for the General Meeting ('the Rules') had been duly published on the IAP website in accordance with the applicable requirements and confirmed that no objections had been received prior to the commencement of the meeting.

The President concluded that, in the absence of objections, the Rules of Procedure were deemed adopted and the meeting would proceed in accordance with the adopted Rules.

3. Commitment to the IAP Standards and Signing Ceremony

The President invited the Secretary-General to remind members of the IAP Standards of Professional Responsibility and Statement of the Essential Duties and Rights of Prosecutors.

The Secretary-General emphasised that the IAP Standards serve as the backbone of the IAP, noting that at every General Meeting, members are reminded of key aspects of these Standards, which define the fundamental principles that prosecutors are expected to uphold. He reminded members that, at the General Meeting in 1997, the General Meeting endorsed the promotion and advancement of the IAP Standards, which are internationally recognised as essential to ensuring the proper and independent prosecution of criminal offences, as a core organisational objective. He further noted that 2025 marks the 26th anniversary of the adoption of the final version of the Standards, approved during the Spring Meeting in Amsterdam.

The Secretary-General highlighted that the Standards are publicly available on the IAP website and underscored that they call upon individual prosecutors, prosecution services, and governments to uphold fundamental principles relating to professional conduct, integrity, independence, objectivity, fairness, consistency, and effective cooperation at both national and international levels. He reaffirmed the IAP's ongoing efforts to promote implementation of the IAP Standards among prosecutors worldwide, and encouraged members to actively promote the Standards within their respective jurisdictions and institutions.

The Secretary-General noted that applicants for IAP membership are required to sign a formal Declaration committing to work in accordance with the IAP Standards, adding that the importance of this commitment is formally recognised during the signing ceremony for new organisational members at the General Meeting.

He then informed the meeting that two new organisational members were to be welcomed and invited to sign the Declaration:

1. Public Prosecution Service of the Sultanate of Oman, represented by HE Attorney General of the Sultanate of Oman, Mr Nasr Al Sawaai.

2. Ontario Crown Attorneys' Association, represented by President Mrs Donna Kellway.

The representatives of the new organisational members were then invited to the stage to sign the Declaration, followed by a group photograph.

4. Adoption of the Minutes from the previous meeting (Baku 2024)

The President informed the members that the minutes of the 29th General Meeting had been published on the IAP website in accordance with the applicable rules and invited members to submit comments or propose corrections.

As no objections or amendments were raised, the minutes of the 29th General Meeting, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in October 2024, were accepted as an accurate record and formally adopted by the General Meeting.

5. Annual Report 2024

The Secretary General presented key highlights from the Annual Report 2024.

He informed the meeting that the IAP welcomed the following new organisational members in 2024:

1. Law Officers' Department, Jersey
2. Office of Criminal Prosecution and Litigation, Gibraltar
3. Public Prosecution Service of the Sultanate of Oman
4. Independent Commission Against Corruption, Papua New Guinea
5. Association of State Prosecutions, Montenegro

Granting Programme

The Secretary-General noted that the IAP remains committed to ensuring that its activities and conferences are inclusive and accessible, irrespective of seniority, gender, or cultural and religious background. The IAP continued to provide financial support to prosecutors from developing countries to enable their participation in IAP conferences.

He reported that, in 2024, the Granting Programme received €10,000 from the IAP annual budget, supplemented by donations from twenty-six individual members and one organisational member. He further noted that all profits from IAP merchandise go directly to the Granting Programme. Through these combined contributions, the IAP was able to sponsor ten conference participants for the Annual Conference in Singapore.

IAP Awards 2024

The Secretary-General confirmed that in 2024, the following IAP awards were announced:

- **Prosecutor of the Year 2024** was awarded to Thomas J.Eicher, Assistant Attorney General, New Jersey, United States.
- **Special Achievement Awards** were presented to: Shih-Chia Chang, Chinese Taipei; the Coban prosecution team, Canada; and the Curió Massacre prosecution team, Brazil.

The Secretary-General then invited the General Counsel to provide an overview of the Professional Programme.

Professional Programme 2024

The General Counsel reported on key activities in 2024:

i) The 29th IAP Annual Conference and General Meeting, Baku, Azerbaijan, 29 September - 02 October 2024

The event was hosted by Prosecutor General Kamran Aliyev and the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The conference theme was 'The Role of the Prosecutor in Upholding the Rule of Law.' It was attended by 463 participants from ninety-nine countries and jurisdictions, including ten international organisations. The professional programme of the conference featured over one hundred speakers from more than fifty countries and seven international organisations. The General Counsel extended her appreciation to all speakers, chairs and rapporteurs for their contributions to the event.

ii) The 18th IAP European Regional Conference, St. Julian's, Malta, 06-08 November 2024

The conference was hosted by the Office of the Attorney General of Malta. The conference brought together sixty-five prosecutors from twenty-two countries and jurisdictions, and four

international organisations. The event focused on 'Emerging Crime Trends in Europe', in particular hate crime, terrorism, and financial crime, and included an IAP training workshop on trauma-informed advocacy and ethical considerations in prosecuting financial crime.

iii) The 11th IAP Asia and Pacific Regional Conference, Hong Kong SAR of the PRC, 27-29 November 2024

The conference was hosted by the Department of Justice of the Hong Kong SAR of the PRC. The theme was 'Effective Prosecution Service in the Technological Age'. The conference was attended by over 130 prosecutors from twenty-five jurisdictions and two international organisations. The IAP also delivered a workshop for over sixty local prosecutors on 'Justice with compassion - empowering prosecutors to support vulnerable witnesses.'

iv) The 3rd Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop in Seoul, Republic of Korea, December 2024

The IAP participated in the 3rd Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop, hosted by the Supreme Prosecutors' Office of the Republic of Korea. The workshop brought together prosecutors from fifteen countries, focusing on drugs, cybercrime, international cooperation, cryptocurrency, and scam-related offences. Anticipation was expressed for the 4th Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop scheduled for November 2025.

The General Counsel extended thanks and appreciation on behalf of the IAP to all host institutions, organising committees, speakers, chairs, rapporteurs, and participants for their contributions to the success of the above events.

v) IAP webinars

In 2024, the IAP delivered a total of twenty webinars for its members on topics including drug trafficking, corruption, violent extremism, environmental crime, cybercrime and others.

vi. IAP Specialist Networks

The IAP Cybercrime Specialist Network was relaunched, with the objective of strengthening global cooperation and expanding operational exchange among cybercrime prosecutors. The Network continues to be supported by the Dutch Public Prosecution Service.

The General Counsel informed the members that further details about the delivery of the IAP Professional Programme are available in the 2024 Annual Report and in the four quarterly IAP newsletters issued throughout the year.

6. Working Programme and Activities of the Association

The Secretary-General highlighted that strengthening the IAP would be the main priority for the coming period. He noted that while the IAP's global activities and visibility had grown significantly, the internal capacity and staffing remained limited. He emphasised that reinforcing the Association's foundation would therefore be his central focus area in the coming months. He underscored that prosecutors around the world need a strong and reliable IAP - one that defends its core standards, upholds the central duties and rights of prosecutors, and speaks out decisively when prosecutors face threats or professional challenges.

The Secretary-General also outlined that the awards programme/ceremonies would take on increased importance in the coming years, serving as a means to recognise and highlight the work of prosecutors worldwide. In addition, he stressed that the IAP Standing Committee for Prosecutors in Difficulty would play a more prominent role. He noted that, as crime grows more complex, it is essential for the IAP to demonstrate its commitment to valuing prosecutors' work and safeguarding their well-being.

The Secretary-General then invited the General Counsel to provide highlights of the IAP's Professional Programme.

The General Counsel provided an overview of key developments. She began by highlighting the IAP's ongoing webinar series, noting that the IAP continues to deliver two webinars per month for its membership. These sessions are typically organised in partnership with other organisations in the criminal justice sector, as well as with IAP organisational and individual members. Topics covered so far in 2025 include police corruption, cybercrime, cryptocurrency and universal jurisdiction. Additional webinars are scheduled for the remainder of the year, addressing issues such as the protection of cultural property, INTERPOL, and human trafficking. She reminded attendees that the webinars are open to all IAP members and encouraged those not receiving notifications about the webinars to connect with their organisational contact point for the IAP.

The General Counsel then highlighted the Association's recent collaboration with UNESCO on the development of Guidelines for Prosecutors on Digital Evidence Collection in compliance with International Standards on Freedom of Expression and Privacy. She explained that the guidelines address best practices, legal safeguards, and practical challenges relating to cross-border digital data handling. She noted that Guidelines are available for free via the UNESCO or IAP website, and a second webinar focused on the practical application of the Guidelines was scheduled for 07 October.

The General Counsel then presented a third key highlight, the 10th IAP Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Conference, held in June 2025 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, hosted by the Prosecutor General of Mongolia, Jargalsaikhan Banzragch. She reported that the conference was attended by ninety-nine prosecutors and criminal justice professionals from twenty-six countries to address the theme 'The evolving role of the prosecutor - challenges and best practice in tackling cybercrime.' Participants exchanged expertise on a range of pressing issues, including the misuse of social media by criminal actors, emerging trends in human trafficking, and new approaches to combating cybercrime against children. She further noted that the IAP delivered a dedicated workshop for approximately six hundred Mongolian prosecutors, focused on the IAP Standards and effective practices in the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases. She emphasised that the event had coincided with two significant milestones: the 30th anniversary of the IAP on 06 June, and the 95th anniversary of the Prosecutor General's Office of Mongolia. She expressed the IAP's honour and appreciation in celebrating both occasions jointly.

The General Counsel also acknowledged ongoing collaborations and workstreams, many of which had been presented earlier in the week, with further updates regularly shared through IAP newsletters. She then called for greater member engagement, encouraging prosecutors to contribute as speakers for upcoming webinars.

In closing, she extended special thanks to Irina Beridze, the IAP Executive Programme Manager, recognising her central role in managing and delivering the IAP webinar series. She highlighted that Irina now hosts the webinars and oversees all related logistical planning, coordination, and follow-up, and stated that this programme would not be possible without her dedication and commitment. She expressed sincere appreciation for her sustained efforts throughout 2025.

The General Counsel then invited the Executive Director to take the floor.

The Executive Director announced the opening of the IAP's new Latin America office in Buenos Aires, describing it as an important milestone for the Association. She noted that the Buenos Aires team had played a critical role in supporting the IAP's daily operations, including the full translation of the website into Spanish, the development and design of the Spanish web platform, and the creation of the associated online systems. The Executive Director expressed deep appreciation for their contribution, adding that the team had also led the development of the IAP's new visual identity, including updated branding, graphic design, and official branding guidelines. Emphasising the significance of their work, she invited team members Martina, Belén, and Cecilia to stand and receive recognition from the audience.

The Executive Director then provided an update on IAP's digital modernisation efforts underway since 2002, including the development of the new membership management system, updated software infrastructure, and, most notably, the Prosecutors' International Cooperation

Platform (PICP).

She acknowledged that following the launch of the new website in March, the IAP had encountered technical challenges. To address them, a dedicated troubleshooting session was held in Sarajevo in cooperation with the local prosecution service, during which the development team was tasked with presenting and resolving outstanding system issues. She confirmed that the main technical problems had now been resolved and that the system is currently operating at approximately 95% functionality, with all core features now available for member use. She then outlined key aspects of the PICP platform for the meeting participants. The Executive Director extended special thanks to Benn van Alphen and Jacob Holst for their crucial support in finalising the PICP system.

The Executive Director concluded by opening the floor for questions or comments. No questions were raised.

7. Financial Statements 2024

The President invited the Secretary-General to present a brief report on the 2024 financial statements and provide a general update on the IAP's financial situation.

The Secretary-General noted that the financial statement had been circulated in the meeting package. He clarified that Stichting IAP, a Dutch foundation, serves as the Association's treasury body. He explained that the Stichting Board is composed of Catherine Pierse (Ireland), Giorgi Gogadze (Georgia), and himself.

He outlined key points from both the revenue and expenditure sides: on the revenue side, he reported that income from both IAP individual and organisational memberships had slightly exceeded projections. Also, the adjusted 2024 operational budget had included an estimated €55,000 in conference levy income, based on an average of 500 participants at the annual conference in Baku and two regional conferences. Total income for 2024 reached €592,000, resulting in a surplus of €32,000 above budget.

On the expenditure side, the Secretary-General confirmed that costs remained broadly in line with forecasts. Secretariat travel expenditure was €2,000 below budget, while overall travel and representation costs amounted to €53,000, significantly lower than anticipated. This reduction was attributed primarily to a decrease in staff numbers. IT and software development costs were €34,000 lower than budgeted, as the final payment to the software developer had been deferred to 2025.

The Secretary-General further highlighted progress in strengthening the Association's financial stability. He recalled that at the end of 2023, the IAP's working capital had been identified as limited, and that increasing reserves had therefore been a core priority for 2024. He confirmed that the financial position had improved considerably, with working capital rising from €109,000 to €216,000 by the end of 2024.

He explained that the financial statements had been formally reviewed by the IAP Financial Review Committee, an officially mandated body appointed by the General Meeting. Based on the Committee's findings, the Stichting Board and the Executive Committee had both agreed with the 2024 financial report at the most recent Executive Committee meeting.

The Secretary-General then opened the floor for questions and comments. No questions or comments were raised.

8. Composition of IAP Committees

The Secretary-General invited the meeting to consider the elections for vacancies arising on the IAP Executive Committee in 2024.

He reminded the meeting that the Executive Committee is elected by and accountable to the General Meeting, in accordance with the IAP Constitution. The Executive Committee consists of the President, up to nine Vice-Presidents, and twenty-one Ordinary Members, representing all global regions where the IAP has membership.

He informed the meeting that during the Executive Committee Meeting held in Buenos Aires in April 2024, nominations were approved for submission to the General Meeting in accordance with Article 6 of the IAP Constitution. The nominations had been duly published on the IAP website and in the newsletter within the applicable timeframe.

Election of the President

The Secretary-General noted that in line with Article 10 of the Constitution, the President is elected by the General Meeting from among the existing members of the Executive Committee and serves a three-year term, commencing immediately following the conclusion of the General Meeting at which the election is held, with eligibility for re-election.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, the Secretary-General presented **Juan Bautista Mahiques**, current IAP President and Attorney General of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, Argentina, as the Committee's nominee for re-election as IAP President.

The Secretary-General advised the members that the IAP membership had been invited to submit nominations for the presidency, and no alternative nominations had been received. Accordingly, in the absence of other candidates, and in accordance with the Constitution and Rules of Procedure, with no dissent, Juan Bautista Mahiques was deemed re-elected unopposed by vote of affirmation. The General Meeting welcomed his re-election.

Juan Bautista Mahiques thanked the membership for their support and reaffirmed his commitment to advancing the goals of the Association. He also presented a video outlining his vision for the development of the IAP for 2026–2028.

Election of Vice-Presidents

The Secretary-General moved on to the election of Vice-Presidents, noting that under Article 11 of the Constitution, Vice-Presidents must be existing members of the Executive Committee and serve a three-year term commencing at the close of the present General Meeting, with eligibility for reappointment.

He informed the meeting that the Executive Committee had nominated the following candidates for election:

1. **Sally Dowling SC** - Director of Public Prosecutions, NSW, Australia (1st term)
2. **Giorgi Gogadze** - Deputy Chief Prosecutor / National Member of Eurojust, Georgia (2nd term)
3. **Kate Matthews** - President, Canadian Association of Crown Counsels (1st term)
4. **Jianming Tong** - First Deputy Prosecutor General, People's Republic of China (2nd term)

The Secretary-General confirmed that no alternative nominations had been received from the membership pursuant to Article 8.6 A of the Constitution. In accordance with the Constitution and Rules of Procedure, and with no dissent, the above candidates nominated by the Executive Committee were deemed to be elected by vote of affirmation.

Election of Ordinary Members

The Secretary-General noted that under Article 8 of the IAP Constitution, Ordinary Members are elected by the General Meeting for a three-year term, with eligibility for re-election. He presented the following nominations submitted by the Executive Committee:

1. **Abdualziz Fahad Alqorouny** - Prosecutor, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2nd term)
2. **Tsz King Chang** - Prosecutor General, Macao SAR, PRC (1st term)

3. **Cindy Clarke** - Director of Public Prosecutions, Bermuda (1st term)
4. **George Dolhai** - Director of Public Prosecutions & Deputy Attorney General, Canada (1st term)
5. **Jeanette Manning** - Director, NAGTRI, USA (2nd term)
6. **Catherine Pierse** - Director of Public Prosecutions, Ireland (2nd term)
7. **Anna Vardapetyan** - Prosecutor General, Armenia (1st term)

The Secretary-General confirmed that no alternative nominations had been received from the membership pursuant to Article 8.6 A of the Constitution. In accordance with the Constitution and Rules of Procedure, and with no dissent, the above candidates nominated by the Executive Committee were deemed to be elected by vote of affirmation.

Election of Supernumerary Member

The Secretary-General explained that Article 8.12 of the Constitution permits the nomination of a representative from an affiliated regional or professional prosecutorial organisation as a Supernumerary Member, and that the Executive Committee had submitted the nomination of **Renson M. Ingonga**, Director of Public Prosecutions, Kenya, in his capacity as President of the African Prosecutors Association, for election as a supernumerary member of the Executive Committee.

The Secretary-General invited objections from the floor. No objections were raised. In accordance with the Constitution and Rules of Procedure, and with no dissent, Renson Ingonga was elected as a supernumerary member by vote of affirmation.

Election of a candidate for a vacancy at the Financial Review Committee (FRC)

The Secretary-General briefed the meeting on the main functions of the FRC and underscored the importance of the Committee's work.

He clarified that FRC, including its Chair, consists of at least four members of the Executive Committee, the Senate, or members as defined by Article 19 of the Constitution. Members are nominated by the Executive Committee and appointed by the General Meeting and serve for a term of three years, with eligibility for re-appointment.

One of the current members of the FRC, Runar Torgerson from Norway, expressed his wish, not to be re-appointed for another term.

He stated that the Secretariat was pleased to announce the nomination of **Josip Cule**, Deputy Prosecutor General of Croatia and National Member of Eurojust for Croatia, for appointment as an ordinary member of the FRC.

No concerns or objections were raised, and no additional nominations were received from the membership. In accordance with the Constitution and Rules of Procedure, and with no dissent, Josip Cule was elected by vote of affirmation.

9. 2nd Awards Ceremony

The President invited the Secretary-General to conduct the second awards ceremony.

The Secretary General noted that the IAP is an Association that thrives through the active engagement of its members. He recalled that the IAP Awards programme was established to recognise distinguished individuals, organisations and agencies whose work advances the objectives of the IAP.

Certificates of Merit were awarded to the following members:

1. **Jacques Rayroud**, Switzerland, in recognition of his long-standing commitment to the rule of law and his invaluable support to the IAP Secretariat over many years. His assistance in engaging Francophone speakers for IAP conferences and translating key materials into French significantly strengthened the Association's outreach and promoted wider participation in IAP activities. The award was presented as a token of appreciation for his role in connecting the IAP with its Francophone membership.

2. **Kamran Aliyev**, Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in recognition of hosting the 29th IAP Annual Conference and General Meeting in 2024.

3. **The Office of the Attorney General of Malta** for hosting the 19th IAP European Regional Conference in November 2024. The certificate was presented to Victoria Buttigieg, Attorney General of Malta.

4. **The Hong Kong Department of Justice** for hosting the 11th IAP Asia and Pacific Regional Conference in November 2024. The certificate was received by Maggie Yang, Director of Public Prosecutions.

5. **The Prosecutor General's Office of Mongolia** for hosting the 10th IAP Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Conference in June 2024. The certificate was received by Jargalsaikhan Banzragch, Prosecutor General of Mongolia.

6. **The Attorney General's Office of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires**, in

recognition of hosting the Executive Committee meeting in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The certificate was received by Martina Pikielny, Director of International Relations.

The Secretary General further acknowledged that a number of Executive Committee members had stepped down during the year, following many years of dedicated service to the IAP. In recognition of their significant contribution, they receive a Certificate of Merit.

The Secretary General presented a Certificate of Merit to **Lloyd Babb**.

Certificates of Merit will also be handed out to leaving Executive Committee members who weren't present at the meeting:

- **Kathleen Roussel**
- **Ip Son Sang**
- **Woo Jung Shim**
- **Bruce Swartz.**

10. Future Conferences and Meetings

The President invited the IAP officials to report on the future conferences and meetings.

The Executive Director and the General Counsel provided a brief update on the future IAP events:

i. The 31st Annual Conference and General Meeting, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 15-18 November 2026

The 2026 IAP Annual Conference and General Meeting will be hosted in Saudi Arabia. The conference theme will be 'The criminal justice system in the age of artificial intelligence: opportunities, challenges and global applications.' The professional programme will include plenary sessions and workshops addressing the opportunities and challenges presented by AI in criminal justice systems, as well as sessions promoting the exchange of ideas, best practices, and innovative approaches to the use of AI by prosecutorial agencies. The discussions will also address how criminal actors are exploiting AI, and how prosecutors and law enforcement agencies can harness AI to strengthen investigations and improve efficiency. Further details will be circulated in due course, and the Call for Speakers will be launched in the first quarter of 2026.

The Executive Director underlined that an announcement on the selected host for the 2027 Annual Conference is expected within the coming months. Preparatory discussions are already underway for the 2028 and 2029 Annual Conferences.

ii. The 7th IAP Regional Conference for North America and the Caribbean, Cayman Islands, 09–12 November 2025

The conference will be hosted by Simon Davis, Director of Public Prosecutions. The theme is 'Emerging crime trends in the Caribbean: closer collaboration and mutual legal assistance'. The Call for Speakers is open until 19 September, with plenary topics including organised crime (drugs and firearms); asset recovery and confiscation; trafficking in persons; domestic violence and cultural considerations; legal education and training; and disclosure in the digital age. Although regional in focus, participation is open to IAP members globally, as the topics are of broad international relevance.

iii. The 12th IAP Asia-Pacific Regional Conference, New Delhi, India, 13–15 March 2026

The conference will be hosted by the All India Prosecutors Association. The professional programme is under development and is expected to focus on prosecutorial responses to illegal immigration and cross-border crime, including digital identification, biometrics and forensics, multi-agency coordination and overlapping jurisdictions. Further details and the Call for Speakers will be issued later in the year.

The Executive Director also reported that the Executive Committee had approved a bid from Qatar to host an IAP conference in Doha, with further updates to follow. She further informed the meeting that discussions regarding potential future conference hosts are ongoing with the following authorities:

- Director of Public Prosecutions, Bermuda
- Prosecutor General's Office, Kenya
- Director of Public Prosecutions, Ethiopia
- Director of Public Prosecutions, Mauritius
- Attorney General's Office, Nepal
- Director of Public Prosecutions, Zambia
- Director of Public Prosecutions, Sydney, Australia
- Prosecutor General's Office, Lithuania

11. Closing

The President thanked all members for their participation in the General Meeting. The General Meeting was then officially declared closed.