



WORLD ASSOCIATION OF KICKBOXING ORGANIZATIONS

WAKO Ordinary General Assembly 2020
Online through Zoom Platform
Sunday, December 13th, 2020
Time: from 17:00 pm to 19:00 pm (Dublin time)

On 13th December 2020, at 17:00pm (Dublin time) the Ordinary General Assembly of WAKO (World Association of Kickboxing Organizations) was held for the first time virtually, in order to discuss and resolve on the following

Agenda

Introduction:

- Appointment of the Chairman of the General Assembly
- Appointment of the Secretary of the General Assembly

- a. Approval of the Agenda;
- b. Appointment of scrutineers;
- c. Approval of the minutes of the preceding Ordinary General Assembly (Antalya 25/11/2019);
- d. President's activity report;
- e. Presentation of the financial statements 2019 and relevant audit report 2019;
- f. Approval of the financial statements 2019 and relevant audit report 2019;
- g. Appointment of the independent auditor for the auditing of the financial statements 2020;
- h. Presentation and approval of the budget 2020;
- i. Admission for membership (if any approved);
- l. Proposal of suspension of not compliant Members as per art.15 of the WAKO Statutes;
- m. Proposal of exclusion of not compliant Members as per art. 16 of the WAKO Statutes;
- n. Information on the future activities of WAKO;
- o. Discussion of proposals submitted by the Members (if any approved)

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The Members were invited to pre-register online through Event Brite system to attend the WAKO Ordinary General **by and not later than December 6th 2020**, which was also the final deadline for the Members to submit any proxy, if necessary, to WAKO Administration. It was reminded that, due to the limited availability of the connections through the internet platform used to hold the Assembly, only one connection was allowed for each Member participating to the GA, meaning that maximum 2 delegates per Member were allowed to be registered by specifying the name of the person authorized to vote; in any case, both delegates per each Member had to stay in the same room and be connected through the same device (pc, tablet, mobile phone) in order to follow the General Assembly on December 13th and ensure as much safety and connectivity for the Members as possible.

After the deadline of December 6th the validity of the registration list and the proxies received by WAKO Administration were verified by the Electoral Committee duly appointed by the Board of Directors in the persons of: Nikolaus Gstattner as Chairman, Aslam Mahomed, Dr. Basel Alshaer and Gimena Florencia Chavez as Members, and supported by Barbara Falsoni (WAKO Administration).

By official call notice sent on October 13th 2020 it was communicated since the beginning that the requirements for the right to vote are those set forth in article 22 of the Statutes:

- a. participation to the WAKO World Championships held in the year of the GA;
- b. payment of the affiliation fees of the last 2 (two) years.

It was also clarified that the requirement under article 22, paragraph 3, letter a) would have been satisfied with the participation of the Member to the last WAKO World Championships held in **Sarajevo and Antalya in 2019**, considering that no Championship was held in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As regards the requirement under article 22, paragraph 3, letter b), the fees considered would have been those paid for **the years 2019 and 2020**.

On the day before, November 12th, the Zoom link to attend the General Assembly was sent out by WAKO Administration to all the pre-registered members, while the manual for the voting instructions with each related **Voter ID and Voter Key** for the Electionrunner System to be used for the votations was sent out to the Voting Members only explaining that it was necessary to keep these data at hand to vote during the GA.

The voting system chosen for the General Assembly is the **Electionrunner system** which can be used solely by the person registered as legal representative of the Voting Member. During the votation, the Members are given 2,5 minutes to vote for each motion. This voting system has been used by several International Federations including GAISF.

The President Mr. Roy Baker, after having ascertained that the Meeting:

- has been duly called by the Board of Directors (i) in compliance with Swiss law (Art. 27 of the Ordinance 3 on measures to fight the coronavirus (COVID-19) issued on 19 June 2020 and subsequently amended) that allows the organization of virtual General Assemblies by Swiss

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entities upon decision of the Board of Directors, and pursuant to Article 24, paragraph 2, of WAKO Statutes, through a notice of call sent to the Members by WAKO Administration by means of email on October 13th, 2020;

- has been validly established pursuant to Article 21, paragraph 1, of the Statutes;
- has therefore the power to resolve upon the items on the Agenda;

declares the Meeting open and able to resolve on the items of the Agenda.

Before starting with the list of the motions to vote, the President apologizes for the 20 minutes of delay before starting but it was necessary to ensure that only the pre-registered and authorized persons were allowed to attend the GA and enter the meeting; in fact, the name of the profile had to correspond with the registration details to be admitted. He also reminds shortly that:

1. everybody is invited to put the cameras off to help other colleagues within low bandwidth regions;
2. microphones must be muted;
3. if someone wants to make a comment, he/she can do so by clicking on participants, then clicking on raise hand;
4. a list is kept to unmute when it's the turn of someone to speak;
5. voting Members are given 2,5 minutes to click on link and vote;
6. the link for voting is provided from time to time in the Chat-box.

The President then shows an opening welcome video received by GAISF and ARISF President, Mr. Raffaele Chiulli, confirming support and praising the work done in WAKO and its President to move the sport forward despite all the difficulties; staying connected to the Kickboxing community, demonstrating strength and empathy on these difficult times and reacting positively.

Two preliminary tests are then made to get the people used to the voting system of Electionrunner by entering their own Voter Ids and Voter Keys previously received by e-mail from WAKO Administration. The tests were successfully concluded and no questions from the attendees were asked.

b. Appointment of scrutineers

The President introduces the first motion of the General Assembly.

MOTION 1

Do you agree to resolve on item (b) as a first item of the Agenda and appoint Mrs. Falsoni-Mr. Morand as scrutineers of today's General Assembly?

Option	Votes	
yes	100%	41
no	0%	0

The motion is approved by unanimous decision.

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Roll call.

The President requests to Mrs. Francesca Falsoni (Chairman of the Legal Committee) to inform the Members about the attendance at the General Assembly. Mrs. Falsoni refers that the Electoral Committee has verified – pursuant to Article 22, paragraph 3, of the Statutes – that out of N. 45 Voting Members duly registered to attend the GA:

- (i) Serbia is not able to attend because of an issue regarding the representation of the Federation following a change in the presidency that does not allow the Member to be represented at the GA;
- (ii) Bulgaria and South Africa, despite their previous registration, have not attended the GA by connecting via Zoom;
- (iii) so that **No. 42 Full Members** are effectively present at the General Assembly having voting right. Therefore, pursuant to Article 21, paragraph 1, of the Statutes, the decisions of the Ordinary General Assembly require a simple majority of the votes in order for the relevant resolution(s) to be passed. Mr. Morand, appointed scrutineer of today's GA, is requested to confirm from time to time the result of each resolution; he takes the chair and explains that no voting means abstention and it is not counted for the purpose of the determination of the majority.

The **42 Voting Members** in attendance are the following:

Angola, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brasil, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Norway, Palestine, Poland, Liechtenstein, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Kuwait, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Great Britain, USA.

The 13 Members as observers in attendance with no voting rights are:

Algeria, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Tajikistan, UAE, Hong Kong. Pakistan and Montenegro were on for a short while but then they disconnected and never came back on.

In the present minutes, the word “Members” used below refers to the “Full Members” of WAKO in attendance during the GA.

Introduction

The President introduces a motion regarding the acknowledgment of the validity of the virtual General Assembly.

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MOTION 2

Do you acknowledge the validity of the virtual GA under the regulations issued by the Swiss authorities (art. 27 Ordinance 3 amended 20.08.2020)?

Option	Votes	
yes	98%	40
no	2%	1

The motion is approved by majority decision.

Introduction: Appointment of the Chairman and the Secretary of the General Assembly

The President introduces the motion on the appointment of the Chairman and Secretary of the meeting.

MOTION 3

Do you agree that the President be appointed Chairman of the meeting and Barbara Falsoni as secretary of the meeting?

Option	Votes	
yes	100%	41
no	0%	0

The motion is approved by unanimous decision.

a. Approval of the Agenda

The Chairman introduces the motion on the approval of the Agenda.

MOTION 4

Do you approve the Agenda of today's Ordinary General Assembly?

Option	Votes	
yes	100%	40
no	0%	0

The motion is approved by unanimous decision.

c. Approval of the minutes of the preceding Ordinary General Assembly (Antalya 25/11/2019)

The Chairman makes reference to the minutes of the last Ordinary General Assembly held in Antalya (Turkey) on November 25th, 2019, that have been made available to the Members in advance of the Meeting by means of e-mail sent by WAKO Administration.

The President informs that there was only one point of clarification about the minutes coming from Mr. Nasser Nassiri about the fact that Dr. Basel Alshaer was nominated by the Jordan Kickboxing Federation and not by WAKO Asia as candidate to the WAKO Board of Directors.

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MOTION 5

Do you agree to approve the minutes of the preceding Ordinary General Assembly (Antalya 25/11/2019)?

Option	Votes	
yes	100%	37
no	0%	0

The motion is approved by unanimous decision.

d. President's activity report

The Chairman introduces the report prepared in connection with the activities carried out by WAKO during the year 2020, which are really numerous despite all the difficulties of this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Chairman then illustrates to the Members - through power point - the presentation of his activity report whose copy is attached under **Exhibit N.2** hereto.

At the end of the presentation the President informs of the exciting news about the inclusion of Kickboxing as demonstration sport in the program of the European Games 2023 for the very first time.

MOTION 6

Do you agree to approve the President's Activity Report?

Option	Votes	
yes	100%	41
no	0%	0

The motion is approved by unanimous decision.

e. Presentation of the financial statements 2019 and relevant audit report 2019

The Chairman requests Mr. Nikolaus Gstattner, as Treasurer of WAKO, to illustrate the content of the financial statements 2019 and the outcome of the audit report 2019 by reporting the relevant main figures and information.

Both documents were made available to the Members before the Meeting (herewith attached under **Exhibit N.3**).

Transparency of the financial statements is an essential part for WAKO also in connection to the recent IOC submitted application. The financial statements 2019 have been audited and revised by the external auditors of the company AudEx AG/SA who confirmed that the financial statements comply with the Swiss law.

Total operating income 2019 amounts to 641'379 Euro.

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Total operating expenses 2019 amounts to 592'349 Euro.

Operating result: 49'031 Euro.

After deduction of the financial expenses, extraordinary expenses and taxes the final profit of the year 2019 amounts to 34'557 Euro.

f. Approval of the financial statements 2019 and relevant audit report 2019

After the presentation of the documents, the President requests to the Members to express their vote on the financial statements 2019 and the audit report 2019.

MOTION 7

Do you agree to approve the financial statements 2019 and the relevant audit report 2019?

Option	Votes	
yes	100%	40
no	0%	0

The motion is approved by unanimous decision.

g. Appointment of the independent auditor for the auditing of the financial statements 2020

The Treasurer Mr. Nikolaus Gstättner refers to the need to appoint the auditors for the audit of the financial statements 2020. The recommendation of the Board is to appoint the company AudEx AG/SA from Switzerland as auditors for the year 2020 as they fulfill the requirements set forth by WAKO Statutes and Swiss law.

MOTION 8

Do you agree to approve the Swiss company Audex AG as independent auditor for the auditing of the financial statements 2020?

Option	Votes	
yes	100%	41
no	0%	0

The motion is approved by unanimous decision.

h. Presentation and approval of the budget 2020

The Chairman invites the Treasurer Mr. Nikolaus Gstättner to illustrate to the Members the budget of 2020 (attached under **Exhibit N.4**). The Treasurer explains that the Budget of this year is negatively affected by the Covid-19 situation that has caused the cancellation of almost all the WAKO events on the calendar. In fact, most of the income is normally linked to the entry fees at WAKO championships and sponsorship. But this year WAKO had to reduce sponsorship and it is estimated a probable loss of about 68'000 Euro.

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Luckily the last financial years were good so this year we can overcome the difficulties hoping for new sponsorship and better times. All international sports federations are facing the same situation due to the cancellation of sports events because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

MOTION 9

Do you agree to approve the budget 2020?

Option	Votes	
yes	100%	42
no	0%	0

The motion is approved by unanimous decision.

i. Admission for membership (if any approved)

The President informs there is no application to vote for admission of a new member. However, WAKO has received new applications but they have not submitted all the required documentation yet as according to Article 9. Application Procedures of WAKO Statutes. Once received the missing documents, their application will be brought forward at next General Assembly.

l. Proposal of suspension of not compliant Members as per art.15 of the WAKO Statutes

The President informs of a certain number of countries that have been currently suspended by the Board of Directors of WAKO according to article 15 of the WAKO Statutes after a long process. The reason for suspension is for not being fully compliant and due to various small difficulties; they don't communicate, no payments, inactivity, missing updated documentation ecc. However, according to article 15 of WAKO Statutes, there's no need to ratify their suspension by the GA, we keep working with these countries requesting documentation for the IOC and trying to get them involved.

m. Proposal of exclusion of not compliant Members as per art. 16 of the WAKO Statutes

Fifteen minutes before the discussion of the item m) of the Agenda (*Proposal of exclusion of not compliant Members as per art. 16 of the WAKO Statutes*), WAKO Administration sent to the representative of FPKMT (Portugal) the Zoom link to join the General Assembly in order to allow the latter to discuss its position. In fact, FPKMT was notified the decision of expulsion taken by the Board of Directors on November 12th, 2020 and communicated to the same with official letter dated November 17th, 2020.

Pursuant to article 16, paragraph 4, of WAKO Statutes, "4. Any exclusion decision by the Board of Directors of WAKO is subject to ratification by the next General Assembly. (...) The WAKO Member concerned shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present its arguments against an exclusion to the General Assembly". As a consequence, FPKMT was invited to join the GA in order to submit its arguments regarding the decision of expulsion notified by WAKO.

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FPKMT was requested to register to confirm the attendance of its delegates by December 6th 2020. Miss. Mafalda Falcao, FPKMT International relations and Media representative, was duly registered and could enter the meeting while Ms. Andrea Oliveira, who was also registered, communicated her impossibility to attend. Dr. Miguel Sá Fernandes was sitting close to Miss Falcao as FPKMT Legal Advisor when FPKMT entered the meeting (even if he was not registered as a representative of FPKMT). Despite the fact that Dr. Sá Fernandes was not registered, he was allowed to attend and speak anyway during the General Assembly, in the interests of transparency and to accommodate the process.

Only few minutes before connecting, FPKMT had sent an e-mail to WAKO containing written arguments against the decision of expulsion of the Portuguese Kickboxing and Muay Thai Federation from WAKO requesting that such documents be added to the Minutes of the General Assembly. Given the late communication, the document was not circulated to the Members. As requested it is attached to these minutes (as **Exhibit N.5**). The arguments contained therein were exposed orally during the discussion in front of the General Assembly.

The President then explained the process. The decision would be first presented by Mrs. Francesca Falsoni, Chairman of the WAKO Legal Committee. Thereafter, FPKMT would be given the opportunity to present its case. Both speakers would dispose of the same presentation time.

Mrs. Francesca Falsoni explained shortly to the Members the long process undertaken by the WAKO Board of Directors according to Article 15 and 16 of the WAKO Statutes that led to the decision of expulsion of FPKMT from WAKO, mainly due to its continuous refusal to follow the indications of WAKO regarding the review of some clauses of its Statutes and especially of the Electoral Regulation in view of providing more transparency and democratic participation to the votation process and ultimately complying with WAKO's good governance principles.

Mrs. Falsoni underlined that in the process conducted based on WAKO's rules, the relevant issue was not whether or not FPKMT would be compliant with local laws. In this process the relevant issue was the fact that FPKMT regulations were not compliant with WAKO's Statutes and good governance and democratic principles. They had to be adapted but FPKMT at no stage open the possibility of such an adaptation.

15 minutes were then given to FPKMT representatives to present their arguments and respond. In particular, Ms. Mafalda Falcao started talking by reporting the position of FPKMT opposing the decision of expulsion of FPKMT from WAKO. After the Chairman of WAKO Legal Committee's replied to the arguments presented by Ms. Falcao, Dr. Miguel Sá Fernandes responded again on behalf of FPKMT the content of the arguments submitted by FPKMT in writing to WAKO and to the Members of the General Assembly.

In sum, without prejudice to all the arguments presented in writing and in the exchange of correspondence undertaken between WAKO and FPKMT regarding the matter, FPKMT stated that

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- They had not been afforded the possibility of a contradictory debate;
- They did not receive evidence/proof of the claims directly submitted by members of FPKMT to WAKO even only of the content of the whistleblowers' arguments (not the names);
- The amendments of the Electoral regulation proposed by WAKO would be in contradiction with Portuguese law;
- FPKMT is compliant with Portuguese law and there is no need to change the documents (Statutes and Electoral Regulation);
- A documentation was not sent to the Members together with the Agenda.

The Chairman of the Legal Committee, in turn, replied to all the above mentioned arguments and, without prejudice to all the arguments reported during the General Assembly and the content of the correspondence exchanged between WAKO and FPKMT, stated in sum that:

- It is not true that FPKMT did not have the possibility to present its arguments because the process prior to the decision of expulsion lasted more than three months and there was a wide exchange of letters between the parties and WAKO clearly explained the content of its requests to amend the FPKMT. The answer of FPKMT was always a refusal to comply with the same;
- FPKMT was allowed to present its arguments to the Members during the GA with the support of its legal counsel;
- WAKO has accepted to include the written arguments submitted on the day of the GA to these minutes;
- The written arguments of FPKMT could be presented by the legal counsel of FPKMT during the GA and had been directly sent by FPKMT to each Member of WAKO by mail and;
- FPKMT has continuously refused to accept the requests of WAKO by rejecting any type of arguments submitted by WAKO in more than three months. The proposals made had been reviewed by local Portuguese lawyers engaged by WAKO. In their opinion, there was no issue of Portuguese law, which was not the issue anyway.

In the end, following various exchanges of arguments which went longer than the originally set timeframe, FPKMT through Ms. Mafalda Falcao was given the last word.

- Mr. Jesus Eguia (Spain), President of FEKM, stated that that the situation was a pity but that he believed that transparency was a necessary fundamental requirement to continue the path in the International Olympic Committee and anyone who did not fulfill this requirement shouldn't be within WAKO;
- Mr. Donato Milano (Italy), President of FIKBMS, underlined the fact that this situation had been discussed for many months. WAKO wrote many letters to the Portuguese Federation and just today, at this moment, an e-mail was received from them. It was too late. WAKO had just made one simple request for a change in their Statutes to improve democracy but they had decided not to comply with that. He totally supported the position expressed by the Chairman of the WAKO Legal Committee;

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- Mr. Espen Lund (Norway), WAKO 1st Vice President and General Secretary of the Norwegian Kickboxing Federation, confirmed that the entire process undertaken by the Board was linked with the fact that FPKMT Statutes were not in compliance with the WAKO Statutes. He underlined that two different Portuguese law firms were consulted. They had suggested the amendments to be done to the FPKMT Statutes. For this reason, he could not understand the arguments of the Portuguese Federation stating that it was impossible for them to make the requested changes in their Statutes. After multiple requests over months, they had still not complied with the Board's requests for a more transparent and democratic federation.
- Mr. Salim Kayici (Turkey), 1st Vice President of WAKO EUROPE and President of the Turkish Kickboxing Federation, affirmed the importance of transparency and democracy for the IOC. All WAKO members should ensure transparency and democracy otherwise WAKO could not hope to fulfill its Olympic dream. Members that did not respect these very important values had to be suspended and ultimately excluded. This was the case of the Portuguese federation.
- Mr. Aslam Mohamed (South Africa), WAKO Board member and Board member of the South African Kickboxing Association, reminded that the WAKO Board wrote to the Portuguese federation in numerous occasions asking very simple questions; does FPKMT conduct elections in a democratic way? Does FPKMT grant transparency and good governance? Those kind of requests were not unreasonable and they were not in contradiction with Portuguese law. We needed to move forward and compliance was one of the outmost important requirement in our federation.
- Mr. Ali Hussain (Kuwait), General Secretary of the Kuwait Kickboxing Committee, stated that Portugal had already followed a democratic way in their recent elections. They had the support of the sport authorities in Portugal, so in case of any conflict happening in the country first thing to do was to check with the authorities in the same country; if the Country authorities confirmed that there was nothing wrong in the democratic elections of the Board, that should be the decisive aspect. If WAKO wanted a change in the way that the Board members of the Portuguese Federation are elected, this should result from an internal vote. In his opinion WAKO was taking it in the wrong way. In Kuwait they had a situation like that in which their participation to sport was suspended. Therefore, they can understand what it meant. Accordingly their federation was in favor of Portugal.
- Mr. Istvan Kiraly (Hungary), Acting President of WAKO Europe and WAKO Vice President, stated that this situation was affecting all the European countries. After many months working on this case, we had just received an e-mail from Portugal during the Assembly which members in attendance had not been able to even read. WAKO Europe had always been known as a transparent and democratic social organization, unfortunately Portugal as member of WAKO Europe fail to comply with these democratic and transparent obligations.

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The discussion was then closed and the motion regarding the expulsion of FPKMT as a member of WAKO was submitted to vote.

MOTION 10

Do you agree to expel FPKMT (Portugal) as WAKO Member?

Option	Votes
yes	36
no	3

The motion is approved by majority decision.

Following the discussion about Portugal, the President explains that we have another two non-compliant members that the Board of Directors has proposed for expulsion from WAKO because they are actually Ghost Federations; they don't communicate, never responded to WAKO office, they don't exist; Bermuda and Samoa.

The Chairman introduces the motions regarding the expulsion of such members.

MOTION 11

Do you agree to expel Bermuda Karate Institute as WAKO Member?

Option	Votes
yes	100% 29
no	0% 0

The motion is approved by unanimous decision.

MOTION 12

Do you agree to expel WAKO Samoa (Samoa) as WAKO Member?

Option	Votes
yes	100% 37
no	0% 0

The motion is approved by unanimous decision.

n. Information on the future activities of WAKO;

The President reminds there's a lot of work to do next year and we can just hope it will be a better year for the sports. Next available WAKO Championships are the ones of 2025-2026, a new bidding will be sent out at the beginning of next year.

o. Discussion of proposals submitted by the Members (if any approved)

No proposal to be put on the Agenda has been received by the Members on due time, meaning 45 days before the date of the General Assembly, according to Article 25, paragraph 3, of the WAKO Statutes.

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The Chairman thanks a lot the Board, the Continental Presidents and all the Members for attending, for their support patience, in fact the General Assembly closed one hour later at 20:00 pm (Dublin time), due to technical issues for being the very 1st WAKO virtual General Assembly.

As a final note regarding the GA, it is recorded that – despite Slovenia was registered to attend the GA - due to a technical problem not ascribable to the Member, it was not registered as a Member having Voting rights during the GA. This situation, that has been duly reported to Slovenia, did not impact the quorum of the GA or the votations but it is recorded in these minutes for transparency.

Roy Baker

WAKO President

Barbara Falsoni

Secretary of the WAKO Ordinary General Assembly

Exhibits:

- **Exhibit N.1:** Minutes GA 2019
- **Exhibit N. 2:** President's activity report 2020
- **Exhibit N. 3:** FS 2019 and Audit Report 2019
- **Exhibit N.4:** Budget 2020
- **Exhibit N.5:** FPKMT written arguments sent by e-mail on December 13th, 2020, at 19:53pm

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