WORLD FOUNDRY ORGANIZATION

MINUTES

OF THE

WFO MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS CONFERENCE CALLS on March 2026

Wednesday 11th, Thursday 12th March 2026

World Foundry Organization
Winton House, Lyonshall, Herefordshire HR5 3JP Great Britain.
Tel: +44 (0) 1544 340332
Email: jjgonzalez@thewfo.com Website: www.thewfo.com

AGENDA

1) Welcome by the General Secretary
2) WFO World Foundry Congress and Centenary
3) Presence in GIFA 2027
4) Other actions
    a. Global Foundry Report 2026
    b. Young Researchers Competition announcement
    c. Training and Professional Development Working Group leadership
5) Open discussion with the WFO MA representatives
6) Conclusions and actions to be taken
7) Any other business
8) Thank You and closing remarks

PARTICIPATION LIST

Official Delegates and Secretariat Team

1.	A	Austria	----------
2.	AUS	Australia	----------
3.	BY	Belarus	----------
4.	CH	Switzerland	----------
5.	CN	China	Liu Hongchao
			Lindsay Bao
6.	CRO	Croatia	Zdenka Zovko
7.	CZ	Czech Republic	Vladimír Krutiš
8.	D	Germany	Babette Tonn
9.	ES	Spain	Jose Javier Gonzalez (Secretariat)
10.	ET	Egypt	----------
11.	F	France	----------
12.	FIN	Finland	Juhani Orkas
13.	GB	Great Britain	Andrew Turner (Secretariat)
14.	H	Hungary	----------
15.	IND	India	Dr. Abhishikta Roychowdhury
			Sushil Sharma
			Anima Pandey
			Vikram Jain
			Sushil Sharma
			Sanjeev Kumar
			Prayut Bhamawat
16.	IT	Italy	----------
17.	J	Japan	Yoshiyuki Noda
18.	KR	Korea	Seung Mok Yoo
19.	MEX	Mexico	Bruno Jaramillo
			Erwin DeGroot
20.	N	Norway	----------
21.	PL	Poland	Katarzyna Liszka (Secretariat)
22.	RO	Romania	Raluca-Maria Blanariu
			Romeu Chelariu
23.	Se	Serbia	----------
24.	S	Sweden	Conny Gustavsson
25.	SLO	Slovenia	Mirjam Jan Blažič
			Sebastjan Kastelic
26.	SA	South Africa	Sandy Majatladi
27.	TR	Turkey	Tuncag Cihangir Sen
28.	USA	United States of America	Justin Scott

MATTERS ARISING*

**Summarizing together the ideas raised during the two different calls on March 11th and 12th 2026*

1) Welcome by the General Secretary

The General Secretary welcomed all the Representatives of the WFO Member Associations to the meeting and thanked them for the effort attending the call.

K Liszka was introduced to the team as the new Executive Secretary of the WFO starting this year.

The new representatives from the United States and Romania were introduced to the rest of the Member Associations, and all welcomed them to this team and wished them a great term.

2) WFO World Foundry Congress and Centenary

The WFO Secretariat Team and Tuncag Sen explained the details under the preparation of the next World Foundry Congress 2026 in Istanbul. A presentation was prepared for this meeting, and this will be shared with all the attendees along with the minutes. All the delegates were encouraged to attend the event and to disseminate the information in their countries to try to increase the number of technical papers received, as well as invited speakers and national delegations.

The Secretariat Team highlighted the importance of counting with as many representatives as possible in our General Assembly in Istanbul, taking place on Sunday 18th this was reminded as the most important annual encounter for the WFO Associations. It was explained that just after the GA we will celebrate the centenary cocktail with some of our Past Presidents, industry stakeholders and other VIP.

The Centenary official celebration will continue next day Monday 19th during the Gala Dinner, the WFO is preparing a video for that moment, and some acknowledgements will be made.

The WFC was reminded as the meeting point for the MA, where we can define a working plan including more actions, meetings between the MA and other delegations, sessions of the working groups, among others.

All the Associations were asked for some old pictures for the video to be developed.

Some of the attending delegates expressed their commitment to look for some old pictures in their historical files and through some of their national WFO Past Presidents and former Executives.

All the Associations were also invited to be international partners of the Congress; they can contact the WFC organizers or Tuncag Sen for this.

Dr A Roychowdhury asked for the deadline to nominate invited speakers. T Sen informed this is initially for the end of March.

L Bao asked for some help to be able to add a big group of paper applications coming from China. T Sen will help FICMES with this.

JJ González noted the importance of completing the programme as soon as possible so this can hopefully drive people to register.

T Sen highlighted that there is no information yet from possible delegations from Japan, Korea or South Africa attending the congress and discussed with the delegates about this issue.

3) Presence in GIFA 2027

The General Secretary informed about the development of the agreement between the WFO and Messe Düsseldorf for GIFA 2027. He said that the goals with this are to guarantee a sustainable presence in GIFA for the WFO and to be able to create the framework for more value to members there.

He detailed the ideas planned by the team for this new edition of GIFA and explained that we would like to know which Associations will be willing to study the possibility to have their own booths in GIFA close to the WFO one, with the idea of creating a common space together respecting the individual needs for all Associations.

J Scott expressed the initial interest from AFS to study this, others said that they will be interested in using the WFO stand for having their own Association's meetings.

A Pandey informed that the IIF will be in the Indian Pavillion. She asked for some possible B2B meetings organized during the Fair. She also made a question about possible subsidies for companies to be there with the WFO. The General Secretary explained that the WFO cannot directly bring companies but Associations and that some possible co-exhibiting is being studied as part of our arrangement with Messe Düsseldorf.

4) Other actions

a. UNIDO

The Secretariat Team informed about a new action launched in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), which is the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability, being this last driver the one we are engaging with.

The action is aimed at environmental sustainability under The Global Elimination of Mercury in Non-Ferrous Metals Initiative (GEMINI), which is a Global Environment Facility–funded program implemented by UNIDO to support Member States in reducing mercury emissions and releases from the non-ferrous metals sector

This program focuses on large-scale and formalized industrial activities, in particular smelting and refining operations in Chile, Peru, South Africa, India, Mexico, and Zambia.

The World Foundry Organization (WFO), as an international sectoral body with extensive historical knowledge of the non-ferrous and foundry industries, has been invited to provide comprehensive advisory and analytical services to support the formulation of the GEMINI actions and risk mitigation planning.

The WFO has presented a Technical Proposal for consultancy services regarding the GEMINI Project Preparation Grant Phase and this has been accepted. This means we will prepare a report during March and April that will be used for the final preparation of the programme, we count with some UN budget for this.

The Secretariat concluded saying that a goal with this action is the credibility we gain cooperating with a recognized body like the UN and that we can try to establish some stable incomes from the project for next years if we are able to give a good report now and plan a proper balance of dedications.

A Turner added that this project can identify some international experts to be involved in the actions to be taken in the countries.

S Majatladi confirmed that NTFS in South Africa has been working on this. Mexico highlighted their interest in this action.

K Liska remarked the gender perspective included in the action, and that we will also analyse the participation of women in Non-Ferrous industry.

T Sen proposed to bring this action to the WFC. The General Secretary confirmed that it was discussed with the UN representatives the idea of using some of the WFO actions to leverage the project and that the UN will have some budget for doing this.

b. Global Foundry Report 2026

The Secretariat explained the new Terms of Use defined in the last edition of the WFO Global Foundry Report as an answer to the requests coming from the Representatives in our calls past year. It was made a reminder not to distribute this document with open links to download it as this would reduce the value of this asset for all the Associations as the legit source to access this information.

They also asked all the Associations to identify and communicate us the most suitable regular deadline for them to be able to send us every year the information to be included in the Global Foundry Report. The Secretariat will study all the deadlines and set a general deadline for this to be used every year.

c. Young Researchers Competition announcement

The General Secretary announced the open call for abstract for the Young Researcher Competition. He detailed some information of this new edition and showed a promotional video prepared for this announcement; all can be checked in the official website of the event here:

https://wfoyrc.com/

It was said that as in the last WFC in China, the Top 10 researchers will be invited to the World Foundry Congress 2026 in Türkiye to present their work in front of a large audience, the Top 3 will receive their awards live on stage.

The Secretariat Team encouraged all the Representatives to identify the best authors in their countries to take part in this new edition of the competition.

B Jaramillo asked about the age limit. It was explained that the authors need to be less than 35 years old.

d. Training and Professional Development Working Group leadership

The General Secretary reminded the objectives of the WFO Training and Professional Development Working Group, which are to facilitate collaboration and partnership for the development of training programmes by national foundry bodies that are relevant and current, and to support the national foundry bodies in promoting careers in the castings industry and increase visibility of the industry.

He informed that the chairing for this working group is now available and asked all the Member to make us suggestions of suitable people in the Associations or national networks interested in leading this action under the WFO umbrella.

5) Open discussion with the WFO MA representatives

A Pandey asked about the procedure to nominate a country for a WFC. The GS explained this and announced that the first slot for a WFC is open for 2030. She also asked about possible B2B meetings in Istanbul during the congress.

C Gustavsson proposed to improve the information about the WFO working groups showed in the WFO website as this information would be relevant to drive the interest of some stakeholders in Sweden.

6) Conclusions and actions to be taken

The Associations were reminded about some important notes:

- All were encouraged to register to the WFC2026 and to take part in the WFO Centenary.

- We will ask them for their plans in GIFA to start some discussions with the ones willing to explore the idea of being closer to the booth of the WFO.

- All were asked to promote the new Young Researchers Competition.

- We need to receive their annual proper timing for sending their national reports on a yearly regular basis.

- We will contact them to request some information for the UNIDO project.

7) Any other business

No other points were presented by the Members.

8) Thank You and closing remarks

The Secretariat Team thanked the attendees for their presence, good ideas and proposals and for encouraging the team to keep on advancing the value of the organization.