



## FINA EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS

### Delegates from 152 nations approve new FINA Constitution

**Shanghai (CHN)**, July 21, 2011 – With the presence of 152 National Federations, FINA held its Extraordinary Congress today in Shanghai (CHN), with one main point in the Agenda: the approval of FINA's new Constitutional Rules.

These rules, to be enforced after the FINA General Congress, in July 2013 in Barcelona (ESP), include the following main changes:

- Introduction of the designation of "Aquatics" to generally refer to the FINA sports: swimming, diving, water polo, synchronised swimming and open water swimming;
- The enlargement of the FINA Executive: it will include the FINA President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and two other members to be nominated by the President, to achieve the representation of the five continents;
- Enforcing the rights and obligations for the FINA National Federations, namely the independence from third parties, the participation in FINA's major events, and the organisation of elections at least every four years;
- A more clear mission for the Continental Organisations, including a close co-operation with FINA to promote the Aquatics activities in the respective continent;
- The Chairman of the Athletes Commission will become a Bureau Member (without vote);
- Adjustments in the election of the Bureau, based on both continental representation following the decision of the continental congresses, and vote at large at the FINA General Congress;
- Clarification and update of the duties within the FINA structure for the President, the Executive, the Bureau, the Committees and Commissions;
- Any decision of the Technical Committees to make a substantial change in technical rules should receive the positive vote of at least two thirds of the members of the respective Technical Committee.

*"We have followed a democratic and crystal clear process throughout the entire preparation of this Congress, by which the National Federations had the opportunity to express their opinion and to propose their recommendations", considered the FINA President Dr. Julio C. Maglione, while addressing the delegates of the Congress.*

*"This Extraordinary Congress certainly constitutes a step forward in FINA's history. It is aimed at adapting our International Federation to the competitive and challenging demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. These changes will raise the functionality of FINA and will help in securing our Federation a distinguished place among the most prestigious and respected Sports in the five continents", Dr. Maglione concluded.*