



**INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION**  
**President's Office**

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By e-mail only

Lausanne, Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024

To: Presidents of ITTF Member Associations from Africa

Dear Friends,

Exactly a year ago, Durban welcomed us all as the historic ITTF World Championships Finals 2023 opened. This marked the first time in 84 years that the event returned to the African continent.

As we vividly remember the warm hospitality, inflaming passion, and hard work that went into this remarkable event, I once again express my deepest gratitude to the South Africa Table Tennis Board, its President, Joe Carrim, the city of Durban, the province of KwaZulu-Natal, the Government of South Africa, and all our esteemed partners.

The ITTF World Championships Finals Durban 2023 achieved an extraordinary feat, captivating a global audience of over 1 billion people. This event showcased the remarkable growth of table tennis while also celebrating the sport's rich legacy in Africa.

A year later, I want to reaffirm my unwavering commitment to the development of our sport on your continent. With Africa boasting the youngest population, it is increasingly important to inspire the younger generation to embrace table tennis and shape its future. Since the Durban World Championships concluded, the ITTF, in close cooperation with the Member Associations in the respective countries, has conducted around 80 development activities in Africa. We stand firmly behind you, supporting your talents, players, coaches, and officials every step of the way.

It is fitting that the ITTF Africa Cup and the ITTF African Olympic Qualification successfully took place in Kigali last week. Congratulations to Rwanda Table Tennis

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Federation, to its president, John Bosco Birungi, as well as to the African Table Tennis Federation, and its President, Khaled El-Salhy for two memorable events. This demonstrates the significant progress of our sport in Africa.

Let us continue to build on this momentum, nurturing the passion for table tennis and expanding its reach across the continent. Together, we can create a brighter future for our sport.

Table Tennis. For All. For Life. Forever!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Petra Sörling'.

**Petra Sörling**  
ITTF President  
IOC Member

