



**AIMS** Association of International  
Marathons and Distance Races

*The home of world running™*

Athens, 3 March, 2020

**Subject:** Cancellation of the 23rd World Congress of AIMS scheduled to be held in Batumi on 23-26 April 2020

Dear friends

I am writing to advise you of the cancellation of the World Congress of AIMS scheduled to be held in Batumi on 23-26 April.

As we know the world is facing a new health-threatening problem defined by the medical community as “COVID-19 - coronavirus” - a worldwide medical problem which started in China.

With the virus having now spread to all continents, on 28 February the World Health Organisation (WHO) felt obliged to revise their assessment of the risks of the further spread and impact of the infection from HIGH to VERY HIGH. As a result expos, demonstrations, sporting fixtures, running events – in fact anything which attracts high concentrations of human beings – are being cancelled to avoid future mass infections and yet unforeseen consequences.

AIMS, as an international association with a membership of hundreds of races in countries throughout the world, recognises its responsibility to follow the warnings, rules and advice of the WHO and, accordingly, have decided on the following actions:

1. In relation to the organisation of the XXIII Congress of AIMS, scheduled for 23-26 April 2020: after having consulted members of its Board of Directors and received the opinion of the Local Organisation Manager, based upon protecting the health of our members, speakers, and visitors and to avoid further health or economic damage to both the organisers and attendees, AIMS’ decision is to suspend the Congress as initially scheduled.
2. In relation to the future of the said event: it has been proposed to the AIMS Organising Committee (AOC) of the Batumi AIMS World Congress to determine, as soon as possible, either the cancellation “*sine die*” or a postponement of the AIMS Congress to a later date, including possibly a similar date in 2021 to maintain the spirit of the vote taken at the XXII Congress of AIMS in September 2018.

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AIMS HQ:Spyros Louis Ave., Olympic Aquatics Center, OACA, 151 23 Maroussi-Athens, Greece  
tel./fax: +30 210 6832 550, [www.aims-worldrunning.org](http://www.aims-worldrunning.org) - e-mail: [aimshq@aims-worldrunning.org](mailto:aimshq@aims-worldrunning.org)





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3. In relation to formal decisions: the Board members' decision and that of the majority of the AIMS Organising Committee, in light of the seriousness of the Corona Virus epidemic, determined that without further delay the Congress planned in Batumi for 23-26 April be cancelled, leaving the next three months (March-May) to take a formal decision on a replacement date and location.
4. This resolution of the AOC shall be communicated to the LOC of the Batumi AIMS World Congress and to all AIMS members without delay.

We hope all those involved understand our decision and will work towards the health and progress of all people and organisations affected.

**Paco Borao**

**President of AIMS**

**Hugh Jones**

**Secretary of AIMS**

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