



**Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting
held on
16th July 2025
At 13:00-14:30 BST**

1. Welcome

Simón Barquera, President of the World Obesity Federation, welcomed everyone to the 2025 AGM.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

Following a live poll the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2024 were voted on, approved and accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

It was noted that all matters arising from the minutes were covered on the Agenda.

4. President's Report (Presented by Simón Barquera)

Board Appointments and Changes

Simón welcomed new trustees joining the Board for 2025, including Sherlyn Celone-Arnold, TOS Regional Representative, Professor Fábio Rogerio Trujilho, FLASO Regional Representative and Karen Sealey, Member At Large. He also reported other Board changes, with Bruno Halpern elected as President-Elect and Jason Halford appointed as Treasurer.

Simón thanked outgoing trustees Adam McCormack and Elizabeth Parks for their service on the Board of Trustees and their invaluable commitment and dedication to the organisation.

In 2025 12 new members joined the Federation over the past year, the World Obesity Federation now represents over 100 countries and territories, bringing total membership to 111 organisations worldwide.

Welcome to New Members:

- Association for the Fight Against Obesity (ALCO), Costa Rica
- Bahrain Diabetes Society (BDS), Bahrain
- Bangladesh Endocrine Society (BES), Bangladesh
- China Obesity Federation (COF), China
- Coalition of NGOs in Nutrition and Food Security, Ghana

- Costa Rican Association of Metabolism (ACOMET), Costa Rica
- Health Care Association of Nepal, (HCAN), Nepal
- Healthy Weight Association, Finland
- IBDO Foundation, Italy
- Slovak Obesity Association, Slovakia
- Society for Korea Obesity & Metabolism Studies (SOMS), South Korea
- South African Metabolic Medicine and Surgery Society, South Africa

2024 and Q1 2024 Review:

Simón provided an overview over the past year:

- **Journals:** A new publishing agreement has been signed. Simón reviewed the 2024–2025 jury numbers, noting their significance for the organisation’s strategic objectives.
- **Digital Reach:** The Global Obesity Observatories recorded a 514% increase in visitors, attracting users from over 230 countries and islands, generating 2.4 million page views (nearly double 2023).
- **Training and Education:** 421 SCOPE Certifications were awarded and over 600 Health Care Practitioners were trained at four SCOPE Schools, and 1,000 scholarships were awarded for the Core Learning Path.
- **Conferences:** The organisation convened more than 3,000 delegates from over 75 countries at ICO 2024 in São Paulo, from over 75 Countries
- **International Engagement:** The organisation participated in the 154th Session of the World Health Organization Executive Board.

World Obesity Day 2025 - Presented by Yele Fafowora

It was noted that the theme for World Obesity Day 2025 was “Changing Systems, Healthier Lives,” emphasising its aim to shift the conversation from blaming individuals to addressing the systems that fuel the global obesity crisis. These systems include food production and marketing, healthcare access, public policy, media influence, and the wider environment.

The campaigns main achievements were outlined:

- **Campaign Assets:** A flagship video translated into three languages; case study videos featuring advocates from diverse regions; and a comprehensive advocacy toolkit containing logos, posters, videos, factsheets, and templates.
- **Member Engagement:** Active participation from members such as United World Against Obesity (India) and the Obesity Society Nigeria, both of which organised impactful events and received grants to strengthen their campaigns.
- **Media Impact:** The campaign generated nearly 6 million Twitter impressions, over 712,000 Instagram engagements, and reached 95,000 people on Facebook.
- **Global Press Reach:** Together with the launch of the World Obesity Atlas report, the campaign achieved an impressive estimated press reach of 4.1 billion people worldwide.

World Obesity Day 2025 not only amplified awareness but also mobilised a truly global response.

5. CEO’s Report - Presented by Johanna Ralston

- **Global Obesity Observatory**
Johanna reported on the strong performance of the Global Obesity Observatory, which achieved 2.4 million annual page views and attracted visitors from over 230 countries and territories.

- **Strategic Plan**

An overview of the organisation's three-year strategic plan was presented which centred on global advocacy, convening, training and education, as well as science and data. Key themes include obesity's links with other diseases, advancing research, fostering integration across sectors, and elevating the voices of people with lived experience.

- **Advocacy Activities**

- Johanna highlighted significant advocacy efforts, including participation in the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Obesity, the Civil Society Hearing, and collaboration with the World Health Organisation to develop GLP-1 guidelines.
- The campaign messaging for the upcoming United Nations High-Level Meeting was noted. Johanna stressed the urgency of prioritising obesity and embedding it into health systems worldwide.

- **Global Obesity Forum**

Johanna invited members to attend the Global Obesity Forum in New York, in September, underlining its pivotal role in advancing the global obesity agenda.

6. Treasurer's Report - Presented by Jason Halford

Report from the Finance Committee

- The Treasurer, Jason Halford reported a surplus of £124,050 for 2024, compared to a deficit in 2023. He highlighted the increase in income, mainly driven by the successful ICO in Brazil and increased SCOPE activities. A surplus of £124,050 has been achieved for 2024, compared to a deficit of £262,000 in 2023.
- The income for 2024 was £2,088,000, compared to £948,000 in 2023, driven by the successful ICO in Brazil and increased SCOPE activities.
- It was noted that journal royalties increased from £173,000 in 2023 to £213,000 in 2024, with an improved agreement for 2025.
- Income from membership increased to £50,000 in 2024, up from £27,000 in 2023.
- Jason provided a mid-year report for 2025, highlighting a budgeted surplus of £86,000 and various sources of funding, including corporate champions and scope education activities.

Receive the audited Reports and Accounts for 2024 and re-appointment of auditors and their remuneration:

Following a live poll the following was approved:

- The Reports and Accounts for 2024 were received by the General Council.
- The reappointment of Auditors Xeinadin Accounting (formerly Tudor John) and their remuneration for the year were approved.

7. Management & Advocacy for Providers, Patients and Systems (MAPPS II)

An overview of the MAPPS II project was presented, aimed at understanding global obesity policy and its landscape. The methodology, including surveys and deep dives in six countries, and the timeline for the project were noted.

Breakout Sessions

Three Individual breakout sessions were held during the webinar, based on the different surveys. Attendees were asked to choose a breakout room for this part of the meeting. (It was noted individual breakout sessions were not recorded).

8. Reports from Committees and Lived-Experience

Lived Experience Reports: Amber Huett-Garcia and Ogwen Stephen provided updates on their activities related to lived experience, including participation in various events, research projects, and advocacy efforts.

Policy and Prevention Committee Report: Simón reported on behalf of Chair, Kent Buse, the activities of the Policy and Prevention Committee, including the development of working groups focused on the high-level meeting, physical activity, and ultra-processed foods.

Clinical Care Committee Report: Chair, Ada Cuevas, reported on the activities of the Clinical Care Committee, including the SCOPE certification process, the progress of SCOPE schools, and new webinars on clinical cases.

Publications Committee Report: Chair, Nick Finer, reported on the activities of the Publications Committee, including the appointment of new associate editors, challenges in attracting reviewers, and the impact factors of the journals.

Membership Committee Report: Chair, Simón Barquera, reported on the activities of the Membership Committee, including the approval of 12 new members over the past year, the review of membership fees, and the alignment of the Committee's work with the new strategic plan.

Regional Reports: EASO, AOASO, FLASO, TOS and MENA Working Group

Reports from the four Regional members, Asia Oceania Association for the Study of Obesity (AOASO), European Association of Obesity (EASO), the Latin American Federation of Obesity Societies (FLASO) and the North American Association, The Obesity Society, (TOS), as well as an update on the progress of the new Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regional association, were received including updates on activities and upcoming events.

9. Any Other Business:

ICO 2028 Bidding

Simón Barquera, announced the opening of expressions of interest for hosting the ICO 2028 and invited interested associations to bid for the meeting.

Global Obesity Forum

Simón invited members to the Global Obesity Forum in New York on 23 September, highlighting its importance in advancing the obesity agenda.

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These were shared at the end of the presentation to enable members to register for the Global Obesity Forum, join the first global obesity Community of Practice (COP) and to find out more about MAPPS II.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Simón praised members and volunteers for their great work around the world and acknowledged the impactful activities worldwide across scientific, advocacy, and policy areas.

The date and time of the next meeting is to be confirmed.

Attendees:

Simón Barquera	President, Board of Trustees (AGM Chair)
Ada Cuevas	Trustee Chile
Adela González Barnech	SUEO, Uruguay
Amal Kenanah	Kayl Association for Combating Obesity, Saudi Arabia
Amber Huett-Garcia	Obesity Action Coalition USA
Boniface Takwe	Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS), Cameroon
Bruno Halpern	President-elect, Trustee, Brazil
Cari Erasmus	Zambia NCD Alliance Zambia
Charles Peng Zhang	Chinese Obesity Federation (COF), China
Cristina Ferrero	Associazione Medici Diabetologi (AMD) Italy
Cynthia Valerio	Instituto Cordial, Brazil
Dalal Alromaihi	Bahrain Diabetes Society (BDS), Bahrain
Danielle Walwyn	Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC), Barbados
Dr Lalit Kumar Upadhyay	United World Against Diabetes (UWAD), India
Ebaa Alozairi	Dasman Diabetes Institute, Kuwait
Ebenezer Ad Adams	Stroke Association Support Network, Ghana
Eszter Halmy	The Hungarian Society for the Stud of Obesity (HSSO), Hungary
Fábio Trujilho	FLASO, Brazil
Farihin Sultana	Eminence Associates for Social Development, Bangladesh
Fernanda Sánchez	Los Fresnos Association, Ecuador
Geeta Appannah	MASO, Malaysia
Georgios Panotopoulos	HASOMED, Greece
Georgios Valsamakis	Hellenic Medical Association for Obesity (HMAO), Greece
Imre Rurik	The Hungarian Society for the Study of Obesity (HSSO), Hungary
Jason Halford	Trustee and WOF Treasurer
Joseph Nadglowski	Obesity Action Coalition (OAC), USA
Louise Baur	Trustee, Past President, Australia
Maisha Hutton	Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC), Barbados
Mohd Ismail Noor	Malaysian Association for the Study of Obesity (MASO), Malaysia
Nick Finer	Trustee and Chair of Publications Committee, UK
Nigel Turner	Australian & New Zealand Obesity Society (ANZOS), Australia
Ogweno Stephen	Trustee, Lived Experience, Kenya
Osama Elsheref	Circles Association for Nutrition and Healthy Life, Egypt
Ricardo Luna	Mexican Obesity Society (SMO) Mexico
Sebastian Kruse	German Association for the Study of Obesity (DAG), Germany
Shamim Hayder Talukder	Eminence Associates for Social Development, Bangladesh
Sherlyn Celone-Arnold	The Obesity Society (TOS), USA
Tahniyah Haq	Bangladesh Endocrine Society, Bangladesh
Tsung Po Chen	Taiwan Medical Association for the Study of Obesity (TMASO)
Urudinachi Agbo	The Obesity Society of Nigeria (TOSN), Nigeria
Wen-Yuan Lin	Taiwan Medical Association for the Study of Obesity (TMASO)
Johanna Ralston	Chief Executive Officer, World Obesity Federation, UK
Bhavna Cansick	World Obesity Federation, UK
Bruno Helman	World Obesity Federation, UK
Chandni Maria Jacob	World Obesity Federation, UK
Ellie Needs	World Obesity Federation, UK
Jessi Winters	World Obesity Federation, UK
Jo-Anne Stolworthy	World Obesity Federation, UK

Karen Bennett	World Obesity Federation, UK
Matthew O'Flynn	World Obesity Federation, UK
Rachel Jackson Leach	World Obesity Federation, UK

Proxy votes received ahead of the meeting:

- Alianza ENT Uruguay
- Association for the Study of Obesity, (ASO) UK
- Bahrain Diabetes Society, Bahrain
- BDMS Wellness Clinic, Thailand
- Circles Association, Egypt
- Dasman Institute, Kuwait
- Healthy Weight Finland
- Japan Society for the Study of Obesity (JASSO)
- Mexican Society of Nutrition and Endocrinology (SMNE) Mexico
- Oman Diabetes Association, (ODA), Oman
- Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight & Obesity, (PASOO), Philippines
- South African Metabolic Medicine and Surgery Society (SAMMSS), South Africa
- Spanish Society for the Study of Obesity, (SEEDO), Spain
- The Obesity Society of Nigeria (TOSN), Nigeria
- University of Malta, department of Food Sciences and Nutrition, Malta