



**CONU President Report to the FIM Africa GA November 2020 via**  
**ZOOM 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Dear Member FMNs,

Welcome to the 2020 edition of our CONU's General Assembly.

We are now a CONU of 15 members, which makes us the 4th largest CONU after Europe, Asia and Latin America. The other good news, is that we have a record 15 members that have registered to attend the GA. I do not want to get too excited, because I do miss our in-person GAs that we have enjoyed over the last 20 years, and I look forward to our next physical GA next year.

In case you didn't know, the FIM Administration have been trying to get us to hold our 2020 GA in France, on Lake Geneva in January 2021 and celebrate a FIM Family week, which would have been spectacular. However, Council and the FMN's decided back in August, that because of Covid travel costs and risk, it would be wiser to hold the 2020 GA virtually.

Twenty Twenty (2020) continues to be the year that nobody would like to repeat.

Despite the Pandemic that has paralyzed our sport and face to face meetings, the Council had been very lucky to have managed a Johannesburg meeting at the end of February/beginning of March, since March, we have met via Zoom and WhatsApp.

Most of us, have probably worked from home this year, and therefore, have put in more working hours from the time we have saved commuting to our pre-Covid offices.

During this year, working from home, has given us the time to step back from our frantic pre-Covid life, to examine and reflect on ourselves, to see how we can make 2021 a better future.



It is so very strange not to have to report about our racing events.

The 2020 Directors' Reports distributed, summarize and highlight all the CONU's activities this year, and ask questions.

I will just touch on a few topics raised in these reports.

**The Directors' Report compiled by Gilly and Jacqui:**

The tender for CONU racing events was finalized and shared. Uganda is reminded that even though they were given the decision in 2019 to host the next MXoAN, the FMN, would still have to meet FIM AFRICA's minimum requirements for THE hosting of events.

Tony, Gilly and Jacqui achieved a major goal in producing FIMA's new set of GSRs for all of us, which was discussed and accepted at our very first virtual Sporting Plenary and Working Group meetings in September.

E Racing: A question for all of us here is asked in this report. Please do not confuse this facet with E-Bikes. We will discuss E Racing later in our Agenda.

WIM: This working group was the most proactive in 2020, thanks to its Chairperson, Julie. Two webinars were held and a statistical report on their social media outreach that bedazzled me.

This standard should be produced by all the Working groups. Using the Zoom platform, there is no reason for WGs not meeting at least twice a year outside the annual Commissions Meeting.

If Zoom technology scares you, I am sure Jacqui can assist you with a Q&A session.

**Director of Non-Sport Report.** Abdallah's report raises some important points, including the new checklist and testing equipment that the Environment Steward will have to include as we move towards including E-Bike powered models. Then



there is a new “Non-Compliance Violation incidence report that the Steward would have to file against the Organizer for any transgressions. Interesting.

The Protection of Biodiversity is the new upgrade from protecting the Environment, rightly so. We have to consider all the live creatures and plants that live in our Environment.

Abdallah predicts that touring moto-rallies will rebound much bigger than the pre-Covid era, and yes, I agree with him.

**Director of Sport Tony Rowley:** Please read this report because its very pertinent as we enter the post-Covid racing year in 2021. Uganda needs to prepare for the circuit and facility inspection.

Next year, we finally go road racing, and I hope to see this facet develop as Africa develops.

Tony also asks all the members if we should consider embracing E Racing, which is getting big under E-Sport; does FIMA embrace E Racing for the future?

**President’s Ponder:** And then, there is E-Bikes and Electric Motorcycles. The two are not the same, but somewhere at the top end of E-Bikes, the definition of the two merge and become blurry. Just to put the record straight, E-Bikes are electric powered bicycles (with pedals), and Electric motorcycles are motorcycles that have replaced their I.C. U. engine with an electric motor, a future trend.

E-Bikes: With millions of E-Bikes already in the commuter and sport market, last year FIM had aggressively moved into the sport of E-cycling with E-Bikes for MX called E-BikeX and for Enduro called E-Bike Enduro, although I am sure that these facet definitions will change again as popularity grows. Rules and regs have already been drawn up, and national and international events had been planned in Europe for 2020.



Electric Motorcycles: While African FMNs are still considering if E-Bikes is a sport that can work in parallel with their traditional sport of MX and Enduro, the question of whether to introduce Electric Motorcycles into MX and Enduro, is not going to be an FMN option to consider, but rather a decision that the major motorcycle manufacturers are going to decide.

In my opinion, by the end of next year, we would need to add Electric motorcycles to all the Junior and Women classes of motocross and enduro.

Do not be surprised if by 2024, the 4 Japanese and 4 European manufacturers would have dropped their Junior 50,65,80 and MX125 and Enduro125 models for Electric Motorcycle models. When it happens, remember, you first heard it here.

I would like to close off here, by thanking our SG Jacqui for all the time she has dedicated all year to our CONU and to MSA for allowing us to share Jacqui. Furthermore I would like to thank, Gilly, Larbi, Tony and Abdallah, for all the valuable input and advice I have received and continue to receive from them.

Remember, we are here to serve you, African style. 😊

Marco Comana  
President