For the second time in 2023, the UIPM Executive Board (EB) had a briefing from International Olympic Committee (IOC) Sport Director Kit McConnell on the issue of athletes with Russia and Belarus passports being excluded from international sport because of their country’s occupation of Ukraine.

Mr McConnell provided a recap on steps taken since the IOC Olympic Summit, which inspired the creation of the IOC’s International Federation Guidelines issued on March 28. He stressed the importance of protecting the principle of non-discrimination and the separation of sport and politics. He also provided an update on the situation in Ukraine and the differing responses from NOCs and IFs in respect of the IOC’s guidelines about how to proceed, and spoke of the need for sport to unite the world as per the Olympic Charter.

A rounded discussion took place, culminating in the EB being asked to vote on two relevant proposals:

1. Does the EB agreed to adopt the recommendations for International Federations published by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on March 28, 2023?
2. Does the EB agree to set up an independent panel to review athlete eligibility based on criteria to be established by the EB in collaboration with the IOC, as well as timings for the opening of the pathway in respect of the UIPM Sports competition calendar, and any other relevant aspects.

The EB answered unanimously in favour of both proposals.