

BOARD REPORT

From January 25–28, 2018, the ICF Global Board of Directors met for its first strategic planning meeting of the year in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. During the meeting the Board discussed a variety of issues and focused on the review of the [ICF Global Strategic Plan](#).

Specifically, the Board:

- Revised the [Board Promises and Agreements](#).
- Familiarized itself with a horizon scan related to coaching and ICF as well as general trends and conditions. Further, the Board reviewed the [Strategic Plan Quarterly Update Report](#) and expressed appreciation to staff for the good work and progress in all areas.
- Determined focus areas and desired outcomes for ICF activities in 2018. The specific goals are:
 - Goal 1: ICF Members represent excellence in professional coaching.
 - ICF delivers a best-in-class credentialing program.
 - ICF researches, develops, implements, and communicates robust standards, governance and operation procedures/structure, and applicant requirements for all aspects of the Credentialing Program.
 - Goal 2: ICF is the most relevant professional coaching organization.
 - A unified ICF creates and sustains healthy and thriving local communities around the world (ICF = global, regional and local).
 - Goal 6: ICF develops and progresses plans to expand the scope and influence of the organization.

Two focus areas of the strategic plan (Goal 1 and Goal 6) remained unchanged from last year, while the Board added an emphasis on building and sustaining thriving communities within the ICF system. Staff will now work on developing specific strategies and tactics, along with the key performance indicators and outcomes, to further inform our work in 2018.

The Board also reviewed feedback from Chapter Leaders and Regional Advisory Councils regarding the proposed Regional Leadership System (RLS). The feedback was collected as a part of the evaluation process from the original proposal prepared by the two respective Task Forces. That proposal was presented to the Board in June 2017. What followed was an expanded proposal the Board reviewed in October 2017. Ultimately, the Board agreed to a new proposed Regional Leadership System with the addition of a change management plan that embraces flexibility, partnership, professionalism and inclusive dialogue. The Board also approved an 18-month transition period. This new system will replace the Regional Advisory Councils system to better serve ICF Chapters, Members and regions around the world. Further details regarding this plan, including specific organizational details, timelines and suggestions on how we'll work together to create this change will be distributed soon.

The Board discussed the recommendation of the Working Group on Credentialing and Program Accreditation and expressed their appreciation to this group of volunteers for their work and insight. The work of this group concentrated on separating the governing function of credentialing from program accreditation. The board agreed with the recommendation in principle while requesting some additional detail and refinement to the plan that will ensure robust and world-class credentialing and accreditation programs.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, and taking into consideration various factors, the Board agreed that there would not be an increase in dues during the coming fiscal year. This will be the third year without an increase.

During the visit to Dubai the Board also hosted an event for the local Chapter and Members. The evening event was attended by approximately 50 coaches, who had a chance to discuss with the Board and staff the priorities of the organization, local market conditions, and trends in coaching in the Middle East and globally. The chapter also made a presentation of appreciation to its outgoing president, Dalal Denley, PCC.

Prior to and following the meetings, ICF Global Board Members and staff visited a total of eight Chapters across the Middle East, participating in conferences, special meetings and chapter gatherings. They wish to extend a special thank you to all the great ICF colleagues who made these visits such a success.