

# **International Adventure Racing Community**

## **Zoom meeting**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

- ▶ Welcome / Introduction**
- ▶ Session Guidance**
  - ▶ Respectful**
  - ▶ Positive**
  - ▶ Every Voice Matters**
  - ▶ Diversity of Opinion Welcome**
  - ▶ Spirit of Adventure Racing to the fore**
- ▶ Conflict of Interest Declarations**



A lush, mossy forest path with a large tree on the left and a red square in the top right corner. The scene is filled with vibrant green foliage, including ferns and large-leafed plants. Sunlight filters through the dense canopy, creating a soft, ethereal glow. A dirt path winds through the center of the forest, leading the eye into the distance. A large, moss-covered tree trunk dominates the left side of the frame, with its roots spreading across the ground. In the upper right corner, there is a solid red square.

*We are thinking & planning for the future of our sport...*





# Agenda

- ▶ Consultation Process & Result
- ▶ Comments from Community
- ▶ Discussion
- ▶ Vote to Accept Result
- ▶ Proposed Next Steps
- ▶ Agreement on Next Steps



# Points to Note

The information we are providing is based on the information the Working Group has been provided with over the past 8 weeks.

It is an unbiased/ fair summary of findings

It represents a very good sample of opinions from AR communities around the world.

We would like to acknowledge and thank everyone that has contributed.

Spirit of team work, good energy and connection between countries has been great to experience and bodes well for the future...





# Bullying and intimidation

In conversations with representatives, we found that some people just needed to speak.

We were also informed of instances of bullying and intimidation.

**This is NOT OK. It is abuse.**

**Bullying WILL NOT be tolerated. It will be called out.**

**Contact the Working Group / Pre-Association group.**



# Consultation Process

**37 Countries contacted around the world :** Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, UK, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

**Survey Feedback Form distributed to all, with information from meetings and some guidance.**

**Survey Results returned by 23 country representatives**

- **10 countries with national associations / federations**
- **6 countries with active communities looking to establish own AR assoc**
- **5 countries with small communities with few events**
- **2 countries with no active adventure racing events and no participants**



# Process

- ▶ **Each country asked who is returning the form – who they represent** (*National Assoc, Group working to Establish or an AR Community*)
- ▶ **Each country asked to consider 4 options and return their preference based on local consultation and own surveys**
- ▶ **Survey forms returned to Working Group from 23 countries**
- ▶ **WG have summarised results from all countries**





# Result of Consultation Process

COUNTRIES WITH AR ASSOCIATIONS / FEDERATIONS					
Country #	Option 1: Join World Obstacle	Option 2: Join Other International Fed	Option 3: Establish own International Structure	Option 4: Do Nothing	Total Percentage
7	0	0	0	100	100
22	5	11	49	18	83
11	0	0	100	0	100
14	0	39	57	4	100
16	25	40	35	0	100
6	0	29	57	14	100
10	6	30	64	0	100
13	0	100	0	0	100
21	33	0	67	0	100
20	4	11	86	0	100
	<b>73</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>136</b>	
	<b>7.39%</b>	<b>26.37%</b>	<b>52.38%</b>	<b>13.87%</b>	

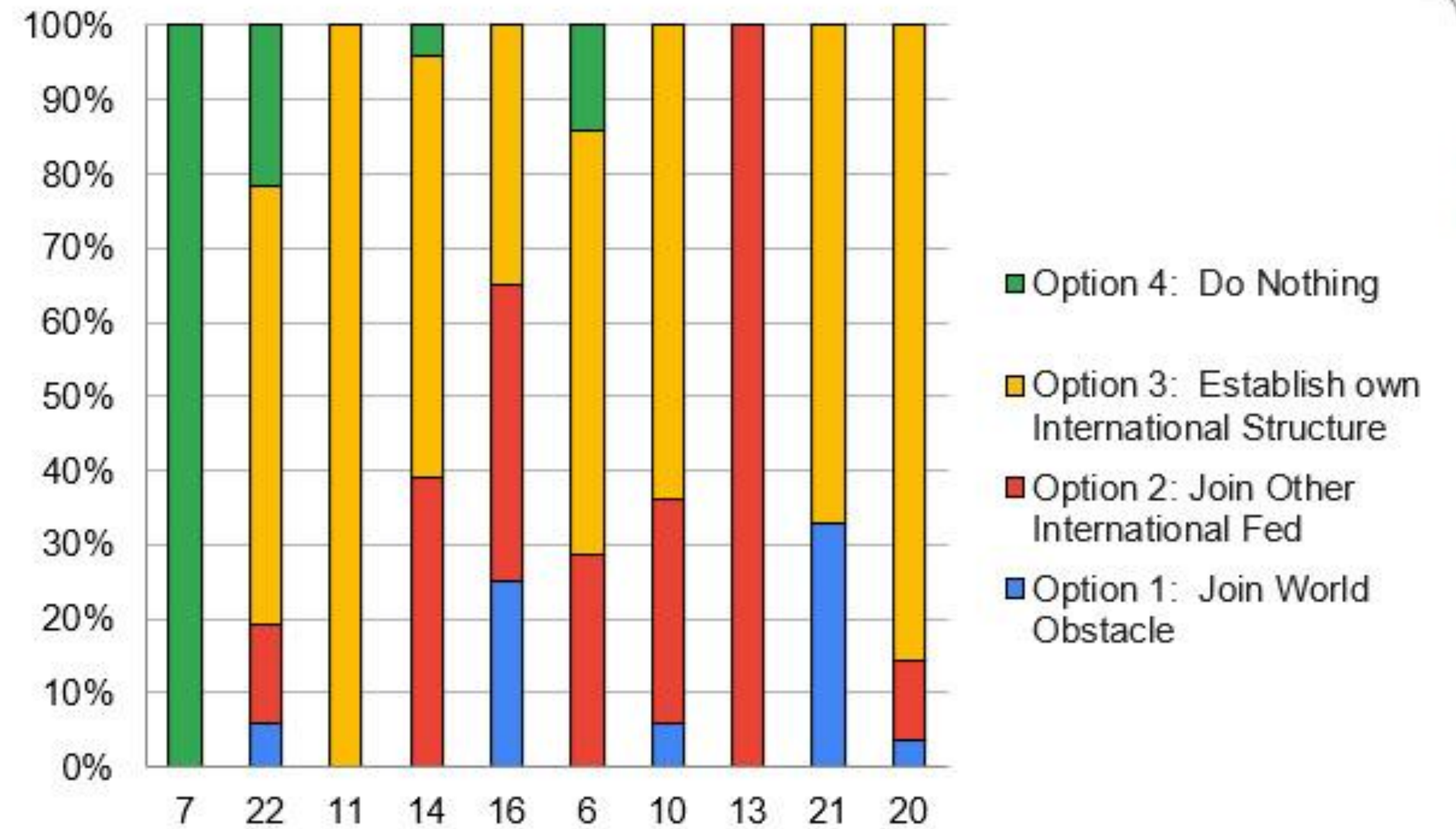
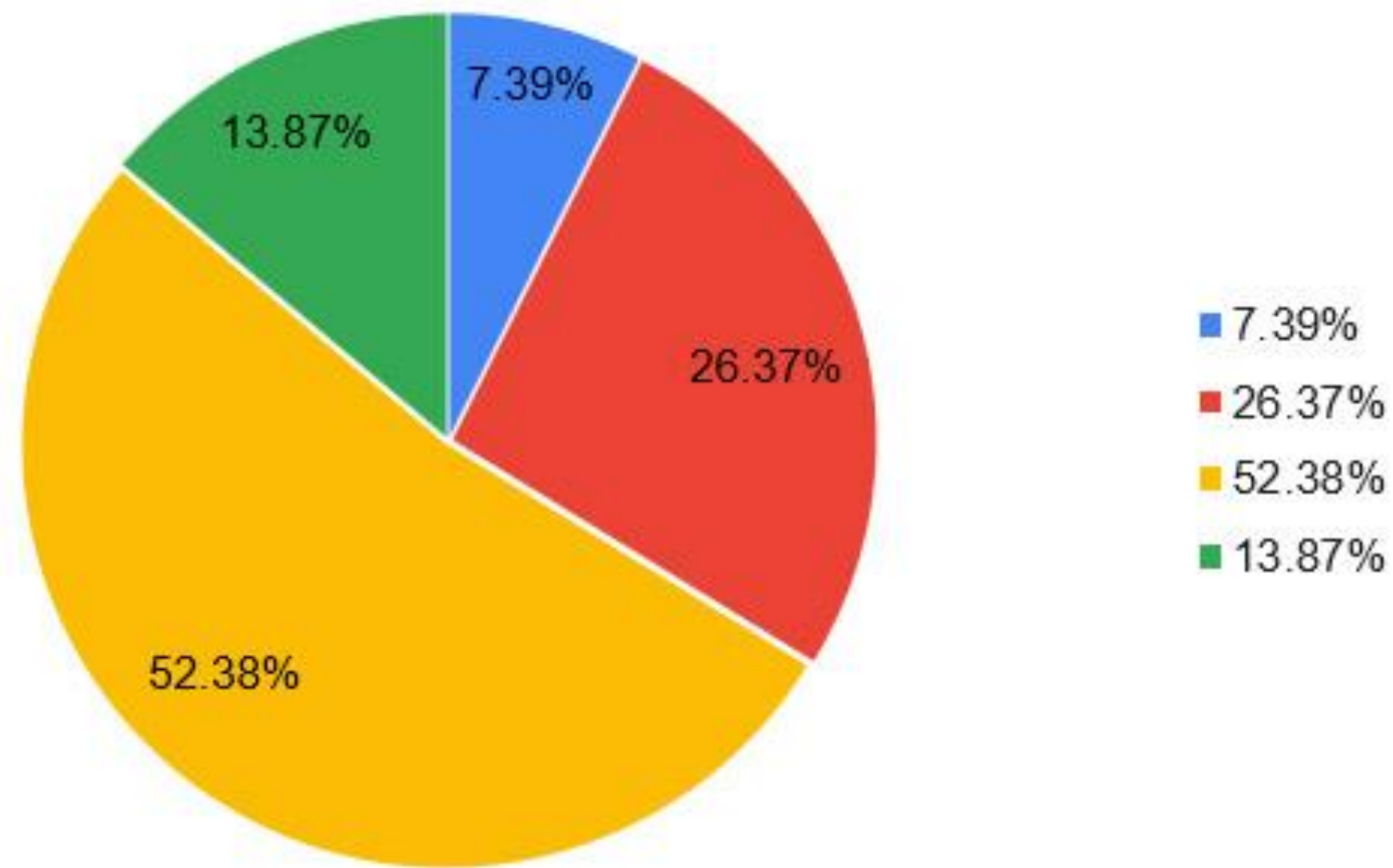
Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain, USA, Uruguay

Country Number 22 - Total is less than 100% as they had a 5th option of 'No Opinion', which has been excluded from these totals



# Result of Consultation Process

Countries with Associations / Federations



Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain, USA, Uruguay



# Result of Consultation Process

COUNTRIES WITH ACTIVE COMMUNITIES (big and small)					
Country #	Option 1: Join World Obstacle	Option 2: Join Other International Fed	Option 3: Establish own International Structure	Option 4: Do Nothing	Total Percentage
8	47	4	38	6	95
3	0	25	75	0	100
19	0	0	0	100	100
23	3	3	89	4	100
9	0	0	70	30	100
17	0	25	75	0	100
18	0	0	100	0	100
12	0	0	30	70	100
1	23	10	54	13	100
15	4	12	68	10	94
2	5	11	77	8	100
	82	91	675	241	
	7.55%	8.33%	62.00%	7.58%	

**Australia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Finland, India , Luxemburg, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom**

Country Numbers 8 & 15 - Total is less than 100% as they had a 5th option of "No Opinion", which has been excluded from these totals.

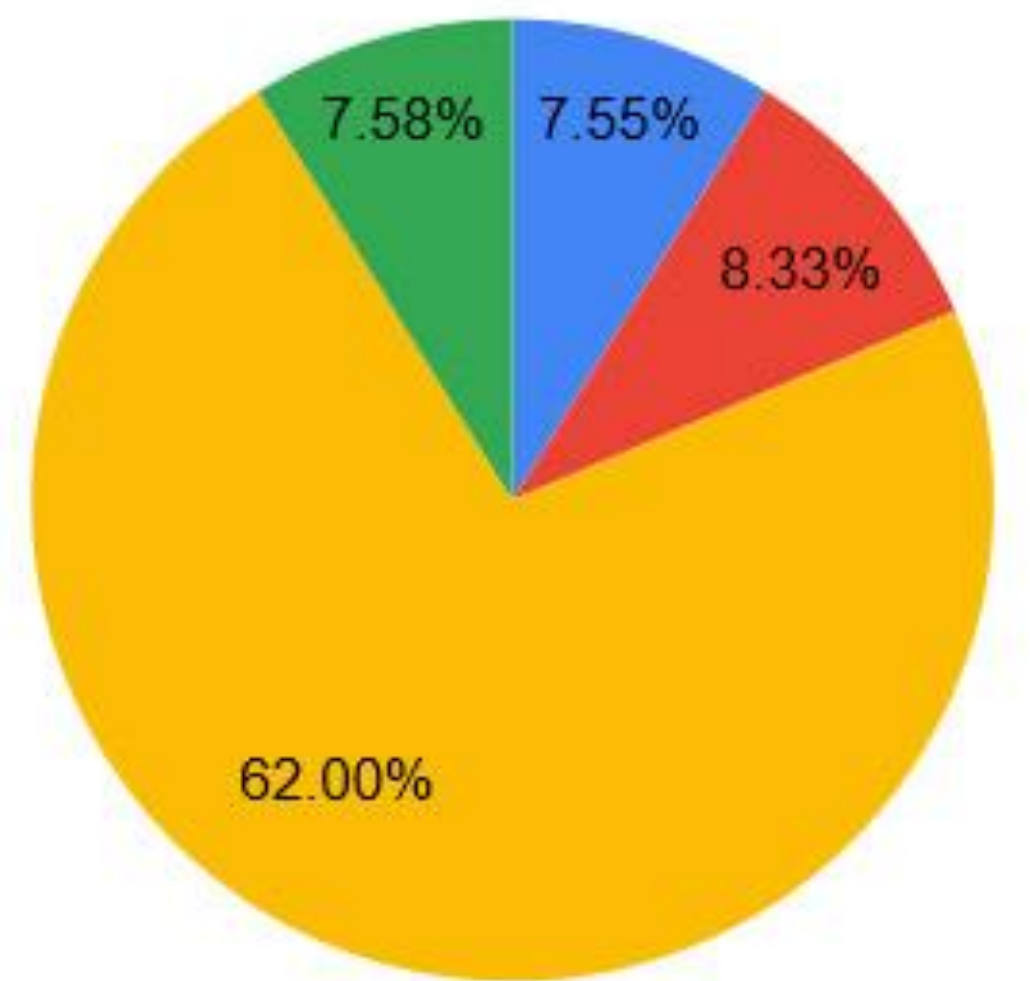
COUNTRIES WITH NO ACTIVE ADVENTURE RACING INVOLVEMENTS					
Country #	Option 1: Join World Obstacle	Option 2: Join Other International Fed	Option 3: Establish own International Structure	Option 4: Do Nothing	Total Percentage
4	100	0	0	0	100
5	100	0	0	0	100
	100%				

**Jamaica and Venezuela**

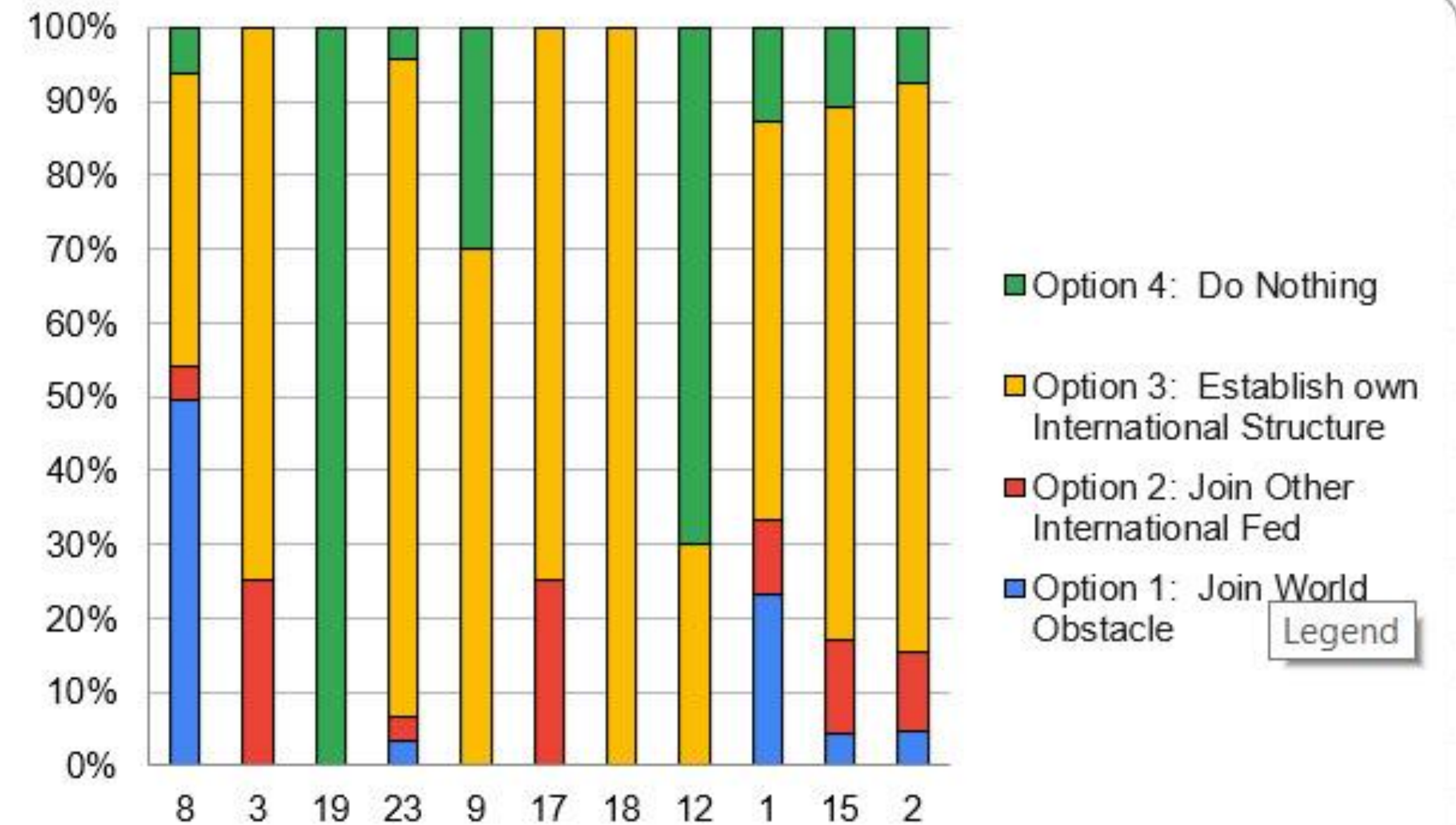


# Result of Consultation Process

Countries with active AR communities



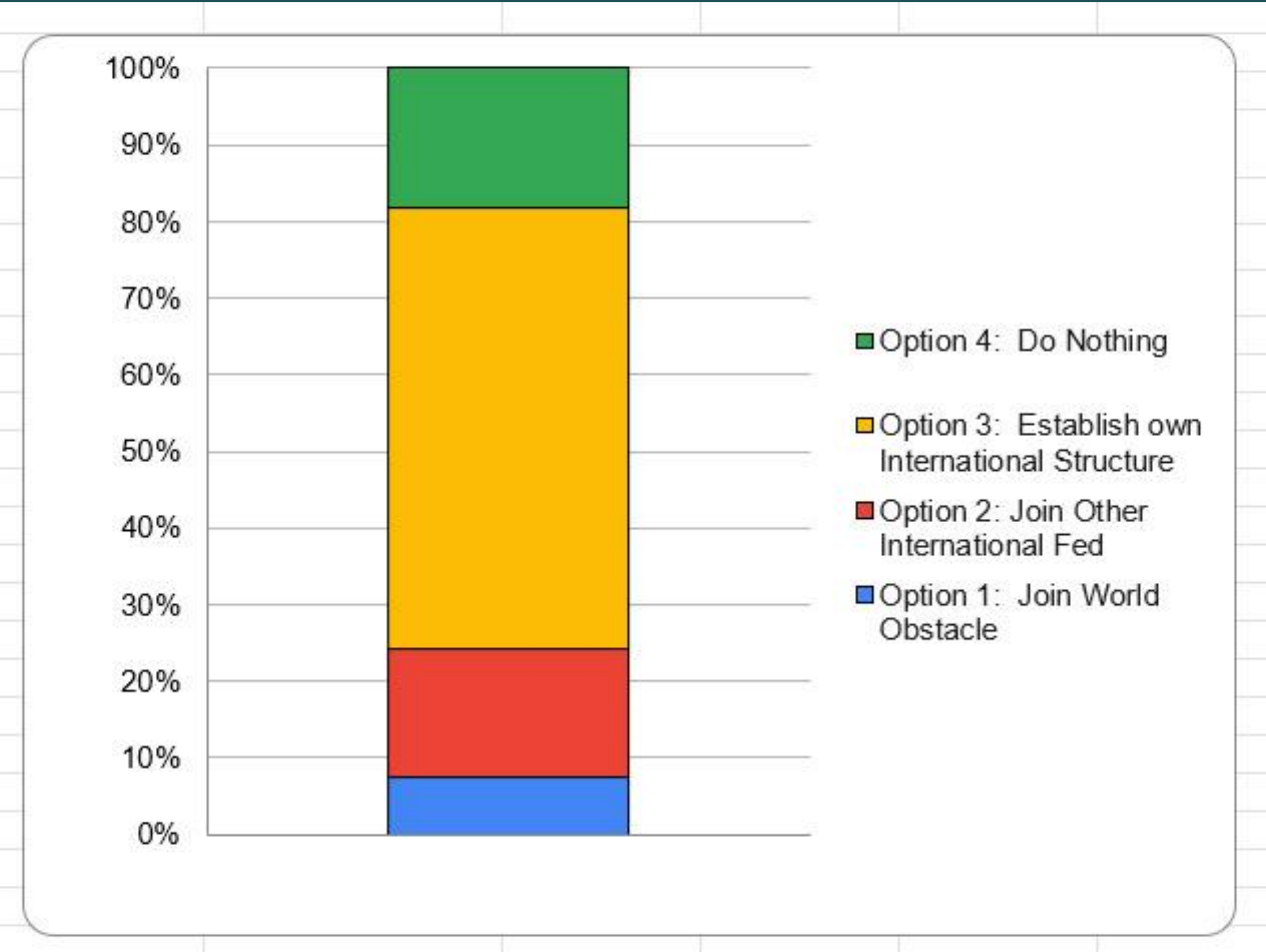
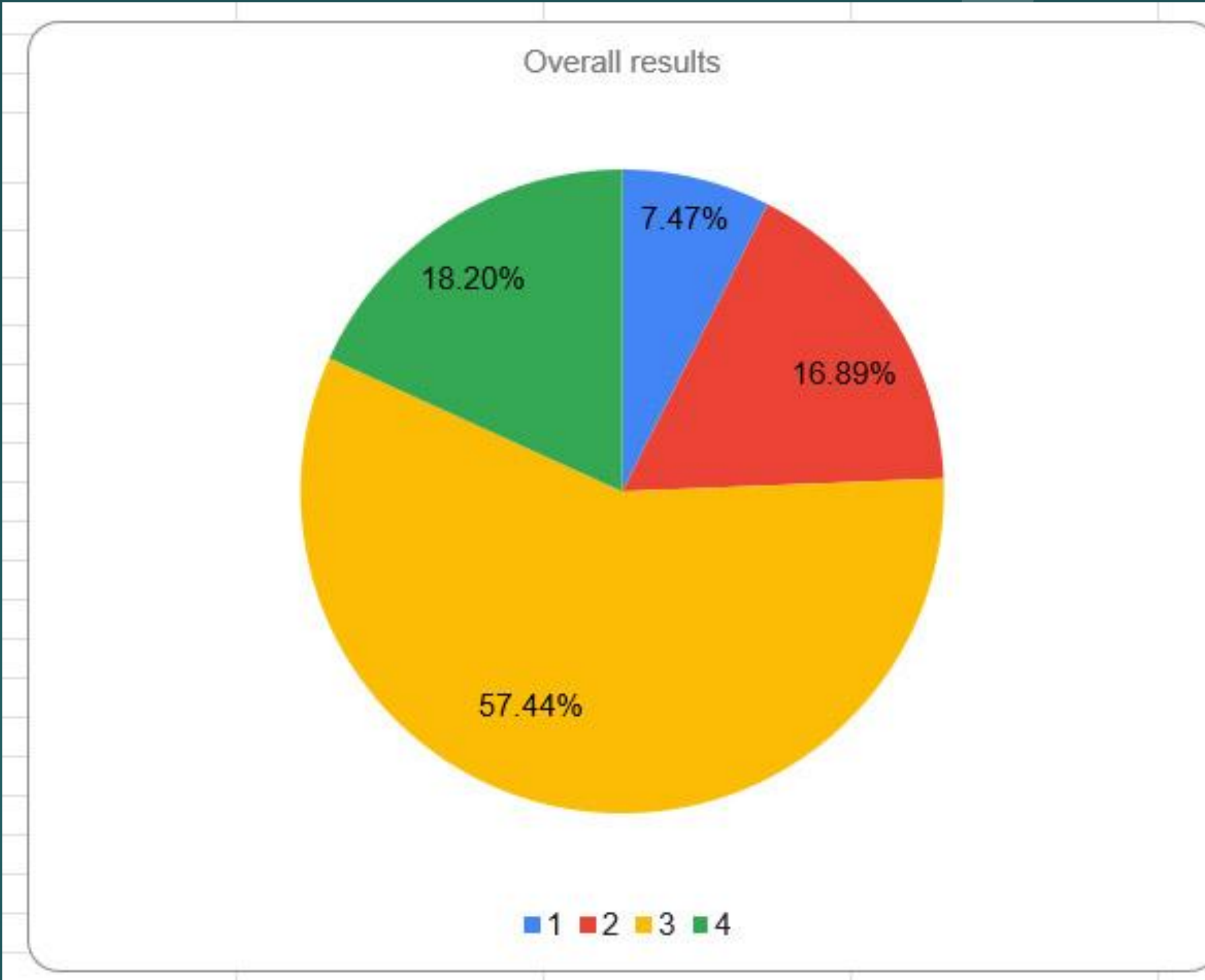
■ 7.55% ■ 8.33% ■ 62.00% ■ 7.58%



Australia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Finland, India, Luxemburg, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom



# Result of Consultation Process



**OVERALL (with two non-active countries excluded)**

Option 1: Join World Obstacle	Option 2: Join Other International Fed	Option 3: Establish own International Structure	Option 4: Do Nothing
155	350	1,190	377
7.47%	16.89%	57.44%	18.20%



# Result of Voting Process

Country #	Option 1: Join World Ob	Option 2: Join Other Inter	Option 3: Establish own	Option 4: Do Nothing
1	0	0	1	0
2	0	0	1	0
3	0	0	1	0
4	1	0	0	0
5	1	0	0	0
6	0	0	1	0
7	0	0	0	1
8	1	0	0	0
9	0	0	1	0
10	0	0	1	0
11	0	0	1	0
12	0	0	0	1
13	0	1	0	0
14	0	0	1	0
15	0	0	1	0
16	0	1	0	0
17	0	0	1	0
18	0	0	1	0
19	0	0	0	1
20	0	0	1	0
21	0	0	1	0
22	0	0	1	0
23	0	0	1	0
	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>

Using the data in the slides above each country highest option by % was awarded a winning vote of 1.

All other options were zeroed out as they no longer count

On that basis this chart shows the vote per country for their chosen option

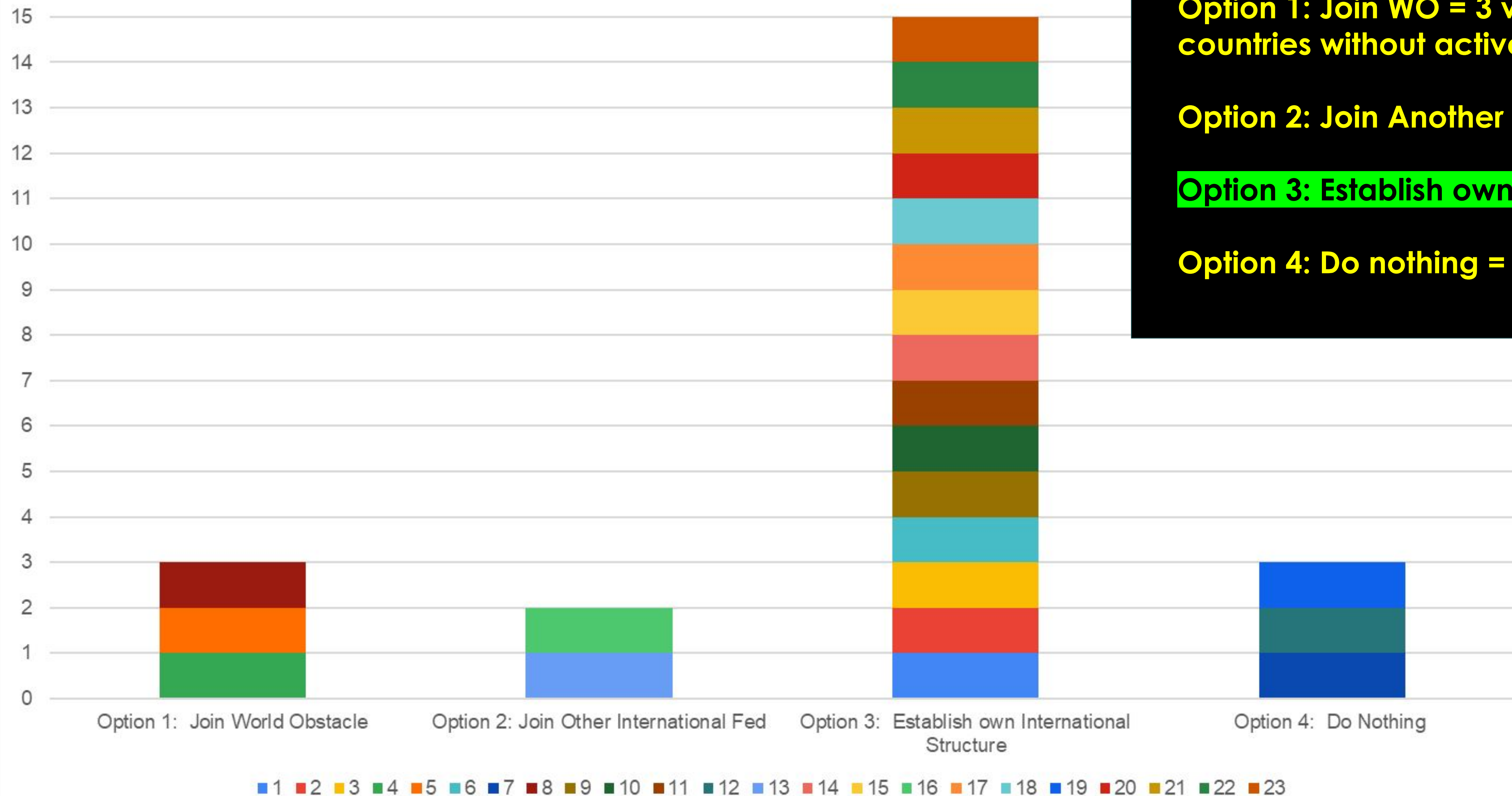
No country is given preference or more votes. One country = One vote

This is then accumulated result for each option as shown in the next chart.



# Result of Voting Process

Voting Results for Each Option



## Results:

**Option 1: Join WO = 3 votes (includes two countries without active AR)**

**Option 2: Join Another federation = 2 votes**

**Option 3: Establish own AR IF = 15 votes**

**Option 4: Do nothing = 3 votes**



# Summary

- ▶ 1 x country voted 100% to join an existing federation and their favoured federation was not World Obstacle.
- ▶ 2 x countries voted 100% to join World Obstacle but neither has adventure racing - events or participants - in their country.
- ▶ 1 x country voted 100% to do nothing (based on federations requiring fees and being more hassle for organisers)
- ▶ In only one country did joining World Obstacle (#1 - 47%) rank higher than establishing our own AR association (#3 - 38%)
- ▶ Overall, countries favoured doing nothing over joining World Obstacle.





# Summary

- ▶ To join an existing federation (#2), Adventure Racing would need to have something to offer.
- ▶ To do this, it would need to:
  - ▶ define its purpose
  - ▶ establish its own association (#3)
  - ▶ serve its community of countries
  - ▶ build a track record
  - ▶ have something to contribute / add to any federation that it joins
- ▶ Combining scores from #2 and #3 = 74.5%





# Conclusion

- ▶ AR community is not willing to join World Obstacle at present.
- ▶ 17% of AR community favour exploring the option of joining another International Sport Federation e.g. IOF
- ▶ Overwhelming majority (57.4%) of AR Community Favour establishing our own International Association
- ▶ 18% of the community favours doing nothing – continuing as we are with no representative body.





# Comments – Why not World Obstacle? (#1)

- *FISO representatives seem self serving.*
- *FISO has dubious connections with A1.*
- *AR is not obstacle course racing, the activity is not comparable.*
- *FISO could also require adventure racing to conform to the rules and regulations of FISO and for teams to compete in FISO-sanctioned events.*
- *We would be a sideline to obstacle racing.*
- *Starting from scratch is hard, but obstacle racing is not well aligned to AR.*
- *We don't have Olympic or other ambitions; it really doesn't matter if Adventure Racing fits the Olympic model.*
- *Sceptical about FISO's motives and intentions.*
- *AR is unique and not part of a platform that Ian Adamson has created for us to "plug into".*



## Comments – Why join another federation? (#2) - Pt1

- *This could save a considerable amount of time and effort.*
- *If an existing federation would allow AR to continue with enough freedom to keep the essence of the sport intact, this would also be an option.*
- *It can take time to build our own association so joining another relevant association makes sense - like orienteering on account of the navigation element which sets adventure racing apart.*
- *It's potentially the quickest way to grow the sport.*



## Comments – Why join another federation? (#2) - Pt2

- *The cross over and support from an association like Orienteering could be beneficial to both audiences.*
- *Create an international association of AR, then discuss with another IF; more for being strong and being able to discuss with others.*
- *Joining IOF: We believe that it is the most agile step to be able to have an international official status and that nobody tries to appropriate our sport in the near future.*



# Comments – Why establish own? (#3) - Pt1

- *Adventure racing is a dynamic, diverse, physical and mentally challenging form of activity.*
- *Adventure racing is a unique amalgamation of activities.*
- *We are AR, we are not a sub-sport. We need our own, independent voice.*
- *AR is unique sport.*
- *We are a unique, independent sport that is unlike any other sport. The skill set of an adventure racer does not sit with another sport.*
- *There is more to AR than the physical or athletic prowess of its participants. It encourages teamwork, decision making and reaction in a natural environment that is distinctly different from many other sports.*



# Comments – Why establish own? (#3) - Pt2

- *AR would benefit from forming an association. It needs grass-roots racing, support for RDs and a progression / coaching path.*
- *We need a structure that does what we decide we need it to do.*
- *We can tailor a less formal association to our needs, driven by the sport and our available resources.*
- *Adventure Racing needs creativity and innovation in building its own structure that is specific to its needs.*
- *For AR to be recognised as a sport, and to be represented and governed by a member-elected organisation.*
- *It would be best to start fresh with a uniform approach. The spirit of the sport is unique and contiguous around the world.*



# Comments – Why establish own? (#3) - Pt3

- *The interests of the sport are best served and best understood by an Association of those involved in the sport.*
- *Shaping the future of the sport is safer in the hands of those who live and breathe the sport rather than within another federation that might have other objectives and priorities.*
- *Options 1 or 2 do not fit what AR should be. Option 4 leaves us a bit vulnerable. That leaves Option 3, but that seems the right approach anyway.*
- *1<sup>st</sup> step is what we are doing, 2nd is to move forward with our own identity. Then decide if it is better to be under an umbrella or not.*
- *We think in terms of a growth model. Start small, learn, develop and see where we are going together.*



# Comments – Why establish own? (#3) - Pt4

- *We know that own federation is the most complicated/demanding way, but it is necessary and essential if we want manage our own development.*
- *While forming an independent AR governing body will be the slowest option, it would ultimately get us the best possible outcome for our requirements, and the ability to shape destiny our own way rather than being beholden to another NGB and being a 'minority' to their main membership.*
- *Even if it took a long time to create an independent governing body, that timeline would allow for steady organic growth and a body that solely has the best interests of the Adventure Racing community at heart.*



# Comments – Why do nothing?

- *If it wasn't for the WO attempt to absorb the sport and the A1 involvement with WO etc we wouldn't be having the discussion and would probably largely be OK with that, keeping informality with the existing ARWS structure being the default event structure for international events.*
- *Do nothing is a valid option however the sport needs a common unified direction which wouldn't happen in this case.*
- *I don't think there's an immediate need for this, I'm not aware of urgent problems that need solving, but working towards, over a number of years, an internationally recognised federation will grow and maintain the sport.*
- *This is a sport for middle age folks that have enough money to travel around the world. Private individuals are the ones that assume risks, money and invest time to plan and execute an adventure race. Associations, federations require time and commitment for free. Federations & assoc will want licences, permits, requirements for more \$ and more hassle for the organiser. World Obstacle is just going to complicate things.*





# Open Discussion



# Vote to Accept the AR Community Survey

Now asking all Countries present to  
**Vote Yes or No**  
to accept this Survey Result.

We propose to do this online now if people are OK  
with this.

At this point it is only to accept the survey result so  
that we can report back to World Obstacle with the  
result, and move forward.





zoom Polls

< Back

## Vote to Accept Consultation Result.

Poll ended | 1 question | 14 of 16 (87%) participated

1. Proposing to Accept the Results of the Consultation Process (Single Choice) \*

14/14 (100%) answered

Yes	(14/14) 100%
No	(0/14) 0%

+ 3 x Yes votes from Lisa, Damon and Cormac

*They were unable to vote in the poll online as hosts of the Zoom meeting.*

Share Results

### This Zoom meeting included:

- 18 participants
- representing 15 countries



# Proposed Next Steps

- **Communication to WO, report result and request removal of Adventure Racing from WO agenda. (Zoom call + letter/email)**
  -
- **Communication of survey results to global AR community through AR media (press release)**
  -
- **WG will schedule a Zoom meeting specifically to create a Pre-Association group to establish the foundation of an association.**
  -
- **This completes WG's mandate.**
  -





# Pre-Association

- **AR is unique** - A representative body can be custom-built with creativity and innovation.
- It does not need to have the same functions as other sporting associations.
- Can be designed to meet our needs within the sport, lead the sport forward in a positive way.
- We will need to establish a new Working Group for this...





# Pre-Association

## Pre-Association tasks include:

- research & consult
- define objectives of AR association
- define the tasks that will serve and support the AR community
- feasibility - defining running expenses and basic funding streams through the association's services
- **TIMELINE: 6-12 months**








# Discussion & Agreement on Next Steps





*Huge thanks to the Working Group  
& all country representatives for  
your positive engagement.*

*Let's move forward together in  
a progressive, positive way for the sport.*