



# FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE

## The International Federation of Photographic Art

---

### **FIAP General Assembly 2025**

### **President's Report**

*Dear Presidents, Dear Liaison Officers, Esteemed FIAP Directors, Dear Board Members, Dear friends, Good afternoon.*

*Welcome to the 2025 FIAP General Assembly here in Sofia*

*I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt thanks to the Yanka Kyurkchieva Academy of Photography of Bulgaria, and in particular to our FIAP Liaison Officer and dear friend Anton Savov, for the support and dedication that made our gathering possible.*

*Before moving to today's agenda, I wish to briefly return to the extraordinary success of our recent Photomeeting in China. It was an event that will remain in FIAP's history: **318 photographers from 40 countries** travelled together across Hunan and Inner Mongolia, discovering landscapes, traditions, and cultures that touched us all deeply.*

*This remarkable result was possible thanks to the generous support of the regional authorities, who welcomed us with warmth and professionalism. My heartfelt thanks also go to the FIAP China Coordination Office in Jinan, led with passion and competence by Professor Zeng Yi, a team whose contribution was truly fundamental.*

*This Photomeeting reminded us once again of something we all believe: photography unites people, and FIAP continues to be a bridge between cultures across the world.*

*This year has also brought a major achievement: the long-awaited revision of the **FIAP Distinctions Regulation**. After many years, we have completed a deep and modern reform, one that reflects today's photographic landscape and provides clearer, more coherent, and more prestigious pathways for our members.*

*At the heart of this reform is the **New Portfolio Distinction**. For the first time, FIAP will offer photographers a framework that goes far beyond traditional competitions—one that allows each author to showcase their abilities, creativity, personal vision, and their capacity to tell stories and present meaningful photographic research through a coherent body of work.*

*This new distinction will take effect on **1 January 2026**, and we are confident that it will quickly become one of the most appreciated innovations within FIAP. We count on your support to explain it, to promote it, and to make it known in your countries.*

*I would also like to highlight another essential initiative for FIAP's future: the launch of an ambitious project to gather all our photographic and documentary materials into **a single, centralized digital archive**.*

*As many of you know, FIAP possesses a remarkable collection of historical documents and photographic records. Today, however, this material is scattered—stored in different places, often in the homes of Board Members and Directors. It is precious material, but dispersed and at risk, as it is not yet preserved within a unified and secure digital system.*

*With this project, we are finally taking action on a priority postponed for many years: to bring everything together—images, documents, videos—into one modern, integrated digital platform, where our heritage can be properly preserved, securely protected, and made accessible to future generations.*

*This monumental task will be led by our friend Jesús Manuel García Flores, Director of the FIAP Collections Service and Liaison Officer of the Confederación Española de Fotografía, together with his team, which already includes six members from Spain, Argentina, Andorra, and India. He will guide this important transition and help turn our new archive into a reality. It is an essential investment in our identity and in the continuity of our Federation. Our hope is to see this important work completed before the end of next year.*

*Over the past year, we have also made a strong effort to increase the opportunities and services we provide to our members. Our aim is not simply to provide discounts, but to provide real value to being part of FIAP.*

*The agreements signed with **DxO, Skylum / Luminar Neo, and RCE Foto** are only the beginning. Many of you may have noticed that Luminar Neo has already offered an initial sponsorship for our World Cup for Clubs, now entering its final stages. I have also received assurances regarding further significant sponsorships in the coming months.*

*To provide simple and immediate access to these benefits, a dedicated webpage will soon be available to all FIAP members. And this is just the start: we are already discussing new agreements with major Chinese photographic companies, including DJI, a world leader in drone technology, with whom we hope to finalize important collaborations in 2026.*

*A further significant initiative is the launch of the **FIAP–UNESCO International Photo Contest dedicated to Intangible Cultural Heritage**. Initially planned for this year, the launch was postponed at UNESCO's request. The dialogue with UNESCO and our various partners is moving forward in a constructive and very positive way, and our hope is to launch the project by next April, with a prestigious award ceremony in China at the end of October 2026.*

*If confirmed, this project will become one of the most culturally meaningful initiatives in FIAP's history, marking the first time that FIAP donates a selection of its authors' photographs to UNESCO. As stated in the Entry Form, the accepted and awarded images will be made available for use in UNESCO publications and cultural activities, while the authors will of course retain full copyright. Each participating photographer will also receive an official certificate as formal recognition of their contribution to UNESCO.*

*I am also pleased to announce that the initiative presented some time ago—the **FIAP Photo Days**—is finally ready to move forward. These FIAP-endorsed events, organized directly by our various FIAP members, have a tremendous capacity to grow and develop in the coming years. Our goal is to launch them at the beginning of 2026, offering small groups of 10 to 15 photographers unique experiences lasting 7 to 10 days in locations with outstanding photographic opportunities.*

*Proposals are already under review from Brazil, Georgia, Singapore, Bangladesh, and others. With these first Photo Days, our main goal is to offer our members a service they genuinely enjoy. At the same time, we want to strengthen and expand the FIAP name through a dynamic and growing network of FIAP-endorsed photographic experiences.*

*It is now time to highlight **the main event of 2026: the FIAP Congress in Rio de Janeiro**, to be held **from August 1st to 8th**. Preparations are well underway, thanks to the enthusiasm and professionalism of the Confederação Brasileira de Fotografia. We expect an unforgettable Congress, rich in experiences, culture, and exceptional photographic opportunities.*

*To ensure the best possible experience, the FIAP Board of Directors, together with the Brazilian Federation, has decided to limit participation to 150 photographers, ensuring fair representation for each Operational Member. The full program will be released very soon, and registrations are expected to open in the second half of January, allowing the organizers to have a clear overview of all participants by mid-April.*

*These are only some of the many initiatives FIAP has carried out this year. There are many others, equally important, but for practical reasons I must limit myself to these key highlights. For all remaining matters, I invite you to consult the detailed reports prepared by our Directors and made available by the FIAP General Secretary, Ioannis Likouris.*

*My heartfelt thanks go to all our FIAP Directors, whose tireless work, expertise, and unwavering commitment have shaped every achievement of this past year. I also warmly thank my colleagues on the FIAP Board of Directors for their professionalism, dedication, and the spirit of cooperation that guides all our decisions.*

*Above all, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you—our Liaison Officers, our Presidents, and the representatives of our Federations across the world. You are the bridge between FIAP and the photographic communities of your countries. You are the ones who bring our projects to life, who keep our values alive, and who ensure that FIAP remains a vibrant, global family. Without your passion, your energy, and your constant support, none of what we celebrate today would be possible.*

*Thank you for your attention, for your collaboration, and for the trust you place in our Federation. I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming FIAP events, and of course at the FIAP Congress in Rio de Janeiro in 2026, where I am certain we will once again share ideas, experiences, and unforgettable moments together.*

*I wish you all an excellent continuation of our work together.*

*Riccardo Busi*