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## **PRESS RELEASE**

## International Netball Federation lines up to build on World Cup success

Netball's World Cup, held in Sydney Australia this month, has been hailed as the sport's most successful international tournament ever, pulling record audiences both in venue and on television all over the world. Alongside the World Cup, the INF's Congress, held prior to the event, ensured that the sport continues to evolve and develop as participation increases.

"A key theme has been building on success", says INF Chief Executive Clare Briegal. "The sport is growing, attracting new players at every level, and moving into areas far beyond netball's traditional heartlands in the Commonwealth. Our Board is steering netball through a time of huge opportunities and challenges. Congress chose to re-elect for a final four year term as President Molly Rhone, who has overseen unprecedented development in the sport, whilst ensuring it has kept the needs of grassroots netballers at the heart of everything it does. We now have two new Board Members who will bring fresh insight, and expertise to our game - Gaby Hochbaum, a former national player, who represented Singapore from 1997 to 2003, and Dr Patricia Butcher, who is Executive Director of the Trinidad and Tobago Tourism Institute, and President of the Trinidad and Tobago Netball Association."

Also re-elected for a four year term is Finance Director, Ann Tod, with Vice President, Sue Taylor AM elected for a further two years. Former Regional Director for the Americas, Octavia Gibson, has been voted in as Independent Director, with Dr Patricia Butcher stepping up as new Regional Director for Americas, and Gaby Hochbaum taking on the role of Director for the Asia region. These three Directors will serve a four year term.

Briegal is optimistic about netball's continued dominance as the world's top women's team sport: "We believe our sport is in great shape, well run, and with the confidence to adapt and seize opportunities. We aim to set the highest standards of governance, that respect and understand our members. During the next four years we have the World Youth Netball Cup taking place in 2017 in Gaborone, Botswana and the World Cup 2019 in Liverpool, England to look forward to, and a team determined to make these events even bigger and better."

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Picture caption: Top, from left, Gaby Hochbaum, Tina Browne, Dr Patricia Butcher, Janet Wrighton MBE, Tebogo Lebotse. Bottom, from left: Octavia Gibson, Sue Taylor AM, the Hon. Molly Rhone OJ, CD, Ann Tod.