Dear FISA Council members,
Dear Mr. Matt Smith, Executive Director of FISA,

In order to ensure the healthy and sustainable development of rowing in China and promote the universality of rowing in the whole of Asia, the Chinese Rowing Association has decided to agree and put forward the proposal made by the ARF Executive Committee at its 2016 ARF Congress, which is:

Retain the existing lightweight events LM2x, LM4-, LW2x
and replace M4- with LW4-.

This proposal will ensure a balance between sweep and sculling events, while it can also meet the IOC's requirement of gender equality.

Lightweight rowing is essential for the universality of rowing sport in the world, especially in Asia. Take China for example - lightweight rowing is a very important path for China to develop university rowing. For those university rowers, whose height and weight only fits the lightweight events rather than the open class, lightweight rowing provides the possibility for

them to get involved in high-performance competitions.

Meanwhile, according to the unofficial survey, if LM4- is canceled, China will suffer a loss of 60% - 70% rowing athletes, which will be a disaster for Chinese rowing. Such a change of lightweight events on the Olympic Programme will result in negative effects to Chinese provincial rowing clubs. A large number of provincial clubs that only develops lightweight rowing will give up rowing entirely, which will likely overturn the fundamental system of Chinese rowing development.

In China, especially in the Southern part of China, a high proportion of population just meets the norms for lightweight rowing athletes. At the world-level regattas, Asian countries, including China, have mostly participated in lightweight events and basically only the lightweight crews have achieved good results. If the lightweight events are removed, there will hardly be seen any Asian crew competing in large-boat events, which will cause a dramatic damage to the universality of rowing in Asia.

In conclusion, lightweight events have been playing an essential role in rowing development in China and in the whole of Asia. Please take this proposal into consideration and give a chance to lightweight rowing. For sure lightweight rowing will bring us a brighter future for rowing sport in return!

Best regards,

Cao Jingwei
Secretary General
Chinese Rowing Association