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IOC REGIONAL SEMINAR ON SPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

19 & 20 November 2004, Havana, Cuba

RECOMMENDATIONS

The delegates from the 17 National Olympic Committees present at the seminar (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay), together with the representatives of the IOC Sport and Environment Commission, and UNEP's Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office, produced the following recommendations with the objective of encouraging the countries in the Latin America region to undertake activities in favour of sustainable development:

They recommend:

1. **Continuing to work** so that the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) continue to implement the Turin Commitments, so as to create and develop associations among themselves and with the government bodies responsible for sport and environment, and the whole of society in every country, to promote sustainable development, thereby improving the quality of life of the citizens. The following are the principal lines of action:

- Sport, a tool for sustainable development and solidarity
- The role of the athletes
- Sustainable sporting events: collaboration at local community level
- Development of environmental projects
- The environmental legacy, location of the event
- Collaboration with marketing for the development of sport and environment activities
- Measuring and monitoring the sustainability of sporting events
- Getting ecological products and services linked to sporting events.

2. In each National Olympic Committee, **create** and consolidate a Sport and Environment Commission and prioritise its activities accordingly to promote and stimulate them, so as to contribute to sustainable development on local and national levels, as well as to constitute a network of national and international institutions to follow up on these actions.

3. **Revive** the management of PASO's Environment Commission, so that this systematically develops its own sport and environment integration activities.

4. **Promote**, with the National Sports Federations in each country, the work of the NOC Sport and Environment Commission, setting up mechanisms and adequate means to achieve this, mainly by means of the responsibilities of its officials, athletes and coaches. Create working groups to promote environmental issues, comprising, as well as well-known athletes, medical and paramedical staff.

5. Orchestrate, with the corresponding national adaptations, the introduction and promotion of environmental aspects in the work projects concerning sport and environment developed by each NOC, in cooperation with the government agencies and the whole of society in every country, with the objective of increasing environmental education throughout the population.

6. Improve and increase activities related to environmental promotion and training by the authorities and officials in each NOC, sporting authority (PE teachers, coaches, athletes, workers in sports centres, and volunteer bodies) and citizens in general, in cooperation with the environmental governmental authorities in each country, as a way to heighten environmental awareness. Gradually improve the introduction of environmental aspects into the study plans and programme throughout primary, secondary and university education.

7. Establish strategic national alliances between the authorities concerned with sport, environment and culture, pillars of the international Olympic Movement, according to the characteristics of each country, and with community and civil society participation, in order to promote sustainable development in the Latin America and Caribbean region and, particularly, the necessary changes in ethical and environmental values, and additionally, the heads of production and leading consumers.

8. Work to obtain the political will in each country of the region to substantially promote environmental education, awareness and understanding among the athletes and all citizens in general, so that this, consequently, represents a coherent and systematic action on the part of the state authorities and all the sectors involved.

9. Promote and increase the participation of athletes and teams with outstanding results in local, national and international sport, in environmental improvement campaigns, public health messages with environmental content, and healthy and sustainable consumer and production habits, to help mobilise the general public towards environmental protection.

10. Develop cooperation actions and broaden relations between NOCs, according to their characteristics, and the formal or non-formal education system in each country, with the objective of implementing environmental improvement activities in the community, related to physical and sporting activities that give a healthy example of how to use free time and increase the quality of life on a local level.

11. Strengthen cooperation relationships with the mass media in each country, on national and local levels, by increasing public health messages through them, and in doing so contribute to expanding environmental education and consciousness-raising and the link between sport and the environment. Promote celebration by the sports movement of World Environment Day on 5 June.

12. Continue to promote on the international scene, in which each NOC's members and officials are involved, the results and importance of the integration of sport and the environment, in accordance with the content of the decisions made by the International Olympic Committee and the UNEP Administration Board.

13. Systematically promote with all the governments involved, and the whole of society in each one of our countries, the goal of having the design, construction and use of the sporting facilities incorporate the introduction of cleaner production practices, recycling of waste, decrease of consumption of natural resources (water and energy), and the use of renewable energy sources, so as to increasingly organise and develop Green Sporting Events, as an expression of environmental protection and its relationship with sport.

14. Stimulate the creation and use, by every NOC, of incentives (banners, stamps or the equivalent) aimed at promoting and recognising the introduction of the environmental dimension in sporting activities, in cooperation with the appropriate national authorities.

15. Ensure that the organisation and development of sporting events is favourable to the protection of natural resources on a local level, especially biological diversity, as well as ensuring no increase of water, sound, light and atmospheric pollution, or of any kind of waste production.

16. Develop in every country, with the cooperation of the NOCs, governmental authorities and the whole of society, systems to monitor and evaluate the integration of sport and the environment, based on sustainable development.

17. Request the IOC to manage, with the financial development bodies, an increase in funds to be used for the development of national projects, activities for human resources training on environment and sport, through the NOCs.

18. Promote the use by the NOCs of the reports about the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) for Latin America and the Caribbean and in cities to define the respective policies and strategies on sport and environment, using the problems identified. In the same way, include the theme of Sport and the Environment in the development of the GEO reports, systematically organised and published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with suitable design and presentation.

19. Organise, for 2006, the 2nd Regional Seminar on Sport and the Environment, with the same countries participating, as well as other suitable ones, to evaluate the progress and difficulties encountered in accomplishing the strategic work objectives proposed.
