

# THE CONFERENCE IN ROME

**RECALLING** the decision taken by the United Nations General Assembly to proclaim the period 1991-2000 United Nations Decade Against Drug Abuse, with the aim in particular of mobilizing organizations, groups and individuals with a view to making greater efforts to prevent and reduce drug abuse and supporting a global culture against the use of illicit drugs,

**WELCOMING** the signing of a cooperation agreement between the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) and their commitment to strengthening existing drug prevention programmes, including the offer of sport targeted at underprivileged groups and young people at risk,

**CALLS ON** governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, International sports Federations, National Olympic Committees and all citizens of the world concerned about the well-being and healthy development of young people to recognize that:

1. drug abuse around the world is alarming and young people, particularly those living in conditions of poverty and deprivation and from divided families, are the most vulnerable to narcotics and psychotropic substances;
2. drug prevention programmes cannot always reach street children or other young people outside the school system

and a global approach must be adopted, in all sectors, to render effective the preventive efforts made;

3. the primary objective of drug prevention programmes must be to help young people at risk likely to turn to an antisocial survival strategy and to promote a healthy way of life;
4. the practice of sport can make a major contribution to preventing drug use among young people, helping them to face up to difficult situations, consolidating their personality and self-confidence and inculcating values of self-discipline, justice and cooperation which are part of Olympic morality.

We **APPEAL** to the athletes of the world to commit themselves with determination to protecting our young people against drug use and its damaging effects, and invite them to spread this message at all the sports events in which they take part.

We therefore **INVITE** all those who wish to build a peaceful and better world to protect the future of young people against the devastating effects on our society of drugs and the traffic to which they give rise by placing sport at the service of the harmonious development of humanity, encouraging the practice of sport in the fight against drug abuse in all situations, mobilizing the human and financial resources to do so and implementing programmes and projects likely to encourage other people to follow this example.