



International Olympic Forum for Development



For many years, there has been talk of the need for consultation and coordination in technical assistance to developing countries in the area of sport and physical education. All the agents of donor countries, inter- and non-governmental organizations, and the Olympic Movement were aware of this. The initiators of Olympic Solidarity, Giulio Onesti of Italy, Raoul Mollet of Belgium and Raymond Gafner of Switzerland, were among the first to raise the problem. As early as 1988, on the recommendation of the IOC Olympic Movement Commission, a consultative forum was slated for Lausanne. Alexandru Siperco, IOC member in Romania, even published an article on the subject in the *Olympic Review*. Any gathering, particularly in Africa, was taken as an opportunity to address the theme of concertation. For, it often occurs that several governmental and non-governmental organizations launch similar projects in the same country or region. Through lack of consultation and coordination there is considerable waste of energy and resources. Also, there is often no mechanism for coordination between different national sports organizations. Each entity is in contact with a different international organization. Several of them may find themselves requesting technical assistance of the same nature. It was therefore useful to harmonize development projects, maximize the return on

investments, use human resources to good effect, identify needs, draw up a list of priorities and establish a coordination mechanism.

The first concrete action was to create a conference of Ministers of Youth and Sport in French-speaking countries (CONFESJES). This provides an ideal framework for donor countries such as Canada and France and the recipient countries in Africa to define development projects. Unfortunately, however, there was no real forum where donor countries' government representatives in the Ministries of Youth and Sport or Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and inter- and non-governmental organizations representatives could meet with members of the Olympic family. Yet all were convinced that only the International Olympic Committee could play the role of coordinator.

In his speech at the opening of the Centennial Olympic Congress, Congress of Unity, in Paris on 30 August 1994, IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said: "We should also set up a coordination mechanism to ensure consistency between the Olympic Movement, non-governmental sports organizations and government agencies which give technical assistance to developing countries". Pursuing his analysis, he invited all National Olympic Committees "to maintain excellent relations with their respective governments, and in particular the ministries of youth and sport, national education, health

and the environment. Under the constitution of each sovereign state" he pointed out. "they have the role of providing education and health care for the population. Our contribution is no more than symbolic and complementary". Juan Antonio Samaranch took up the cudgel again in his address to the United Nations General Assembly in November 1995. And so it was that the IOC, through its Department of International Cooperation created by President Samaranch in 1994, organized for the first time an international consultative forum on technical assistance related to youth and sport in developing countries from 6 to 8 May 1996 in Lausanne. All the entities concerned were present, including the ministers for sport in Portugal and in the Netherlands. After two and a half days of exchange of information and reflection, the Forum set out its recommendations in the form of a Resolution (see inset). The President of the International Olympic Committee, who participated in the proceedings of the Forum at the beginning and the end, welcomed the creation of the International Olympic Forum for Development (IOFD) and committed to oversee its implementation and operation. He entrusted responsibility for the IOFD to the Department of International Cooperation and appointed the Director of his Executive Office, Fékrou Kidane, as its Executive Secretary.

F.K.

The Forum

Bearing in mind the appeal launched by the President of the International Olympic Committee at the Olympic Centennial Congress, Congress of Unity, in Paris in 1994 for the establishment of a consultation and cooperation mechanism for the technical and financial assistance provided to developing countries by governments and inter- and non-governmental organizations:

Acknowledging that the aim of the Olympic Movement is to build a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport, physical activity and the Olympic ideal without discrimination of any kind;

Aware of the importance of technical and financial assistance for developing countries and, in particular, those least developed;

Recalling resolution A/50/L.15 adopted by the fiftieth session of the United Nations General Assembly which suggests in its operative part, paragraph 4, that "national ministries of youth and sport consider collaborating on preventive education programmes with the Olympic Movement in the spirit of Olympic ethics and fair play, such as anti-doping programmes, drug abuse prevention, environmental protection and enhancing the participation of women in all aspects of the sport movement";

Recalling also that 1996, the year of the centennial of the modern Olympic Games, was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly "International Year for the Eradication of Poverty";

1. Congratulates the International Olympic Committee on taking the initiative to organize the international consultative Forum on technical assistance related to youth and sport in the developing countries and thereby serving the cause of peace and the well-being of humanity by contributing to the development of sport and physical education,

2. Congratulates also the governments and inter- and non-governmental organizations having a policy of technical and financial assistance related to sport and physical education in the developing countries,

3. Requests the participants in the Lausanne international Forum, in a spirit of solidarity, to continue to provide, and even to increase, their assistance to developing countries for sport and physical education,

4. Recommends the establishment of an annual consultative mechanism at least until the year 2000 in the form of an "International Olympic Forum for Development" (IOFD),

5. Suggests that, starting now, donors and agencies responsible for implementation undertake coordina-

tion initiatives at the national and regional level,

6. Invites the International Olympic Committee to assume responsibility for the operation of the International Olympic Forum for Development and, in consultation with a committee comprising representatives of the developed and developing nations, recipient countries, inter- and non-governmental agencies, and the Olympic Movement, identify the themes for consultation, and schedule activities,

7. Recommends, that included in the schedule of activities there should be: monitoring of the coordination activities mentioned in paragraph 5: exploration of the establishment of a data bank and the use of information technologies to detail and communicate development and technical assistance projects; formulation of principles with regard to best practice in the area of development and technical assistance.

8. Endorses and promotes the notion that sport be included in principle and in practice in Official Development Assistance (ODA),

9. Requests the President of the International Olympic Committee to allocate a budget and to appoint an Executive Secretary for the International Olympic Forum for Development.



Raoul Mollet and François Pilot (CISM).



Arthur Zechner (CISM), Reynaldo Gonzalez Lopez (Cuba), Aldo Notari (IBA) and Mustapha Larfaoui (FINA).



The French delegation: Jean-Pierre Toulet, Michel Deronzier, Michel Dach, Jean-Claude Sorge and Pierre Viaux.



The IOC President with Minister Julio Francesco Calha (Portugal).



John Andrews (FIEP).



George Segun (ITTF) and Awoture Eleyae (CSSA).



Klaus Heinemann and Georg Kemper (Germany).



Henny Oldenhove (Australia).



Anselmo Lopez and Myriam Gross-Traverso (Olympic Solidarity) in the foreground.



John Scott (Great Britain) and Stig Hedlund (Sweden).



Minister Erica Tersptra (Netherlands)



Ju-Ho Chang (Korea) and Mingde Tu (China).



Hamadi Benaziza (WHO) and Arthur Gillette (UNESCO).



Peter Bayer (IBU) and André Noël Chaker (ICSSPE)



Opening ceremony: Guy Arseneault (Canada)...



...and Klaus Heinemann (Germany) at the podium.



Un Yong Kim and FéKrou Kidane (IOC).



Sessions...



...on the terrace of the Olympic Museum.



...of the working groups...