

Cooperation agreement

A cooperation agreement has been concluded between the IOC and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Under the terms of the agreement, the two parties recognize that they share the same fundamental objectives and commit themselves to undertaking together specific international solidarity actions for the benefit of populations in rural areas.

The agreement, signed by the President of the IOC and Jacques Diouf, FAO Director-General, states that the goal of Olympism is to place everywhere sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to encouraging the establishment of a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dig-

nity. It further recalls that the aim of the FAO is to free humanity from hunger and malnutrition so as to guarantee respect for and safeguard the dignity of the human person. Athletes all over the world have endorsed the FAO "Food for all" campaign launched in Rome last November on the occasion of the World Food Summit. In a special demonstration of their support, athletes took part in 21 marathon races held both prior to and following the Summit, thus giving them an opportunity to express their solidarity with all people throughout the world who suffer from hunger and malnutrition. According to the FAO, over 800 million people suffer from chronic malnutrition in the developing countries alone and some 200 million children under the age of five are affected by acute protein-calorie deficiencies.

