

increase their support for the promotion of female participation in sport in Africa.

It is evident that the dynamism of the delegates contributed to the success

of this seminar, which highlighted, once more, the will and the capacity of African women to work for the development of national and international sport. It is now up to the Olympic

movement and national governments to give them the means to achieve their objectives.

Katia Mascagni Stivachtis

## Resolution

The participants,

**Congratulating** the International Olympic Committee on having taken the initiative to organize a regional seminar on women and sport for the French- and Portuguese-speaking National Olympic Committees of Africa;

**Recalling** that the aim of the Olympic Movement is to build a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal, based on the principle of gender equality;

**Recalling** the decision of the International Olympic Committee to require that by the year 2000 all National Olympic Committees and International sports Federations fill a minimum of 10% of the positions on their decision-making bodies with women, and that this percentage rise to 20% in the year 2005;

**Recalling** the conventions and legal instruments adopted by international organizations requiring the elimination of discrimination against women, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Platform for Action of the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, the International Charter of Physical Education and Sport, the Brighton Declaration and the Windhoek Call to Action:

**Recognizing** that physical and sports education at school is an essential, determining factor in the development of physical activity and sport

**Emphasizing** that physical and sports activity is fundamental to ensuring the

well-being and the physical and mental health of the entire population, and of women in particular;

**Aware** of the economic, cultural and structural difficulties that often place sport after other priorities;

**Emphasizing** the difficulties involved in gaining access to and publicizing information among members of the Olympic Movement and the inter- and non-governmental organizations responsible for physical activity and sport;

**Recalling** that African women play an essential role in the structure of the family and in children's education;

**Considering** the will expressed by the participants to endeavour to secure greater participation of women in the Olympic and sports movements;

**Urge** the International Olympic Committee, the National and International Sports Federation, the African Sports Confederations, the African National Olympic Committees, the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) and the Association of African Sports Confederations (AASC) to implement action programmes favouring the promotion and participation of women in sport;

**Request** governments, and in particular Ministries for Youth and Sport, Education, Health, Promotion of Women and the Family, along with intergovernmental, regional and international organizations, particularly the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa (SCSA), the Conference of ministers of youth and

sports in French-speaking countries (CONFEJES), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to implement or reinforce policies for the promotion and development of the role of women in physical education and sport, to enable them to express themselves at all levels:

**Urge** the various partners in charge of physical activity and sport to concretize their cooperation and consultation through the creation of national forums dealing with women and sport;

**Request** the various partners to allow women to benefit from specific training programmes for athletes, coaches, leaders, administrators, sports physicians and journalists at national, regional and international level;

**Insist upon** the development of physical education and sports teaching and an improved status for physical education and sport-related occupations;

**Encourage** organizations responsible for physical activity and sport to cooperate with associations involved in the promotion of women;

**Hope** that women's sport will enjoy wider and more appropriate coverage by the media;

**Commit themselves** to promoting the above ideas, participating in the actions undertaken and working toward promoting the role of women in sport.

Abidjan, 30 November 1998.