

Olympic Truce

The 54th Session of the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal" on 25 November 1999, which had a record 180 Member States as its co-sponsors. This resolution urges Member States to observe the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, during the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney and beyond. The year 2000 has also been proclaimed the International Year for a Culture of Peace by the United Nations General Assembly, on the initiative of UNESCO. In the framework of the International Year for a Culture of Peace and the Olympic Truce, the IOC organized Round Tables aiming to further promote peace, dialogue and reconciliation through sport and the Olympic ideal, with the participation of the NOCs of countries who have been or are still in a conflict situation in the different regions and of delegates from the United Nations system. The aims of these round table discussions are to exchange views on two themes:

how to use sport and the Olympic Ideal effectively as an instrument to promote a culture of peace and human understanding, what concrete actions the Olympic Movement should be carried out nationally to promote a culture of peace and respect for the Olympic Truce.

Two of the six scheduled Round Tables have already been held in Athens (Greece) for the Middle East and in Nairobi (Kenya) for East Africa, the remaining four taking place in April and May in America, Africa, Asia and Europe. The first Round Table for the Middle East countries was held in Athens, Greece, birthplace of Olympism and *Ekecheiria*, the Olympic Truce, on 18 and 19 March 2000. The round table was organized with the cooperation of the Hellenic Olympic Committee and in the presence of the representative of the United Nations Secretary General and with the active participation of delegates of the National Olympic Committees of Egypt,

IOC Round Tables on Sport for a Culture of Peace and the Observance of the Olympic Truce

Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Greece (as host). The round table was also addressed by the IOC President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic.

The second Round Table for the East African region was held in Nairobi, on 24 and 25 March with the cooperation of the National Olympic Committee of

Kenya and in the presence of the representatives of the United Nations and the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) and with the active participation of delegates from the National Olympic Committees of Burundi, Comores, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and Kenya (as host).



(from l. to r.) Katia Mascagni, Fékrou Kidane, Stavros Lambrinidis, Costis Dallas, Toni Khouri, Efraim Zinger, the IOC President, Suhail T. Marar, Kevin S. Kennedy Zvi Varshaviak, Mounir Sabet, Anwar Abu Eisheh, Pavlos Kanellakis and Lambis Nikolaou.



(seated, from l. to r.) Tomas Sithole, Francis Nyangweso, Fékrou Kidane, Dini Abdallah Billis, Kipjoge Keino and El Din Mohamed Abdel Alla. (standing, from l. to r.) Gédéon Rudahunga, Leonard Nduwayo, Araya Assefa, Mokbel Niazi Abdoulkarim, Gezew T. Mariam, Abraha Ghermazion and Tom O'Omumbo.