The idea of combining sport and development is not a new one. It started for the IOC back in 1993. The workshop held in Lausanne and Geneva in December 2004 is another step in a steady evolution. The founder of the IOC and renovator of the modern Olympic Games, Pierre de Coubertin, was already in his time an advocate of international cooperation and human development through sport.

All the successors of the French educator and humanist have since strived to cement a strong relationship with the international community. This commitment was also integrated into the Olympic Charter, which clearly stipulates the social responsibility of the Olympic Movement: "The goal of Olympism is to place everywhere sport at the service of the harmonious development of man, with a view of encouraging the establishment of a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity" (Fundamental Principle).

Steady development

The international cooperation and development activities of the IOC have developed steadily over the years: in 1922, the IOC and ILO decided to establish an institutional cooperation and later on, two years after the creation of the United Nations in 1945, the IOC linked up with the UN system. Further ahead, initiatives in the 1980s resulted in several specific cooperation agreements with UN special agencies and programmes.

The Olympic Truce

The use of sport as an element of sanction against Yugoslavia during the war in the Balkans, seeking to prevent its athletes from taking part in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, motivated the IOC to launch its appeal for the "Olympic Truce". This has become an historical initiative, which has been supported by the UN General Assembly that adopted several resolutions to urge States to observe the Olympic Truce during the Olympic Games and beyond. Even better, on the occasion of the centenary of the IOC, the Assembly proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Truce.

Promotion and assistance

Today, the Olympic Movement has established excellent relationships with many UN agencies and other international organisations to promote education, culture, health care, human rights, environmental issues and gender equality through sport in society. It also assists several humanitarian organisations by providing sports assistance to war victims, refugees and victims of natural disasters.

2005: an important milestone

The International Year of Sport and Physical Education in 2005 will be another important milestone in the promotion of sport as a part of human development, based on the values of solidarity, human dignity, peace and development.

THE IOC’S SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SEMINAR ON SPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

IN LAUSANNE/GENEVA

COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

The IOC is supporting a pilot project in Angola helping to rehabilitate victims of landmines through sport.

The IOC has established strong relationships with numerous UN special agencies and programmes and concluded cooperation agreements with them: UNESCO (UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), WHO (World Health Organisation), UNICEF (UN Children’s Fund), UNHCR (UN High Commissioner for Refugees), UNEP (UN Environment Programme), UNODCCP (UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention), UNDP (UN Development Programme), WMO (World Meteorological Organisation), FAO (Food and Agricultural Organisation), UPU (Universal Postal Union), WTO (World Tourism Organisation), ILO (International Labour Organization), ITU (International Telecommunication Union), and UNAIDS. Furthermore, it has concluded cooperation agreements with other international organisations: the World Bank, IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Federations) and the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross).

CASE STUDY 1

PILOT PROJECT IN ANGOLA

REHABILITATION OF AMPUTEES THROUGH SPORT

The IOC is supporting a pilot project in Angola which aims to rehabilitate amputees and disabled people through sport. One physiotherapist and three sports persons will be trained during three training sessions of one to two weeks on the use of sport activities as a rehabilitation tool for amputees — very often victims of antipersonnel landmines. The project is being carried out in collaboration with the International Paralympic Committee, the Angolan government, the National Olympic Committee and the National Paralympic Committee at the MINSA rehabilitation centre in Huambo. It will also equip the centre’s patients with adequate sports equipment.

CASE STUDY 2

WORK AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SPORT IN ALBANIA

YOUTH SPORT PROGRAMME

Sport can play an essential role for young people’s social and economic development. This was the outcome of a UN country team workshop on the contribution of sport to the youth in Albania. The workshop resulted in the establishment of a national ➤
**SPORT AND DEVELOPMENT**

**COOPERATION AGREEMENTS**

- A network of sport and development partners.
- Nine areas of common interest and activities were identified. Examples of implementation are:
  - Sports events linked to tourism development in the region of Duesseldorf.
  - The development of educational tools for schoolchildren using sport as a vehicle.
  - Sport and for children so as to reduce health-related problems at work.

**CASE STUDY 3**

**BOAONE OLYMPIAFRICA PROJECT**

The IOC, the ILO, the Olympiacs centre, the government, the NOC of Mozambique and other partners are cooperating in a major poverty alleviation programme for the community of Boaone. Over 800 primary school children from poor families have their school fees paid by the IOC, and training for women to manufacture school uniforms has been organised with a view to developing a local economic activity and creating a self-sufficient cooperative. The Olympiacs centre is also used as a sports training centre for some 1,000 children from the surrounding village, where sport and education courses and training are provided.

**CASE STUDY 4**

**HIV/AIDS PREVENTION ROLE MODELS IN HIV/AIDS PREVENTION**

HIV/AIDS prevention is one of the fields in which sport can clearly make a difference. Sports events, clubs and gyms offer a perfect platform to make young people aware of the issue and promote preventive messages. The IOC and UNAIDS have decided to join forces in this field and key activities have been identified such as:

- In June 2004, the organisation of a Workshop on HIV/AIDS prevention through sport for sub-Saharan African NGOs.
- The production of a worldwide generic toolkit on sport and HIV/AIDS for the sports community.
- During the last Olympic Games in Athens, an intensive communication awareness campaign, on HIV/AIDS prevention through sport.

All athletes received a special publication with the AIDS ribbon, encouraging them to participate in a joint prevention effort. Chinese gymnast Huang Deng was quoted in the brochure as saying: “HIV can affect anyone anywhere. As athletes we are in a unique position to help get messages through on how to avoid infection with the virus. While there may be no cure for AIDS, we must not forget that HIV can be prevented.”

**SPORT AS PART OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

**INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed the year 2005 “International Year for Sport and Physical Education”. It will be an important milestone in the promotion of sport as a part of human development based on the values of solidarity, human dignity, peace and development.

**WORLD OF HUMAN TRAGEDIES**

We are living in a world full of human tragedies, with armed conflicts, poverty, violations of human rights and social disintegration. Sport cannot, of course, be a remedy to this. Sport and the Olympic Movement however, as stipulated in the Olympic Charter, can contribute to the harmonious development of man, with a view to encouraging the establishment of a peaceful society.

**ACTIVE PART IN CIVIL SOCIETY**

The sports movement is part of civil society and wants to fulfil an important role in this field. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is convinced of the positive role which sport development can, and must, play as a catalyst in our society.

**INTERVIEW WITH T.A. GANDA SITHOLE, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

T.A. Ganda Sithole, a former IOC Executive Board member and President of the Zimbabwean National Olympic Committee, joined the IOC administration in 2003 and was appointed Director of International Cooperation and Development. “Olympic Review Focus” wanted to know more about international cooperation activities.

1. What are the objectives the IOC wants to achieve in international cooperation and development?

   International cooperation and development are the perfect means to fulfill a very important part of our mission: the promotion of the Olympic values in order to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of our society.

2. What are the means to achieve this?

   We do not want to substitute ourselves to specialised agencies, programmes and humanitarian organisations. We cooperate with them through our knowledge and expertise on sport development. We can also facilitate the link to the world’s most important network, the Olympic Movement, and offer forums of discussion.

3. Which projects highlight best your goals and achievements?

   I think that we can have an important impact on the youth. All projects linked to children and young people are an investment into the future. Sport development projects for children like in Mozambique, the prevention campaigns for HIV/AIDS, but also sport humanitarian assistance, for example for victims of antipersonnel mines in Angola or refugees in Afghanistan.

4. What significance has the International Year of Sport and Physical Education for the IOC?

   I remember very well the impact the “International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal” had in 1994. It was, for the first time, a universal recognition of the important role of sport in our society. Since then, many initiatives have been taken in this field and sport has become an important social factor on all continents and even in countries that have been through serious crises. The International Year of Sport and Physical Education in 2005 should particularly serve to communicate all these activities and initiatives in order to create a strong basis for future projects.

**FULL SUPPORT**

The Olympic Movement, under the leadership of the IOC, will pursue its work in the framework of the Year of Sport and Physical Education with several projects underlining its commitment to sport development at grass-roots levels and human and socio-economic development throughout sport.