STATEMENT

The 10th World Conference on Sport and the Environment was organised in Sochi, Russian Federation, by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with the support of the Russian Olympic Committee and the Organising Committee of the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, from 30th October to 1st November 2013.


Under the theme “CHANGING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW”, presentations were made in plenary and dialogue sessions in which participants contributed in a spirit of cooperation and friendship and informed debate.

They resolved to adopt the Sochi Declaration and the following statement, whereby the participants:

1. Express their gratitude to the Government of the Russian Federation for joining as an organising partner of the 10th World Conference on Sport and the Environment – making it the first government to do so;

2. Welcome the clear statement of the Russian Government through President Putin that all people will be welcome to the Games in Sochi without hindrance and in compliance with the Olympic Charter;

3. Extend their thanks to the Government of the Russian Federation, the Russian Olympic Committee and the Organising Committee of the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi for providing the facilities that made it possible for the Conference to be held successfully;

4. Congratulate Dr. Thomas Bach for his election as the ninth President of the International Olympic Committee and pledge support for his “unity in diversity” agenda as defined in his manifesto;

5. Express their gratitude to immediate past President of the IOC Dr. Jacques Rogge for his support of the IOC environment and sustainability agenda during his 12-year mandate.

Sochi, Russian Federation
1st November 2013
The participants to the 10th IOC World Conference on Sport and Environment

1. Call on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to build on the relationship that has been established by the involvement of the Russian Government in organising the conference in Sochi and expand the network on environment and sustainability by engaging and working with relevant civil society organisations.

2. Call on the IOC to further strengthen environmental and wider sustainability requirements in the Olympic Games bidding process, and to ensure these are fully integrated into the systems and structures for organising and hosting of the Games and establishing long-term sustainable legacies. Young people in particular should be engaged throughout these stages. By extension, urge the Olympic Movement to adopt a similar approach for all major sport events.

3. Acknowledge the negative impact of food wastage, and call upon the IOC and organisers of Olympic and all other international and local sports competitions to take immediate measures that will mitigate against food wastage. Athletes in particular should be encouraged by the IOC and relevant sports organisations to cooperate with UNEP and the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation to promote the “Think Eat Save: Reduce Your Foodprint” initiative in support of the UN Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge.

4. Appeal to the IOC and its partner organisations to engage and encourage National Olympic Committees, Continental Associations and national sports federations to be involved in, and support national and regional initiatives that use sport as a tool to promote values-based education and healthy lifestyles, and in the development and promotion of the post-2015 development agenda.

5. Welcome the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to proclaim 6 April as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. Call upon the IOC and its partner organisations to involve themselves in the development of the content for the celebration of the day and ensure that youth, sport and sustainability play a large part in the commemorations whose main aim should be to celebrate and publicise the largely ignored value of sport to the development of humankind.

6. Propose to the IOC to review and strengthen the role of its Sport and Environment Commission with a view to expanding its scope to include sustainability and legacy in their wider context, integrating environmental, social and economic dimensions.

7. Request the President of the IOC to consult partner organisations such as UNEP, relevant civil society and national sports organisations and ensure that a plan of action is
developed and put in place and resources allocated in order for these recommendations to be acted upon. A full review of their implementation should be the major engagement of the world conference four years hence.

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