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**OLYMPIC MOVEMENT'S**  
**AGENDA 21**

**Sport for  
sustainable development**

**International Olympic Committee**  
Sport and Environment Commission



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**FOREWORD BY JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH,  
PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC COMMITTEE**

The Centennial Olympic Congress, Congress of Unity, held in Paris in 1994 devoted part of its debates to sport and the environment, and its final document called, among other measures relating to the environment, for the inclusion in the Olympic Charter of a provision underlining the necessity of preserving the environment. It also called for the creation of an IOC Commission on Sport and the Environment. Subsequently, the Olympic Charter was amended in 1996 to include the following paragraph in Rule 2 (role of the IOC):

"(...) the IOC sees that the Olympic Games are held in conditions which demonstrate a responsible concern for environmental issues and encourages the Olympic Movement to demonstrate a responsible concern for environmental issues, takes measures to reflect such concern in its activities and educates all those connected with the Olympic Movement as to the importance of sustainable development."

Thus the promotion of sustainable development became one of the fundamental objectives of the Olympic Movement. This is totally in conformity with the goal of Olympism, which is to place everywhere sport at the service of the harmonious development of man. Indeed, thanks to the universality of sport and to the commitment of sportsmen and women throughout the world, the Olympic Movement has the ability to play an active part in the taking of measures favouring sustainable development.

In Rio de Janeiro in 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), most of the world's nations committed themselves to the pursuit of economic development in ways that would protect the Earth's environment and non-renewable resources and adopted Agenda 21 as a global action plan to fulfil this commitment.

Following the invitation extended to all international, regional and local organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, to prepare their own Agenda 21 based on the model adopted by UNCED, the Olympic Movement decided to prepare its Agenda 21.

This Agenda 21 was adopted by the IOC at its Session in June 1999 in Seoul and subsequently endorsed by the entire Olympic Movement at the Third World Conference on Sport and the Environment in Rio de Janeiro in October 1999. The "Rio Statement" made by this conference charts the course of action for the implementation of Agenda 21. A joint UNEP/IOC Working Group has been set-up and will have the task of piloting and following this implementation.

I invite all the members of the Olympic Movement, all sportsmen and women and bodies associated with sport, to comply with the recommendations of the present Agenda 21 to the best of their ability and with due respect for their cultures, traditions and beliefs.

For its part, the IOC undertakes to use all its influence to achieve the objectives outlined in the Olympic Movement's Agenda 21.

Juan Antonio SAMARANCH  
Marqués de Samaranch



**FOREWORD BY KLAUS TÖPFER,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)**

The Olympic ideal has survived countless political and cultural upheavals including the ravages of two bitterly fought World Wars and subsequently the tensions engendered by the cold war. We all see in the Olympic ideal one of those great and magnanimous ideas that fuel our dreams and hopes – an ideal that each and everyone of us can adopt as our own.

Sport embodies a code of ethics and a value system all its own. It symbolizes a sense of sportsmanship based on fair competition, respect and friendship. It also offers a valuable form of education. It makes us better human beings because it breaks down the artificial barriers of class and race we have erected between ourselves.

This ideal has travelled to every continent bringing to life, under the banner of the Olympic rings, the aspirations of countless young people the world over. In fact, more countries belong to the International Olympic Committee than to the United Nations – testimony of its international appeal.

The sure worth of the Olympic Movement has been its unceasing effort to weave sport into the social fabric of all nations.

Environment like sports knows no frontiers, no territorial borders. It transcends ideological cleavages. It does not recognize artificial

distinctions between North and South or East and West. It is one and indivisible. We are all members of the global environmental community – an extended family where everyone has equal right to fulfill the fullest measure of his or her potential. There are other commonalities. The vision of one earth, one family presupposes a new contract between people and nature on the one hand and, on the other, among peoples and nations – a contract characterized by interdependence and equity.

It is in the light of the above that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) welcomes the Olympic Movement's Agenda 21 document that was endorsed by the Olympic Family at the Third World Conference on Sport and the Environment at Rio de Janeiro on October 21-24 1999.

The Olympic Movement's Agenda 21 should serve as a useful reference tool for the sports community at all levels in the protection of the environment and enhancement of sustainable development.

This document, prepared by the IOC Sport and Environment Commission, in close consultation with UNEP, lays out significant provisions for the active involvement of the global sports community in the protection and safeguarding of the environment.

UNEP also welcomes the far-reaching Statement of the Conference, the "Rio Statement", which calls for the implementation of the Olympic Movement's Agenda 21 as the basis of the policy of close collaboration between members of the Olympic Movement and the United Nations Environment Programme.

A good starting point for new national approaches and policies on sports and environment should simply be the recognition that healthy athletes need a healthy environment to train and perform at their optimum level.

As a minimum that means that governments, sports organizations and athletes have a common interest in:

- Basic air quality standards to ensure that the air we and our athletes breathe does not impair our health.
- Basic water quality standards to ensure that the water we drink and the rivers and lakes we use for swimming, fishing and rowing does not impair our health.
- Basic food and nutrition standards to ensure everyone has access to adequate and healthy food.
- Adequate green space and facilities for sports and recreation , especially in the many densely populated and fast growing urban slums throughout the world.

Although these basic requirements are primarily the responsibility of national and local governments, their policies and programmes have little chance of success without the support of informed and involved citizens.

The support of top sport organizations and sporting industries in the achievement of these goals can also not be underestimated. They not only have a special interest in maintaining environmental quality, but as prominent heroes and role models in their countries can influence the thinking and actions of many others.

UNEP fully supports the establishment of a UNEP/IOC Joint Working Group to provide policy advice and guidance on and to monitor the implementation of the Olympic Movement's Agenda 21. This Group will present detailed progress reports to important meetings of the Olympic Movement as well as to the future World Conferences on Sport and the Environment.

UNEP supports the objectives put forward in this document and will continue to contribute to the promotion of these objectives and the implementation of the Olympic Movement's Agenda 21.

Klaus Töpfer



**FOREWORD BY PÁL SCHMITT,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE IOC SPORT AND ENVIRONMENT  
COMMISSION**

It is a great satisfaction and honour for me to present the Olympic Movement's Agenda 21. This document was prepared by the IOC Sport and Environment Commission and endorsed by the IOC at its Session in Seoul in June 1999 and by the Third World Conference on Sport and the Environment in Rio de Janeiro in October 1999.

This Agenda 21 demonstrates the commitment of the Olympic Movement to protection of the environment and sustainable development. It establishes an action programme allowing the Olympic Movement to participate in the global programme of sustainable development, and defines the responsibilities of its different members in implementing actions which respect the concept of sustainable development. It is aimed at the members of the Olympic Movement and all those involved in sport who share its values: the IOC, IFs, NOCs, OCOGs, athletes, clubs and managers, as well as all those who practise sport and companies linked to sport. It offers the governing bodies of the sports movement ways to incorporate sustainable development into their political strategies and describes actions allowing each individual to play an active part in promoting sustainable development, particularly, but not only, in relation to sports activities.

This Agenda 21 is to be considered as a working document to be adapted by each organization to its particular circumstances. It

denotes a sense of responsibility for the welfare and survival of future generations.

I hope that this document will contribute to the awareness of environmental matters by all sportsmen and women, as well as sports leaders. No initiative, however small, should be neglected. Indeed, we should "Think globally, act locally"

I take this opportunity to thank Shell International for their help in the publishing of this Agenda 21 and their overall support for the environmental efforts of the Olympic Movement.

Pál Schmitt





## 1. THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES

### 1.1. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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*"Sustainable development satisfies the needs of the present generation without compromising the chance for future generations to satisfy theirs"*

*Brundtland Report (1987)*

The starting point of sustainable development is the idea that the long-term preservation of our environment, our habitat as well as its biodiversity and natural resources and the environment will only be possible if combined simultaneously with economic, social and political development particularly geared to the benefit of the poorest members of society. It finds expression in the integrated concept of ***environment and development***.

During the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), otherwise known as the "Earth Summit", in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, most of the world's nations, by means of treaties and other documents signed at the conference, committed themselves to the pursuit of economic development in ways that would protect the Earth's environment and non renewable resources. The Declaration on Environment

and Development, or "Rio Declaration", laid down 27 broad principles for environmentally sound development according to the concept of sustainable development.

The idea of sustainable development, as defined above, was adopted as being the central theme that must govern the implementation of development plans for the twenty-first century.

The application of this concept of sustainable development is the responsibility of all individual and collective actors in every field that have a part to play in the areas of development and protection of the environment. In this connection, and in accordance with the philosophy of Olympism, the Olympic Charter and particularly its third and sixth Fundamental Principles, and in view of its universal nature, the Olympic Movement accepts that it has a special responsibility to share in the implementation of this concept of sustainable development.

## **1.2. UNCED AGENDA 21**

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The UNCED Agenda 21 is a theoretical and practical tool for addressing the problem of sustainable development. It makes concrete proposals in the context of the Rio Declaration.

It is a global action plan, adopted by consensus on 14 June 1992 by 182 governments at the same UN Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) .

Agenda 21 is based on a global approach encompassing the problems of human development and the preservation of our ecological heritage. It inventories the major problems of the present day and suggests ways of preparing the world for future challenges in accordance with sustainable development – in other words, by pursuing social and economic development alongside with the protection of the environment and natural resources. It is a document of almost 300 pages that comprises 40 Chapters divided into four sections:

- Social and Economic Dimensions;
- Conservation and Management of Resources for Development;
- Strengthening the Role of Major Groups;
- Means of Implementation

This document is intended, first, to serve as a blueprint for each Government to draft its own Agenda 21, which should outline national strategies, plans, regulations and activities. In particular, this work is to take place within a framework of international collaboration in which the United Nations will play a leading part.

Similarly, international, regional and local organizations, whether governmental or non-governmental, have been called upon to prepare their own Agenda 21 based on the model adopted by the UNCED.

The Olympic Movement, whose goal, according to the Olympic Charter, is "To contribute to building a peaceful and better world", agrees with the analysis undertaken by the UNCED, and sets its action in the framework of sustainable development. Because of the universality of sport, the Olympic Movement has the ability to play an active part in the taking of measures favouring sustainable development. For this reason, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has decided that the Olympic Movement should have its own Agenda 21.



## 2. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT'S AGENDA 21

The Olympic Movement's Agenda 21 aims to encourage members of the Movement to play an active part in the sustainable development of our planet. It sets out the basic concepts and general actions needed to ensure that this objective is met. It has been inspired by the UNCED Agenda 21, adapted to the characteristics of the Olympic and sports Movement. It suggests general outlines which should guide the activity of the Olympic Movement in the fields in which it can bring an effective contribution.

It is a theoretical and practical guide for all members of the Olympic Movement and for sportsmen and -women in general: the IOC, the International Federations (IFs), the National Olympic Committees (NOCs), the Olympic Games Organizing Committees (OCOGs), athletes, clubs, coaches and all individuals and enterprises associated with sport.

The Olympic Movement's Agenda 21 suggests to governing bodies areas in which sustainable development could be integrated into their policies. It also points out ways in which individuals can act so as to ensure that their sporting activities and their lives in general play a part in this sustainable development.

The Olympic Movement's Agenda 21 must be implemented in a climate of respect for different social, economic, geographical, climatic, cultural and religious contexts which are characteristic of the diversity of the members of the Olympic Movement.



### **3. THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT'S ACTION PROGRAMME FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

In order to satisfy the general objectives of Agenda 21, the Olympic Movement is providing itself with a programme of action designed to pave the way to better socio-economic conditions, preservation of the environment and natural resources, and a more significant role for its members in sustainable development.

This programme of action is built around the following three objectives:

- Improving socio-economic conditions
- Conservation and management of resources for sustainable development
- Strengthening the role of major groups

#### **3.1. IMPROVING SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS**

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Sustainable development is only conceivable if accompanied by the satisfaction of those cultural and material needs that are essential for all individuals to live with dignity and play a positive role in the society to which they belong. With this principle in

mind, Agenda 21 pays particular attention to the fate of minorities and the most disadvantaged members of society.

### **3.1.1 The values of Olympism and its action on behalf of sustainable development**

The socio-economic aspect of Agenda 21 embodies the purpose of Olympism as described in the Fundamental Principles of the Olympic Charter, which is to "place sport everywhere at the service of the harmonious development of man, with a view to encouraging the establishment of a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity".

To achieve this objective, the Olympic Movement intends to concentrate its activities on those socio-economic fields in which its influence and universality will enable it to play an effective role.

Its aims will be to strengthen international cooperation projects for sustainable development, to help combat social exclusion, to encourage new consumer habits, to play an even more active role in encouraging health protection, to promote sports infrastructure which is even better adapted to social needs, and further to improve the integration of development and environment concepts into sports policies.

### **3.1.2 Stronger international cooperation for sustainable development**

The challenges presented by the environment and development can only be met by establishing a new world partnership which will make it possible to overcome differences and promote a genuine climate of cooperation and solidarity.

For some years now the IOC has been developing a policy of collaboration with the international institutions responsible for implementing the concept of sustainable development. This refers particularly to the cooperation established with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). This policy of international collaboration will be pursued, with even greater emphasis being placed on training in environmental protection and the involvement of the Olympic Movement in international activities to protect the natural environment. It should be extended to include the IFs.

At regional level, the IOC and the NOCs should establish agreements with political institutions and define joint actions enabling sportsmen and -women to participate in regional advances towards sustainable development.

The sports goods industries should promote sustainable management of resources notably through the use of materials and processes which are compatible with such sustainable management of resources; they should also minimize the environmental impact of their activities while assisting in socio-economic development.

### **3.1.3 Combating exclusion**

An environmental policy which aims at efficient and sustainable management of resources must take account of those who depend upon those resources and ensure that they can live with the dignity to which every individual is entitled. This is why the Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations proposes that action plans should take account of the fight against poverty and encourages the integration of disadvantaged social groups. The Olympic Movement and all individuals and enterprises associated with sport should support such action plans.

The Olympic Movement has shown by its history that it has an essential part to play in combating poverty by enabling individuals and groups to fight against social exclusion through participation in sport. The Olympic Movement's Agenda 21 points out ways in which even more can be done in this field.

In conformity with the Olympic Charter, the IOC will continue to ensure that there is no place in the Olympic Family for organizations and individuals which, by regulations, by action or by inaction, encourage the exclusion of individuals or groups of individuals.

The IFs should give priority to encouraging sports activity in underprivileged social circles. They will need to take active steps to support initiatives along these lines and to promote the examples set by such initiatives.

The sports organizations should assist and encourage public institutions concerned with sports to promote sports activities by groups of individuals who are excluded from them for reasons of economic resources, sex, race or caste. They should encourage the priority development of sports infrastructure and equipment in the marginalized regions.

### **3.1.4 Changing consumer habits**

Unsustainable consumption patterns are imposing considerable burdens on the environment, while the most marginalized groups are unable to satisfy their fundamental needs for food, health care, housing and education. Only the establishment of more responsible and socially conscious patterns of consumption will make it possible to limit their environmental impact, economize on the use of non-renewable resources and meet the essential needs of the poor.

The whole Olympic family is committed to taking active steps to promote – through regulation, education and example – patterns in the consumption of goods, particularly sports goods, water and energy which meet the requirements of sustainable development.

Active steps will have to be taken to encourage the use of sports equipment produced from non-polluting or recycled materials and manufactured in ways which economize on raw materials and energy. So far as possible, it will be necessary to encourage the use of traditional local materials for sports equipment and structures.

A plan will be put in place to economize on energy expenditure associated with the practice of sport and the organization of major sports events. All the organizations and individuals linked to the Olympic Movement will voluntarily institute plans to reduce or control the Movement's expenditure of energy, adapted to specific economic and regional situations.

### **3.1.5 Health protection**

The protection of health, an essential factor in the harmonious development of humankind, is closely related to the sustainable development of our society. The sports movement must play a dominant role in the health protection and promotion campaigns encompassed by UNCED Agenda 21.

The governing bodies of the Olympic Movement will intensify their efforts to combat doping, which is perverting the practice of sport and jeopardizing the health of those involved in it.

Health education will be, to an even greater extent, an integral part of sports education. It covers notably the aspects of nutrition, hygiene, the combating of contagious and infectious diseases, the protection of vulnerable groups and the health of urban populations.

Both nationally and internationally, sports organizations and athletes will actively cooperate in implementing and producing programmes to improve diet and drinking water supplies, as well as vaccination and health education programmes.

At local level, clubs and coaches are already taking on special responsibilities in this health promotion drive. The part they are playing will have to be widened and encouraged by better training and motivation of sports teachers, better support from sport's governing bodies, and the establishment of joint projects with public and private health organizations.

In zones which lack adequate drinking water supplies, sports organizations will have to make a particular effort to increase awareness among the authorities concerned of the need to institute arrangements for the supply of quality water.

Sports organizations and athletes will promote healthy eating habits, with a balanced diet based on agricultural and distribution practices that are compatible with sustainable development.

Sports organizations and athletes will give their fullest support to campaigns in the areas of health education, immunization and vaccination, and the supply of medicinal products to vulnerable groups.

In major conurbations where overpopulation and inadequate housing are encouraging the spread of respiratory and other diseases, the political authorities responsible for sport and health and the sports associations will institute coordinated action plans to combat these scourges, focusing particularly on outdoor sporting activities and sport-related hygiene measures.

### **3.1.6 Human habitat and settlements**

In the industrialised countries, human settlements generate heavy pressure on the environment and on natural resources, whereas in the developing countries they fail to offer access to the raw materials and energy necessary for economic development. To remedy this situation, UNCED Agenda 21 attaches great importance to the promotion of a viable model for human settlements.

The sports movement should participate in this promotion and intends to do so through the example it can set by integrating this concept into sports facilities and the staging of major events.

Sports facilities will be built or converted so as to ensure their harmonious integration into the local context, whether natural or man-made, and in accordance with considerate planning of land use. The infrastructure will have to enable the use of durable and safe construction materials, the economical use of water and energy resources, and efficient waste management. Use of renewable resources and energy supplies will be a priority. Any building or conversion work will have to take into account the principles of environmental protection and ideally be the subject of a prior environmental impact study.

At major events, the organizers should aim to ensure that they provide better conditions for sustainable development than previous events staged under the same socio-economic,

geographical and climatic conditions. The issues will be to increase involvement by the local population, improve the socio-economic and health benefits they derive from it, use less energy and fewer non-renewable resources, employ fewer dangerous products and release fewer polluting products into the air, water and soil. An environmental impact assessment will be conducted after the event.

At these events, the creation of living accommodation for athletes and other members of the sports movement must be designed to provide a boost to local housing strategies, not forgetting the poorest members of society. The infrastructure created must be safe in terms of the quality and durability of materials and resistance to attack or natural disaster. The accommodation must be suitable for healthy living and allow economical use of natural resources.

### **3.1.7 Integrating the concept of sustainable development into sports policies**

Sports governing bodies will be increasingly attentive to integrating the concept of sustainable development into the policies, the rules and management systems which govern the operations of the sports world, and into the sports activities and the staging of sports events.

Following the example of the Sport and Environment Commission of the IOC and similar commissions of some IFs and NOCs, all sports organizations will set up institutional struc-



tures to ensure that environmental and development issues are duly taken into account in their regulatory and decision-making procedures.

Mechanisms will be instituted or reinforced to strengthen participation in the Olympic Movement's sustainable development policy and activities by individuals, groups and bodies committed to the environment and to development.

The IOC, the IFs and the NOCs will set up an education and information network which will enable all members of the Olympic Family to be trained in the necessary practices and techniques to turn them into effective campaigners for sustainable development.

The IOC and the IFs will set up a system for monitoring and evaluating the progress achieved towards sustainable development, based on a number of indicators derived from the Olympic Movement's current Agenda 21.

### **3.2. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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For some years now, the Olympic Movement has regarded the environment as the third pillar of Olympism, alongside sport and culture. As a result, it has developed a proactive environmental defence policy which has found expression in the "Earth Pact", joint activities with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the "greening" of the Olympic Games, and the holding of world and regional conferences on Sport and the Environment.

This Agenda 21 places the environmental defence policy of the Olympic Movement in the broader context of sustainable development. Thus, the environmental activities of the Olympic Movement are now geared to the preservation and management of natural resources and the natural environment necessary to improve socio-economic conditions as defined in the previous chapter.

#### **3.2.1 Methodology of environmental action for the Olympic Movement**

In general terms, all the actions undertaken by the Olympic Movement must take place with due respect for the environment and in the spirit of sustainable development, encourage environmental education and allow specific activities to help preserve the environment.

In the building or conversion of facilities or the planning of large-scale sports events, those responsible will have to ensure that a prior environmental impact study is carried out to ensure respect for the cultural, social and natural environment.

The environmental consequences of changes in sport rules should be taken into consideration when any such changes are being contemplated.

### **3.2.2 Protection of conservation areas and countryside**

Sports activities, facilities and events must be so arranged as to ensure the protection of conservation areas, the countryside, the cultural heritage and natural resources as a whole. They will also have to be sited in such a way as to minimize the environmental impact of the infrastructure associated with them, such as housing, traffic arteries, communications, electricity supplies, water and food supplies, and waste disposal and processing.

The use of a site must go hand in hand with protective measures. Provisions must be made for compensation in the event of irreversible change. The planning and financing of temporary structures must include provision for restoring the site after they have been dismantled.

Sport practised outside of any sport facility and particularly in natural settings can be beneficial to the environment and can help in local development. The importance of respecting the

natural site and ensuring landscape conservation must be strongly emphasized with participants to such sport activities.

### **3.2.3 Sports facilities**

A special effort must be made to encourage the best possible use of existing sports facilities, to keep them in good condition and to improve them by increasing safety and reducing their environmental impact.

The creation of new sports facilities must be confined to cases in which demand cannot be satisfied by using or renovating existing facilities.

The location and construction of new facilities must be in compliance with the provisions of paragraph 3.1.6 of this Agenda 21. These facilities will have to comply with local legislation and be designed to fit in with the surrounding natural or man-made scenery.

The running of sports facilities must be such as to respect the environment and preserve resources and energy. The operating personnel will be trained in environment-friendly techniques and economy of resources. The quantity of waste produced must be reduced and the use of recyclable materials encouraged. Use of dangerous or polluting chemical products will be avoided. If they are deemed essential, they must be used in accordance with existing legislation and with restraint. Particular attention must be paid to the arrangements for their storage.

As knowledge and technologies improve, so products which constitute a danger to the environment or to health will be replaced. Water and electricity supplies and heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems will be regularly maintained or upgraded so as to optimize the economical use of water and energy.

### **3.2.4 Sports equipment**

The members of the Olympic Movement will be encouraged to give preference to sports equipment which is environment-friendly – for example, equipment which makes use of renewable natural products.

To minimize expenditure on energy for the transport and distribution of goods, and with a view to advancing technological and economic development, the use of local products will be encouraged.

Equipment manufacturers will be encouraged to lay down clear and recognized ecological standards to help the consumer select environment-friendly products. The sports industry should obtain ISO certification for quality assurance and environmental management.

### **3.2.5 Transport**

Transport contributes to various environmental problems, including air pollution, the consumption of non-renewable energy and excessive use of land for highways and parking areas.

In order to reduce such impact while at the same time encouraging the mobility which is an important element in development, the Olympic Movement intends to promote schemes aimed at encouraging non-polluting means of propulsion and the use of public transport.

For short distances, it will encourage means of travel which employ muscular strength and are associated with sport, such as walking or cycling.

### **3.2.6 Energy**

Access to energy is a motor of development, but its excessive, pollutive or uncontrolled use mortgages the long-term future of that development and is contrary to the principles of sustainable development.

In order to meet existing needs while ensuring that future generations have access to the energy they will need, the members of the Olympic Movement are committed, in the work they do, the events they organize and their conduct in general, to:

- reducing energy consumption where it is used excessively;
- promoting the use of new technologies, equipment, facilities and practices which encourage the use of renewable energy sources and energy savings;
- encouraging access to renewable and non-polluting energy sources for areas without such power supplies.

### **3.2.7 Accommodation and catering at major sports events**

Because of the publicity given to such events, accommodation and catering arrangements for major sports events should set an example in terms of sustainable development. More specifically, the aim should be to:

- encourage structures in accordance with paragraph 3.1.6 of this Agenda 21;
- observe hygiene conditions strictly;
- make use of goods and foods that have been created with due respect for the development of the local population and the protection of the environment;
- minimize waste by maximizing recycling of the products used; and
- process waste that cannot be recycled.

### **3.2.8 Water management**

Water reserves are limited and form part of a closed system. They are essential for farming activities, drinking and hygiene. In increasingly extensive regions of the world, the quantity and quality of water reserves are under threat.

Consequently, the members of the Olympic Movement are committed in their activities, the events they organize and their conduct in general, to:

- encouraging and supporting world-wide and local activities intended to protect water reserves and preserve the quality of natural waters;
- avoiding any practice which runs a risk of contaminating underground or surface waters;
- ensuring that waste water generated by sporting activities is processed;
- not jeopardizing general water supplies in a particular region simply in order to satisfy the needs of a sports activity.

### **3.2.9 Management of hazardous products, waste and pollution**

In most human activities, potentially hazardous products may be used and waste and, sometimes, pollutants, are produced. This is equally true of activities associated with sport. In order to avoid the lasting harmful effects which potentially hazardous products and wastes may have on the environment and human health, the members of the Olympic Movement undertake:

- to avoid using products recognized as being hazardous or toxic to humans or environmentally polluting;

- not to encourage practices, manufacturing or agricultural techniques which require the use of such products;
- to minimize the quantity of wastes to be eliminated and processed and promote community programmes for the management and recycling of wastes;
- to take advantage of the creation of new sports facilities, the renovation of existing facilities, the creation of new infrastructure and the organizing of major events to remediate sites contaminated by hazardous or toxic products, pollutants or waste;
- to minimize all forms of pollution, particularly noise pollution;
- to build upon successful practices and technologies used in previous Olympic Games to lessen pollution.

### **3.2.10 Quality of the biosphere and maintenance of biodiversity**

The earth is our habitat, our biosphere, the only one we have. Our future is totally dependent on the preservation of the natural, physical and biological resources of the biosphere. Physical resources are limited and must be used with moderation. Biological resources are developing, and that development depends on our maintaining genetic diversity and the variety of species and populations of plants and animals and their habitats (or ecosystems); in a word: biodiversity.

Aware of the importance of preserving the quality of the biosphere and the need to maintain biodiversity, the Olympic Movement condemns and opposes any practice, and especially any sporting practice, which:

- gives rise to unnecessary or irreversible contamination of air, soil or water; or
- jeopardizes biodiversity or endangers plant or animal species; or
- contributes to deforestation or is prejudicial to land conservation.

### 3.3. STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS

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To ensure the success of the sustainable development desired by the UNCED and adopted in turn by the Olympic Movement, it is essential that all the groups that make up this Movement should be active and respected supporters of the initiative undertaken.

Democratic practice requires access to sources of information. The governing bodies of the Olympic Movement will encourage this access, especially as regards environmental and development aspects. These same bodies undertake to involve all interested groups in the process of arriving at decisions relating to sustainable development.

In this context, the Olympic Movement can bring a significant contribution to the strengthening of the roles of two groups: women and young people. Moreover, in consideration of the importance of indigenous communities who represent a significant percentage of the global population and who also often suffer social exclusion, it is appropriate that the Olympic Movement pay adequate attention to them

#### 3.3.1 Advancement of the role of women

UNCED Agenda 21 makes very specific mention of a global campaign to encourage the participation of women in sustainable and equitable development. The Olympic Movement, which has already played a pioneering role in promoting the involvement of women in sport, supports this global campaign and intends to contribute to it by adopting the following objectives:

- to pursue its efforts to promote women's sport;
- to treat traditionally female sports disciplines in the same way as all others;
- to promote women's education, particularly through the creation of regional sporting activity centres which also serve as educational centres;
- to develop social measures such as crèches or day nurseries to facilitate women's involvement in sport;
- to ensure equal media coverage and economic treatment of women's and men's sporting performances;
- to encourage the access of women to positions of responsibility in sport's governing bodies; and
- to develop joint actions with the international bodies concerned.

### **3.3.2 Promoting the role of young people**

Young people represent nearly one third of the world's population and are the population group most concerned by the environment and development, and by the practice of sport. The Olympic Movement recognizes the particular importance of this group in the sustainable development initiative. As the nature of its activities provides the Olympic Movement with privileged access to young people, it has a special responsibility to convey to them the importance and urgency of being aware of and acting against dangers threatening our environment.

On this basis, the Olympic Movement proposes to involve young people more in decisions relating to sustainable development and the activities called for by the application of Agenda 21. With this in mind, it has set itself the following objectives:

- to encourage access to education and integration into working life for all young athletes;
- to ensure that, within sporting bodies, young people are involved in the taking of decisions which concern them;
- to make use of the capacity for mobilization demonstrated by young people in the activities arranged by the Olympic Movement;

- to condemn and combat the violations of human rights of which young people are particularly likely to be victims;
- to declare its endorsement of the United Nations Convention (Resolution 44/25) on children's rights and to apply it;
- to develop joint activities with specialist international bodies.

### **3.3.3 Recognition and promotion of indigenous populations**

Indigenous populations have strong historical ties to their environment and have played an important part in its preservation. The Olympic Movement endorses the UNCED action in favour of their recognition and the strengthening of their role. In this context, it intends:

- to encourage their sporting traditions;
- to contribute to the use of their traditional knowledge and know-how in matters of environmental management in order to take appropriate action, notably in the regions where these populations originate;
- to encourage access to sports participation for these populations.



#### 4. THE COMMITMENT OF THE VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT TO THE APPLICATION OF AGENDA 21

The III IOC World Conference on Sport and the Environment was held in Rio de Janeiro from 21 to 24 October 1999. The 300 participants to the Conference, comprising representatives from:

- the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),
- the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
- the World Health Organisation (WHO),
- the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC),
- Greenpeace,
- the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF),
- the International Olympic Committee (IOC),
- 19 International Federations,
- 93 National Olympic Committees,
- 4 Organising Committees for the Olympic Games,
- recognised organisations such as ICSSPE, WFSGI and IAKS
- athletes as well as other members of the Olympic Movement,

appealed to the global sporting community to use the Olympic Movement's Agenda 21 as the basis for its policies and an inspiration for its action.

They also made the "Rio Statement" which charts the course of action for the implementation of the Agenda 21. The text of this Statement is the following:

#### RIO STATEMENT ON SPORT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Adopted by the Third IOC World Conference on Sport and the Environment on October 23, 1999, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

##### **The Conference,**

Considering that the application of the concept of sustainable development, as outlined by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), is also the responsibility of the Olympic Movement and of the sports community;

Recognising that, because of the universality of sport, the Olympic Movement has the ability to play an active part in the taking of measures favouring sustainable development;

Aware that the achievement of that objective requires the active involvement of all the groups that make up the Olympic Movement as well as the support from Governments, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the other international organisations concerned;



**Declares that:**

1. The Olympic Movement's Agenda 21 is an instrument setting out the general actions needed in the fields in which the Olympic Movement can bring an effective contribution to sustainable development.
2. All the members of the Olympic Movement, and all participants in sport and enterprises associated with sport, should be invited to comply with the recommendations of the present Agenda 21 to the best of their ability and with due respect for their cultures, traditions and beliefs.
3. All members of the Olympic Movement should be urged to integrate sustainable development into their policies and activities, based on above Agenda 21; they should also encourage all individuals that are linked to them to behave in such a way as to ensure that their sporting activities and their lifestyles play a part in sustainable development.
4. The Olympic Movement's Agenda 21 should be implemented in a manner respecting the different social, economic, geographical, climatic, cultural and religious contexts which are characteristic of the diversity of the members of the Olympic Movement.
5. Particular emphasis should be placed on awareness-raising, education and training in environmental protection.

6. Athletes, considering their popularity and influence among youth in particular, should be encouraged to contribute to the promotion of environmental education and training. Similarly, the media should be called upon to support these efforts.
7. The implementation of the Agenda 21 should be conducted within a policy of close collaboration between members of the Olympic Movement and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as well as all other governmental and non-governmental, national and international entities pursuing the same objective.
8. The main responsibility for the promotion and updating of the Olympic Movement's Agenda 21 shall be entrusted to the IOC Sport and Environment Commission. All members of the Olympic Movement as well as other concerned entities should give adequate support, in all areas, to the Commission to help it in its task.
9. The IOC Sport and Environment Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme should establish a joint Working Group to provide policy advice and guidance on and to monitor the implementation of the Olympic Movement's Agenda 21.
10. The joint Working Group should prepare detailed progress reports on the implementation of Olympic Movement's

Agenda 21 to be presented at the main meetings of the members of the Olympic Movement and at the future IOC World Conferences on Sport and the Environment.

