

Editorial

The decision to grant UN Permanent Observer Status to the International Olympic Committee on 19 October 2009 was in recognition of the important role sport can play in contributing to a better and more peaceful world. With its global reach, the universal language of sport has a tremendous impact on communities in general and young people in particular.

The decision also paid tribute to the IOC's efforts towards the UN Millennium Development Goals. The IOC has identified development goals it believes it can help advance through sport together with its partners, namely the National Olympic Committees, the International Federations and the Olympic Games Organising Committees, and also with governments, UN agencies and programmes as well as non-governmental organisations.

The three core values of the Olympic Movement are excellence, friendship and respect. Beyond physical well-being, sport can play an important role for a safer, more prosperous and more peaceful society through its educational values and worldwide network. Sport can also help bridge cultural and ethnic divides, create jobs and businesses, promote tolerance and non-discrimination, reinforce social integration, and advocate for healthy lifestyles.

The Olympic Charter states: "The goal of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of man, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity." The IOC contributes to the global effort through its main field of expertise, namely sport, but the IOC is not just about the Olympic Games. In these pages you will be able to read all about our full range of activities and it is our pleasure and privilege to be among you.



Dr Mario Pescante, Permanent Observer for the International Olympic Committee to the United Nations

Dr Mario Pescante is one of four IOC Vice-Presidents and is Chairman of the IOC International Relations Committee. A former President of the Italian National Olympic Committee and the European Olympic Committees, he has been a member of the IOC since 1994. A professor of financial sciences and sports law, Dr Pescante has been a Deputy in the Italian Parliament since 2001 and was Under-Secretary of State for Sport from 2001-2006. Currently he is President of the European Union Commission of the Italian Parliament.

Read more about Dr Pescante [here](#).

IOC President meets Ban Ki-moon



The President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Jacques Rogge, welcomed United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to the IOC headquarters in Lausanne in January, when the two leaders reviewed the joint activities that the organisations had put in place in 2010 and reaffirmed their commitment to a number of upcoming initiatives using sport as a tool for peace, education and development.

The IOC and UN strengthened ties in 2010, with the IOC attending for the first time the UN General Assembly meetings as an observer. The decision by the UN to grant the IOC UN Observer Status in October 2009 was a tribute to the longstanding partnership between the two organisations and to the IOC's contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through sport.

"The UN Secretary General and I had a very good meeting that allowed us to review the numerous programmes that have been jointly activated, and discussed issues of mutual concern," President Rogge said after the meeting. "As a global sports organisation, the IOC has the moral duty to place sport at the service of humanity. This mission was reconfirmed by the Olympic Congress held in 2009 in Copenhagen, where the Secretary General gave a very inspiring speech. We are proud to be a part, through sport, of the international community's efforts to achieve the MDGs."

Among upcoming projects are the joint efforts that will be deployed to find solutions to ease access of Palestinian and Israeli athletes to sporting competitions (see page 4) and the adoption by the UN of the Olympic Truce Resolution for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Learn more about the IOC's initiatives [here](#)
Read about the Olympic Truce [here](#)

2nd UN-IOC Forum

The 2nd International Forum on Sport, Peace and Development will take place at the UN headquarters in Geneva from 10 to 11 May 2011. Co-organised this year by the IOC and the UN Office on Sport for Development and Peace, the event will offer the opportunity to review policies and practices in this field, strengthen the cooperation between the various entities, and agree on future action.



The five sessions of this year's conference will look at two main dimensions from a policy and an implementation perspective: sport as a catalyst for achieving the MDGs, and developing a culture of peace through sport.

By using sport as a tool, the IOC and its partners implement various activities across the globe in fields such as humanitarian assistance, peace-building, education, gender equality, the environment and the fight against HIV/AIDS, hence contributing to the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Follow updates on the event [here](#)

The International Olympic Committee

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is the supreme authority of the Olympic Movement, acting as a catalyst for collaboration between all parties of the Olympic family. With the National Olympic Committees (NOCs), the International Sports Federations (IFs), the athletes, the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games (OCOGs), as well as the commercial and broadcast partners and UN agencies, the IOC shepherds success through a wide range of programmes and projects. On this basis it ensures the regular celebration of the Olympic Games, supports all affiliated member organisations of the Olympic Movement and strongly encourages, by appropriate means, the promotion of the Olympic values.

Vancouver releases final Sustainability Report



The Vancouver 2010 Organising Committee (VANOC) in December released its final Sustainability Report, which shows that the 2010 Winter Olympic Games were more than just “green”. The fifth of five public Sustainability Reports prepared between 2005 and 2010, it shares the successes and challenges on the road to 2010, and tallies environmental, social and economic legacies of the Games’ project that have produced lasting benefits for the host region.

The report covers the VANOC 6-point platform, namely: Accountability; Environmental Stewardship and Impact Reduction; Social Inclusion and Responsibility; Aboriginal Collaboration and Responsibility; Economic Benefits; and Sport and Sustainable Living.

As part of its legacy for future Organising Committees, VANOC created a new sustainability governance model for large sports event organisations, reporting frameworks and a sustainable sports event toolkit for mega sports events. It also demonstrated how a venue programme can be designed for legacy use and built to minimise environmental impact; how partnerships with aboriginal people can make a Games stronger; how socially and economically disadvantaged groups can participate in and benefit from the Games; and how greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced.

Since the early 1990s the IOC has incorporated environment protection and sustainability into its agenda, making it the third pillar of the Olympic Movement, alongside sport and culture. The IOC’s participation at the 1992 Rio Conference marked a milestone in this process and led to the elaboration of the Olympic Movement’s Agenda 21, geared towards the sporting community.

Over the years the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has proved to be a solid enabler of the IOC global policy on sustainable development and a fruitful partner to Organising Committees of Olympic Games in the elaboration and implementation of their environmental policies. The London 2012 Organising Committee is already a substantial way towards meeting sustainability targets which focus on climate change, waste, biodiversity, inclusion and healthy living.

IOC sustainability policy seeks to provide greater resources for the achievement of sustainable development in and through sport, focusing particularly on the Olympic Games, for which it has accelerated the integration of sustainability principles and performance objectives/indicators at the core of their organisation, and on raising awareness of the members of the Olympic Movement. The IOC objective leading up to RIO +20 next year is to rally key players from governments, the UN family, NGOs, the business community and civil society to reflect on the contribution of sport and of the Olympic Games, through their unparalleled visibility and appeal, to advance the sustainable development agenda.

Read the full report [here](#)

Doha Conference on Sport & Environment

The 9th World Conference on Sport and the Environment will take place in Doha, Qatar, from 30 April to 2 May 2011 under the motto “Playing for a Greener Future”. The event is being organised by the IOC in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Qatar Olympic Committee.

Representatives from the sports community, environmental organisations, universities, governments, intergovernmental organisations, the business world and the media will come to the Middle East to present the latest environmental success stories in sport, identify current and future challenges and explore new solutions for sustainability in sport.



Items on the agenda include: how sport can contribute to the 2012 Rio +20 Earth Summit; ways of implementing the Olympic Movement’s Agenda 21 at global and local level; the role of sport in achieving Goal 7 (environmental sustainability) of the UN Millennium Development Goals; how to make sports events more sustainable; the role of Olympians in promoting respect for the environment; case studies of environmental solutions in sport.

A highlight will be the presentation of the 2011 IOC Sport and Environment Awards, which recognise outstanding initiatives in the field of sustainable sport and environment on a continental basis.

The conference comes at a strategic moment, just ahead of the Rio+20 Earth Summit in 2012 and the Olympic Games in London, which have sustainability at the heart of their preparations. Its purpose will be to reflect on the contribution of sport, and of the Olympic Games, to the advancement of the sustainable development agenda.

Visit the Conference website [here](#)

IOC Sport and Environment Awards [here](#)

Inaugural Winter Youth Olympic Games



With less than a year to go until the first Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG), the Austrian city of Innsbruck is already buzzing with anticipation as it prepares to open its doors to the world's finest young winter athletes. On 13 January 2012 the Bergisel Stadium will play host to the Opening Ceremony, signalling the start of a world-class sporting spectacle that will draw to a close 10 days later.

Running alongside the sports competition programme, the athletes will also participate in a unique Culture and Education Programme (CEP) during the Games, which will employ a variety of fun and interactive initiatives to raise their awareness of the Olympic values as well as different cultures and topics such as sustainability, the arts and digital media. Several UN agencies and other International Organisations will take part in the CEP and use this opportunity to educate young participants to become more responsible citizens and to engage in social activities in their communities.

"Just five months ago we celebrated the birth of the Youth Olympic Games with Singapore 2010," said President Rogge as the one-year countdown began in January. "Innsbruck 2012 will continue this momentum over 10 action-packed days of competition. These Games, in addition to making their mark on Olympic history, will be a memorable and inspirational event for all the athletes and countless numbers of young people around the world."

Innsbruck 2012 will showcase over 1,000 young athletes representing their countries in the seven sports on the programme: biathlon, bobsleigh, curling, ice hockey, luge, skating and skiing. And just like for Singapore 2010, new events and disciplines have been introduced into the sports programme: there will be a combined discipline of cross country and biathlon, as well as the first ever Olympic inclusion of women's ski jumping.

As in Singapore, IOC President Rogge expects the young participants from around the world to revel in the unique atmosphere of the YOG and take away memories that will last forever: "Only some of the athletes won medals, but all of them won new friends," he said. "Many of the athletes met and were inspired by Olympic champions, but each of them learned what it takes to be a champion, both on and off the field of play. All of them are richer for having come into contact with peers from so many different cultures and backgrounds."

Learn more about the Youth Olympic Games [here](#)
Visit the official Innsbruck 2012 website [here](#)

Youngsters speak out at Sport, Education & Culture conference

The 7th World Conference on Sport, Education and Culture, which was held in Durban, South Africa, from 5 to 7 December 2010, closed with an exciting youth caucus and a set of recommendations which show the way forward. As we celebrate the UN's International Year of Youth, the inclusion of young people in the programme proved to be a huge success and was suggested for adoption in the framework of future events.

The event, organised by the IOC in partnership with UNESCO, brought together representatives from the world of sport, universities, NGOs, governments and intergovernmental organisations. "Giving a Voice to Youth" was indeed more than the Conference motto in Durban. Young people who had participated as athletes, young reporters or ambassadors in the first Youth Olympic Games (YOG) took the floor in all debates to contribute their ideas and experiences.

The final plenary session culminated with the youth caucus and featured YOG participants, representing countries such as Barbados, Austria, Singapore, Brazil, New Zealand, Slovakia and South Africa, as well as local students. Many of the YOG participants described the experience of the first Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in August 2010 as "life-changing", and vividly recounted the friendships they had made and events they had witnessed. In the light-hearted, yet informative 90-minute session, the IOC's revolutionary Culture and Education Programme (CEP) was given a rousing "thumbs up" from the entire youth caucus.

The Olympic Movement aims at educating youth through sport and its values. The IOC has devised a multi-level strategy to maintain young people's interest in sport, encouraging them to practise physical activity and promoting value-based education.



The Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) was designed for children and youth, particularly with developing countries in mind, and the IOC has now teamed up with UNESCO to apply this programme to its network of schools in line with the organisation's mandate to enhance and enrich quality education worldwide.

The Olympic Values reflect the notion of "sport as a school of life", as idealised by the founders of the modern Olympic Games.

Learn more about the Conference [here](#)
Read the full text of the recommendations [here](#)
Learn more about OVEP [here](#)

IOC-UNHCR Sport & Education project launched in Namibia



As part of its initiatives to promote sport as an agent for social change, the IOC teamed up with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in December 2010 to launch an ambitious three-year Sport and Education programme for young people in the Osire refugee settlement in Namibia.

Some 8,500 people currently live in the settlement, 40 per cent of whom are between the ages of 10 and 30. The programme is designed to get this group more involved in organised sport in an effort to alleviate some of the major problems affecting young people in Osire, namely teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections such as HIV, and substance abuse.

By linking the sporting activity to educational programmes on topics such as sexual and reproductive health and computer classes, the IOC and UNHCR are looking to provide the young people with meaningful recreational activities and the necessary tools to make informed decisions in life.

A major facet of the programme is to empower young women, and as such the goal will be to increase female participation in sporting and educational activities. Sports equipment for women and girls will be provided to help encourage their participation, and domestic leagues will be set up to create greater opportunities for the athletes.

The IOC oversees the sporting aspect of the programme and provides equipment and a minibus to transport the teams, while funding training for coaches, organisers and coordinators.

Israel and Palestine Olympic leaders meet in Lausanne

On 20 January 2011 the IOC hosted a first meeting between the National Olympic Committees of Israel and Palestine aimed at addressing outstanding sports-related issues. Both NOCs agreed to convene at the IOC headquarters in Lausanne following IOC President Jacques Rogge's visit to the Middle East in October 2010.

The free movement of Palestinian athletes, coaches, officials and sports material, as well as foreign visiting athletes, was widely discussed and a modus vivendi reached between the two NOCs. It was agreed that both NOCs will assess the difficulties they face and work together on proposals and a mechanism that would help improve the situation. A second meeting was scheduled for later in the year to review the progress made.

The IOC also confirmed that it would provide experts to work on a long-term sports development strategy in Palestine to continue to assist not only the athletes but also coaches and sports administrators, and to identify ways to better promote sport and its values at grassroots level.

Priority will be given to assisting Palestinian athletes to move towards their dream of taking part in the Olympic Games in London next year and the representatives of the Olympic Committee of Israel said that they were ready to offer training opportunities to Palestinian athletes.

The participation of Israeli athletes in international competitions was another subject raised during the meeting, and all participants stressed their goodwill to use when possible their influence to address the issue with the relevant parties.

Women and Sport: World Conference theme unveiled

On the occasion of International Women's Day, 8 March, the IOC announced the theme of next year's IOC World Conference on Women and Sport, which is "Together Stronger: The Future of Sport". The event will take place from 16 to 18 February 2012 in Los Angeles, USA.

The last Conference, held in Jordan in 2008, attracted more than 600 participants from 116 countries and concluded with a strong action plan, the success of which will also be assessed in Los Angeles.

Gender equality is of critical importance to the IOC, and to the world of sport in general; the IOC believes it is a human right that women and girls should be accorded the same opportunities as men. As such, it very much welcomed the establishment, in July 2010, of UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The IOC's dedicated training programmes on gender equality aim at ensuring that girls and women are given equal opportunities to engage in sport and physical activities throughout their lifespan and to take leadership positions in sports administration.

The IOC also organises the IOC Women & Sport Awards which recognise women, men or organisations who have made major contributions to furthering the cause of women and girls in and through sport. There are five continental winners and one world winner. Last year's world winner was Erica Terpstra, an Olympic swimming medallist and former Member of Parliament as well as former President of the Netherlands Olympic Committee. These awards will be celebrated again on Olympic Day, 23 June.

Read more about Women & Sport [here](#)

Address details

Office of the Permanent Observer for the International Olympic Committee to the United Nations

708 Third Avenue, 6th floor
New York 10017, NY
United States of America
Tel: +1 212 209 39 52 Fax: +1 212 209 71 00

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