



GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS

FRANCISCO J. ELIZALDE

IOC representative • International Olympic Committee



ORIGINAL TEXT IN ENGLISH

As noted in the introduction by Mr Ndiaye, ethics are part of the Olympic Principles; thus ethics and good governance must be considered as a foundation of the whole Olympic Movement.

THE IOC AS A ROLE MODEL

In the Olympic Charter, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) appears as the Olympic Movement's supreme authority (Rule 1.1), and its missions (Rule 2) are to: encourage and support the promotion of ethics in sport; ensure that the spirit of fair play prevails; ensure that violence and discrimination are banned; lead the fight against doping; pursue all measures protecting the health of athletes; and support all ways of implementing the principle of equality of men and women in sport. That is to say that the IOC's role model function is clearly expressed in the Charter.

However, it seems from the various contributions that things may not be that clear in practice, particularly regarding ethics and good governance. This is probably a question of communication, because on a day-to-day basis, the IOC, through its Ethics Commission, is doing a lot at the request of the members of the Olympic family. However, this mission must be strengthened to respond to the demands of the stakeholders as well as the public.

TRANSPARENCY – ACCESS TO INFORMATION – RIGHT OF MINORITIES TO BE HEARD – DEMOCRACY

The question of transparency could be a good case study. Following the recommendations by the IOC 2000 Commission, a lot of progress regarding transparency has already been made. The discussions and decisions of the Session are public; all documents are made public; the process for selecting the host city for the Olympic Games is clear and transparent; and the web site provides a lot of information. In particular, the Ethics Commission's recommendations are made public immediately after the Executive Board's decision.

However, the public's first remark is the issue of lack of transparency. This is not only a question of communication, but this issue also arises because, for the general public, the IOC is the leader of the whole Olympic Movement, and consequently must be considered as responsible for any lack of good governance and, particularly, transparency. This must be tackled by this Congress, and the IOC must be able to implement the recommendations, which will be made.

IDENTIFY COMMON GROUND FOR OLYMPIC MOVEMENT GOOD GOVERNANCE

As noted by Mr Ndiaye, the multicultural aspect of the Olympic Movement has an impact on the definition and perception of ethics and good governance. However, there should be common ground for a common definition of good governance. During the second seminar organised by the IOC (in February 2008), the preliminary document entitled "Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance of the Olympic and Sports Movement" was approved. The IOC Ethics Commission recommends that this document be approved as a basic common ground for good governance by the Congress. This is a starting point which should be supported.

IOC STRUCTURE: IOC ETHICS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE COMMISSION

After the Salt Lake City scandal, the IOC decided to create a permanent Ethics Commission to establish, update and apply, via recommendations, ethical principles. There is no doubt about the value of the work done by this Commission since 2000 and its efficiency. It is probably the time now for this Commission to take care, on a more concrete basis, of good governance in sport, particularly in supporting the members of the Olympic and Sports Movement in their efforts. This should start with a change in the name and mission of the Commission in order to make them clearer and more accessible to the whole Movement.