Why are youth sport events important for the Olympic Movement?

Taking care of the Olympic Summer and Winter Games, and making sure that they are organised successfully, is the most important task of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Olympic Movement.

The Olympic Games is a fantastic and unique event, where athletes from all over the world come together to stage superb athletic performances.

As side effects of the Olympic Games, we promote a number of very positive things: peace, mutual understanding, equality (gender, race, religion, and political and sexual observance), health, care of the environment, and the possibility of highlighting the importance of young people.

International youth events are important as a way of inspiring talented young athletes to stay in competitive sport. Today, there are so many opportunities for young people outside of sport, and events like the continental Youth Olympic Festivals and the coming Youth Olympic games (YOG), help to keep young athletes dedicated to their sports.

In addition, there are two main reasons for the Olympic Movement to stage youth events:

1. “Product development” of competitive sports, to inspire and influence the International Federations (IFs) to make the necessary adjustments to their programmes, so that athletes and spectators will still find it attractive to participate in and follow and watch the Olympic Games in the future.

2. To enhance the importance of youth in securing fruitful world development. Youth events should inspire the participants and other young people to understand and promote the importance of peace, equality, health and the environment in order to influence older generations to make the right decisions.