

# DECLARATION

## VIII World Sport for All Congress “Sport for All and Governmental Policies”

18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> May 2000, Québec City, Canada

Close to 700 participants from 104 countries, representing sports organizations, governments at all levels (local, regional, national), academic and community organizations, and international agencies attended the VIII World Sport for All Congress held in Québec City, Canada, under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in cooperation with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF).

The participants addressed the important theme “Sport for All and Governmental Policies” and agreed on the following resolution:

### Call for Action on Sport for All Policies

Evidence presented at this congress shows clearly that **there is an urgent need for the development and implementation of comprehensive and multi-sector Sport for All policies and actions, to improve quality of life through increased physical activity and fitness.**

We reiterate that Sport for All is an essential element for the wellbeing of individuals, communities and societies. Many factors, including electronic entertainment, motorized transport, lack of physical education programmes and urbanization are contributing to an increase in sedentary and unhealthy lifestyles, which are a major cause of health problems and disease in the world.

Accordingly, **we call on public authorities to act urgently to initiate and support comprehensive Sport for All policies**, to be implemented at regional and local levels to ensure maximum access to regular sport and recreation.

**Public authorities must not consider Sport for All a cost, but an investment**, as it provides significant individual and collective health and social benefits to communities, and economic benefits to countries.

Sport for All policies should be developed

- by public authorities, bringing together and in collaboration with all stakeholders in society
- with support across and within authorities at all levels of government
- with clear objectives and achievable goals
- with accompanying promotional measures.

Sport, recreation, education and health organizations should work closely together in implementing Sport for All programmes, with coordination and support from public authorities.

Sport for All policies should

- be inclusive, targeting all population groups, men and women, from childhood and throughout life spans
- also place special emphasis on the needs of growing elderly populations, minorities and people with disabilities
- be adapted to local and regional conditions, and to the level of the individual capacities of each citizen. It is recognised that there cannot be a single world-wide policy
- be complementary to elite sport, with the support of sports organizations and elite athletes, who can contribute significantly to the promotion of Sport for All programmes and act as role models.

Access to community participation programmes, education, facilities and services should be non-discriminatory. There should be equality of encouragement and opportunity across gender, race, colour and socio-economic levels.