

IOC REGIONAL SEMINAR ON SPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

30 & 31 March 2007, Zanzibar, Tanzania

COMMITMENTS

The seminar was officially opened by Honourable Asha Abdulla Juma, Minister for Labour, Youth, Women and Children.

The delegates from the 12 National Olympic Committees present at the seminar: Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Tanzania (volunteers and observers) with the IOC Sport and Environment Commission Chairman, Dr Pal Schmitt and Mr Paolo Revellino from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), gathered to encourage in, their island and coastal nations, the development of actions for sustainable development through sport.

The participants acknowledged that environment is the third pillar of the Olympic movement alongside sport and culture and that the Olympic Movement's Agenda 21 forms the basis of this dimension.

The seminar heard presentations from IOC Sport and Environment Commission Chairman, the UNEP representative, from the Zanzibar department of environment, the NOC delegates present and the IOC Department of International Cooperation and Development on their activities and the new IOC Guide to Sport, Environment and Sustainable Development.

The delegates unanimously concluded that the issue of sport and the environment and its sustainability demands urgent attention not only from sports authorities but also by governments, NGOs and local and international agencies, etc.

They recognized that each party has a responsibility to contribute to the international environment campaign and to utilise events such as Olympic day and world environment day to this effect.

With reference to the discussions on the presentations and the action plans each delegate will engage himself/herself to return home to disseminate the message of sustainable development and the link between sport and nature.

The delegates will work to set up national working groups/sport and environment commissions when appropriate. They commit to make recommendations for their NOC to promote sport and environment through education, clean and green sport events, awareness raising campaigns, seminars, tree planting, clean up campaigns with partners in the sports community and beyond.

To assist them in this endeavour the seminar requests the IOC for a Kiswahili translation of the IOC Guide to Sport, Environment and Sustainable Development.

They agreed to involve athletes, with their notoriety, to educate children and youth and raise community awareness through the media about the importance of environmental sustainability and its links to achieving peace and human well-being.

The key target groups will be NOCs and associated sports organisations, national federations and sport clubs, Government Ministries, the media, NGOs, sport leaders, physical education teachers, coaches, community leaders, volunteers and sponsors with special emphasis on reaching out to young people and athletes with simple and easily understood methods and messages.

The seminar recognized both the similarity and diversity of the countries present and the strong link between sport, environment and tourism in their countries. They agreed to remain in contact and exchange information and experiences in the future.

The participants expressed their thanks to the host of the seminar the Tanzania Olympic Committee and its President, Mr Gulam A. Rashid.
