



“Playing for a Greener Future”

9TH IOC WORLD CONFERENCE ON SPORT & THE ENVIRONMENT 30 April – 2 May 2011

The Doha Declaration

Over 650 participants representing National Olympic Committees, International Federations, the International Olympic Committee, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Organising Committees for the Olympic Games (LOCOG, Sochi 2014 and Rio 2016), candidate cities, partners, inter-governmental organisations, NGOs and civil society gathered in Doha, Qatar, for the 9th IOC World Conference on Sport and the Environment. The delegates of the Conference, entitled “Playing for a Greener Future”, raised their voices in a concerted effort to reiterate their concern in regard to the degradation of the environment. They reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable development.

Three principal focus areas emerged from the Conference as the overarching framework for activities related to the three pillars of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental.

i. UN Conference on Environment and Development and the Olympic Movement

Twenty years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (“Earth Summit”) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, world leaders will gather again in June 2012 at the [2012 Rio +20 Earth Summit](#) to take stock of sustainable development issues and reflect on the continued degradation of the environment. The 1992 “Earth Summit” prompted the IOC to integrate the environment into its activities and to develop the Agenda 21 for the Olympic Movement. Rio+20 presents an important opportunity for the Olympic Movement to showcase the contribution of the sports movement to sustainable development.

Consequently, the Conference requests the following actions:

1. To share the vision of sustainable sports with the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (“Rio+20”) and other UN proceedings;
2. To showcase sport as a catalyst for change and an inspiration for the realisation of the Millennium Development Goal No. 7 (Ensure Environmental Sustainability) at Rio+20;

ii. Engage Young People for a Greener Future

Young people play an important role in society and in promoting sustainable development. To inspire young people around the world to participate in sport and adopt and live by the Olympic ideals, the IOC established the Youth Olympic Games. The Conference notes with satisfaction the highly successful Youth Olympic Games in Singapore and the fact that the IOC engaged several partners to provide cultural and educational experiences at these Games.

Hence, the Conference requests the following actions:

1. The IOC to explore various methods of engaging young people in sustainable development issues beyond the Youth Olympic Games – seeking opportunities to work with other partners, particularly UN entities, to promote Olympic ideals through their own engagement processes, seminars and conferences;
2. The IOC to promote the involvement of young athletes in future World Conferences and continental seminars on Sport and Environment;
3. The IOC and National Olympic Committees to develop and support educational programmes for young people on environment and sustainable development;
4. National Olympic Committees to raise awareness of young people about sustainable development issues and to spread the Olympic ideals in their local communities through sport;
5. National Olympic Committees to consider promoting and supporting initiatives that engage young people, particularly in under-privileged communities, in sustainable development activities.

iii. Partnerships

The building of effective partnerships is a driving force for achieving sustainable development. The IOC has built a valuable partnership with the UNEP and with several other UN entities.

The Conference requests the following actions:

1. The IOC to optimise its UN Observer status and further cooperate with the UN system, taking into consideration UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNESCO and internationally recognised NGOs to implement its sustainable development agenda;
2. The IOC to develop a platform for the sharing of best practices to enrich the existing national and local contributions to the wider sustainability goals;
3. National Olympic Committees, International Federations and Organising Committees for the Olympic Games to collaborate with governments, local entities and NGOs to drive the sustainability agenda.