



BEIJING COMMUNIQUE ON SPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The 7th World Conference on Sport and the Environment

From Plan to Action

We, the participants in The 7th World Conference on Sport and the Environment, comprising over 80 National Olympic Committees, 20 International Sports Federations, the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations entities, non-governmental organisations, research institutions, Organising Committees for the Olympic Games, Applicant Cities, Olympians, the International Olympic Committee, International Paralympic Committee, partners and other members of the Olympic Movement, sports and recreation event organisers and sporting goods manufacturers,

recognising *the interdependence between a clean, healthy environment and the proper conducting of sport and recreation activities and events of all scales, as a healthy environment is vital for sport and athletes, and the world sports community should conduct its activities in a socially responsible manner including environmentally sustainable practices,*

acknowledging *the Beijing Organising Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) Technical Report “BEIJING 2008; Environmental protection, Innovation and Improvement”, which details the range and magnitude of the environmental and sustainability actions and legacies in regard to the Games and the improvements made in policy and practice of environmental protection,*

also acknowledging *the United Nations Environment Programme report “Beijing 2008: An Environmental Review”, a detailed, independent assessment – the first review of its kind - which states that the hosting of the Beijing Games is proving to be a catalyst for accelerating environmental improvements across the city,*

recognising *the example set by the IOC in working to reduce the environmental footprint of major sporting events, including through the organising of regional seminars, with the support of Olympic Solidarity, to encourage sustainable development practices by NOCs and IFs,*

applauding *the Torino 2006 Olympic Winter Games for creating a new benchmark for promoting environmental sustainability through sport,*

welcoming *the introduction by the IOC of the biennial Sport and Environment Award to recognise excellence in the promotion and development of environmentally sustainable practices at all levels,*

noting *the need for sustainability policies and measures to be as affordable and accessible as possible to maximise their application and long-term environmental benefits,*

supporting *the formation of collaborative practical partnerships between stakeholders of the Olympic Movement and beyond to increase the positive impact of environmental actions in regard to the sustainability of sports activities and events,*

understanding that, in particular, global warming is a major challenge requiring immediate action by governments, communities and individuals,

acknowledging the trend of cities bidding and hosting major sports events to factor in greenhouse gas emission reductions and offsetting as an important element of their action plans and commitments,

noting with appreciation that Beijing 2008 is minimising and offsetting greenhouse gas emissions through optimising energy efficiency, increased use of renewable energy, adoption of green commuting policies and practices and the extensive afforestation and greening of the city,

thanking BOCOG for hosting the conference and its invaluable contribution to its success,

we, the participants of the 7th World Conference on Sport and the Environment,

encourage all Olympic Games applicant and bid cities to demonstrate the ability to hold a carbon neutral Olympic Games, and host cities to implement policies and actions which achieve this objective,

also encourage sports federations to develop technical rules which balance their sports requirements with environmental considerations, taking into account local conditions and the need to have durable customised legacies from sports events,

urge sports organisations at every level to use and distribute existing expertise and tools - including case studies, IOC guides and technical manuals – in order to maximise the sustainability and positive environmental effects of the actions,

call for the policies and actions adopted, and lessons learnt, through the organisation of sports events to be replicated wherever possible, providing a catalyst for sustainability and reversal of environmental degradation and to maximise lasting legacies for the wider community,

also call on all members of international and national sports communities to transform concepts, ideas and opportunities into real, practical actions to ensure sustainable and ecologically responsible sports events and activities.

Beijing
27 October 2007.