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REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR
PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT (CIGEPS)

SESSION I/2006

Paris, 30-31 January 2006

CIGEPS held its session I/2006 at UNESCO Headquarters on 30 and 31 January 2006: the provisional agenda included the election of a new Bureau and other items.

Agenda item I: Introduction and welcoming address, including an update on the International Convention Against Doping in Sport, by Mr Wataru Iwamoto, Director of the Division of Social Sciences Research and Policy in the UNESCO Social and Human Sciences Sector.

Representing the Director-General, Mr Iwamoto opened the session in the customary way. He pointed out a number of matters of interest to the participants, including news of the transfer of the physical education and sport programme with its associated human and financial resources from the Education Sector to the Social and Human Sciences Sector, in accordance with a decision by the Director-General.

He also drew the participants' attention to the new developments in the physical education and sport programme following the decisions of the 33rd session of the General Conference. These included the International Convention Against Doping in Sport, which that General Conference had adopted, and the follow-up to the draft international charter of traditional sports and games which had been examined by its Commission II. Mr Iwamoto requested the members and their governments to ratify this Convention as soon as possible. Lastly, he emphasized the important part played by the members of the Permanent Consultative Council, which was to be strengthened with new forms of higher-profile and wider cooperation.

He warmly thanked the outgoing Chairperson of CIGEPS and reiterated UNESCO's gratitude for the hard work and contributions of the Greek Government to the Committee's work and on the occasion of the meeting of MINEPS IV in Athens in December 2004.

The agenda was approved after an amendment to its order (item VI became item VIII, items VII and VIII became VI and VII respectively), and the meeting then proceeded to examine the items as follows.

Agenda item II: Review of the International Year for Sport and Physical Education 2005; Member States' presentations of the situation in their countries and/or regions (subject to written communications to be submitted by the delegates)

(a) Oman

Celebrations of IYSPE included the holding of a symposium on physical education and sport, the organization of activities in schools, and a number of other projects, including a major one on traditional games and sports (TGS), which was still continuing; details were distributed to the meeting's participants and have been attached to this report. The representative of Oman also informed participants of the organization of TGS-related activities (including a film with commentary about the ever-increasing interest in TGS). An International TGS Festival was being prepared, and Oman would be supplying further information through the CIGEPS Secretariat.

(b) Saudi Arabia

A Special Committee on Physical Education and Sport was set up for IYSPE 2005. The appropriate government departments and specialized agencies joined forces to set up a shared basis for action on physical education and sport. The Ministry of Sport and the Ministry of National Education also took joint action to create synergy on behalf of physical education and sport. Various activities marked the celebration of IYSPE, including workshops in schools and

universities, and particular attention was given to the question of infrastructure. More detailed information on the IYSPE-05 celebrations in Saudi Arabia would be provided by the country's representative.

(c) Germany

Institutional support for IYSPE had been voted by the German Parliament in the form of financial assistance, including reconstruction aid following the damage caused by the Tsunami. Funds had likewise been allocated to help Muslim women, and for particular projects in Africa. The German delegate explained that these measures had been in support of operations conducted by Mr Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to Mr Kofi Annan on Sport for Development and Peace.

(d) Cameroon

A number of activities had been carried out, in some cases with the aid of the media. These had been publicized nationally and at the provincial level; special activities had been organized for women and marginalized groups. Schools and universities had also been involved in the IYSPE-05 celebrations.

(e) Jamaica

Physical education and sport as a whole had been included as a subject for educational tests and examinations, with the same status as other disciplines subject to academic assessment.

(f) Bahrain

International meetings were among the events which made a substantial contribution to the celebration of IYSPE-05. The government had allocated funds to the order of \$15 million to support sport for all and promote various activities within the education system.

(g) Thailand

An international conference attended by 58 countries had, along with other initiatives, marked the country's IYSPE national celebrations. The celebration of the Year produced some impressive results, including the impact of physical education and sport on educational reform, and on curriculums from primary school to higher education. There had also been significant media support for greater awareness of the importance of physical education and sport and their role in health and development. The involvement at the highest level of major national figures, including the Princess, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Ministers, clearly showed the priority which the whole country accorded to IYSPE-05.

(h) Costa Rica

Many activities in schools marked the celebration of IYSPE. As follow-up to the Year itself, the aim in 2006 was to increase the training of PE and sports teachers and to enhance cooperation, not least in order to take advantage of the "assessment" carried out under the physical education and sport programme concerning the improvement of the quality of PE and sport within the education systems.

(i) Within the secretariat

Within the framework of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Sport for Peace and Development, regular information, a newsletter and almost weekly meetings enabled the agencies

involved to systematically update and gather information to be disseminated very widely through their individual networks, including UNESCO by e-mail.

The final report on IYSPE-05 would be produced by UNESCO in accordance with the Director-General's circular letter to Member States (CL/3713, dated 13 May 2004) regarding the organization and celebration of IYSPE-05. A similar circular would again be sent out, inviting them to let the Secretariat know the results of their involvement in the International Year.

The Committee took up the suggestion of the distinguished delegate of Gabon and CIGEPS Vice-Chairperson for Africa that a meeting might be arranged with Mr Ogi.

Agenda item III: Introduction and presentation by members of the Permanent Consultative Council and observers concerning their respective proposals for cooperative activities or projects for 2006-2007.

Accredited members and observers specially invited to the CIGEPS Session I/2006 were introduced to the Committee and their activities highlighted, especially the objectives for which they were working within the framework of their cooperation or collaboration, depending on its nature, with UNESCO. These included IATW (formerly the IANW), SNEP, IFMS, WHO, IAAF, University of Paris XII and the European Commission, which all reported on the kinds of activity envisaged or currently under way with UNESCO; while IPC and TAFISA provided information through the German delegate, Mr Peter Glass.

The Committee advised PCC members and observers to submit in writing detailed information relating to agenda item III.

Agenda item IV: Election of the Bureau for the 2006-2007 biennium

The Bureau was established as follows:

(a) Vice-Chairpersons

Group I: Germany
Group II: Croatia
Group III: Costa Rica
Group IV: Thailand
Group Va: Gabon
Group Vb: Bahrain

(b) Chairperson

After a number of ballots, Cameroon was elected in a spirit of cordiality and consensus.

Various working groups were set up to deal with particular areas; a work plan setting out CIGEPS' objectives for 2006-2007 was requested and discussed. (See the attached list and allocation of options.)

(c) The appointment of the Coordinator of the Permanent Consultative Council was postponed until Session II, the date of which would be set as soon as possible.

Agenda item V: Information concerning the UNESCO Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 (33 C/5). Presentation by the UNESCO Secretariat, and suggestions by the members of CIGEPS

The Secretariat informed the Committee about the work plan under the Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 in accordance with document 33 C/5 and the resolution of the 33rd session of the General Conference on Major Programme I, namely 33 C/Resolution 21 (see attached document).

After clearing up some misunderstandings and ambiguities as to the nature of the work plan drawn up by the Secretariat to implement the Programme and Budget for 2006-2007, CIGEPS engaged in a debate which, though involving disagreement and criticism, finally reached a consensus on the following suggestions:

- (a) the need for CIGEPS to have a work plan and a road map;
- (b) the need to determine the priorities which CIGEPS would commit itself to with the help of the PCC;
- (c) the need for CIGEPS to give priority to its role as a subsidiary body of the General Conference by doing more to cooperate with it on the occasion of General Conference sessions in terms of information, attendance and guidance so as to encourage action by the Organization in accordance with its mandate, 29 C/Resolution 19 and its statutes (see attachments).

Agenda item VI: Discussion on possible reforms for a better role for CIGEPS and its improved functioning

Following a substantial and exhaustive debate, the Committee's members unanimously recommended an urgent amendment of its Statutes, its role and its place as regards the issues where it had a real contribution to make, where it had a comparative advantage and where its profile was high enough to make an impact commensurate with the needs which it could help Member States to meet, with the valuable assistance and expertise of the PCC.

The following priorities featured among the recommendations which would be the subject of proposals written and submitted on the basis of a report by the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Working Groups which had been set up:

- (a) the need to make the Committee fit for its task by specifying precise objectives and establishing an internal means of communication for the systematic exchange of information among its members;
- (b) the need for effective and efficient follow-up of its decisions;
- (c) the establishment of a truly international CIGEPS programme with variations for each country and region;
- (d) the adoption of a CIGEPS road map, the holding of meetings (which could be informal) between sessions, and a permanent striving for a higher profile;
- (e) the need for a real political dimension which should be in keeping with the Committee's role and activities;
- (f) giving priority in the first place to traditional games and sports and establishing greater international coordination;
- (g) establishing more cooperation with other agencies of the United Nations system and a new approach based on partnership;

- (h) making the MINEPS series and its action framework more visible, through publications and an assessment of follow-up activity; also ensuring the widest possible dissemination of the International Charter of Physical Education and Sport;
- (i) the present lack of any definite programme for CIGEPS is a spur to emulating the programmes of similar intergovernmental committees, such as that of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, or the International Basic Sciences Programme.

It was suggested that these recommendations could form the skeleton for proposals that would define the reform of CIGEPS with a view to making it more effective and relevant.

Agenda item VII: Consideration of and proposals on the importance of promoting and developing traditional games and sports within the framework of possible involvement and support by UNESCO.

In view of the subject's importance, the Committee recommended that it should be examined at its next session; it also suggested that the Secretariat should accord it priority within its work plan, and that Member States and members of the PCC should give it proper attention as regards activities or initiatives to be undertaken. The Committee congratulated Oman, and encouraged it to continue its initiatives, including those based on the projection of the film on traditional games and sports which are promoted and popular there.

Agenda item VIII: Miscellaneous

Various matters were raised, none of which required any particular recommendation.

Agenda item IX: Closure of the session; date and place for the next session

The representative of the Director-General, followed by the Chairperson of CIGEPS, thanked the participants and once more congratulated the members newly elected to the Bureau of the Committee, after which the session I/2006 was closed.

Committee members and other participants will be notified of the date of the next session after the conclusion of the Session I/2006 of the Bureau, which is to be held at UNESCO Headquarters on 15 March 2006.