

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR
PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT**

(MINEPS IV)

FINAL REPORT



Athens, Greece

(6-8 December 2004)

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

UNESCO wishes to express its deep gratitude to the Greek authorities and people for their warm hospitality and the excellent working conditions which contributed significantly to the quality of the Conference.

It also wishes to express sincere thanks to the local organizing committee and to all parties at every level who generously contributed to the success of MINEPS IV.

MINEPS IV has ushered in a new stage through the affirmation of a strong political will and the commitment of Member States, decision-makers and bodies involved in sport and physical education to tackle the challenges and issues by means of practical measures.

MINEPS IV was a tremendous international forum, providing leverage to promote the values of sport, share competences and exchange experiences in order to improve the quality of sport and physical education.

Our thanks go to all the participants – actors in and defenders of sport and physical education –, who brought added value to the work of MINEPS IV, and enabled conclusions to be reached by consensus in an atmosphere of solidarity and mutual understanding.

1. The Fourth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, MINEPS IV, was held in Athens from 6 to 8 December 2004 at the kind invitation of the Greek Government.
2. MINEPS IV aimed to respond in a specific and detailed fashion to the need to give practical expression to the priorities defined by MINEPS III (Punta Del Este, 1999) and by the 2003 Round Table of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, which were structured by the Ministers responsible for physical education and sport (PES) around three themes which could form the basis of the Organization's action.
3. These themes concern the promotion of the universal and ethical values inherent in sport, the development of PES in education systems and the crucial need for equity regarding women and sport.
4. In order to give real scope to these three themes, the Round Table proposed the preparation of an international convention against doping in sport. It also proposed the development of physical education and sport in education systems through their incorporation into the objectives of Education for All (EFA) as a key component of quality education. Lastly, in order to mobilize the international community on the basis of the urgent need to adopt measures in each Member State to respond to the challenges of sport in contemporary societies, the Round Table proposed that an International Year of PES be declared by the United Nations General Assembly. One of the goals is to mobilize all parties involved in PES in a holistic approach which could contribute to improved perception and consideration of sport in social development.
5. The UNESCO Executive Board, by 166 EX/Decision 3.2.2, and the General Conference at its 32nd session, by 32 C/Resolution 9, endorsed the main proposals drawn up by the 2003 Round Table. The holding of MINEPS IV was approved by the aforementioned General Conference session to move decisively from ideas to action. This seemed to be the obvious approach in order to trace the Organization's road map in relation to the values and quality of PES.
6. The mobilization of Member States, NGOs, specialized bodies within sport and the sport movement on the occasion of MINEPS IV reflects the interest and determination which characterized their participation in the Conference on the three themes, which were dealt with systematically, and formed the subject of debates structured around two plenaries, at the opening and closure of MINEPS IV, and three commissions.
7. The level of participation in the course of the plenaries and commissions revealed at every stage that the Draft International Convention Against Doping in Sport, the strategy for the development of physical education and sport in education systems and the crucial issue of sport and women were common concerns in the promotion of values, generating a universal standard through consensual harmonization and the refocusing of PES in education systems, in order to respond decisively to the challenges of EFA.
8. The opening session featured several speeches, which were preceded by a welcome address by the Greek Deputy Minister of Culture with responsibility for sport, Mr George Orfanos, followed by Ms Fani Pali-Petralia, Greek Minister for Culture. Several figures spoke on behalf of representative bodies, including the World Anti-Doping Agency, the International Paralympic Committee, the International Committee for Fair Play and the Council of Europe, and there were also speeches from the representative of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Sport for Development and Peace, the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport and Ms Rivière, Assistant Director-General, representing the Director-General of UNESCO.

9. In accordance with the MINEPS IV rules of procedure and by virtue of UNESCO regulations for conferences in this category, the following arrangements were adopted to ensure that work proceeded smoothly:

Adoption of the rules of procedure, election of the President, Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur-General:

- President: **Mr George Orfanos**, Deputy Minister for Culture with responsibility for sport;
- Vice-Presidents: of ministerial level from the following countries:
 - China
 - Chile
 - Cuba
 - Tunisia
 - South Africa
- Rapporteur-General: Mauritius.

Adoption of the agenda followed by the formation of 3 commissions:

- Commission I: Draft International Convention Against Doping in Sport:
 - Chairperson: **Mr Scott Burns**, United States of America
 - Rapporteur: **Mr Jean Pierre Blais**, Canada
- Commission II: Strategy for the development of physical education and sport in education systems:
 - Chairperson: **Mr Md Fazlur Rahman**, Bangladesh
 - Rapporteur: **Mr Richard Bailey**, United Kingdom
- Commission III: Sport and women:
 - Chairperson: **Ms Elisa Araya Cortez**, Chile
 - Rapporteur: **Professor Dr Margaret Talbot**, United Kingdom

Establishment of a drafting group responsible for preparing the Declaration of Athens:

- Algeria
- Chile
- Greece
- Iran
- Japan
- Mauritius
- United States of America
- Coordinator of the drafting group: Secretary-General of MINEPS IV, Mr H. Oussedik, UNESCO.

10. Under the rules of procedure, the Steering Committee of MINEPS IV was composed of the President, five Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General, the Chairpersons of the three commissions and the Coordinator of the Declaration of Athens drafting group.

GENERAL DEBATE

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference, the speakers were invited to speak on the themes featured on the agenda which had been adopted, referring also to the Conference documents in accordance with the list drawn up for this purpose. The nature of the statements was fairly representative of the participants representing the Member States, IGOs, NGOs, specialized bodies within PES and the sport movement. The statements covered both the general and specific aspects of the challenges which the Conference was convened to address through action as well as commitment, political will as well as the pursuit of compromise and consensus, and by going beyond institutional divides and moving from ideas to effective implementation.

11. Some statements took the form of assessments, critical analyses and reports, others the form of suggestions and guidelines and some even consisted of questions inviting consideration in greater depth and the pursuit or identification of the direction in which to proceed.

The debates can be summed up as follows:

12. The right to physical education and sport was reaffirmed in principle and evoked as per the 1978 International Charter of Physical Education and Sport, which gives an insight into this right from the point of view of human development, equity and equality. Several speakers were keen to recall this fundamental right which is applicable to everyone, whatever their religion or race, and which proscribes all discrimination against any human being.

13. The scope of this right implies consideration of standard-setting and encouraging governments to take corrective measures in order to guarantee that it is respected and promoted, to support more effectively efforts designed to ensure that PES features prominently in national priorities.

14. Various speakers endeavoured to illustrate the problems of PES using national situations. Although many Member States have adopted regulatory provisions governing PES, the dominant view on this issue is that the main difficulty encountered is that of a failure at various levels to respect these provisions, particularly in education programmes.

15. With regard to access to sport for girls and women, there was deemed to be a pressing need for new approaches.

16. Some speakers suggested that the right of access to physical activities and sport for girls and women also concerned equality in management and administration and the position of women in the competent structures and bodies for physical activities and sport in general and PES in particular.

17. Making the practice of sport generally available primarily concerns young people, for whom incentive measures, practice and conditions, the controlled and effective guarantee of education system programmes and the means of assistance to ensure high-quality PES are essential.

18. People with special needs, in particular those with disabilities, must be protected in order to promote and develop activities to foster their development by creating the appropriate conditions and obtaining the appropriate means, in accordance with the provisions of the 1978 PES Charter.

19. Physical education and sport are vectors of universal values and have an eminently important social function which transcends cultural, religious, political or racial divides. Putting human beings right at the heart of the considerations they generate, physical activities and sport are in fact poised between the transformations in our societies – the rapid and complex changes bound up in social development and technological progress. All of these considerations were given a central place in

the debates in order to send out a strong signal on the position which should be occupied in the purpose of sport by the universally recognized and shared values of the international community.

20. These values promote principles which contribute to fostering fair play and respect for others: opponents in the practice of sport, the winner must show respect for the loser, and a high degree of humility towards the latter at that moment. The loser must likewise be able to admit defeat, which is in turn a source of motivation to do better next time. It is worth noting that the role of sport in terms of the aforementioned values and principles in the history of nascent democracy in England between the Tories and the Whigs was significant: sport and the principles of fair play have democratic characteristics which one speaker rightly emphasized to promote the educational dimension in a holistic approach to human development.

21. The issue of ethical values is intrinsic in the universal values which entail the promotion and broad dissemination of the ideas of equity and equal opportunities in the practice of sport. Doping is thus contrary to these values; it is ethically and socially unacceptable because it violates and transgresses the values and democratic principles which are inherent in sport and physical activities.

22. Although the regulations established in the practice of sport are a framework of reference which must be respected and applied to everyone in order to guarantee equity and equal opportunities, the scope of these regulations is not limited only to the nature of the standard in itself. Far beyond that, it is a matter of protecting the health of participants and guaranteeing that everyone adheres to a common foundation attached to human rights.

23. This is why the Draft International Convention Against Doping in Sport is welcomed by government actors, the sport movement and the bodies concerned as a first step towards combining efforts, rallying round a common universal ideal which favours harmonization over standardization, which is less realistic and more limited in its impact.

24. The debates centred on points which required convergence of form and content, generally concluding in the need for a consensus, which in time should lead to a successful outcome in the adoption of the final version of the Draft Convention by the UNESCO General Conference in 2005 at its 33rd session.

25. Most countries stressed the need to harmonize the UNESCO Convention with the Council of Europe Convention, and to reflect the content of the Copenhagen Declaration on Anti-Doping in Sport. The idea of using the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) as a provider of technical assistance was welcomed.

26. Some countries maintained that in order for a larger number of countries to be able to ratify it, the Convention must contain articles on federal systems and territories.

27. Many countries signalled their agreement to the use of the UNESCO regular budget to finance the secretariat of the Convention. Some countries stressed the need for a form of “light” monitoring, such as self-assessment.

28. Although it is an integral part of quality education in achieving the objectives of EFA, PES nonetheless continues to occupy a marginal position in the education system, in particular because of failure in many countries to respect official commitments and legal provisions regarding its position, role and importance in formal education-system programmes.

29. The educational dimension of PES, linked to the principal function of the education system, was the subject of significant consideration. The role of UNESCO as a specialized agency within the United Nations system, with a mandate and distinctive competence to give greater impetus to

the position, role and status of PES in education systems was thus reaffirmed to give its action a higher profile.

30. Since this was ultimately a recurring theme, in relation to which the ways and means have been explored at various levels – national, regional and international – with mixed results, often not corresponding to day-to-day reality, the majority of statements tended to favour a pragmatic approach.

31. Participants emphasized the need to be able to progress using the route mapped out by MINEPS III in 1999, and that taken by the Round Table of Ministers Responsible for PES in 2003, putting the emphasis on the urgent need to deal with strategic aspects, upon which basis levers to improve the current situation could be developed using practical and operational solutions.

32. Into this category falls the place accorded to traditional games and sports, which was demonstrated in the course of the debates to be not just a distinctive but also an inclusive component in new alternatives which could illustrate the innovative approaches used in PES programmes within education systems.

33. Thus considered, traditional games and sports seemed to bear out the need to counterbalance the infrastructural, material and financial constraints, particularly in developing countries. These constraints can often be quite considerable and hamper the blossoming of PES programmes within the education system. Several delegates emphasized the advantages of promoting traditional games and sports within education systems, whether in an experimental and alternative context in certain countries facing material difficulties, i.e. with expensive equipment (gymnasiums, swimming pools, sports halls, etc.), or on a complementary basis in those countries where the existence and availability of infrastructure and equipment is not a real constraint. Some speakers wished for this to be translated into immediate effect, in particular via the introduction of a draft international charter on traditional games and sports with a view to agreeing on a universal reference framework to facilitate and support efforts to protect them.

34. Improving access and opportunities for participation, training and management for women and girls was also the subject of some key statements and suggestions. Equity and equality generally in all aspects linked to the issue of sport and women ranked high in terms of the interest shown by the participants. This reflected a general desire to base the debate in work already done, in particular through the various meetings at national, regional and international levels which had tackled the subject at various levels of competence and expertise.

35. It was in order to learn lessons from these meetings, which were extremely rich and diverse in terms of the different approaches envisaged by governments, IGOs, NGOs, or the sport movement at the instigation of the International Olympic Committee and other competent bodies, that MINEPS IV concentrated its attention exclusively on the dynamic initiated by all these actors, with a view to embarking upon a new stage aiming to harmonize the efforts already undertaken.

36. It was recommended that a consultation and harmonization mechanism should be introduced to mobilize and disseminate information, create and share data, and ensure monitoring of significant measures taken at different levels with a view to their effective application in order to progress with regard to the objectives set.

37. Following the debates in the plenaries and the specific guidelines which emerged from the three commissions, the Declaration of Athens and the commissions' recommendations were adopted by consensus. Above and beyond the political will which was significantly reaffirmed, the unique feature of MINEPS IV was the emphasis on the urgency of the situation and the

determination to act on the challenges which had to be faced. The conclusions of MINEPS IV were characterized by precise implementation arrangements and the demarcation of an area for tangible, feasible and measurable actions which are adapted to the context of the issues targeted.

38. The main proposals drawn up by MINEPS IV can be summed up as follows:

- Improved action by UNESCO to develop and improve the situation of PES in its educational, ethical and social aspects through the adoption of standard-setting instruments to guarantee a minimum reference base. The proposals regarding the international charter on traditional games and sports illustrate perfectly this will to do something more specific. With regard to anti-doping measures, the Member States were urged to take appropriate measures in good time before the UNESCO General Conference with a view to rapid ratification of the International Convention Against Doping in Sport. It was proposed that these two instruments be adopted at the 33rd session of the UNESCO General Conference in 2005.
- The establishment by the Member States of an international PES programme to respond to specific needs in a pragmatic, appropriate and targeted fashion. This implies improving the quality of PES in education systems by giving higher priority to quality teacher training, strengthening the capacity of structures responsible for PES and developing the human resources of the competent bodies in the area targeted; establishing international standards which are appropriate to the context and to regional practices in order to guarantee the minimum universally acceptable quality threshold and, finally setting up a system to monitor PES programmes and ensure their conformity with the 1978 International Charter.
- The establishment of a web-based international observatory on women and sport under the auspices of UNESCO, the cost of which will be borne by the Greek Government.
- Finally, the establishment by UNESCO of an international monitoring and implementation mechanism for the MINEPS IV proposals.

CLOSURE OF MINEPS IV

39. Under the MINEPS IV rules of procedure, the Rapporteur-General presented the oral report reflecting the debates, opinions and suggestions and the decisions taken by consensus, illustrated by the constructive atmosphere and the will shown by all to achieve conclusive results as evinced in the Declaration of Athens and the recommendations adopted.

40. Several closing addresses, notably those of the President of the Conference, on behalf of the host country, and of the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO, hailed the spirit of solidarity shown in spite of the differences of opinion on some subjects at certain moments. In spite of the interests and issues encountered on the basis of varying approaches and political, structural and economic considerations, international cooperation triumphed over the challenges faced by MINEPS IV, which was concluded in excellent working conditions and warm Greek hospitality.

41. In the margins of MINEPS IV, several significant events took place, notably the awarding of the Official UNESCO Award for Distinguished Services to Physical Education and Sport, usually awarded every two years under the supervision of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS). The award winners for 2005 were: Mr Qazi Abdul Alim, a former athlete from Bangladesh, Mr José Llanusa Gobel, a former basketball player from Cuba, Algerian former footballer Mr Rachid Makloufi, Greek Olympic champion Voula Patoulidou and Ethiopian

teacher Lakew Yigletu. The following institutions were also honoured: the Czech Sokol Organization (Czech Republic), the German Sport Association for the Disabled (Germany), the Macao Senior Sports Association (Macao), the National Council for the Development of Physical Education and Sport in Basic Education (Mexico) and the National Association for the Promotion of Women's Sports (Rwanda).

ANNEX 1

DECLARATION OF ATHENS

- A Healthy Society Built on Athletic Spirit -

We, the Ministers taking part in the Fourth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS IV), meeting from 6 to 8 December 2004 in Athens, cradle of civilization, culture and sport, birth place of the Olympic Games and of the most durable peace agreement in history, the Olympic Truce, and capital of the most recent Olympic Games and Paralympic Games,

Noting that while the impact of sport on society is greater than ever before, young people are tending to lose respect for its values and we must therefore act urgently so that the public is aware of the efforts to make sport more honest and closer to its original ideals,

Reaffirm our belief that sport and physical education play a key role in society by contributing to national cohesion, overcoming prejudice and exercising a positive influence on public opinion through the sharing of the ethical and universal values they convey;

Highlight the importance of the contribution of international sport meetings to the development of friendship among nations and international solidarity;

Recall that the development of physical education and sport is one of the most effective means of improving, inter alia, health, hygiene, the prevention of HIV/AIDS, and the overall well-being of individuals, in particular young people. Physical activities are also an indispensable tool in the combat against inequalities and social scourges, such as drug abuse, which affect all modern societies to a greater or lesser extent;

Recall in addition that the adoption of the International Charter of Physical Education and Sport, the Olympic Charter, the World Anti-Doping Code, the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention, the Declaration of Punta del Este (MINEPS III), the Athens Declaration on Women and Sport (2001), the Communiqué of the Round Table of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (UNESCO, January 2003), the recommendations of several other international conferences on sport, and the adoption of Resolution 58/5 by the United Nations General Assembly on 3 November 2003, enthusiastically welcomed by leaders of physical education and sport, are evidence of the desire of the international community to increase access to physical education and sport, making it available to all, and to promote by all possible means the defence of the principles set out in those documents. Such commitments also reflect the desire of the international community to pursue and intensify the efforts to ensure that physical education and sport play their proper role in education systems, the use of leisure time and the organization of our societies;

Firmly condemn doping, violence and displays of intolerance by athletes and supporters and **reaffirm** our commitment in the face of phenomena that undermine the Olympic ideals and the educational values of sport;

We, the Ministers, are determined, on an urgent basis, to undertake within our governments to:

- implement coherent policies and take specific measures for the development of physical education and sport in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of UNESCO, the

principles of the International Charter of Physical Education and Sport and the Olympic ideals;

- step up our efforts to give sport a more important role as a factor in the development and promotion of human and ethical values, mutual understanding and the bringing together of peoples;
- encourage initiatives to foster the ideals of peace through sport and its contribution to respect for universal human rights;
- mobilize the means and resources for the effective promotion of physical education and sport by encouraging initiatives for active participation at the local, regional and international levels in a spirit of solidarity with the developing countries;
- support the extension and promotion of the practice of physical and sport activities to young girls and women and develop multilateral cooperation in order to promote “women and sport” programmes, thereby deepening democracy in society, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
- encourage the promotion and development of traditional games and sports by an international charter as elements of sport for all and an expression of the world’s rich and diverse cultural heritage;
- develop ties of cooperation and collaboration between physical activities and sport and other sectors, such as health, environment, culture, heritage and education so as to encourage common initiatives and influence draft regulations and laws.

Recommend to all governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental, national, regional and international bodies that they:

- take urgent measures to promote the strengthening of the teaching of physical education and sport, so as to have a better impact on the development of men and women in every country;
- create the necessary conditions to promote access to physical education and sport throughout the world. This access, which contributes to the right of every individual to education, begins at school. Accordingly, physical education and sport must be given a significant share of school hours and the curriculum and qualified staff must be made available;
- promote the development of sport for all, which must become an important task for both governmental and voluntary sport organizations;
- participate actively, in the framework of their respective duties and responsibilities, in the combat against doping in sport and in the establishment of an effective system of anti-doping controls;
- resolve the question of programme funding to encourage an harmonious and balanced development of the different forms of physical activity and sport;
- implement commitments made at the national and international level with a view to improving the position of women with regard to posts of responsibility in sporting bodies at all levels;

- make physical education and sport a critical component of health;
- promote the exchange of experience and good practices through specific projects and strengthen cooperation between sport movements in the developed and the developing countries so as to reduce existing gaps and inequalities;
- encourage at the national level effective cooperation between education and sport authorities, in particular in the field of teacher training and the development of school curricula.

Call upon UNESCO to:

- continue its good work, taking into account the support of Member States, for the development and the adoption of an international convention against doping in sport in 2005, before the Olympic Winter Games in 2006, and ensure its functioning;
- support the holistic development of physical education and sport so that they become an important element in education systems and contribute to education reforms so that greater account is taken of physical education and sport in the school curriculum;
- include on the agenda of regional and international conferences on education items relating to the promotion and development of physical education and sport, as part of the effort to promote the quality of education;
- reinforce the cooperation with the international sport movement, which would testify at the international level to the convergence of the concerns of public authorities and voluntary organizations in service of the development of physical education and sport at all levels and ages;
- use all its authority to help to promote and enhance traditional games and sports;
- ensure that its programmes fully reflect the conclusions and recommendations of MINEPS IV and ensure their implementation in accordance with the expectations of the Member States.

Request the active cooperation of the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, international voluntary sports organizations and all other institutions concerned in the action that we are undertaking together as part of the International Year for Sport and Physical Education, which will provide an exceptional occasion for giving new impetus to the promotion and development of physical education and the practice of sport within our societies, thereby contributing to peace in the world.

Adopted in Athens

8 December 2004

ANNEX 2**RECOMMENDATIONS****COMMISSION I****International Convention Against Doping in Sport**

Aware that public authorities and sports organizations have complementary responsibilities to combat doping in sport, notably to ensure the proper conduct, on the basis of the principle of fair play, of sports events and to protect the health of those that take part in them,

Stressing therefore the necessity of ongoing cooperation between governments and the sporting movement in the fight against doping,

Noting with satisfaction the recent progress made by governments and sport organizations in anti-doping, in particular in relation to the formation and work of the World Anti-Doping Agency and the acceptance of the World Anti-Doping Code,

Recognizing the important contribution of other intergovernmental cooperation on anti-doping, in particular the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention and its Additional Protocol,

Recognizing also the recent progress made by the sporting movement, in particular the International Olympic Committee and International Paralympic Committee and those international federations recognized by them, in the fight against doping,

Noting however the need to maintain the momentum of progress in the fight against doping in sport,

Recognizing in this regard the rapid progress made within UNESCO on drafting an International Convention Against Doping in Sport,

Stressing that the new international instrument should be in place before the Turin Olympic Winter Games in February 2006,

Recognizing that there exist unresolved issues in the preliminary draft of the Convention that must be solved in order to meet the time-frame for adoption of the Convention by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 33rd session in 2005,

Participants call upon the Member States of UNESCO to ensure that the final text of the Convention reflects the following understandings:

With regard to the ongoing monitoring of the Convention:

Stressing that the Convention must incorporate a cost-effective monitoring system upon its entry into force,

Noting the respective capacities and capabilities of the World Anti-Doping Agency and the Council of Europe in the field of anti-doping, and therefore the possibilities for cooperation with UNESCO, on the monitoring of the Convention,

Noting however that the exact nature of ongoing monitoring of the Convention will need to be determined by the Conference of Parties once the Convention has entered into force,

Acknowledging also the different states of development of sport and anti-doping in countries across the globe,

Confirming that the World Anti-Doping Agency has responsibility for monitoring of the World Anti-Doping Code and the Conference of Parties has responsibility for monitoring of the Convention,

Recognizing that those States that are Parties to the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Conventions and to the UNESCO Convention will perform the monitoring processes of the two Conventions in a coordinated manner,

1. **Recommend** that a system for monitoring compliance to the Convention should be based upon a self-assessment process, with evaluation of such assessments being made by the Conference of Parties with advice from other independent organizations as appropriate;
2. **Recommend** that those States Parties to the Council of Europe Convention should be able to continue to be exposed to additional monitoring processes under the provisions of that Convention; and
3. **Recommend** that the initial monitoring process for the UNESCO Convention should be able to evolve, as anti-doping systems develop across the world, to include additional monitoring processes such as peer review, evaluation visits and the exchange of best practices.

With regard to the application of the Convention within Federal States and those States with territorial constituents:

Noting that some States have legal systems that do not permit their governments to force their constituent jurisdictions to comply with provisions of the Convention for which those constituents have responsibility,

Welcoming warmly the genuine commitment of those Member States for which these articles present legal or constitutional difficulties to make every effort to ensure that the Convention is applied quickly in all constituencies under their jurisdiction,

1. **Recommend** that it is necessary within the Convention to take into account the variance in constitutional and international realities and to therefore include provisions addressing the needs of those States with federal systems and those with territorial constituents to facilitate rapid adoption of the Convention;
2. **Recommend**, when developing such provisions, that inspiration be drawn from similar articles which appear in existing international conventions; and
3. **Recommend** that the use of this clause does not become a pretext for States to weaken their commitment to combat doping effectively.

With regard to the matter of reservations on the Convention:

Noting that the Council of Europe Convention on Anti-Doping in Sport and its Additional Protocol provides a legal framework for anti-doping for States Parties to that Convention,

Stressing the need to avoid duplication of effort and to avoid any lack of harmonization in the global approach to anti-doping,

Wishing to reassert the unambiguous commitment of governments to the fight against doping in sport,

- **Recommend** that efforts should be made to ensure that the UNESCO Convention and the Council of Europe Convention are compatible and complementary, so as to enable the Convention to be adopted without the express reservations clause foreseen in the preliminary draft of the Convention.

With regard to the ongoing support of the Convention:

Recognizing that in order to be effective, there must be certainty in the ongoing administration of the Convention,

Recognizing the need to develop capacity in Member States to implement anti-doping systems,

1. **Urge** the Director-General of UNESCO to explore with Member States the possibility of providing support for the basic administration of the Convention through the regular budget of UNESCO; and
2. **Reaffirm** the need for a Voluntary Fund to be established within the Convention which would serve the purpose of building anti-doping capacity in those Member States that most need assistance especially to implement anti-doping education programs.

With regard to the need for education on anti-doping in sport:

Noting the need to ensure that athletes and their support personnel receive education about the effects of the consumption of prohibited substances and relevant and timely information on anti-doping programmes,

Recognizing also the need for the wider sporting community to be exposed to relevant anti-doping education,

Recognizing that delivery of anti-doping messages may be conducted through both formal and informal education processes,

1. **Support** the definition of athlete in the preliminary draft of the Convention as it relates to education and training; and
2. **Recommend** that in particular, the Convention should contain provisions for educating athletes and their support personnel on the dangers of doping in sport and should also include the sporting community in general and that these efforts should be targeted at preventing doping in sport.

In regard to the List of Prohibited Substances and Methods:

Noting the responsibility of the World Anti-Doping Agency to update the List annually and on the basis of need as new substances or methods are discovered,

Noting the potential for the List to change rapidly in the course of the year,

Recognizing the importance of ensuring that the sporting movement and governments apply the same List,

1. **Recommend** that it is essential to have a mechanism to update rapidly the List for the purpose of the Convention; and
2. **Recommend** that such a mechanism will need to be developed within the framework of the Convention.

In regards to the funding of the World Anti-Doping Agency by public authorities:

Noting the structure and funding of WADA is based on an equal cooperation between the sporting movement and governments,

Valuing this high level of cooperation between the sporting movement and governments,

Recalling the commitments made by governments in the Copenhagen Declaration on Anti-Doping in Sport in regard to the funding of WADA by the sporting movement and governments:

1. **Reaffirm** the commitment of public authorities to the principle of equal funding of the approved annual core budget of WADA by the public authorities and the sporting movement; and
2. **Recommend** the incorporation of this commitment into the Convention.

Finalization of the Convention and implementation:

Noting that the third session of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on the Preliminary Draft of the International Convention Against Doping in Sport is to be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 10 to 15 January 2005,

Noting also that for the Convention to be considered at the 33rd General Conference of UNESCO in 2005, the Director General of UNESCO must send out a Final Report to Member States by 3 March 2005,

1. **Reaffirm** their commitment to present a final draft of the Convention to the General Conference of UNESCO at its 33rd session in 2005;

Therefore:

2. **Urge** the Member States of UNESCO to attend the third session of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on the Preliminary Draft of the International Convention Against Doping in Sport and to continue to work cooperatively with the goal of agreeing on a completed text for the Convention by the end of the meeting;
3. **Call upon** Member States of UNESCO to ensure that their delegates to this meeting are able to reflect a coordinated approach between relevant agencies responsible for sport and anti-doping in sport within their jurisdiction, as well as any other relevant agency including especially that agency responsible for foreign affairs and further that the delegates have appropriate authority to contribute to collective decision-making;

Noting also the need for States Parties to ratify rapidly the Convention once it has been adopted, so that the current momentum in the fight against doping in sport can be sustained,

4. **Urge** the Member States of UNESCO to make appropriate political, legal and administrative preparations well in advance of the General Conference of UNESCO in order to ensure their rapid ratification of the Convention after its expected adoption.

COMMISSION II

Physical Education and Sport as a key component of quality Education for All

Preamble: Grounds

Recalling the results of the global assessment on the alarming situation of physical education and sport in the formal and non-formal framework of education systems and the urgency of adopting specific measures;

Taking note of the Final Communiqué of the Round Table of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport held at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, in January 2003, which firmly recognized the importance of “physical education, as a key component of quality education and an integral part of lifelong learning, [which] contributes to the acquisition of ethical values and the encouragement of fair play practices”;

Recalling the International Charter of Physical Education and Sport, in particular Article 2.3 relating to the role of physical education and sport in education systems;

Taking note also of the draft international charter on traditional games and sports, initiated by CIGEPS in accordance with its mandate and the provisions of the Declaration of Punta del Este;

Considering United Nations General Assembly resolution 58/5, proclaiming 2005 the “International Year for Sport and Physical Education”;

Noting with concern the lack of coordination among the different governmental or semi-public bodies responsible for physical education and sport (at the level of local and national systems, public or private), in particular the difficulties caused by the lack of consistency between the aims assigned to physical education on the one hand and to sport on the other;

Aware of the need to respond to regional needs to improve the situation of physical education and sport, preserve and promote traditional games and sports and promote a greater synergy of efforts as well as actions undertaken in the framework of the celebration of the International Year for Sport and Physical Education at all the levels needed for its success under the leadership of UNESCO, the United Nations focal point in the domains referred to in United Nations General Assembly resolution 58/5;

In light of the continuing concerns regarding the state and status of physical education and sport in education systems, we urge governments to:

- take advantage of the many benefits that physical education and sport can give to children and youth including distinctive contributions to their physical, social, affective and cognitive development, as well as acting as a foundation for lifelong physical activity and sports participation, and develop ties of cooperation and collaboration between physical education, sport and other sectors, such as health, environment, culture, heritage and overall education, so as to encourage common initiatives.
- encourage a broad and inclusive understanding of physical education and sport, to include sports, traditional games, and non-competitive activities.

Therefore we recommend for adoption the following main actions:

1. To ensure a secure position for physical education and sport within schools for all children by means of an organized and resourced programme of appropriate activities, supported by quality teacher training.
2. To consider the development of an International Programme to promote physical education and sport based on national and regional needs, focusing on the following:
 - (i) The development of guidelines for basic standards to address at primary, secondary and tertiary level the quality of physical education;
 - (ii) The extension and improvement of quality teacher-training opportunities in physical education;
 - (iii) The draft Charter for Traditional Sports and Games to be submitted to the next UNESCO General Conference;
 - (iv) The development of the capacity to assist and advise States wishing to elaborate or strengthen their physical education and sport training system.
 - (v) The development of an inclusive approach to physical education and sport, with special regard to the participation of girls, women and people with disabilities, characterized by values of respect and tolerance.
3. To establish an international mechanism to follow-up the recommendations of MINEPS IV, allowing for the proposal of adjustments to take account of local and national situations.
4. As the lead agency of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), UNESCO to play an active role in using physical education and sport as an effective tool in the implementation of this campaign.
5. To support the International Year for Sport and Physical Education, through the advocacy and the implementation of appropriate programmes.

COMMISSION III

Women and sport

INTRODUCTION

- *Affirming* the importance and relevance of previous achievements and work on promoting opportunities for women in and through sport and physical education, Commission III recognizes the need to build upon measures made under the auspices of UNESCO – the UNESCO Charter on Sport and Physical Education 1978, the Declaration of Punta del Este (MINEPS III) and the Athens Declaration 2003, – as well as the Brighton Declaration 1994, the Windhoek Call for Action 1998 and the Montreal Communiqué of 2002; the IOC Declaration and targets for at least 20% of women in decision-making positions in NOCs and international federations by 2005;
- *Welcoming* the 2005 International Year of Sport and Physical Education (IYSPE) proclaimed by the United Nations, urges all Member States, when developing programmes of activity for IYSPE, to take into account the needs of women and girls, to ensure inclusion of all; and to consider the particular role of Olympic education in promoting good values and interest in sport and physical education;
- *Emphasizing* the role of sport and physical education as tools for development, recognizes their critical role in achieving the goals of Education for All and the Millennium Development Goals;
- *Recognizing and emphasizing* the crucial role of sport and physical education in the lives and development of women and girls, especially for promoting health, self-esteem and self-confidence, encouraging participation and achievement in education, and promoting social cohesion and inclusion in social and community life, the Commission made the following recommendations:

1. *Taking into account* the significant work that has already been done to improve the status of women and sport and the desirability for all to share and celebrate these achievements and resources, and

Acknowledging the generous offer of the Greek Ministry of Sport to provide the financial and human resources to support the development and maintenance of a web-based observatory on women, sport and physical education, to be established under the aegis of UNESCO, Commission III **recommends**:

- that a Steering Group comprised of officials from the Greek Government, UNESCO and representatives of key international bodies with a mandate in women and sport, meet with a view to preparing a concrete project description for presentation to UNESCO by the end of August 2005;
 - that officials of the Greek Government chair the Steering Group and assume responsibility for a plan and budget for its work.
2. *Having heard* with interest the action of the Finnish Minister to set up a Working Group to develop methods of assessing the impact of legislation, budgeting, distribution of subsidies, etc., on gendered opportunities, **recommends** that governments and NGOs recognize the use

of the sport budget as an instrument of gender equality. The Commission also **recommends** the development of a common framework for countries to use self-assessment to monitor progress and to promote the sharing of experiences and skills.

3. *Recognizing* the need for clear evidence and data to support strategies to increase investment in programmes to promote opportunities for women and girls in sport and physical education, **recommends** to Member States and to national and international NGOs, that resources be found for programmes of research to outline the situation in countries, to ensure more systematic collection of data and to support advocacy in this area, which can be shared between countries and regions of the world.
4. *Recognizing* the importance of the work and recommendations of Commission II on physical education and sport in schools for the systematic development of the skills and confidence for life-long participation in physical activity, especially for girls, Commission III **supports its recommendations** that sufficient time be found in the curriculum to deliver physical education to children – all girls and boys, whatever their particular needs. This crucial role should also be emphasized through UNESCO's own Associated Schools Network (ASP), so that the wider benefits of curricular physical education can be demonstrated, especially for girls throughout their lives.
5. *Stressing* the particular barrier facing women in countries without sufficient numbers of trained women personnel, and where it is desirable or even essential that women and girls are led by women, **supports the recommendation** of Tunisia that UNESCO discuss with partner organizations such as the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education and the International Olympic Committee, means of facilitating appropriate training for women, especially in least developed countries (LDCs), for elementary school physical education, coaching, officiating and administration.
6. *Acknowledging* the world-wide challenges of the growth of childhood obesity, especially among girls; high incidences of early sexual activity and teenage pregnancy; and osteoporosis among post-menopausal women, and the significant role of physical activity and exercise in combating these, **recommends** to Member States that intervention programmes should be developed to address these challenges, with appropriate systems of monitoring outcomes.
7. *Appreciating* the role of traditional games, sports and dance in the development of opportunities for activity for girls and women, and for continuity of culture and using sport as a tool for development, Commission III **recommends** that Member States with programmes of development in this area refer to TAFISA, the international NGO whose role is to promote and share experience of traditional games, sports and dance.
8. *Recognizing and celebrating* the contributions made by women to the promotion of opportunities for sport and physical education for people with special needs, and for people who are excluded from mainstream provision; and in view of men's relatively low participation in these areas, **recommends** that Member States and NGOs consider ways of increasing the number of men taking part in such work.
9. **Invites** Member States to support the recommendation of Japan to send at least one delegate to the Fourth World Conference on Women and Sport, to be held in Kumamoto, Japan from 11 to 14 May 2006.

ANNEX 3

AGENDA

Plenary

- 1. Opening of the Conference**
- 2. Election of the President**
- 3. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure**
- 4. Election of the Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur-General**
(who, together with the President, constitute the Steering Committee of the Conference)
- 5. Adoption of the agenda**
- 6. Organization of the work of the Conference**
role of the Steering Committee, drafting group, time limits for statements (division of work between plenary meetings and the three commissions, etc.)
- 7. Opening addresses**
- 8. General debate**
- Commission I**
- 9. Draft international convention against doping in sport**
- Commission II**
- 10. Strategy for the development of physical education and sport in education systems**
- Commission III**
- 11. Sport and women**
Plenary
- 12. Other business**
- 13. Adoption of recommendations, the draft final report and the Athens Declaration**
 - 13.1 Adoption of recommendations
 - 13.2 Adoption of the main lines of the draft final report
 - 13.3 Adoption of the Athens Declaration
- 14. Closure of the Conference**

ANNEX 4**ADDRESS BY MR GEORGE ORFANOS,
DEPUTY MINISTER OF CULTURE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPORT**

It is with particular pleasure that I welcome the Fourth International Conference on Physical Education and Sport, organized by Greece, the country in which the ideas of “noble rivalry” and “fair play” arose.

This year is closing in the best possible way for Greece and sport. This summer we organized the Olympic Games and then the Paralympic Games. We all experienced the feeling of participation, competition, effort, the joy of victory and the disappointment of defeat, but the central idea that imbued all of us is that for these Games, it is worth doing whatever is necessary to ensure that they remain clean and conforms to the highest standards.

Success must be a concomitant of effort and success must be the result of all those factors which collectively we call the Olympic ideal.

In the next three days, the international athletic community will be called upon to deal with a number of important issues that have to do not only with sport on the level of champions, but also with the entirety of our society, issues which touch on the daily lives of citizens.

In modern societies the meaning of the “athletic spirit”, “noble rivalry” and “fair play” are not bound by the narrow confines of professional playing fields, of championship sport and high distinctions. Hereon, athletic education must be a part of our daily lives, to help form character, to forge personalities and to **make better societies**.

This is our purpose. To create all those prerequisites in which the athletic ideal will have a particular position in human expression and will play an increasing role in interpersonal relationships, in the family, in the educational system, with nations and in societies.

Within the framework of this international conference we will discuss and will be called upon to agree on three significant issues which concern the international athletic and cultural scene:

1. The issue of doping and a systematic and comprehensive method of dealing with it on a unified basis.

We all know that in the last decades doping has increased and the events of the last Olympic Games are well known to us all.

All the member states, international organizations and Olympic Committees will be called upon to adopt and, of course, to implement unified methods of prevention and suppression of doping, both in champion athletics and wherever sport is engaged in.

2. The issue of including sport and “athletic education” in the modern educational system.

Over the last years, athletic sport has been decreasing both quantitatively and qualitatively in the curricula of primary, secondary and tertiary education.

Systematic investment in sport and including athletic education programmes in the wider educational system of each State will build better societies and will help improve the spiritual and physical health of youngsters.

3. The issue of including more women in administration and in the world of sport.

It is exceptionally important that increasingly we are seeing women as champions in playing fields. It is equally important to see women in the sport decision-making centres.

We want women to have an increasing role and a substantive contribution in forming strategies and in the action plans that are part of sport administration, whether these are on the level of sport federations or in international organizations and committees.

Our aim is to double the number of women in the next few years and our final aim is to have an equal number of women in international and local positions in sport administration.

Dear Delegates,

These three days will leave their mark on international sport and I believe that they will mark a beginning in which the practices of athletics are implemented in all expressions of humanity, both on an individual and collective level.

With the certainty that the results of this conference will lead to the widest possible consensus on the major issues mentioned above, I wish you every success in your work and I hope that you have a pleasant and constructive stay in our country.

We, in any case, are delighted to welcome you in the best possible way, to extend to you our traditional hospitality and to provide a worthy succession to your experience of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

ANNEX 5**ADDRESS BY MS FANI-PALLI PETRALIA,
MINISTER OF CULTURE OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT**

I welcome you to post-Olympic Greece.

The Olympic and the Paralympic Games of Athens left our country a great material heritage, which consists of unique and excellent facilities, as well as another important heritage, namely the image of our country throughout the world. Greece is a contemporary country, determined and ready to develop and capitalize this valuable heritage from the Olympic Games.

The Prime Minister will announce tomorrow the plans concerning the post-Olympic utilization of all the facilities and infrastructures left in our country after the conduct of the Olympic Games.

Personally, I could assure you today that our Government, as well as the Ministry of Culture along with the Deputy Minister of Culture, with responsibility for Sport, Mr George Orfanos, are preparing the Museum of Greek Olympic Games.

Just yesterday, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), after the conversations we had during the summer, decided that Greece should host the International Museum of Athletics, in the Athens Olympic Sports Complex (AOSC), in connection also with the throwing events, which will be performed every summer in Ancient Olympia, under the auspices of IAAF.

I am very pleased that the Deputy Minister and I, during this interesting meeting of high importance like yours, have the opportunity to announce our first plans for post-Olympic exploitation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this conference is an evident fact of the interest UNESCO shows for physical education and sport.

It is an interest arising from the basic principles of UNESCO itself, as far as it concerns the use of our cultural heritage and the promotion of everlasting values.

Sport is one of the cornerstones of the cultural edifice. Besides, for us the Greeks, this is a living experience and belief, because the Olympic Games initially started as Cultural Games to result as Sport Games. Culture and Olympic spirit are two very close concepts, because the values and principles of the Olympic spirit, are exactly these diachronic values, that the international community, mankind, seeks, namely emulation, solidarity, fraternization of people and fair play. Therefore, I consider that the journey of these values and virtues of the Olympic Ideal from yesterday until today, is the vehicle for UNESCO. Because of this journey, these great concepts are still alive. Because these great values and the connection between culture, body, spirit with Sport, all of us, that is mankind, enjoy the most important celebration in the world, the Olympic Games.

The Olympic Games in Greece were the main event of social life. In general, sport games being very close to the religious ceremonies were evolved into a constitution which affected art and language, a constitution which stopped conflicts and established peace. Without sport and the Olympic Ideal, Western civilization would not enjoy today the numerous works of art – sculpture, painting and poetry, which were created to honour and immortalize the victors of the games.

It is very important that this conference brings up crucial subjects, which occupy the minds of those involved with sport. At the same time, these subjects will motivate the experts around the world, to seek answers concerning major issues, like doping. Each country is obliged to fight on its own, so that the future of sport will not be a prey in the hands of lawless interests. It is in our hands, if we want to set limits and restrictions, so that we can protect our athletes and the status of Sport and the Olympic Ideal.

The extent to which people are thirsty for sport was obvious from the very beginning of the Athens Olympic Games. Participation is a one-way process, there is no turning back, there are no compromises. If we want to continue seeing our children in the sport fields, if we want to leave to the generations to come the treasure we inherited, this sport and cultural treasure, we must summon all our strength and together we will step forward, in this fight against doping, because the greatest bet for all of us is fair games.

I am also very pleased that your conference will be occupied with the issue of women's participation in decision centres as well as in the administrative centres.

I come from an Olympic, sporting family, and to date I have the privilege of being the first woman ever as Deputy Minister of Sport in Greece. Ten years ago I was Deputy Minister of Sport and Youth. We can already see many female members in the federations, proving that great steps have been made so far. I would like to believe that this four-day conference and meeting of yours will meet with great success.

I would like to express my warmest congratulations to UNESCO and the Secretariat General of Sport. The Deputy Minister, Mr George Orfanos, is an adequate partner in this effort.

I am positive that these four days in Athens, in Greece, in the birthplace of the Olympic Games and the Olympic spirit, will be determinant with beneficial consequences not only for the strict sport world but for the fans worldwide as well.

Once again we welcome you and we wish you to have meaningful discussions and decisions.

Thank you very much.

ANNEX 6

ADDRESS BY MR KOÏCHIRO MATSUURA

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
(UNESCO)**

**DELIVERED IN HIS NAME BY MS FRANÇOISE RIVIÈRE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE MINEPS IV CONFERENCE

Madam Minister Counsellor for Culture,
Mr Deputy Minister of Culture responsible for sport,
Madam Deputy Secretary-General of the Council of Europe,
Distinguished Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great privilege for me to greet you on the occasion of the opening of this fourth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport.

It is a particular honour to open this Conference and an immense pleasure that it is being held in Athens, a major centre of culture and sport. I wish to congratulate once again the Greek authorities on the great success of the extensive and numerous events organized in this country in 2004. I have in mind, of course, the marvellous Olympic Games last summer which I had the privilege of attending. I was very impressed by the ability with which those Games were organized and I should like to commend the International Olympic Committee for that really spectacular event. The Paralympic Games followed in the autumn and were also a great success. All my thanks go to Mr Phil Craven, President of the International Paralympic Committee.

I also have in mind the Cultural Olympiads which Greece launched in conjunction with the Games and which have once again placed culture, arts and literature at the heart of Olympism, restoring to the Games of Antiquity all their contemporary relevance. Welcoming the Olympic flame at UNESCO Headquarters, as it passed through Paris on 25 June last, I tried to capture a little of this Athenian spirit by paying tribute to the universal values of dialogue and democracy with which the name of this city is so closely associated.

I should now like to seize this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the Greek authorities for the warm hospitality they have extended to us and for the facilities they have generously provided for the holding of this conference.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Many of us today attach great importance to this meeting. It is indeed central to the concerns of the international community which intends, *inter alia*, to pursue and intensify efforts aimed at giving pride of place to physical education and sport in education systems and, more generally, in the life of societies.

As stipulated in the International Charter on Physical Education and Sport, the practice of sport is an entitlement and a duty for each person. However, this ideal would be purely utopian if education did not include, from early childhood, encouragement to practise sport not only for corporal development but also for shaping attitudes and values.

As I mentioned at the Round Table of Ministers of Physical Education and Sport which was held in January 2003 at UNESCO Headquarters, UNESCO has therefore made education for all and the concept of “quality education” one of its priorities, I would even say the priority in the educational sphere. Quantitative results mean little if the education provided does not have the quality necessary for the harmonious, overall upbringing of the individual. Clearly, physical education is a vital component of this.

Therefore, the need to reaffirm the concept of physical education and sport and to make such education more widely available as a preparation for sports activity throughout life as well as improving the training of teachers and teacher-trainers, developing programmes, providing more equipment and increasing resources are practical actions which I am submitting for your attention.

Because it is essential to situate these challenges in the context of the reform of education systems, you will therefore have to consider how the present-day situation of physical education and sport tallies with the objectives assigned to education systems and how future progress may be made towards these objectives, both nationally and internationally.

In sum, the responsibility of education towards sport and the fundamental role of physical education and sport in education appear to me to be the two main themes that will ensure continuity and coherence in your discussions.

They are key questions which involve restoring the links between the learning process and active life, theoretical and practical education, individual aspirations and social integration, general culture and training.

Commission II will examine in greater detail the strategies to be followed and the measures to be taken to strengthen physical education and sport within education systems. The theme is not new and has already been discussed at length by previous conferences of ministers responsible for physical education and sport. I hope that this meeting will serve to reinvigorate people and give fresh impetus – a common “momentum”.

In this respect, I must be clear. I do not think that it is UNESCO’s job to implement by itself, “through the exercise of direct control”, a programme of action which is primarily a matter of national prerogative and responsibility. What UNESCO can, and must do, and will continue to do, is to act as a catalyst for international cooperation and promote what is called “best practices”, i.e. successful practices. Admittedly, UNESCO has a major contribution to make by defining the development goals of physical education and sport within education systems, promoting the idea of “sport for all”, disseminating scientific and technical information on physical education and sport and protecting the ethical values implicit in sport. It is therefore as a platform for dialogue and

exchanges and as an impartial intermediary that we can be of use to our Member States and the educational and sports community in general.

The third theme of MINEPS IV – sport and women – is of special interest to UNESCO since it will lead you to examine all the forms of discrimination and inequality which are still besetting girls and women in both physical education and sport and which are, of course, the reflection of the patterns of injustice prevailing within the social and cultural order. That is clearly why combating these gender inequalities in sport is a vital task not only for sport *per se* but also for society as a whole. This also implies that sport, if it is to be an effective tool for social change, must first and foremost “clean up its own backyard”, as the saying goes.

I am confident that sport will be a fantastic area to show societies and especially young people the course to follow, by proposing models of conduct, good practices and unquestionable standards with regard to the treatment and place to be accorded to girls and women. All of us, collectively, must take advantage of all the machinery and all available resources so as to redress the imbalance and the discrimination which are still very real. True, many talk of a standard-setting approach in this area – that is why we have mentioned it. But I believe that today we have many resources at our disposal to take action – here and now – without any further delay. For this reason, I await with great interest the outcome of the discussions in Commission II, knowing at the same time that the most topical and urgent questions concerning UNESCO’s standard-setting action will be discussed in Commission I; I refer, of course, to the International Convention Against Doping in Sport.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I stressed at the ministerial round table in January 2003, doping is a scourge which defaces the image of sport and contradicts the claim that sport brings out the best in us. Doping is fundamentally anti-sport and is the enemy of the values that sport represents.

As you know, the Ministers participating in the round table called upon UNESCO, in cooperation with the United Nations, the competent bodies within the United Nations system and the Council of Europe, and in close collaboration with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and other relevant sporting bodies, to coordinate the preparation and eventual adoption, if possible before the Winter 2006 Olympics in Turin, Italy, of a universal international instrument.

Taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the ministerial round table and the 166th session of the UNESCO Executive Board, the General Conference of UNESCO at its 32nd session (October 2003) decided that the question of doping in sport should be regulated through an international universal convention. Even before the decision of the General Conference, I had convened an advisory experts group in late June 2003 to advise me on the process of elaborating such an international instrument. Following the General Conference, a series of meetings of an intergovernmental experts group (Category II) has been held, the most recent in May 2004, with a view to advancing rapidly towards the presentation of a draft convention to the forthcoming 33rd session of the General Conference in October 2005. In keeping with the rules governing the preparation of UNESCO’s international conventions, a preliminary report and draft preliminary convention were distributed to all governments and relevant sporting bodies in July 2004, with a deadline for the receipt of comments by mid-November 2004. Documents to this process of consultation have been distributed to all of you.

I am very pleased with the cooperation UNESCO has enjoyed with WADA in the process of preparing the draft convention and therefore I am delighted that its Chairman, Mr Richard Pound, is

with us in Athens. I am also very pleased with our collaboration with the Council of Europe and I offer my warm greetings to its Deputy Secretary-General, Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio.

The participants in Commission One will have an opportunity to discuss a number of matters relating to the draft convention. Since the final meeting of the intergovernmental experts group responsible for drafting the convention will meet in Paris from 10 to 15 January 2005, this is a timely opportunity for ministers and senior officials to discuss some outstanding issues.

On this point, I would like you to bear in mind an important distinction. The responsibility for producing a draft preliminary convention, negotiated in detail, article by article, belongs to the intergovernmental experts group that next meets in January. What we expect from the conference here in Athens is a policy-oriented discussion whose aim is to seek and develop a consensus, to the greatest extent possible, on a set of important issues around which there still are differences of opinion. In other words, MINEPS IV should allow for an exploration by political leaders of the scope for agreement on several unresolved issues. My hope is that, by addressing these issues at a high political level, it will be possible to advance our collective reflection and thereby assist the January experts meeting in its work by providing essential guidance and orientation. The more consensual that guidance is, the easier will be the drafting part.

Let me immediately turn to one question – the financing of the convention – that needs to be resolved. I hope that my following remarks will help in this direction. It is my clear intention to include financial provision within UNESCO's Regular Programme and Budget for the basic, essential funds required to administer the Convention once it comes into force. UNESCO has the responsibility for a number of important conventions and the secretariats for them are financed out of the core budget of the Organization, not by voluntary contributions. I firmly believe that this convention, like all others for which UNESCO is responsible, must be supported in this way and therefore I shall be requesting that appropriate provision be made. The basic costs necessary for the secretariat of the convention to function must be guaranteed.

A very different matter is the shortfall in funding that UNESCO now faces regarding the process of preparing the draft convention. The Organization's governing bodies have not made provision to cover the costs involved, which is why we have had to rely on extrabudgetary support to finance the work done thus far. We are most grateful to those countries that have helped us but, frankly, we now face a serious impasse and urgently need more support to see the preparation process through to completion.

Let me now turn to another issue, namely, the question of the relationship between the anti-doping convention and other international instruments. There are conceptual and legal/constitutional issues at stake here and they deserve to be addressed so that greater clarity of understanding and more opportunity for possible agreement can emerge in a spirit of goodwill and constructive accommodation. Let us use this meeting in Athens to explore how the compatibility between international instruments in this area can best be promoted. Again, I stress that the task is not one of detailed drafting. Instead, our discussions should be pitched at the level of principles and concepts with a view to building a consensual position that would orient the work of the drafting group next month.

In regard to questions concerning a federal states clause and territorial restrictions, these are matters of a political character. In essence, they are not drafting issues *per se* but political issues that need attention from policy-makers. I trust you will understand that I am raising this question not to foment debate or controversy but to encourage an approach that will give clear and construction guidance to the drafting group. These are matters for you, the decision-makers, to

resolve but hopefully based on consensus as much as possible. Experience drawn from other conventions and international instruments may be helpful on this particular issue.

On the question of whom the anti-doping convention is to relate to, in particular whether it should cover only athletes and athlete support personnel or should embrace a wider range of persons involved in sport, the discussion here should seek to provide clear guidance for the experts meeting. Let me say that, for its part, UNESCO sees wisdom in broader coverage since, for us, sport is for everyone and not just for persons designated as athletes. Furthermore, the issue of doping is as broad as sport itself.

This has implications, of course, for the dissemination of anti-doping information and messages, and here UNESCO certainly feels that the convention needs to be strengthened in the area of general education and training principles. We obviously see our future action being significant in this area, not only in terms of formal educational institutions and processes but also through non-formal and informal means of public awareness-raising, especially among young people. We look forward to your discussions on this matter, especially on the educational and awareness-raising aspects of the convention and UNESCO's role in this regard.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are all aware, 2005 has been proclaimed the International Year of Sport and Physical Education by the United Nations General Assembly. This International Year is a wonderful opportunity for everyone involved in sport and physical education and everyone should do their utmost to promote the Year.

Let me pay tribute to Mr Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General for sport in the service of peace and development, for all his efforts regarding the decision to proclaim the Year and for the enthusiasm and energy he will bring to implementing activities in 2005. Let me also congratulate the members of the inter-agency working group for sport at the service of peace and development for their excellent work.

The International Year is your Year when you can put sport and physical education on the map, especially at the country level where most activities will take place. It is a great opportunity to promote sport, its values and its importance. Let us do all we can to make the International Year a resounding success.

One important theme of the International Year must be the importance of fair play in sport and therefore I am delighted that Dr Jenö Kamuti, President of the International Fair Play Committee, is with us at MINEPS IV. At tomorrow evening's reception, the Committee's fair play awards will be bestowed upon their deserving recipients and the winners of the Official UNESCO Award for Distinguished Services to Physical Education and Sport will be honoured.

It remains for me to wish that the deliberations and outcomes of MINEPS IV meet all your expectations. It gives me great pleasure to declare open the work of the Fourth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport.

ANNEX 7**LIST OF DOCUMENTS****I. Working documents**

- ⇒ Provisional Agenda (ED-04/MINEPS IV/1 Prov.)
- ⇒ Annotated Agenda (ED-04/MINEPS IV/2)
- ⇒ Working document: (ED-04/MINEPS IV/3)
- ⇒ Draft Rules of Procedure (ED-04/MINEPS IV/4*)

II. Information Documents

- ⇒ General Information (ED-04/MINEPS IV/INF.1)
- ⇒ Provisional List of Participants (ED-04/MINEPS IV/INF.2 Prov.)
- ⇒ Provisional Timetable of Work (ED-04/MINEPS IV/INF.3)
- ⇒ List of Documents (ED-04/MINEPS IV/INF.4)*

III. Commission Documents**Commission I**

- ⇒ International Convention against Doping in Sport: Unresolved Issues (ED-04/MINEPS IV/Com I.)
- ⇒ Trends in comments received from Member States on the Director-General's Preliminary Report on the Preparation of the International Convention Against Doping in Sport and the Preliminary Draft of the Convention (ED-04/MINEPS IV/Com I. Add.)

Commission II

- ⇒ Proposed Strategic Action Plan to Promote Physical Education and Sport (ED-04/MINEPS IV/Com II)

* Previous reference ED-04/MINEPS IV/3 prov.

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