WOMEN AND SPORT - NEW HORIZONS

At its meeting of 26th September, 1995, the Executive Board of the IOC, having heard a report of the Chairman of the Study Commission of the Centennial Olympic Congress, Congress of Unity, considered that it was necessary to intensify without delay the promotion of the presence of women within sport and its technical and administrative structures.

The IOC Executive Board recalls that the goal to be reached within the Olympic Movement is the strict enforcement of the principle of equality between men and women. However, it is aware of the fact that such goal can only be reached everywhere progressively and that to such effect successive stages must be set. The IOC Executive Board has therefore decided to submit the following proposals to the next IOC Session which will take place in July 1996 in Atlanta (USA):
- The NOCs must reserve for women, by December 31st, 2000, at least 10% of the offices in all their decision making structures (in particular all legislative or executive organs), such proportion to reach 20% by December 31st, 2005.
- The International Federations, the National Federations and the sports organizations belonging to the Olympic Movement are strongly invited to include, by December 31st, 2000, at least 10% of women in all their decision making structures (in particular all legislative or executive organs), such proportion to reach 20% by December 31st, 2005.
- The subsequent stages to reach a strict enforcement of the principle of equality between men and women will be determined from the year 2001.
- The Olympic Charter will be amended to take into account the need to ensure equity between men and women.

QUOTATIONS

“We must become effective advocates for women and women’s rights: we must be advocates for equality, not in a confrontational sense, but in the belief that partnership is the best path to progress”.
Nafis Sadik, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund

“What we have had the advantages of education and take for granted the education of our children and their children, know that a girl’s education is not a luxury - it is a human right and an urgent development priority. We all agree that this is so. Let us now move to make it happen”.
Carol Bellamy, Executive Director, United Nations Children’s Fund

“As long as discrimination and inequities remain so commonplace around the world - as long as girls and women are valued less, fed less, fed last, overworked, underpaid, not schooled and subjected to violence in and out of their homes - a prosperous world will not be realized”.
First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, United States of America

“This fight is not just for women, but for society itself. Because a world where - already within in the family - the dignity and the equality of women will earn more respect will be a world which is close to a more peaceful and harmonious place”.
Queen Fabiola of Belgium

“Saving on women’s health and education unacceptable from an ethical point of view. No country and society can afford to lay half of their natural resources to waste, to neglect half of their human potential”.
Hiroshi Nakajima, Director General of the World Health Organization