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PROPOSAL
TO INCLUDE IN THE INTERNATIONAL CHARTER OF
PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT PROVISIONS
DESIGNED TO AVERT THE DANGERS AND HARMFUL INFLUENCES
WHICH ARE A THREAT TO SPORT
REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

SUMMARY

Pursuant to 25 C/Resolution 1.18 adopted by the General Conference at its twenty-fifth session, the Director-General, having noted the advice and proposals of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport, hereby establishes a report on the inclusion in the International Charter of Physical Education and Sport of provisions designed to avert the dangers and harmful influences which are a threat to sport.

1. The substantial development of sport in the past few decades and the growing success everywhere of national, regional and international competitive sporting events have undoubtedly had beneficial effects on the physical and psychological health of the people practising sport, and on the enhancement of social relations and relations between peoples.

2. This prolonged success has, however, gone hand in hand with an escalation of physical and psychological violence, resulting in a growing number of casualties on sports grounds, in stands and around stadiums and threatening the future of sport. All the undesirable phenomena which are a threat to sport, such as doping, chauvinism, extreme politicization, commercialization and illicit advertising also constitute more or less insidious forms of violence which attack, misrepresent, pervert and discredit sport.

3. The multidisciplinary study conducted in 1987 by UNESCO in co-operation with various non-governmental organizations on the origins and manifestations of violence in sport, together with ways of countering it, amounts to a significant contribution by the Organization to the fight against this evil. That study stressed in particular the role played by the International Charter

of Physical Education and Sport in promoting the ethical and moral values of sport.

4. The Charter does indeed emphasize that 'physical education and sport should seek to promote closer communion between peoples and between individuals, together with disinterested emulation, solidarity and fraternity, mutual respect and understanding, and full respect for the integrity and dignity of human beings'. It adds that physical education and sport 'at the community level (...) enrich social relations and develop fair play, which is essential not only to sport itself but also to life in society'.

5. Since the adoption of the Charter in 1978, however, increasingly serious dangers are threatening the moral and ethical values of sport and are likely to corrupt its educational function. In the face of these dangers, governments, intergovernmental organizations and specific non-governmental organizations such as the Olympic Movement have taken steps which require the active co-operation of everyone, at all levels - national, regional and international.

6. To sustain these initiatives, it was therefore necessary to maintain steady pressure on all those able to play a decisive role in countering the harmful influences which are a disgrace to the practice of sport, and to include new provisions in the International Charter which are designed to strengthen its potential to set standards for sport without violence and sport as a factor of personal development.

7. With that end in view, the General Conference at its twenty-fifth session invited the Director-General to 'consider, with the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport, the inclusion in the International Charter of Physical Education and Sport of aspects stemming from the awareness of the dangers and harmful influences which threaten sport, keeping the original text of the Charter as adopted, and to submit a relevant proposal to the General Conference at its twenty-sixth session' (25 C/Resolution 1.18).

8. In the same vein, the General Conference, at its twenty-fifth session, invited the Director-General 'to consider with the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport the inclusion in the International Charter of Physical Education and Sport of a specific reference to the fight against doping, keeping the original text of the Charter as adopted' (25 C/Resolution 1.19).

9. At the Director-General's request, the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport placed these questions on the agenda of its seventh session (Ottawa, 1990). A wide-ranging debate then began on the basis of a draft amendment to the Charter which was considered by the outgoing Bureau at its twenty-eighth session.

10. This draft proposes to add an Article 11 to the text of the Charter calling on the public authorities, specialized non-governmental organizations, the Olympic Movement, and the sporting community to co-operate in the fight against all the harmful influences which pose a threat to sport; it provides for greater prominence to be given in educational curricula to the defence of ethical and moral values, calls for the launching of an ongoing advertising and public awareness campaign and lays particular emphasis on the need for a co-ordinated policy in action to combat doping and its harmful effects on the health of athletes.

11. Most of the delegates who took the floor on the subject of the possible changes to the International Charter of Physical Education and Sport expressed the wish that they concern, as a matter of priority, the fight against doping,

with the media being encouraged to make their own contribution, and also referred to the risks involved in premature specialization added to those of precocious training. Five draft recommendations were proposed in this context by nine delegations and were condensed into Recommendation No. 7, which was adopted by the Intergovernmental Committee.

12. Recommendation No. 7 invited the Bureau 'to examine, in co-operation with the Secretariat and taking into consideration the discussions on this issue that have taken place in the course of the present session, any appropriate amendments to the International Charter of Physical Education and Sport with a view to submitting them to the next session of the General Conference'.

13. The Bureau set up a Working Committee to prepare and propose amendments to the International Charter, taking into account the resolutions of the General Conference at its twenty-fifth session and the discussions and recommendation of CIGEPS at its seventh session.

14. The draft amendment to the Charter is as follows:

Article 7 (new): Protection of the ethical and moral values of physical education and sport must be a constant concern for all

7.1 Top-class sport and sport practised by all must be protected against any abuse. The serious dangers with which phenomena such as violence, doping and commercial excesses threaten its moral values, image and prestige pervert its very nature and change its educative and health-promoting function. The public authorities, voluntary sports associations, specialized non-governmental organizations, the Olympic Movement, educators, parents, supporters' clubs, trainers, sports managers and the athletes themselves must combine their efforts in order to eliminate these evils. The media have a special role to play, in keeping with Article 8, in supporting and disseminating information about these efforts.

7.2 A prominent place must be assigned in curricula to educational activities based on the values of sport and the consequences of the interactions between sport, society and culture.

7.3 It is important that the sports authorities and sportsmen and women be conscious of the risks to athletes, and more especially to children, of precocious and inappropriate training and psychological pressures of every kind.

7.4 No effort must be spared to highlight the harmful effects of doping, which is both injurious to health and contrary to the sporting ethic, or to protect the physical and mental health of athletes, the virtues of fair play and competition, the integrity of the sporting community and the rights of people participating in it at any level whatever. It is crucial that the fight against doping should win the support of national and international authorities at various levels, and of parents, educators, the medical profession, the media, trainers, sports managers and the athletes themselves, to ensure that they abide by the principles set out in the existing texts, and more particularly the International Olympic Charter against Doping in Sport. To that end, a harmonized and concerted policy must guide them in the preparation and application of anti-doping regulations and of the educational action to be undertaken.