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Report

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REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT (CIGEPS) 2008-2009

OUTLINE

Source: Article 12 of the Statutes of CIGEPS.

Background: In accordance with Article 12 of the Statutes of CIGEPS adopted by the General Conference at its 29th session (29 C/Resolution 19), the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Committee hereby reports to the General Conference on the activities of CIGEPS (2008-2009).

Purpose: This report outlines the activities, initiatives and actions carried out within the framework of CIGEPS and under the umbrella of UNESCO's programme for physical education and sport during the 2008-2009 biennium.

1. In line with 34 C/Resolution 36, and as recommended by the Executive Board in 175 EX/Decision 52, the Director-General signed a cooperation agreement with the Minister of State for Sports from the Hellenic Republic on 5 December 2007, concerning the establishment of an Observatory on Women, Sport and Physical Education, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. The agreement is now in the final phase of ratification in the Greek parliament, after which time the Centre will become operational.

2. Responding to the need for an explicit work plan and concrete roadmap reflecting common priorities, four working groups were set up by CIGEPS on Physical Education and Sport in Education Systems, co-chaired by Austria and Lithuania; on Socio-Economic Development, co-chaired by Kenya and Malaysia; on Sport and Culture, co-chaired by Ecuador and Oman; and on the Reform of CIGEPS, coordinated by the representative of Cuba. These working groups were created in accordance with Article 9 of the CIGEPS Statutes which allows for the creation of ad hoc groups to provide technical advice and implement activities.

3. To this end, since 2008, the Committee's action has focused on the following priority areas:
- quality physical education in education systems (in line with the EFA goals);
 - traditional sports and games (in accordance with MINEPS IV and pursuant to 33 C/Resolution 21 to promote and preserve cultural heritage);
 - sport for development and peace (including the promotion of gender parity in sport and the contribution to social and economic development);
 - reform of the Committee's operational structure.
4. Within this framework, CIGEPS was involved in a number of meetings, including the 2nd European Green Festival, held in the Ukraine, from 6 to 9 June 2008, and the 6th World Forum on Sport, Education and Culture, held in Busan, South Korea from 25 to 27 September 2008. The Forum focused on the theme of "Sport and Education for the Now Generation" and the CIGEPS working group on "Sport and Culture" held a roundtable on Traditional Sports and Games on 27 September 2008. Furthermore, a Second Collective Consultation on Traditional Sports and Games, held from 16 to 19 January 2009 in the Islamic Republic of Iran, was attended by international experts in the field and 6 CIGEPS Member States (Algeria, Cameroon, Cuba, Ecuador, Greece and Iran). The objective of this consultation was to develop a definition of Traditional Sports and Games and continue discussions on the creation of an advisory mechanism.
5. Responding to the objective of MP III within document 35 C/5 of "enhancing research-policy linkages in the field of social development and policies relating to physical education and sports", a CIGEPS working groups meeting was convened at UNESCO Headquarters from 22 to 25 February 2009. The purpose of this session was to gauge the progress made by the working groups since their inception, and to identify key issues to be considered at the subsequent plenary session. All members of CIGEPS, and the NGOs and IGOs, as observers, were invited to attend. Participants made recommendations for action with the following two main objectives set: (i) the reform of the Committee; and (ii) the development of the PES strategy 2009-2014.

I. REFORM

6. Encoded in Article 8.1(a) of the Committee's Statutes, CIGEPS is responsible for "guiding and supervising the planning and implementation of UNESCO's programme of activities in the field of physical activity and sport, in particular by recommending priorities among the various activities or groups of activities constituting the programme". The proposed reform focuses on the relevance of this function, and its reliability as an intergovernmental mechanism to achieve this goal within its field of competence.
7. The operational reform of CIGEPS, with a shift from a five-year to a two-year work programme, and the revision of the Statutes, will facilitate increased coherence within the Committee, in an effort to address concerns regarding a lack of communication, coordination and poor visibility. The working groups established the following objectives for the coming biennium 2010-2011:
- identifying best practice examples and developing databases to collect information on international, regional and national initiatives;
 - providing high quality policy advice to governments in the field of physical education and sport in order to translate knowledge into action;
 - organizing regular meetings, workshops, seminars and other forums;

- providing advocacy and creating an experts network as well as sub-networks according to thematic areas;
- developing a framework of good governance to facilitate the functioning of sports organizations.

8. In order to follow-up on the recommendations made during the working group meetings, held in February 2009, and to finalize the reform proposal, an Extraordinary Plenary Session of CIGEPS was convened at UNESCO Headquarters, on 8 and 9 June 2009. This session was attended by CIGEPS Member States, members of the Permanent Consultative Council and, NGOs and IGOs, as observers.

Reform of the Committee

9. Participants agreed upon the maintenance of the intergovernmental nature and the name of CIGEPS. In response to concern regarding the decline in regular budget allocations for CIGEPS activities over the last 10 years, it was proposed that a fund-in-trust could be created.

10. Participants also suggested that the role of Bureau Members should be strengthened to increase the decentralization of the Committee's activities at the regional level. Decentralization would occur by each of the regionally appointed Vice-Presidents taking the lead in activities and, thus, maximizing the visibility of CIGEPS. This visibility could be further enhanced by placing priority on the commissioning of research to assess the role of sport in areas such as health, the economy, society and development and peace.

11. Further to the above, members reached a consensus concerning the Committee's increased involvement in supporting and implementing the Anti-Doping Convention, specifically concerning the promotion of education, culture, peace, positive values and research.

Revision of the Statutes

12. Recognizing that the reform of the Committee and the revision of its Statutes entails institutional and statutory implications, the following proposals for the revision of the Statutes have been discussed by CIGEPS in order to be examined by the General Conference:

1. to increase the number of Member States from 18 to 30 (Article 2.1) and the number of regionally appointed Vice-Presidents from 5 to 6 (Article 7.1);
2. to revitalize the International Fund for the Development of Physical Education and Sport (FIDEPS), in line with 29 C/19 Rev. paragraph 7, by including it under its own Article in the revised Statutes;
3. to establish an International Expert Committee.

II. PES STRATEGY 2009-2014

13. The PES Strategy was presented during the CIGEPS Plenary Session, June 2009 and received full support from the participants, who have been invited to make comments on the preliminary draft. The reformed work plan for CIGEPS will also be finalized in conjunction with the strategy.

14. In addition to feedback from programme partners, the initial development of the strategy was informed by the recommendations and proposed directions arising from the Regional Ministerial Round Table on Sport for Development and Peace, held in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, from 8 to 10 September 2008, and the related International Congress held in Kingston, Jamaica from 13 to 16 September 2008, both of which CIGEPS participated actively in. The outcomes of

the regional consultation, held in Zanzibar, discussing sport's capacity to impact on social, economic, cultural, educational and political development, laid the foundation for debates during the International Congress held in Jamaica, whose recommendations, in turn, have informed the development of a strategy paper.

15. After broad-based consultation, the Strategy will be developed in line with the following four strategic objectives:

- Strategic Objective I: Sport for Development and Peace;
- Strategic Objective II: Physical Education “Formal and Non-Formal”;
- Strategic Objective III: Sport and Culture;
- Strategic Objective IV: Anti-Doping in Sport.

16. The strategic objectives will be streamlined into global, regional and local objectives which will aid the implementation and adoption of recommendations by governments and decision-makers. The strategy will be finalized in consultation with Member States, which will focus UNESCO's work and identify its niche.