



AFRICA INTERNATIONAL SPORTS CONVENTION
1-3 February 2007
Dakar, Senegal

“Sport for Education and Development”

The first Africa International Sport Convention (CISA), an international gathering of sport professionals, was organized in Dakar, Senegal, from 1st to 3rd February 2007 by JAPPO S.A. (www.jappo.org). The event was organized in collaboration with the following sports institutions:

- International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)
- Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA)
- The Supreme Council of Sport in Africa (CSSA)
- Union of African Sports Confederations (UCSA)
- The Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of Francophone Countries (CONFESJES)
- The National Olympic Committee of Senegal (CNOSS)

During three days more than 200 participants from the five continents had the opportunity to discuss five topics related to African sport. The convention was graced by the presence of:

- Five International Olympic Committee (IOC) members
- The IOC Sports Director
- Seven international sports federations Presidents or members
- Six continental sports federations Presidents or members
- More than 30 national sports federations and National Olympic Committees
- The three candidate cities for the 2014 Winter Olympics
- The three candidate cities for the 2014 Commonwealth Games
- Three potential bid cities for the 2016 Summer Olympic Games

During the closing ceremony, the participants, in recognition of the professionalism and quality of the organization and the relevance and richness of the discussions, have unanimously adopted a motion of support for the initiative of JAPPO S.A. and have called on national and international leaders to take action on the resolutions of the convention.

CISA 2007 RESOLUTIONS

State of Affairs

After three days of debate, participants have noted the following conditions:

Topic 1: “Sport as a Means of Education and Social Integration”

- Physical education in schools is regularly decreasing, as well as the practice of sport activities by children outside of school in Africa.
- Governments are investing more in elite-level sports than in sports activities at the community level.
- Sports equipment is too expensive and inaccessible for the majority of the population.
- In a continent where numerous diseases affect children (cholera, malaria, etc), sport is not always used as a way to educate young people.
- The connection between social, local and national actors and the sporting movement is often non-existent or very insignificant, thus preventing concrete actions toward using sport in educational or social ways.
- The majority of new schools being built in urban areas do not have the necessary space for physical education activities.
- In terms of education, there are almost no publications for children informing them of the values of playing sports, like health, creativity, hard work, self-knowledge, etc.
- African athletes do not always play the role of inspiring young people and attracting them to play sports.
- Due to a combination of the regression of sport in schools and the lack of assumption of responsibility by clubs and sports associations, sport is not accessible to all children.

Topic 2: “Conception and Development of Sports Installations for Communities in Africa”

- There is a deficiency of community sports installations allowing the development of sport at the base level and providing incentive to practice sport.
- The majority of new urban neighborhoods being built do not take into consideration the needs of community sports and recreational installations for the residents, and often space is not reserved for these developments
- Apart from rare cases, community sports installations are virtually nonexistent in rural zones.
- Local communities rarely allocate funds in their budget for the development of sports installations or the maintenance of existing ones.
- The majority of existing sports installations are intended for elite-level sports, and thus are not accessible to the communities and schools which are often unable to find ideal space to conduct their physical activities.

Topic 3: “Doping and Preventive Education in Africa”

- There is a deficiency in preventive education programs intended for athletes and their associates.
- The example of traditional Senegalese wrestling shows that the lure of gain or social success pushes the athletes toward doping. It was noted that, in addition to prohibited products, many fighters took substances known as traditional but which were certain to increase their performance.
- There is a need for more training of sports doctors, especially in regard to their lack of knowledge in certain cases of anti-doping rules.
- There are an insufficient number of anti-doping tests conducted across the African continent.

Topic 4: “The Organization of International Multi-sport Events in Africa”

- There is a lack of sports facilities adhering to international standards, and this is a barrier, in the majority of African countries, to hosting international multi-sport events.
- There is a deficit of qualified human resources for administering international multi-sport events. This is a major problem that must be solved, as there are only two or three countries that are accustomed to hosting international sporting events.
- There are real difficulties in terms of the policies of marketing, commercialization, promotion, and communication in the organization of the All-Africa Games or of various African championships. This is also a factor which could prevent the organization of large events which require a huge financial investment.
- The low level of revenues and socio-economic and political situations in African countries are also major obstacles.
- Africa being a continent on the rise, it is certain that the organization of large events on the continent could be used to improve the standards of living with all the jobs created and the realized investment which will remain as a legacy in the society.

Topic 5: “The Participation of African Women in Sport Activities”

- There still exists an inequality between men and women in terms of representation in sports organizations. The leadership posts are often occupied by men.
- It was observed by certain women that there is a lack of consideration by men toward women when they finish their athletic careers. Retirement is often compared to the return to the household, where they are expected to take over domestic responsibilities.
- Certain sports, which are still seen as sports for men, are reluctant to opening the door to women.
- There still exists in Africa a certain social and/or religious pressure which limits the participation of African women in sports activities, especially in rural areas.

CISA 2007 RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the statements and the state of affairs above, the participants:

Topic 1: “Sport as a Means of Education and Social Integration”

- Encourage the clubs, federations, National Olympic Committees, governments and sports organizations to contribute to the return of sport to schools and to revive physical education and sports activities for the benefit of the children and to render sport accessible to all by concrete and concerted actions.
- Invite the governments to contribute to the development of sport and to the access of sports equipment by putting measures in place to reduce taxes on imported sports equipment.
- Wish that more scholarships and financial aids be made available to encourage student-athletes to want to succeed in sports and in their studies.
- Wish that there be a better cooperation between the Minister of Education and that of youth and sports for a better assumption of responsibility in schools.
- Encourage former African athletes and champions to fulfill their responsibility as sports role models and serve as a source of inspiration, education and development.
- Suggest the creation of a network between social actors and sports organizations in order to use sports towards social and educational goals.

Topic 2: “Conception and Development of Sports Installations for Communities in Africa”

- Recommend the construction of sports installations, especially in rural areas, in following the model of Olympafrica, which has already been successful. This specific recommendation is also valid for deprived areas
- Recommend the use of modern technology to build modern multi-sport infrastructures in response to the needs of the community, in order to maximize the cost and life span of these facilities. These infrastructures can be built in proximity to schools and universities and can be opened to the rest of the community outside of school hours.
- Ask the governmental authorities to take into account the importance of having sports installations and playgrounds when constructing new cities and neighborhoods. If the state does not have the means to develop these installations, private sports companies can contribute to the financing and management of these installations following the terms and a predefined lease.
- Ask the local communities and sports associations to be more interested in the financing of community sports installations, which can, in addition to contributing to the development of sport, create and maintain jobs.
- Suggest that there be a good cooperation between governments, local communities, and the private sector to encourage the creation and development of sports installations.
- Suggest that proximity sports installations be created wherever possible to urge populations to practice sport, and so that make the youth feel like making a vocation of sport and thus bring sport within everyone’s reach.

Topic 3: “Doping and Preventive Education in Africa”

- Recommend creating more training programs for athletes and their associates.
- Encourage the education of sports doctors and creating training courses to familiarize them with anti-doping rules.
- Suggest the creation of new anti-doping control centers and improve the quality of existing ones.
- Encourage the distribution of anti-doping rules in national languages in order to influence the collective conscience wherever possible.

Topic 4: “The Organization of International Multi-sport Events in Africa”

- Propose the strong support of African of a proposition to the IOC of rotating by continent the host country of the Olympic Games.
- Suggest that solutions are first found for the difficulties encountered in regards to policies of marketing, commercialization, promotion, and communication in organizing sports events on the *continental* level, before attempting to organize *international* multi-sport events.
- Call for a real reflection on the constantly increasing size and cost of certain sporting events such as the Olympic Games.
- Recognize the opportunity for Africa from a philosophical point of view of welcoming events such as the Olympic Games and,
- Recommend that Africa continue to progress in the creation of sports, communication and hotel infrastructures, in acquiring experience in organizing events such as continental and regional games, and multi-sport competitions in general.
- Recognize the need for combining the means of Africa by associating geographically close cities in order to increase its chance to accommodate by 2020-24 the first ever Olympic Games on African soil.

Topic 5: “The Participation of African Women in Sport Activities”

- Wish to see a real implication of women in all levels, and notably at the base.
- Suggest the maintenance of the quota system, which shows value, while waiting for perfect gender equality.
- Suggest the development of sports in rural, educational, conflict areas in order to facilitate access to sport for girls living in these zones.
- Suggest the creation of communication networks:
 - between African women
 - between African women and those from other continents
 - between commissions and workgroups
 - between men and women
- Suggest of specific programs at all levels for women
 - at the practice level
 - at the level of leading authorities
- Ask for better follow-up and evaluation by international authorities of the recommendations and resolutions on the implication of women in sports activities.