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REPORT

IOC / ONOC REGIONAL SEMINAR ON WOMEN AND SPORT FOR THE NOCS OF OCEANIA

Organized in cooperation with Olympic Solidarity

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<p>1) Introduction</p>	<p>The seminar was a to follow-up on the previous one for the same NOCs which was held in Raratonga, Cook Islands, in 2001. The local organization and logistics were handled by ONOC, with the support of the New Zealand Olympic Committee. The IOC and Olympic Solidarity representatives, with the support of ONOC, served as facilitators of the workshop.</p>
<p>1.1 Objectives</p>	<p>The objectives of the seminar were the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To identify existing challenges for the Oceania women in the field of sport and evaluate progress made since last regional workshop in 2001. 2. To identify ways to increase the number of Oceania women in leadership positions in sport organizations 3. To consolidate existing relationships between the “women and sport” movement and relevant partners and build new partnerships 4. To stimulate the development of policies/strategies and new field projects for girls and women by NOCs. 5. To stimulate the creation and/or further support NOCs’ Women & Sport Commissions 6. To provide participants with up-to-date information about IOC policies and activities for women in sport and Olympic Solidarity assistance programmes.
<p>1.2 The delegates</p>	<p>Women delegates of 13 NOCs attended the seminar. Only Guam and Palau were absent. The majority of the delegates had long experience in sport at national and regional level. Some had previously worked specifically in the field of women’s promotion in sport.</p> <p>In addition to one delegate per NOC covered by Olympic Solidarity, ONOC financially supported the participation of an additional delegate per NOC and of the members of the Oceania Women & Sport Commission (OWIS). ONOC also met the cost of the participation of a representative of Niue which does not have an NOC, of the Australian Sports Commission, and a number of observers from the regional sports movement.</p> <p><i>(Annex 1: list of participants)</i></p>
<p>1.3 The programme</p>	<p>The programme was jointly elaborated by the IOC and OWIS to ensure that the seminar addressed relevant regional issues for women in sport and provide the necessary support and training to the participants.</p> <p>During the three days, the seminar combined presentations by keynote speakers and exercise/group sessions during which participants could interact and address specific themes and management challenges. Themes covered IOC policy on gender equality, Olympic Solidarity programmes, management and leadership, as well as opportunities for regional partnerships and cooperation. Practical sessions were held about election processes, internet and communication tools, management skills, capacity building, networking and lobbying.</p> <p>A special session was also held with OWIS members to review and update their regional action plan and discuss strategies for the implementation of their activities.</p> <p>The format and content of the seminar were appreciated by the participants.</p> <p><i>(Annex 2: programme / Annex 3: workshop speakers-facilitators / Annex 4: texts of presentations / Annex 5: new OWIS action plan)</i></p>

<p>2) Assessment</p>	<p>This was a highly successful seminar in terms of outcomes. The involvement of the continental association in developing the agenda and the format of the seminar contributed to that success. In a word, the objective of supporting the IOC agenda on promoting women in support and providing a forum for exchange of ideas between players, was achieved.</p> <p><i>(Annex 6: news stories)</i></p>
<p>2.1 Progress achieved and remaining challenges</p>	<p>Participants interacted and fully took part in the discussions, sharing ideas, expertise and concerns about the situation of women in sport in their countries and the region in general. Their input was a key element in the success of the workshop.</p> <p>Although the reality varied from country to country, it was important to note that gender issues are increasingly being addressed by NOCs through a variety of activities and programmes. Numerous initiatives have been implemented since 2001 in Oceania targeting girls and women and facilitating their participation in sport. Most of the initiatives have been financially supported by the NOCs themselves and partner organisations who have provided resources. While Olympic Solidarity programmes have also been exploited successfully by some of the NOCs.</p> <p>Participants identified various issues which they said needed to be addressed in order improve the promotion of women in sport with the cooperation of NOCs, ONOC, the IOC and Olympic Solidarity.. In particular, support for women's development in sports administration and support services and women athletes was considered to be insufficient and unequal.</p>
<p>2.2 Women in sport leadership</p>	<p>More than half of the NOCs in Oceania have already met the IOC minimum target of 20 per cent women in their executive boards. Several women are also serve on various decision-making levels of national and regional sports federations.</p> <p><i>(Annex 7: statistics)</i></p> <p>Through a specific practical session on election processes and networking, the participants were able to learn key issues and strategies to keep in mind when engaging in sport leadership to maximise their chances of success.</p> <p>Most women who are already in leadership positions in the region are motivated and are operating in a supportive environment with the backing of their organizations. Those who are still aspiring to get to the top are still facing major challenges.</p>

<p>2.3 New projects and strategies & policies</p>	<p>Good practices and “model” projects of some NOCs were identified and will serve as guide for those who are yet to develop specific programmes for the promotion of women in sport. The NOCs took the opportunity provided by the seminar to develop specific projects which they will submit to their NOCs for consideration and to the IOC for support.</p>
<p>2.4 Stronger network and partnerships</p>	<p>The workshop showed that the Oceania women and sport network has been strengthening over the years. The majority of NOCs have appointed focal persons who are responsible for developing and implementing women and sport projects.</p> <p>Few delegates are regularly exchanging information about their activities and benefit from others’ experiences, although not in a systematic way.</p> <p>Although recently created OWIS is expected to play an important role in supporting regional network and ensure a continuous communication between NOCs. Delegates identified areas of activities and strategies to be developed to enable OWIS to effectively play its role as coordinator of, and support activities promoting women and sport in the region.</p> <p>Similarly, the NOCs themselves have committed themselves to consolidating the network by providing information to the newly-developed OWIS internet pages on the ONOC website and updating their own national websites related to women and sport activities.. A special practical session was held to demonstrate the usefulness of this communication. ONOC had arranged for some computers to be available and connected to the website, enabling participants to use this tool there.</p> <p>Finally, the workshop also provided an opportunity to the delegates to strengthen their potential partnership with the IOC, Olympic Solidarity, and the Australian Sport Commission, through direct interaction with their respective representatives.</p>
<p>2.5 Women and Sport Commissions</p>	<p>While most NOCs in the region have established women and sport commissions, others have yet to do so or have preferred to mainstream gender promotion and related projects in the overall activities of the NOCs.</p> <p>Nevertheless, it was clear in the discussions that the majority of participants saw the women and sport commissions as the best way to ensure sustainable support and implementation of women in sport programmes. Although some women in sport commissions have been in existence for several years and have developed structures and set themselves specific objectives, there was still a need to help them by developing, missions, standard objectives and possible field activities lists. The development of such guidelines will help both the NOCs that already have operational commissions and those that are planning to establish their own.</p>
<p>2.6 IOC policy and OS programmes</p>	<p>Participants were provided up-to-date information on IOC policies and programmes in support of women in sport so that they could better understand how and where additional resources could be provided for their activities.</p> <p>Similarly, the presentation of Olympic Solidarity programmes, and the ensuing practical sessions which, enabled them to develop project proposals, was well received by delegates who did not always have a clear idea of what was available to them and how they could use these resources. It is anticipated that the women present will be able to make a better use of these programmes through their NOCs in the future.</p> <p>Delegates were also able to access detailed information about the Australian South Pacific development programme which provides additional opportunities and resources for their activities.</p>

<p>3) Recommendations</p>	<p>Participants recommend as follows to NOCs to support the implementation of projects to promote women in sport at national level.</p> <p><i>IOC / Olympic Solidarity / ONOC support programmes & policies</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Urge NOC's and their women and sport commissions to make better use of the Olympic Solidarity programs to support activities for women and girls' participation in sport.2. Encourage NOC's to nominate suitable candidates for the IOC Women and Sport Trophy and consider same candidates for renomination where necessary. <p><i>NOC Programs and Women and Sport Commissions</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Encourage NOC's and ONOC to develop action plan on gender's policies and programs, using women and sport commissions or other related organizations. Network with different sectors of society (e.g. health, education, development, business community, etc.), to support activities.4. Encourage NOC's and ONOC to empower their women and sport commissions. They should provide them with financial support for their action plans and consider them as an important tool to promote greater participation of girls and women in sport in their countries.5. Urge ONOC Women and Sport Commission to review its action plan and regularly monitor and evaluate results.6. Encourage NOCs to create and continuously update national databases of women's participation and general involvement in sport at all levels (athletes, coaches, administrators, technical officials, mentors etc.)7. Recommend to NOCs the annual organization of the Oceania Walk and Talk. <p><i>Leadership</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">8. Urge NOCs to ensure that the IOC minimum target of 20 per cent women in executive committees is met by the end of 2005, and request that National Federations be encouraged to do the same too.9. Have women & sport commissions monitor the vacancy calendar of decision-making positions, get accurate information about the selection/election processes, and assist National Federations to identify eligible women candidates. <p><i>Advocacy and Role Models</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">10. Recommend that ONOC should closely monitor NOC support for women athletes and include them in advocacy and promotional activities.11. Urge women and sport commissions to regularly share information and success stories about their activities on the continental, national and other websites.12. Urge women and sport commissions and OWIS to develop close working relationship with the media so that women and sport activities get a better and fair attention and coverage.
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4) Follow-up measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The IOC will send letters of support to NOC presidents encouraging e them to support the implementation of the strategies and activities which were identified by the seminar.• The IOC will encourage ONOC to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the action plans and national initiatives by women in sport..• The participants have been added to the IOC mailing list so that they may be kept informed of IOC women and sport activities and initiatives.• The IOC will assist NOCs with their national projects, through Olympic Solidarity's "Women and Sport" programme, and through technical support and advise.• The IOC will evaluate the practical results of the seminar in six months by polling the participants.
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