

MOVING ON FROM WINDHOEK

CONTEXT

The Windhoek Call for Action builds on the Brighton Declaration on Women and Sport and links in to relevant international instruments, especially the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The Brighton Declaration focuses on principles and awareness:

- the **principles** that should underlie the development of sport so that it includes and reflects the needs of women, and
- the need for national and international **awareness** on these issues.

The Windhoek Call for Action moves from statements of principle and raising awareness to **action**.

PURPOSE

This document describes how the Brighton Declaration and the Windhoek Call for Action will be promoted and monitored.

THE WAY FORWARD

The issue of women and sport is much higher up the political and sporting agenda than it was in 1994, and the Brighton Declaration has world-wide currency. However, sport is still facing a series of contemporary challenges and in many parts of the world continues to be seen as a predominantly male institution with little relevance to women's lives.

In order to further advance women and sport issues within the international arena, a co-ordinated, strategic and purposeful approach is required. Such an approach should focus on translating policy into practice. Key elements of this approach will include:

- Commitment to the implementation of the principles and actions contained within the Brighton Declaration on Women and Sport and the Windhoek Call for Action.
- Maximizing international co-ordination mechanisms, such as co-operation between the IWG, the IOC Working Group on Women and Sport, WSI, IAPESGW, UN Commission on the Status of Women and others.
- Regular conferences and opportunities for information exchange.
- Developing and maintaining strategic alliances with the global women's development movement.
- The continuation of the IWG in a facilitating, supporting and monitoring role.
- The staging of a World Conference on Women and Sport in Canada in 2002.

PROMOTING AND MONITORING

In order for the process of change to continue, there is a need for an international co-ordinating mechanism. For the time being, this is the international Working Group on Women and Sport (IWG).

The IWG is an informal, co-ordinating body consisting of government and key non-government organizations with the over-arching objectives of promoting and facilitating the development of opportunities for girls and women in sport and physical activity through the world.

The IWG acts as a catalyst for existing agencies and encourages and supports effective advocacy on behalf of women and girls. It has the following aims:

- To monitor the adoption of the Brighton Declaration and the implementation of the Windhoek Call for Action by governments, national, regional and international organizations world-wide.
- To draw up an IWG action plan, with priorities, which targets those areas and organizations where equality for women and sport is not on the agenda
- To act as a contact and reference point for international and national organizations and regional women and sport groups, focusing on international developments on women and sport and facilitating the exchange of information.
- To act as a "steward" for the 2002 World Conference on Women and Sport, at which time progress on the strategy will be assessed.
- In co-operation with other agencies, seek the inclusion of issues relating to women and sport on the agendas of major international conferences and to provide advice on the content of international conferences that address the issue of women and sport.
- To develop and maintain alliances with the global women's development movement.

WHO CAN PLAY A PART?

A range of government and non-government organizations, groups, fora and individuals have the potential to be influential in the advancement of women in and through sport, including:

- International governmental fora like the United Nations (UN), the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM), the Organization of American States (OAS), and others.
- International sport organizations including the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the General Assembly of International Sports Federations (GAISF), the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa (SCSA) and the CONFESPORT.
- National governments, quasi-government and non-government sport agencies; International and national sports federations;
- International, regional and national women and sport groups such as WomenSport International (WSI), the International Association for Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women (IAPESGW), European Women and Sport Group (EWS), African Women in Sport Association (AWISA), Women's Sport Foundation of the USA (WSF) and the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport (CAAWS);
- International and national government and non-government women's groups including the United Nations Commission for the Status of Women;
- Agencies that provide support for global development initiatives, such as governmental Official Development Assistance agencies, the private sector and NGO's.
- Other groups influencing national and international sport development, such as the International Council for Sports Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE) and its member

organizations, the International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance (ICHPER-SD).

- And of course, **individual action is the key to initiating change.**