



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between the International Olympic Committee and the World Health Organization

The International Olympic Committee (hereinafter referred to as "IOC") and the World Health Organization (hereinafter referred to as "WHO") share the view that all human beings have the right to aspire to harmonious and healthy development, both physically and intellectually, and to live in decent and peaceful conditions in respect of the universal fundamental ethical principles. Health is more than ever a shared responsibility, involving equitable access to essential care and collective defense against transnational threats. In this context, both Parties recognize that physical inactivity, (a lack of physical activity) is an independent risk factor for noncommunicable diseases (NCD), which cause millions of deaths globally.

The goal of the IOC and of the Olympic Movement is to contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport practiced without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding in a spirit of friendship, solidarity, and fair-play. Furthermore, it encourages and supports measures protecting the health of athletes and the development of sport for all. To this end, it engages in cooperation with other organizations and within the limits of its means, in actions to promote healthy lifestyles, foster peaceful dialogue, provide assistance, and contribute to human development through sport and physical activity.

WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends. Recognizing the unique opportunity that exists to formulate and implement an effective strategy for substantially reducing deaths and disease burden worldwide due to NCD the 61st World Health Assembly endorsed a six year Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases. Objective 3 of the Action Plan is *To promote interventions to reduce the main shared modifiable risk factors for noncommunicable diseases: tobacco use, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol*. The Action Plan builds on and includes the actions contained within the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, endorsed by the Health Assembly in May 2004, which aims to reduce risk factors for noncommunicable diseases that stem from unhealthy diets and physical inactivity through public health actions, increase awareness and understanding on these topics, develop, strengthen and implement related global, regional, national policies and action plans as well as monitor science and promote research.

With this in mind, the IOC and WHO hereby agree to join their efforts and to cooperate, within their respective mandates and rules, to promote healthy life-styles, physical activity and sport for all among the communities, in a framework of health legacy and sustainable development in line with the Millennium Development Goals. The IOC and WHO undertake to encourage advocacy and field-level activities in pursuit of these objectives among their respective networks, in particular among WHO regional and country offices and National Olympic Committees.

To this end, the Parties have agreed to establish a follow-up group that will meet at least annually to further define, develop and maintain a programme of international cooperation and implement activities of common interest. It will enable a regular exchange of information and lessons learned between both Parties, as well as enable the preparation, publication and dissemination of information and pronouncements of mutual interest on these objectives. The means of financing all activities will be jointly defined by an exchange of letters between the Parties on a project-by-project basis.

This Agreement shall remain in force for five (5) years or until such earlier time as one party informs the other in writing that it wishes to terminate the Agreement.

Signed in Lausanne, Switzerland, on 21 July 2010, in two originals in English and French.

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President
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Director-General
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