



Olympic Solidarity

Creation and Development



Olympic Solidarity

Creation and Development

Summary

- 2 Introduction by Mario Vázquez Raña
Chairman of the Olympic Solidarity Commission
- 4 Olympic Solidarity
Founders and visionary minds
- 8 Olympic Solidarity Commission
Decisions and achievements
- 12 Role of the Olympic Solidarity Commission
Basic Principles

*Published by Olympic Solidarity in two editions
(English/Spanish and English/French). © 2006*

Cover: The Greek windsurfer, Nicolaos Kakalamanakis carrying the Olympic Flame during the opening ceremony of the Games of XXVIII Olympiad in Athens (above); Mathias Ntawulikura, Olympic Scholarship holder, entering the Olympic Stadium at the end of the Marathon, Athens 2004 (below).

© Illustration: International Olympic Committee, Getty Images, Photodisc.

Printed in Switzerland by Courvoisier Arts Graphiques SA.

Olympic Solidarity

A rallying concept



Introduction by Mario Vázquez Raña
Chairman of the Olympic Solidarity Commission



The origin and development of a true Olympic Solidarity concept, a process constantly being perfected, has become a cornerstone for the work of the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and, as a consequence, a factor that has significantly contributed towards ensuring their normal operation, enabling them to enjoy greater independence and autonomy.

The Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) considers it vitally important, for the current and future work of Olympic Solidarity, to preserve and duly update the history of the origins and development of this organisation, which is essential to meet challenges that are important for the Olympic Movement. Knowing and understanding how Olympic Solidarity was created; what obstacles had to be overcome; how the initial ideas were developed from a total lack of resources in the beginning to the very diverse financial benefits and options available today – such knowledge is a requirement for those who are to assume responsibilities in leading an NOC.

ANOC has played a prime role and participated actively in the decisions taken by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in the last 25 years, in order to fulfil the objectives the Olympic Movement set itself at each stage. Without any doubt, one of these decisions that became a milestone within our Movement was the creation of Olympic Solidarity.

The purpose of this document is to officially record, briefly, the history of Olympic Solidarity, from the initial ideas to the present day, as well as the way in which ANOC contributed to the evolution of the concept up to its current level of development. There is, at times, a certain lack of knowledge regarding Olympic Solidarity and

Opening Ceremony of
the Games of the XXVIII
Olympiad in Athens
in 2004.



imprecise notions that lead to inaccurate interpretations of a topic, which is of much relevance for all members of ANOC. The aim of this summary is therefore to contribute to clarifying the essential aspects of Olympic Solidarity's philosophy and tasks.

A new era is now being opened in Olympic Solidarity's work which, while improving its quality continues its mission, with the means available, of responding to the fundamental interests and needs of the NOCs. For this reason and with the purpose of duly recording the circumstances of the creation and most important moments in the life of Olympic Solidarity, the content of this document is defined hereafter and to which the further activities to be developed in the years to come may subsequently be added.

The hard and acclaimed work carried out by outstanding leaders of the Olympic Movement, particularly from ANOC and the NOCs, should never be forgotten; on the contrary, it must remain a compulsory reference in order to strive for the historical continuation of what has been achieved so far, further improving it and rendering its underlying, profoundly humane philosophy an everlasting achievement.

The overall objective of these present thoughts on the evolution of Olympic Solidarity is to do justice to the pioneers, leave a record of the rich and marvellous history which has been experienced, strengthen convictions as to the necessity of preserving the principles from which Olympic Solidarity originated and offer the new generations of sports leaders a truthful and updated legacy regarding one of the most wonderful pages ever written in the history of modern Olympism.



1962

The Count Jean de Beaumont creates the **Committee for International Olympic Aid**.

1960-1970

Over 50 new National Olympic Committees join the Olympic Family.

1969

The Permanent General Assembly of the NOCs creates the **International Institute for the Development of NOCs**.

Olympic Solidarity

Founders and visionary minds

In 1962 and with a view to providing support to the countries of Asia and Africa that had just obtained their independence, Count Jean de Beaumont (France), created the Committee for International Olympic Aid. This initiative was approved by the Session of the IOC. The idea, inspired by a noble purpose, had a deep moral meaning.

However, a complete lack of financial resources at that time did not allow for any important contributions to the NOCs that needed them the most.

Gathered in 1969 and with the purpose of finding an efficient way of contributing to the development of the NOCs, and in particular those that needed it

most, the Permanent Assembly of the NOCs, upon the proposal of President Giulio Onesti (Italy) and with the support of Msrs. Raoul Mollet (Belgium) and Raymond Gafner (Switzerland), approved the creation of the International Institute for the Development of NOCs. The need to introduce a principle of solidarity in the relations between the NOCs was the fundamental reason that inspired this important decision.

In 1971, the IOC and the NOCs' representatives agreed to merge the Committee for International Olympic Aid and the International Institute for Development, to form an IOC–NOCs joint organisation, which was named the Committee for Olympic Solidarity.



The 60th Session of the International Olympic Committee in 1962.



1971

The IOC, under the presidency of Avery Brundage, and the NOCs representatives merge the two entities (the Committee for International Olympic Aid and the International Institute for the Development of NOCs) to form the **Committee for Olympic Solidarity**.

1973-1978

Efforts of solidarity are pursued to assist NOCs in most need.



Sir Henry Banks who managed the Olympic Solidarity Office.

Giulio Onesti, in his capacity as representative of the Permanent Assembly and Vice-President of the Joint Committee, worked intensely to coordinate the activities from Rome and to facilitate collaboration between the IOC and the NOCs. The IOC Technical Director, Mr. Henry Banks (Great Britain), took over the responsibility for the Solidarity Office.

Between **1973** and **1978**, efforts were pursued to promote support and cooperation activities for the benefit of the NOCs most in need. A sense of solidarity was emerging and developing, as an essential ingredient of the Olympic Movement. The intense work performed at that time was a praiseworthy one, and its protagonists deserve the highest recognition for having initiated the first steps. Nevertheless, in practical terms, the lack of financial resources prevented any important progress. It should be noted that in the 60's and 70's, over 50 new Olympic Committees were created in countries, which had very scarce resources and needed help to develop sport. This new reality determined the urgency to undertake large-scale permanent actions in order to support these NOCs.



Giulio Onesti.



1979

The constituent Assembly of ANOC in Puerto Rico. The request is submitted to the IOC to reserve 20% of the television rights corresponding to the NOCs' share for ANOC.



1980

Juan Antonio Samaranch succeeds Lord Killanin as President of the International Olympic Committee.



The birth of the ANOC, as the organisation encompassing and representing all the NOCs of the world, supported by the strength and unity of its members, and taking up the baton passed on by the Permanent Assembly, asserted as one of its principal missions, the implementation of a real concept of Olympic Solidarity. At the constituent Assembly of ANOC, held in Puerto Rico in 1979, the creation of a Working Group, made up of Peter Ritter (Liechtenstein), Raymond Gafner (Switzerland), Günther Heinze (Former German Democratic Republic) and Raoul Mollet (Belgium) was approved. This Working Group was in charge of elaborating a proposal requesting the IOC to give ANOC 20% of the television rights, corresponding to the NOCs' share, in order to cover its activities and administrative duties. ANOC President Mario Vázquez Raña presented the document on ANOC's position to the IOC President, Lord Killanin.

The election of Juan Antonio Samaranch as President of the IOC in 1980 brought about a radical change in the concept, focus and projects of Olympic Solidarity. His clear vision, sensitivity, and desire to find solutions to meet the NOCs' needs, coincided with the position sustained by ANOC.

Peter Ritter, Raymond Gafner, Günther Heinze and Raoul Mollet (from top to bottom).



1981

During the Olympic Congress in Baden-Baden, under the proposal of Mario Vázquez Raña, the IOC grants the first important subsidy for the running of ANOC.

At the ANOC Working Meeting organised in September 1981 in Baden-Baden, Germany, an important donation was obtained through an initiative by the ANOC President and the first subsidy from the IOC for the running of ANOC was received.

In 1981, within the framework of the Olympic Congress in Baden-Baden, the President of the IOC, Juan Antonio Samaranch and the President of ANOC, Mario Vázquez Raña, set up the Olympic Solidarity Commission with an up to date strategy to respond to the interests and needs of the NOCs. Thus, the period that can be identified as the consolidation and development stage of Olympic Solidarity was initiated.



NOC delegates at the ANOC Working Meeting during the Olympic Congress in Baden-Baden



1981

The IOC President, seconded by the ANOC President, head the Olympic Solidarity Commission.

1983

The post of director of Olympic Solidarity becomes a full time position.

Olympic Solidarity Commission Decisions and achievements

In 1981, the IOC integrated the Olympic Solidarity Commission, with an adequate balance in the membership between representatives from the IOC and the NOCs – the IOC President acting as Chairman of the Commission and the ANOC President as Vice-Chairman.

The Commission enjoys administrative autonomy in accordance with its mandate and responsibilities. The Chairman developed the administrative structure of the Commission so as to implement the corresponding activities. In 1982, Anselmo López (Spain) was appointed Director of Olympic Solidarity in an honorary capacity. From 1983, the post became a full time position, with all attributions inherent to such an important responsibility.

From the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984 and onwards, the increasing income generated by television rights made it possible to take further steps forward, progressing from a general subsidy to a structure administering this income, according to the distribution parameters established by the IOC.



Anselmo López, Director of Olympic Solidarity from 1983, implements in 1985 the quadrennial plan and introduces, in 1989, the Olympic Scholarship Programme.



1984

The increase in the revenues from the television rights allow the launch of key programmes to assist NOCs.

2001

Launch of the decentralisation process of the funds towards the Continental Associations.

The systematic development of the Commission's work, coupled with increased funds received from the commercialisation of the Olympic Games, made it possible to introduce major support programmes for the NOCs, eventually reaching the current stage whereby, through the implementation of quadrennial plans consisting in World and Continental Programmes, the 202 NOCs of the world are receiving the benefits offered by Olympic Solidarity in a fair and rational way.

Upon a proposal made by the ANOC President, Mario Vázquez Raña and approved by the IOC President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, a process of decentralisation of the funds towards the Continental Associations was initiated in 2001. The objective was that the Continental Associations should be able to decide on the use of financial resources according to their particular needs and at the same time, allow for a more focused attention on the specific priorities and interests of the NOCs and Continental Associations.



The ANOC General Assembly in Rio in 2000. Carlos Arthur Nuzman, Mario Vázquez Raña, Juan Antonio Samaranch and João Havelange (from left to right).



2001

Long time Vice President of ANOC, Jacques Rogge is elected President of the IOC.

2001-2004

Introduction of the quadrennial plan and attribution of 40% of the funds for development to ANOC and to the Continental Associations.



In July 2001, Dr. Jacques Rogge was elected President of the International Olympic Committee. As everyone is aware, he had collaborated for a number of years as a member of ANOC, displaying in-depth knowledge of the work of that organisation as well as of the NOCs' needs and priorities.



The new IOC President took the decision to further strengthen the activity of the Commission and reaffirmed his willingness to continue Olympic Solidarity's political and operational decentralisation process towards the Continental Associations and ANOC. To reach this objective, the following decisions were taken:

- The IOC President appointed the President of ANOC as Chairman of the Olympic Solidarity Commission.
- The Commission was re-structured to include 15 members, the majority being Continental Association, ANOC and athlete representatives.
- The Olympic Solidarity 2001-2004 quadrennial plan was introduced, through which the management of 40% of the funds earmarked for development programmes was transferred to ANOC and the Continental Associations.



Olympic Solidarity provides unprecedented assistance via the programmes and granting of scholarships. From top to bottom Janica Kostelić, skier, Kaltouma Nadjina, runner and Marcos Baghdatis, tennis player.



2005-2008

For the new quadrennial plan, the Olympic Solidarity Commission widens the decentralisation process to the Continental Associations and increases the financial assistance to the NOCs.



Mario Vázquez Raña during the Olympic Solidarity meeting in Mexico City in 2005.

The Chairman of the Commission decided to reinforce the structures in each continent, thus providing increased control over the programmes and activities developed in the continents.

For the current 2005-2008 period, the mission of Olympic Solidarity has been strengthened and consolidated, whilst maintaining the structure of the Commission as well as its functions, its fields of responsibility, its relations with the IOC, and its management areas.

For the 2005-2008 quadrennial, the Olympic Solidarity Commission is committed to: further improve the application of the World and Continental programmes and make them as efficient as possible; improve the process of decentralisation towards the Continental Associations; increase financial support to the NOCs; and strengthen control mechanisms in the use of financial resources assigned to each activity, applying the audit and verification measures that the Commission considers to be necessary.



Emblem of the Association of National Olympic Committees.



Role of the Olympic Solidarity Commission

Basic Principles

Olympic Solidarity's main mission is to plan, organise and control the execution of the support programmes for the NOCs, particularly those that need it most, as stipulated in the Olympic Charter.

The Commission is responsible for managing the activities of Olympic Solidarity through: approval of programmes; approval of budgets; execution of the programmes and their logistic needs; recording and controlling activities; as well as all other actions relating to the objectives for which it was created.

The Olympic Solidarity Commission has a close working relationship with the IOC Executive Board and President, regularly informing them about its operations.

The management of Olympic Solidarity reports to the Commission and is responsible for executing and controlling the agreements





adopted by the Commission as well as for carrying out instructions received from the Chairman of the Commission. It benefits from financial, technical and administrative autonomy in order to efficiently carry out its work.

Olympic Solidarity is totally funded by the share of the TV rights from the broadcasting of the Olympic Games, which belongs to the NOCs.

Olympic Solidarity will remain consistent with its history, with its noble mission of supporting the NOCs and with the great challenges to be met by the Olympic Movement.

Olympic Solidarity



- ◀ Meeting of the Olympic Solidarity Commission in 2005, in Mexico. Surrounding the Chairman, members of the Olympic Solidarity Commission, the Director and the programme managers.

All pulling
together





Olympic Solidarity

