



**Press Release - 01/15/2007**

**INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC FORUM 'YOUTH, SPORT AND PEACE':  
A FRESH MOMENTUM FOR THE AFRICAN YOUTH**

**The maiden International Olympic Forum on "Youth, Sport and Peace" in Africa held in Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of Congo from 9–11 January 2007 under the auspices of H. E. Denis SASSOU N'GUESSO, Head of State and Chairman-in Office of the African Union, Dr. Jacques ROGGE, President of the International Olympic Committee and General Lassana PALENFO, President of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa.**

From deliberations of the forum that brought together Olympic institutions and the African Sport Movement, Governments, Governmental and Non-Governmental organisations emerged new orientations on concerted youth-oriented actions through Sport and for Peace.

Stakeholders like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO, The Supreme Council of Sport for Africa, CONFEJES, International Federations, NGOs, and private partners strongly voiced their resolve to evolve and implement development-oriented initiatives for the benefit of the African Youth.

The Young who are left to fend for themselves in major African cities, villages across inner Africa and in refugee camps were the focus of special attention. Other themes that impact on the African society were equally addressed by participants: viz Women in Sport and the situation in Refugee Camps.

The forum also showcased numerous sporting activities organised across the Congolese capital city and was attended by world class champions and athletes like **Marie-José Pérec**, three times Olympic gold medallist and UNESCO Ambassador, **Frankie Fredericks**, one of the greatest world sprinters and **Kip Keino**, the athletics legend of Kenya and Africa.

Deliberations of this major gathering concluded with the signing of a ground-breaking document for the benefit of the African Youth entitled "**The Brazzaville Declaration**" that provides for the establishment of a "**Youth, Sport and Peace**" Fund. Following the signing of the Declaration, the President of ANOCA declared "*This constitutes a fresh momentum for our Youth*".

It should also be noted that on the sidelines of the forum, the President of ANOCA and the CONFEJES Secretary General signed a **Partnership Convention** designed to harmonise development actions of both institutions targeted for French-speaking States of Africa and the India Ocean.

The purport of the Convention is to foster dissemination of sports-related information, support the development and follow-up of national sports development policies and encourage the practice of sport by the majority of the public at large. It further includes provisions on health protection, athlete's career and cooperation in the organisation and management of international and continental sporting events.

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