ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES
XVI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT

Beijing – April the 7th, 2008

The XVI General Assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees, gathered in the city of Beijing, venue of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, with the presence of its 205 member NOCs, has considered that :

- The Olympic Charter clearly defines that the Olympic Movement is the concerted, organized, universal and permanent action carried out under the supreme authority of the International Olympic Committee.

- The Olympic Games have as one of its fundamental objectives to contribute towards peace and the development of friendship and collaboration amongst all people worldwide.

- The Games of the XXIX Olympiad were granted to the city of Beijing through a process rigorously based on the rules and procedures established by the International Olympic Committee.

- The Beijing Olympic Games, in recent times, have been subject to questionings and criticisms in which political elements foreign to the Olympic Charter and the philosophy of our Movement have been present.

- The Olympic Movement, of which ANOC is one of the main pillars, has the obligation to defend the athletes' right to participate in the Olympic Games and to protect these Games from any kind of action that could damage its objectives, values and principles.

Further to these considerations, the XVI ANOC General Assembly

DECLARES

FIRST : Its full support to the city of Beijing in the organization of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, in fulfillment to its commitment towards the International Olympic Committee and the athletes worldwide.

SECOND : The decision of the 205 National Olympic Committees members of ANOC to participate in the Olympic Games and strengthen the preparation of their athletes, contributing to the successful staging of the Games.

THIRD : Its rejection of any intent to use the Olympic Games for political ends, firmly defending the name and image of the Games, as well

as the athletes' right to participate in this great festival of worldwide youth.

FOURTH : Its confidence that the government of the People's Republic of China shall strive to find, through dialogue and understanding, a fair and reasonable solution to the internal conflicts, for the benefit of the Games and the athletes.

XVI GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ANOC

During the Assembly, the ANOC Merit Award was solemnly presented to the following olympic officials :

- Alhaji Abdoulie Badara Dandeh-Njie, President of the NOC of Gambia, former ANOCA Tresurer General, former ANOC Executive Council member.
- Counselor Khaled Zein Eldin, Secretary General of the NOC of Egypt, President of the African Rowing Federation.
- Mr Ibrahim Abdul Malik Mohammed, Secretary General of the NOC of the United Arab Emirates, Vice-President of the OCA West Asian Federation.
- Alhaji Abdoulie M. Touray, Secretary General of the NOC of Gambia, ANOC Marketing Commission member.
- Mr Moustapha Berraf, President of the NOC of Algeria, 1st Vice-President of ANOCA.
- Mr Zvi Varshaviak, President of the NOC of Israel.
- Mr Aggrey Moussa Mahamat, President of the NOC of Chad.
- Mr Armen Grigoryan, Secretary General of the NOC of Armenia.
- Mr Ly Gia Thanh, Honorary Treasurer of the NOC of Vietnam.
- Mr Gustavo Dias Vaz Da Conceição, President of the NOC of Angola, ANOCA Secretary General, ANOC Executive Council member.
- Mr Suresh Kalmadi, President of the NOC of India.
- Prof. Rocky Kang-Ro Yoon, member of the NOC of Korea.
- Mr Jacob Gbeti, President of the NOC of the Central African Republic.
- H.H. Sheik Issa Bin Rashid Al-Khalifa, President of the NOC of Bahrain.
- Mr Jose Cojuangco, Jr., President of the NOC of the Philippines, Life Honorary President of the South East Asia Games Federation.
- Mr Gafur Rakhimov, Vice-President of the NOC of Uzbekistan, Vice-President of OCA.
- Mr Kim Min Jae, photographer (Korea).
- Mr Victor Fonseca da Mota, Secretary General of the NOC of Portugal.