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The Sport, by its origin and essence, its value for the humanity and for its recognized prestige, is the result of an ample and complex framework of relations between the people and institutions that organize it, practice it, promote it, administer and finance it.

But in addition, it links, it has alliances and collaborates through the IOC, with 21 programs of United Nations and nongovernmental organizations as well as with other philanthropic foundations; tied to everything what constitutes justice and social welfare.

The sport and the Olympic practice have proven its great value as agent of social transformation and recognized authoritative actor in promoting peace, development, care and protection of the environment, promoting the values of sport for health, education and human rights. This demands from the National Olympic Committees and all members of our movement, actions to help expand, strengthen and consolidate the common efforts to achieve a better and fairer world, train our youth and cultivate and promote these values to make irreversible the principles that support the Olympic ideal.

The Olympic ideal reaches its highest expression in the practice of sport, which is based on relations of collaboration, solidarity, fair play, friendship and moral and ethical standards clearly set out in the Olympic Charter.

The results of our Olympic Congress should go in the direction of unity and integration set in its summon, and present in one form or another, with its own identity, in the 5 issues included in the agenda of Congress

The XIII Olympic Congress is a consequence of that broad concept of integration put into practice by the International Olympic Committee which has allowed the participation of the broader social sectors, the general public, individuals, entities related to sport and, of course, the members of the Olympic Family and its partners.

Sport as a social activity is source, is result and is reflection of personal and institutional relationships taking place throughout the society, so it is essential that exists a clear and precise definition , with shared values among all the actors of sport, locally, nationally as well as internationally. Coaches, athletes, directors, government, sponsors and partners have their space which must be accomplished and respected; only acting in a coordinated manner is possible to achieve the objectives of sport.

Conflicts or crisis periods in the lateral or multilateral relations among Olympic sports organizations and their environment, occur with some frequency in general motivated by personal interests, political or economic reasons, unrelated to the principles and values that sport promotes and develops.

Faced with this phenomenon, it imposes a question: to whom, this type of problem benefits and to whom it harms? Unfortunately, the answer is clear: it does not benefit anyone and harms the sport and its main protagonist, the athlete.

Let me share with you some brief reflections on a viewpoint that may be useful to address such situations in the future.

- Undoubtedly, at any level must be well defined and well accepted by all, the framework of juridical relations, legal and inter-institutional in which are developed the activities of sport. All this, on the basis of mutual respect and recognition of the jurisdiction of the parties involved.

- It is an unavoidable requirement the absolute cleanliness and transparency in the development of any kind of sport relation, in which of course I include the management of financial resources.

- Moral and ethical principles that have always accompanied, and will have to accompany permanently the sport should prevail over any political, economic and financial consideration.

- The sport and athletes in particular must constitute a permanent example to be imitated by children and young people, its motivational strength is incalculable and therefore any act, behavior or statements which harm or attack such high objectives is unacceptable and self-defeating.

- The national federations-clubs relationships are the foundation on which relationships are built in each country. The strength and vitality will depend in large measure of the consistency or fragility of the relationships that we are proposed to build. To strengthen and expand this type of relationship is an obligation which those of us who are involved in sport, can not avoid.

- We should not look for the problems and difficulties in others, we must submit our conduct to a rigorous permanent analysis, that allows us to identify the difficulties in order to faced them and stress the virtues to be cultivated.

- Perhaps, the most controversial issue today is the relation National Olympic Committee – Government. Much was said about it and we have advanced little. ODEPA and America have recently launched an important new stage in this field, which essence is expressed in a conceptual and practical way in the "Acapulco Declaration" adopted in October last year.

- We must burn in our minds and our hearts that sport heritage is unique and exclusively of members of society and not exclusive boundaries of individuals and institutions. There should be no room for sectarian and individualistic attitudes.

- If we have the strong determination to promote the sport nationally and internationally and I am sure yes, we are forced, -I repeat,- we are forced to work together CONs-governments, to collaborate and develop joint actions that tend to the most wide development sports as a necessary and urgent social choice, mainly focused towards children and youth without leaving aside all ages and social groups.

- Today, in an increasingly interdependent and globalize world, it is impossible to promote the sport and achieve an effective Olympic education if management of governmental authorities and the Olympic sport of each country, do not integrated in a common and single effort.

- The systematic practice of sport, the organization of competitions, the conduction of sporting events, the fight against doping, the creation of infrastructures, training of human resources,

applying science and technology, are, among other, issues which require the assistance of all to develop them with efficiency and quality, always recognizing and respecting us as such.

Let's put all our efforts and intelligence, to be, the relations CONs- government a factor of change and the core around which concentrate and act, all the positive forces that revolve around sport and its development.

The call for participants in this XIII Olympic Congress is, to unity, integration, collaboration and joint efforts among all persons and institutions related to the promotion and development of sport and with the training of human values that lead to a better world, fairer and more peaceful.

Let us be consistent with this major commitment we have made to sport and the youth of the world.

Thanks a lot.