



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Ref.: CL/3794

Subject: **International Convention against Doping in Sport**

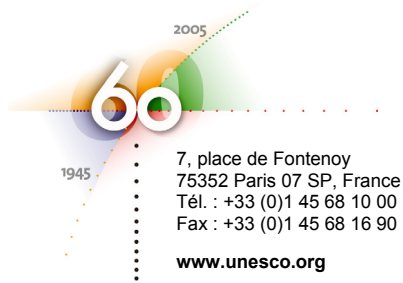
Sir/Madam,

I would like to encourage Member States to take the appropriate political, legal and administrative actions in support of the International Convention against Doping in Sport, unanimously adopted by the 33rd session of the General Conference on 19 October 2005.

As you know, the International Convention against Doping in Sport is necessary in order to harmonize standards and to ensure a consistent global approach in the fight against doping in sport. An international legal framework is needed to give full effect to the World Anti-Doping Code and to formalize global anti-doping rules, policies and guidelines that provide a healthy and equitable environment for all athletes.

It was hoped that the Convention would enter into force quickly. However, the process has taken longer than anticipated. To date, thirteen Member States (Sweden, Canada, Denmark, New Zealand, Australia, Norway, Monaco, Iceland, the Cook Islands, Nigeria, Latvia, the United Kingdom and Nauru) have deposited their instruments of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession with UNESCO. While this progress is encouraging, as stipulated in Article 37, the Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of one month after the date of deposit with the Director-General of the 30th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, accession.

I was very encouraged to learn of resolute political declarations made recently in support of the Convention. On 14 March 2006, Commonwealth Sports Ministers representing 53 Member States agreed to a communiqué calling for the ratification of the Convention as soon as possible. The Americas Council of Sports and the Iberoamerican Sport Council also agreed to equally strong declarations encouraging adherence to the Convention. To have such clear and purposeful regional statements involving a further 42 Member States is very heartening. The key task now, of course, is to translate such political commitments into action.



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To Ministers responsible for relations with UNESCO

I therefore take this opportunity to encourage your governments to take all the necessary steps to ratify, accept, approve or accede to this international normative instrument. This is urgently required to ensure that the momentum in the fight against doping in sport is maintained and to meet commitments made to the sporting community.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Koïchiro Matsuura
Director-General

cc: Permanent Delegations and Observers to UNESCO
National Commissions for UNESCO