

ANTTOLA DECLARATION 2008

Increasing resources for women's leadership in sport

The International Conference Promoting Equality in Sport – Towards Sydney 2010

in connection with the Steering Group meetings of the International Working Group on Women and Sport (IWG) and the European Women and Sport (EWS) with the generous contribution by some of the leading experts in the field

organised by the Finnish Sports Federation and the Southern Savo Sports Federation under the patronage of the Finnish Minister responsible for Culture, Sports and Equality Mr Stefan Wallin

gathered 120 participants from 20 countries from 5 continents and celebrated the National Equality in Sport Awards in Anttola and Mikkeli, Finland, on 13-14 June 2008.

- Monitored the development of equality work and the role of women in sport from Brighton 1994 to Anttola 2008.
- Demanded increased and sustained investment in human and financial resources to promote equality in sport and to increase financing for success and security.
- Raised, in the spirit of the 2006 Kumamoto Commitment, the need for better collaboration of local and global sports organisations on equality in sports.
- Emphasized the significance of gender mainstreaming policies and women-specific initiatives at all levels in organised sport including gender impact assessment.
- Urged the voluntary non-profit sport organisations to strengthen the active participation of girls and women.
- Encouraged the growth of gender sensitive approaches and methods in coaching and training for men and women and recommended an increase to the number of female coaches, officials and leaders within sport organisations.
- Highlighted among others the following themes:
 - making sport a safe and inclusive place free of sexual harassment and abuse
 - strengthening advocacy and influence at national level for gender equality and physical activity
 - strengthening sport programmes for all girls and women including those with disabilities
 - increasing the representation of women at national and international decision-making levels
 - the need for rigorous evaluation of women and sport policies and programmes
 - using sport as a tool for women's empowerment and development
 - using sport as a tool against HIV and AIDS
- Underlined the importance of public funding for sport to promote broad and equal opportunities for girls and boys, women and men.
- Provided the seminar participants with a Roadmap to Sydney 2010 IWG Conference.
- Reminded and encouraged the delegates to participate in the following international conferences: European Women and Sport Conference in Limassol, Cyprus, in October 2009 and the 5th IWG World Conference on Women and Sport in Sydney, Australia, in 2010.