

**SUPPORT STATEMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE**  
**FOR THE ICSSPE POSITION STATEMENT ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

When he decided to revive the spirit of the Olympic Games of Ancient Greece, Pierre de Coubertin, our Founder, emphasised that the modern Olympic Games were not an end in themselves, but a means to promote physical education and sport, thus teaching the young people of the world basic human values that would enable them to lead better lives and build better communities. This century-old philosophy still remains the cornerstone of the International Olympic Committee in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and is why the IOC applauds and endorses the ICSSPE's Position Statement on Physical Education.

The IOC recognises the role of physical education in developing and promoting physical literacy, which includes the generic physical skills which are the basis of all sport participation and performance – and without which no individual can reach his or her full potential in sport. There are clear links between children's and young people's learning in physical education and the objectives of the Youth Olympic Games.

The IOC actively supports the ICSSPE's commitment to developing, in collaboration with all bodies working toward the same goal, a common sports pedagogy which prioritises the interests, safety and welfare of children, and research and professional development which enhance children's physical learning experiences and achievements.

Physical education plays a vital role also in encouraging health-promoting physical activity, which enables children and young people to play a full part in social and community living. In this way, physical education contributes actively to the Olympic values of respect, excellence and friendship, and complements the Olympic Values Education Programme.

The IOC calls upon all members of the Olympic family to support and promote physical education in school curricula around the world and to work with governments to ensure that entitlement to high-quality physical education in schools is extended to every child, according to his or her needs and interests. The reason is simple: in today's society, it is increasingly obvious that sport has an important place and role in a healthy lifestyle, for the wellbeing of the young people of the world.