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## CIGEPS

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Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda

## Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS VI)

**Documents:** [Final Report of the 2014 Plenary Session of CIGEPS](#); CIGEPS  
Resolution 2014/2.

**Background:** Consideration is being given to the organization of the next edition of the International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS). The last edition of this Conference, MINEPS V, was held in Berlin, Germany, in 2013. By its Resolution CIGEPS/2014/2, CIGEPS has established an Ad-hoc Working Group for the follow-up of MINEPS V and tasked this group, *inter alia*, to “consider the opportunity of holding the sixth edition of MINEPS within the 38 C5 timeframe”.

This report outlines the procedural steps required to determine the organizational aspects of the Conference, including a formal decision of the UNESCO Executive Board. It also presents draft criteria against which bids from UNESCO Member States to host the Conference can be assessed as well as the potential vision and objectives of MINEPS VI.

**Decision Required:** Draft resolution (paragraph 13).

## INTRODUCTION

1. UNESCO's International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS) is the most important worldwide platform for sport and physical education policy development. The first session of MINEPS was held at UNESCO Headquarters in 1976. This forum was created to facilitate intellectual and technical exchange in the field of physical education and sport and as an institutional mechanism to articulate a coherent international strategy in this domain. Accordingly, the Conference engages governments, organizations from the United Nations system and the Sports Movement. Prior to the latest MINEPS V Conference, four further Conferences have been convened by UNESCO (Moscow 1988, Punta del Este 1999 and Greece 2004). The recommendations arising from these discussions have helped to strengthen the educational, cultural and social dimensions of physical education and sport.

2. MINEPS has made a number of substantial contributions to international dialogue and the establishment of a common platform for the implementation of effective physical education and sport policies and programmes. For example, MINEPS played an important role in the development of the seminal International Charter of Physical Education and Sport (1978). This standard-setting instrument, which was amended in 1991, with the addition of Article 7 calling for the protection of the ethical and moral values, remains at the cornerstone of international cooperation in physical education and sport. It firmly establishes the practice of physical education and sport as a fundamental right for all. The creation of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS) was another recommendation of MINEPS I. CIGEPS was established to promote international cooperation, to drive government action in the field of physical education and sport and as an institutional mechanism to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of MINEPS. Other key achievements of the Conference include the inception of the International Fund for the Development of Physical Education and Sport, political endorsement of the Berlin Agenda for Action adopted by the World Summit on Physical Education, and the establishment of an Observatory on Women, Sport and Physical Education, as a Category II Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.<sup>1</sup> MINEPS IV provided a valuable forum for the negotiation of the International Convention against Doping in Sport (2005).

## FOLLOW-UP TO MINEPS V

3. The Declaration of Berlin, adopted by 121 Member States that attended MINEPS V in 2013, contains a comprehensive set of action-oriented recommendations concerning the major international and national sport policy issues, including notably two new topics related to the bidding for and hosting of major sport events, as well as the manipulation of sport competitions through unregulated betting, corruption and organized crime. By its resolution 37C/38, the General Conference of UNESCO "invites Member States to implement [the] recommendations and appeals" contained in the Declaration of Berlin, "requests the Director-General to ensure a lead role in the follow-up process of MINEPS V", and "encourages CIGEPS to support the follow-up process to the Declaration of Berlin and the monitoring of its implementation". At its plenary session in 2014, CIGEPS established an Ad-hoc Working Group for the follow-up of MINEPS V with the following tasks (cf. Resolution CIGEPS/2014/2):

- (i) Coordinate the elaboration of benchmarks and indicators for the monitoring of the implementation of the Declaration of Berlin, notably at the national levels;

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<sup>1</sup> The Centre is not operational yet.

- (ii) Coordinate the elaboration of tools for self-assessment against the above benchmarks and indicators;
- (iii) Consider the opportunity of holding the sixth edition of MINEPS within the 38 C5 timeframe.

4. On 2 June 2014, sixteen Member States including ten CIGEPS members participated in the first - and to date only – meeting of the above Ad-hoc working group. Furthermore, the follow-up to MINEPS V has been the subject of two meetings of the Latin American and Caribbean region that were organized in Bogota, Colombia (October 2013), and Montevideo, Uruguay (October 2014). The main outcomes of these three meetings comprise:

- (i) the recognition of a regional approach to the implementation of the Declaration of Berlin in order to adjust it to regional priorities and specificities;
- (ii) the recognition of the importance of further promoting increased public investments in physical education, physical activity and sport on the basis of scientific evidence of their socio-economic impact;
- (iii) the support to the development of a limited number of generic indicators for a set of eleven topics derived from the Declaration of Berlin that allow the highest possible number of Member States to participate in the follow-up to MINEPS V.

#### OBJECTIVES OF MINEPS VI

5. The above follow-up activities to MINEPS V, as well as several recent, international declarations and normative texts that refer to the Declaration of Berlin<sup>2</sup> confirm that the Declaration continues to be a core reference for international and national policy-making in the areas of physical education, physical activity and sport. As such, the Declaration marks a turning point away from the formulation of principles and recommendations towards implementation and monitoring. Yet, the shortage of dedicated resources for both the international and national backstopping and coordination of the follow-up to MINEPS V has slowed down the follow-up considerably. The organization of a MINEPS conference can be expected to catalyze international co-operation and to mobilize support for this purpose. It is therefore proposed that MINEPS VI be devoted to the implementation and its monitoring of the Declaration of Berlin (“the Declaration”), as well as of the revised International Charter of Physical Education and Sport (“the Charter”) that is being submitted to CIGEPS for revision and subsequent presentation to UNESCO’s Governing bodies. (cf. CIGEPS/2015/Document 2).

6. The agenda of MINEPS VI could include the following substantive items:
- (i) review of implementation of the Declaration and the Charter (good policy practice);
  - (ii) review of indicators, benchmarks and self-assessment tools used for monitoring the implementation of the Declaration and the Charter (scientific/empirical evidence);
  - (iii) adoption of an international action plan for the implementation of the Declaration and the Charter.

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<sup>2</sup> See in particular: the Declaration by 7th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting; the Brighton Plus Helsinki 2014 Declaration on Women and Sport; the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions; UN Resolution A/RES/69/6 on Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace.

It is proposed that this agenda will be confirmed and further specified by CIGEPS and in consultation with the host country, in light of the outcomes of the invitation to bid for hosting MINEPS VI (see para. 7 below).

## PROPOSED PROCESS FOR ORGANIZING MINEPS VI

7. There are several key procedural steps which need to be followed for the organization of MINEPS VI. These are as follows:

- CIGEPS, at its 2015 Extraordinary Session, approves the objectives of the proposed Conference, as outlined in paragraphs 5 and 6 of this report, as well as the terms of reference for the hosting of MINEPS VI. These technical, logistic and financial requirements are presented in paragraphs 11 and 12 of this report.
- Member States of UNESCO are invited to submit bid documents for the hosting of MINEPS VI which specifically outline how they will meet the technical, logistic and financial requirements.
- The Secretariat undertakes feasibility studies to confirm that the potential host countries are able to meet all of the technical, logistic and financial requirements for the conference. These studies will be conducted on the basis of the host country requirements set forth below. The costs of the feasibility studies shall be borne by the potential host countries.
- CIGEPS, at its Plenary Session in 2016, determines which Member State will be selected to host the Conference. To meet statutory and organizational deadlines, this session should be scheduled as early as possible and not later than March 2016.
- A report is submitted to UNESCO's Executive Board, at its 199<sup>th</sup> session (spring 2016), regarding the preparations for MINEPS VI and invitations to the Conference.<sup>3</sup> The findings of the feasibility study are presented as an annex to the report for the UNESCO Executive Board.
- UNESCO and the host country establish a contract which sets forth all of the requirements for the Conference.
- The UNESCO Director-General, in consultation with the host country, fixes the date and place of the Conference and draws up the provisional agenda.

## PARTICIPANTS

8. Ultimately the UNESCO Executive Board will determine which organizations will be invited to participate in MINEPS VI. The basis on which this decision will be made is set forth in the *Regulations for the General Classification of the Various Categories of Meetings Convened by UNESCO*. According to this framework, MINEPS is defined as a Category II Meeting (an intergovernmental meeting other than international conferences of states), which primarily involves government representatives. Accordingly, all Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO should be invited to participate in MINEPS VI, with the right to vote. States which are not Members of UNESCO but are members of one or more organizations of the United Nations system may also be invited as observers to the meeting. Observer status should also be granted to specified

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<sup>3</sup> See document 189 EX/18, Part IV as an example.

organizations of the United Nations system, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, institutions and foundations.

## DURATION & DATE

9. The length and scope of a MINEPS conference may depend on the agenda and the thematic areas to be considered. However, it is advisable that there is a preparatory meeting involving experts and senior officials prior to the ministerial meeting. Accordingly, the total duration of MINEPS VI could be three to four days.

10. Experience strongly suggests that international preparations for a MINEPS Conference take, at least, one year. In light of the need for the 2016 Plenary Session of CIGEPS and the 199<sup>th</sup> session of UNESCO's Executive Board to approve the selection of the host country and in order to avoid clashes with the preparations of the 39<sup>th</sup> session of UNESCO's General Conference in autumn 2017, MINEPS VI should take place in May or June 2017.

## HOST COUNTRY REQUIREMENTS

11. Member States of UNESCO are invited to submit bid documents for the hosting of MINEPS VI which specifically outline how they will meet all of the following technical, logistic and financial requirements:

**Visas:** The host country is required to facilitate the entry of all participants to the Conference, by providing entry visas in a timely manner and, where possible, establishing a special immigration counter for participants. Participants from countries where there is no consulate of the host country must be able to obtain a visa on arrival.

**Air travel:** The host country should endeavor to obtain special fares from several airline companies for the Conference participants.

**Access:** The host country should have an international airport which is able to handle the expected number of participants and has suitable facilities for receiving Ministers and VIPs.

**Transport:** Shuttle transfers should be arranged to transport the Conference participants from the airport to their respective hotels and back. Shuttle transfers should also be arranged from all hotels to and from the Conference venue prior to the opening of each morning session of the Conference and following the closing session each evening. Suitable transportation to and from the hotels should be arranged for social and cultural events. If possible, a limousine service should be provided for Ministers. A limited number of chauffeur driven vehicles should be made available to the Conference Secretariat.

**Security:** Suitable security arrangements should be made to ensure the protection of Ministers, VIPs and all Conference participants.

**Accommodation:** The host country should identify suitable hotel accommodation for all of the Conference participants, including at least one five star hotel and one three star hotel. Special rates should be negotiated with these hotels.

**Conference facilities:** For security reasons, where possible, the Conference should be held in the five star hotel where Ministers will be accommodated. The Conference venue must have a large meeting room which is able to hold at least 500 participants and rooms for break-out sessions.

**Conference services:** The Conference rooms must be equipped with fixed and mobile interpretation booths and have all of the necessary equipment for the meeting sessions to be interpreted in the six working languages of UNESCO (for example, infrared microphones, headsets and sound technicians). All Conference rooms should also have appropriate audiovisual facilities and equipment for the projection of the Conference proceedings as well as slides, films, video and HD display units.

**Offices and working areas for the Secretariat:** Several offices, equipped with desks and chairs, computers with internet connections, printers, phone and fax machines will be required for the Conference Secretariat.

**Document reproduction workshop:** High-performance photocopying machines with local technicians on hand throughout the Conference are required.

**VIP room:** A separate room equipped with comfortable furniture is required for Ministers and VIPs.

**Press room:** Where possible, a separate press room with interpretation booths and equipment is required.

**Local staff:** Sufficient numbers of local staff that are able to speak English and French at a minimum are required for the reception service at the airport, Conference reception and registration, as meeting room attendants, document-assembly clerks, drivers and to work as part of the Conference Secretariat.

**Medical services:** The Conference venue should, where possible, have a medical service consisting of qualified nursing staff constantly on duty and a doctor on call at all times. There should be hospital near the Conference venue.

**Organization costs:** The host country is required to meet the interpretation costs for the duration of the Conference with simultaneous interpretation in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese. The host country shall cover the costs of translation into five working languages of the General Conference, reproduction and dispatching of official documents related to the Conference, including invitations, working documents and the final Conference report, as appropriate. The funding of at least one, full-time professional post and of at least one full-time general service post at UNESCO Headquarters for a minimum period of six months prior to the Conference and of two months after the Conference is required to assist with substantive preparations, logistical arrangements and immediate follow-up. The host country shall cover the travel costs of the UNESCO Secretariat to and from the Conference. The host country shall bear the costs of all hospitality provided at the Conference, including coffee breaks, lunches and one gala dinner for all Conference participants. The host country may wish to subcontract the substantive preparation of the Conference to a non-governmental expert organization with recognized international experience.

12. In order to ensure widespread participation in the Conference, the host country is also strongly encouraged to meet the travel and accommodation costs of one representative from each least developed or low income country as defined by the United Nations Economic and Social Council's Committee for Development Policy.

**DRAFT RESOLUTION**

13. The Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport may wish to adopt the following resolution:

The Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport,

1. *Having* examined document CIGEPS/2015/Doc.3,
2. *Recommends* to the Director-General of UNESCO that preparations are made for the organization of the Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS VI) in 2017;
3. *Decides* that the Conference should have no additional financial obligations on the Regular Budget of UNESCO;
4. *Agrees* that MINEPS VI should concentrate on the implementation and its monitoring of the Declaration of Berlin adopted by MINEPS V and of the International Charter of Physical Education and Sport as revised by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 38<sup>th</sup> session;
5. *Encourages* Member States of UNESCO to consider submitting bid documents for the hosting of MINEPS VI;
6. *Asks* the Director-General of UNESCO to invite relevant partner organizations for their intellectual, financial, or logistic support, in view of MINEPS VI.