



8th General Assembly — Americas Council of Sports
February 14–15, 2008 — Montevideo, Uruguay

MINUTES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

The Eighth Summit of the Americas Council of Sports opened at 10:00 a.m. with the presentation of authorities by the Executive.

Fernando Cáceres as host and CADE's Vice President for South America gave the welcome. The President of CADE, David Bernier, welcomed those present and thanked the host country for holding this Eighth Summit of CADE.

The Executive Secretary, Víctor Vargas, verified that the quorum needed to begin the Assembly was present. The session began with representatives of the following countries in attendance: Argentina, Aruba, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela (21 countries). The quorum for the 42 countries eligible for membership is 22, so it was necessary to wait for the representative of Paraguay to arrive in order to make decisions.

The Executive Secretary of the Americas Council of Sports, Víctor Vargas, began the proceedings of the Eighth Summit at 10:25 a.m. by presenting for approval the agenda published in the program. The agenda was amended with the recess period eliminated.

Mr. Vargas reported that the Executive had no representative from Central America. This position was filled by the representative of Barbados, Mona Alleyne, with the approval of member countries from the geographic section concerned.

President David Bernier gave a brief overview of the work done since the last Summit in Puerto Rico and since the Executive met in October 2007 in Panama.

The Executive Secretary read the communication from Orlando Silva, Brazilian Minister of State for Sport, cancelling the Special Assembly of CADE.

Venezuela expressed its concern that Victor Vargas was still Executive Secretary although he no longer held a government position. The President of CADE replied that he was elected unanimously by the Executive for his good record.

Argentina said that CADE was showing signs of weakness and institutional fragility that we should review, while trying to respect the organization's by-laws.

The President said that a politically necessary decision was made at the time. Argentina (Mr. Jacobovich) said that this situation arose because Brazil claimed the presidency when Agnelo Queiróz left and this had been going on for a year and a half (this was a clarification made to put the Executive's decisions in perspective for everyone).

To continue with the business and ensure that the decisions are valid, Nicaragua observed that the quorum must be based on the countries that signed the statutes and not the 42 countries eligible to join CADE.

The Secretary approved Nicaragua's interpretation, legitimating the working session.

The President submitted for approval the minutes of the Seventh Summit held in Carolina, Puerto Rico in 2007. He gave the members five minutes to read the minutes on their own. Since there was no opposition, the minutes were approved with the minimal corrections made and noted by the Secretary. They were signed by 23 countries, WADA, CID and UNESCO.

The committee to draft the Montevideo Declaration was formed, consisting of Argentina, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico and Mexico.

Nicaragua thought that the Executive elected in Panama should be confirmed for another year, with the observation made by the Venezuelan representative on the Executive Secretary remaining in office. Thanks were expressed for Víctor Vargas's support. The President should use his powers to name a new secretary. El Salvador and Venezuela seconded the motion. The President recalled that elections would be held at the Assembly in Panama in 2009.

Argentina said that Puerto Rico was completing the rest of Brazil's term, so the statutes should be amended to reflect this, approving a grace period for this executive. Argentina recommended that the issue be discussed with the by-law amendments.

The Secretary read the draft by-laws of the Americas Council of Sports (CADE), which were then opened for consideration. He requested that observations be made clearly in writing, specifying the country that was making them.

After the by-law issues were dealt with, the agenda then proceeded to presentations and the by-law committee was asked to review and amend the document on the basis of the comments made and approved.

The Director General of the World Anti-Doping Agency, David Howman, made a presentation on the activities of his agency and enforcement of the code.

The Director of the Latin American Regional Office, Diego Torres, gave a presentation on what his office had been doing.

The meeting adjourned from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

At 2:30 p.m., CADE resumed sitting.

Secretary Vargas said that he had received written comments on the by-laws from Nicaragua, Venezuela, Costa Rica and Uruguay.

The Executive Secretary requested a moment to clarify his own situation, and asked the President to allow the representative of Puerto Rico, Ana Benítez, to act as executive secretary since she had been a constant collaborator.

After Prof. Vargas left, Nicaragua expressed appreciation for his outstanding work, which the President echoed, suggesting that the final declaration contain special recognition of the outgoing secretary. It was suggested that the recognition extend to Venezuela for its great contribution as a country while it held the presidency of this organization.

The President officially appointed Ana Benítez to act as Executive Secretary. Her appointment was supported by those present and she proceeded to fill the position.

The subject of WADA dues was then discussed.

The Mexican and Canadian delegations were asked to present the previously circulated proposals.

As already discussed with Brazil, Mexico suggested that they receive replies by telephone to a proposal to combine the two annual fees for each country for this year and divide them between the two. This would solve the problem for now. It was also suggested that a committee be created to verify that each country was paying its fair share. Brazil's good will and solidarity were noted.

Uruguay recognized and praised Brazil's effort and noted Mexico's willingness to seek alternatives. Uruguay suggested accepting this proposal and forming a team that could look for a formula.

Argentina appreciated Brazil's effort, proposed reviewing the parameters so that they better reflect the countries' economic means and sports achievements, and asked to be on the committee.

Canada thanked Mexico and Brazil, and maintained that any solution would have to cover all (100%) of the hemisphere's total share.

The committee consists of the members of the special anti-doping committee (Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, United States, Canada, Jamaica and Uruguay), with Argentina and Venezuela added at their request.

Brazil's proposal for this year was unanimously approved, and an October deadline was proposed for the committee to report back. Members were urged to make an effort to finally resolve the issue, so the anti-doping committee was asked to work with the special committee during the time for committee sessions.

Mexico asked the Executive Secretary to join this work as a mediator and to record decisions.

Topic: Discussion of fees and financing (CADE)

The First Vice President read the proposal, which was then considered.

Reactions:

Nicaragua considered it necessary to amend the by-laws so that they have a legal framework. The use of funds must be approved by the plenary and not just by the executive.

Bolivia said that it was necessary to establish CADE as a legal entity.

The President wanted to know whether there was agreement on setting a membership fee or not.

Discussion followed on the amount, the advisability, the legal framework and what expenses should be justified to the respective governments.

Since all agreed, the Executive promised to work on a proposal considering the observations made.

Topic: Consideration of draft CADE by-laws

The preliminary draft was approved with the appropriate recommendations and the Secretary was asked to prepare the draft.

Speech on Tourism and Sport by Benjamín Liberoff

After the presentation, the session ended at 4:55 p.m. with instructions on individual meetings called by the special anti-doping committee and CONCECADE member countries.