

Joint statement - Women in Sport

Bergen, Norway, May 24.- 25. 2016.

During the 2016 Lillehammer Youth Olympic Games the International Olympic Committee (IOC) called upon the Norwegian Government to join in an effort to promote female leaders in sport. Following up on this initiative, the Norwegian Government has hosted a gathering of domestic and international leaders.

Sport gives girls the opportunity to develop self-determination, to become leaders, to witness and be applauded for their own progress, and to use their voices. This translates into everyday life; encourages initiatives and determination. The number of women taking up leadership roles within the sport sector is disproportionate to the number of women and girls who play sport. By recognizing sports participation as promoting skills, we acknowledge sports as a valuable tool for empowering and educating future leaders. We pledge to break the cycle of disproportionality and regard this as a unique opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to promoting women in leadership positions.

The Women in Sport Round Table Meeting in Bergen May 2016 marks the start of our joint effort advocating female leadership in sport. The purpose is to identify challenges, discuss the implications of increasing the number of female leaders in the sports sector, and present best practices.

This gathering has presented a unique opportunity to share experiences and strategies. We have identified and discussed challenges and considered recommendations. We have confirmed our joint interest and expressed our commitment. We have noted key tasks such as:

- We note the importance of strong role models and best practices as exemplified by projects like the Girls Football Coaching Course initiated by the Norwegian Football federation. Participation from girls and women in sports and educating future leaders and coaches must continue and will strengthen the development in years to come.
- We underline the strong importance of leadership programs for a new generation focusing on diverse recruitment, education and life-long participation such as the young leadership program during the Youth Olympics 2016.

Our goal is to compile a list of recommendations to be presented to the International Olympic Committee in 2017. And we pledge to continue to work relentlessly to promote and include women at all levels within the sporting communities.