

**REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
WOMEN IN CANOEING
IN THE PERIOD 2007 -2008**



**Report from Helen Brownlee
Women In Canoeing Chairman
For the XXXII. ICF Congress in Rome, 2008**

The Women in Canoeing Working Group has been established as a discrete entity of the ICF with membership drawn from the Board of Directors. With six women members on the Board, and an equal number of interested and supportive men, this structure provides a wide platform of input and cooperation from all the competitive disciplines.

The Mission of the Working Group, accepted by the 2004 ICF Congress aims: *“To develop within the ICF, a culture which values the diversity of women and enables their full involvement in every aspect of the sport.”*

A number of the Working Group members attended the IOC World Conference on Women and Sport, conducted at the Dead Sea in March, 2008. A Plan of Action, established by the IOC as a result of the Conference, highlighted the opportunities to promote gender equity, through the Olympic Games, IF and NF elections, and Youth Olympic Games, as well as addressing governance issues.

All women members of the respective ICF Committees are recognised as valuable points of contact, and receive minutes of the Working Group Meetings.

Strategies to increase the participation of women at all levels requires ongoing commitment from ICF Member Federations, ICF Technical Committees and the ICF Board.

- N.F's to nominate women for official positions as well as men.
- N.F's to select women coaches with teams (not always men).
- ICF to encourage N.F's to include gender equity statement in their Constitutions – refer to ICF Statutes Article 2, Point 5.
- Continental Associations to encourage women as their representatives on the ICF Board. (Already Europe, America and Oceania have at least one woman).
- Monitor the participation numbers of women in C1 FWR and SLR.
- ICF has an opportunity to make events attractive to women – Dragonboats, Canoe Polo, changing program for FWR and SLR. Technical Committees to discuss possible strategies to encourage participation of women.

A small survey will be conducted during the 2008 Congress to update the data on the number of women on National Federation Boards.

Helen Brownlee
Chair, ICF Women In Canoeing.

