

SÃO PAULO DECLARATION

“Leisure in a Globalized Society”

Adopted October 30, 1998 in São Paulo, Brazil

Delegates from the nations of the world gathered in São Paulo Brazil, October 26-30, 1998 to attend the 5th **World Congress** of the *World Leisure and Recreation Association (World Leisure)*, in conjunction with *Servico Social Do Comércio (SESC)*, São Paulo, and the Latin America Leisure and Recreation Association (**ALATIR**). The theme of the Congress, which bore the Logo of the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was ***Leisure in a Globalized Society: Inclusion or Exclusion?*** Participants reviewed and discussed the different outlooks of the various communities related to leisure and free time; and recognized the diverse trends of globalization in our current society, as we approach the end of the 20th century and embark on the third millennium.

Recognizing that globalization offers hope as well as challenge to the well-being of the individual and community, and **knowing that** as the peoples of the World approach the 3rd millennium, they face a globalized society in which leisure in all its manifestations is met by increasing threats and opportunities;

and whereas *World Leisure*, as a world wide, non-governmental membership organization dedicated to discovering and fostering those conditions which permit leisure to serve as a force to optimize collective and individual lifestyle and well-being for all;

and consistent with Article 24 of the United Nations' *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)* providing the right to leisure for every member of the world's community, and *World Leisure's Charter for Leisure (1983)*;

the delegates call upon the United Nations, all governments, all non-government organizations, *World Leisure* members and all citizens of the world to accept and promote that leisure is that time wherein there is choice limited by certain constraints in which people pursue enjoyable and fulfilling experience in harmony with society's norms and values that enhances individual and social development,

and therefore declare that:

- Article 1:** All persons have the right to leisure through economic, political and social policies that are equitable and sustainable.
- Article 2:** All persons have a need to celebrate and share our diversity in leisure.
- Article 3:** All governments and institutions should preserve and create barrier free environments, e.g., cultural, technological, natural and built, where people have time, space, facilities and opportunity to express, celebrate and share leisure.
- Article 4:** Collective and individual endeavours be permitted to maintain the freedom and integrity of leisure.
- Article 5:** All Governments will enact and enforce laws and policies designed to provide leisure for all.
- Article 6:** All private and public sectors consider the threats to diversity and quality of leisure experiences caused by the local, national and international consequences of globalization.
- Article 7:** All private and public sectors consider the threats to the abuse and misuse of leisure by individuals, i.e., deviant and criminal behaviour, which results from local, national and international forces.
- Article 8:** All private and public sectors ensure that policies are implemented to provide leisure education curricula and programs for school and community systems, as well as programs to train related voluntary and professional human resources.
- Article 9:** Efforts be made to understand better the consequences of globalization for leisure through a coherent program of ongoing research.
- Article 10:** Efforts be made to disseminate information on the costs and benefits to leisure from the several and profound forces of globalization.