PROPOSAL
CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR VIOLENCE AND INJURY PREVENTION

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Interest in violence and injury prevention and in the series of World Conferences on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion has been growing over the years. Recognizing this growing interest the International Organizing Committee (IOC) - which is currently composed of past organizers of the World Conferences - has engaged in a reflection process about ways to develop mechanisms to ensure broader input from the field in the preparations of this series of conferences.

As a result, the IOC proposes the establishment of an International Society for Violence and Injury Prevention (ISVIP) and hopes to use the 7th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion (6-9 June 2004 in Vienna) as a platform for consultation. At the close of the conference, the IOC will invite the organisers of the next World Conference, which will be held in 2006 in Johannesburg, South Africa, to take further steps, based upon the feedback received. These steps should lead to the organization of the first Annual General Meeting of Members and election of the Members of the Board at the 8th World Conference.

ISVIP should go beyond a group dedicated to preparing the World Conferences. It should become the visible international champion in promoting the cause of injury prevention and safety promotion.

This document describing further the rational and goals of ISVIP has been developed as a basis for discussion.

NEED TO MOBILISE FORCES IN SOCIETY

It is recognised that while communication within the various sectors of injury prevention, such as violence prevention, road safety, occupational safety and home safety, are developing, communication between these sectors needs to be reinforced. This underscores the great value of intersectorial exchange and collaboration in the entire field of violence and injury prevention. At the same time there is a growing awareness of the role public health may fulfill in this respect.

Over the years the need for an international body representing the field of injury experts and practitioners has emerged. While WHO is playing that role to a certain extent, it remains a UN inter-governmental agency. The series of World Conferences, organised over the past decade, has created a momentum for increased international collaboration. The success of these conferences has generated the need for a new dynamic to ensure that they are based on the needs and views of the broader injury prevention community. However it has not yet led to the creation of a recognisable global non-governmental entity with representation from all sectors.
In order to further encourage and support the strengthening of the field, a strong global injury platform is needed that is active in advocacy and is based on a broad geographical and professional representation. Such an organisation would become an important asset for a whole range of partners working in the field - from NGO groups working at a community level and needing international support, to WHO in its consultations with the field and in its developing collaborative programmes for injury prevention. Such a body should advocate to encourage more investments in violence and injury prevention research as well as in prevention. It would also serve as a platform for sharing information and strengthening the series of World Conferences.

**KEY GOALS OF ISVIP**

ISVIP should be dedicated to establishing global commitment to violence and injury prevention through advocacy and public policy action and consequently by enhancing injury research and prevention capacity. The goals of ISVIP could be to:

- advocate for increasing investment at national and international level in injury and violence prevention and research
- advance injury prevention policy by providing a mechanism through which non-governmental and civil society injury control organisations can work effectively with national and international health agencies
- together with other partners, contribute to the organisation of scientific conferences and meetings, particularly the World Conferences on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion
- promote safety world-wide by facilitating collaborative efforts and partnerships among members
- promote capacity development for injury and violence research and prevention

**BASIC PRINCIPLES OF ISVIP**

ISVIP should be the champion for the development of the global cause of injury prevention. Therefore it should be:

- civil society based and representative of the different sectors and stakeholders in injury prevention
- structured as a not for profit organisation so that it can receive philanthropic support
- financially independent, generating income from multiple sources so that it is not beholden to a single interest group
- able to accommodate various thematic areas related to injury and violence with which various stakeholders can identify
- able to partner with existing organisations
- endowed with a governance structure that accommodates representation from various stakeholders and regions

**MEMBERSHIP VALUE OF ISVIP**

Through membership of ISVIP individuals and organizations will ensure their involvement in:

- advocacy at an international level for increased investments in injury and violence prevention
- the expanding network of professionals and professional bodies in this field (capacity building)
- actions and projects initiated in an international perspective for injury prevention and safety promotion (collaborative projects)
- preparation of international conferences and events such as the World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion

Members should receive regular reports (bulletin/newsletter) on latest news in the field and should be entitled to reduced fees for conference registration and publications.
**MEMBERSHIP BASE**

Members will represent academic institutions, governmental and semi-governmental institutions, NGO’s, advocacy groups, victims organizations, etc. They are expected to represent a wide variety of professions such as epidemiologists, safety researchers, public health workers, designers and urban planners, engineers, regulators, enforcement officers, risk communicators, safety promotion practitioners, entrepreneurs, manufacturers’ retailers and marketers, and professionals in emergency care, trauma care and rehabilitation.

Individual membership could be open for any individual who has an interest in injury research and prevention. Institutional membership could be open for organisations that possess the status as a not for profit or public organisation and that have recognition as a centre of expertise in at least one of the main thematic fields of injury research and prevention.

For members from low-income and middle-income countries, a differentiated fee should be charged (status of countries could be determined based on the latest World Bank classification). Students or young professionals should also be entitled to reduced fees.

**CALL FOR INTEREST**

At the Vienna World Conference there will be ample opportunities for giving your feedback on the ISVIP initiative and to share with us your expectations as regards the role ISVIP should play and the services to be delivered to its members:

- You are invited to attend either of the business meetings which will be held at the Vienna World Conference on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th June from 17.30 till 18.30, where representatives from the IOC will summarize the feedback received to date, and a few stakeholders will be invited to express their views and demands. These short presentations will be followed by a discussion.

- You are also invited to give your comments in writing by filling in the annexed response form (additional remarks are much welcomed on that form) and by dropping it in the Idea Box that is made available at the registration desk during the Vienna World Conference.

Please note that all delegates at the Vienna World Conference will receive after the conference more detailed information on progress of work (see also next steps) and all should receive by early 2005 a formal invitation to register as an ISVIP member.

**NEXT STEPS**

In the closing session of the 7th World Conference, in the afternoon of 9 June, we will seek endorsement from the delegates to pursue the creation of ISVIP. We will invite the host organisation of the 8th World Conference to ensure that the first Annual General Meeting of Members and election of the Members of the Board will be organised in conjunction with the 8th World Conference in 2006 in Johannesburg.

To develop the process further an interim steering committee should be created to:

- revise and develop further the concept based on the feedback received and additional consultation
- define the legal rules and regulations for ISVIP
- establish a logistic infrastructure (secretariat, website, etc) for ISVIP
- draft additional house rules including membership conditions and fees
- develop a marketing strategy and initiate the process of registration of members
- prepare the first Annual General Meeting of Members (AGM) and the process of nomination and election of Members of the Board by 2006.
The interim steering committee should serve for the period of maximum two years and work in close collaboration with the host organisation for the 8th World Conference. It is proposed that it be composed of twelve members, i.e. two from each region, including one lead person and an alternate in order to ensure full availability of the group during this period for decision making.

Those who are interested in serving this charge over the coming two years are invited to make themselves known, before 1st September 2004, to the chair of the IOC (kruge@who.int). Candidates should have sufficient time available for (tele-) conferencing and be familiar with organisational matters. For that reason we invite nominees to include in their expression of interest a ten line curriculum vitae that gives evidence of their competencies in this respect.

It is proposed that the IOC Chair seek the advise of the WHO regional focal points on violence and injury prevention in the course of September and based on this advise make a proposal to the Heads of the WHO Collaborating Centres who will designate the six members of the interim steering committee, and their alternates, at its meeting in October later this year.

**MORE INFORMATION?**

More information on the launch of the ISVIP can be obtained from the members of the IOC for the series of World Conferences on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion (for its members, see also the World Conference brochure). You may also contact the secretariat of the IOC at w.rogmans@consafe.nl.

Please also use the annexed form to give us your comments and feedback.

Many thanks.

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**AGENDA BUSINESS MEETINGS ON THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR VIOLENCE AND INJURY PREVENTION**

**AUSTRIAN CONVENTION CENTRE, VIENNA**

**MONDAY 7TH AND TUESDAY 8TH JUNE (17.30-18.30), ROOM M**

- Explanation of the need for a civil society based organization as a partner to WHO (5 minutes) - Etienne Krug, WHO
- Presentation on the vision and expectations of the proposed International Society (5 minutes) - Dinesh Mohan, Indian Institute of Technology (on behalf of the IOC)
- Response and discussion on the challenges for international collaboration in injury prevention and safety promotion (3 minutes each) - Yousif Rahim, Norwegian Safety Promotion Centre and chair European Safe Community Network, and Adnan Hyder, Johns Hopkins University and Pakistan Medical Research Council and chair of the International Society for Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention (ISCAIP)
- Discussion on the strengths of a civil society based response to the world wide violence and injury epidemic (3 minutes) - Rochelle Sobel, Association for Safe International Road Travel
- Discussion (40 minutes) - Questions and answers
FORM FOR INPUT FROM DELEGATES ON THE PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR VIOLENCE AND INJURY PREVENTION (ISVIP)

Dear Delegate,

In our brief proposal on the launch of an International Society for Violence and Injury Prevention, we informed you about the rationale and the proposed process for the creation of the Society. Your input and advice is very important. We, therefore, would appreciate receiving your comments during the Vienna World Conference. There will be two business meetings held during the World Conference (Monday and Tuesday, both from 17.30 – 18.30) during which we will discuss this proposal.

We have developed this form for those who cannot join these meetings or would like to make additional comments. Please fill in this form and drop it in the Idea Box at the registration desk or fax to: +31 20 5114510.

Many thanks on behalf of the IOC,

Vienna, 6th June 2004

What are your expectations regarding the main services to be provided by ISVIP?

What committees, sections and activities do you suggest and what might be your involvement?

What kind of information do you expect and through which media (journals, E-bulletins, list serves)?

Optional: Name and e-mail address: