

The 9th Beijing Xiangshan Forum  
CISM president Speech

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates, senior officials, participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As President of the International Military Sports Council, it is a privilege to stand in front of you during the International Forum.

Let me start by expressing my profound appreciation to the Minister of Defense People Republic of China for inviting me to this forum. It is a very good memory for CISM to be here, because in May 1995, we organised the 50<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of CISM in this building.

It is also my pleasure to share with you the humble but concrete contribution of CISM to the world calls **for equal dialogue, beneficial cooperation and shared security**.

CISM started with five European countries in 1948 and now 140 nations from all over the world are members of this international military sport organisation.

- 47 nations from African Continent;
- 42 from Europa
- 32 from Asia
- 15 from America

CISM is an open and universal organisation. It is the largest platform for permanent exchanges in military sport. That is the reason why, CISM increases our members years after years in order to share together the values of CISM.

CISM enables military leaders to meet and engage in mutual programs of exchange and training or education. Our annual General Assembly is the place where Military sports leaders unit under the CISM-flag and work together to our common goals as mentionned in our motto "Friendship through sport" .

CISM organizes various sporting events for this armed forces and invests very significantly for peace activities and solidarity.

From 1948 to 2019, CISM organizes :

- 7 World Military Summer Games
- 3 World military Winter Games (The next will take place in Germany in 2021)
- 2 Military World Football Cup (The next will take place in Egypt in 2021)
- and almost 1000 World Military Championships

And in 2020, we are expected 20 World Championships all over the world.

As you know, the 7<sup>th</sup> World Military Summer Games are currently running in Wuhan with 109 countries and more than 9000 participants. It is historical in the CISM.

I would like to express my deepest thanks to the Popular Republic of China, the Popular armed forces and the city of Wuhan for their commitment and enthusiasm for the organisation of this huge military sport event.

The CISM is also involved in the education and experience sharing for athletes, coaches, officials and the young generations.

For example, the 3rd edition of The World cadets Games will take place in Russia in 2020. This is a real opportunity for the future leaders to meet and start to exchange values through military sport.

CISM also invests in sport for peace activities and solidarity is one of our main initiatives.

It is an uncertain world, it is our common duty to create new types of bridges among people, to renew relationships and links which had been eroded by wars. Because military sport breaks the barriers of languages, because military sport does not allow any kind of discrimination linked to race, gender or religion, because military sport unites all generations, I truly believe that CISM offers a response to the international aspiration for peace. Today, the real meaning of military sport is linked to the growing importance of multinational military cooperation for the construction of peace and security in the world.

Because of the increase of operational engagements to maintain the peace all over the world, the wounded soldier's number continually grows. Today, it is a key point for each country because this topic concerns the operational capacities of the armed forces and also the human being conditions of the soldiers and their family.

It is the reason why one important principle for CISM is to promote models of best practices that encourage inclusive opportunities and recognition for soldiers with disability equal to those of their non disabled peers. In this way, CISM invites its members to organize sport activities and to consider parasport discipline as a means of reflecting the goals of CISM development and the ideals of the military sport movement.

I am convinced that sport is a powerful tool to rehabilitate and integrate your servicemen and women who have been affected by a disability on duty. In 2021, France will organize the first inclusive World Military Games with abled and disabled soldiers called "Heroes Military Games" in a spirit of solidarity and fraternity in arms.

And last but not least we see sport as a goods means to promote peace and stability. CISM tries to organize specific sport events to unite, reunite or maintain together nations which have been divided in the past by whatever conflicts.

We try to promote peace through sport in tense regions and in post-conflict areas.

For example, this year we had the eleventh edition of our Futsal Cup for Peace, uniting the 6 Former Yugoslav Republics.

Moreover, I really convey all of you to join our events when organized in your countries, and you will see by your own eyes

- the moments of joy,
- the moments of tears or glory
- the mutual friendship and respect
- and maybe moments of 'History in the making'

As conclusion to my address, I speak on behalf of all men and women of CISM and call all of you to Support to the International Military Sports. We support the physical preparation of your military men and women and, even more important, we can be your partner to improve the equal dialogue and cooperation and to promote the mutual friendship, peace and security in the world.

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