

# INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CAPOEIRA

*Worldwide Entity of Direction, Administration and Sportive Regulation*

Founded in 06 of June of 1999

Affiliated to the World Martial Arts Union

C.N.P.J. 03.680.332/0001-52

*FEDERAÇÃO INTERNACIONAL DE CAPOEIRA - FICA*

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## **OPENING SPEECH FOR THE II WORLD CAPOEIRA FORUM BAKU, AZERBAIJAN , 04 AND 05, July, 2009.**

Prof. Pós-Ph.D. Sergio Luiz de Souza Vieira

Dear Sir ..... Honorable President

First of all, we would like to thank all the organizers from the II World Capoeira Forum for the welcome we have received from the Azerbaijani people, as well as all representatives from the countries present in this historical Forum. Special thanks for Azerbaijan Presidency of Republic, the Youth and Sports Ministry and Capoeira Federation of Azerbaijan members, who contributed tremendously to make this event possible.

Capoeira is a type of sport which started in Brazil, in the XVIII century coming from different ethnic groups: European, African and from the Indians, which has spread around the world. When we refer to the African root, we cannot leave aside the Afro-Asian culture which happened in that continent. This way, Capoeira is the result of many nations and culture combinations along of its history. So, we are one “contemporaneity of millennia.

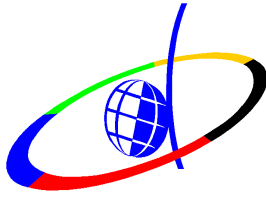
Both pain and love have contributed for Capoeira development process. Hundreds of thousand people who in the majority, were poor and socially excluded, made their personal and family's sacrifice to become possible for us to be here today. Many were chased along, arrested, tortured, deported and even murdered because of their practice of Capoeira.

Nowadays, Capoeira can be found in more than 132 countries, in all continents. And in this very beginning of XXI century, we have a big challenge: preserve, organize and spread its contents and traditions. And the only possible way to reach these aims is the recognition of Capoeira through International Federation of Capoeira and by the International Olympic Committee. This does not mean that Capoeira will be part of Olympic Games, but we will be joined and recognized. This situation will give us better growth condition, but we will have as a task, to establish technical, cultural and sports standards.

That is the reason why we hold a meeting here in Baku, Azerbaijan. It means the dimension and essential care we should have with the things which contribute for our human growth, and among of them, the education, culture and sports, which express our human achievements. This is the subject we will talk about in the following days. On the other hand, we will have a culture of peace which will cover the mutual understanding among the nations around “Capoeira Circle”.

We will have in these days while under the process of collective construction, a big challenge, considering we come from very distinct cultures, and in this sense, our cordiality, understanding and respect to our diversities will be important qualities to our personal and spiritual growth, and these aspects will support the future of worldwide organization of Capoeira. If this challenge is achieved, we will have an opportunity.

This way, we will honor our ancestors' sacrifice. Based on this, we will face a big responsibility with our own future and the future of Capoeira.



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Another situation we need to focus on is that the majority of people who practice Capoeira come from social classes with poor financial conditions. We are million of members, but we are also very poor. Considering this situation, our Leagues and National Federations have lots of difficulties to get money, so traveling and organization of international events are very expensive. Concerning this problem, we should try to follow other International Federations which have had these difficulties in the beginning, as Soccer for example, and other categories.

We have lots of difficulties, but we also have great possibilities to overcome them. We would like to communicate here, for the first time, our partnership with GTEC Channel, one important telecommunication company in Brazil, which will provide us with technological support to broadcast Capoeira programs in its Educational, Sports and Cultural aspects. They will be distributed by WEBTV to all countries that allow IP liberation, in which the basis for Distance Education is linked, and this will benefit the edition of Graduation Courses for Technicians, Referees, Teachers, Masters, Athletes, Managers, Ritmistas (the ones who provide the rhythm) and Auxiliary of Referee. Through this, it will also be possible to have debates and conferences, which will be able to be seen in personal computers, cellular phones or palms. This technology is ready to be used. And from this time on, this speech is being distributed all over the world.

We have therefore, to strengthen this technology with the results obtained on the Second Worldwide Forum of Capoeira, which will insert in the history of our beloved Capoeira, this important moment given by Republic of Azerbaijan, to which we will be thankful for ever considering this wonderful opportunity for Capoeira growth. We have also to consider that the results obtained in this Forum are supported institutionally by the Brazilian Government and by the Sports Ministry of Brazil, which institutional support was done having in mind the importance of the subjects that will be discussed.

And to all other participants, our deepest gratitude for being part of this democratic collective construction. It is a first greeting to this historical Forum, one important and part of Capoeira:

A hora é hora, camara! (typical words when greeting in Capoeira)  
Salve!

Respectfully,