



UNITED NATIONS SPORT BULLETIN



Updates on UN sport-related initiatives supporting the MDGs and activities for the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005 (IYSPE 2005)

Published by the UN New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace on behalf of the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG) Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace

Number 13, 6 December 2005 / Special Issue / www.un.org/sport2005 ; Conference: www.maggingen2005.org

2nd Magglingen Conference on Sport for Development issues Call to Action

Magglingen, Switzerland, 6 December 2005 -- Over 400 participants from 70 countries concluded the 2nd Magglingen Conference on Sport and Development in Magglingen, Switzerland today, resolving to use sport to improve the quality of education and health, eradicate poverty, and foster peace and tolerance. The Magglingen Call to Action urges governments, sports organizations, athletes, development agencies, the private sector and other stakeholders to promote sport for development in their fields.

The event is the culmination of the International Year of Sport and Physical Education (IYSPE 2005) and showcased sport for development and peace initiatives from around the world.

“The Magglingen Call is an obligation to act. We must use the substantial dynamic generated by the International Year to anchor sport firmly in the global development agenda,” said Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, and former president of Switzerland. “The fire is burning - it must never die out!” he added. Mr. Ogi hosted the conference, together with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Switzerland’s Federal Office of Sport (FOSPO).

SDC Director-General Walter Fust said: “The conference is one more milestone on the path to a worldwide partnership of sport and development. We are going in the right direction but we are not doing enough.” He named ten important challenges and suggested lines of action to overcome them. Among others, he pleaded for strengthening political, new innovative forms of partnerships and networks, as well as a significant increase in practice-orientated initiatives and projects.

Matthias Remund, Executive Director of FOSPO, where the event took place, said: “Each country and every region is confronted with particular challenges but sport can contribute to finding a solution. Regardless of whether in the areas of personal or social development, sport is an ideal means in all four corners of the globe.”

Mobilizing all sectors -- The Call to Action urges sports organizations to integrate and implement human development principles into their policies, programs and projects. It calls on governments to promote the ideal of sport for all, develop inclusive and coherent sports policies, involve all stakeholders in their coordination and implementation, strengthen sport and physical education in schools, and integrate sport, physical activity and play in public health and other relevant policies. The Call asks athletes to act as role models and actively use their influence and experience to advocate for development and peace.

Multilateral organizations and the UN system are called on to take a lead role in policy dialogue, raise awareness of international actors and other partners, strengthen networks and enhance coordination, and carry out and evaluate projects and programs. All stakeholders are urged to engage in a dialogue on visions, goals and frames of action and participate and invest in consolidation and expansion of global partnerships for sport and development.

Documenting results and expanding activities -- The conference documented the ways that sport is improving the lives of the disadvantaged in refugee camps and poverty stricken areas around the world, from Afghanistan and Angola to Colombia and Kosovo. Sport is increasingly recognized as a vital component of education and health programs by governments and civil society organizations, and star athletes are mobilizing support for campaigns against HIV/AIDS, polio, malaria and other causes.

The 1st Magglingen Conference in 2003 affirmed that access to sport and play is a basic human right and called on all stakeholders to promote development, peace, education and health through sport. Since then, the new initiatives have been launched worldwide, and the UN General Assembly has recognized the power of sport to contribute to efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The 2nd Magglingen Conference took stock of achievements, exchanged experiences, presented examples of path-breaking ideas, and shaped a framework for policy and action.

Ministers of sport from several countries presented several significant initiatives. Dr. Dennis Bright, Minister of Youth and Sport of Sierra Leone, explained that the introduction of volleyball in schools has transformed communities, helping his country recover from the ravages of war. Children want to go school and parents work hard to send them, and the enthusiasm is generating work building volleyball courts and equipment. The Government is mainstreaming sport in its policies, and a UN inter-agency sport project will soon be implemented by UNHCR with Right to Play and other partners.

The Russian Federation is launching a program to build 4,000 sports centers and other facilities in the next 10 years, noted Vyacheslav Fetisov, Head of the Russian Federation State Committee for Physical Culture and Sport told the conference. South Africa Sport Minister Gerd Oosthuizen noted that his country is increasing its budget for sport activities by 38 per cent in the coming year, with a focus on public participation and school sport.

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3rd Magglingen Conference in autumn 2008 -- Ogi announced that he would continue his mission. "I will visit projects with strong roots in the culture of their territory. I will give visibility to those projects in order to motivate people, organisations and governments to support them." He promised to continue to advocate for the power of sport for development and peace in the strongest way to UN agencies, governments, development organisations and NGOs. At the same time, he called on large sports' organisations to make a stronger financial commitment to sport for development and peace. During the closing ceremony, Mr.Ogi and his co-hosts announced that the 3rd Magglingen Conference will take place in the autumn of 2008 with the theme: "Sharing Results and Validating Impacts."

The United Nations Communications Group (UNCG) Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace includes participants from: FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UN/DESA, UNDP, UN/DPI, UNESCO, UNEP, UNFIP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UN Millennium Development Goals Campaign, UN Millennium Project, UNODC, UN Office for IYSPE 2005, UNOHR-LLS, UNOPS, UN Volunteers, WFP, WHO, and the World Bank. Contacts: Djibril Diallo, Director, UN New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace (djibril.diallo@undp.org); Richard Leonard, Bulletin Editor (richard.leonard@undp.org); Michael Kleiner, Head of the Office for the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005 (mkleiner@unog.ch). Visit IYSPE 2005 at www.un.org/sport2005