



UNITED NATIONS SPORT BULLETIN
Updates on UN sport-related activities supporting efforts to
achieve the Millennium Development Goals and promote peace

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Secretary-General, with sports stars, to receive report on IYSPE 2005 – At the special event at UN Headquarters in New York on 3 April, Adolf Ogi, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, will present a report on the achievements of the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005 to Secretary-General Kofi Annan. They will be joined by sports celebrities from around the world, among them top-ranked tennis player and IYSPE Spokesperson Roger Federer; Johann Olav Koss, four-time Olympic gold medalist and President and CEO of Right to Play; Brazil's soccer legend Edson Arantes "Pelé" do Nascimento; and New York City marathon winner Tegla Loroupe of Kenya. Salif Keita, award-winning musician from Mali, will perform. The event is organized by Mr. Ogi's New York and Geneva offices in cooperation with the Swiss Mission to the UN and support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. It is co-hosted by the Group of Friends of Sport for Development, comprising the UN ambassadors from Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Mali, Norway, Pakistan, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, and the United Kingdom. Guests will include representatives from the world of sport, the UN system and multilateral organizations, civil society groups, the private sector and the media. The event will take place from 4:00 - 6:00 pm in the ECOSOC Chamber with a reception following. *Those wishing to attend please contact Veronique Ntamach: veronique.ntamach@undp.org*

Austria promotes Sport for Development and Peace during EU Presidency – Austrian State Secretary for Sports Karl Schweitzer announced the initiative at a press conference on 20 February hosted by the UN Information Service in Vienna, emphasizing that sport can help meet global challenges such as armed conflict and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Austria will encourage EU ministers of sport and heads of state and government, particularly during the EU Sports Directors meeting later this month, to play an active role in using sport for development and peace as a tool in their national policies and international development programs. Djibril Diallo, Director of the UN New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace, noted that 120 countries were involved in activities for the International Year of Sport and Physical Education (IYSPE 2005) and said that Austria's EU Presidency through 30 June, "offers an opportunity to take the efforts of the international community to a new level." Johann Olav Koss, President and CEO of Right to Play, emphasized that the combined efforts of governments, the UN and civil society are crucial to move the agenda of Sport for Development and Peace forward and thanked Austria for its commitment. Contact Richard Leonard: richard.leonard@undp.org

UN activities for the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Winter Games in Turin – Several agencies cooperated with the Torino Olympics Organizing Committee (TOROC) for the 2006 Winter Olympic Games on 10-26 February and the Paralympic Winter Games on 10-19 March to highlight issues relating to Sport for Development and Peace.

-- Special Adviser Adolf Ogi represented Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the opening ceremony of the Paralympic Winter Games. International Paralympic Committee President Sir Philip Craven told athletes and fans: "The Paralympic Games are first and foremost about competition, elite sport and excitement. But they are also an inspiring demonstration of camaraderie, fair play and friendship." Visit www.paralympic.org

-- UNICEF partnered with TIM, Italy's leading mobile phone company, to mobilize thousands of supporters to send text messages and make calls to a campaign number during the Winter Olympics. The company donated one euro for each message and two euros for each call for UNICEF immunization programs in Sudan. The related "Pigotte for Torino 2006" project is selling Italian handmade rag dolls to raise funds for the Sudan programs, and 20 one-of-a-kind dolls, representing disciplines in the Olympics and Paralympics, were lottery prizes for those contacting the campaign number.

-- UNEP worked closely with the IOC and TOROC to make the Games environmentally sustainable. By locating several key events in the city centre, the organizers dramatically increased the likelihood that the buildings and structures will be used for

future sports events, other leisure activities and housing, noted UNEP Executive Director Klaus Toepfer. This may be “an environmentally sound step forward for future Games,” he added.

-- UN Volunteers teamed up with Torino 2006 Non-Profit Coordination and Ideale Solidale to host a forum on volunteerism and promotion of human rights. Enzo di Taranto, head of governance for UNV in Bonn, led the forum. More than 20,000 volunteers were part of the Winter Games’ Volunteer Program. Contact Nadia Samadani: nadia.samadani@undp.org

Plans for UN Global Youth Leadership Summit move forward – Regional youth delegates met at the UN in New York on 27-28 February to review regional UN Youth Leadership Summits that have taken place so far – two in Africa, one in Asia and one in Latin America – and plan the Global Summit to be held at the UN in New York on 30 October-1 November 2006. A main focus will be on sport as a tool for mobilizing youth in support of the MDGs. Key partners, sponsors and representatives from UN agencies participated. The UN Office of Sport for Development and Peace is organizing the Global Summit on behalf of the UN system in partnership with the Global Peace Initiative of Women, a New York-based NGO. Contact: Karima Zerrou: karima.zerrou@undp.org

International Disability in Sport Working Group agrees on first steps – Representatives from 15 organizations at the initial meeting on 30 January at UNICEF offices in New York, convened by the Disability in Sport Program at the Northeastern University Center for the Study of Sport in Society, discussed objectives, based on Article 30 on the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. The group aims to advance the human rights of people with disabilities relating to sport, monitor the status these rights worldwide, support research that enhances these rights, and develop sport and physical activity programs. Among initiatives, the group agreed to set up a website, establish monitoring indicators, issued a call for papers for a new publication, and create a database of organizations. Contact Eli Wolff: e.wolff@neu.edu

UNFCU, UN-Habitat and UNEP support Kilimanjaro climb for safer cities – A group of international hikers, youth from Kenya and Tanzania, and volunteers reached the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa, on 1 March, reaching the goal conceived by Tim Challen, a UN Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) staff member from Switzerland who was shot in the leg by robbers in Nairobi three years ago. During his recuperation he resolved to launch the Kilimanjaro Initiative to use sport as a tool to raise awareness about impact of crime and raise funds for activities to promote crime prevention and safe urban environments in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. The initiative sponsored the youth participants on the climb, including crime victims and rehabilitated offenders. It is raising funds for projects developed with UN-Habitat and UNEP, such as renovation of a soccer field in Kibera, Nairobi, a high crime area; a crime victims counseling clinic; and a community water project in Dar es Salaam to generate funds for anti-crime patrols. Visit www.kilimanjaroinitiative.org

Partnership boosts Dunk Malaria initiative -- UN New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace joined with the New York Knicks basketball team at a press conference at the UN to publicize the launch of the Hedge Funds vs. Malaria “Dunk Malaria” initiative at a Knicks vs. Atlanta Hawks game on 15 March. Fans showed support by dunking balls into mini-basketball hoops, representing bed nets that protect against malaria, and received information on the initiative. Hedge Funds vs. Malaria founder Lance Laifer noted that the event kicked off a global Dunk Malaria campaign of grass roots activities for their Africa Malaria Action Day on March 19. Contact Karima Zerrou: karima.zerrou@undp.org ; visit www.dunkmalaria.org

ILO hosts Women in Sports Roundtable and IOC awards – The event celebrating International Women's Day on 8 March included Nawal El Moutawakel of Morocco, Olympic hurdling gold medalist, and Myriam Lamare of France, World Boxing Association light welterweight champion. The IOC presented its annual Women and Sport award for efforts to strengthen participation by women and girls in physical activities and sports to Argentine tennis star Gabriela Sabatini, and other winners were Albertine Barbosa Andrade of Senegal, Charmaine Crooks of Canada, Elisa Lee of the Republic of Korea, Dominique Petit of France and Lorraine Mar of Fiji. Contact Giovanni di Cola: dicola@ilo.org

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 Campaign, UN Millennium Project, UNODC, 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); David Winiger, Special Assistant to the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace (dwiniger@unog.ch). Visit www.un.org/sport2005