



**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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**Report to Secretary-General highlights achievements of the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005:  
Sport stars call for stronger role for sport to boost progress towards development goals and building peace**

Mr. Adolf Ogi, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace, presented the report on the International Year to Secretary-General Kofi Annan and General Assembly President Jan Eliasson, Foreign Minister of Sweden, at a special event at the UN on 3 April. More than 500 representatives of the world of sport, governments, the United Nations system, civil society, the private sector, youth organizations and the media joined in the culminating event of the International Year. The report, available at [www.un.org/sport2005](http://www.un.org/sport2005), highlights the significant role that sport can play in accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. Thousands of activities commemorating IYSPE 2005 were initiated worldwide, including sports events, conferences and projects using sport to further health, education, development and peace.

Mr. Ogi called sport "a vital tool to make a better world." He noted that during the Year, education reforms gave more time to physical education, sports activities helped millions improve their health, and the International Convention against Doping in Sport was adopted. Mr. Ogi also presented the Secretary-General with a book of 1,000 signatures of athletes at the 2006 Torino Winter Olympics on behalf of Right to Play endorsing efforts for peace through sport.

The Secretary-General said that the next stage is to make sport an essential component of efforts to achieve the world's development goals. He appealed for full support of programs using sport as a tool for development and peace. Mr. Eliasson saluted all those around the world who had helped make the Year a success. "Passion is a major element of sports, and that is needed to bring out the aspect of compassion reflected in sport for development and peace."

**Governments endorse the power of sport** – Tunisia's Minister of Youth, Sport and Physical Education Abdallah Kaabi noted that his country hosted the International Conference on Sport and Health, the first event for the Year, and thanked those who participated in activities world wide to commemorate the Year. Austrian State Secretary for Sport Karl Schweitzer, representing the European Union, reported that Austria, chairing the EU Sports Directors meeting in Vienna in March, had invited delegates to encourage their governments to explicitly incorporate sport and development in national policies, and invited the European Commission to gather information on sport and development projects and policies, and to exchange best practices.

Russia's Minister of Sport Vyacheslav Fetisov said that the Year highlighted sport's unique contribution to healthy life-styles, improving education and promoting peace, and said that an upcoming sport conference in Moscow will help maintain the momentum of the International Year. UN Ambassador Herald Munoz of Chile expressed hope that the plan of action on sport that the General Assembly requested from the Secretary-General will bring people and countries together to improve the quality of life and contribute to a less violent and more tolerant world. Ambassador Guangya Wang of China spoke on behalf of the host country of the 2008 Olympic Games and pledged that China will carry on the spirit of the Year in hosting the 2008 Beijing Olympics and Paralympics and the 2007 Shanghai Special Olympics.

**Renowned athletes speak out** -- Roger Federer, the world's top-ranked tennis star and a Spokesperson for the Year, who was appointed UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador earlier in the day (see below), called sport is one of the most effective tools in fighting the problems that children face. Tegla Loroupe of Kenya, New York Marathon winner, described the activities of her Peace Foundation in helping disadvantaged communities overcome local conflicts improve children's education. Elias Figueroa, Latin American soccer legend from Chile, said that he is supporting a Football for Peace initiative at the upcoming

2006 World Cup. Paralympics athletics gold medalist Katrina Webb of Australia, who has a disability from cerebral palsy, underlined the importance of sport for improving the lives of people with disabilities. Highlighting the link between sport and culture, African singing star Salif Keita gave a stirring performance. Swiss singer Jesse Brown sang his song “Play for Peace”, dedicated to Sport for Development and Peace. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation supported the event, which was co-hosted by the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace, comprising ambassadors to the UN from 20 member states. Visit [www.un.org/sport2005](http://www.un.org/sport2005)

**Special Adviser meets South Africa’s President** – Mr. Ogi met with President Thabo Mbeki and First Lady Zanele Mbeki during a 8-12 April visit on the invitation of the Department of Sport and Recreation. They discussed South Africa’s role in advancing peace and stability in Africa and how sport can be a vital component in achieving the MDGs. Mr. Ogi said that the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa “is a huge opportunity, not only for South Africa, but for the whole continent.” He visited two sport-related development projects: SCORE (Sports Coaches' OutReach) in Khayelitsha township in Cape Town, and IMBEWU and the Roger Federer Foundation in the township of New Brighton, in Port Elizabeth. Other meetings were held with the Defence Minister, the President of the National Olympic Committee, and the Deputy Minister of Social Development. Mr Ogi expressed strong support for the Homeless World Cup to be held in South Africa in September, which aims to raise awareness of homelessness and build self-esteem among those affected. He also gave the keynote speech at a Workshop on Partnership in Practice: Assessing Our Capacity to Deliver, organized by the Supreme Council of Sport in Africa, Zone VI, covering southern Africa. Contact David Winger: [dwinger@unog.ch](mailto:dwinger@unog.ch)

**UNICEF appoints Roger Federer Goodwill Ambassador** – UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman welcomed tennis icon Roger Federer as the organization’s newest Goodwill Ambassador on 3 April at UNICEF headquarters in New York. He will support UNICEF in its efforts to bring attention and resources to the world’s most vulnerable children. In 2003, he established the Roger Federer Foundation to fund projects benefiting disadvantaged children, primarily in South Africa, and to promote sport for young people. Visit: [www.unicef.org/people/people\\_ambassadors.html](http://www.unicef.org/people/people_ambassadors.html)

**Soccer helps promote small arms control in Liberia** – The UNDP Small Arms Control Programme in Liberia has implemented a series of Community Arms Collection for Development (CACD) pilot projects, and soccer is an important element. The initiative aims to empower communities to carry out voluntary small arms collection activities. The official launch in February of the last of the projects included a mini football tournament among high school teams in several communities to generate awareness and support, especially among youth. At half time during the matches a local cultural troupe performed traditional dances and spread the message on small arms control and the arms for development program. Contact Napoleon Abdulai: [napoleon.abdulai@undp.org](mailto:napoleon.abdulai@undp.org)

**WHO report endorses sport and physical activity to combat chronic disease** – The report, *Preventing chronic disease: a vital investment*, calls for action to combat the threat of chronic diseases, and highlights physical inactivity as one of the major modifiable risk factors for diseases such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases. The largely invisible epidemic of such diseases is worst in developing countries, where 80% of all chronic disease deaths occur. Visit: [www.who.int/chp/chronic\\_disease\\_report/en](http://www.who.int/chp/chronic_disease_report/en)

**Conference highlights Sport for Youth Wellness and Development** – Organized by South Africa’s University of the Western Cape and others partners, the International Conference on Sport and Development on 10-11 April explored cooperation among stakeholders such as researchers, policy makers, international organizations, NGOs, and sport federations. Mr. Ogi gave the conference keynote, and the event’s main themes were: good delivery of sport in developing countries; sport and community development, including peace-keeping and conflict resolution; sport and HIV/AIDS; and monitoring and evaluation. Visit: [www.uct-cmc.co.za/conferences/2006/intsportdev/info.php](http://www.uct-cmc.co.za/conferences/2006/intsportdev/info.php)

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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](mailto:djibril.diallo@undp.org)); Richard Leonard, Bulletin Editor ([richard.leonard@undp.org](mailto:richard.leonard@undp.org)); David Winger, Special Assistant to the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace ([dwinger@unog.ch](mailto:dwinger@unog.ch)). Visit [www.un.org/sport2005](http://www.un.org/sport2005)