



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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United Nations European Youth Leadership Summit supports sports initiatives -- The Summit was a landmark event, where for the first time young leaders from across the European Union and the accession countries Bulgaria and Romania meeting in Vienna on 19-21 June focused on the convening power of sport and culture to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and promote peace. The Summit was organized by the United Nations New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace on behalf of the UN system and hosted by the Government of Austria, current holder of the EU Presidency. Countries were represented by two young leaders, a young man and a young woman, ages 18 to 30. The Summit was the final in a two-year series of regional youth leadership meetings that have taken place in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. These will culminate in the first ever United Nations Global Youth Leadership Summit to be held in New York on 30 October-1 November with youth leaders from the 191 United Nations Member States.

At the closing ceremony presided over by Austrian State Secretary of Sport H.E. Karl Schweitzer, a torch, symbolizing the spirit of the Youth Leadership Summits, was passed from the youth leaders of Austria and Finland, representing the European Union countries, to the youth leaders of the United States, where the Global Youth Leadership Summit will be held.

“We can be confident that our youth leaders will follow up on the Summit because of their deep commitment to international relations and global cooperation, the maturity and “esprit de corps” they have demonstrated. What has impressed us most is the dedication to commit themselves to the Millennium Development Goals and the pursuit of peace and harmony, using the convening power of sport and culture”, added Djibril Diallo, Director of the United Nations New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace.

The delegates at the Summit adopted the Vienna Declaration, which will be presented, through the Government of Austria, to the United Nations Secretary-General, and will be presented at the European Union Summit in Finland later this year, as well as to the Global Youth Leadership Summit in New York.

The Declaration expresses determination to see the young generation play its part in promoting development and peace to help build a better world, and affirms the commitment of European youth leaders to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Vienna Declaration underlines that sport and cultural activities are powerful tools for accelerating progress towards achieving the MDGs, by contributing to efforts to reduce poverty and promote education, health, empowerment of women and girls and environmental sustainability. The Declaration urges all EU member States to fulfill their pledge to contribute 0.7 per cent of their GDP to development assistance.

The Declaration identifies sport and cultural activities as a tool to increase youth employment rates, and recognizes that gender, participation, and health issues can be tackled through creative initiatives and projects, including sports and cultural activities.

Acknowledging the need for a European platform to share best practices on youth projects regarding sport and culture, the Declaration urges that each European Union Presidency should support the implementation of at least one European-wide youth project, and asks all sport organizations in Europe, such as UEFA or the European Olympic Committee, to actively participate in the implementation of projects by providing expertise, funds and support through sports representatives.

Further to the 8th Millennium Development Goal of ‘Developing a global partnership for Development’, the Vienna Declaration underlines that youth represent more than half of the world’s population, and in order to achieve this goal, youth

should be actively involved in building a global partnership for development by promoting sport as a vehicle for development, bringing with them values such as teamwork, fair-play, cooperation and personal development. The youth leadership summit series is organized through cooperation with United Nations agencies; host governments; NGO partners, including the Global Peace Initiative of Women; and private sector partners, including the Geeta-Mohan Mittal Foundation, ITRI, and Sun Microsystems. Contact Vera Mehta: vera.mehta@undp.org ; Visit www.un.org/youthsummit.org

UNHCR “Ninemillion.org” campaign helps refugee children with education and sports -- Under the slogan "Nine million faces. Nine million names. Nine million stories," UNHCR and its corporate partners are counting on a major new internet-based campaign to raise awareness about refugee youth and to collect funds for educational and sport programmes. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and his Special Adviser Adolf Ogi joined UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner Wendy Chamberlin in Geneva on 21 June to mark the launch of the ninemillion.org campaign to deliver education and sports to refugee youth.

"Nine million refugee children. That is unacceptable. We need actions. And not only words. Therefore, this campaign is very important. For refugee children and youth, there are few things more important than education and sport. They can make the difference between despair and hope," Mr. Ogi said. "By helping refugee children to learn and play, we will be helping them, and the world, to have a better future."

UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres also stressed the campaign's benefits, explaining that ninemillion.org is about giving the world's refugee youth a chance to see beyond their current situation and begin to rebuild their lives. The campaign has received key support from Nike and Microsoft, both members of UNHCR's Council of Business Leaders. The Toronto-based international humanitarian organization, Right To Play, is also a partner.

The campaign includes a 30-second TV spot featuring Brazilian football legend Ronaldo, who is supporting ninemillion.org in his capacity as a UNDP goodwill ambassador. It also features short films about young refugees in Azerbaijan, Uganda and Thailand who share similar experiences, hopes, ambitions and love of football. The films can be seen on the ninemillion.org website, along with photo galleries, stories and blogs.

"These are youth who have seen their parents killed, have fled their homes because of war, or who have been born in a refugee camp and known nothing else. Yet, despite the trauma and conflict of their lives – and the harsh conditions of a refugee camp – they are connected by a universal love of sport and the desire to learn and create a better future for themselves, their families and their communities," the organisers said. "ninemillion.org is committed to giving them that chance." For more information, visit www.ninemillion.org or contact Frauke Joosten: joosten@unhcr.org

World Cup: UNICEF teams up with FIFA to protect children -- While the planet's top soccer players score goals for their national teams in the World Cup on the playing fields of Germany, the UNICEF teamed up with the sport's governing body to score one for the world's youngsters, kicking off a campaign to promote human values on websites, videos and in print. "Whether they are playing on busy streets, in crowded refugee camps or amidst the chaos of conflict, children find joy through sport," said UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman. "But sport is more than just a game – it is also one of the best ways for children to learn team work, tolerance and the value of play. UNICEF and FIFA share a common commitment to transforming young athletes into upstanding citizens," she added, referring to the governing soccer body Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). The "Unite for Children, Unite for Peace" campaign spotlights the power of soccer in promoting values of peace and tolerance within communities and at the international level. It includes public service announcements featuring some of the world's top players, including UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and England's captain David Beckham, an interactive website, video profiles of 11 children who have overcome situations of violence, and a manual for players and coaches designed to combat violence and discrimination, particularly against girls. The manual will be published in English, French, Spanish, and German and will be distributed globally. The announcement, produced by MTV International and featuring a 15-man "Team UNICEF" of World Cup players, is being shown before each of the matches. The campaign website spotlights these players and highlights video stories of the 11 children who have overcome situations of violence and conflict through the power of football. Contact Alison Qualter Berna: aqualter@unicef.org

International Military Sports Council (CISM) highlights significance of sport in peacekeeping – The 61st CISM General Assembly and Annual Congress was held in Rome, Italy, from 18 to 20 May, with the participation of 250 delegates from around the world, including from Iraq, which participated for the first time since its readmission to CISM in November 2003. The topic of the Congress was “Peacekeeping through military sport: concrete cases and actions”, where concrete examples of military sport as a tool for reconciliation and peace were given. The keynote address was given by David Winiger on behalf of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace. CISM President General Gianni Gola, who was re-elected for the third consecutive time for another 4 years, reiterated the willingness of CISM to support the United Nations with its manpower, infrastructures and expertise and to launch concrete joint projects in the area of sport and peacekeeping. CISM is an apolitical organisation with 127 Member States, which fosters friendship between military forces in order to promote international solidarity through sport. Contact David Winiger: dwiniger@unog.ch

4th IWG World Conference on Women and Sport, Kumamoto, Japan, 11-14 May 2006 - The conference was organised by the International Working Group for Women and Sport (IWG) and was attended by 700 representatives of NOCs, national sports federations, International Federations, NGOs as well as the UN system. The conference was standing under the guiding theme “Participating in Change” and was inaugurated by Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado of Japan. In her opening keynote, Carolyn Hannan, Director of the UN Division for the Advancement of Women, underlined that “sport can play a significant role in promoting gender equality” and urged all stakeholders to ensure better access for women and girls to sport. The conference was concluded with the **Kumamoto Commitment to Collaboration**, which states that “in order to realize gender equality in and through sport, we commit to building a network for close collaboration with relevant agencies and individuals. Over the next four years (2006-2010), we will further develop the vision of active participation in change born at the Kumamoto Conference”. Contact David Winiger: dwiniger@unog.ch

International Conference on “Sport and Foreign Policy in a Globalizing World”, Otago Foreign Policy School, Dunedin, New Zealand, 23 to 26 June 2006. The Conference was opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand, Rt. Hon Winston Peters, who noted sports’ capacities to “break down racial and ethnic divisions”, especially in light of the Pacific Island rugby players represented within the All Blacks, New Zealand’s national rugby team. The conference represented a significant entry point for the Sport for Development and Peace movement in the region. Attended by renowned academics, policy makers and diplomats from around the world, the conference discussed the influence that sport has as a foreign policy instrument in responding to novel social, political, cultural and economic pressures. Contact Ingrid Beutler: ibeutler@unog.ch

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