



**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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**France approves national sport development program** – The French Council of Ministers, chaired by President Jacques Chirac, approved the program for 2006 – 2008 at the Palais de l’Elysée in Paris on 18 January. The initiative aims to encourage the widest possible participation in sport, focusing on girls and women, people with disabilities, and youth in disadvantaged urban areas. It also calls for steps to improve preparations of athletes for major international competitions and upgrading sports facilities for hosting international events. The initiative will cost some 100 million euros, funded in part by a higher tax on rights to re-broadcast televised sports events. Contact Karima Zerrou: [karima.zerrou@undp.org](mailto:karima.zerrou@undp.org)

**UN ambassadors push Sport for Development and Peace initiatives** – The Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace, so far comprising ambassadors from 20 countries to the UN in New York, agreed at their latest meeting on 9 February to push for implementation of General Assembly resolution A/RES/60/9, adopted on 3 November. They plan to coordinate their activities with General Assembly President Jan Eliasson of Sweden and Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who last month focused attention on sport’s contributions to development at the World Economic Forum in Davos and forged closer UN ties with the IOC and FIFA. The resolution calls for a UN action plan to build on the momentum generated by IYSPE 2005 by expanding and strengthening partnerships with governments, sport-related organizations and the private sector. It also invites Member States and sports organizations to promote sport and physical education to help achieve the MDGs, and to help poor countries develop sports programs. In this regard, the Friends urged that sport be more systematically incorporated into UN country programs. Ambassadors Peter Maurer of Switzerland and Ali Hachani of Tunisia are co-Chairs of the Friends, and other countries represented at the meeting were: Austria, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Germany, Greece, Italy, India, Mali, Norway, Pakistan, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand and Tunisia. Contact Nadia Samadani: [nadia.samadani@undp.org](mailto:nadia.samadani@undp.org); Visit [www.un.org/sport2005/resources/resolution.html](http://www.un.org/sport2005/resources/resolution.html)

**Secretary-General urges observance of Olympic Truce** – Noting the UN General Assembly’s call for observance of the truce during the Olympic Winter Games in Turin, a message from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan of 10 February states: “I join the Assembly in urging that athletes participating in the Games be afforded safe passage, and that all engaged in hostilities respect the truce.” The Torino Olympic Organizing Committee (TOROC) is joining the Italian National Committee for UNICEF in support of the “Pigotte” project that sells rag dolls to raise funds for children’s vaccinations during truces in war torn areas. Visit [www.un.org/sport2005](http://www.un.org/sport2005)

**Winter Olympics get UNEP Green Seal of Approval** – The Games are seeing the culmination of an extensive environmental program by TOROC in cooperation with UNEP. The HERitage Climate TORino (HECTOR) project is designed to make the Games carbon neutral by supporting forestry, energy efficiency and renewable energy schemes, both at home and abroad to offset the estimated 100,000 tons of carbon dioxide that will be generated during the Games. A monitoring plan for the Games includes 16 environmental indicators, including water cycle, air quality, soil use, energy consumption, waste production, ecosystems, landscape and urban environment. Contact James Sniffen: [sniffenj@un.org](mailto:sniffenj@un.org)

**Olympic speedskating gold medalist donates winnings to Right to Play** – Joey Cheek of the US announced after his victory in the 500 meter sprint in Torino that he would give his \$25,000 gold medal bonus from the US Olympic Committee to assist the work of Right to Play, a major partner of the UN in sport, with Darfur refugees in Chad. “I always felt that if I ever did something big like this I wanted to be prepared to give something back,” he said. He was inspired by Norway’s four-time Olympic speedskating gold medalist Johann Olav Koss, President and CEO of Right to Play. Visit [www.righttoplay.org](http://www.righttoplay.org)

**South African sport stars walk against HIV/AIDS** – Among sports celebrities joining the fourth annual Sports Heroes Walk Against AIDS were Olympic marathon gold medalist Josiah Thugwane, former world junior flyweight boxing champion “Baby Jake” Matlala and women’s cricketer Daleen Terblanche. The 300km, eight-day walk from Hammanskraal to Nelspruit finished on 1 December, World AIDS Day, and raised \$411,000 for AIDS hospices and focused attention on the need for action against HIV/AIDS, which afflicts 30 per cent of South Africans ages 15 to 49. UNAIDS and its partners use many activities, including sport, to focus global attention on the disease each year on World AIDS Day. Visit: [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)

**More than 250,000 set for World Swim for Malaria** – People from more than 150 countries have signed up to swim. Local groups began holding swims on 3 December and they will continue up to 3 June 2006. With more than 1.5 million people dying each year from malaria, mainly in Africa, the initiative’s founder Rob Mather, reports that the swim will raise funds to buy bed nets treated with insecticide to help prevent the spread of the disease. This supports efforts to reach MDGs Goal 6: reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other major diseases by 2015. Visit: [www.worldswimformalaria.com](http://www.worldswimformalaria.com)

**WHO holds 4th International Workshop on Physical Activity and Public Health** – The event in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, on 25-30 January, aimed to increase countries’ capacity for raising awareness about the importance of physical activity and for planning, implementing and evaluating initiatives to facilitate increased population participation in appropriate physical activities and sport for all. WHO collaborated with the US Centres for Disease Control and the International Union for Health Promotion and Education in organizing the workshop. The course continues in Malaysia in May and then in other regions. Contact Hamadi Benaziza: [benazizah@who.int](mailto:benazizah@who.int)

**Governments to forge work plan on physical activity and sport** – This year’s first session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS), held at UNESCO in Paris on 30-31 January, decided to develop a work plan to strengthen its role, responsibility, visibility and efficiency in the promotion of physical activity and sport. They agreed to work under the leadership of designated Member States in close cooperation with the UNESCO Permanent Consultative Council and specialized agencies appointed as special advisers. Eighty countries are members of the committee, including 9 newly elected members. Contact Marcellin Dally: [M.Dally@unesco.org](mailto:M.Dally@unesco.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Presentation of the Final Report on IYSPE 2005 on 3 April** – The event at UN headquarters in NY will be held in the ECOSOC Chamber from 4 pm to 6 pm, followed by a reception with musical entertainment. The event is sponsored and organized by the Swiss Mission, with assistance from the UN New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace. Adolfo Ogi, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, will present the Final Report to Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and athletes, UN Goodwill Ambassadors, representatives of sport organizations, the private sector, news media, UN missions, and NGOs are being invited to attend. Contact Nadia Samadani: [nadia.samadani@undp.org](mailto:nadia.samadani@undp.org)

**Planning meeting for UN Global Youth Leadership Summit** – The meeting at the UN in New York on 27-28 February will review regional UN Youth Leadership Summits that have taken place so far -- two in Africa, one in Asia and one in Latin America -- and set the goals for the Global Summit (planned for 28-31 August) and its structure and content, including a focus on sport as a tool for mobilizing youth in support of the MDGs. Youth representative from each region will participate, along with key partners, sponsors and representatives from UN agencies. 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](mailto:karima.zerrou@undp.org)

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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 Development Goals 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 Winiger, Special Assistant to the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace ([dwiniger@unog.ch](mailto:dwiniger@unog.ch)). Visit [www.un.org/sport2005](http://www.un.org/sport2005)