



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 welcomes 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa – United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, speaking at the unveiling of the emblem for the first World Cup in Africa, called it “an exciting day -- not only for all Africans, but for all speakers of the universal language of football.” He said that the United Nations relies on that language every day: “We use it to heal the emotional wounds of war among young people in refugee camps, and in countries recovering from armed conflict. We use it to try to bridge ethnic, social, cultural and religious divides. We use it to promote teamwork and fair play. We use it to empower girls. We use it in our work to reach the Millennium Development Goals.” The Secretary-General saluted South Africa’s President Thabo Mbeki; Alpha Konare, Chairman of the African Union Commission; and Issa Hayatou, President of the Confederation of African Football. He also thanked FIFA for bringing the World Cup to Africa and congratulated Germany on organizing “the best World Cup ever.” Mr. Annan’s op-ed article on the World Cup appeared in 72 newspapers in 44 countries, and he and his Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace Adolf Ogi were guests of FIFA at the World Cup. In related news, the Offices of the Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace are working together with FIFA on implementation of its ambitious programme, “Win in Africa – with Africa” – an initiative that will devote \$70 million USD over 4 years to specific projects linking sport with humanitarian efforts to ensure that the entire African continent benefits from the 2010 World Cup. The UN system will be invited to work in the field with FIFA, in accordance to competencies of each UN agency. In addition, the UN New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace will work with FIFA to include Sport for Development and Peace on the agenda at the African Union Summit in January. Visit www.southafrica.info/2010/ and www.un.org/sport2005/newsroom/worldcup.html

FIFA and UNICEF “Say No to Racism”- UNICEF Executive Director Ann Veneman joined FIFA President Joseph Blatter, German government officials and leaders from the world of soccer at a FIFA-organized press conference on "Say No to Racism" on 28 June in Berlin. Ms. Veneman spoke about the importance of teaching tolerance and non-violence to children to address the root causes of racism and discrimination. In line with their longstanding partnership, the FIFA-UNICEF joint 2006 World Cup campaign “Unite for Children, Unite for Peace” involved several successful initiatives that leveraged the power of football to benefit the needs of children around the world. UNICEF welcomes partnership opportunities with all Football for Development programmes that focus on positively influencing and including children. Also in Berlin, UNICEF convened its Global Strategic Working Group on Sport to plan expansion of its Sport for Development and Peace projects. Contact Alison Qualter Berna: aqualter@unicef.org

UN Peacekeeping operations turn to sports for peace-building – UN peacekeeping missions worldwide use sport-related activities as an integral part of nation-building and peace-building activities aiming at promoting dialogue between groups in conflict and fostering goodwill within local communities. These are findings of an inventory of sports-related activities by UN peacekeepers initiated by Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Marie Guéhenno and Mr. Ogi. The International Olympic Committee, FIFA and other partners have indicated their readiness to expand cooperation with peacekeeping missions. Among examples of sports activities, the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) promoted national elections through the “Run to Vote” road race, while the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the International Olympic Committee are also planning major sports events during the upcoming election period. The UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) organized multiethnic youth basketball and football camps. The UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) promoted dialogue between rebel and government groups through the organization of football matches and also cultivated goodwill for the mission itself by repairing sports infrastructure in the country. Other peacekeeping operations, such as the mission in Côte d’Ivoire (UNOCI) which donated sports equipment, and the mission in Western Sahara (MINURSO) which organized football matches between the conflicting parties and the mission staff, also used sport as a confidence-building measure. Contact Vera Mehta: vera.mehta@undp.org

Berlin hosts streetfootballworld festival – From 2 to 8 July, 24 teams from five continents played for the championship in conjunction with the FIFA World Cup, with the Kenyan MYSA team beating the KickAIDs from South Africa. The festival was inaugurated by FIFA President Joseph Blatter and German Foreign Minister Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier expressed appreciation for the projects and the teams involved, citing the US team, which fights drug abuse, and the Brandenburg team, which stands against right-wing extremism. He called it a hopeful sign that a mixed team of Israelis and Palestinians participated. Streetfootballworld is based in Berlin and collaborates closely with the Youth Football Foundation, initiated by the German national team coach, Jürgen Klinsmann. Berlin's Mayor Klaus Wowereit pointed out that street football is for kids from underprivileged backgrounds and many suffer from hunger and poverty, with little opportunity to receive an education. Visit www.streetfootballworld.org

Italy to include sport in development cooperation activities -- Vice Minister for Development Cooperation Honorable Patrizia Sentinelli of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs met this month with Dr. Djibril Diallo, Director of the UN New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace to discuss preparations for Italy's *Giornate della Cooperazione*, which extends from October to December. The meeting, also attended by Giovanni di Cola, Programme Coordinator for ILO/Universitas, gave an opportunity to introduce, to the major Italian development cooperation event of the year, sport as a means to develop youth skills and foster peace and tolerance. The Vice Minister was invited to attend the UN Youth Global Leadership Summit in New York, taking place later this year. Contact Giovanni di Cola: dicola@ilo.org

Upcoming events

UNESCO plans Sport for Development and Peace events for 60th anniversary -- The Sector of Social and Human Sciences is organizing events from 17 - 23 July to raise awareness about the educational, ethical and social dimensions of physical education and sport. Three themes will be highlighted: physical education, traditional sports and games, and women and sport. Two exhibitions will be inaugurated and will be on display at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris until 10 August. The Art Miles Mural Project aims to bring people together through educational and cultural activities and prepare the Exhibition of the Century in 2010. It is an art project in support of the UNESCO Decade for the Culture of Peace, and 41,000 people in over 100 countries completed more than 1500 murals on themes, such as the environment, multicultural diversity, music or sports. The 12 miles of canvas will eventually be joined together to create the longest painting in the world and enter the Guinness Book of World Records by encircling Egypt's great pyramids in 2010. UNESCO will exhibit 12 murals of the Sport Mile. The traveling exhibition, "150 years of Physical Education and Sport," is organized by the Association of Teachers of Physical Education and Sport (AEEPS). The collection of 30 panels illustrates the evolution of gymnastics, physical education and sport in French schools from 1850 to 2005. The opening ceremony will include a performance of traditional African music and a demonstration of traditional wrestling from Central Asia. Several personalities from the world of sports, including representatives of international sports federations and other organizations, will be present at the opening ceremony. Renowned world athletes, including Ivorian footballer Didier Drogba, Cameroonian footballers Roger Miller and Eto, German Olympic alpine skiing champion Rosi Mittermaier-Neureuther, and Croatian swimmer Gordan Kozulj, will also be in attendance. The week of Sport for Peace and Development is a unique opportunity to highlight the need to reinforce the values associated with sport, within the framework of UNESCO's programs and policies. Contact m.boavida@unesco.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