

United Nations Nations Unies

New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace
Bureau de New York pour le Sport au service du Développement et de la Paix



UNITED NATIONS SPORT BULLETIN

Updates on UN sport-related initiatives supporting the MDGs and activities for the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005 (IYSPE 2005)

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Tennis star Roger Federer appointed IYSPE 2005 Spokesperson -- Roger Federer of Switzerland, the world's number one tennis player, has accepted the appointment of United Nations Spokesperson for the International Year of Sport and Physical Education (IYSPE 2005), announced Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, at the UN in New York on 25 May. The tennis champion, winner of the Laureus Sportsman of the Year Award for 2005, has pledged to cooperate with the UN to use of the power of sport to bridge social divides and improve people's lives. The Roger Federer Foundation in South Africa aids hundreds of school children and their teachers. "Sport can make a difference in people's lives and Roger Federer is an excellent illustration of this difference. He is a model for all young athletes," said Mr. Ogi. Contact Michael Kleiner: mkleiner@unog.ch

International Working Group prepares guidelines on sport policy -- The inaugural meeting of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group at the UN in New York on 24 May focused on tools for governments to mainstream sport for development in national programs and policies. Ministerial representatives from Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, Ghana, Kenya, occupied Palestinian territory, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia discussed innovative partnerships and initiatives. UN Special Adviser Adolf Ogi emphasized the vital role of sport in development and the need for more resources from governments, and Deputy UN Secretary-General Louise Fréchette pointed out sport's role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Right to Play hosted the meeting with the UN New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace and UNFIP, and UNDP chaired the event. Contact Anna Alexandrova: aalexandrova@righttoplay.com

Group of Friends mobilize support for sport for development and peace -- Special Adviser Adolf Ogi met with ambassadors and other representatives from nearly a dozen missions to the UN in New York on 25 May to thank them for putting sport for development and peace on the global development agenda and urged their support to highlight the role of sport at the five-year review of progress towards the MDGs at the UN in September. Ambassadors Peter Maurer of Switzerland and Ali Hachani of Tunisia hosted the meeting at the Swiss Mission. They have enlisted ambassadors from Austria, Chile, Greece, Norway, Mali, Russia, and the United Kingdom in a Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace and are encouraging others to join. Contact Richard Leonard: richard.leonard@undp.org

Sports organizations join with UNHCR to aid African refugees -- The IOC is supplying sport equipment and constructing three sport fields for a refugee camp in Mwaro, Burundi, and is providing sports equipment for refugees and returnees in camps at Muyinga, Makamba and Ruyigi. In southwest Algeria, the IOC will help construct sport facilities for Saharawi refugees. The International Volleyball Federation is donating equipment for camps in Angola, Liberia and Rwanda and providing funds for coaches, trainers and sports events. The International Basketball Federation is funding basketball courts for refugee camps in Tanzania and Uganda. Contact Frauke Joosten: JOOSTEN@unhcr.ch

Latin American and the Caribbean youth endorse sport for development -- Convening at the Latin America and the Caribbean Youth Leadership Summit in Belo Horizonte, Brazil on 12-15 May, young delegates from across the region participated in workshops and a panel on sport and culture to achieve the MDGs. They adopted a declaration that includes sport and culture as “rights and means of empowerment of individuals.” The UN New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace organized the event with the UN country team, the Government of Brazil, the Global Peace Initiative of Women, the city of Belo Horizonte, and the Citizenship Institute. Participating UN agencies included ILO, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNIFEM. Contact Karima Zerrou: karima.zerrou@undp.org

UNEP draws on sport to raise environmental awareness – UNEP’s Sport and the Environment Programme works to integrate environmental considerations in sports and use sport’s popularity to promote environmental awareness. UNEP has signed an agreement with the IOC, and works closely with organizers of Olympic Games to include environmental considerations in the Games. It also cooperates with sports organizations: for example, UNEP and the FIFA 2006 World Cup Organizing Committee are forging an agreement on environmental issues for the 2006 World Cup. UNEP organizes a Global Forum for Sport and Environment every two years and also runs Nature and Sport Camps for children in slum areas of Kenya. Contact Theo Oben: theodore.oben@unep.org

ESPN Brazil and UNICEF bring Sports Caravan to low-income children – The initiative aims to assist 5,000 children in 10 cities and towns in the north, north-east and center-west regions between March and December, offering basketball, volleyball, football and other sports. The Caravan will raise awareness about children’s right to a healthy life and recreation. Other partners are the VIVO Institute, Adline, Brudden Náutica, Instituto Brasil Lector, Kappa and Plastbrinq. Peugeot is providing three vehicles and sports equipment, and Brazilian sports stars are supporting the Caravan. Contact Helena Oliveira: hosilva@unicef.org. Visit: www.2.uol.com.br/espnbrazil/caravana/index.htm

UN-Habitat sees sport as essential for vibrant communities – For UN-Habitat, sport is an essential tool for improving slum areas and helping disadvantaged urban youth. The Habitat Agenda asks governments to promote sports and recreational and cultural activities for all and to include playgrounds, parks, sports and recreation areas in their urban land management practices. The Patrullas Juvenilas (Youth Patrol Program) in 40 poor districts in Lima, Peru, uses sport to help enlist youth gangs in constructive activities. Contact Yamina Djacta: djacta@un.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Next Step 2005 Livingstone Conference: Taking sport for development home – The conference in Livingstone, Zambia, 10-13 June, brings together experts and people working in the field from around the world during IYSPE 2005 to exchange knowledge on using sport for reaching the MDGs. Organizers are the Norwegian Olympic Committee and Confederation of Sports, the National Sport Council of Zambia, UK Sport, Commonwealth Games Canada, Right to Play, and FK Norway (Youth Exchange Programme). Contact: nextstep2005@nif.idrett.no ; visit: www.nextstep2005.no

Day of Sport in Vienna – The UN Information Service Vienna in collaboration with the City of Vienna, will hold a Day of Sport for young people on 24 June mark IYSPE 2005 and raise awareness of sport’s contribution to good health. The two main events include demonstrations of training techniques by top Austrian men and women athletes and a panel on sports opportunities for the younger generation. Contact Christian Strohmann: Christian.strohmann@unvienna.org.

UNESCO and International Biathlon Union organize training for youth – The initiative, part of celebrations for IYSPE 2005, includes a training camp in Pokljuka, Slovenia on 1 – 11 July for participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Romania, and Serbia and Montenegro. A second camp in Ruhpolding, Germany, on 8 – 18 July will include athletes from Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, China, Chile, Korea and the Netherlands. The third camp in Ignalina, Lithuania on 15 – 25 July is for athletes from Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania and the Ukraine. Contact Marcellin Dally: M.Dally@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 Development Goals Campaign, UN Millennium Project, UNODC, UN Office for IYSPE 2005, UNOHR-LLS, UNOPS, UN Volunteers, 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); Michael Kleiner, Head of the Office for the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005 (mkleiner@unog.ch). Visit IYSPE 2005 at www.un.org/sport2005