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New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace
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Joint message of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Jacques Rogge on the Olympic Day Run and the commemoration of the International Year of Sport and Physical Education (IYSPE 2005)

Olympic Day Run for millions to celebrate International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005 (IYSPE 2005)

United Nations, New York, 17 June 2005 -- Affirming that the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee “share fundamental ideals such as tolerance, fair play and equal rights,” IOC President Jacques Rogge and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan have issued a joint message for this year’s Olympic Day Run and the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005 (IYSPE 2005). National Olympic Committees worldwide traditionally hold the run on the first weekend before or after 23 June, marking Olympic Day when the IOC was formed in Paris in 1894.

During IYSPE 2005, sports entities are working together to “harness the great power of sport to change peoples’ lives for the better,” the message says, noting that well-designed sport programs can be “catalysts for economic growth, and cost-effective ways to improve health and education – for young people in particular.” The message concludes that for this year’s Olympic Day, when millions will take the traditional run to mark the birth of the modern Olympics, “We call on the sporting community to re-dedicate itself to the goals of service to the community, the advancement of humankind and universal peace.”

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