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PRESS RELEASE**International Conference on Sport and Peace Held in Moscow**

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On October 4 Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Alexander Yakovenko took part in the work of the International Conference on Sport and Peace, which was held in Moscow under the patronage of the United Nations Organization.

This forum was devoted to the theme of stepping up the role of sport in the cause of strengthening peace and understanding between peoples, as well as summing up the results of the current year, declared International Year for Sport and Physical Education by the United Nations.

Forty states were represented at the Conference, as well as a number of international organizations: the UN, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Heads of ministries and departments responsible for the field of sports from 25 countries, the representatives of the Russian and foreign sports community, prominent athletes, and Olympic champions participated in its work.

The Conference was held under the chairmanship of the Russian Federal Agency for Physical Culture and Sport Head, Vyacheslav Fetisov, with the participation of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Sport for Development and Peace, Adolf Ogi.

The forum passed in a businesslike and constructive atmosphere. Participants showed a complete mutual understanding in regard to the proposed agenda of the Conference, universally emphasizing its relevance and significance in the conditions of the contemporary development of the world community. In the course of the fruitful discussions a number of topical aspects of the state of, and prospects for international sports cooperation were discussed, and practical tasks were defined in the intensification of multilateral engagement, including that within the UN and other international organizations.

At the end of the Conference a Declaration was signed, whose text follows below:

"Sport for peace,

Sport for cooperation,

Sport in the name of the future!

"The participants of the international Conference on Sport and Peace, held in the Russian Federation's capital, Moscow, on October 3-4, 2005, under the aegis of the United Nations Organization and with the backing of the International Olympic Committee as part of International Year for Sport and Physical Education,

"Regarding sport and physical education as a huge achievement of modern society and as an important social possession;

"Recognizing the significance of the ideals of Olympism and the need for the Olympic education of children and youth for the purpose of bringing them into contact with these ideals;

"Based on the belief that sport can play an active constructive role in bolstering the physical, intellectual and moral health of mankind in the 21st century; and

"Considering that sport can and should be a key element in the assertion of humanitarian values and in counteraction against racial and religious prejudices and the ideas of violence,

"Appeal to state and political leaders, to the athletes of the planet and to sports organizations to use their authority for the prevention of conflicts on an interethnic basis and renunciation of enmity and aggression and thus contribute to the unification of the international community on the principles of peace and harmony."

October 4, 2005