

Press Briefing
19 June 2006

A press briefing was held on Monday 19 June with some of the key speakers from the opening session of the Youth Summit.

The Austrian State Secretary for Sports Karl Schweitzer also launched a landmark report examining how governments around the globe are using sport as a low-cost, high impact tool for development and peace. The report by the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group (SDP IWG) represents the first systematic attempt to document how governments are using sport to achieve development and peace targets, in particular to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The Director of the United Nations New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace, Djibril Diallo, told the briefing it was the first time youth leaders from the 25 European Union countries and the two accession countries (Bulgaria and Romania) had come together to focus on the power of sport to promote the MDGs and peace. He said the summit was part of a series of summits which would culminate in a global youth summit in New York in October.

Member of the European Parliament, Maria Martens spoke of the way sport unites and inspires people and can be a powerful tool to teach positive values, prevent diseases, improve health and empower woman amongst other things.

One of the Austrian youth delegates Martin Kasika and Oliver Stamm from the NGO Right to Play also spoke.

Anne Thomas, Information Officer
UN Information Service Vienna
Tel.: +43 1 260 60 - 5693
Fax: +43 1 260 60 - 5899
anne.thomas@unvienna.org
www.unis.unvienna.org