



THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Vienna
19-21 June 2006

Sunday, 18 June 2006

A report from Corina Murafa, delegate from Romania

3:00 – 4:15 pm	INTRODUCTION
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I. Welcome by Austrian Organizing Committee

The director of New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace Dr. Djibril Diallo chaired the welcome session. Mr. Harald Treiber welcomed young delegates on behalf of the Austrian Federal Chancellery. Ms. Barbara Spindler pointed out the importance sport and development holds for the Austrian EU presidency and how Austria has worked to implement the themes of the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005 on sport for development and peace, and UN General Assembly resolution 60/9 on “Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace.”

Dr. Diallo said that countries are represented by a young man and a young woman with great leadership abilities to show the importance of gender equality. He emphasized the need to accelerate progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 because although many countries in Europe have reached the goals, other regions of the world are still falling far short. The three main themes of the European Youth Leadership Summit are:

- Attaining the Millennium Development Goals;
- The hard work and leadership of youth;
- Sports and culture as entry points for achieving the MDGs.

The power of sport to bring people together and full participation of the youth in the UN system are needed to help achieve the MDGs. Reviewing the previous youth leadership summits, Dr. Diallo noted that it is important that youth delegates apply the results of the summit when they return home.

He recalled prominent examples how sports can be a force for peace-building and for achieving the MDGs. China and the US improved relations in the 1970s with the help of two ping-pong players, and tensions between India and Pakistan have eased with the help of cricket matches. An initiative last year through which Israeli and Palestinian youth played football with superstar Ronaldo is another example of how sport can work for development and peace.

Delegates in Europe have a twofold role in the emerging global youth network that the youth summit series is building. On one hand, they need to help ensure that the MDGs are fully achieved within in Europe, on the other hand they need to encourage Europe to engage in a meaningful partnership with other parts of the world to work on the MDGs.

The session reviewed the aims of the European Youth Leadership Summit, well as the Concept Paper for the event. In conclusion, Dr. Diallo asked the participants to think of sport and development as two separate worlds which together can make significant contributions towards achieving the MDGs.

5.30-6.30 pm INTRODUCTION TO THE DRAFT VIENNA DECLARATION
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Youth delegates were introduced to the draft Vienna Declaration put together by young participants at the Summit (Mr. Alexandru Balas from Romania, Ms. Corina Murafa of Romania and Ms. Elif Kalan from Turkey). The draft was discussed in small groups and completely reviewed and restructured in an innovative approach so as to reflect the views of all the delegates.