2004 ATHENS ROUNDTABLE FORUM PARTICIPANTS

Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik, Prime Minister of Norway
Ms. Viviane Reding, European Commissioner for Education and Culture
Mr. Shimon Peres, Former Prime Minister of Israel, Founder of the Peres Centre for Peace
Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein of Jordan
His Royal Highness The Prince of Orange of the Netherlands
The Honourable Stephen Owen, Minister of State (Sport) of Canada
Dr Dennis Bright, Minister of Youth and Sport, Sierra Leone
Mr. Joel Libombo, Minister of Youth and Sports, Mozambique
Mr. Vyacheslav Fetisov, Chairman, State Committee on Physical Culture and Sport, Russian Federation
Mr. Walter Fust, Director-General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Ms. Dora Bakoyannis, the Mayor of Athens
Mr. George Orfanos (Deputy Minister of Culture, Greece)
Dr. Thomas Bach, Vice-President, the International Olympic Committee
Mr. Adolfo Ogi, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace
Ms. Carol Bellamy, Executive Director, UNICEF
Ms. Wendy Chamberlin, Deputy High Commissioner, UNHCR
Mr. Shashi Tharoor, UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information
Mr. Eric Falt, Director of Communications and Public Information, UNEP
Mr. Stavros Lambrinidis, Ambassador Director of the International Olympic Truce Foundation and International Olympic Truce Centre
Ms. Eveline Herfkens, Director, UNMDG Campaign
Donna de Varona, First President of the Women’s Sport Foundation

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Right To Play would like to acknowledge the excellent work and vision of leaders, implementers and advocates of Sport for Development, and extend its gratitude to the distinguished speakers and panelists for taking part in this important discussion.

Right To Play would also like to thank its partners for their support of the Athens Roundtable Forum, and their comments on this report.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE 2004 ATHENS ROUNDTABLE

The 2004 Athens Roundtable Forum “Harnessing the Power of Sport for Development and Peace” engaged governments in discussions about sport and development. Welcoming speeches set the stage to address the specific policy potential of sport to achieve social, economic, health and development goals, and to initiate the creation of guiding concepts for governments to use sport as a policy tool for development and peace.

The Athens Roundtable Forum attracted a number of high-level policy-makers from national governments, the United Nations and members of the Olympic Family. The Forum featured opening speeches from various distinguished speakers, and a keynote address from Mr. Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace.

The main focus of the Roundtable Forum concentrated on its two consequent panels: Sport and HIV/AIDS and Sport and Peace. The complex links between sport, peace and development were explored in the Position Paper, developed for the 2004 Athens Roundtable Forum and distributed among its panelists and audience.

“The Athens Roundtable is the latest stop in a long journey that began at Salt Lake City and will continue to burgeon. Athens is not just a passing stop along the way. There is real work to be done here. Let us embrace the challenge!”

Mrs. Dora Bakoyannis, Mayor of Athens, welcoming panelists and audience to the 2004 Athens Roundtable Forum

SPORT AND HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is one of the greatest threats to life, dignity and the enjoyment of human rights. Sport can be a powerful vehicle to help mitigate the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS. Participation in physical activity and sport can improve the quality of life of those living with/affected by HIV/AIDS. Inclusion of people with HIV/AIDS in sport programs can also contribute to the elimination of HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination. Additionally, sport can be a great tool to bring across prevention messages and empower those most at risk with negotiation skills and prevention knowledge.

The Roundtable Forum panelists discussed the ways sport could be used to enhance the current HIV/AIDS prevention efforts, and the ways for governments to strengthen cooperation and partnerships between all actors of civil society, decision-makers, public and private sectors in addressing issues around the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

SPORT AND PEACE

Peace is a critical factor in development. Peace is much more than the absence of war, it requires the dedication to non-violent means for the resolution of conflict and tolerance promotion. Sport can be a powerful vehicle to promote peace, tolerance and understanding through its power to bring people together across boundaries, cultures and religions.

The Roundtable Forum panelists outlined the possible roles of sport in peace promotion and peacebuilding, and discussed what kind of bilateral government arrangements could be leveraged to provide the resources to move the sport for peace agenda forward on the national and international levels. Panelists paid special attention to activities needed to be undertaken to promote peace and cultural dialogue as part of the upcoming International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005.

Ms. Eveline Herfkens, Director of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Campaign provided a wrap-up for the Roundtable, emphasizing the importance of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and especially in putting an end to poverty and working in partnerships.

SUMMARY OF OVERALL OUTCOMES

Each of the Roundtable Forum Panels had its own outcomes specific to the focus of the panel discussion. One of the most important outcomes of the Roundtable Forum was the announcement of an International Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace.

Establishment of the Working Group led by the Member States: An inter-governmental expert Working Group was tabled by the Norwegian Prime Minister to identify best practices and make specific policy recommendations on how to best incorporate Sport for Development into national policy frameworks and international development assistance programs.

Support to the Working Group by the Member States: Norway, the European Commission, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Canada and Russia expressed their strong interest to participate in the International Working Group and to reach out to the representatives of other governments prior to the official launch of the Working Group, scheduled for May 2005.

Commitment to support of the International Working Group by the UN Agencies: The UN agencies present at the Roundtable Forum Panels (including the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) expressed their strong support to the International Working Group and pledged to provide it with the technical assistance required.

The first meeting of the International Working Group will take place in May 2005 and will be hosted by the United Nations.

Announcement of the International Conference on Sport and Peace to be hosted in Moscow by the Russian State Committee on Physical Culture and Sport in June 2005.

Identification that for the XXVIII Olympic the International Olympic Committee has allocated $200 million USD to support the participation of athletes from developing countries in the Olympic Games, and contribute to development of sport around the world.
INTRODUCTION

In 2004 building on the success of the Salt Lake City Forum “Healthier, Safer Stronger: Using sport for development to build a brighter future”, Right To Play organized a Roundtable Forum during the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens, Greece. Some 230 participants from various countries attended the 2004 Athens Roundtable Forum “Harnessing the Power of Sport for Development and Peace” held the morning after the Opening Ceremony to the XXVIII Olympic Games.

The Athens Roundtable Forum sought to place the use of sport for development on government agendas and to deepen the commitment of governments to support the achievement of a more peaceful and healthy world through sport. Panelists and audience members included government representatives, law and policy-makers, members of the Olympic Family and sport-based agencies.

The Athens Roundtable Forum Position Paper, developed by Right To Play to set the context for this Roundtable Forum, outlined some of the key issues around sport for development. The Position Paper defined sport and sport for development, and suggested the following focus of the Roundtable discussion: using sport to address the burgeoning HIV/AIDS epidemic, and using sport to contribute to conflict resolution and peace promotion.

This Outcome Report contains a summary of discussions that took place at the 2004 Athens Roundtable Forum, and reports on its important outcomes. It highlights the work that was done to build momentum on these issues and outlines the commitments of different actors.

A separate chapter is dedicated to each of the Panels. These chapters include Panel Summary, List of Panelists, the Focus of Discussion and the Panel Outcomes. The final section of the Outcome Report describes the actual steps that will be undertaken as a follow-up to this event to secure governments’ commitment and support to mainstreaming sport for development and peace in the national and international development policies.
The 2004 Athens Roundtable Forum was opened by Mrs. Dora Bakoyannis, Mayor of Athens, who welcomed the audience and participants to the city of Athens. Mrs. Bakoyannis noted that although the first Olympics took place over two thousand years ago in Greece, the fundamental values of humanity and its needs remained the same: dignity, security, respect, good health, quality of life, peace and prosperity for all. Emphasizing the importance of sport, Mrs. Bakoyannis called upon the government representatives to embrace the challenges of HIV/AIDS and peace, by seeking the application of sport to help resolve the issues.

Mr. George Orfanos, Deputy Minister of Culture for Sport delivered a welcome from the Government of Greece to the panelists and audience of the Athens Roundtable Forum. He highlighted the recent achievements of Sport for Development in Europe, such as the inclusion of sport in the Draft Constitutional Treaty of the EU and the success of the European Year for Physical Education through Sport 2004.

Dr. Thomas Bach, Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) paid special attention to the symbolism of peace during the XXVIII Olympic Games, emphasizing the importance of peace to the Olympic movement: “To see 202 nations under one roof celebrating together is unique in today’s world, when it is more important than ever to see the athletes from all over the world marching peacefully together and preparing for peaceful competition.”

Dr. Bach also noted that “sport in today’s society plays a very important role, but its importance in the society also means responsibility in society,” and reiterated the IOC’s strong commitment to international cooperation and partnerships in the field of humanitarian assistance and using Sport for Development.

The keynote speaker at the 2004 Athens Roundtable Forum Mr. Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development, emphasized the ongoing commitment of the United Nations to use the power of sport in their programs and policies. He brought to the attention of the audience the findings of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force Report “Sport for Development and Peace: Towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals” and reiterated the UN commitment to follow the report’s recommendations.

Mr. Ogi addressed the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and emphasized that meeting its timelines was “a big responsibility for all of us. Sport must become a leading partner in this”. The UN Resolution 58/5, adopted in 2003, called upon the governments to form strategic partnerships in the world of sport, and established the Year 2005 as the International Year for Sport and Physical Education as a means to promote education, health, development and peace.

In conclusion, the Adviser to the UN Secretary-General urged the audience and panelists to move from theory to action in sport for development. The governments, the sports federations, the athletes, and the NGOs, were called upon to use the power of sport “to feel responsibility, to change the attitudes, to change the way we lead the world, to break the vicious circle, to offer a young generation a better chance, a better life, a better future”.

Followed by welcoming remarks and the keynote address, the Athens Roundtable Forum was divided into two panels: Sport and HIV/AIDS; and Sport and Peace. The distinguished panelists engaged in a discussion masterfully facilitated by moderator Mr. Shashi Tharoor, UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information.
THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF SPORT IN HIV/AIDS PREVENTION:
CONTRIBUTING TO ACHIEVING THE SIXTH MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL

PANEL OVERVIEW
HIV/AIDS epidemic has a significant impact on all levels of life, affecting all parts of society. The epidemic has personal, local, national and global consequences.

Most HIV/AIDS infections still occur in the developing world, and this is where the impact of HIV/AIDS on communities and nations has a disastrous effect. HIV and AIDS hinder human development in both low and high-prevalence settings, affecting economy growth and significantly weakening the countries’ capacities to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Government involvement and commitment is crucial to expanding current prevention efforts and ensuring that sport is offered to young people as an effective approach to enhance their HIV-related knowledge and skills. The panel explored a holistic approach to HIV/AIDS prevention and emphasized the importance of using sport to convey prevention messages and influence behaviour changes.

One of the most notable panel outcomes was the enhanced recognition of sport as an important part of truly holistic approach to HIV prevention, and the potential impact of sport on various issues currently impeding successful HIV/AIDS prevention, such as gender and stigma. Panelists especially noted the importance of involving sports federations and non-governmental organizations in HIV/AIDS prevention to help spearhead innovative prevention initiatives, and committing government funds to a variety of HIV prevention efforts.

LIST OF PANELISTS
CHAIR: Carol Bellamy, UNICEF Executive Director
MODERATOR: Shashi Tharoor, UN Under-Secretary General for Communications and Public Information

The Panel attracted participation of experts, leaders and policy-makers, and included:

His Royal Highness The Prince of Orange of the Netherlands
The Honourable Stephen Owen, Minister of State (Sports) of Canada
Walter Fust, Director-General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Dr. Dennis Bright, Minister of Youth and Sport of Sierra Leone
Joel M. Libombo, Minister of Youth and Sports of Mozambique.

DISCUSSION
Ms. Bellamy suggested the panelists focus the discussion on the following issues:

• How can governments use sport initiatives for HIV/AIDS prevention, and take those to scale?

• How can governments strengthen cooperation and partnerships between all actors of civil society, decision-makers, public and private sectors to address the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 6?

While each of the panelists raised issues that had the most impact in his or her country, among the most common issues addressed during the panel were the need for a holistic approach to the epidemic, and wished there would be more cooperation between various stakeholders, such as grassroots, governments and international organizations. He also stated that sport was not only a great tool for HIV/AIDS awareness promotion in the endemic countries, but also in the more wealthy countries with low prevalence, such as the Netherlands, for example.

His Royal Highness The Prince of Orange of the Netherlands emphasized the importance of a holistic approach to the epidemic, and wished there would be more cooperation between various stakeholders, such as grassroots, governments and international organizations. He also stated that sport was not only a great tool for HIV/AIDS awareness promotion in the endemic countries, but also in the more wealthy countries with low prevalence, such as the Netherlands, for example.

Dr. Dennis Bright of Sierra Leone shared the experience of combating HIV/AIDS in his country, saying that in developing countries with numerous priorities, “it is very difficult for one to argue in favour of sport”.

Ms. Carol Bellamy, Executive Director, UNICEF
and Mr. Shashi Tharoor, UN Under-Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace
He emphasized that with bilateral and multilateral support, these messages can be brought across to the national decision and policy-makers. Drawing on the link between HIV/AIDS vulnerability and poverty, he also stated that to ensure the success and sustainability of HIV/AIDS prevention efforts, it was important to review national poverty reduction strategies and ensure sport is included.

The Honourable Stephen Owen raised the issue of funding and need for the developed world to stand by their commitments to fight HIV/AIDS in Africa. Minister Owen stated that Canada would continue to stand by its commitment to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. In May 2004, Canada renewed its commitment to the Global Fund by pledging an additional $70 million dollars in 2005, effectively doubling its annual contribution.

Gender disparity was among other issues of concern that was discussed by the panelists. Minister Owen noted the connection between stigma and gender discrimination, and added that abuses against women rendered them more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS not only in the countries of the developing world, but also in such “wealthy countries” like Canada, where in 2002, 25% of new infections were among women, and young Aboriginal women were more likely to acquire HIV and die of AIDS than any other group of population in Canada.

All panelists acknowledged the destructive impact of HIV/AIDS on human development. As Mr. Walter Fust, Director-General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation stated: “AIDS is a development killer. It is not just hindering development, it is killing development.” He emphasized that in order to resolve this situation, special importance should be paid to the Millennium Development Goal 8, committing governments to forming new and innovative partnerships. He referred to the upcoming International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005 as a perfect opportunity to establish and maintain such partnerships.

Giving HIV/AIDS prevention programs the priority they deserve and including sport as one of the tools for prevention was mentioned, by the representatives from the recipient countries, as being among the challenges their governments faced. Partnerships with NGOs, international agencies and civil society were often cited as a possible response to the situation at hand. Minister Joel Libombo shared with the Panel the experience of Mozambique, where the government was able to form partnerships with foreign development actors and local NGOs and use sport as one of the tools to bring the safer sex messages across to different communities. He mentioned that in Mozambique sport activities were often used to facilitate the dialogue between fathers and their children, bridging the gaps between generations and communities - allowing them to play together, and share their concerns about the epidemic and the need for protection. HIV/AIDS prevention messages became an integral part of locally administered coach training in Mozambique, where coaches were able to reach the most remote communities with such messages. Minister Libombo underlined the importance of involving girls and women in sport-related initiatives to raise their self-esteem and help improve their negotiation skills. Involving girls and women in sports can also help change the harmful cultural stereotypes that increase their vulnerability to the infection.

Putting sport first, beyond simply “recreation” was among other issues raised by Dr. Dennis Bright of Sierra Leone. The fact that in many countries sport is considered only as a recreation, “something that comes after you have finished serious work” was among the obstacles for sport to take its due place among development tools, he said. To overcome these obstacles, Dr. Bright reiterated the importance of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, and incorporating sport and HIV/AIDS prevention efforts in the national poverty reduction strategies in developing countries.

The link between the spread of HIV/AIDS and armed conflicts was acknowledged by the panelists. They noted that although more complex social and epidemiological links existed, the spread of HIV/AIDS was more likely to increase during times of armed conflict, often due to rape by hostile armies and migration of civilians.
Panelists acknowledged that stigma and discrimination hindered HIV/AIDS prevention efforts and that providing access to treatment for those infected through low-cost generic antiretroviral drugs, along with the inclusion of people living with HIV/AIDS in sport-based programs, were among the steps to allow for better prevention programs.

**PANEL OUTCOMES: SPORT AND HIV/AIDS**

I. GENDER. Most of those living with HIV/AIDS in the world are women, who are particularly vulnerable due to biological, social and cultural factors. Panelists recognized that women’s involvement in sport was directly correlated with the increasing development of a nation and could reduce their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. As it is often difficult for women and girls to participate in sport activities due to their societal roles as mothers and caregivers, specially targeted efforts are required.

II. STIGMA. HIV/AIDS related stigma is still widespread. It hampers the effective prevention responses and accelerates transmission. It leads to silence and defers people from getting tested and seeking treatment. Panelists agreed that sport had proven to be a powerful tool to address issues of social exclusion. HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives that include sport should focus their efforts on promoting social inclusion and building awareness. Panelists noted that involving people living with HIV/AIDS in prevention initiatives and sport activities were among the steps to help eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

III. ARMED CONFLICT. Wars and armed conflicts increase vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and this connection needs to be taken in consideration when designing and implementing prevention programs. HIV/AIDS prevention needs of population during the times of wars and armed conflicts have to be met. Sport can be used as a tool to prevent conflicts, facilitate community re-integration in post-conflict situation, as well as educate people about prevention methods, and strengthen their decision-making power.

IV. DEVELOPMENT. HIV/AIDS hinders development. Offering a variety of prevention strategies works best for prevention, and sport is increasingly recognized by the development actors as an effective and powerful way to bring HIV/AIDS prevention messages across to different populations.

V. SPORT. Sport ministries and federations are increasingly looking to the potential of sport to effectively convey non-political messages about HIV/AIDS and its ability to influence behaviors. Sport events often serve as forums for discussion around HIV/AIDS-related issues and contribute to community development, as well as to overall human development.

VI. PRIORITIZING. Amidst many other competing needs and strategies, the Southern panelists acknowledged the need to prioritize sport in their respective countries as more than simply “recreation”. In this way, sport can play a critical role as a part of comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention approach, and effectively contribute to development.

VII. RESOURCES. The panelists representing the Northern countries identified the need to prioritize financial and human resources, to sport for development initiatives at home and internationally.

VIII. HOLISTIC APPROACH. Holistic approach to HIV/AIDS prevention remains key in combating the epidemic; such an approach gives the infection public health significance, and ensures coordination. It also allows for all aspects of the infection, and other underlining causes like poverty, food shortages, and cultural factors, to be addressed. This approach involves a variety of stakeholders – governments, international organizations, non-governmental and grassroots agencies, and a wide array of prevention tools, sport being one of them. Sport should take its due place among other prevention mechanisms, and receive governmental support and recognition.

IX. DIALOGUE AND PARTNERSHIPS. Fostering stronger collaboration and the development of innovative partnerships between the governments, NGOs, civil society and community-based organizations is crucial for the success of global, national and local HIV/AIDS prevention efforts. Panelists emphasized the importance of involving sport federations and NGOs in HIV/AIDS prevention to help spearhead innovative prevention initiatives, and sharing the lessons learnt from using sport and play as a tool for bringing prevention messages across with other community-based agencies.
SPORT AND PEACE: CONTRIBUTING TO DEVELOPMENT

PANEL OVERVIEW

Peace and security are essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Instability and conflict affect all parts of life, and have especially detrimental effects on young people and women. At the end of 2003, at least 35 countries were in some stage of major armed conflict, from tenuous cease-fire to all-out war. Though the number of wars, conflicts and genocides around the world has decreased sharply over the past decade, conflicts that are happening in the world today still represent a significant impediment to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

As an international language of peace, sport is increasingly being used by UN agencies and non-governmental organizations. In partnership with the local agencies, these actors deliver non-political messages about peace. To ensure sustainability of these projects, governmental support and commitment is crucial. This panel generated numerous outcomes, and among them was the recognition of the peace building and peace keeping potential of sport, as well as the importance of dialogue and partnership. One of the most important Panel outcomes is the creation of the International Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace announced by Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik, Prime Minister of Norway.

LIST OF PANELISTS

CHAIR: Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace

MODERATOR: Shashi Tharoor, UN Under-Secretary General for Communications and Public Information

The Panel attracted participation of experts, leaders and policy-makers, and included:

Kjell Magne Bondevik, Prime Minister of Norway
Shimon Peres, Former Prime Minister of Israel, Founder of The Peres Center for Peace
Vyacheslav Fetisov, Chairman of the State Committee on Physical Culture and Sport, Russia
Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein of Jordan
Wendy Chamberlin, Deputy High Commissioner, UNHCR
Eric Falt, Spokesperson, Director of Communications, UNEP
Viviane Reding, European Commissioner for Education and Culture
Stavros Laimbrinidis, Ambassador Director, The International Olympic Truce Center

“I really believe that sport is one of the best, if not the best, measures to bring people together, even in times of confrontation and hostilities. You don’t wait for peace in order to use sport for peace. You can use sport to achieve peace.”

Mr. Shimon Peres, 2004 Athens Roundtable Forum.
DISCUSSION

Mr. Adolf Ogi suggested the following questions for the panelists:

• How can governments use sport initiatives to address peace policy issues?

• How can governments work collectively with other actors and agencies so that sport presents opportunities for solidarity and cooperation in order to contribute to conflict resolution?

• What kind of bilateral government arrangements can be leveraged to provide the resources to move the sport for peace agenda forward?

• In the light of the International Year for Physical Education and Sport 2005, what specific activities can be undertaken by governments to promote peace and cultural dialogue?

Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik opened the discussion by pointing out that “at its best, sport contributes to learning and democratic forms of interaction” which are at heart of the conflict resolution. He also emphasized the ability of sport to encourage volunteerism and thus contribute to grassroots social development. Mr. Bondevik suggested that to effectively use sport for peace building, it was important to focus on four basic values of sport used by the Norwegian Sport Association – fitness, fun, fellowship and fair play. He stated that in order to achieve the best results, it was “utterly important” for sport to be integrated not only within the UN programs, but also in the governmental programs. Norway has been the leader in promoting Sport for Development, and has included a goal of strengthening sports-related integration as a priority in its National Development Policy.

Mr. Shimon Peres shared his vision of sport as a tool to help overcome discrimination and prejudices. He provided the audience with an example from Israel, where assisted by the Peres Centre for Peace, mixed soccer teams consisting of Palestinians and Israeli children played together. These children were selected from communities, many of them poor and extremat in views, with little or no opportunities for organized sport activities: “Their parents are very extreme, and all of a sudden their children are rivals for peace, and players for peace. This is a tremendous impact… Really, the best language in a region of conflict is to speak peace.”

Ms. Wendy Chamberlin offered a suggestion that by providing those fleeing war only with shelter was sometimes not enough, as people often brought “horrible memories of what they have left behind, of family members that they have seen killed, of rape and pillage” to the refugee camps. Indeed, the fleeing war people are men, women, and children, from virtually every income level and living arrangement. As refugees or internally displaced populations, they have often left behind their livelihood, their communities, family and possessions. Sport can provide a welcome distraction from these horrors, and can facilitate community integration by bringing people together and helping the normalization process begin.

Mr. Stavros Lambrinidis spoke about promoting opportunities for peace through sport and the Olympic Truce, the longest lasting peace accord in history, revived several years ago by the International Olympic Committee. Mr. Lambrinidis underlined that the Olympic truce was no panacea to wars, but rather a window of opportunity for peace. In the past ten years the Olympic truce was applied three times. In 2004 again North and South Korea marched together under the flag of Korean peninsula, repeating what they have done at the 2002 Sydney Olympic Games. In 1998 during
Nagano Winter Games, the observance of the Olympic Truce allowed the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to intervene to seek a diplomatic resolution to the crisis in Iraq. In 2000 the United Nations General Assembly urged its Member States to observe the Olympic Truce “now and in the future”. Mr. Lambrinidis concluded by saying that the nature of conflict in today’s world was changing, and thus the arsenal of tools that humanity used to address conflicts should change accordingly, and include such “an amazing and realistic instrument” as sport.

In 2004 the European Union tried to utilize, in practice, the power of sport through the European Year of Education through Sport (EYES), which aimed to increase community action for sport, and introduce sport at every level of society. A large number of community-based sport initiatives were supported, and six regional conferences - dedicated to different aspects of sport and its impact on young people - were held throughout Europe. Viviane Reding, the EU Commissioner for Sport, emphasized the importance of involving organizations at the grassroots level to the overall success of implementing sport based educational initiatives. She proposed using the experience of EYES 2004 to expand and improve grassroots sport-related initiatives internationally during 2005 International Year of Sport and Physical Education.

Mr. Vyacheslav Fetisov shared with the panelists and audience his personal experience as an athlete playing hockey during the Soviet regime, and how sport helped him and many other athletes to “open the gate to the new world and get the freedom of choice”. He spoke about his personal experience of the “healing effects of the comradeship of sport”. He also mentioned that sport could play a big role in bringing together families, and it was crucial for the “healing effects of the comradeship of sport”. He also mentioned that sport helped him and many other athletes to “open the gate to the new world and get the freedom of choice”. He spoke about his personal experience of EYES 2004 to expand and improve grassroots sport-related initiatives internationally during 2005 International Year of Sport and Physical Education.

Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein of Jordan spoke about what sport could give to peace. She acknowledged that sport helped alleviate “boredom, loneliness, isolation, fear, uncertainty, powerlessness, pessimism, hopelessness. Sport imparts trust and self-esteem – that’s what sports gives children.”

Her Royal Highness also related to Her own personal experiences as an Olympian: “For an Olympian, peace is achieved by every single person through the marriage of mind, body and heart.” She asserted that sport was not only about words, sport was about action. “the fundamental message of what sport can give to peace is that “no” isn’t an answer, that it (peace) can be done, it must be done”.

Mr. Eric Falt emphasized the links between sport, environment and peace. “Environment is the third pillar of the Olympic movement” – he reminded. He mentioned the interconnected relationship between sport and environment.

Indeed, on its own, sport has an impact on the environment, contributing to the increased noise and air pollution, soil erosion, increase in waste landfills, and development of fragile or scarce land types. In turn, the state of the environment has a profound impact on the health of an athlete. There are also numerous links between wars, armed conflicts and the environment. Sometimes conflicts have long-lasting effects on the environment. For example, landmines planted in millions in war-torn countries across the world, killing and maiming long after wars are over, and denying agricultural use of the land in which they lurk.

While sometimes complex, all these links need to be taken into consideration when promoting sport for development and peace. Sport can be a great tool to raise awareness, and change behaviours. Mr. Falt emphasized the importance of government support to these initiatives and noted that collaboration with grassroots agencies and non-governmental organizations was a must.

At the end of the panel, panelists were invited to provide their concluding observations about the role of sport in maintaining peace and conflict resolution, and to suggest next steps.

In their concluding remarks, all panelists mentioned that sport was an extremely useful tool for conflict reconciliation on the grassroots level, as it offered opportunities for greater trust and respect between people. Starting conflict prevention through sport early was another issue mentioned by many of the panelists. Panelists agreed that allocating resources to community-based initiatives and supporting grassroots NGOs was essential for the success of sport for development and peace initiatives, and this was something the governments could and should do. The United Nations could provide support to such efforts by providing technical assistance and expertise, but the main responsibility lied with the governments.

Panelists also outlined an important next step to follow from the Roundtable. In response to the question about leveraging multilateral arrangements, Prime Minister Bondevik spoke about practical ways of implementing Sport for Development policies across a broad spectrum, and announced his active support to the International Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace, which will look into the existing sport for development policies and develop guidelines for national governments over the next Olympic quadrennial.
Ms. Eveline Herfkens, Director of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Campaign provided a wrap-up for the Roundtable Forum, emphasizing the importance of the Millennium Development Goals as clear benchmarks set up by the international community to be achieved by the year 2015. She put especially emphasized putting an end to poverty and working in partnerships, - the two goals where sport can play an especially useful role.

The Sport for Peace panel was concluded by a ceremonial signing of the Olympic Truce by panelists from both Roundtable Forum Panels.

**PANEL OUTCOMES: SPORT AND PEACE**

I. CONFLICT RESOLUTION. Sport is a powerful tool for community re-integration and conflict resolution. Furthermore, it contributes to mutual respect and understanding of opponents; through sport conflicting nations can have better relations and be better neighbours.

II. PEACEKEEPING POTENTIAL. The tradition of Olympic Truce demonstrates strong peacekeeping potential of sport. While Olympic Truce lasts only several days, these are the days that give peace a chance. With the face of conflicts changing in the world, new peacekeeping tools are urgently needed, and sport through its ancient tradition of Olympic Truce is one of them.

III. PEACE BUILDING POTENTIAL. Recognizing the peace-building potential of sport, Mr. A. Ogi delivered FIFA’s invitation to the Peres Centre for Peace to bring 40 Israeli and Palestinian boys and girls to Switzerland for a football tournament in April 2005 to show the world that Palestinians and Israeli can play together outside of their countries.

IV. EUROPEAN YEAR OF EDUCATION THROUGH SPORT 2004. In 2004, many important lessons on mainstreaming sport in programs and policies were learned in Europe. Inclusion of sport in the European Constitutional treaty sends a strong message of the regional commitment to continue using the convening power of sport to bring across non-political messages about complex social issues. The EU Commission on Sport will share its share best practices of community and government led initiatives and its transition findings into the International Working Group in 2005.

V. ENVIRONMENT. In recent decades, many armed conflicts have involved a wide range of threats to the environment. These have included long-lasting chemical pollution on land; maritime and atmospheric pollution; despoliation of land by mines and other dangerous objects; and threats to water supplies and other necessities of life. These negative consequences have a long-lasting impact, often continuing after the conflict is over. The convening power of sport can and should be used to raise awareness about this issue and to highlight the links between sport, environment and armed conflict.

VI. REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED POPULATIONS (IDPs). Sport and play are important in reintegrating and normalizing life for refugees and IDPs, bringing war-torn communities together, and addressing mental health issues of these populations. The United Nations agencies present at the table announced that they were seeking to expand sport programs in these communities.

VII. FOCUS ON CHILDREN. Starting peace education through sport at an early age will bring the best results. There is a number of grassroots projects that focus on children and young people; training them not only in sports, but in being peace ambassadors within their families and communities. This community experiences should be expanded; national sport-based non-governmental and government agencies should be encouraged to focus their activities on children.

VIII. FUTURE FORUMS FOR DISCUSSION. The International Conference on Sport and Peace will take place in Moscow in June 2005; it will build momentum and will take the discussion on sport for peace to the next level; engaging governments, civil society actors and athletes.

IX. DIALOGUE AND PARTNERSHIPS. Building innovative partnerships between governments and NGOs is crucial for the success of sport mainstreaming. Involving civil society in the policy and decision making process will build a strong foundation for comprehensive sport for development and peace programs, in addition to, policies on the local, national and global levels.
**MILESTONES AND NEXT STEPS**

**KEY MILESTONES IN SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT**

The 2004 Athens Roundtable Forum was a logical continuation of the previous efforts to raise awareness about the importance of sport and physical education as an integral part in human and social development.

A number of events contributed to the momentum built over the past five years, some of them are presented below.

### The years 2004 – 2005 will be an important milestone in Sport for Development.

The 2004 XXVIII Olympiad once again demonstrated great Olympic Spirit, and the Olympic Truce allowed the world a small window of peace.

### During the panel discussion, panelists emphasized the importance of partnerships, and noted governmental responsibility to fund and support sport-based initiatives.

The International Year 2005 on Sport and Physical Education is a perfect opportunity to strengthen these partnerships and establish new ones.

The International Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace announced at the Roundtable is another opportunity to bridge the gap between theory and practice, and provide the governments with actual tools to use to mainstream sport in their development policies.

### INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Building on the success of the United Nations Task Force on Sport for Development and Peace that followed the 2002 Roundtable Forum in Salt Lake City, the International Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace will include representatives of various national governments committed to mainstreaming sport in their national policies. The Working Group will also benefit from the involvement of the UN agencies that will have an advisory role. Relevant international non-governmental organizations and national and international sports agencies and federations will also be given opportunities to contribute to the work of the International Working Group. Input from other members of the civil society will also be sought.

The International Working Group will bring these actors together for four years. Interim results will be presented in 2006, with presentations scheduled around Turin Winter Games, and final results of its findings will be presented in 2008 in Beijing, scheduled around the international conference on sport for development and peace.

The overall goal of the International Working Group is to:

- Develop relevant policy framework and implementation of Guidelines for the Inclusion of Sport for Development and Peace in National Programs and Policies. These Guidelines will be used by governments around the world when formulating national development policies.
- The development of guidelines will involve various stakeholders, such as governments, governmental organizations and the UN, sport organizations, athletes, and NGOs.
- During the four years, the International Working Group will identify best practices of using sport for development and peace as supported by various governments; compile Principles of Best Practices on Sport for Development found in national development agendas and disseminate them among Member States; develop Guidelines for Including Sport for Development and Peace in National Programs and Policies, and advocate for their implementation.

### This International Working Group is an important step to turn calls for action into practice, and it received a warm welcome from the panelists at the 2004 Athens Roundtable Forum. A kick-off meeting for the International Working Group is scheduled to take place in New York in April 2005, and will be hosted by the United Nations.
The Year 2005, the International Year for Sport and Physical Education provides a perfect opportunity to involve more stakeholders in discussions around sport and development, and to call for concrete actions to be introduced by governments.

The following is a preliminary list of conferences that will take place as part of the International Year for Physical Education and Sport:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CONFERENCE TOPIC</th>
<th>WHEN &amp; WHERE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sport and Environment</td>
<td>Pakistan, November 2004</td>
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<td>International Forum on Sport</td>
<td>Germany, February 2005</td>
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<td>for Development</td>
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<td>Sport and Health</td>
<td>Tunisia, March 2005</td>
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<td>International Working Group</td>
<td>USA, April 2005</td>
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<td>Kick-Off Meeting</td>
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<td>Sport and Health</td>
<td>Thailand, September 2005</td>
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ENDNOTES

1 The Millennium Development Goal Six targets combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and among others, sets the objectives of halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015.
3 Health Canada, EPI Updates (April 2004).
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