

Harnessing the Power of Sport for Development and Peace

The Athens Roundtable Forum

POSITION PAPER

Presented by
Right To Play

Under the auspices of



Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic
Ministry of Culture of the Hellenic Republic - Secretariat General of
Sport



Municipality of Athens

Saturday 14 August, 2004
Athens, Greece
Athens XXVIII Olympiad

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This position paper has been developed to facilitate discussions at the Athens Roundtable on Sport for Development. There is a growing global movement of committed and innovative actors who recognize the value of Sport for Development. Right To Play is honoured to be part of this movement and to have the opportunity to work with and in support of these actors.

Right To Play would like to acknowledge the excellent work and vision of leaders, implementers and advocates of Sport for Development, and highlight that this paper only captures a modest cross-section of work currently underway in the areas of HIV/AIDS and Peace. It is in the intention of the Athens Roundtable Forum to bring greater light to these examples and more, as well as the tremendous opportunities at hand.

We would like to thank our partners for their support and comments on this paper. Of course, any and all mistakes or omissions are our own.

Right To Play

July 2004

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BACKGROUND, AIMS AND OUTCOMES

At the Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Olympic Games, Right To Play¹ hosted the first Roundtable Forum entitled *Healthier, Safer, Stronger: Using sport for development to build a brighter future for children worldwide*. The Salt Lake City Roundtable brought together leading minds in the field of development to strengthen the position of sport and play as tools for development, health and peace. The 2002 Salt Lake City Roundtable Forum became a catalyst for the establishment of a United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force to examine the potential of sport to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In September 2003, this Task Force delivered to the UN Secretary-General their report on *Sport for Development and Peace: Towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*.

At the 2004 Summer Games in Athens, Greece, the dialogue continues. The Athens Roundtable Forum *Harnessing the Power of Sport for Development and Peace* will focus on the engagement of governments, and the potential of sport to assist in the global fight against HIV/AIDS and the use of sport for peace. Discussions will set the stage to address the specific policy potential of sport to achieve social, economic, health and development goals. The Athens Roundtable will strive to: initiate the creation of guiding concepts for governments to use sport as a policy tool for development and peace; gather the best existing practices; and present the findings and recommendations at the XXIX Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008.

The aim of the Roundtable Forum will be achieved through a focus on two key areas of particular importance in the world today: addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic and creating a more peaceful world.

I. Sport and HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is one of the greatest threats to life, dignity and the enjoyment of human rights in the world today. With over 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS,² the epidemic is making a multi-sectoral impact worldwide - sport is no exception. In high-prevalence countries where HIV/AIDS is mainly concentrated among young people, it is the young people who are usually the ones most involved in sports.

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 (PLWHIV/AIDS). Inclusion of people living with/affected by HIV/AIDS in sport programs can also help contribute to the elimination of HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination. Sport can be used as a vehicle to deliver effective non-political prevention messages, such as the importance of condoms use, respect for one's partner, as well as the importance of HIV testing and access to treatment. On an individual level, sport can be used as

an effective tool to increase HIV/AIDS knowledge and awareness in a supportive environment, and teaches important life skills, such as problem solving and negotiation, while also serving as a liaison to facilitate access to services.³

II. Sport and Peace

Sport can also be a powerful vehicle to promote peace, tolerance and understanding through its power to bring people together across boundaries, cultures and religions. Reconciliation has often been initiated through sport, especially when other channels were blocked: North and South Korea have marched as one on the sports field; a ping pong match triggered the resumption of diplomatic ties between China and the USA; Israeli and Palestinian children regularly come together to play soccer. Sport's popularity makes it an ideal forum for resuming social dialogue. The core values integral to sportsmanship make sport a valuable method of promoting peace, from the local to the international scale.

On an individual level, sport can be used as an effective delivery mechanism for education about peace, tolerance, and respect for opponents, regardless of ethnic, cultural, religious or other differences. Its inclusive nature makes sport a valuable tool to increase knowledge, understanding and awareness about peaceful co-existence.

The Roundtable Forum in Athens seeks to achieve the following goals:

GOAL: Place the use of Sport for Development on government agendas

The first recommendation from the report of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Sport for Development and Peace calls for "the incorporation of sport and physical activity into the development policies of countries as well as the development agendas of national and international development agencies".⁴ The Athens Roundtable Forum will seek to demonstrate and discuss how this recommendation can be achieved and how sport can be transformed into a policy tool for governments and international donors to support efforts already underway. Member States have already shown support by committing themselves to promote "physical, mental and emotional health among children, including adolescents, through play, sports, recreation <...>,"⁵ and proclaiming 2005 as the "International Year of Sport and Physical Education" (UN General Assembly Resolution 58/5 - See Appendix I). A number of governments already have Sport for Development initiatives underway. The Athens Roundtable will seek to deepen the commitment of governments to support the achievement of a more peaceful and healthy world through sport.

Why Governments?

To ensure that the power of sport is used to the fullest of its potential, it is crucial to place the use of Sport for Development on government agendas, and to engage the world of Sport for Development and Peace efforts. The focus on government engagement at the Athens Roundtable is a critical next step to ensure success of sport-based development initiatives. Following the Salt Lake City Roundtable in 2002, the engagement of the UN specialized agencies, programmes and funds demonstrated the potential breadth and depth of sport to support the UN in achieving development goals and related priorities. In 2004, many UN system organizations are now in the process of mainstreaming sport into their development programmes. In addition, there are a growing number of non-governmental and community-based organizations who are turning to the power of sport to help deliver project outcomes and community goals. The time is right for governments to join this movement.

Governments are the founding Members of the United Nations and are responsible for the frame in which civil society can express itself. Governments are already engaged in the process to achieve the Millennium Development Goals through the mobilization of innovative partners, such as international, national, regional and local sport and development authorities. Engaging deeper Government leadership is essential to ensure that sport and physical activity are incorporated into country development policies and agendas, and specifically to use sport as a tool to address the issues of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the challenges of achieving peace.

GOAL: Engage the world of Sport for Development and Peace efforts

Members of the world of sport who are present at the Athens Roundtable Forum will include members of the Olympic Family, Ministers of Youth and Sport, elite athletes, and representatives of international sporting federations. The world of sport has only recently returned to a concern about development issues. The Athens Roundtable Forum will seek to engage the world of sport more deeply in development activities in order to ensure that this powerful and diverse element of civil society becomes an active and committed force in the global partnership for development.

INTRODUCTION

Sport and play are fundamental to healthy child development. Sport teaches essential values and life skills, such as cooperation and respect. Physical activity is crucial for life long healthy living. Sport brings people together, bridging cultural and demographic divides. Sport's enormous popularity allows it to unite, motivate and inspire. As a result, sport has considerable power to improve the lives of individuals and their communities.

Sport is rapidly gaining recognition as a simple, low cost, and effective means of achieving development goals. For example, the United Nations recently published a report on the contribution of sport to the achievement of the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**; the Dutch and Swiss governments sponsored major conferences on the role of Sport for Development; and the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 58/5 entitled '*Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace*'⁶ and proclaimed *2005 the International Year of Sport and Physical Education (IYSPE 2005)*.

"Sport can play a role in improving the lives of individuals. Not only individuals, I might add, but whole communities. I am convinced that the time is right to build on that understanding, to encourage governments, development agencies and communities to think how sport can be included more systematically in the plans to help children, particularly those who live in the midst of poverty, disease and conflict." - *Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General at the opening of the Salt Lake Games Roundtable Forum 'Healthier, Safer, Stronger: Using Sport for Development to Build a Brighter Future for Children World-wide', Salt Lake City, Utah, 2002.*

WHAT IS SPORT?

The UN Inter-Agency Task Force defines sport as follows: "Incorporated into the definition of 'sport' are all forms of physical activity that contribute to physical fitness, mental well-being and social interaction. These include play, recreation, organized casual or competitive sport, and indigenous sports or games."⁷ Play also offers physical activity that is fun, unstructured, and participatory.

WHAT IS SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT?

Sport for Development can be defined as using the power of sport to build on the values of development, such as equity, inclusion and sustainability, promoting children's development, furthering social inclusion and cohesion, and contributing to health, education and economic development. Sport is more than a mere means for improving physical fitness and learning new skills. As one of the most developed aspects of civil society, sport can also open new venues for forming partnerships essential for achieving the MDGs. Sport and the right to play are also human rights,⁸ and as such, ensuring access for all to sport and play is essential in contributing to

development. As an effective medium to convey information, sport also contributes to education and can be a powerful tool when aligned with government development priorities.

The UN Inter-Agency Task Force Report concluded that sport could be used as an innovative and effective tool in achieving the MDGs⁹, specifically as they relate to education, gender equality, HIV/AIDS and the reduction of major diseases.¹⁰ The UN Inter-Agency Task Force Report emphasized the importance for both governments and communities to harness the positive aspects of sport, reiterating the power of sport as an innovative new avenue for creative partnerships¹¹.

Sport programs based on the values of development - equity, inclusion and sustainability - are vital to the holistic development of young people, offering them opportunities to play and self-expression that are especially beneficial for those with few opportunities in life. - *UN Inter-Agency Task Force Report on Sport for Development and Peace: Towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals.*

By contributing to healthy childhood development, sport and play also contribute directly to the achievement of the MDGs. Among the positive contributions of sport and play to development are:

- **Sport and play are fundamental to healthy child development:** (1) building resilience by building confidence through skill acquisition; (2) creating a meaningful connection to adults through a positive coaching relationship; and (3) developing a sense of safety and security through regular activity.
- **Sport and play teach essential values and life skills** including self-confidence, teamwork, communication, inclusion, discipline, respect and fair play. Sport also has psychological benefits such as reducing depression and improving concentration.
- **Sport and physical activity are crucial for life-long healthy living.** Sport and play improve health and well-being, extend life-expectancy and reduce the likelihood of several non-communicable diseases including heart disease.
- **Sport has a positive impact on child education.** Physical education typically improves a child's ability to learn, increases concentration, attendance and overall achievement. Young people learn better when they are having fun and being active.
- **Sport has the potential to contribute to the economic development of communities and nations.** Training of coaches and physical education teachers leads directly to jobs; sport events can have significant economic impact; and sport manufacturing can be a low resource economic activity.
- **Sport brings people together,** bridging cultural, social and demographic divides. Its enormous popularity allows it to unite, motivate and inspire.

SPORT AND HIV/AIDS

According to UNAIDS, at the end of 2003 over 40 million people were living with HIV/AIDS globally, nearly 25 million of them in countries of sub-Saharan Africa.¹² Unsafe sexual practices remain the most prevalent mode of HIV transmission in the region, and therefore must remain central to the prevention efforts in this region.¹³ Alongside the huge challenge of providing anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment to those who need it, and to reach the goal of providing ARVs to three million people by 2005,¹⁴ there is an urgent need to boost prevention programmes. Although basic knowledge of HIV/AIDS has increased among young people in recent years, it is still disturbingly low in many countries, especially among young women. According to UNAIDS, in sub-Saharan Africa, women are 1.2 times more likely to be infected with HIV than men.¹⁵

Sport can be an effective tool to reach out to the most vulnerable populations, such as girls, young people, and street children/youth. Sport provides children with positive role-models, who can be effective at delivering prevention messages and raising HIV/AIDS awareness among hard-to-reach groups. There is a general consensus about the importance of providing young people with the necessary knowledge and skills to make informed choices, and sport can be one of the venues and means to effectively do this.

In the areas where the spread of HIV/AIDS is subsiding or even declining, it is primarily because young people are being empowered with information and skills to adopt safe behaviours.¹⁶ Educating young people about HIV, and teaching them skills in negotiation and conflict resolution improves their self-esteem and allows them to make informed decisions. Empowering children with prevention messages, and teaching them the required skills in early adolescence, can help establish and keep healthy behaviour patterns.

Also important to combat the epidemic is the need to reduce stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS along with their families, through support to community and individual approaches. Through its special conveying power of bringing non-political messages to general public, sport can be one component of the overall efforts to tackle stigma and discrimination.

Using the convening and influencing power of sport to deliver HIV/AIDS prevention messages, to increase knowledge, provide life skills, ensure safe and supportive environment and referral to services, will strengthen the global fight against HIV/AIDS. Innovative initiatives that use sport as a means to combat HIV/AIDS are underway in various countries around the world. Below are a few initiatives that use sport for HIV/AIDS prevention and address some of the existing barriers in reaching vulnerable populations.

HIV/AIDS Prevention

- In **Honduras**, **United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)** supports a programme *Football for Life* that promotes HIV/AIDS prevention and strives to protect young people ages 7 - 18 from sexual exploitation. Older adolescents volunteer as role models for younger football players, and a weekly match is accompanied by a skit, discussion or event that highlights the dangers of HIV/AIDS. The program has 5 million participants and 1 million youth volunteers.
- In **Ghana**, the **Feyenoord Football Academy** in collaboration with the **Feyenoord Football Club** in the **Netherlands**, with the support from UNICEF, trains adolescents in teaching their peers about HIV/AIDS and how to reduce their risk of infection. Trained and supplied with education materials, the players organize peer-education sessions in their communities, and for their fans when the matches are held. The project has reached a total of 2,156 young people with information on safer sex and how to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS.¹⁷
- **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** supports the **Botswana Christian Council** and the **Botswana National Sports Council** as part of its efforts to raise HIV/AIDS awareness among adolescents.
- **United Nations Joint Program on AIDS (UNAIDS)** signed a memorandum of understanding with the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** in which both organizations agreed to combine their efforts to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, particularly among the sport community. As part of the joint efforts of the two agencies, a South African person living with HIV was invited to participate in 2004 Olympic Torch Relay, held in Cape Town, South Africa. In cooperation with UNAIDS, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the World Bank, the IOC organized a first regional workshop on HIV/AIDS prevention through sport in Johannesburg in June 2004. The workshop brought together representatives of the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) from Southern Africa and experts from the region.
- Together with **UNAIDS**, the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** has developed a Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work, as well as a “Tool Box for Young Workers on HIV/AIDS”, a strong resource for sports organizations.
- Through partnerships at the local level in **Africa** and the **Caribbean**, **Commonwealth Games Canada (CGC)** uses physical activity to reach youth at risk or HIV/AIDS, orphans and girls with information on healthy lifestyle, HIV/AIDS and other relevant social issues. Through partnerships on the local level, CGC assists partners to create and implement

sustainable community-driven projects. All projects run by CGC include HIV/AIDS awareness, providing accurate information at an age-appropriate level as well as addressing the HIV/AIDS-related stigma, discrimination and myths around the infection.

- **Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA)** in Kenya works on linking sports, community leadership and sustainable development in Africa. Since 1994, MYSA has been training coaches, leaders and youths from the Mathare district of Nairobi on health-related issues, including HIV/AIDS prevention. On the community level, MYSA organizes sporting events and educates young people on HIV/AIDS during the breaks. MYSA holds “gender forums” where boys and girls, guided by coaches, discuss issues around HIV/AIDS and protection.
- **Kicking AIDS Out!** is a global network partnership which draws on the strengths of a diverse network of organizations using sport as a tool to address HIV/AIDS. The members of the network use sport and physical activity to motivate behaviour change and increase community awareness about HIV/AIDS through a variety of programs, such as peer mentoring and peer leadership.
- **EMIMA** is a volunteer youth sport and community service organization in Tanzania that works to promote sport participation among disadvantaged youth and to use sport to educate them about HIV/AIDS. EMIMA develops and implements sport and physical activity educational programs that help young people acquire knowledge and develop necessary life skills to make informed decisions with regards to their sexual behaviour. EMIMA also advocates for the inclusion of sport as a recognized and supported strategy on the national level.

“Truly speaking, combating HIV-related stigma and discrimination has been an unending battle. I believe in the potential of sport to contribute to breaking the barriers of stigma and discrimination in the community, but its impact largely depends on the nature, level and values that surround and influence players. Sport that is based on the values of fair play and true team spirit will have a positive impact on the players. Fair play is about respect: respect for teammate, for your opponent, for oneself and for the game. Only this type of sport will attract both the infected and the affected, and the rules of fair play will promote mutual respect and eventually break down the stigma barriers.” *James George Nange Otieno, HIV/AIDS Project Officer, MYSA*

Reducing Stigma and Discrimination

- In 2003 the **Norwegian Sports Federation (NIF)** conducted a Feasibility Study on Sports and HIV/AIDS in **Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa** that concluded that fighting stigma must be a key strategy in any work linking HIV/AIDS and sport. Involving people living with/affected by HIV/AIDS in games, and training them as coaches is also important to lessen the level of HIV/AIDS-related stigma and to adhere to the principles of Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHIV/AIDS). Involvement of PLWHIV/AIDS has often been crucial for the success of prevention initiatives, and their contribution to the fight against the epidemic has been recognized by the leading experts in the field.

Women and Girls

- **Women and Sport Botswana (WASBO)** increases access for women and girls to physical activity and sport programs throughout **Botswana**. With the implementation of a national structure and the establishment of subcommittees for implementation, WASBO will ensure that more girls and women will be able to take part in sport and physical activity, as well as benefit from the HIV/AIDS and healthy lifestyle topics. Membership has increased 300% in the last year as women are finding a platform for discussion of issues related to health and fitness.
- In **Tanzania**, **Right To Play (RTP)** uses sport to mobilize local communities and individuals for health. Working closely with local volunteers, RTP trains local coaches in delivering prevention messages and discussing sensitive issues around sexual behaviour and HIV/AIDS in their own communities. As one element of this project, girls' *SportHealth* 'Bonanzas' are held every two months to target women and girls, who are extremely vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. During the 'Bonanzas', discussions on HIV/AIDS and sexuality take place in the morning, while the afternoons are saved for the games and tournaments. 'Bonanzas' move to different locations to ensure outreach to different communities, ensuring a wide participation of girls, women and local coaches.

Youth

- In 2003, the **Ramotswa Youth Sport Association (RYSA)** was established in **Botswana** through a partnership with the City of Toronto, the South East District Council and Commonwealth Games Canada. RYSA uses a similar model to the Nobel Peace Prize nominee Mathare Youth Sport Association in Kenya to address three primary development goals:
 - Increasing youth sports participation

- Increasing female participation in physical activity
- Identifying and securing competent local volunteer leadership

Healthy lifestyle information and HIV/AIDS awareness are also integrated into the soccer activities. The 2004 partnership will see the MYSA youth assisting RYSA youth to draw experience from lessons learned and to add value to their HIV/AIDS dissemination and league structure.¹⁸

- In Kibera, **Kenya**, where one in five people are infected and thousands have already died, **UNICEF** has begun to sponsor football games for children. At half time, coaches invite their opponents over for a chat about girls, relationships, safe sex and AIDS.

SPORT AND HIV/AIDS - ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Government involvement and commitment is crucial to expand current prevention efforts and ensure that sport is offered to young people as another approach to enhancing HIV-related knowledge and skills. In a world where approximately 12,000 people get infected daily, more than 6,000 of them are aged 15 to 24, meaning one young person gets infected every 15 seconds.¹⁹ There are a number of questions that can be addressed to explore a holistic approach to addressing HIV/AIDS epidemic that includes government using the power of sport. Consider:

How can governments use sport initiatives to address HIV/AIDS-related policy issues with regards to:

- **Achievement of the HIV/AIDS-related Millennium Development Goal?**
- **HIV/AIDS prevention within a comprehensive prevention-treatment-care continuum?**
- **HIV/AIDS prevention messaging and behaviour change?**
- **Reduction of stigma and discrimination?**
- **Reaching out to the most vulnerable?**
- **Issues specific to girls and women?**
- **Youth?**

How can governments strengthen cooperation and partnerships between all actors of civil society, decision-makers, public and private sectors in addressing issues around combating HIV/AIDS epidemic?

What kind of bilateral government arrangements can be leveraged to provide the resources to move the sport for HIV/AIDS agenda forward?

How can governments support research initiatives to investigate the effectiveness of using sport in addressing complex issues around HIV/AIDS prevention?

In light of 2005 as the International Year for Physical Education and Sport, what specific activities can be undertaken by governments to contribute to raising HIV/AIDS awareness and HIV/AIDS prevention?

SPORT AND PEACE

Sustainable peace is a necessary cornerstone for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Peace is more than the absence of war or the maintenance of order through force. Peace requires the dedication to non-violent means for the resolution of conflict, and the building of institutions for world development and world community. Community empowerment with negotiation skills and knowledge, promoting tolerance through games and play on the local level, and bridging gaps between war-torn communities are only a few examples where the power of sport has been used for peace. Sport can be an ideal forum to bridge divides, resume dialogue and convey important messages about peace. Therefore, by contributing to development, sport also indirectly contributes to peace.

In times of war and post-conflict situations, where conflict is imminent or currently taking place, there is anecdotal evidence that sport initiatives have successfully been used for the purposes of lessening social tension, helping to bring together war-torn communities, and helping children and adolescents cope with the effects of conflict. During wars and conflict, millions can become displaced and lose their homes, families and community connections. Initiatives that include sport and play bring a sense of normalcy to children who have suffered from war and post-conflict situations, and can provide a powerful means for bringing peace-related messages across. The following are a number of innovative initiatives that use sport as a means to promote tolerance:

International Peace Initiatives

- The tradition of **Olympic Truce**, the longest lasting peace accord in history, originates from Ancient Greece, when all conflict would temporarily stop to allow the athletes to take part in the Games, and the audience to enjoy it. This tradition, which was renewed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1992, has now been accepted on the highest international level. Through its resolution process, every two years the UN General Assembly calls upon all Member States to express their resolve for peaceful competition, unmarred by violent conflicts. The same appeal was launched for the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens.
- In **2000**, in celebration of the **International Year for a Culture of Peace**, the IOC held six regional roundtables on Sport for Peace. The discussion focused on the use of sport and the Olympic ideal as tools to promote a culture of peace and understanding, and developing an action plan for the Olympic Movement to promote a culture of peace and the observance of the Olympic Truce. The participants to the roundtables adopted a set of recommendations to further promote peace through sport. The recommendations included a call for National Olympic Committees (NOC) to continue to promote the

culture of peace and observance of the Olympic Truce in their respective countries, and a call upon high-profile athletes to work together with the IOC to promote reconciliation, tolerance and understanding. In 2004, the IOC renewed this experience with two regional workshops held in Cyprus and Kenya, for NOCs and other international institutions representatives of countries in conflict or post-conflict situation of Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Community-Based Peace Initiatives

- In **Burundi**, the IOC and the **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)** have jointly supported an initiative launched by young people in Bujumbura, Burundi, to promote inter-ethnic tolerance and understanding through sport. About 13,500 children from different ethnic groups and from a range of different backgrounds took part in traditional and popular sports activities, with an emphasis on inner-city events. The project aimed at encouraging regular and friendly contact between young people from different communities by bringing them together for sport activities and project development.
- In the **Palestinian Territories**, to promote culture and an individual Palestinian identity, the **UNDP/ Program of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP)** has supported various activities involving youth and sports. In collaboration with the **Palestinian Rowing Federation**, UNDP/PAPP used sport to build capacity, promote good governance and sustainable development in the Gaza Strip. The project aims to reassert the national federation's important responsibility for the development of sport and the community capacity to administer sport-based initiatives on the local level.
- In the Galilee region of northern **Israel**, **Football for Peace** project run by staff and students from the **University of Brighton, UK**, brings together adolescents from Jewish and Arab communities in northern Israel to improve their football skills, and learn how to apply neutrality, equity, respect, trust and responsibility. These key five values were designed to help to resolve conflict and promote community reconciliation among young people through sport. University of Brighton, the British Council and the UK Embassy are they key partners in organization and fundraising. In 2004, seven projects serving fourteen communities, involving over 50 local volunteer coaches and community who leaders will cater to the needs of 700 children.²⁰

Former Child Combatants

- Sport and play can be of particular importance in the reintegration of former child combatants back into the community, and easing the transition from child soldier²¹ back to child. As many children find it difficult to disengage from the idea of using violence as

legitimate means to achieve their goals, providing them with coping skills in a safe environment of play becomes extremely important. After prolonged periods of civil war in **Sierra Leone** and **Sudan**, children have been left orphaned and traumatized. In both countries, **UNICEF** has supported sport programs to reintegrate former child combatants and to train teachers to incorporate educational play into their classroom activities. Sport and play provide an opportunity for communities and individuals to heal.

Women and Girls

- In the **Ivory Coast**, the **Swiss Federal Office of Sports** has developed a project with support of the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation**. Together with the students of the **National Ivorian Institute for Sports and Youth**, education is brought to street children through sport, girls are offered regular access to sporting activities and a curriculum is being designed to interest the students more in the social value of sport. The programme continues to be implemented despite the conflict affecting the Ivory Coast.

Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- **UNHCR** is working to bring sport and play to refugee situations around the world. Sport helps refugees to remain healthy, busy and engaged. Sport gives children an opportunity to play and youth an opportunity to learn coaching skills. In camps in **Asia** and **Africa**, sport is helping the healing process for refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons.
- In **Azerbaijan**, the **Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)** and national-level NGOs **BUTA** and **HAYAT** have been working since 1995 on the social development and psychosocial rehabilitation of IDP, refugee children and youth who have been displaced by conflict. Sport is a key component of BUTA programming and in 2001, with NRC, they published research that included findings of the psychosocial benefits of using sport and games to address the effects of conflict and the on-going trauma of displacement. Preliminary research found that apart from emotional benefits, sport can greatly contribute to creating a supportive environment to allow children to make positive choices in their lives. **HAYAT** is using sport as part of its Education for Development programming for IDP children across the country. Sport is providing a means for general child development in the school curriculum, in after-school activities, and is providing a means of communication for children who have been displaced from many regions.
- In **Afghanistan**, **UNICEF** works in refugee camps with children who are playing soccer for the first time in their lives. Previously, the Taliban banned games, but now UNICEF is

providing children with the opportunity to learn how to play again, and learn how to interact with others, especially members of the opposite sex.

- In **Pakistan**, **INSAN Foundation**, a national-level NGO, brings sport and play to Afghan refugee children in Peshawar City and Quetta City. Working with Right To Play, the project also brings Afghan and Pakistani girls and boys together to play. The project is using an inclusive approach, and through consultations with elders and community leaders, the project made it possible for girls to take part in sports.
- During the 1992 civil wars in **Georgia**, around 300,000 people were forced to flee. In this country, **United Nations Volunteers (UNV)** uses sport for psychological and social rehabilitation of youths from IDP families, traumatized by the past conflict. Working closely with local partners and volunteers, UNV brings young people from war-affected and conflict zones to summer camps, where they are given an opportunity to play sports together, develop team spirit and address important social issues.

Youth

- In **Kosovo**, with the help of **UNV**, children from different ethnic backgrounds participated in various sport summer camps, where they played together in ethnically mixed teams, and learned about team spirit. Even though these children had limited freedom of movement, they were able to get exposure to other cultures, and learn about tolerance and understanding. A substantial number of volunteers and teachers from all ethnic groups also participate in such summer camps.
- In **Israel**, the **Peres Centre for Peace** and **Right To Play**, bring together Israeli and Palestinian youth to play soccer and basketball. These young people were selected from communities with little or no opportunities for organized sport activities, and lacked sport equipment and facilities. As well as engaging Palestinian and Israeli children individually, the Twinned Sport Schools project brings them together to participate in joint sporting and social activities. The children also receive from their coaches Peace Education training about the values of peace.

SPORT AND PEACE - ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

As an international language of peace, sport is widely used by UN agencies and non-governmental organizations. Civil society²² is an important actor in national and international development. Non-governmental agencies are often able to deliver non-politicized messages about peace, especially in partnership with local agencies. To ensure sustainability of these projects, governmental support and commitment is crucial. In order to ensure the most effective use of sport for peace, sport must be included as a component of Government development policies, as well as be on the agendas of national and international development agencies. Consider:

How can governments use sport initiatives to address peace policy issues in the areas of:

- **Community development?**
- **Security?**
- **Promoting cultural dialogue?**
- **Issues specific to girls and women?**
- **Youth?**
- **Achieving the Millennium Development Goals?**
- **Conflict resolution skills?**

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?

How can governments support research initiatives to investigate the effectiveness of using sport-based initiatives for peace?

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?

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: Millennium Development Goals

1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day ▪ Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
2) Achieve universal primary education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling
3) Promote gender equality and empower women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015
4) Reduce child mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five
5) Improve maternal health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio
6) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS ▪ Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases
7) Ensure environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources ▪ Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water ▪ Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020
8) Develop a global partnership for development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory. Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction—nationally and internationally ▪ Address the least developed countries' special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries; cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction ▪ Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States ▪ Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term ▪ In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth ▪ In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries ▪ In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies—especially information and communications technologies



General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 November 2003

Fifty-eighth session

Agenda item 23 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/58/L.2 and Add.1)]

58/5. Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision to include in its agenda an item entitled “Sport for peace and development” and a sub-item thereof entitled “International Year of Sport and Physical Education”,¹

Considering the role of sport and physical education as a means to promote education, health, development and peace,

Acknowledging the major role of the United Nations, its funds and programmes and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other specialized agencies, in promoting human development through sport and physical education, through its country programmes,

Taking note of the communiqué issued by the round table of ministers responsible for sports and physical education, held in Paris on 9 and 10 January 2003, in which they expressed their commitment to ensuring that the role of physical education and sport is fully recognized and developed,

Recalling the Convention on the Rights of the Child² and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on children entitled “A world fit for children”³ stressing that education shall be directed to the development of children’s personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential,

Recalling also the International Charter of Physical Education and Sport of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization⁴ and the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 2nd meeting (A/58/PV.2), and corrigendum.

² Resolution 44/25, annex.

³ Resolution S-27/2, annex.

⁴ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twentieth Session, Paris, 24 October–28 November 1978*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*.

World Education Forum in April 2000,⁵ as well as other relevant documents emphasizing the role of sport and physical education,

Taking note of the report of the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on Sport for Development and Peace,

Noting that sport and physical education in many countries face increasing marginalization within education systems even though they are a major tool not only for health and physical development but also for acquiring values necessary for social cohesion and intercultural dialogue,

Acknowledging with concern the dangers faced by sportsmen and sportswomen, in particular young athletes, including, inter alia, child labour, violence, doping, early specialization, over-training and exploitative forms of commercialization, as well as less visible threats and deprivations, such as the premature severance of family bonds and the loss of sporting, social and cultural ties,

Recognizing the need for greater coordination of efforts at the international level to facilitate a more effective fight against doping, and noting in this regard the Anti-Doping Convention established by the Council of Europe,⁶ the Copenhagen Declaration on Anti-doping in Sport, adopted during the World Conference on Doping in Sport, held from 3 to 5 March 2003, and any other relevant international instrument,

1. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations, its funds and programmes, the specialized agencies, where appropriate, and sport-related institutions:

(a) To promote the role of sport and physical education for all when furthering their development programmes and policies, to advance health awareness, the spirit of achievement and cultural bridging and to entrench collective values;

(b) To include sport and physical education as a tool to contribute towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁷ and the broader aims of development and peace;

(c) To work collectively so that sport and physical education can present opportunities for solidarity and cooperation in order to promote a culture of peace and social and gender equality and to advocate dialogue and harmony;

(d) To recognize the contribution of sport and physical education towards economic and social development and to encourage the building and restoration of sports infrastructures;

(e) To further promote sport and physical education, on the basis of locally assessed needs, as a tool for health, education, social and cultural development;

(f) To strengthen cooperation and partnership between all actors, including family, school, clubs/leagues, local communities, youth sports associations and decision makers as well as the public and

⁵ Ibid., *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26–28 April 2000*, Paris, 2000.

⁶ Council of Europe, *European Treaty Series*, No. 135.

⁷ See resolution 55/2.

private sectors, in order to ensure complementarities and to make sport and physical education available to everyone;

(g) To ensure that young talents can develop their athletic potential without any threat to their safety and physical and moral integrity;

2. *Encourages* Governments, international sports bodies and sport-related organizations to elaborate and implement partnership initiatives and development projects compatible with the education provided at all levels of schooling to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Invites* Governments and international sports bodies to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, in their capacity-building efforts in sport and physical education;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations to develop strategic partnerships with the range of stakeholders involved in sport, including sports organizations, sports associations and the private sector, to assist in the implementation of sport for development programmes;

5. *Encourages* Governments and the United Nations system to seek new and innovative ways to use sport for communication and social mobilization, particularly at the national, regional and local levels, engaging civil society through active participation and ensuring that target audiences are reached;

6. *Stresses* the need for all parties to cooperate closely with international sports bodies to elaborate a “code of good practice”;

7. *Invites* Governments to accelerate the elaboration of an international anti-doping convention in all sports activities, and requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in cooperation with other relevant international and regional organizations, to coordinate the elaboration of such a convention;

8. *Decides* to proclaim 2005 as the International Year for Sport and Physical Education, as a means to promote education, health, development and peace, and invites Governments to organize events to underline their commitment and to seek the assistance of sports personalities in this regard;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution and on the preparation of events at the national and international levels to celebrate the year 2005, under the sub-item entitled “International Year of Sport and Physical Education”.

*52nd plenary meeting
3 November 2003*

APPENDIX III: Milestones in Sport for Development

- **2002:** the United Nations General Assembly holds a Special Session on Children adopts a Resolution “A World Fit for Children”²³, where it re-affirms the importance of play and sports and calls upon the Member States to promote physical, mental and emotional health among children and adolescents.
- **2002:** Winter Olympic Games, Salt Lake City. A Roundtable Forum entitled “*Healthier, Safer, Stronger: Using sport for development to build a brighter future for children worldwide*” brought together international experts and leaders in the field of development, generated considerable interest in the potential of sport as a tool for development and peace and became a catalyst for the subsequent establishment of the UN Interagency Task Force on Sport for Development.
- **2003:** UN General Assembly Special Session Resolution 58/5 calls upon its Member States to promote the role of sport and physical education for all when furthering their development programmes and policies and to include sport and physical education as a tool for development. It encouraged the Member States to seek new and innovative ways to use sport for communication and social mobilization, engaging civil society through active participation and ensuring that target audiences are reached.²⁴ It also proclaims the year 2005 to be the International Year of Physical Education and Sport.
- **2003:** the Member States of the United Nations unanimously adopt a Resolution “Building a Peaceful and Better World through Sport and the Olympic Ideals” calling for the observance of the “Olympic Truce” during the upcoming XXVIII Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.²⁵
- **2003:** Number of conferences on Sport for Development took place. As a result of the International Conference for Sport and Development, representatives of 55 countries adopt *The Magglingen Declaration*.²⁶ The recommendations follow the above-mentioned Declaration. They focus on using sport for peace, health, education, and other aspects of human development. International Expert Meeting “The Next Step” on Sport and Development took place in Amsterdam, reiterating the power of sport and its role in development, as well as outlining next steps for mainstreaming sport into development policies.
- **2003:** The UN Task Force Report on Sport for Development and Peace released in September 2003, concludes that sport should be considered by the United Nations as complementary to existing activities and recommended the incorporation of sport and

physical activity into the development policies of countries as well as the development agendas of national and international development agencies.

- **2004:** The important social and educational role of sport is recognized on the **regional level**, the European Union has proclaimed year 2004 to be the European Year of Education through Sport.²⁷ Sport receives further recognition on the European level through the inclusion of sport and physical education in the draft Constitutional Treaty of the European Union.²⁸
- **2004:** Roundtable meeting "Harnessing the Power of Sport for Development and Peace" in Athens.
- **2005:** International Year of Sport and Physical Education.

ENDNOTES

1 Formerly known as Olympic Aid.

2 UNAIDS, *2004 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic* (4th global report, UNAIDS, 2004).

3 UN Inter-Agency Task Force Report on Sport for Development and Peace: *Towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals* (United Nations, 2003), p. 22.

4 UN Inter-Agency Task Force Report on Sport for Development and Peace, *ibid.*, p. 24.

5 UN General Assembly Resolution *A World Fit for Children* (A/RES/S-27/2), 2002, para. 19.

6 *Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace*, GA Res 58/5, UN GAOR, 2003, UN Doc.A/58/L.2/Add.1., adopted on 3 November 2003.

7 UN Inter-Agency Task Force Report on Sport for Development and Peace: *Towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals* (United Nations, 2003), Page 2.

This broad definition of sport is in keeping with many popularly used definitions including, for example, the one used by the Council of Europe in the 1992 European Sports Charter (Article 2.i - "Sport" means all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organized participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels).

8 *International Charter of Physical Education and Sport* adopted by the General Conference at its 20th session, Paris, November 1978 affirms that physical education and sport is a fundamental human right for all, stating that every human being has a fundamental right of access to physical education and sport, which are essential to ensure individual development. *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, ratified by 192 countries, recognizes the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities, at the same time placing the responsibility to respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in recreational and leisure activities. Although women and girls continue to be under-represented as participants, coaches, officials and decision-makers in sport. *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* directs the State Parties to eliminate discrimination against women in various fields, such as education and health care, and to ensure women's equal access to services. The UN General Assembly Resolution *A World Fit for Children* also commits the State Parties to promote physical, mental and emotional health among children, including adolescents, through play, sports and recreation among others.

9 The Millennium Development Goals commit the international community to an expanded vision of development that promotes human development as the key to progress in all countries. They set targets for reducing poverty, hunger, diseases, child mortality and promoting maternal health, gender equality and access to universal primary education.

10 UN Inter-Agency Task Force Report on Sport for Development and Peace: *Towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals* (United Nations, 2003), 5.

11 UN Inter-Agency Task Force Report on Sport for Development and Peace: *Towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals* (United Nations, 2003), 3.

12 UNAIDS, *2004 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic* (UNAIDS, 2004.), p. 30.

13 UNAIDS, *Question and Answers: Prevention Success*, online: UNAIDS/Publications <<http://www.unaids.org/en/other/functionality/>>.

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- 14 "Treat 3 million by 2005" (3 by 5) is the global initiative of the World Health Organization and UNAIDS to provide antiretroviral therapy to 3 million people with HIV/AIDS in developing countries by the end of 2005. For more information, please see UNAIDS, 3 by 5 initiatives, online: UNAIDS <<http://www.unaids.org/en/treat+3+million+by+2005+initiative.asp>>.
- 15 UNAIDS, *AIDS Epidemic Update 2003* (UNAIDS, 2003), p. 7. Also see *UNAIDS 2004 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*, UNAIDS, 2004, p. 194.
- 16 UNICEF/UNAIDS, *Young People and HIV/AIDS: An opportunity in crisis* (UNICEF, UNAIDS, WHO, 2003), 5.
- 17 UNICEF, *Summary of Example: UNICEF Country Offices Use of Sports in Country Programming*.
- 18 Abstract courtesy of Commonwealth Games Canada. For more information on Commonwealth Games, please refer to: <<http://www.commonwealthgames.org>>.
- 19 UNAIDS, *2004 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*, 4-th Global Report (UNAIDS, 2004), pp. 14 - 15.
- 20 To learn more about the project, please visit University of Brighton, online: <<http://www.brighton.ac.uk/news/releases/040628peace.htm>>.
- 21 A child soldier is anyone under 18 years of age who is compulsory or voluntarily used by armed forces and various armed groups.
- 22 For the purposes of this paper, civil society is understood as a relatively autonomous from the state realm that checks state's powers and holds it accountable.
- 23 *A World Fit for Children*, GA/RES/S-27/2.
- 24 *Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace*, GA Res 58/5, UN GAOR, 2003, UN Dic.A/58/L.2/Add.1.
- 25 Olympic Truce is the UN initiative since 1993 when it was revived by the UN Resolution 48/11 and called for a Truce during the Olympic Games that would encourage a peaceful environment and ensure the safe passage and participation of athletes and others in the Games, mobilizing the youth of the world for the cause of peace. This Resolution is a symbol of peace, and does not have a binding force, however it has been observed in 1994 during the war in former Yugoslavia and in 1998 during the conflict in Iraq.
- 26 *The Magglingen Declaration and Recommendations*, Sport and Development, International Conference, Magglingen, Switzerland (2003); online: International Platform for Sport and Development <<http://www.sportanddev.org/data/sportanddev/content/document/90.pdf>>.
- 27 EC, Decision No 291/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 February 2003 establishing the European Year of Education through Sport 2004 [2003], O.J.L. 043 , p.0001 - 0005.
- 28 Sport was added to article 182 of the Constitutional Treaty, entitled "*Education, vocational training, youth and sport*". In addition to the fact that the sports ministers will at the community level rank alongside their counterparts responsible.



THE ATHENS ROUNDTABLE FORUM WAS ORGANIZED IN CO-OPERATION WITH



AND SUPPORTED BY



