

# SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL ON SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

## BACKGROUND



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### Who is the Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace?

On 18 March 2008, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Wilfried Lemke, of Germany, as his new Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace, with the aim of further reaching out to the world of sport and more systematically and coherently encouraging the use of sport as a means to promote development and peace. Mr. Lemke succeeds Adolf Ogi, former President of the Swiss Confederation, who was appointed as the first Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace by then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2001.

Sport is not a new tool in development cooperation. It has long been used by the United Nations in an *ad hoc* way, particularly in humanitarian aid efforts, to improve the living conditions of victims of conflict or natural disasters and in dealing with trauma.

Special Adviser to  
the UN Secretary-  
General on Sport  
for Development  
and Peace

Under-Secretary-  
General

Former Senator  
of the Interior and  
Sport and  
Former Senator  
for Education and  
Science of the  
State of Bremen,  
Germany  
(1999-2008)

Former Manager of  
the first division  
German football  
club Werder  
Bremen  
(1981-1999)

### What are the core functions of the Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace?

- **Advocate:** The Special Adviser leads the efforts of the UN system at a high political level to promote understanding and support for sport as a tool for development and peace. The Special Adviser builds bridges between the UN and Member States, international sports organizations, the civil society, the private sector and the media.
- **Facilitator:** The Special Adviser is a trusted broker with unique convening power who can encourage dialogue, collaboration and partnerships around sport for development and peace between actors from different sectors of society and within the UN system. The Special Adviser provides the entry point to the UN system for the outside world with regard to sports for development and peace.
- **Representative:** The Special Adviser represents the Secretary-General and the UN system at important global sports events and other strategically important fora.

### What is the main message of the Special Adviser?

- Sport alone cannot ensure peace or solve complex social problems, but its positive values and their careful application in well-designed development and peace programmes based on locally assessed needs holds enormous potential to help achieve development goals including the Millennium Development Goals and peace objectives.
- Sport is a school teaching life-skills such as tolerance, cooperation and respect. Sport is a universal language, with a strong convening power, that helps us demonstrate that there is more that unites than divides us.
- Sport plays an essential role in creating a healthier and more active population with a wide range of physical, social and mental health benefits.



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