The Peace and Sport Awards Reward the Best Initiatives for Reconciliation through Sport

Monaco, 26 November 2009 – Emotion and respect were on the menu this evening during the Prize-giving ceremony of the Peace and Sport Awards 2009, which recompense initiatives and individuals in sport to have made a particular contribution to social stability in the world in the previous year.

In front of an audience of over 400 high-profile personalities from sport, politics, business and civil life assembled for the International Peace and Sport Forum, H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco and Joel Bouzou, President and Founder of the organisation, presented awards for five projects and symbolic moments that illustrate to extent sport is capable of helping to rebuild bridges between divided or opposed communities.

Winners of the Peace and Sport Awards were chosen by a jury of eminent personalities, deeply invested in peace-promotion or the consolidation of peace through sport. The jury members were:

- **Joel Bouzou**, President and Founder of Peace and Sport, Modern Pentathlon Olympic Champion
- **Wilfried Lemke**, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General of the Office on Sport for Development and Peace.
- **Hellen Sambili MP**, Minister of Youth and Sport for Kenya
- **Wilson Kipketer**, triple World Champion in Athletics (800m)
- **Pernilla Wiberg**, Ski Olympic Champion and member of the International Olympic Committee
- **Johann Koss**, President of Right To Play, Speed Skating Olympic Champion
- **Matvey Shparo**, Arctic explorer
- **Erik Monjalous**, Director of Sales and Marketing for Agence France-Presse

**Award for the Best Peace Project from an International Sports Federation**

This prize recognizes excellence from an International Federation which has put its sport at the service of social action, whilst also contributing to the sport's national development.

The winner in this category was named as:

**The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)** for its development programmes which use the values of table tennis as an instrument of integration and social stability in severely disadvantaged urban areas in Afghanistan, Yemen, Jordan and Colombia.
Award for the Sports Event for Peace of the Year

This prize was awarded to an event that has demonstrated its ability to effectively promote a message of peace within identified communities. The winning event is the Laikipia Highlands Games in Kenya, jointly organized by the Gallmann Memorial Foundation and the Great Rift Valley Trust. The Games aim to ease ethnic tension in this region and encourage young athletes in Kenya.

Award for the Sports Non-Governmental Organization for Peace of the Year

This award is for NGOs which have demonstrated real expertise in its use of sport as a tool for peace education. Two winners were chosen in this category:

- **Skateistan**, an Afghan skate school focusing on education, sexual equality and cross-cultural understanding in Afghanistan.
- **Play Soccer**, which uses football to promote tolerance, sharing, loyalty and respect in Cameroon, Ghana, Malawi, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia.

Award for the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiative of the Year

This new Award category was created to reward an international corporation which has particularly demonstrated its involvement in citizenship by using sport as a tool for peace education. The winner is Barclays, for its sponsorship program "Spaces for Sport" which aims to revitalize sports sites in disadvantaged communities in the United Kingdom, South Africa, Spain, the United States and Zambia.

The “Grand Prix” Peace and Sport Image of the Year Award

During the Awards Ceremony, the prestigious Peace and Sport Image of the Year was presented to Lamine Diack, IAAF President for his initiative to unite the granddaughter of the German athlete Luz Long and the granddaughter of American champion Jesse Owens at the 2009 Athletics World Championships in Berlin, during the medal-giving for the long jump. This image perpetuates the courageous and unforgettable friendship between their grandfathers that began during the 1936 Olympics. It bears testimony to the immense power of sport to be stronger than hatred and extremism. The prize was awarded in partnership with SPORTELMonaco and Agence France-Presse.

The Peace and Sport Awards were inaugurated in 2008.

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About Peace and Sport

“Peace and Sport, L’Organisation pour la Paix par le Sport” is a neutral and apolitical international initiative. Peace and Sport puts sport and its structuring values at the heart of development projects led within communities in crisis around the world. With interventions in post-conflict zones, extremely poor areas and areas lacking social cohesion, Peace and Sport makes sport a vehicle for tolerance, respect, sharing and citizenship at the service of sustainable peace.

Supported by governments, world sport governing bodies, international organizations, major international private companies and international sports champions, Peace and Sport creates synergies between various different stakeholders to carry out four types of action:
- Organizing an annual International Forum (next edition in Monaco, 25 -27 November 2009)
- A Resource Centre for sport and peace,
- The Peace and Sport Awards, to reward individuals and initiatives contributing to peace,
- Locally-Based Projects; concrete actions in various regions of crisis in the world.

Today, Peace and Sport has operations in Cote d’Ivoire, Burundi, Israel-Palestine, Timor Leste, Colombia and plans to intervene in Haiti in the near future.

Peace and Sport was founded by Joel Bouzou, current President of the organisation. Mr. Bouzou is an Olympic medallist, world champion of Modern Pentathlon and current Secretary General for the International Union of Modern Pentathlon (UIPM). He is also an Advisor to H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco.