



SPECIAL ADVISER
TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON SPORT FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE



THE UN AND SPORT: FROM YOUTH CAMP TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS TO MOUNT KILIMANJARO

Geneva, 6 February 2009 – 2009 is looking to be an intensive year for Wilfried Lemke, as the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace.

With only 12 months to go until the Vancouver Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games and 18 months until the FIFA World Cup in South Africa, the Special Adviser has his task cut out for him as he seeks to coordinate the UN activities in relation to these mega sports events as well as the hundreds of other sport for development and peace projects taking place around the world.

In the next few weeks, the Special Adviser will be giving the kick-off to a UNODC Youth Camp in Cairo and will be representing the UN system at the "Special Olympics", the Olympics for persons with intellectual disabilities. His representative will be climbing Mount Kilimanjaro as part of the global UN campaign "Unite to Combat Climate Change".

Global Sport Fund International Youth Camp in Cairo

Starting today, over than 130 boys and girls between the age of 14 and 18 from over 16 countries in North Africa, the Middle East and West Asia and their 45 coaches will take part in a four-day football and volleyball training camp at the Olympic Centre in Al Maadi, Cairo. On Saturday, 7 February, Wilfried Lemke will make the "kick-off" on the field and will afterwards join the participants for various activities during that day.

The camp is organized by the 'Global sport Fund', an initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Qatar Olympic Committee, with the main objective of offering young boys and girls opportunities to interact and develop their potential through sport, while avoiding the temptations of delinquency and drugs use. *For more information:* www.globalsportfund.com

2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Boise (7-13 Feb., Idaho, USA)

On 12 and 13 February, the Special Adviser will attend the final phase of the 2009 World Winter Games for persons with intellectual disabilities. For athletes with intellectual disabilities, the Special Olympics World Games represent the most important sporting event (the Paralympic Games are destined for athletes with physical and sensory disabilities). The Special Olympics movement includes more than two million active athletes around the world. The Special Olympics were founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, a sister of the former American President John F. Kennedy. As early as 1962, she organized the first camps for persons with intellectual disabilities.

For more information: www.idso.org

2009 'Kilimanjaro Initiative' Climb

From 28 February to 4 March 2009, a group of 35-40 climbers, including youths from Kenya, Tanzania and Ghana will attempt to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. This year's climb, organized by the NGO 'Kilimanjaro Initiative', will highlight the direct impact of climate change on the living conditions of individuals and communities throughout the world. While unable to participate in the climb, the Special Adviser officially supports the project and will be represented on the slopes of the mountain by a member of his staff. The NGO was founded in 2005 by Tim Challen, a Geneva-based UNFCU staff, after he was shot during an armed robbery in Nairobi. Following extensive surgery and a long period of recovery, Tim returned to East Africa with a desire to help create a safer and better environment for urban youths and provide them with opportunities to take on a constructive role in their communities. *For more information:* www.kilimanjaroinitiative.org

For more information, please contact:

Antoine Tardy, Advocacy and Communications Officer, UN Office on Sport for Development and Peace
E-mail: atardy@unog.ch; telephone +41 (0)22 917 47 12; fax: +41 (0)22 917 07 12