



United Nations Office for Partnerships



## PRESS RELEASE

### THE UNITED NATIONS AND PEACE AND SPORT JOIN FORCES TO PROMOTE PEACE THROUGH SPORT

***A partnership is signed to enlist the support of governments, sport governing bodies, international organizations, the private sector and civil society.***

**Monaco 26 November 2009** – Tonight at a spectacular Gala Evening that took place during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Peace and Sport International Forum, under the presidency of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, a new partnership to further sustainable peace in the world was cemented.

The United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP), and the United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP) signed a partnership with "Peace and Sport, L'Organisation pour la Paix par le Sport" in front of an audience of over 400 delegates from 85 countries, including many African nations. Their wish is to work together to promote the role of sport in achieving sustainable peace and development, especially in countries emerging from conflicts.

Increasingly, sport is recognized as an important tool in helping the United Nations achieve its objectives, with priority placed on its Millennium Development Goals. The values of tolerance, collaboration, and respect, which are inherent to sport, can provide a powerful platform for social cohesion, dialogue, reconciliation, and learning.

Joel Bouzou, President and Founder of Peace and Sport, said:

*"It is a tremendous honour for Peace and Sport to be recognized as a strategic partner by two key offices in the United Nations System. Our international platform is neutral and apolitical, which gives us legitimacy to work effectively with a multitude of very different actors, promoting and building peace through sport. We are pleased to leverage this aptitude to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. By partnering with the UN, our efforts to raise awareness and mobilize decision-makers in politics, sport and economic life will be increased tenfold and made more effective. "*

Wilfried Lemke, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, added:

*"One of the main tasks of my mandate is to lead and coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system in order to better integrate sport and physical education into our programmes worldwide. Encouraging collaboration and partnerships in this area is one of my priorities. I am convinced that the UN has found a worthwhile ally in Peace and Sport to use sport as an innovative catalyst for social change and building sustainable peace."*

In December 2008, Mr. Lemke joined the group of prominent figures who have become Peace and Sport Ambassadors.

Amir Dossal, Executive Director of UNOP, said: *"We are honoured to collaborate with the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace and Peace and Sport to highlight the important role sport can play in furthering the Millennium Development Goals and bettering the lives of people around the world. I am confident that this partnership will provide a valuable platform for new initiatives and projects with concrete results."*

### **About UNOPSD:**

The United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP), based in Geneva and supported by a New York Liaison Office, assists the Special Adviser in his diverse activities as an advocate, facilitator and representative of sports' social purposes:

- **ADVOCATE:** Leading and coordinating the efforts of the UN system to promote the understanding and support amongst UN Member States and other actors for sport as a tool to attain the Millennium Development Goals, with a special focus on sport's contribution to poverty reduction, universal education, gender equality; prevention of HIV and AIDS and other diseases, environmental sustainability as well as peace building and conflict resolution.
- **FACILITATOR:** Encouraging dialogue, collaboration and partnerships around sport for development and peace between the United Nations and Member States, international sports organizations, civil society, the private sector and the media.
- **REPRESENTATIVE:** Representing the Secretary-General and the United Nations system at important global sport events and other strategically important fora.

In general, the Office provides the entry point to the United Nations system with regards to sport for development and peace and brings the world of sport and development together.

### **About UNOP:**

The United Nations Office for Partnerships, based in New York, serves as a gateway for public-private partnerships with the United Nations system, in furtherance of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

UNOP provides Partnership Advisory Services and Outreach to a variety of entities, including academic institutions, companies, foundations, government agencies, and civil society organizations. The Office encourages investment in high-impact initiatives by assisting in the design of programmes and projects; helping establish and manage networks; advocating the use of the MDGs as a framework for action; and advising on UN procedures and best practices.

The Office also manages the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, established by the Secretary-General in 1998 to serve as the interface for the partnership between the UN system and the UN Foundation, and the United Nations Democracy Fund, established by the Secretary-General in 2006 to support democratization throughout the world.

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