



BEIJING DECLARATION ON SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

On August 7th, 2008 the Executive Committee of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group (SDP IWG) held its fourth meeting in Beijing, China. The meeting, chaired by Mr. Wilfried Lemke, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, brought together ministers of youth and sport, and their representatives, from 38 nations to discuss ways to harness the power of sport to advance national and international development goals. Ministers were joined by representatives from United Nations agencies, programs, and funds (including: ILO, UN-Habitat, UNESCO, and UNICEF), as well as national and international civil society actors.

Recalling the prior meetings of the Executive Committee of the SDP IWG held in 2007 in Accra, Ghana; in 2006 in Torino, Italy; in 2005 in New York, USA, and the 2004 Roundtable Forum at which the SDP IWG was conceived in Athens, Greece;

Recognizing that there are a growing number of successful examples of governments using sport as a tool to support the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and related development objectives;

Expressing appreciation for the generous support of the six funders of the SDP IWG: the Governments of Canada, Norway, Switzerland and Austria, the international humanitarian organization Right To Play, and Johnson & Johnson™;

Commending the excellent work of Right To Play as the Secretariat to the SDP IWG;

Acknowledging the commitment of the Steering Group of the SDP IWG, composed of officials from the funding governments, the Government of Sierra Leone, the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace, and Right to Play;

Acknowledging its appreciation to the UN Secretary-General for his support and leadership in Sport for Development and Peace;

Acknowledging the active support of the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace and the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP);

Thanking the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for chairing prior meetings of the SDP IWG;

Thanking the Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee and the International Olympic Committee for their support to the SDP IWG and wishing them a successful Beijing 2008 Summer Olympic Games;

Thanking the Government of Canada for its leadership and support in co-hosting the launch of the SDP IWG final report in Beijing;

Thanking the leadership efforts of the Government of Papua New Guinea in harnessing the development power of sport;

Thanking the members of the SDP IWG Executive Committee for their ongoing efforts in promoting Sport for Development and Peace and for their active participation in the SDP IWG; and

Acknowledging the efforts of China in using sport for positive and sustainable social change and encouraging the Government of China to further address existing challenges, in cooperation with the international community;

The SDP IWG:

1. *Endorses* the SDP IWG final report “*Harnessing the Power of Sport for Development and Peace: Recommendations to Governments*”;
2. *Recognizes* that the final report provides a comprehensive overview of the existing evidence of the contribution of sport to the advancement of development objectives including health, gender equity, inclusion of people with disabilities, child and youth development, peace-building and conflict resolution;
3. *Recognizes* the fundamental role that sport can play in building a sense of community and citizenship;
4. *Recognizes* the importance of the final report’s policy recommendations to support the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;
5. *Notes* that the final report has contributed to raising awareness and will continue to increase understanding amongst governments about the development and peace potential of sport and provide government policy-makers with a solid foundation on which to build their own policies, programs and initiatives;
6. *Resolves* to build government capacity in order to implement the policy recommendations contained in the SDP IWG final report;
7. *Invites* governments to report on their progress using sport as a tool for development and peace;
8. *Agrees* to the continuing need for an inter-governmental working group to support knowledge exchange and capacity-building for Sport for Development and Peace;
9. *Recognizes* the need for the work of the SDP IWG to continue within the UN system;

10. *Encourages* the UN to support governments in the adoption and implementation of the SDP IWG policy recommendations;
11. *Endorses* a new SDP IWG mandate to promote the use of Sport for Development and Peace and enable governments to harness the power of sport to advance national and international development and peace objectives, particularly the MDGs;
12. *Recognizes* the importance of partnership in fulfilling the renewed mandate of the SDP IWG;
13. *Urges* the UN Office on Sport for Development and Peace to work closely with the former SDP IWG Secretariat (Right To Play), governments and relevant UN programs, funds and specialized agencies to develop working modalities for the period 2009 – 2010; and
14. *Welcomes* the suggestion to announce the renewed mandate of the SDP IWG and its new Secretariat at the upcoming 63rd UN General Assembly Session.

The following governments were present at the meeting:

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| 1. Australia | 16. Mexico | 30. South Africa |
| 2. Austria | 17. Mozambique | 31. Sudan |
| 3. Benin | 18. Namibia | 32. Switzerland |
| 4. Brazil | 19. Netherlands | 33. Tanzania |
| 5. Burundi | 20. Niger | 34. Uganda |
| 6. Canada | 21. Nigeria | 35. United Kingdom |
| 7. China | 22. Norway | 36. United States |
| 8. Colombia | 23. Occupied Palestinian Territory | 37. Zambia |
| 9. Ireland | 24. Pakistan | 38. Zimbabwe |
| 10. Israel | 25. Papua New Guinea | |
| 11. Jordan | 26. Peru | |
| 12. Kenya | 27. Rwanda | |
| 13. Liberia | 28. Samoa | |
| 14. Malawi | 29. Sierra Leone | |
| 15. Mali | | |