



UNITED NATIONS
UNOSDP
Office on Sport for
Development and Peace

ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE **UNITED NATIONS** THROUGH **SPORT**

WHAT DOES THE UNITED NATIONS HAVE TO DO WITH SPORT?

The world of sport presents a **natural partnership** for the United Nations system. By its very nature, sport is about participation. It is about inclusion and citizenship. Sport brings individuals and communities together. From refugee camps, to slums, to war zones, to violent inner city neighborhoods, sport can improve the daily lives of needy and vulnerable persons. It can make a difference where other means have failed.

Sport provides a forum to learn skills such as discipline, confidence, and leadership, and it teaches core principles such as tolerance, cooperation, respect, and the value of effort. When these positive aspects of sport are emphasized, sport becomes a powerful vehicle through which the United Nations can work towards achieving its goals, in particular the **8 Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs). Sport should therefore be seen as an engine for development, not as by-product of it.



WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "SPORT" AT THE UNITED NATIONS?

For us, at the United Nations, sport is first and foremost a **fundamental right for all people**. Sport is far more than a luxury or a form of entertainment. It is much more than winning medals and scoring goals. Access to and participation in sport and physical activity are human rights and are essential for individuals of all ages to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. And by "sport" we mean **all forms of physical activity** that contribute to physical fitness, mental well-being, and social interaction. These include play, recreation, organized, casual, or competitive sport, and indigenous sports and/or games.

WHO IS WILFRIED LEMKE?

Wilfried Lemke is the **Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace**. He has served in this role since his appointment by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in March 2008.

Originally educated as a sports science teacher, Mr. Lemke has been widely recognised for various other roles in the worlds of sport (in particular as General Manager of the first division German football club Werder Bremen, from 1981 to 1999), and politics (in particular as Senator of the Interior and Sport, and Senator for Education and Science of the State of Bremen, in Germany from 1999 to 2008).

WHAT IS UNOSDP?

UNOSDP stands for the **United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace**. Based in Geneva and supported by a Liaison Office in New York, the Office provides the entry point to the United Nations system with regard to Sport for Development and Peace, and works to bring the worlds of sport and development together. It also assists the Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace in his worldwide activities as an **advocate, facilitator, and representative of the social purposes of sport**.

Concretely, UNOSDP:

- Participates in conferences, reports, resolutions, media outreach, public relations, and net-working.
- Assists the Special Adviser in raising awareness about the use of sport and physical activity as powerful tools to help reach UN objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- Facilitates exchanges and collaboration between all kinds of people and groups who are using – or are interested in using – sport as a tool for education, health, development, and peace.
- Works on fostering UN-wide coordination and representation at global sporting events.

**"SPORT
IS A
LANGUAGE
EVERYONE OF US CAN
SPEAK"**

Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary-General