

## **UNOSDP Support Statement on Physical Education**

Since its establishment in 2001, the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) works to promote sport, physical activity and play as an innovative and efficient tool in attaining development and peace objectives, in particular the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

UNOSDP hosts the Secretariat of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group (SDP IWG) which is an intergovernmental policy initiative. Its aim is to promote the integration of Sport for Development and Peace policy and programme recommendations into national and international development strategies of Governments, with a main focus on the following five thematic areas: Child and Youth Development, Gender Equality, Persons with Disabilities and Inclusion, Peace and Health.

Sport, physical education and play can contribute to humanitarian and social development and to achieving the MDGs e.g. in realising and strengthening universal primary education, promoting gender equality and improving health. By attending physical education programmes, children will be provided the opportunity to develop physically, mentally and socially. The systematic inclusion of physical education will not only contribute to individual development but also have a positive impact on their communities.

The use of sport and physical education as a vehicle to foster development and strengthen education for children and youth is e.g. outlined in the UN General Assembly Resolution 65/4 (2010), which encourages the inclusion of persons with disabilities, and to facilitate social inclusion, conflict prevention and peace-building through sport amongst others.

Sport, physical education and play should be included in all school curricular.