



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

# IOC NEWSLETTER

Permanent Observer Office to the United Nations

## IOC, UN and World leaders join forces against deadly diseases

The special session of the UN General Assembly on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in September 2011 was an opportunity for the IOC to stress its commitment to combating NCDs through physical activity and healthy lifestyles.



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**The IOC president addressed the Assembly to urge world leaders to increase their cooperation with sports organisations and recognise their valuable contribution to this endeavour.**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recognised physical activity as one of four pillars for the effective prevention of NCDs, alongside good nutrition and avoiding tobacco and alcohol abuse. In 2010 the IOC signed a new memorandum of understanding with the WHO on working together to promote activities and policy choices that reduce the risk of NCDs.

The Olympic Charter, the IOC's guiding document, declares that the practice of sport is a human right and directs the IOC to "encourage and support the development of sport for all". The Olympic Games serve as an inspiration for young people to engage in sport and physical activity, and concern about youth inactivity and rising obesity rates was one aspect behind the IOC's decision to launch the Youth Olympic Games in 2010.

In addition, the IOC's **Sport for All Commission** is at the forefront of efforts to encourage physical activity at all levels. One of the Commission's initiatives - the annual Olympic Day celebration on 23 June - has proved to be an effective way to get young people more active in countries around the world.

The IOC also works closely with UN agencies, programmes and non-governmental organisations to bring the benefits of physical activity to people around the world and contribute to social development.

*IN HIS SPEECH TO THE NCD SUMMIT, IOC PRESIDENT JACQUES ROGGE URGED MEETING PARTICIPANTS TO:*

- *Advocate for more safe and accessible public spaces for physical activity and sport.*
- *Build new partnerships with sectors beyond sport — transport, finance, urban planning, industry and others — to expand the impact of sport in urban areas.*
- *Work with government authorities and educators to increase the amount of time that students devote to physical education.*
- *Encourage the development of sports infrastructures and sports organisations.*

 **Read the full text of President Rogge's speech here**



▲ *Physical activity has a crucial role in preventing NCDs*

The IOC Medical Commission has issued a Consensus Statement on the health and fitness of young people through physical activity and sport. **See p.6 for more details on the Statement.**



▲ The IOC is helping children in Burundi to develop sporting and life skills and improve their education

## Editorial

The facility that the IOC helped to fund for the citizens of Gatumba in Burundi is a basic structure that elsewhere would not attract a second glance. But in this place, where the population is still recovering from a brutal internal conflict, the first stop for rebels descending from mountain hide-outs across the DR Congo border, it is all the community has.

The buildings, which will host indoor sport, educational programmes and meetings for the community, dwarf the surrounding traditional houses. The enthusiasm of the people at the opening ceremony, which was attended by the IOC President during a three-nation African tour, was there for all to see.

A month earlier, Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza had himself spent a day at the construction site, helping the community to cart bricks, pump water and mix concrete in a show of support. If it were not for the support of the people, this structure would not have been built.

The collaboration between the IOC, the government, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) broke new ground. And there could not have been a more fitting place to make that history. At the end of the dusty road that leads from the facility is a memorial to a genocide.

Burundi, like its neighbours Rwanda and DRC, has had more than its share of political madness that resulted in death and destruction. Again, like the other two countries, Burundi seems to be doing its best to put all that behind it and construct a new peaceful future.

The people of this poor country have rightly identified sport as a tool for good, a force that can help them forge the unity they need and deserve, foster dialogue, communicate with young people and spur development. The monument to the massacre is a reminder that the war was not worth it.

**T. A. Ganda Sithole**  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Office of the Permanent Observer  
for the IOC to the UN

# IOC launches new community Youth Sport Centre in Burundi

**In September, IOC President Jacques Rogge participated in the launch of a new Youth Sport Centre in Gatumba, Burundi, which is jointly funded by the IOC, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the government of Burundi and the UN Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP). The multi-sport complex is located in the border region with the Democratic Republic of Congo, an area known for tension and violence and sorely lacking in recreational infrastructure.**

The centre, which will organise sporting and educational activities for more than 7,000 young people from both sides of the border, features a football ground, an athletics track, an indoor hall for badminton, table tennis and judo, one court suitable for basketball, volleyball and handball, as well as changing rooms and office space. The facility will be managed by the National Olympic Committee of Burundi and the local authorities of Gatumba.

The IOC financially supported the construction of the sports facilities and provided sports equipment, while its partners contributed resources in other areas. The IOC has long-standing relationships with various UN bodies, however this is the first time IOC and the UN have jointly set up a sports facility. The project underscores the value placed on sport by both organisations to further community development and peace-building alongside other UN goals.

*“This project is a wonderful example of how sport can help build bridges.”*

*Lydia Nsekera, IOC member from Burundi and President of the National Football Federation*



▲ The new Youth Sport Centre in Gatumba, Burundi

## 193 UN Member States support Olympic Truce for London Games

**Maintaining a tradition rooted in the origins of the Olympic Games, on October 17 the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly called on nations around the world to observe an Olympic Truce for the 2012 London Games.**

The UN resolution, entitled "Building a better world through sport and the Olympic ideal", reaffirmed the value of sport in promoting education, health, development and peace, and urged nations to support the International Olympic Committee "in its efforts to promote peace and human understanding through sport". The General Assembly has approved a similar resolution before every edition of the Games since 1993.

The modern Olympic Truce was inspired by similar agreements that allowed competitors and spectators to travel safely to and from the ancient Olympic Games in Greece.

Addressing the General Assembly before the resolution was unanimously adopted, Mario Pescante, the IOC's Permanent Observer to the United Nations, cited several examples of sport's ability to ease conflicts. These included the "ping pong diplomacy" between the US and China in the 1970s, and the combined delegation of Olympic athletes from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea during the Opening Ceremony at the 2000 Sydney Games.

The International Olympic Truce Centre has launched a new Olympic Truce website and forum, [www.olympictruce.org](http://www.olympictruce.org), with the slogan "Imagine Peace", ahead of the London 2012 Games. The Centre is responsible for the implementation of projects related to the global promotion of a culture of peace through sport and the Olympic ideal.

*“The Olympic Truce is one small step for mankind, yet one giant leap for humanity.”*

**Mario Pescante,**  
The IOC's Permanent Observer  
to the United Nations



▲ IOC and UN join forces to address many challenges of society

**Click [here](#)** to read the complete text of the resolution



▲ **Get Set** is the official London 2012 education programme and will provide opportunities to learn about the Olympic Truce



## Get Set for the Olympic Truce

**The United Nations International Day of Peace on 21 September was the occasion for the London Organising Committee of the Games (LOCOG) to launch its Olympic Truce programme, aimed at encouraging young people to explore and debate how sport can play a role in promoting peace, respect and cultural understanding.**

The "Get Set for the Olympic Truce" programme offers young people the chance to learn about the Olympic Truce and to take part in sporting and cultural activities that help encourage peace and resolve conflict in their own schools and communities. Learning resources are being made available to every school and college across the UK through the official London 2012 Education Programme, "Get Set goes global", and to schools anywhere in the world with an international version in English, French and Spanish.

*“Through the 'Get Set for the Olympic Truce' programme, young people can really learn how to use sport and culture to resolve conflict in their schools and communities.”*

**Sebastian Coe,** Chair, London 2012 Organising Committee

The promotion of peace through sport has been central to the Olympic Movement since its inception. The IOC's founder, Pierre de Coubertin, believed deeply that the unifying power of sport could help lead to a more peaceful world. The Olympic Movement promotes peace in many ways. The Olympic Games demonstrate on a global scale that people from very different cultures and backgrounds have much in common. The Youth Olympic Games use sport to promote cultural understanding and build responsible citizens.

More information about the Get Set programme can be found [here](#)

To learn more about the Olympic Truce [click here](#)



## World conference on Sport for All

▲ Motivating children to take part in sport helps reduce levels of inactivity and obesity

The 14th World Conference on Sport for All, held in Beijing in September, ended with “A call to action” urging sports and non-sports organisations, governments, the health sector, schools and corporations, to embrace the spirit of Sport for All and promote participation by all sectors of society in sport and physical activity.

World Health Organisation representatives attended conference sessions on the health and social benefits of physical activity, including the prevention of non-communicable diseases such as heart disease and diabetes that are linked to obesity and lack of exercise. Wilfried Lemke, the UN Secretary General’s Special Advisor on Sport for Development and Peace, also took part in the conference.

The more than 500 participants from 90 countries called for increased collaboration between the various bodies involved in promoting the benefits of Sport for All activities, the use of tools such as social media to get the message out and promote dialogue, and the organisation of Sport for All events wherever possible.

The conference was hosted by the Chinese Olympic Committee and the Beijing Municipal Government, and was organised by the IOC and the Beijing Olympic City Development Association. The 15th World Conference on Sport for All will take place in 2013 in Lima, Peru.

### CALL TO ACTION

**It is recognised and acknowledged that engagement of individuals of all ages in physical activity brings both health and social benefits and increases one’s general well-being. The implementation of Sport for All programmes meets this end by bridging social and economic divides. It directly addresses the increasing rates of physical inactivity in society.**

This Conference, therefore, issues a call to action to organisations (sporting and otherwise), governments and community entities to focus efforts on advancing the Sport for All movement and increasing participation of all sectors of society in sport and physical activity.



▲ The Sport for All movement promotes participation in sport from an early age

 [Read the full text of the declaration here](#)

[Click here](#) to read more about Sport for All



▲ The Hope Exhibition: outlining how sport can help change the world

## News from National Olympic Committees



### Israel: putting athletes at the service of the community

The Israeli NOC recently organised a series of sports events placing athletes at the service of the community. These included a fun golf day at the Israeli golf centre in Caesarea in which 70 breast cancer patients and seven Olympic athletes participated, and an Olympic day of shooting in Herzeliya for the benefit of cancer patients, part of a social responsibility project aimed at London 2012 Olympic athletes.

[www.olympic.one.co.il](http://www.olympic.one.co.il)



### El Salvador: reducing violence and promoting social harmony

As part of a joint programme to reduce violence and strengthen social capital in El Salvador, the NOC, in collaboration with the Mayor's office of San Salvador and UNICEF (UN Children's Fund), organised the first Olympic and social harmony festival. Some 500 children and young people from local communities took part. The aim was to encourage children and young people to take part in leisure and recreation activities to promote greater social harmony.

[www.comiteolimpicoesa.com](http://www.comiteolimpicoesa.com)



### Dominican Republic: cooperation in the fight against HIV/AIDS

The Dominican NOC, the Dominican Sports Medicine Federation, the Prisons Department and the President's Board on combating AIDS have signed a cooperation agreement. The main aim is to join forces and work jointly to develop and implement programmes, strategies and actions to promote awareness of and prevent sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS; prevent the use of drugs and prohibited substances; and offer access to HIV testing. The programme is scheduled to last 12 months.

[www.colimdo.org](http://www.colimdo.org)



### Albania: promoting sport for development

In collaboration with the UNICEF (UN Children's Fund) office in Albania, the Albanian NOC recently implemented a "sport for development" project in the Lezha District Municipality of Balldren. The event brought together about 400 students for a programme that included volleyball, basketball, football, gymnastics and athletics competitions, educational and artistic activities, as well as demonstrations by the Albanian Red Cross, Olympic quizzes and shows. Each participant went away with a diploma.

[www.nocalbania.org.al](http://www.nocalbania.org.al)

## Manufacturing hope at the Olympic Museum

**Does the presence of a referee restrict or increase freedom? Are fair play and the spirit of competition mutually exclusive? These are two of the questions posed by the Hope Factory, a unique interactive workshop that uses situations borrowed from the world of sport to take a fresh look at how Olympic values can promote hope.**

Part of a temporary exhibition, "Hope: When Sport Can Change the World", at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, the Hope Factory enables visitors to play a series of interactive machines divided into five themes: interpreting the world; celebrating diversity; understanding the rules; experiencing the spirit of competition; and living by Olympic ideals.

Aimed primarily at children and young people, the exhibition was developed in cooperation with the Netherlands-based peace foundation, Stichting Vredeseducatie. After it closed at the Olympic Museum on 6 November 2011, the Hope Factory was transferred to Innsbruck (Austria) to coincide with the 2012 Winter Youth Olympic Games.



▲ Progress has been made over the years to remove gender barriers in the field of play

## Sport rallying for gender equality

**Under the theme “Together Stronger: the Future of Sport”, the 5th World Conference on Women and Sport will bring together participants and high-level speakers from the sports community, the United Nations system, specialised organisations, governments, the business world and the media.**

The theme of the conference recognises that much progress has been made but that women and men need to work together to break down barriers and overcome obstacles that still hinder gender equality in sport.

The IOC’s commitment to gender equality extends well beyond its efforts to increase women’s participation in the Olympic Games. It also appreciates that gender equality is a critical component of effective sports administration and it continues to support the promotion of women and girls in sport at all levels and in all structures.

To be held from 16-18 February 2012 in Los Angeles, USA, the conference is being organised jointly by the IOC, the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and the Southern California Committee for the Olympic Games.

**[Learn more about the 5th World Conference on Women and Sport](#)**



### IOC Women and Sport Awards

The 2012 IOC Women and Sport Awards will be presented during the conference to recognise outstanding contributions to the development of women’s participation in sport and sports administration. Six trophies, one world and five continental, will be awarded to individuals and organisations.

◀ Tegla Loroupe from Kenya, winner of the Women and Sport 2011 World Trophy

[Learn more about the 2011 Women and Sport Awards here](#)

## IOC experts target better health of young people

In September, the IOC Medical Commission issued a Consensus Statement on the “Health and fitness of young people through physical activity and sport”. The document defines the health consequences of inactivity, identifies the determinants of sports participation and dropping-out, and recommends potential solutions and global partnerships.



▲ Young people need to be engaged in sport

The statement is the outcome of a conference attended by leading medical experts, exercise physiologists, epidemiologists and policy advisers from around the world, held in Lausanne in January 2011. Obesity and physical inactivity, which increasingly afflict young people, are two of the main risk factors for non-communicable diseases such as heart disease and diabetes.

[Read the Consensus Statement](#)

The IOC Medical Commission was created in 1967 to deal with the problem of doping in the sports world. The initial goal of putting in place an anti-doping structure was rapidly widened to encompass the following three fundamental principles: the protection of the health of athletes, respect for both medical and sports ethics; and equality for all competing athletes. For more information about the IOC Medical Commission, [click here](#).

### Did You Know?

The first edition of the Winter Youth Olympic Games will take place in Innsbruck, Austria from 13 to 22 January 2012. Over 1,000 athletes aged 15 to 18 will come together for a unique combination of elite-level sporting competition and an innovative Culture and Education Programme.

## IOC heeds UN call for Somalia assistance

The IOC has responded to an appeal by the United Nations for aid to alleviate the famine in Somalia by donating US \$200,000 to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP).



▲ A shipment of UNHCR shelter and other aid for Somalia is unloaded. Image UNHCR ©

The Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) has also responded to the call for help by offering Somalia US \$100,000 through the same organisations. The IOC has worked with UNHCR and WFP for many years, supporting structured sport and recreational activities for children in refugee camps and resettlement areas, and helping to bring sport, recreation and healthy lifestyles to schools associated with WFP's School Feeding Programme.



▲ IOC president Jacques Rogge, centre, with the head of the Palestinian delegation president, Major General Jibril Rajoub, left, and the Israeli committee president, Zvi Varshaviak, at the IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland earlier this year

## The International Olympic Committee has held its third joint meeting with the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) of Israel and Palestine

The meeting in Ramallah followed IOC President Jacques Rogge's visit to the region in October last year.

All sides recognised the significant progress achieved so far in respect of the issue of the free movement of Palestinian athletes, coaches, officials and sports equipment inside and outside the Palestinian territories, as well as of visiting foreign sports delegations, including athletes.

Both NOCs have agreed to continue to work together on joint, sport-related activities in a number of practical areas, including sport sciences, coaching and the preparation of athletes.

The parties also discussed the IOC-supported plan for the development of sport in the Palestinian territories, for which initial funding was provided by the IOC and the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

The next meeting will take place in Tel Aviv. In the meantime, the IOC and Olympic Solidarity continue to provide the best possible assistance to the NOC of Palestine, in particular for the preparation of athletes aiming to compete at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

With respect to the issue of the free movement of Palestinian athletes, coaches, officials and sports equipment inside and outside the Palestinian territories, as well as of visiting foreign sports delegations, including athletes, all parties recognised the significant and concrete results achieved so far thanks in part to the "hotline" set up between the two NOCs.

The hotline was agreed to by the two NOCs at the second joint meeting in May to deal with issues as they arise and to improve communication. A further step has been taken with the signature of an agreement between the NOCs and under the auspices of the IOC to formalise the hotline at the NOC level and to establish a proper communications mechanism between the two NOCs.

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