



UN-NGO-IRENE UPDATE

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## 2006 ECOSOC High Level Segment

*“Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development”*

The highlight of the event was the launch of  
**“World Sports Alliance”**  
A new Public Private Partnership in the making!!

### **“Sport as a Means to Support Local Economic Development and Job Creation”**

The High level Ministerial Lunch Meeting was successfully held on the 5 July 2006 in United Nations, Geneva. The meeting was well attended by around 57 participants including member-states and senior UN officials, NGOs, sports organizations and other members from civil society, representatives from the private sector and eminent sports personalities.

The lunch meeting was hosted by United Nations Non Governmental Organizations Informal Network (UN-NGO-IRENE) of the NGO Section, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It was co-sponsored by Give them a Hand Foundation and XL Generation Foundation.

The meeting discussed issues relating to *“Sports as a Means to Support Local Economic Development and Job Creation”*. The Lunch Meeting received valuable contributions

from several eminent speakers, who speaking at the occasion addressed the issue of effectively using the medium of Sport for local economic growth and employment generation. A film on the issue under concern was presented on behalf of the Office of Sports for Development and Peace.

The meeting concluded with a recommendation/declaration being adopted by the participants which aimed at empowering the various stakeholders in their efforts to use the medium of sport to create a favourable environment in support of the 2006 High level Segment of the ECOSOC on the theme; *“Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development”*. The declaration also urged the Creation of ‘World Sports Alliance’- A multi-stakeholder partnership in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Forum was moderated by Mr. Gordon Tapper, President, Give them a Hand Foundation, who underlined the important contribution of NGOs in partnership with governments and the United Nations towards the achievement of the MDGs. Ms. Hanifa Mezoui delivering the Introductory Remarks spoke on the evolving role of ECOSOC and how this Round table would provide an opportunity, engaging stakeholders from various sectors to identify effective approaches towards using sports as an effective means for economic development and job creation.

Attending the Lunch meeting in her capacity as the Official Representative of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the King of Morocco, H.E. Ms. Zoulika Nasri, Counsellor to the King of Morocco read the address of H.E. the King of Morocco to the High Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council.

H.E. Mrs. Nasri, on behalf of the King, pledged the support of the Kingdom of Morocco for this project, which she continued is consistent with Morocco’s determined

action in this field. Making pertinent remarks on the action of the Mohammed V Foundation for Solidarity, an institution which has special consultative status with ECOSOC, she spoke about Morocco's endeavours in this connection, emphasizing on youth integration as one of the Foundation's constant concerns. She also mentioned the National Initiative for Human Development, which was launched by H.E. King Mohammed IV over a year ago. The initiative brings together and synchronizes programmed sectoral actions such as those involving youth and sports. Referring to it as a major public initiative for the promotion of social development, she mentioned that it seeks to achieve harmonious, equitable development in Morocco, and to lay the foundations for a vibrant economy and for a society based on solidarity and democracy.

Closing Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Ali Hachani summed up the deliberations and discussions at the Roundtables. He underlined that such a meeting provided a valuable opportunity for members of the Council to engage with representatives of all the major stakeholders. Expressing his recognition to all participants for the success of the meeting, he observed that it had been a rich and constructive dialogue.

Among others notable participants were Amb. Anwarul K. Chowdhury, UN Under-Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; Mr. Amir Dossal, Executive Director, UNFIP; Ambassador Walther Lichem, Ambassador/Member of the Board, People's Decade for Human Rights Education; Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, UN Division for the Advancement of Women; Mr. Jean Robert Moret, Adviser to the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN; Mr. Ado Vaher, Director, UN Affairs and External Relations, UNICEF; Mr. David Winiger, Special Assistant to the Special Adviser to the Secretary General on Sport for development and Peace.



Jose Roberto Silva Jr. and Lucimar Ferreira "Lucio" well known Brazilian Soccer players from the current World Cup team and Mr. Marcelo Gonçalves Costa Lopes, Ex-Brazilian Soccer Player participated as part of Brazilian Foundation of America, an organization in consultative status with ECOSOC and strongly supported the World Sports Alliance for using the medium of sport to promote development.

We welcome your statements, comments, remarks and information on your success stories, please email us at [mezoui@un.org](mailto:mezoui@un.org). If your organization wishes to share information with the IRENE community kindly add us to your mailing list.

**USEFUL LINKS:**

The full report is shortly going to be hosted on the NGO Section Website. It is currently available on the <http://www.unpan.org/NGO.asp> and on the World Sports Alliance website: [www.worldsportsalliance.org](http://www.worldsportsalliance.org)