

## **Contribution of the ILO to the Report on the International Decade for Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the War. The Youth Sport Programme**

The ILO has developed a program called Youth Sport Program that contributes to insert youth through partnerships with the sport community. (see [www.ilo.org/universitas](http://www.ilo.org/universitas)) The program has two levels of interventions: policy level and project level.

Tests and pilot activities are being carried out in various countries including post conflicts situations or countries that have experienced major political turmoil and civil wars. These countries are Mozambique, El Salvador and Albania.

In Albania the activities started in May 2004 in El Salvador activities were carried out with, as main national counterpart the Minister of Sports of Senegal and the Minister of Labor of El Salvador together with the National Olympic Committees, sports federations and the UN agencies. The IOC and selected Universities abroad supported the above frameworks.

At the project level, activities are being carried out since July 2004 in Mozambique through training for women cooperative manufacturing school uniforms for kids in an Olympafrica sport center of Boane as a starting point of a cooperative agreement with the International Olympic Committee, UK Sport, the National Olympic Committee of Mozambique and the local development agency of Matola.

### **Main issues of the ILO Youth Sport Program (YSP)**

**A Common Framework for partnerships:** The development community looks at sport and development as asymmetric parameters. In most cases development leaders perceive sport as a recreational toll rather than value-based engine for socio-economic changes. The program offers an opportunity to work on common values of peace and self-respect from different operational perspectives.

**Social dialogue as a tool:** Sound dialogue and facilitation are basic instruments for peace building and for a true needs assessment both at the national and local levels. Needs assessment based on facilitation and social dialogue is key to the process. In this respect, it should not be forgotten that the ILO stands for social dialogue among the social parties: workers, employers and ministry of labor representatives.<sup>1</sup>

**Millennium Development Goals (MDG's):** The international community is committed to achieve the objectives of the MDG's. The sport community is part of this worldwide effort to improve the lives of 7 billion peoples. The MDG's are assorted with indicators for international and national levels. Sports as such honor the Millenium Goals

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<sup>1</sup> Tripartite Social dialogue is the "raison d'être" of the ILO since 1919. The sport community acknowledged this role in 1923 when P. de Coubertin requested the ILO director general to put on the agenda of the International Labor Conference the issue of working conditions and leisure time for workers.

every day because of sport peace values. It seems possible therefore to evaluate the sport and development programs, on the basis of the selected MDG indicators.

**The institutional shift** that the YSP and its common framework have provided is quite impressive. In fact the framework which was used to gather the contributions from the partners links quite properly with national development strategies and strategic tools of the UN such as the Common Country Analysis (CCA) in each country and the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) as well as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) with the World Bank and the community of donors. This provides sport community with an opportunity to be mainstreamed into development for its values and life skills.

**A curriculum on youth leadership for students**, coaches as well as social workers is under preparation with a network of universities for leadership through sport to deal with socio-economic challenges. This initiative is based on the above field applications.