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**Athens, Beijing and beyond**
Preface

A report on the expert meeting ‘The Next Step’ on Sport and Development

Some 140 delegates from 45 countries gathered in central Amsterdam on Thursday November 13 and Friday November 14 to discuss the many ways in which sport can be put to use for development. The two-day international expert meeting was dubbed the International Expert Meeting Sport and Development and the occasion was a number of things at once. It was, first of all, a celebration of the recognition of sport as a development tool; a festive occasion that was further enhanced by the presence of His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange, a member of the International Olympic Committee. After all, this recognition from the development community has come about remarkably fast. Keynote speakers in the plenary session stressed this. Highlights of their speeches can be found in section one. It was, secondly, an occasion to assess what has been achieved on the ground. There were numerous examples given from all over the world and a number of these will be highlighted in the second section of the report, ‘On the Ground’. In this section the outcomes of the Round Table Debate will be covered as well. Thirdly, the expert meeting was an attempt to turn the sport-as-a-tool idea into a more systematic exercise – by assessing how that tool could be most effectively used and how it could be linked up with other efforts. These can be found in section three about the workshops ‘It’s Local’. Finally, the expert meeting was the occasion to do justice to its title and make announcement as to what is going to be done next by any and all of the participants. The fourth and final section of the report, ‘Next Steps’, highlights these intentions and can also be seen as an invitation to keep track of the realisation of those intentions and promises.
Sport and development: then

The idea that sport and personal and social developments are related is as old as society. The Greek Olympic movement of more than two millennia ago was founded on that notion. The Romans adapted it to their own society with their “Mens sana in corpore sano”, a healthy spirit in a healthy body. Mr Tomas Amos Ganda Sithole, the Director of International Cooperation and Development at the International Olympic Committee reminded us in his address at the plenary opening session of the conference on Thursday November 13 of a similar position taken by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who initiated the second Olympic movement as the 19th century gave way to the 20th. Baron de Coubertin made the connection between sports and societal good, when he wrote that sport is an essentially democratic form of cooperation, a “leveller of class distinction” and “a powerful alternative to bad instincts (…) an agent for physical and moral in our time”. This he wrote in a letter to members of the IOC in 1919, one year after the end of Europe’s first attempt at wholesale self-destruction, known as World War I. As Mr Sithole concluded: ‘There is no mistaking [de Coubertin’s] placing peace, inclusiveness and development at the heart of the modern Olympics.’ He went on to demonstrate that the interlinkages among sport, education and culture lie at the heart of the principles that underpin the Olympic movement and have found their way into the Olympic Charter, from which he drew the following inference: ‘Development is a re-dedication to Olympism’s original values.’ The theme of the link between sport and society at large was again taken up by UNICEF director Carol Bellamy, whose speech was read on her behalf by Mr Cecilio Adorna, director of Public partnership at UNICEF. She reminded us of the words of the Dutch philosopher Johan Huizinga, on the relationship between play and human existence. He wrote this in 1944, the penultimate year of World War II, so his words bear an extra poignancy: “Play is never a task”, he wrote, “only when play is a recognised cultural function – a rite, a ceremony – is it bound up with the notions of obligation and duty (...) the first main characteristic of play is in fact freedom”.

BALL MADE BY MYSA (KENYA)
Sport and development: now

These are some of the historical and philosophical underpinnings that have informed the integration of sport and development in the past. Today, this integration appears to have renewed itself and is gathering momentum, certainly in 2003. There were already a number of disparate initiatives in various parts of the world supported by – among others – the Netherlands. But it took a number of more formal steps to lend the reintegration of sport and development a more permanent and important character. Among these can be counted the following:

The Declaration of Punta del Este, Uruguay, by the MINEPS III, or the Third International Conference of Ministers of Sport and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport. In this Declaration, the ministers stated that they ‘reiterate the importance of physical education and sport as an essential element and an integral part in the process of continuing education and human and social development.’

In February 2003, the Swiss town of Magglingen, home to the Swiss Federal Office of Sport (BASPO), hosted a major conference on sport and development, bringing together people from a variety of backgrounds: sport, the UN, politics, science and the economy. One of the major driving forces behind this particular event was Adolf Ogi, the tireless Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace and former President of Switzerland, who was also present at The Next Step. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SAD) as well as (BASPO) co-hosted the meeting. The result was the Magglingen declaration, which has become a point of reference for anyone working in sport and development. The Declaration reaffirms the link between sport and physical and mental development; it links this central idea to a number of themes (peace, health, education,) and makes recommendation as regards its institutional set up and the role the corporate world and the media can play to promote sport and development. The Magglingen Declaration is a promotion and lobbying instrument and was a frequently cited point of reference during The Next Step.
The UN gets into gear

2003 is the year of the 58th session of the UN General Assembly and this year two resolutions were passed by the General Assembly. The first was presented by Tunisia and entitled “Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace”, the second was introduced by Greece, host to the 2004 Olympics, and entitled “Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace”. The latter calls for an “Olympic Truce” during the Games. Both resolutions were adopted unanimously. While the language of both these resolutions are of necessity very general, the fact that they were passed at all in a relatively short space of time points towards political momentum, a fact that Ogi pointed out in his energetic introduction of the general proceedings on the second day of The Next Step, Friday November 14. “The UN General Assembly has given us an additional tool to commit governments to putting sport on their development agenda.” Another tool is of course the comprehensive report by the UN Inter Agency Task Force on Sport for Development and Peace, following an initiative by the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who made the report public on 17 September 2003, in New York.

The report basically links sport to the desired achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs are, briefly: to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve education for everyone, empower women, reduce child morality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases and ensure environmental sustainability. The report, which reads as an excellent state of the art on sport and development, highlights the ways in which sport can be used to bring the MDGs within reach. It makes special reference to sport as a very powerful tool for social mobilisation, an economic force and employment provider. In his address, Ogi made specific reference to the recommendations made in the report. They call on governments, the UN and the UN system to incorporate sport in their development activities and make resources available to get this done; they invite the establishment of partnerships between the UN, the IOC, the sports sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the corporate world; they also encourage the media and the UN to actively promote sport and the positive role it can play.
The UN as a whole has begun to work on the integration of sport and development. The UN system – a myriad of organisations and agencies – has got into the game as well. It is true, as Adorna noted, that the UN system has only just begun to “tap into ways in which recreation and sport can be integrated into development programming aimed at such diverse outcomes as fighting HIV/AIDS, expanding immunisation, getting all children into school and protecting them from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation”. But it is happening. Adorna’s own organisation UNICEF has been doing this in places as diverse as Somalia, Albania, Guinea, Brazil and Georgia. The organisation has an excellent basis for this work in the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, which calls on all States Parties to actively promote the children’s right to play. This is nowhere near to be realised, as Sithole recalled when he said that for too many children ‘sports is already one level above play. It is too abstract. Why? Because children do not play. Forget about everything else and think about this seriously: the Right to Play.’

After the establishment of the Dutch digital database (2000) of many sport and development projects, the UN Inter-Agency Task Force report has made an inventory of all programs and projects in the area of sport and development. To date, according to the Task Force, some 120 have been counted, of which half are either run or supported by the UN. The remainder are run by governments and NGOs. In terms of themes, the most important areas are social issues (dealing with education, refugees, women), health (dealing with HIV/AIDS, drugs, malaria, healthy living) and economic development (dealing with poverty, job creation). Refugee camps are among the places where there is a larger concentration of human deprivation than in most other places. Therefore, UN refugee agency UNHCR leader Ruud Lubbers has been a strong advocate of sports activities in refugee camps, for reasons that must now sound very familiar indeed: giving people a better sense of self, breaking taboos around health issues, providing role models, and preventing conflicts. Other UN agencies have also moved into the fray, including the UN Development Program (UNDP), which has managed to get two of the world’s greatest soccer stars – Ronaldo and Zidane – as ambassadors. The UNDP, UNHCR and also the UN Environmental Program (UNEP) all work together with the IOC, for instance on projects to raise environmental awareness worldwide, alleviate the plight of refugees in Africa, Asia and eastern Europe, eradicate poverty and many more.

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1 The project database of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force (available at www.sportanddev.org) and the Dutch database (available at www.sportdevelopment.org) will be integrated in 2004 and available through both websites.
From projects to policy, an example from the Netherlands

The activities in the realm of sport and development in the Netherlands have some history behind them. It is probably safe to say that the Netherlands has been an early adaptor, supporting projects such as SCORE in South Africa – and having a sports and development policy that was written in 1998 and carried by two ministries: Foreign Affairs and Health Welfare and Sport. The aim of the Dutch policy was, set out clearly in that document, called Teamwork Scores! Here is the central objective: “to promote the best possible use of physical education, sport, games and activities involving physical exercise in developing countries with the aim of increasing both individual well-being health and development and social cohesion and development”. Language not as flowery as Huizinga’s half a century earlier, we admit, but the document opened the doors for a range of activities.

Today, it is safe to replace the word “door” by “floodgates”. There is an extensive program on sport and development and a plethora of activities carried out by numerous private organisations, development NGOs, sports organisations, local governments and a lot more. (There was a list in the English language edition of Supporter that accompanied the Next Step Expert meeting.) At the opening plenary on Thursday, the Dutch State Secretary on Health, Welfare and Sport, Ms Clémence Ross-van Dorp stated her particular satisfaction about the city-to-city activities that have blossomed, ‘mainly because the projects are integral to local authority policy both here and in our partner countries. I am a strong believer in city links.’ She specifically mentioned the remarkable results that have come from the linkage between two provincial capitals: Haarlem in the Netherlands and Mutare in Zimbabwe (more about this project in section two). It should be stressed that the sport and development program manager, the NCDO, insists on the link between this work in developing countries on the one hand and public awareness in the Netherlands on the other. Sport is seen as an instrument to portray a more favourable image of developing countries, highlight positive development and real-life problems instead of spreading images of endless despondence and dependency. There is no doubt that under the leadership of the new chairperson of the Netherlands Olympic Committee – Netherlands Sports Confederation (NOC*NSF), Ms Erica Terpstra, the sport and development agenda will remain firmly in focus. She made that much clear when she spoke at the end of the expert meeting.

The full speeches of keynote speakers Ms Ross-van Dorp, Mr Cecilio Adorna and Mr Thomas Sithole during the plenary session on Thursday 13 November are available on the following websites: www.sportdevelopment.org/nextstep and www.sportdevelopment.org.
Numerous examples were presented throughout the Round Table Debate and the plenary sessions of sport and development activities throughout the world. Some had a very clear point of entry (highlighting the situation of disabled persons, the homeless, refugees); others were more general in nature. Taking the various categories that Mr Sithole mentioned in his address and adding a few others, we give you an – incomplete – bird’s eye view of what is going on in the world.

Health

Many sports activities have had the battle against HIV/AIDS in their vision. For instance, in the Zimbabwean town of Mutare, there is a program in place that educates young members of township communities to become sports leaders. These sports leaders receive additional training in issues relating to reproductive health and counselling, which they integrate in their own sports training programs that they bring to the poor and often neglected communities in the large townships that surround Mutare. Through sports events and the regular training programs they reach out to young people and offer them the opportunity to learn the facts about HIV/AIDS and hopefully raise their consciousness about the existence of the disease and – finally but most importantly – change their behaviour accordingly. Many similar initiatives are recorded throughout the world.

Disabled Persons

‘I teach people about themselves. I can do this because I have become both a good role model and a holistic person.’ No better ambassador for sport and the all-round development of handicapped people than South African discus thrower Jane Mande. She participated in the Round Table Debate on day two of the Next Step, Friday November 14. Mande was born with cerebral palsy and can use her legs only for a limited period of time. At a special school for the disabled she discovered that she was physically very strong, strong enough to bring back medals for discus throwing, first in national competitions and then internationally. Mande has five medals to her name, three gold and a bronze at world championships and a bronze from the Sydney Paralympics. She intends to add a few more, next year in Athens. To Mande, sport is a tool she can use to show people that you can achieve great things with a physical handicap.
Adolf Ogi had another example. ‘In June 2003 the first summer Special Olympics took place outside the United states of America. [They were] organised in Ireland [and] I witnessed in Dublin the importance of sport to help integrate the mentally disabled (…) The Special Olympics showed once again that with the help of all concerned the mentally handicapped can fulfil their dreams through sport.’

Community Development

Mr Ogi highlighted the Homeless Street Soccer World Cup, held in Graz, Austria, in July 2003. ‘The World Cup was organised by the association of street papers sold by the homeless together with Caritas (a charity, ed.) and the town of Graz. The games took place in the middle of the town and allowed the homeless to be seen not as homeless people but as sports people able to play in a team, respect their opponents, make strategic decisions and simply to have fun. This fantastic initiative also brought the usually hidden issue of homelessness into the middle of society.’ His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange recalled this particular event in his contribution to the Round Table Debate. ‘Sport takes the homeless to the forefront and with them an issue that, even in this country (the Netherlands, ed.) is hardly shown.’

Then there is of course the remarkable story of the Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA). Inside the 15 years of its existence, MYSA has touched the lives of thousands of young people living in the seemingly endless deprivation of the Mathare suburb of Kenya’s capital Nairobi. MYSA helps young boys and girls in their quest to avoid criminal lifestyles, it literally cleans up the neighbourhood and its football teams are among the most successful in Kenyan and abroad. In recognition of its work, MYSA and its 14,000 members were nominated for the 2003 Nobel peace Prize and in December of the same year MYSA was the recipient of a Prince Claus Award. The Prince Claus Fund mentioned MYSA’s “commitment to youngsters from Nairobi’s slums whose general development is encouraged through a combination of sport and social activities that include training and health education”. Arguably more important than any of this has been the acknowledgement of MYSA’s work at home. The new government of Kenya has appointed someone from MYSA as the head of the anti-corruption commission, set up to fight against one of Kenya’s most persistent social ills. MYSA’s director Peter Serry sees this as a highly visible recognition of MYSA’s importance for the public at large in his country. At the Round Table Debate he stated: ‘it shows that we really are a role model – we are building a new Kenya!’

PARALYMPIC ATHLETE JANE MANDEAN, SOUTH AFRICA

THE NEXT STEP
Personal development

State Secretary Ross-van Dorp was impressed with the story of Steven Pienaar, the celebrated football player for Ajax Amsterdam, a story she was acquainted with through a television documentary. ‘Pienaar grew up in Westbury in Johannesburg, one of the most violent neighbourhoods in the world, notorious for its gunfights and drug dealing. Having lost his father when he was just a toddler, Pienaar was brought up by his mother who did her utmost to keep him away from the criminal elements within the community. Thanks to her influence he managed to steer clear of the subversive street culture and to use his talents to become a footballer rather than a gangster. Just as Steven Pienaar can help guide South Africa’s township youngsters away from delinquency, other top sports people can also have a positive influence(...) emphasizing the importance of education for example.’

Peace building

The Rwandan Minister of Youth, Culture and Sports, Robert Bayigamba mentioned the various roles his ministry has assigned to sport. ‘Sport is about the ideals and values that you wish to communicate. One of the values that can travel through sport is the importance of human rights. This extends into Rwanda’s prisons. ‘People cannot sit still all the time,’ he said, meaning the situation in the country’s penitentiary institutions that are full of people awaiting trial for alleged complicity in the 1994 genocide. Sport has been used to give the inmates at least some exercise. It has been equally useful in the case of national reconciliation, as Bayigamba acknowledged: ‘We organise football, basketball and tennis tournaments between government, parliament and business, so that we get to know each other better.’ This program is set to continue.

Dealing with traumas

Sport has been used in many instances to help children and adults overcome the mental effects of terrible experiences. Ross-van Dorp recalled Dutch support for a volleyball coaching course in Rwanda. ‘Coaches were taught to recognize trauma cases because it was inevitable that many of them would have to deal with players who had lost friends or relatives during the genocide.’ The Rwandan Minister of Youth Culture and Sports, Robert Bayigamba confirmed that sport has indeed been useful in helping people to overcome their traumas dating from the 1994 genocide.
As mentioned, the list is far from exhaustive. Sport activities have been noted in the areas of education, culture (e.g. the promotion of traditional indigenous sports), economic activity (after all, one can earn a living through sport) and many more. Various organisations that took part in the debates at the expert meeting have presented their activities on the internet or through other means.

The darker side of sport

Sport is not always a benign force. It attracts its fair share of shady wheelers and dealers, there are problems with crowd violence on and off the pitch, there is of course the doping problem, both state-sponsored and commercial, some sports people behave like divas with only rights and no responsibilities. Adolf Ogi almost sees it as a reflection of life itself: ‘Le sport est la meilleure école de la vie. That is what I believe in. You learn to lose, respect your opponent, discipline, solidarity. I am convinced that we will manage to promote the positive side of sport (…) We will not let doping, violence and money undermine our essential work.’ Under the right circumstances this can surely be achieved. But what are these right circumstances? One would wish for a piece of research to tease out the details.

The avalanche of activities presented above give the impression of a rich and thriving field and that is correct. But numerous were the warnings to the effect that sport could only be effectively used as a development tool if it could thrive in an adequate infrastructure. Ms Ross-van Dorp made that clear in her opening address: ‘We must provide countries and organisations with the tools to continue sports development and to use sporting activities for wide-ranging social programs’. Mr Charles Dzimba Programmes Officer for Sport Development in the Southern African Zone VI region, reiterated this at the Round Table Debate when he said: ‘Sport is enjoyable and important but it needs to be organised. At lot of sport is not yet organised and in our Southern African region this is now being attempted.’ During the expert meeting, a number of workshops were devoted to this issue, mainly the ones on local and national sport structures and sports education. With an improving sports infrastructure in place, a more meaningful contribution can be expected of sport in a variety of areas, including the battle against HIV/AIDS – which has received a huge impulse early December 2003 with the 46664 campaign led by Nelson Mandela – and the issue of disability.
The Round Table Debate focussed primarily on the challenge of actually contributing to human development and peace through sports (related) initiatives. The aim of the Round Table Debate was to solidify the commitment of participating organisations and create opportunities for them to announce concrete next steps. This was another step in the process towards the creation of an active global network, which involves international, national, regional and local partners. The Round Table Debate was also a means to consolidate the position of sport and development on the political agenda of international organisations and national bodies, both governmental and non-governmental.

The following guests participated in the debate:

- **His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange**
- **Mr Adolf Ogi**, Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Sport for Development and Peace
- **Ms Clémence Ross-van Dorp**, State Secretary of Health, Welfare and Sport, Netherlands
- **Mr Robert Bayigamba**, Minister of Youth, Culture and Sports, Rwanda
- **Mr Cecilio Adorna**, Director Public Partnerships Unicef International
- **Mr Tomas Sithole**, IOC Director International Co-operation and Development
- **Mr Jan Berteling**, Director Human Right and Peace building, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Netherlands
- **Mr Johann Olav Koss**, President Right to Play
- **Ms Jane Mandean**, Paralympic athlete, South Africa
- **Mr Peter Serry**, Executive Director MYSA, Kenya
- **Mr Charles Dzimba**, Programmes Officer Zone VI countries, Botswana

Adolf Ogi provided a kick off to the Round Table Debate.
In his opening address that started the Round Table discussion on Friday, Ogi traced the steps that had been taken between the Magglingen conference and the event now taking place in Amsterdam – especially the important role performed by the United Nations, through its General Assembly resolutions, its inter-agency Task Force on Sport for development and Peace and the work done by individual UN agencies such as UNESCO. He went on: I expect that in 2004, governments will make plans and create partnerships to show in 2005 how sport can help with the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.’ The MDGs, as they have come to be known are ambitious objectives aimed at – among others – eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, reducing child mortality and combat diseases. Ogi wants to see projects in place by 2005 that will connect sport with peace, development, health, education, the environment and international solidarity. As concrete examples of how this could work out in practice, Ogi mentioned the Homeless Street Soccer World Cup, held in Graz, Austria in July 2003, the Special Olympics in Ireland, June 2003 and the Mathare Youth Sports Association in Kenya.

After his opening address Theo Fledderus (Director Netherlands Olympic Committee – Netherlands Sports Confederation) made the following statement on human development and sport:

**Sport for sport’s sake?**

Sport can be used as a vehicle to achieve something else but this should not let us lose sight of the fact that sport has a value of its own. This message was heard a few times during the expert meeting – and quite rightly so. NOC*NSF director Theo Fledderus made this clear when he briefly addressed the conference on Friday. ‘Sport activities as such are levelling and educational phenomena,’ he argued. ‘It’s fun, it’s empowering, healthy and a substitute for crime. We must also cherish its intrinsic value.’

The flipside of seeing sport in an instrumental fashion is also clear: sport becomes a panacea. ‘There is a heavy burden on sport,’ Fledderus said. Main message: do not raise your expectations too high. You may be asking too much of sport.

Fledderus’ remarks were taken up by a few speakers at the Round Table. Charles Dzimba agreed that people mainly did sport for their enjoyment. But he added: ‘For sport to be enjoyed, its must be organised. This is now attempted through senior officials and institutions within the southern African region.’ Adorna said two things: there are so many problems in the world that we cannot afford ourselves the luxury of considering sport to be overtaxed. He conceded, however, that sport should not be seen as a panacea. Peter Serry, director of MYSA, saw sport first and foremost as an organising tool and was not too worried about the issue of sport becoming overburdened. He was worried about something else: ‘How much do we involve sports people in decision making?’ And by that he did not just mean involving sports people in decision-making about sporting matters but also in social and even political issues. His own MYSA is, of course, an excellent example of how this can be done.

Ms Anne Lize van der Stoel (President NCDO) made a statement about sport and peace.
Sport for peace?

‘We know that peace is a precondition for development. And sport may be used as a means to bring about or foster peace. After all: if you play together you get to know each other.’ All well and good, said NCDO President Anne Lize van der Stoel during her intervention on Friday, but this is not always the case. On the contrary. ‘Sport has also been used as a means of repression.’ Numerous examples spring to mind, not just the ‘soccer war’ between Guatemala and Honduras but also the way sport continues to be used as a propaganda tool in totalitarian and warmongering states, to promote a false sense of inflated national pride, and so on. In short, van der Stoel concluded: ‘The relation between sport and peace is far-fetched and not always positive. It works under specific circumstances but there is no guarantee for success.’

Reactions were mixed. Indeed, the link between sport and peace can be tenuous but still, as Ogi argued: ‘China and the USA met each other through table tennis.’ Bosnia, Rwanda, there are instances where sport can do its positive work, given the right circumstances. And again: one would wish for a piece of peace research to tease out the details.

Next Steps of Round Table Debaters

Finally the debaters were asked to mention the Next Steps their organisation would take from here. Amongst the different reactions these were a couple of concrete promises:

- Mr Thomas Sithole reported that the IOC will facilitate more meetings at national levels, bringing together National Olympic Committees and government officials from developing countries to discuss issues relating to sports development, peace and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

- Mr Adolf Ogi has proposed to let the UN and the Beijing Olympic Games cooperate on an number of issues, including sport as a peace building exercise and a means to foster local development and health care.
• Mr Cecilio Adorna announced that UNICEF is going to mainstream sports and recreation into its country programs in a number of what Adorna called ‘flagship countries’. It is hoped that programs run jointly by governments and the country programs of UNICEF will produce valuable experiences that could be replicated elsewhere. This will also have an effect in the information and advocacy field: UNICEF intends to use sports events as levers to mobilise new and more diverse audiences for children’s issues.

• The Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs may be working together with MYSA in Southern Sudan, now that this region may be moving towards peace, using MYSA’s experience in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya.

• Apart from the enormous variety of activities and initiatives President of Right to Play, Mr Johann Olav Koss mentioned the need to be more systematic. ‘We have coaches from Israel and Palestine who bring children from both sides together through football.’ That is excellent – but ‘we need to approach the issue of sport as a conflict resolution tool in a more systematic way. We do not evaluate enough and so we invite people to do research into things like sport and development, sport and peace. We need to prove what we say that we do.’ Koss intends to build a strong research team to do just that. Koss will discuss the role of sport in peace building and HIV/AIDS prevention with various governments at the Athens Olympics.

• Mr Jan Berteling Director Human Rights and Peace Building at the Dutch Ministry, is also involved in international basketball and will use his network there to help development countries set up an infrastructure for this particular sport. Berteling further will despite the lack of support for this theme within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continue to lobby for the theme.

• And finally, His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange urged all participants to go back to the ground and do what everyone promised.

The full speeches of Adolf Ogi, Theo Fledderus and Anne Lize van der Stoel delivered during the Round Table Debate on Friday 14 November are available on the following websites: www.sportdevelopment.org/nextstep and www.sportdevelopment.org.
Introduction workshops

In each of the five workshops described below, cross-cutting issues such as ownership, partnership, technical assistance, capacity building, sustainable funding and gender were discussed. Lessons learnt from different ways to achieve sustainable development in and through sport were discussed to find out which model is likely to work, which factors can facilitate and hamper sustainable development and to what extent these factors can be influenced.

The desired outcomes of the workshops were:
1. Development of (pre)tools to be applied at local, regional, national and international level, to improve the quality of sports projects and projects using sports activities as a means to reach other goals
2. Inventory of best practices, following analysis of all kinds of projects and from different perspectives, to come to what works best and which factors, under which circumstances, contribute to sustainable development
3. An international code of conduct or shared principles and values applicable to partnerships and co-operation in sport and development

The local structures

Strengthening local community structures in and through sport

It was repeated as often as the re-affirmation of the importance of sport in development: the basis for any meaningful sport infrastructure – and indeed any meaningful development – is local. Furthermore, these local sport infrastructures need to be sustainable. After all, many sports facilities and activities, the clubs, events, festivals and competitions are frequently set up by outsiders. At a certain point in time they leave and then the real challenge comes: all facilities, activities and events that are offered to the communities in city neighbourhoods, towns or villages must pay their own way, staff needs to be from the local community and capable of sustaining the sports operations that have been set up.

These are real problems. When funds dry up, how do you replenish them from elsewhere? How does one keep a sports organisation going when the foreign staff leaves? Where can you find capable local staff, pay them a decent salary and offer them some career prospects? And how does all this local effort link up with the national level? There are a few more unpleasant questions to ask as well. How does one create ownership when the donor that has made the project possible has no intention of handing over the project? As one participant at the expert meeting remarked: ‘We help
foreign experts but our needs are never mentioned.’ And how does one keep local and national politics out of the equation? Sport is a highly attractive phenomenon that has been used and abused time and time again by politicians to further their aims and/or hide real problems. There is probably not a single country in the world that is free of this problem.

The workshop participants came up with a model in which right from the outset, the local community would be involved in the preparation and implementation of any sports project and use the human resources available within the community to find staff (the operative slogan being: ‘Think Globally, recruit Locally’) and even other resources. They came up with a model, which we are happy to reproduce here.

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<tr>
<td>• Critical factors: working together (e.g. sponsorships) for common goals, good management (accountable, transparent, etc.)</td>
<td>• Critical factors: 3 levels approach, individual (selection criteria and content), organisational structures, and institutions (linkages)</td>
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The national perspective

Local sports-related structures from a national perspective

On to the national level – or rather: how the national views the local. Interestingly, when the workshops findings were featured the presenter, Amos Davidowitz, remarked rather wryly that ‘the people to whom we wanted to tell this have all left (…)’. He meant that in an ironic way, the policymakers on this occasion were a bit like their high level counterparts in any national context. How does one tackle this – because this is perceived as a real problem. How does one attract support from the national level, from national government or sports federations – be it within the (rather problematic) framework of decentralization or because the merits of the local activities have been noticed nationally? Decentralization is problematic, precisely because it demands adaptations by national sports organisations and regulatory bodies to the local circumstances, something they are not always able or willing to do. Conversely, the same issue of political interference will inevitably occur here, too.

The ideas offered here were not so very different from those presented above. Again, the ideas revolved around notions of partnership, sustainability and real action. And most of all they revolved around people, those multi-layered, multidimensional players who have roles as sports people, members of a community, role models and so forth – all with their own contributions to make. To chart the various levels of action and actors, the workshop participants presented the participants with a matrix-like model, developed by ILO’s universitas program, which we reprint below.

Partners for Sports & Development – The matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partners for Sports &amp; Development</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
<th>Government Programs</th>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
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<td>Financial</td>
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<td>International Sports Federations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beneficiaries</td>
<td>Development of Sports and Sports as Tool for Development</td>
<td>Multi dimensional people empowered and contributing as Individuals, Athletes, Workers in sport sector, Community members &amp; Role models for younger children</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
From train the trainer to sustain the trainer

Probably the most frequently used buzzword at the expert meeting: capacity. The notion is clear: if you set up an organisation, a structure, a sport facility and you do not staff these with the right number of qualified local people, then that organisation, structure, facility is doomed. One can extend the line of reasoning to factories, development projects, and much more. It has taken the international business world many years to get its head around that concept, the development business is trying to get used to this idea – so maybe the sports world can be both a path breaker and a guiding light in this respect. It is, in fact, relatively easy for sports facilitators to incorporate capacity building within their work because capacity building is an intrinsic value. What is capacity building by any other name? Training. Sports people do it all the time. It is done by coaches and trainers on the field, it can be extended off the field and into local communities. The training of sports staff is crucial for sport, for sport and development, for the communities where this takes place and at the national level. Trainers are role models, teaching sports skills and imparting values such as team work, fair play and responsible leadership – but also spreading knowledge and perhaps even changing attitudes about disability, HIV/AIDS, ethnicity and other issues. They are adapted, ideally, to local culture and understand how skills and other matters can be put across in ways that will be well received by the communities.

But trainers also need to get their skills from somewhere. And so we have come to welcome the train-the-trainers model. State Secretary Ross-van Dorp is adamant that at the end of the day there must be local trainers who can do the job of training-the-trainers themselves. This has been shown to be successfully the case in for instance Burkina Faso, were the Royal Dutch Football Association has been involved in getting scores of Burkina be to train their own trainers. Equally, the city link between the Dutch town of Haarlem and the city of Mutare in Zimbabwe has been a vehicle for setting up programs through which local Mutareans have been able to become trainers themselves. Ross-van Dorp is very much in favour of approaches like these, and there are many other examples. These are forms of technical assistance that work, principally because it comes and goes (as TA always does) but also leaves expertise behind (which TA does not do frequently enough).
Of course, having qualified people available also means that there must be a structure in place to actually absorb the newly-formed capacity. This is an issue that brings us back to the points about structures, mentioned earlier. The same can be said of the related issue of sports schools. This is, once again, about building viable and sustainable sports infrastructures, in which sports schools and academies as well as sports education in institutions of lower and higher learning find their place and in which the trainers and other sports educators can be logically integrated, either as consultants or as salaried staff. This also brings into focus the issue of documentation: can there be put in place a viable system of exams and diplomas, crucial in a national context but also if trainers want to expand their horizons and move abroad for a while? This touches on yet another related issue which falls outside the scope of this report but does merit equal attention: the brain drain and its alleged damaging effects.

Another set of questions relates to the issue of who these certified trainers will be. Will there be many women among them, people with disabilities, members of ethnic minorities in a given country, people who are not connected to the political class that happens to be in power? And this brings yet another layer of questions into focus: what about the government sports policies? Do they have any and if so what do they say about these structural matters that arise from the train-the-trainer concept?

There was not enough time to tackle all these issues but it was obvious for the workshop participants that a lot depended on the way a train-the-trainer program is designed. Message number one: a successful train-the-trainer program is people and community-oriented. This ensures that when an external trainer leaves, the community can take over without significant hitches. Building successful train-the-trainer programs entails a whole raft of things, including the cultural diversity of a community, being tailor-made to fit the needs of that particular community, and involve all relevant stakeholders. There has to be an element of quality control that is integral to the whole program and deals with issues such as leadership and creativity. There should also be sufficient recognition of the efforts that the trainees make and they should be encouraged to carry on.

There were also two highly concrete issues dealt with in the workshops: the HIV/AIDS pandemic that is stalking the planet and the issue of disability.
HIV/AIDS

Sport and HIV/AIDS prevention
The scale of the problem is vast and growing. Latest UN reports suggest that the frontiers of the disease are shifting. East and Southern Africa continue to suffer disproportionately from the impact of the pandemic but Eastern Europe, China, India and Indonesia are reporting highly worrying increases in the occurrence of the disease. The inclusion of sport as a way to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS is therefore timely. Sport is one means among many that can be used to bring about a change in vision and attitudes that can roll back the disease. The relative successes that have been recorded in Senegal, Uganda and especially Brazil point the way to a multi-pronged strategy, of which sport is one valuable aspect. After all, the words of Mr Sithole of the IOC ring very true: the roots of the enormity of the AIDS pandemic must be located in poverty – abject poverty. Therefore, AIDS is not a one-issue phenomenon. The same applies to the strategies to defeat the disease and the organisers framed the workshop on HIV/AIDS deliberately in this way: sport should not be isolated as an instrument to address the issue of HIV/AIDS. The workshop’s findings should also be seen in this light.

The workshop drew on the experiences of a number of initiatives, including that of the Kalusha Foundation, named after Kalusha Bwalya, arguably Zambia’s most famous football player of all times, hailing from a country that is among the world’s worst affected.

‘Where does one find many people who voluntarily get together? At sports events. Make use of this human infrastructure that comes naturally.’ This was one piece of practical wisdom coming from this workshop. Here’s another, more familiar one. ‘Projects are successful if they use local solutions and structures.’ If there is a school with sports facilities, one can use theatre groups to get the AIDS message across. Communities typically set up a plethora of groups: ratepayers groups, rent payers groups, choirs, churches, parent teacher associations, cultural groups, and, indeed sports clubs. There is, in other words, an infrastructure already there, which can be used as a vehicle that is both known and recognised by the local people.

In terms of projects specifically designed around the issues of sport and HIV/AIDS, the usual methodology applies. The project must be locally owned, it must have achievable goals and the success or failure of the project must be framed in terms of behavioural change. In order to have sustainability, it is necessary to build capacities locally, learn from past experience and build partnerships among the various stakeholders: local communities, sports personalities, local government, the commercial sector, national government, donors and so on. For instance, in Zambia banks have hired the services from NGOs to work on awareness and prevention. Sustainability would also be greatly helped if there were a database available that contains everything that has been done in the area of sports and HIV/AIDS, complete with honest evaluations. And finally, sustainability is also enhanced when the issue of HIV/AIDS is brought into the sports mainstream.

One other plea came from the presenter of this workshop, Francis Kasolo: ‘speak with one voice’. ‘You now have messages promoting abstinence and marital loyalty. You also have messages promoting safe sex and the use of condoms’ Whilst admitting that within the workshop no consensus was reached as to which of the messages would be the most appropriate, it can be argued that avoiding confusion should be a top priority for any project involving HIV/AIDS.
Disability

Sports and people with a disability

The Olympic movement for people with disabilities has been growing spectacularly, putting the achievements of athletes like Jane Mandean firmly on the map. She is a powerful role model for her country, South Africa. Still, these examples are not as common as one would want them to be. People with disabilities still face barriers, both in developed and in developing countries, even though in the latter group of countries the situation is often exacerbated – once again – by poverty. Everywhere, disabled people face prejudice, discrimination or – arguably even worse – condescension.

All kinds of sports can be adapted to suit the needs of people with disabilities. When this is done, sport improves the quality of life immensely. One of the main reasons was put very succinctly by the conveners: sport becomes something that celebrates what you can do, instead of lamenting what you can’t do. So participating and being successful in sport is a powerful confidence booster, a way to develop physically and mentally, a way to be an important member of a community, a significant citizen of a country, most certainly if you win medals at international tournaments. And last but certainly not least, sport is a way in which you can simply enjoy yourself.

So it is worthwhile to arrange projects and programs around sport as a means to achieve all these things for people who are living with disabilities. Is it happening? Yes. Is enough being done? Not quite. There is a need for more programs, in rural areas, in poor parts of towns and cities. So this workshop looked at ways in which more projects can be realised and be toed in with special programs that target the disabled. The overlap with other efforts from other workshops was unsurprising. Lessons learnt from projects for the disabled reflect the same experiences and provide similar guidelines. Projects for the disabled need to be based on local circumstances and on clear needs assessments. They need to take account of local culture and priorities and be planned in conjunction with the intended beneficiaries. A successful project needs the right human resources, people who can act as credible role models. Two other issues stood out as special conditions: people with disabilities do need a legal framework that protects them from discrimination and they need an adapted physical infrastructure that suits their needs.

Below are a few of the suggestions the members of this workshop came up with.
Cross cutting Issues

In the workshop fact sheets several cross cutting issues were mentioned. Below a summary of the concerns, attention points and dilemma’s expressed during the six workshops concerning these cross cutting issues. These issues are not clustered per workshop theme, because they were identified to be important irrespective of the particular topic in the workshop. From the final analysis of the six workshops, it can be safely concluded, that the issues below were mentioned and discussed in all workshops. They are presented in conclusive terMs This means that the statements reflect the mainstream thoughts of the participants in the workshops.

Ownership

Enhancing and securing ownership of the stakeholders, especially at community level needs to be a focal point in any sport and development initiative. It is important to pay due attention to the following points:

1. Utilise and expand local resources (community resources)
2. Build on local initiatives and try to avoid ‘importing’ initiatives
3. Make use of a multi stakeholder approach; this is also necessary within local communities
4. Establish the policy and strategies at community level
5. Pay due attention to and respect local values; in the HIV/AIDS and Disability workshops specific attention was given to sport as a means to challenge existing ‘values’ (= prejudices)
6. Be aware that in some situations the local structures obstruct sport and development
7. Provide leadership those who understand the local, national culture
8. Involve local heroes, celebrities and role models to stimulate commitment
**Partnership**

Ensuring effective partnerships is a prerequisite for effective implementation of sport and development initiatives. In all workshops partnership was pointed out as a crucial issue. The definition of partnership was approached from a vertical level (e.g. relation between donor-recipient or national – local structure) as well as a horizontal level (e.g. between different stakeholders or community groups). Working on partnerships means:

1. Vertical and horizontal collaboration links are built
2. The objectives are well aligned; do not create false expectations especially in international co-operation
3. The distinction between initiatives for the development of sport and initiatives to use sport for development is clearly defined
4. Agreement on roles and responsibilities are clearly defined; especially the vertical agreement is a pre-requisite for effective partnership
5. The need for a global network to share experiences is evident; at the same time a similar network is necessary at country and/or region level.
6. Effective partnership should be build up with other sectors (education, health, private sector enterprise etc.)
7. In partnership three levels can be distinguished: Ideological – Practical – Focus on the future. It is important to approach partnership on all three levels and to formulate the objectives of the partnership related to all three levels. It is NOT necessary to define existing and future partnerships on all three levels. A particular partnership can be very practical and still partners can have different ideological backgrounds
8. Mutual performance and not necessarily on friendship

**Technical assistance**

Technical assistance is an external intervention to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of sport initiatives. The main issue here is the gap between the supplied expertise and the demand from the local and/or national perspective. Successful technical assistance is well adapted to the local context and takes into concern the absorption capacity and financial bearing of those assisted. Therefore it is wise to consider the following points at all times, especially in case of foreign assistance, right from the initial stage:

1. Collaboration on equitable terms and conditions need to be in place
2. Think globally but recruit locally
3. Donor recipient relation is always unequal, therefore technical assistance better be replaced by collaboration in partnership
4. Optimal use of existing resources and capacities needs to be ensured
5. ‘Foreign’ models shouldn’t be imported
6. Clear indicators need to be developed to measure the effect of technical assistance
7. Be careful with external (foreign) volunteers, sometimes they learn more than they teach
Capacity building

Capacity building is not a mere technical issue, but goes further. It endeavours to put in place the necessary management, institutional and organisational skills in such a way that development initiatives can be carried forward on a sustainable basis. In this view it is important to take into account the following points:

1. Strengthen the local project implementation capacity
2. Motivate volunteers and staff in terms of money and training is essential
3. Give exposure to South – South and South – North
4. Recognise the local community structures in order to strengthen local community structures
5. Recognise that capacity building is not only about technical capacities but also about accountable management capacities

The three major success criteria for capacity building are:
- Co-operation between all actors at national, local and international level
- Clear division of contribution and responsibilities
- Holistic approach

Sustainable funding (including sponsor finding/keeping; income generating activities)

Sustainable funding does not only depend on the existence of potential national and international sponsors and donors. It is equally determined by the trust that these sponsors have in the accountability of the ‘receiving’ structures. Thus make sure that:

1. Effective and accountable local structures are in place
2. Horizontal collaboration is established to make effective and efficient use of resources
3. Ways and means to generate income from local sports initiatives, other than donor support (local sponsorship etc.) are clear
4. Outside donors have an exit strategy incorporated in their project-assistance
5. The issue of voluntarism versus professionalism has been dealt with at every level.
6. The private sector is incorporated
**Stubborn realities**

The above may leave the impression that building up sports structures and infrastructures can generally be described as being a relatively smooth process. The conveners of the expert meeting had already made it clear that as far as they were concerned, there are a great number of practical constraints that have to be contended with, matters that can only be marginally influenced by organisations engaged in sport and development. Safety, lack of transport and other infrastructural problems are on the practical side of things. There are also political issues, such as corruption, a low priority accorded to sport, ethnic politics or even politics as usual. And donors can be difficult, in terms of having to deal with different ones, each having their own policy priorities and reporting systems and each showing widely differing degrees of willingness to share skills and transfer know-how.

These are some of the issues that you will come across while setting up a sport activity. You will meet all of them – and probably a few more. Once the facility is there, other problems emerge. Who owns it? You? That is what you think. The local MP, the donor agency or anyone else with a vested interest in identifying with the completed project may think otherwise. Who then, decides, where the project is heading next and are you free to spend the money allocated to you according to your priorities? These may differ sharply from those of your donor or local MP and you may feel strong pressure to “adapt” them. The fad word is “ownership”. You will hear it often and wonder what it means (...) And how are you going to keep your facility/event/competition/program going in financial terms? Long term financial stability is vital, you know that. Because sport and development will, one day, go out of fashion, let’s face it, this is the way the donor community happens to operate. So you will need local donors/contributors/members/sponsors to ensure viability. You will also be required to fulfil at least some of the expectations, which are usually spectacularly high. Can you do this? Nobody knows.

In recognition of these issues, work has started on placing sport activities on the solid ground of principles. Six organisations have put together a document known as “Common Principles in Partnership for Sport & Development”. We are pleased to reproduce it here.

JAN BERTELING (DIRECTOR HUMAN RIGHT AND PEACE BUILDING, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) AND CHARLES DZIMBA (PROGRAMMES OFFICER SPORT AND DEVELOPMENT ZONE SIX)
Common Principles On Partnership for Sport and Development

All participants of the NextStep Meeting seem to agree on a common vision on partnership that is meaningful and practically relevant, both in principle and operationally. A common vision with the overriding goal of long term sustainability that is locally rooted.

The initiative for this common vision was taken some time back by the Australian Sports Commission, Common Wealth Games Association of Canada and UK Sport. These organisations plus the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport of the Netherlands, National Commission for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO) of the Netherlands and the Netherlands Olympic Committee – Netherlands Sports Confederation (NOC*NSF) have contributed to the making of this summary of this common vision on partnership in the world of sport and development. This common vision was confirmed by the outcomes of the workshops of the NextStep conference. This common vision can be reflected by the following ideals and standards as ‘Common Principles On Partnership’:

1. Shared values and a common willingness to work toward building reasonable consensus matched by thoughtful recognition of diversities.

2. Openness and mutual trust based in a thoroughly communicated understanding of the needs and priorities of all partners as well as ongoing and mutual sensitivity to each other’s norms, values and attitudes.

3. Inclusiveness and interaction where all partners have equal status and engage each other on equal terms, promoting equitable participation in leadership, management, strategic planning, decision-making, monitoring and evaluation, cost-sharing and resource allocation.

4. Clearly-defined roles and responsibilities of the various partners, both donor and implementing actors, which are well-communicated and consistently upheld, and where the contributions of all parties are recognized on agreed-appropriate terms.

5. Recognition that equitable partnership will not always translate to mean that in all circumstance, all partners will be have an ‘equal’ role or responsibility. There may be an equal capacity of all partners to contribute and participate, observing that where contributions and participation may be in different areas or phases of the development project cycle, it should be a difference only of degree and not kind.

6. Transparency both in action and communication.

7. Enhanced accountabilities, fiscally and otherwise, that aim to locate and insist on shared responsibility for decision-making, outcomes, successes and failures backed by the naming of specific and direct accountabilities for all partners, emphasizing reciprocity in obligations and a team approach to ensuring good governance.
8 All new initiatives in development through sport should complement and not duplicate existing activities and projects undertaken by the region and/or nation from within its own resources and/or with the support of other contributing actors and similarly, should seek to complement other projects and broader development goals.

9 Exchange and establishment of best practices for operationalizing successful strategies for partnerships, fostering linkages among an increasing diversity of actors, North-South, South-South, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Final remarks

The ideas, matrixes and other models that were presented at the workshops will find their way into the international toolkit that will contain – among other things – best and worst practices, and instruments related to develop along the lines of the best practices while avoiding the worst. The toolkit will be related to some of the main themes that have been mentioned here, including sport and health, sport and disabilities, sport and social integration and many others. The toolkit will also be applicable to the various structures mentioned in this section: local sports structures, community-based structures, education and national structures to name a few. And finally, the toolkit will be digitally available at the following address: www.sportdevelopment.org. All these are intended to produce organisations that are strong, durable, sufficiently funded and will have an impact wherever they are. What these are not intended to do is to ignore the warning issued by Ruud Lubbers, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, who warned against bureaucratising this thriving field. The focus is effectiveness, not building a managerial superstructure just for the sake of having one. With that in mind, it is opportune to move to the final section, which looks into the future.
ATHENS, BEIJING AND BEYOND

The year 2004 will be the European Year of Education through Sport. It will also be the year of the Athens Olympics and Paralympics. The year 2005 will be the International Year of Sport and Physical Education. In 2008 the Olympic games will move to Beijing. With the highly active year 2003 behind us there is ample opportunity to “let 1000 flowers bloom” as a result of new sport and development initiatives. So the expert meeting wanted to be told what the various representatives of sport organisations, governments, NGOs and others had in mind for the year to come – in concrete terms Next Steps are only there because they have been spelt out, not because they have been framed in lyrical language.

Mr Thomas Sithole reported that the IOC will facilitate more meetings at national levels, bringing together National Olympic Committees and government officials from developing countries to discuss issues relating to sports development, peace and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. In 2005, the IOC will organise an international relations conference on this and other issues in Lausanne, Switzerland. On one or two occasions, he is likely to come across Johann Olav Koss, the founder-president of Right To Play, who will be discussing the role of sport in peace building and HIV/AIDS prevention with various governments at the Athens Olympics.

Mr Adolf Ogi has been to Beijing with a proposal to let the UN and the Olympic Games cooperate on a number of issues. This will happen and various ideas will be explored, aimed at using sport to bring peace to troubled areas, foster local development and health care. His next mission is to
Teheran, where he will urge governments and other players in the Islamic world work on access for women to sports. In fact, by the time this report is published, he will already have been there.

UNICEF is going to mainstream sports and recreation into its country programs. Not across the board (after all, UNICEF is present in 158 countries) but in a number of what Mr Adorna called “flagship countries”. The “model” for this, if you will, is going to be the Dutch ‘Plus Sports’ programs, which since the 1990s have sought to integrate sports and physical exercise into other activities, such as rural development programs and projects for street children, refugees, women and so forth. It is hoped that programs run jointly by governments and the country programs of UNICEF will produce valuable experiences that could be replicated elsewhere. This will also have an effect in the information and advocacy field: UNICEF intends to use sports events as levers to mobilise new and more diverse audiences for children’s issues. As suggested by workshop participants, Unicef is further willing to take up the responsibility of mapping HIV/AIDS initiatives and programmes worldwide and to provide technical support in this area by providing sports and HIV/AIDS training manuals and organisaing workshops in this field.

One of the things already known is the fact that the Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation has decided to make 1 million euro available to support athletes in their preparation for the 2004 Athens Paralympics. Equally, the Dutch State Secretary for Health, Welfare and Sport pronounced herself committed in her opening address to ‘doing all I can to maintain as many projects as possible, despite the challenging economic climate (in the Netherlands, ed.)’. Another possible action from the Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs may be in the offing: MYSA’s Peter Serry announced that he was looking into possibilities to work in Southern Sudan, now that this region may be moving towards peace. ‘Our experience may be of help,’ he declared, referring to experience gained in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, where MYSA has been working alongside other organisation to bring together various ethnic groups living in the camp. He would be in favour of MYSA taking its experience into Sudan. Very candidly, Serry said: ‘I am usually a little uncomfortable with volunteers from abroad who come and run things, take in a substantial salary and then leave.’ His experience in Kakuma fully justifies his stance. Coincidentally, the Dutch minister for
Development Cooperation was in Sudan in November and Jan Berteling, suggested that there may be an occasion for further cooperation with MYSA in the efforts to resettle refugees in Southern Sudan. And should the minister and Dutch policy makers forget to incorporate sport in their development policies, then they can expect a visit from the new chairperson of the Dutch National Sports Federation and Dutch Olympic Committee (NOC*NSF), Ms Erica Terpstra, just as a reminder.

With the Paralympics coming up, the NCDO will be highlighting the situation of the visually impaired by organising a football event called “5-A-Side”, in which two teams of five visually impaired players play football using a ball that emits sound. There will be an exhibition match between a team from the developing world and another team consisting of famous names in Dutch football. The latter will, however, be blindfolded.

Mr Jan Berteling is involved in international basketball and will use his network there to help developing countries set up an infrastructure for this particular sport. One example of how this can be done in an interesting fashion is Angola, which has become an African basketball superpower and is now a force to reckon with in international tournaments all over the world. There will also be a sports and peace event in Thailand, which Mr Ogi is helping to put together.

Ms Erica Terpstra used her closing address to announce a few more activities, including a Round Table Debate in 2004 in Greece, organised by Right To Play and a follow-up expert meeting to be held in Zambia in 2005, which will have an evaluating character and should answer a few pertinent questions relating to this field. These questions should be seen as yardsticks for progress made. Terpstra posed the following: “Did our good intentions and concrete actions points have actual results at the local level? Did new initiatives start, benefiting the local level? Were existing initiatives, affecting the local level, strengthened? Are more people involved in local sports activities? Has sport contributed to reducing poverty?”

Apart from the enormous variety of activities and initiatives Koss mentioned the need to be more systematic. ‘We have coaches from Israel and Palestine who bring children from both sides together through football.’ That is excellent – but ‘we need to approach the issue of sport as a conflict resolution tool in a more systematic way. We do not evaluate enough and so we invite people to do research into things like sport and development, sport and peace. We need to prove what we say that we do.’ Koss intends to build a strong research team to do just that.

Of course, these plans and ambitions need to be financed if they are to materialize. Ms Terpstra was characteristically forthright about this in her closing address. Setting up activities and the highly laudable partnerships is very good, but (…) ‘of course it requires the availability of financial means to do so. It would very helpful if policy makers incorporate sport in their international plans and programmes, if there is joint funding, for example funding by the Ministry of Sports and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and/or donors accept a fixed percentage of their budget for development, including sports and sports related activities, as among others the Swiss government is doing’. We hope the policy makers have taken note.

*Full speech of the closing statement of Erica Terpstra is available on the following websites: www.sportdevelopment.org/nextstep and www.sportdevelopment.org.*
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