

## • FOREWORD •



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It is an honour for me to have the opportunity to present this publication to you. It provides a compilation of case studies that illustrate the work and impact of sport for development and peace activities both in Australia and worldwide. In doing so, it underlines the power of sport, and advocates for greater investment and support of this sector in Australia.

Sport matters. It is not only a fundamental human right, but also a powerful tool to advance economic, social and human development around the world. Access to sport and physical activity are of crucial importance for both human health and the prevention of disease worldwide.

The field of Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) utilises this potential inherent in the intentional use of sport and physical activity, in order to achieve specific development and peace objectives, in particular with regard to the eight UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As an extensive network of stakeholders, including governments, United Nations entities, development agencies, academia, sports federations, the private sector, the media and civil society organisations, Sport for Development and Peace not only focuses on sport at the elite and high-performance level, but also at the grassroots and community level.

Especially within the sphere of international humanitarian and social work, the potential of sport as a tool for peace and development has captured increasing attention during the past decade. As such, sport can be a powerful tool to provide employment, reduce poverty and facilitate sustainable development. It can also support reconciliation efforts in societies divided by war and contribute to long-lasting peace.

This publication represents a valuable contribution to the work within the field of Sport for Development and Peace. Its concise case studies showcase activities of Australian organisations in the field, and the role of sport in promoting social inclusion, improving health and empowering children, people with disabilities and women around the world.

I believe that this handbook provides a collection of good practice examples which will encourage and assist other organisations to engage in similar activities. I am deeply convinced that sport can be an innovative, effective and efficient way of contributing to the Millennium Development Goals. Therefore, on behalf of the United Nations, I encourage each and every one of us to promote, use and invest in the potential of sport for sustainable human development and peace-building.