DECLARATION

The 3rd International Forum on Sport for Peace and Development meeting at the United Nations in New York on 5 and 6 June 2013:

Recognizing the common ideals and vision of the United Nations and the Olympic Movement, to strive for the harmonious and peaceful development of society,

Noting that sport, as a universal language, has the potential to increase respect for diversity, tolerance and fairness and to inspire, especially children and youth,

Recognizing that, while sport by itself can neither make peace nor solve social issues, sport, physical activity and play can be meaningful tools for development, education, and health, altogether creating a culture of peace,

Acknowledging the increasing roles of Member States and the United Nations System, the sports movement and civil society in promoting human and social development through sport and physical activity,

Recognizing that the International Olympic Committee has been granted Permanent Observer status to the United Nations,

Recognizing the potential of sport as an innovative tool to support conflict and violence prevention and peacebuilding,

Noting with satisfaction the continued strong collaboration between the United Nations System and the Olympic Movement for integrating sport in all areas of development and peacebuilding, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging the benefits of sports and physical activity for all in order to create healthy societies, in particular in preventing and combating non-communicable diseases that are now becoming a major source of mortality in the world,

Further recognizing the values of mandatory quality physical education programmes in schools as a means of ensuring a culture of active lifestyle,

Reaffirming also the important role that sport and physical activity can play in the promotion of gender equality and in ensuring inclusion of marginalized groups, in particular persons with disabilities,

Welcoming the focus of both the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee on youth activities, in particular through the appointment of the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth and through the successful establishment of the Youth Olympic Games, respectively,

Recognizing that the common vision of the role of sport in the service of development and peacebuilding is being promoted through the mandate of the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General,
The Forum:

1. Calls on all stakeholders to reinforce their efforts to assist in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and the post 2015 agenda through sport and physical activity by mainstreaming them in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner;

2. Encourages resource mobilization for inclusive sport for all and grassroots projects with a view to implementing long-term, sustainable, and cost-effective sports programmes;

3. Calls for the systematic inclusion of underprivileged, minority and marginalized groups, such as persons with disabilities and women and girls, in sports programmes;

4. Stresses the need for Governments to ensure that adequate financial and other resources are made available for quality physical education in primary and secondary school programmes and that it is fully integrated in formal national education curricula;

5. Stresses the need for increased public-private partnerships with all relevant stakeholders, including regional and international financial institutions;

6. Encourages increased investment in the development of sport infrastructures and providing safe and accessible public spaces for physical activity and sport;

7. Stresses the need for Governments, the United Nations System, civil society, and the sport sector to increase contextualized and adapted sport-based programmes for peace-building and violence prevention;

8. Encourages relevant stakeholders to include social development legacies as part of planning and implementation of all sports events;

9. Calls for the development and strengthening of evaluation and monitoring tools on the social and economic impact of sport and for more interdisciplinary research to provide scientific evidence and good practices;

10. Recommends the establishment of a United Nations International Day of Sport and Physical Activity to advocate and celebrate their contribution to education, human development, healthy lifestyles and a peaceful world.

New York, 6th June 2013