

1st International Expert Meeting Sport for Development: 'Lessons from the grass roots'
28 – 30 November 2013

The Nairobi Declaration

The first International Expert Meeting on Sport for Development was organised in Nairobi, Kenya, from the 28th to the 30th of November 2013. The Meeting was attended by more than 30 representatives from 9 different countries. During the three days, the experts participated in workshop sessions and field visits that provided opportunities for networking, sharing and mutual learning. All sessions put emphasis on the main theme: 'Lessons from the grass roots'. This declaration is a result of the International Expert Meeting and contains our shared beliefs, achievements and intentions.

We believe in the unique power of sport and agree that 'Sport for Development' can increase the capacity of children, young people and organisations. Through sport and play children and young people can develop abilities to cope with life's demands, at a social as well as at an economic level. We consequently believe that all children and young people should have the opportunity to participate in sport and play activities, in safe spaces. **We emphasize** the importance of having child protection as a policy. We consider the acquisition of life skills through sport and play to be a continuous and experiential process that builds responsible and active citizens, enhances the quality of life for individuals and communities, and contributes to economic empowerment.

We believe that strong, and learning oriented organisations, using sport and play at grass roots level, are crucial for sustainable development. In order to stimulate learning we pursue and promote the sharing of experiences, methods and results amongst international experts and with the public at large.

We believe that local sport for development organizations can develop into social enterprises, which adds to their sustainability.

We emphasize the importance of all-inclusive multi-stakeholder processes, public-private partnerships and balancing commercial and non-commercial activities.

We will motivate other stakeholders to also recognize and support the power of sport and play, and invite them to integrate this into their policies and budgets.

Together **we have achieved** positive developments in the communities where we work. We have given individuals the tools to empower themselves, strengthened organisations and anchored our activities as much as possible. Through collaboration with partner organizations and active links to other stakeholders, including governments and corporate partners, we continue to promote the 'Sport for Development' movement.

We promise to continue to provide children & young people with opportunities through sport and play, to work in Sport for Development partnerships and to advocate - also by the example of champions - the power of sport at all levels. We trust there will be unity of purpose amongst all of us.