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Berliner Friedensuhr



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Message from Ms Irina Bokova,

Director-General of UNESCO

on the occasion of the Berlin Peace Clock Award

8 November 2011

MESSAGE TO BE READ AT THE EVENT BY PROFESSOR KLAUS HUFNER:

"Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to congratulate Mr. Wilfried Lemke, Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, for receiving the 2011 *Berlin Peace Clock Award*.

Designed by Mr. Jens Lorenz, the original Berlin Peace Clock was unveiled at 18.57pm on the 9th of November, 1989 – an evening when history accelerated, when Germany and Europe were finally reunited and the hopes of millions were met.

The Berlin Peace Clock shows that time never stops, that societies are always evolving, that aspirations for dignity and rights remain powerful drivers of human development.

We have seen this power at work during this historic year of change in the Middle East.

The same forces for solidarity and dignity are at play with sport.

All of us experience every day the passion of sport, its ability to bring people together, to change lives for the better.

Since its creation in 2001, the *United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace*, led by Mr. Lemke, has promoted sport to convey messages for peace and development – especially with young people.



Mr. Lemke has worked tirelessly to facilitate the social impact of sports on human development.

This lies at the heart also of the work of UNESCO.

The Organization was created in 1945 to build the defences of peace in the minds of women and men through cooperation in education, culture, the sciences and communication.

Sport holds a special place here -- as a channel for communicating with young people, as a way to challenge stereotypes and promote gender equality in action.

Sport is a power for peace, for social inclusion, for economic development.

These goals guide UNESCO's partnership in Africa with *The Association for International Sport for All* - better known as 'TAFISA'.

Our partnership with F.C. Malaga is another example of this work to harness the power of sport to foster tolerance and promote inclusion.

In all of this, we are committed to coordinated action within the United Nations. This is why the leadership of Mr. Wilfried Lemke of the *United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace* is so important.

The Berlin Peace Clock Award pays tribute to his leadership.

It pays tribute also to the deep engagement of Germany in UNESCO and to the dynamism of the National Commission of Germany.

I congratulate Mr. Lemke once again and look again to deepening our cooperation, namely through the *UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport*, to make the most sport to promote positive change, to build bridges between people, to foster peace and development."

Irina Bokova