

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE CALLING FOR OBSERVANCE  
OF THE OLYMPIC TRUCE

8 August 2008

01/06/12

The Olympic Games celebrate the human spirit. They bring together athletes from myriad backgrounds, all cultures and every nationality in a common endeavor to excel -- to run faster, reach further, and aim higher. But the true excellence of the Games rests in their ability to unite humanity around universal aspirations: equality, fair play, sportsmanship, tolerance and, above all, peace.

These values represent the driving force of the Olympic Movement, which employs the potential of sports to promote a culture of peace, prosperity and human dignity. These same ideals underpin the United Nations Charter and its aspirations to promote human welfare, safeguard human rights and enhance global understanding and cooperation. Taken together, the Olympic Movement and the United Nations constitute a gold medal team in the race to advance humanity's most cherished ideals.

The most visible and immediate manifestation of teamwork between the UN and the Olympic Movement is the Olympic Truce, which calls for a worldwide cessation of all hostilities for the duration of the Games.

Though limited in duration, this Truce has unlimited potential. It can provide a pause in which to reconsider the heavy cost of war; an opening to initiate a dialogue, and a window to provide relief for suffering populations. It can demonstrate to the world that peace is possible in even the most seemingly intractable situations if we truly work towards it.

But the Olympic Truce is only meaningful in its observance. I join the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations General Assembly in calling on all those who are at war to observe this Truce. Let them lay down their weapons, if only temporarily, so that humanity can lay claim to gold even before the Games begin.

12-05027

SCH/08/002

COV/11/001

JUN 20 2012

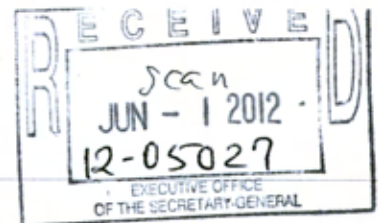
COV/11/001

ACTION

JAH/HEM (w/enc.)

COPY

cde



**Fw: Video Message SG for the Olympic Truce**

SGCentral to: Mamua Jeme

Sent by: Jill Annitto

01/06/2012 08:40 AM

Dear Sir/Madam,

This serves to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence at the Executive Office of the Secretary-General that

Reference: 12-049

Sincerely,



Ms. Jill Annitto  
Associate Information Management Officer  
Central Records Unit  
Executive Office of the Secretary-General  
NL-3015-T  
New York, NY 10017

Fax: (212)963-2155

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----- Forwarded by Jill Annitto/NY/UNO on 01/06/2012 08:40 AM -----

**Fw: Video Message SG for the Olympic Truce**

Susana Malcorra to: SGCentral

01/06/2012 08:14 AM

Cc: Janice Willingston, Judith Balasubramaniam

Susana Malcorra  
Chef de Cabinet  
Executive Office of the Secretary-General  
Room NL-3018  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY 10017

----- Forwarded by Susana Malcorra/NY/UNO on 01/06/2012 08:14 AM -----

From: Poul HANSEN/UNOG/GVA/UNO@UNGVA  
To: Susana Malcorra/NY/UNO@UNHQ

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**  
--  
**VIDEO MESSAGE**  
**FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES AND TRUCE**  
**To be recorded on 10 July 2012**

01/06/12

I am Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

[PAUSE]

The United Nations and the Olympic Movement bring countries together. We believe in peace.

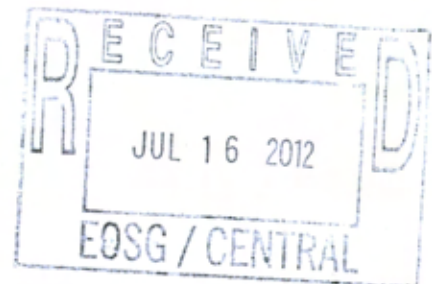
That is why we proclaim an Olympic Truce.

I call on warring parties everywhere to lay down their weapons during the Games.

One day of peace can lead to a week of peace ... a month of peace ... and eventually an end to war.

The United Nations was founded on this dream. Every day we work to make peace a reality.

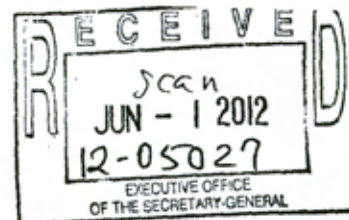
May the torch of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London unite the world for harmony and peace.



12-05027 SC#108/002 COM/11/001



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To: Susana Malcorra/NY/UNO@UNHQ

SC/106/007 - GM/11/001

Best regards,

**Poul Hansen**  
Head of Office



UNITED NATIONS  
**UNOSDP**  
Office on Sport for  
Development and Peace

**United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace**

Villa La Pelouse, Palais des Nations  
1211 Geneva 10

Tel: +41 (0) 22 917 32 58

Fax: +41 (0) 22 917 07 12

Email: [phansen@unog.ch](mailto:phansen@unog.ch)

Web: <http://www.un.org/sport>



sg msg olympic games and truce\_converted.mp4



SG Message on the Olympic Truce for the 2008 Beijing OG.pdf

Poul HANSEN

Let's make this the main part of the request. A si...

31/05/2012 12:30:21 PM

From: Poul HANSEN/UNOG/GVA/UNO@UNGVA  
To: Eric Dienes/NY/UNO@UNHQ@UN-MAILHUB@HUBGVA  
Date: 31/05/2012 12:30 PM  
Subject: Re: Video Message SG

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A similar request to the UNGA President should also go from our office.

Thanks for preparing

**Poul Hansen**  
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31.05.2012 18:26:02

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[attachment "sg msg olympic games and truce\_c...

31/05/2012 11:58:07 AM



Cc: Wonsoo Kim/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Eric Dienes/NY/UNO@UNHQ  
Date: 01/06/2012 03:43 AM  
Subject: Video Message SG for the Olympic Truce

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Dear Mrs. Malcorra,

First a belated congratulations on your appointment as CdC.

I take this opportunity to briefly introducing myself and our Office, the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP), under the leadership of USG Lemke, the SG's Special Adviser. Our office is based in Geneva, while my colleague Eric Dienes (in cc) runs our NY Liaison Office.

I am looking forward to a continued close and fruitful cooperation.

I would like to bring to your attention and consideration a couple of current issues related to our partnership with the Olympic family.

As we understand, the SG at the invitation of the IOC has decided to do the Olympic Torch Run in London prior to the opening of the Games. We think that this provides an excellent opportunity for the visibility and deepening of our partnership with the Olympic family, as well as providing an opportunity for an high-level policy approach in collaboration with the UK hosts vis-a-vis the many Heads of State that will attend the opening of the Games, an issue that I am already discussing with members of the EOSG.

The IOC has approached us to inquire if the SG could kindly provide a brief video message on the Olympic Truce. Since 1994 the GA adopts resolutions urging the observance of the Olympic Truce. Last October, the Resolution for the London Games broke a GA record in terms of universal co-sponsorship: all 193 Member States co-sponsored the Resolution.

In the past, SG Ban also provided a recorded message ahead of the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008, which was also played on large screens in the stadium. Please see attached the video message and the traditional written statement, which is different in its wording. Please note that the IOC asked us to facilitate a video message also from the PGA. The PGA will, as accustomed, organize and hold a solemn appeal in the GA on the Olympic Truce. Needless to say that we will remain at your disposal to provide more information / a first draft script if deemed appropriate.

I would also like to inform you that the IOC and our Office is planning to organize the third edition of the UN-IOC International Forum on Sport, Peace and Development at UNHQ in New York on 5 and 6 June 2013. Previous editions have been held at in Geneva and in Lausanne (HQ of the IOC). The 2011 edition, which was held at UNOG in May that year, featured the participation of SG Ban, who delivered the opening address as well as inter alia some Heads of State and other government officials, high-level officials from UN agencies and world sports organizations, such as Dr. Jacques Rogge, IOC President.

Mr. Lemke would be very grateful if the SG could again honour the 2013 Forum in NY with his presence and remarks. 2013 will be the last year in office of Dr. Rogge, with whom the SG has developed close and friendly working relationship.

I thank you very much for your attention and look forward to hearing from you.

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