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# Olympic Truce

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## Sergei Ling, Permanent Representative of Belarus

[...] The discussion on this issue in the UN General Assembly is a unique opportunity for the United Nations to involve a comprehensive potential of the international community in maintaining international peace and security by mobilizing resources of sports for implementation of its major goal, which is to save present and succeeding generations from the scourge of

war. From the ancient times, sports and the Olympic ideals have been an inalienable part of peace and progress. We are convinced that while we have entered into the 21 st century, this age-old tradition should be preserved and strengthened. The United Nations possesses all the necessary instruments for further promoting the development of Olympic ideals in the

interests of humankind. [...] Contemporary global challenges and threats, which are faced by humankind, require global and comprehensive reaction. We should explore all the means which are available in the arsenal of the international community in order to achieve peace. Sports is a powerful source for achieving that goal.

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## Sandra Vassallo, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Malta

[...] Apart from being a spectacle of competitive sport, skill and stamina, the Olympic Games are rich in symbolic significance, which is as relevant today as it was centuries ago in ancient Greece. [...] The Olympic Games could be considered as a diplomatic tool, which enhances United Nations efforts in the promotion of peace. The Games offer the same search for cooperation, understanding and fruitful interaction which leads to dialogue and initiatives on a large number of issues. Gone are the days when countries felt that for whatever reason they had to boycott the Games. Nowadays all countries par-

ticipate and compete side by side. It was gratifying to watch the athletes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea marching together during the Australian Games in 2000. [...] The Olympic Truce basically signifies the cessation of belligerence among countries and peoples in armed conflict for at least the duration of the Games. The UN has the obligation of furthering this concept into a more proactive stance. Through the promotion of a better understanding among nations, the international community can contribute towards the elimination of the scourge of war. [...] Participation

is not about winning medals. Winning is not everything. Although competition by nature generates a degree of thirst for success, yet the notion of having contributed towards the building of a peaceful world by far transcends any other consideration. It is my delegation's belief that each and every athlete, successful or otherwise, can look at his or her participation, with the satisfaction of having contributed towards the creation of a better world. My delegation would like to express the wish that the journey of the Olympic flame may serve as a beacon for the human race in its quest for good will and peace.

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## Orlando Requeijo, Deputy Permanent Representative of Cuba

Sport and the Olympic ideal certainly contribute to better knowledge and mutual understanding, as well as to the development and strengthening of friendship and brotherhood between

peoples, which are vital components for promoting peace, cooperation between nations and the harmonious development of humanity. [...] Globalisation in the field of sport must

be that of cooperation, respect and fairness, and not the internationalisation of injustice and inequality. On this basis, we can move ahead towards the true Olympic ideal.