

6 April 2014

**Message of H.E. John W. Ashe
President of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,
on the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace**

April 6, 2014 marks the inaugural International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. Sport serves to empower individuals and brings divided groups together. Since the adoption of the 1993 General Assembly Resolution dedicated to sport, the United Nations and partners worldwide have been committed to integrating sport into social policies.

When it is deployed effectively, sport contributes to the advancement of peace, child and youth empowerment, health, social inclusion, and equality.

On this day, I call on Member States to encourage participation in sport as a means of advancing our Post-2015 Development Agenda. In the past, sport has helped create exchanges and friendly interactions between groups caught up in violent conflict. It has provided opportunities for youths to learn about moral values, fair play, motivation, leadership, and teamwork, while serving as a gateway to education.

More than a celebration, let us see this day as an opportunity for the United Nations family to come together and recognize sport as a crucial means of building community.