



SPECIAL ADVISER
TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON SPORT FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE



Special Message from Mr. Wilfried Lemke

Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General
on Sport for Development and Peace

NATIONAL PARALYMPIC DAY CEREMONY



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As the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP), I am honored to offer my support to the Iranian National Paralympic Day.

The United Nations considers sport to be an innovative and efficient tool to promote education, health, development, and peace. It is clear that Iran, through its efforts to encourage inclusion for all through sport, shares this sentiment.

Following much success from previous National Paralympic events, I am incredibly pleased to see that Iran holds the Paralympic Movement with such high regard that it declared 12 October the National Paralympic Day. The initiative is an extraordinary example of Iran's dedication to growing the Paralympic spirit and empowering those living with a disability.

With 30,000 able and disabled persons expected to participate across Iran, the celebrations of the National Paralympic Day has the potential to inspire a wide range of individuals and society groups, thereby encouraging and empowering persons with a disability seeking better recognition in society. It is a great step forward in changing the public perception towards people with disabilities, an important priority of mine and my mandate as Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace.

I encourage the Iranian government and citizens to continue to lead by example in promoting the Paralympic spirit and inclusion for all through sport. It is my hope that this example will reverberated around the world for years to come.

I congratulate and thank you for your participation in the 2014 National Paralympic Day Ceremony. I wish you all the best for a joyful event.

Geneva, 10 September 2014

Wilfried Lemke

Under-Secretary-General

Special Adviser to the Secretary-General
on Sport for Development and Peace