



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



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 for the third consecutive year. I am especially delighted to have the opportunity to personally take part in this event for the first time.

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.

The National Paralympic Day in Iran is a wonderful initiative. Last year, 8.000 children with disabilities were celebrating this event. Indeed, the Islamic Republic of Iran holds the Paralympic Movement with such high regard that the Government declared 12 October the National Paralympic Day.

This is an example which needs to be spread all over the world. I encourage the Iranian government and citizens to continue to lead by example. Promoting the Paralympic spirit is a great way to reduce inequalities and disparities, and it is an excellent way to promote inclusion.

This 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 wish you every success in your endeavour and all the best in the continuation of your exceptional efforts throughout the coming years.

I congratulate and thank you for your participation in the 2015 National Paralympic Day Ceremony. I wish you all the best for a joyful event.

Geneva, 07 October 2015

Wilfried Lemke

Under-Secretary-General

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