

for demonstrating ability, skills acquisition and personal achievement, through a process of social interaction.

Sport and physical activity is critical for girls. Through sport, girls acquire new interpersonal networks and access to ne

summer as one important forum for dissemination. It would be interesting to know the extent to which any of these recommendations has been followed up in the sporting world.

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Let me also raise a challenge at this meeting. The United Nations Secretary-General has launched a multi-year campaign to eradicate violence against women: “UNiTE to end violence against women” which will run until 2015, to coincide with the target-date for the MDGs. The Secretary-General has called on all stakeholders to work with him in achieving this critical mission – through increasing global advocacy, strengthening the work at national level, and through the United Nations leading by example. Stakeholders are encouraged to find ways to make visible contributions to the campaign. Violence against women is an important issue in the sporting arena. It would be important to find ways to make a significant contribution to the Secretary-General’s campaign.

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Let me close by highlighting the need to strengthen awareness of the importance of sport and physical activity for women and girls. Low levels of awareness and interest lead to gender inequality in terms of investments in facilities, resources, opporents in