

## Press release

### International Organisations and International Sports Federations

## Partnerships for efficiencies

**Today, some 70 representatives of international organisations and international sports federations met to reflect on how to exploit the opportunities created by possible partnerships. Organised by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the states of Geneva and Vaud gathered under the aegis of the Métropole Lémanique, the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace and the Geneva Welcome Centre, the seminar brought together experts from 15 international organisations and 20 international sports federations.**

The Métropole Lémanique is home to more International Organisations (IOs) and International Sports Federations (IFs) than any other region in the world. Although areas of intersection between these two sectors exist, synergies can still be widely developed.

To start with, Mr. Wilfried Lemke, special adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace, recalled the international framework highlighting the importance of the objectives of sustainable development, recently adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Mr. Lemke also referred to resolution 24/1 of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all and to strengthen universal respect for them.

The Ambassador Alexandre Fasel, permanent representative of Switzerland to the United Nations Office in Geneva, highlighted the added value of cooperation between international organisations and sports federations to increase the efficiency of Geneva as an international hub. "Partners who share the same values of peace and inclusive participation are pooling their skills and their resources" said Ambassador Fasel, adding "here in Switzerland, these collaborations help to overcome difficult situations and promote reconciliation, as well furthering the general well-being of societies. "

After the presentation of two case studies by the NGO 'Right to Play' and the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB), representatives of IOs, IFs and other associations discussed the elements necessary for the implementation of sustainable projects and solid partnerships, with a focus on the areas of sponsorship and funding.

At the end of the morning, Mr. Philippe Leuba, State Counsellor and Head of the Department of Economy and Sport in the Canton of Vaud, underlined the commitment of the cantonal authorities to the development of the Métropole Lémanique region as an international hub. He noted how this international vocation requires permanent attention, especially in the context of growing competition across the world.

This event has enabled various stakeholders from different backgrounds to identify the various issues and constraints in the development of partnerships. It has also highlighted the role of sport as a tool in the service of humanitarian action and as communication support to mobilise public opinion.

Given the positive feedback from participants, the organisers will meet again to discuss potential next action steps.

Geneva, January 21, 2016

Additional information:

[Mission Suisse] Paola Ceresetti, spokesperson DFAE, phone: 079 240 19 18

[VD] Philippe Leuba, Head of the Department of Economy and Sport, phone: 021 316 60 10

[VD] Métropole Lémanique, Roland Ecoffey, Head of International Affairs Office, phone: 079 310 89 75

[GE] Anna-Karina Kolb, Head of the Federal and Foreign Affairs Department, phone: 079 639 21 48

[CAGI] Pierre de Cocatrix, Director of the Geneva Welcome Centre, phone: 022 546 14 00