



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



## Message by Mr. Wilfried Lemke

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

### Kilimanjaro Initiative 2009 Climb



In my capacity as Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, I am delighted to express my unreserved support for the Kilimanjaro Initiative's 2009 Climb. As part of the global UN campaign 'UNite to Combat Climate Change', this year's climb will highlight – with the melting ice of Mount Kilimanjaro as a backdrop – how global warming has a direct impact on the living conditions of individuals and communities throughout the world. By raising awareness about

the impact of global warming, including in populated urban areas, the Kilimanjaro Initiative will assist in the achievement of MDG 7 of “ensuring environmental sustainability.”

The initiative clearly exemplifies the power of sport and physical activity in bringing together people from different social, economic, cultural and religious backgrounds. The 2009 Climb provides the opportunity for ten youths from impoverished urban areas of Kenya, Tanzania and Ghana to join representatives of the public and private sectors in the ascent. Reaching the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro calls for determination, courage, discipline and humility but also for mutual assistance, communication and respect for one another. While unable to participate in the climb myself, a member of my staff will represent me on the slopes of the mountain.

The Kilimanjaro Initiative will soon be officially launched as a Kenyan-based International NGO, supported by an international network of committed partners including UN entities – the UN Federal Credit Union (UNFCU), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the UN Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) – as well as civil society organizations including the NGO 'Play Soccer'. Such synergies will enable further support to youth-based initiatives in East Africa and the continued construction and reconstruction of sports fields.

I look forward to a continued collaboration with the Kilimanjaro initiative and wish all participants in the climb the very best in this life-changing experience!

Wilfried Lemke