



Geneva, 31 January 2007

**Message by Mr. Adolf Ogi**

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

**Under-Secretary-General**

To the organizers of La Route d'Elissa 2007,

In my capacity as Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, I would like to congratulate you on organizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of "La Route d'Elissa".

This unique initiative plays an important role in spreading the message of peace in the Mediterranean region. "La Route d'Elissa" brings together courageous and determined female navigators of diverse countries, religions, cultures and expertise to voyage across the Mediterranean. Together, these women send forth a signal that the integrating power of sport is strong enough to overcome all differences as we focus our efforts on reaching a common goal peacefully.

"La Route d'Elissa" proves that sport, as a universal language, is a powerful vehicle to promote peace, tolerance and understanding. Sport can help provide a structured and constructive outlet, particularly for those affected by conflict. And when sporting activities are guided by the aspiration to promote peace, intercultural dialogue, and the empowerment of women, we are all affected by the message and driven to contribute to these worthy goals.

I sincerely hope that "La Route d'Elissa" will be successfully launched in 2007 and guided by fair winds and the full support from all its partners.

Yours sincerely,

Adolf Ogi  
Former President of Switzerland



SPECIAL ADVISER  
TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL  
ON SPORT FOR  
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