



SOCIAL COHESION, SOCIETAL VALUES AND DIPLOMACY

**An Initiative of the World Diplomatic Academy
and the President
of the General Conference of UNESCO, Ambassador Altay Cengizer**

Democracies of the post-industrial world as well as most of other countries are confronted with a slow and inexorable structural dislocation of their social base, generating despair among youth, social disorder, insecurity, criminality, radicalization and terrorism.

The cause is all too obvious. Its origin is driven by the chronic weakening and progressive disappearance of a "social cohesion" within each nation.

Social cohesion is a reality based on the intensity of the relationships that exist between the characteristics belonging to the same social structure.

Social cohesion is the bond that connects the members of a group to each other, on the one hand, and to the group as a whole, on the other.

However, social relations can only exist and flourish within the framework of spontaneous adherence and operational respect for essential values which are (1) respect for one another, (2) meaning and respect for one's own dignity, (3) self-control, and the permanent practice of such an attribute (4) spontaneously adhered to behavioral discipline, awareness of and respect thereof (5) the social role of one another, (6) courage and determination in action, (7) sincerity, (8) modesty, and a sense of its importance 9) honor and (10) respect for one's word and commitment.

Today these values are less and less perceptible in the daily life in our societies. They often seem to have disappeared. Obviously, they are no longer practiced except by Sport, whose role is essential in shaping minds and mentalities while the educational role of the family is inexorably disappearing and the school, in its traditional conception, is itself even outdated.

In this sense, the Initiative of the World Diplomatic Academy is quite innovative and really operational insofar as it has become necessary to clarify things and to work in a credible way.

Indeed, a number of Organizations, with a more or less disinterested purpose, have appeared in recent years, attempting to occupy a niche that no one has really been able to define because totally disconnected from reality.



It manifests itself in a way that combines the notions of "sport" and "peace", and, in particular by taking advantage of the image of certain athletes and giving them an aspiring role in establishing or maintaining Peace.

While the intention can, under certain conditions, be laudable, it is totally unrealistic because it ignores the reality on the ground. Unfortunately, it is not enough to organize a sporting event, such as a football match or a ping-pong competition in a conflict or post-conflict environment to really contribute to Peace!

Such initiatives may be attractive if their aim is to create a friendly atmosphere in a difficult setting, such as a refugee camp, but they have, and will never have the slightest effect on what "peace" should be, whether social or international!

Indeed

- the athlete has very limited opportunity to contribute to making or consolidating Peace. He does not have the capacity or the skills. He will never have any influence on the national or global context of war or peace because only politicians and governments can decide on peace or war ...
- **it would also be a serious mistake to make Sport something other than a game and to downgrade Sport and athletes into the political arena!**
- but on another hand, and this is an essential point, Sport and athletes are the **depositories of essential social values** which, currently, tend to ignore the social framework, destroying thereby any hope of true cohesion
- governments therefore have the duty to appropriate these values and contribute to their implementation in order to temper, or even stop, the social breakdown which threatens them
- peace, whether internal or external, is built at several levels, starting with a real social cohesion within each country. Such a cohesion influences people's minds and behavior.
- achieving a social balance within each country, which is the primary condition for peace among States.
- historically, warmonger States never experienced real social cohesion based on real values.
- governments must promote social cohesion vis-a-vis each citizen, starting with youth, the values associated with Sport and invent the means of a dynamic and effective measures in this area

THE GOVERNANCE OF EACH COUNTRY MUST THEREFORE RE-APPROPRIATE AND PROMOTE THESE VALUES. THE ONLY MEANS IS THROUGH THE INTEGRATION OF THE **GOVERNANCE OF SPORT** WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF **GLOBAL GOVERNANCE** IN A PROFESSIONAL AND DYNAMIC MANNER

Internationally, any conflict requires the intervention of at least two countries which, with some exceptions, live in close proximity to neighbors.



The World Diplomatic Academy will therefore seek to address the issue of social cohesion from an international perspective, particularly regional, with the mission of stimulating diplomatic initiatives in this direction.

TOWARDS AN OPERATIONAL ACTION IN FAVOR OF SOCIAL COHESION

This will arise from our approach that a real exercise of Sport by young people, under the direction of knowledgeable and competent professionals that stimulates the instillation of Sporting values. That is the essential component of a good formation of minds and behavior, which is socially adapted.

In fact, instilling in young people the values associated with Sport can only be achieved by inducing the true and healthy practice of Sport.

All educational systems must be remodeled to integrate, within each educational program, an important role linked to the practice of several sports. The proper training of the mind is indeed just as necessary as the acquisition of academic knowledge itself.

In the educational system of most countries, 'sport at school is generally practiced in a very modest and limited way under the guidance of 'gymnastics teachers' whose goodwill cannot be doubted but whose role no longer reflects the demands of our society.

1

Throughout the entire so-called "secondary" school course, young people must participate in the enjoyment and opportunity to practice intensive sport activities on a daily basis, while the timetables for other teaching courses are adjusted accordingly.

This allows pupils and students to achieve a good level of sport practice, to imbue their minds, but above all to shape the framework of their group relations with their peers, the first laboratory of social relations that they will face later.

With three to eight hours of weekly training, with regular friendly competitions on weekends, pupils and students develop a taste for sport while devoting sufficient time to the purely academic aspects, the level of which must, naturally, be preserved.

2

Selected sport disciplines must then be given priority in alternation to compose a varied and attractive weekly program. For example judo, football, swimming etc.

Agreements must be negotiated with the **national sporting federations**, within a pre-established framework with the **international sporting federations**, so that the exercise of Sport education is thus carried out in a coordinated and appropriate manner under the authority, quality control and with the participation of selected athletes or former athletes.



3

The organization of friendly competitions between classes and high schools or colleges gives the teaching of the sport practiced in these conditions a very special flavor and depth.

Such exchanges and contacts, in a regional and then international framework, will allow minds to open up to "one another" in a dynamic and structured way with regard to the values mentioned above.