



**Video message by  
H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, President of the Economic and Social  
Council  
for the UN Tolerance Day commemoration  
during the United Through Sports World Youth Festival 2022**

16 November 2022

It is my great pleasure to join you in commemorating the International Day for Tolerance as you come together to unite through sports and celebrate the power of youth.

The world is facing deep challenges. The devastating impact of climate change is being felt on every continent. The Sustainable Development Goals are under threat. Global food and energy prices have skyrocketed, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine. The recovery from COVID-19 has had major setbacks.

Yes, the picture is rather grim but it can be changed and you, young people, can bring that change.

It is our duty to reverse the troublesome trends in discrimination, exclusion, inequality and violence. These should not continue to permeate. Hate, injustice and intolerance must be stopped.

We need to build societies that protect human rights and enable the realization of the full human potential through equal access to education, resources and opportunities and through leaving no one behind, especially the most vulnerable.



Sports can be a catalyst for change and a key enabler of inclusion and sustainable development. It is a powerful vehicle in preventing conflict and promoting tolerance.

Sports can improve young people's opportunities, confidence, and sense of belonging. It is a unique language understood by many, transcending borders and building bridges between different communities.

Use the transformative power of sports to advance solidarity between people and across societies and generations.

And remember, tolerance is practiced and it starts with each one of us.