



## **Fourth edition of Doha GOALS Forum to be held in Los Angeles, July 25-27** *Global sports forum will partner with Special Olympics for 2015*

(Doha, Qatar, April 2015): The fourth edition of **Doha GOALS**, the world's leading platform focusing on sport as a driver of social and economic change, will be held in Los Angeles from July 25-27 2015. Doha GOALS Forum will partner with **Special Olympics** this year for the three-day summit and legacy programme.

The 2015 edition Forum will debate topics such as women and young people in sport, philanthropy and CSR initiatives featuring sport, and sport's role in promoting inclusion in society.

The summit will be held during the week of the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles – the first time the Forum has been held outside Qatar.

Doha GOALS is a **call to action** for policymakers, NGOs, corporations and athletes alike. **H.E. Sheikh Faisal bin Mubarak Al Thani**, Executive Director of Doha GOALS, said: "This year, we have chosen to partner with the Special Olympics, the world's most wide-reaching organization focusing on sport for development, especially to the most marginalized people on earth – people with intellectual disabilities. Our partnership will go beyond a presence at the World Games, and will cover initiatives to last year-round to promote sport as a tool for creating a more inclusive society."

Executive producer **Richard Attias** added: "After three years, we are very proud to bring the Doha GOALS Forum to America. The Forum is truly becoming a platform for dialogue, providing inspiration for years to come. "

A number of initiatives have been created through Doha GOALS in the past 24 months, including a program to build sports fields in disadvantaged communities and a prosthetics program backed by Paralympic champions.

Janet Froetscher, Chief Executive Officer of the Special Olympics, said: "We have spent more than four decades proving to the world that sport has the power to transform lives and communities. We are delighted to partner with the Doha GOALS Forum this year: it is a platform that brings together global decision-makers with a clear agenda to act and make impact. The backdrop of our World Games offers the perfect opportunity for leaders to see first-hand the immediate and positive impact sport can have and the lasting legacy it can bring to creating an inclusive and respectful society."

To date, the Doha GOALS Forum has brought together more than 5,000 participants from 70 countries to discuss how sport can be used to solve some of the world's greatest social and economic challenges.

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## **EDITORS' NOTES**

### **About Aspire Zone Foundation**

Having been established in 2003 as a Sports City project, Aspire Zone Foundation (AZF) today works to develop sports champions, promote healthy lifestyles, provide sports medicine services, and galvanize the sports economy of today and of the future. Aspire Zone Foundation (AZF) is a pioneering international sports project, thanks to its member organization which embraces Aspire Academy, Aspetar and Aspire Logistics. All these corporate entities were unified by Emiri decree in 2008.

### **About Richard Attias & Associates**

Richard Attias & Associates helps nations, leaders and corporations build their global influence, catalyze innovation and lead the global exchange of ideas to attract investment projects in their economic diversification strategy.

Under the leadership of its founder and Chairman Richard Attias, RA&A acquired an international reputation in advising heads of state and governments on strategic communications and global positioning.

Some of the work that Richard Attias & Associates has created or produced recently includes: the New York Forum® and New York Forum® AFRICA; the Doha GOALS Forum; the Global Food Security Forum; the Global Entrepreneurship Summit, The Francophonie Summit and Economic Forum, the Egypt Economic Development Conference, the BUILD Africa Forum and the Climate South Initiative. Previously, Richard Attias was the executive producer of the Davos Forum for 15 years.

<http://www.richardattiasassociates.com>

### **About Special Olympics**

Special Olympics is a global movement that unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sports, every day around the world. We empower people with intellectual disabilities to become accepted and valued members of their communities, which leads to a more respectful and inclusive society for all. Using sports as the catalyst and programming around health and education, Special Olympics is fighting inactivity, injustice and intolerance. Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the Special Olympics movement has grown to more than 4.4 million athletes in 170 countries. With the support of more than 1.3 million coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics delivers 32 Olympic-type sports and more than 81,000 games and competitions throughout the year. Special Olympics is supported by individuals, foundations and partners, including the Christmas Records Trust, the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics®, The Coca-Cola Company, The Walt Disney Company and ESPN, Lions Clubs International, Mattel, Microsoft, P&G, Bank of America, Essilor Vision Foundation, the B. Thomas Golisano Foundation, Finish Line, The Safeway Foundation, and Safilo Group. Visit Special Olympics at [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org). Engage with us on: Twitter [@specialolympics](https://twitter.com/specialolympics); [fb.com/specialolympics](https://fb.com/specialolympics); [youtube.com/specialolympicshq](https://youtube.com/specialolympicshq), [instagram.com/specialolympics](https://instagram.com/specialolympics) and [specialolympicsblog.wordpress.com](http://specialolympicsblog.wordpress.com)

### **About the Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles 2015**

With 7,000 athletes and 3,000 coaches representing 177 countries, along with 30,000 volunteers and an anticipated 500,000 spectators, the 2015 Special Olympics World Games - being staged in Los Angeles July 25 - August 2, 2015 - will be the largest sports and humanitarian event anywhere in the world in 2015, and the single biggest event in Los Angeles since the 1984 Olympic Games. The 2015 Special Olympics World Games, with the unparalleled spirit, enthusiasm, teamwork, joy and displays of courage and skill that are hallmarks of all Special Olympics events, will feature 25 Olympic-style sports in venues throughout the Los Angeles region. The Opening Ceremony, to be held July 25, 2015 in the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, site of the 1932 and 1984 Olympic Games, is

expected to attract 80,000 spectators. For more information on the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, including volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, visit [www.LA2015.org](http://www.LA2015.org) and on social with #ReachUpLA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).