

**2010 SPECIAL OLYMCPIS GLOBAL CONGRESS
FACT SHEET**

Overview

The 2010 Special Olympics Global Congress is a four day event which will unite Special Olympics leaders of all levels of the movement to engage in a serious global dialogue to discuss best practices, share ideas and chart the course for the future of the Special Olympics movement.

The 2010 Global Congress is being supported under the Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco and is being made possible through the vision and leadership of Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Amina.

Background

In May 2000, Special Olympics leaders convened in The Hague, The Netherlands to participate in the first-ever Special Olympics Global Summit and Athlete Congress.

Over the past 10 years, Special Olympics has grown rapidly in so many directions - tripled the number of participating athletes to nearly 3.5 million; established new Special Olympics Programs in more than 20 new countries which now establishes the movement in more than 170 nations worldwide; added new and enhanced initiatives in the areas of education, youth engagement, health, research and family support; introduced new official sports, and welcomed more volunteers and coaches.

The 2010 Global Congress and Athlete Congress will galvanize the great leaders of Special Olympics to help the movement grow even larger throughout the world.

Delegates

600 - Total Delegates participating in the Global Congress

139 - Countries represented

174 - Special Olympics Programs Represented

66 - International Special Olympics athletes participating in the Global Athlete Congress

100 - Special Olympics Morocco Athletes participating in the Global Athlete Congress and Sports Experience

When

Sunday 6 June – Thursday 10 June 2010

Where

Palais des Congres, Marrakech, Morocco

Global Congress Mission

The 2010 Global Congress will align the Special Olympics movement leaders around a new five-year strategic plan and energize the movement to carry the torch of Special Olympics late founder, Eunice Kennedy Shriver. Leadership will honor Mrs. Shriver by igniting an even bolder movement in support of the Special Olympics mission to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Delegates will also discuss ways in which to build communities of acceptance and inclusion throughout the world.

Schedule Overview

6 June Global Athlete Congress

More than 100 Special Olympics athlete leaders from around the world will join together to discuss the present and future of the Special Olympics movement and make collective recommendations to the Special Olympics International Board of Directors.

7 June Global Congress Opening Session

More than 600 Special Olympics leaders from around the world will celebrate the opening of the 2010 Special Olympics Global Congress. The Congress will begin with motivational messages that will energize leaders around the strategic plan and focus Delegates on the work at hand throughout the next few days and beyond.

Track Discussions

Delegates will engage in discussions examining the Strategic Plan.

Official Dinner Hosted by His Majesty King Mohamed VI

8 June Track Discussions & Plenary Panel Discussions

Delegates will engage in discussions examining the Strategic Plan.

Panel Discussion: *Marketing and Fund Raising in a Global and Competitive Environment*

Hear from global marketing experts as they discuss what drives their global success and how Special Olympics can learn from their experience to help achieve strategic objectives as a movement.

Panel Discussion – *Coaching Excellence and the Athlete Experience*

In true Special Olympics fashion, this panel of some of the world's greatest competitors and organizers will examine the issue of coaching excellence through the lens of athletes.

Official Dinner Hosted by Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Amina

9 June Special Olympics International Board of Directors Meeting

Panel Discussion – *Youth Activation and Engagement*

Hear from young leaders from across the Special Olympics movement as they inspire Delegates to take action in their local communities through activating and engaging young leaders.

Panel Discussion – *Bringing Together Agents of Change to Build Stronger Communities for our Athletes*

In this session, Delegates will hear from community leaders who have a proven record of building and implementing change in communities around the world. They will discuss their work and ways that Special Olympics programs can form partnerships that will help achieve strategic objectives.

Closing Session and Ceremony

Delegates will make their commitments for the future, bringing the strategic pillars to life for the global Special Olympics movement.

Sports Experience

Delegates and athletes will join together in fun Special Olympics Unified Sports® activities, joined by the athletes of Special Olympics Morocco and Moroccan Olympic legends. Upon check-in, guests will be invited to sign up for a sports activity if they wish to participate on the field.

Official Closing Dinner hosted by Ministry of Tourism

10 June Delegates Depart