

# 58. UN Session - Sports, Culture & Human Rights

## Christoph Mbedi– Head of Tala Mosika

25 march 2025 Presentation «Tala Mosika, DR Congo, at the UN in Geneva by  
Christophe Mbedi , powered by River of Hope, Switzerland

**The story of starting up a school in DR Congo by Claudia Doron,  
a woman with a vision.**

For further information: [www.ariverofhope.org](http://www.ariverofhope.org) / [www.claudiodoron.com](http://www.claudiodoron.com)  
UN Presentation : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1854OhVoh-g>  
DOK Film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=wmqtN7zr1Bo>

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### ***The Role of Sport in Improving Social and Community Life***

How can sport contribute to realizing fundamental human rights where the needs are greatest? Imagine, through the experience of the Tala Mosika Center, a world where sport is not just entertainment, but a vehicle for education, health, and social inclusion.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests: Sport is much more than just a leisure activity. It is a powerful lever for social development and an effective tool for promoting human rights. By fostering inclusion, equality, and mutual respect, it contributes to building a more just and harmonious society. This presentation will highlight the role of sport in improving human rights through the experience of the Tala Mosika Center in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Introducing the Head of the Tala Mosika Center, the Founder of River of Hope, and the inspiration behind River of Hope.

**The Tala Mosika Center (Look Beyond)** is the result of the vision and dedication of two individuals committed to the cause of education and community development. Allow me to introduce myself:

**I am Christophe Mbedi**, a teacher and journalist, and I am the head of the Tala Mosika Center. My commitment to education and human rights has led me to work tirelessly to offer disadvantaged youth a better future. For over 15 years, I have been working to build a framework for learning and social empowerment, using sport as a lever for inclusion and social transformation, with the unconditional support of the founder, Claudia Doron.

**Claudia Doron** is not only the founder of the Swiss organization River of Hope. She is the visionary who breathed life into our Tala Mosika project, transformative for the Selo community. Far from choosing the DRC as a predefined field of action, it was the project itself, responding to a crying need, that found her. This is where Claudia's leadership made the difference. Far from imposing ready-made solutions, Claudia guided us to become the architects of our own development by strengthening our capacity to think independently. We moved from passively absorbing information to confidently sharing our own ideas. We took charge of our development and acted where necessary to make it work for us. Her leadership is a catalyst for change, proving that with the right approach, it is possible to transform lives and build a better future.

**The name 'River of Hope'** was inspired by the work of Dr. Nathaniel Doron, Claudia's father-in-law. He served in developing countries since 1968, for 30 years, and his last 25 years as a former United Nations official and diplomat. He was our Honorary President, dedicating his life to fighting poverty, famine, and AIDS around the world. He touched the lives of thousands of children and adults in the most impoverished regions of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. "Nathaniel Doron, who passed away in July 2019, leaves us a legacy of his smile, his compassion, and his desire for a better world. His autobiography, River of Hope, will ensure that his memory lives on. Rest in peace." History of the Sport & Education Project

Fifteen years ago, the village of Selo, located 64 km from Kinshasa, suffered from an alarming illiteracy rate and very limited access to educational and health services. Faced with this situation, Claudia and I decided to launch an innovative project combining education, sports, and community development. The project began with limited resources but a strong vision. In the first classroom, literacy classes were held for the village's mothers, and then soccer was used to attract young people and encourage them to stay in school.

***Over the years, the center has grown to include:***

- An officially recognized primary and secondary school powered by solar energy.
  - A medical center offering basic care and hygiene and health awareness campaigns.
  - A boarding school with a dining hall, dormitories, and sanitation facilities.
  - A FIFA-sized soccer field, used to train young players, some of whom now play in professional clubs.
- Interschool tournaments and programs to promote girls' inclusion in sports. Thanks to these achievements, more than 500 children are enrolled in school each year, and many families have seen their quality of life improved through education and sports.

***Sports as a Tool for Social Inclusion and Education***

The Tala Mosika center has used football as a means to attract street children to education. This approach has helped raise awareness of the importance of school, particularly for girls, who are often disadvantaged by local traditions. Furthermore, literacy programs for mothers have been implemented to combat educational exclusion and encourage children's schooling.

***Sports and Improving Living Conditions***

In the village of Selo, the Tala Mosika center has not limited itself to education and football. We have also contributed to improving health and social infrastructure. A medical center has been built, providing residents with access to basic healthcare. In addition, workshops on hygiene, health, and the values of fair play have been organized to raise awareness among young people.

***Challenges***

Despite these advances, the Tala Mosika center faces several challenges, including the state's failure to pay its teachers in accordance with the ordinance governing its creation and operation, and the lack of drinking water, which is the cause of several waterborne diseases. We urgently need a new borehole.

***Rethinking the School***

To sustain our efforts and ensure sustainable development, several initiatives are being considered:

- Diversification of sports disciplines and transformation into a SMAC (Sports, Music, Art, and Culture) school: In addition to football, the center hopes to introduce other sports such as basketball, volleyball, and tennis to attract more young people, particularly girls, and cultural activities.
- Infrastructure strengthening: The construction of new buildings for teaching and accommodation is planned, as well as the installation of drinking water supply systems and sports facilities.
- Partnerships and institutional support: Seeking partnerships with national and international organizations such as LCPA and the Wawrinka Academy in Lausanne is essential to secure financial and technical support.
- Youth training and empowerment: In addition to sports training, the center aims to offer vocational training to help young people better integrate into the job market.
- Promotion of gender equality: A special effort will be made to encourage the participation of girls and combat the prejudices that limit their access to sports and education.

## Conclusion

Sport, beyond its physical benefits, is a true catalyst for social change. The experience of the Tala Mosika center shows that sport can be used to combat exclusion, promote education, and foster peace. By joining forces, we can guarantee every individual the right to a dignified and fulfilling life.

## Acknowledgments

Before closing, Claudia and I would like to express our deep gratitude to the organizers of this event for providing us with this valuable opportunity to share our experience and vision. We also extend our sincere thanks to our partner, the Local Community Prosperity Alliance (LCPA), whose unwavering support allows us to share our project here. Through this collaboration, we can continue to build a better future for the children and youth of our community.

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**Urgent appeal: Please donate so we can finally build a new well with a water kiosk.**

**The cost will be approximately CHF 50,000.**



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**Beneficiary:** River of Hope (RoH), Claudia Doron

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