



# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLAY



## Celebrate the Promise of Play at the UN Headquarters

**Date:** June 11, 2024

**Location:** United Nations Headquarters, New York

This 11th June will be the inaugural International Day of Play (IDOP) following the adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution 78/268 on March 25, 2024, with the support of 140 member states and a tenacious coalition of non-governmental and private sector partners convened. The core group of member States who tabled the IDOP resolution – Bulgaria, El Salvador, Jamaica, Kenya, Luxembourg, and Viet Nam – is co-organizing together with UNICEF, UNESCO and LEGO a high-quality launch of IDOP at the UN in New York.

IDOP is an opportunity to celebrate play not only as a mere leisure activity but a vital component of human development across all ages that contributes to the holistic growth of individuals across cognitive, social, emotional, and physical domains. IDOP recognises the central role of play for all human beings throughout the life cycle, therefore contributing to the broader economic and social development of societies and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### High-Level IDOP Event

**Date:** June 11, 2024 – 1:15 PM to 2:25 PM

**Location:** Trusteeship Council – UNHQ

Delve into discussions on how play is pivotal to child development and societal advancement globally.

To register, go to [bit.ly/IDOPEVENT2024](https://bit.ly/IDOPEVENT2024)

### UN Play Experience

**Date:** June 11, 2024 – 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

**Location:** UNHQ Grounds

Join us for a delightful afternoon at the UN, where we invite your children aged 6 to 10 years to explore a series of interactive play stations.

To register yourself and your child, go to [bit.ly/IDOPPLAY2024](https://bit.ly/IDOPPLAY2024)

### Logistics Note

Please access the logistics note at [bit.ly/idoplogisticsnote2024](https://bit.ly/idoplogisticsnote2024)

For questions about registration, please reach out to [events@unicef.org](mailto:events@unicef.org)



# UN High-Level IDOP Event

## Meeting Objectives

The IDOP events aim to raise awareness about the critical role of play for human development through interactive activities and engaging discussions in order to develop a deeper understanding of the relevance of play and how play serves as a critical building block in the growth and learning process of individuals, particularly during childhood.

- To elevate the International Day of Play as a compelling, new global moment to promote, measure and advocate for tangible progress on the right to play
- To celebrate play as a shared, human experience relying on the following essential conditions:
  - Time to Play. Families, parents, and children need time to play.
  - Space to Play. Diverse, inclusive, and safe play spaces need to be at the heart of every community.
  - Quality of Play. Evidence and knowledge on play needs to be at the core of all service providers who engage with families and children.
  - Play Never Ends Playfulness is an asset for everyone. The more of it we have in work and leisure, the happier we will be and the healthier our society will be too.
- To provide tangible experiences of play to children through interactive and educational activities on site at the UN on June 11.

## Participation

- The event will be convened on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 from 1:15 p.m. to 2:25 p.m. (EDT) at the UN Headquarters in New York. It will take place in-person and be live streamed on UN Web TV.
- The event will be held in English, while interpretation services in French, Arabic, Spanish, Chinese, and Russian will be available.
- To register to this event, go to [bit.ly/IDOPEVENT2024](https://bit.ly/IDOPEVENT2024)

## Program

Time	Activity	Details
1:15 PM - 1:25 PM	Opening Remarks	Welcome remarks from the moderator. Possible interactive play-based activity led by the core group of Permanent Missions and Lego
1:25 PM - 2:10 PM	Panel Discussion: The Global Impact of Play	High-Level Panel on the Importance of IDOP as an international day. Moderated to ensure focused dialogue. Speaker profile: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ambassador Stoeva -Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations (moderator)</li><li>• Eliot Minchenberg, Director, UNESCO Office UN New York</li><li>• UNICEF Representative</li><li>• President of the LEGO Group in the Americas, Skip Kodak</li></ul>
2:10 PM - 2:20 PM	Respondent Interventions	Members of civil society
2:20 PM - 2:25 PM	Closing Remarks	H.E. Mrs. Gabriela de Bukele First Lady of the Republic of El Salvador



# UN Play Experience

## Activity Objectives

This UN play experience will feature an array of interactive stations, each dedicated to a different type of play: physical, social and emotional, creative, and cognitive. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore a diverse collection of games enriching their play experience. Moreover, the activities are thoughtfully designed to cater to children from various cultures and backgrounds, ensuring an inclusive and engaging environment for all participants, managed in collaboration with partners from Sesame Workshop and Lego.

- **Promote the Importance of Play:** Highlight the critical role of play in the holistic development of children, emphasizing its benefits for physical, social, emotional, creative, and cognitive growth.
- **Provide Hands-On Learning Opportunities:** Offer interactive stations that allow children to engage in different types of play, enhancing their learning experiences through physical activities, social interactions, creative endeavors, and cognitive challenges.
- **Collaborate with Esteemed Partners:** Leverage the expertise and resources of partners such as Sesame Workshop and Lego to deliver high-quality, enriching play experiences.
- **Raise Awareness and Advocacy:** Use the event to raise awareness among stakeholders and the public about the importance of play in child development and advocate for policies and initiatives that support play-based learning and activities.
- **Create a Memorable Experience:** Ensure the event is enjoyable and memorable for all participants, leaving a lasting positive impact on the children and their families.

## Participation

We invite all UN system and Permanent Mission staff who have children to join us for a delightful late afternoon of exploration and fun at the International Day of Play. This special event promises a rich program of activities tailored to entertain and engage young minds through a variety of interactive play stations. It is a fantastic opportunity for the children of our global community to come together, learn from diverse cultures, and make new friends in a vibrant, playful setting. Don't miss out on this unique chance for your children to play, learn, and grow with us!

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