



International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

Side-Event: “Scoring for People and the Planet: sport and the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of the SDGs”

6 April 2023, 8 am - 9.30 am (EST)

Virtual

Concept Note

Global overarching theme of the 2023 International Day of Sport for Development and Peace: “Scoring for People and the Planet”.

Introduction

This event intends to contribute to the celebration of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) – focusing on a sectioned conversation: social, environment, economy. The event will provide a platform for emphasizing the role of sport in promoting peace and development as underlined in the preamble of the 2030 Agenda and help create a more inclusive society respectful of the environment for a more sustainable and equitable world. Specifically, this will be conducted by discussing the role of sport in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in their social, economic, and environmental dimensions: today, in fact the expanding sport sector provides opportunities for social inclusion, inclusive and decent employment, economic growth, and environmental sustainability. Sport also represents an important social platform to raise awareness on the existing social and environmental challenges, and to champion sustainable behaviours. This virtual side-event will therefore represent an important opportunity to assess the positive contribution of sport in achieving the sustainable development goals, in view of the forthcoming SDGs Summit in September 2023.

Background

As a universal language that reaches millions of people worldwide, regardless of cultural, socio-economic, geographical, and ability differences, sport is placed at a unique position to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) is an innovative approach that uses sports as an enabler tool to achieve development objectives and promote peace in society. The United Nations (UN) recognizes

sports as an essential tool for achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda and has encouraged its inclusion in development strategies.

Some of the most significant impacts of sport for development and peace are in promoting good health and well-being (SDG3); education (SDG4); gender equality (SDG 5); reducing poverty (SDG1) and inequalities (SDG10) by creating decent work and economic growth (SDG 8); overcoming environmental degradation due to climate change (SDG13); life on land (SDG15); peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG16); and strengthen multilateralism through partnerships (SDG17). By contributing to all 17 SDGs sport can be key to empower marginalized groups by promoting social inclusion and cohesion, economic growth and protection of the environment. Governments, the private sector and people (3P) are increasingly recognizing and leveraging the power of sport as a tool to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs for a sustainable development and peace.

The Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD) in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), houses the substantive mandate on sport for development and peace globally. Given the ever-growing awareness of the important role of sport as a tool for social, economic and environmental development and peace, DISD has created a Compendium on Sport for Development and Peace - a live document - with the aim to capture emerging trends on sport for development and peace and provide a preliminary analysis of their main features. The publication is thought to support Member States and organizations interested in networking with other governments and institutions, and in benefitting from other Member States and organizations' experiences in the practice of sport for development. In its first chapter the Compendium maps the landscape of governmental initiatives on sport for development and peace and SDGs. The chapter provides an overview on good practices on how Member States leverage sport for SDGs in the social, economic, environmental dimensions. This first chapter, which covers initiatives undertaken by Member States, will be further expanded, and updated. The subsequent chapter, forthcoming, will focus on programs and actions pursued by the private sector.

Goals and Objectives

The side-event aims at creating a space where participants can have a dialogue and find common interest therefore facilitating the creation of networks in areas of interest by shedding light on the role of sport in:

1. Tackling the various SDGs and sport for development and peace from the social, economic and environmental dimensions for the well-being of people and the planet as a way to contribute, inter alia, to the SDGs Summit in September 2023.
2. Raising awareness and share good practices.
3. Propose recommendations and innovative solutions as well as the next steps on how the sport sector can promote SDGs which will feed in the next Secretary General Report on Sport.

Guiding questions:

1. What is the added value of addressing the 2030 Agenda through sport: which are the opportunities that the sport sector provides that other sectors do not provide in the achievement of social, economic and environmental dimensions of the SDGs?

2. What are the policies, concrete solutions and approaches that have been taken or could be taken in the sport sector to achieve the social/economic/environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals?
3. What have you/your organization done and are planning to do to contribute to the achievement of the social/economic/environmental dimensions of the sustainable development goals?
4. What are the partnerships and/or networks you are collaborating with, or you would like to collaborate with, to achieve the social/economic/environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda objectives?