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| **Request for contributions to the report of the Secretary-General on “Sport as an enabler of sustainable development”**  |

**Areas:**

* Draw on the UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, Kazan Action Plan, WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity and related frameworks to integrate sport as a driver of sustainable development and peace in cross-cutting 2030 Agenda strategies;
* Leverage sport events to promote and support sport for sustainable development, climate action, or peace initiatives;

OHCHR holds a mandate to ensure the promotion and protection of individuals against all forms of discrimination, including in sports. This mandate involves programmatic interventions at country and regional levels, supporting human rights mechanisms, setting normative developments, and amplifying the voices of those affected by racism, discrimination, violence, especially women, youth, and marginalized groups. Zero Tolerance for all forms of discrimination is one of the main blocks of the OHCHR approach that promotes human rights in the realm of sports. Zero Tolerance for Discrimination in sports upholds the equal treatment and provides a framework for combating discrimination based on race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability, and other factors. The commitment to fight discrimination ensures that everyone, regardless of their background, has an equal and fair opportunity to participate, compete, and benefit from sports.

OHCHR aims to ensure that **no one is left behind by eliminating racial inequalities, advancing empowerment, inclusion, and gender equality in and through sports**. It seeks to **contribute to strengthening the global framework on sport for development and peace**. For example, OHCHR contributes to the International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport ([MINEPS](https://en.unesco.org/themes/sport-and-anti-doping/mineps)), the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport ([CIGEPS](https://www.unesco.org/en/sport-and-anti-doping/cigeps)), the Interagency Group for Sport, Development and Peace ([IAGSDP](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/iagsdp.html)), the UN and external Focal Points for Sport, Development and Peace. In addition, OHCHR actively collaborates with UN entities such as UNESCO, the Global Observatory on Gender Equality, UN Women, and UNAIDS in various events aimed at promoting the rights of women and girls in sports.

Building on past collaborations in the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia, and lessons learned from the World Cup in Qatar, OHCHR work focus on mobilizing partners at the policy level to fight discrimination. More recently, OHCHR and FIFA collaborated on the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand in July and Aug 2023. The thematic focus was on Non-Discrimination, cantered around Inclusion and the rights of Indigenous Peoples. During the tournament, many thematic messages relevant to non-discrimination were promoted inside the stadiums to raise awareness and promote human rights, targeting thousands of people, including fans, spectators, media, and other stakeholders. In this context, OHCHR co-organized a panel discussion on the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples with FIFA to highlight key issues on the rights of IP and to call for Governments and FIFA to take action against violence and racism and ensure the full participation of women and girls in football, both on the pitch and in decision-making positions. Similar efforts were made during OHCHR's interactions with sporting organizations, such as the FIFA Summit on the safeguarding and protection of individuals against abuse in sports from October 25 to 26, 2023, in Zurich, Switzerland. During the Human Rights Council sessions, OHCHR continues to raise awareness of challenges and explore avenues to better ensure the protection of affected groups in sports. On October 5, 2023, OHCHR, in collaboration with other organizations, hosted a side event during the 54th session of the Human Rights Council, emphasizing the eradication of gender-based violence in sports and the advancement of the rights of girls and women. The event garnered support from five permanent missions, notably Australia, Mexico, South Africa, Spain, and Switzerland. Experts from various fields, including the Spanish President of the High Council for Sport, a member of the CEDAW Committee, representatives from regional sports organizations, a delegate from FIFA, and a South African civil society organization, participated. Discussions covered critical topics such as adopting an intersectional approach, employing disaggregated data to combat gender-based violence, ensuring human rights accountability, and devising strategies involving human rights mechanisms and regional organizations.

On December 4, 2023, OHCHR participated in an event dedicated to commemorating the UNiTE 16 Days of Activism Campaign against Gender-Based Violence. Organized in collaboration with UN Women, the Global Observatory, UNESCO, and UNAIDS, the gathering brought together diverse stakeholders to focus on eliminating gender-based violence in and through sports. The theme, "The Power of Collective and United Action," aimed to foster unity and engagement in identifying optimal strategies for preventing and responding to gender-based violence, particularly within the sports realm.

OHCHR organized a panel discussion on fighting racism in sports during the intergovernmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action 21st session in October 2023. The panel stressed adopting a human rights-based approach and actively combating racism during sporting events through awareness-raising and education programs and sanctions for racist manifestations. It also called for promoting collaboration among sports organizations, sport’s governing bodies, athletes, government bodies, and civil society in the fight against racism in sports. The panel outcome will feed into the IGWG report as recommendations to Member States to fight racism in sport.

OHCHR co-hosted the [Sporting Chance Forum](https://www.sporthumanrights.org/events/sporting-chance-forum-2023/) held in Geneva in December 2023, organized by the Centre for Sport and Human Rights, in which it engaged in constructive dialogues with various stakeholders on the HRC 54/25 and the opportunities in sports to address racial inequality & legacies of colonialism as well as on the intersectionality of racism and discrimination against women.

Suggested recommendations:

1. Establish comprehensive policies and guidelines that explicitly promote human rights, non-discrimination, and equality by all actors relevant to sports. These policies should address various forms of discrimination, related intolerance and exclusion. They should implement measures to ensure compliance with human rights and non-discrimination such as monitoring mechanisms, reporting systems, remedies, and accountability.

2. Create educational programs and awareness campaigns to inform athletes, coaches, administrators, with special focus on fans and spectators about human rights and non-discrimination.

3. Forge partnerships and collaborations between sports organizations, government bodies, national human rights institutions, NGOs, and human rights advocates to advance the human rights agenda in sports.