



UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT

A/79/289

*United by our Common Goals – Ensuring the Impact of
Sport on Sustainable Development and Peace*



DESA

Social



Five Themes

**Social
inclusion**

**Physical
activity**

**Gender
equality**

**Peacebuilding
and crime
prevention**

**Sustainable
communities
and climate
action**

**25 submissions from
Member States**

**17 submissions from UN
Entities**

**22 submissions from
other stakeholders**



I. *Social Inclusion Through Sport*



- Examines the impact of SDP programmes and policies on social inclusion.
- Focuses on progress in implementing the UN Action Plan on Sport and increasing inclusion in physical activity, quality physical education, and community-level sports (SDGs 3, 4 and 10).
- Findings:
 - There is progress in SDP policies related to strengthening social inclusion and reducing barriers - such as with women girls, youth, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, and persons with disabilities.
- Key challenges:
 - Poor accessibility; lack of appropriate/adapted equipment; and lack of appropriately trained staff.



2. *Physical Activity, Physical Education, and Community-based Participation in Sport*



- Role in Health:
 - Prevents noncommunicable diseases
 - Promotes health across all age groups
- Recent Progress:
 - Global monitoring improvements
 - Response to UN Action Plan on Sport
- Current Challenges:
 - Rising Inactivity: 1 in 3 adults inactive (WHO 2024)
 - Significant disparities with older adults and persons with disabilities
 - Insufficient data on adolescent activity
 - Lack of quality physical education
 - Uneven monitoring of policy implementation



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



3. *Sustainable Communities and Climate Action*



- Sport is both affected by and contributes to climate change
 - Rising temperatures, extreme weather, and pollution impact athletes and spectators
- Progress is evidenced by various frameworks and initiatives, such as the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework and the UN Sport for Nature Framework.
- Sport organizations have a unique opportunity to influence millions of fans to take climate action.
- Leveraging this cultural influence is key to amplifying the sector's impact on fighting climate change.



4. *Gender Equality In and Through Sport*



- Progress:
 - Leadership roles, gender parity in 2024 Olympics, equalized prize money.
- Challenges
 - No female athletes in high-earning lists
 - Widespread violence and abuse
 - Gaps in opportunities and participation for women and girls.
- Moving forward, advocacy, investment, and continued implementation of gender-balanced initiatives are essential to advance progress toward SDG 5.



5. *Peacebuilding and Crime Prevention*



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



- Youth violence results in numerous deaths, and injuries
 - Youth homicides accounting for 37% of global homicides annually
- Sport can address this by promoting fair play, preventing violent extremism, and fostering safer communities.
- Safe sport environments and the protection of athletes helps prevent harassment and corruption within sport, especially among vulnerable youth.



Recommendations



United Nations System

- Update 2018 UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace;
- Strengthen collaboration, coordination and knowledge sharing within and across the sport ecosystem at all levels.

Member States and the Global Sport Ecosystem

- Mobilize resources to strengthen the capacity of the UN secretariat; Encourage and support countries in committing to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;
- Perform a rapid stakeholder review to assess the needs and opportunities for accelerating progress on inclusivity in sport;
- Advocate for and mobilize increased investment through sustainable funding streams to implement SDP programmes and policies;
- Develop and deliver training resources to strengthen capacities within the sport ecosystem.

