**TEMPLATE FOR REPORTING ON RECENT INITIATIVES ON SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE**

***Fit for Life and the fight against racism and racial discrimination in and through sport***

***Task:*** *Provide a summary of the initiative, including a brief overview, proposed/actual outcomes and an assessment of any lessons learned and the way forward.*

***Timeframe:*** *Please only include initiatives that fall within the reporting timeframe of January 2022 – February 2024*

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| **Please provide more details on each initiative including items below:** |
| **Objective(s):** | *Please indicate which, if any, of the following fall among the main objectives of the initiative:* |
| * Ensuring no one is left behind (advancing empowerment, inclusiveness and equality through sport)
 | * Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity
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| * Leveraging sports events to promote action to combat climate change, advance peace and/or sustainable development
 | * Conflict prevention/peace building
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| * Research development, data collection and/or data dissemination
 | * Safely harnessing sport for sustainable development, peace and wellbeing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through the use of technology
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| * Reinforce the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty in times of multiple crises, leading to the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions
 | * Safeguarding sport from corruption and crime
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| * Strengthened global framework on sport for development and peace
 | * Other (please specify)
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| **Situation** | *What is the challenge or problem that the initiative aims to address?**Sport has the power to bring people together and promote values such as respect, solidarity and fair play. However, sports competitions are also a platform where racism and discrimination persist, affecting athletes, fans and the entire sport community. As an example,* [*one out of two*](https://blog.forzafootball.com/kick-it-out/) *football fans have witnessed racist abuses while watching a game. Such behaviours not only undermine the spirit of friendly competition but also perpetuates harmful stereotypes and prejudices. From discrimination in recruitment, selection, and sponsoring, to racial slurs and physical altercations on and off the field, racism in sports has serious consequences that perpetuate systemic inequality.**At the 7th International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS VII), which took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 26 to 29 June 2023, UNESCO Member States adopted* [*the MINEPS VII Outcome Document*](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000385925)*, in which they expressed concern about the persistence of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance in the sport ecosystem. As a response, they put forward in the same document the fight against racism and racial discrimination in and through sport as a cross-cutting component of UNESCO's* [*Fit for Life*](https://www.unesco.org/en/fit4life?TSPD_101_R0=080713870fab2000ffb180d374394c9b7042448fab0f00bec31e50908b58dd1ab813e38b961aed4108649bdd8d1430000c5e576bb5e1122f041cde9b5ea6762def74963ef5aa4f5edec4472ea314e876a296c73467783036e955c2d5a045be8f) *sport flagship.* *As part of UNESCO’s 3rd Global Forum against Racism and Discrimination (1 December 2023, São Paulo, Brazil), UNESCO organized the panel "The ball is in our court: using sport as a tool to combat racism", in which panelists (top athletes, public authorities and relevant stakeholders) stressed the need for (i) increased dialogue on the issue of racism in sport, (ii) more robust legislation and stronger mechanisms to punish/penalize racist behaviours, (iii) increased awareness and promotion of capacity building trainings focused on learning how to identify and address racism, and (iv) strengthened collective action leading to more impactful outcomes regarding equality, inclusion and non-discrimination. The underrepresentation of black persons and racial/ethnic minorities within the sport industry, notably in high-level management and leadership positions, was also one of the issues raised in the panel, and which this initiative is aiming to address.* |
| **Implementation mechanisms:** | *What are the means/processes of implementation of the initiative?**At the 217th session of UNESCO’s Executive Board (October 2023), Member States adopted* [*Decision 217 EX/38*](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/in/documentViewer.xhtml?v=2.1.196&id=p::usmarcdef_0000387284&file=/in/rest/annotationSVC/DownloadWatermarkedAttachment/attach_import_1b11ee5b-2388-4016-a7f7-88730ddb1bfa%3F_%3D387284eng.pdf&locale=en&multi=true&ark=/ark:/48223/pf0000387284/PDF/387284eng.pdf#%5B%7B%22num%22%3A121%2C%22gen%22%3A0%7D%2C%7B%22name%22%3A%22XYZ%22%7D%2C54%2C136%2C0%5D) *“Fit for Life and the fight against racism and racial discrimination in and through sport”, in which they called on UNESCO to advance collective action to tackle racism and racial discrimination within the sport ecosystem, as well as to leverage sport as a tool to tackle racist behaviours in society more broadly. This decision, initially proposed by Brazil, and co-sponsored by over 55 Member States, strengthens UNESCO’s mandate in the fight against racism in and through sport, in connection with and contributing to the goals and objectives of* [*UNESCO’s Roadmap against Racism and Discrimination*](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000380821)*.**In this decision, Member States requested UNESCO to establish a Fit for Life network of high-level athletes and other relevant stakeholder, aimed at enhancing collective efforts to fight racism “in” sport and “through” sport. The network will reinforce UNESCO's efforts and actions in this field across four main objectives:* * *Strengthen multistakeholder collaboration to support actions to fight racism and discrimination in and through sport.*
* *Raise awareness on the widespread existence of racism and racial discrimination in sport and advocate for systemic change within the sport ecosystem to ensure a secure environment, free from harassment, aggression, and violence rooted in racial prejudices.*
* *Contribute to strengthening the evidence base on the roots, manifestations, and repercussions of racist incidents in sport, by fostering the creation and mobilization of knowledge.*
* *Contribute to enhancing Member States and stakeholders’ capacities in fighting against racism in and through sport by supporting the development and implementation of targeted policies and programmes.*

*The Network will be established following UNESCO’s 219th Executive Board session (March 2024) and will be composed of high-level athletes, experts, and organizations from the public and private sectors, including NGOs and universities.* *What are the main deliverables/activities involved?**In alignment with* [*Decision 217 EX/38*](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/in/documentViewer.xhtml?v=2.1.196&id=p::usmarcdef_0000387284&file=/in/rest/annotationSVC/DownloadWatermarkedAttachment/attach_import_1b11ee5b-2388-4016-a7f7-88730ddb1bfa%3F_%3D387284eng.pdf&locale=en&multi=true&ark=/ark:/48223/pf0000387284/PDF/387284eng.pdf#%5B%7B%22num%22%3A121%2C%22gen%22%3A0%7D%2C%7B%22name%22%3A%22XYZ%22%7D%2C54%2C136%2C0%5D) *and in the framework of the 3rd Global Forum against Racism and Discrimination (São Paulo, Brazil, 01 December 2023), the above-mentioned sport and antiracism panel brought together three high-level athletes (Daiane dos Santos, Brazilian Olympic gymnast; Fernanda Garay, Brazilian Olympic volleyball player; and Risper Biyaki, Kenyan-Mexican marathon runner), and representatives from the Brazilian Ministry of Sport, the International Sport Press Association (AIPS), ACES Europe and the Brazilian Olympic Institute. Moderated by Professor Katia Rubio from the University of São Paulo, the panel showcased good practices and highlighted the importance of joining forces to develop action-based strategies aimed at addressing racism in and through sport. During the roundtable, the athletes shared their stories and personal experiences dealing with racist incidents in sport, while the other panelists highlighted ongoing initiatives related to sport and antiracism and the difficulties they encounter in implementing them/scaling the impact.* *The new report "Creating inclusive cities through sport," which was produced by UNESCO, ACES Europe and the Association of Sports and Municipalities, in 2023, was presented during the panel. It included examples from the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR), framed within the Fit for Life initiative and aiming to persuade policymakers to prioritize sport for social inclusion in their agendas.**The panel ended with specific recommendations that emphasized UNESCO's leadership in advancing this agenda, which will be further analyzed and actioned via the soon to be established Fit for Life Network against Racism, in which all panelists already confirmed their engagement.**What is the time frame of implementation?**During the upcoming 219th session of UNESCO’s Executive Board, Member States will consider document* [*219 EX/10*](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000388466?posInSet=1&queryId=47a4c0cd-72b8-43a0-a009-a4133d80957c) *related to the establishment of the Fit for Life Network against Racism and UNESCO’s activities in this field. It is proposed to launch the Network in the second semester of 2024 during a high-level global event.*  |
| **Target Audience(s):** | *Who are the beneficiaries of the proposed/implemented initiative?**The beneficiaries encompass a broad spectrum, ranging from individual athletes to entire communities and society, with the initiative aiming to create a positive ripple effect that transcends the boundaries of the sports industry.** *UNESCO’s actions in the field of sport and antiracism will benefits athletes (elite and grassroot levels) by fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment, free from racial prejudices and all forms of racism. In addition, the Fit for Life Network will provide them with a platform to contribute to the fight against racism and racial discrimination, amplifying their voices and influence.*
* *Coaches, administrators, managers, staff within the sports community, representatives from sport organizations and sport-related public authorities will also benefit from awareness, values education, knowledge production and capacity-building activities.*
* *Sports enthusiasts/fans and the general public will benefit from a more inclusive and diverse representation within the sports industry. The initiative aims to foster an environment where fans feel a sense of belonging and where the values of diversity and antiracism are reflected in the sports they follow.*
* *Furthermore, the Fit for Life network against racism will have the potential to positively impact communities that are traditionally underrepresented or marginalized in sports. By addressing systemic barriers, it opens opportunities for individuals from diverse backgrounds, contributing to social cohesion and empowerment.*
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| **Partners/Funding:** | *Who are the main organizations/entities involved in the initiative and what are their roles?**As previously mentioned, Member States called on UNESCO’ Secretariat to launch the Fit for Life Network against Racism, which will bring together top athletes, experts, academia and relevant public and private stakeholders and organizations from across the world to combat racism in and through sport. Athletes such as Daiane dos Santos, Fernanda Garay, Risper Biyaki as well as the Brazilian Olympic Committee and the Brazilian Sport Ministry already agreed to engage with the Network.* *What are the main sources of funding of the initiative?**In* [*Decision 217 EX/38*](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/in/documentViewer.xhtml?v=2.1.196&id=p::usmarcdef_0000387284&file=/in/rest/annotationSVC/DownloadWatermarkedAttachment/attach_import_1b11ee5b-2388-4016-a7f7-88730ddb1bfa%3F_%3D387284eng.pdf&locale=en&multi=true&ark=/ark:/48223/pf0000387284/PDF/387284eng.pdf#%5B%7B%22num%22%3A121%2C%22gen%22%3A0%7D%2C%7B%22name%22%3A%22XYZ%22%7D%2C54%2C136%2C0%5D) *and in document* [*219 EX/10*](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000388466?posInSet=1&queryId=47a4c0cd-72b8-43a0-a009-a4133d80957c)*, UNESCO’s Secretariat encourages Member States to mobilize in-kind and financial support for the establishment of the Fit for Life network. All activities within the Network are subject to available in-kind and financial resources.* |
| **SDG Alignment:** | *To what SDG goal/target/indicator is this initiative targeted?** *SDG 4, Advance Quality Education; as some activities could focus on prevention and values education through sport focusing on racial biases, cultural competency, and sensitivity training to create a more inclusive environment.*
* *SDG 5, Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls with a focus on Target 5.5 (Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life). Some of the foreseen activities will involve efforts aimed at diversifying leadership positions within the sports ecosystem (black women, women from racial/ethnic minorities, for example) to ensure an equitable and fair participation of all ethnicities in sport.*
* *SDG 10, Reduce inequality within and among countries with a focus on Target 10.2 (By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status). UNESCO’s actions aimed at tackling racism and racial discrimination in sports align with the larger objectives of lowering disparities, encouraging inclusivity, and guaranteeing fair chances for everyone involved in the sports world.*
* *SDG 16, Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels with a focus on Target 16.7 (Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels). Within the sports ecosystem, through the activities of the Fit for Life Network against Racism, UNESCO will help to develop fair and inclusive institutions by fostering multistakeholder collaboration to promote measures against racism and discrimination in sports.*
* *Other SDGs: SDG 11, SDG 17.*

*Please indicate any other national or internationally agreed goals/commitments to which this initiative is aligned.** *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which emphasizes the freedom to play sports without facing discrimination based on color, ethnicity, or any other criteria. Hence, this initiative is in alignment as it will support the advancement of equality and human rights in the sports ecosystem and in society more broadly.*
* *UN International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*
* *UNESCO’s International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport*
* *UNESCO’s Roadmap against Racism and Discrimination*
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| **Alignment with global frameworks:** | *How does this initiative align with/contribute to the objectives of the* [*Kazan Action Plan*](https://en.unesco.org/mineps6/kazan-action-plan)*,* [*WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity*](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/272722/9789241514187-eng.pdf) *or other related internationally agreed frameworks on sport and/or physical activity?**The transformative potential of sport in attaining sustainable development, encouraging social inclusion, and tackling issues like discrimination is highlighted in the Kazan Action Plan. Through active advocacy, awareness campaigns, and capacity-building, UNESCO will work to uphold the values set forth in the Kazan Action Plan, including to fight against racism in and through sport.**This initiative will also contribute to the objectives of the Revised International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity, and Sport, adopted during the 38th session of UNESCO’s General Conference in 2015. Not only does the International Charter specify that the practice of physical education, physical activity, and sport are fundamental rights for everyone, it also states that sport for development and peace initiatives should aim to create a more inclusive and peaceful environment for all.*  |
| **Alignment with United Nations Action Plan on SDP:** | *Which of the four thematic areas of the* [*UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace*](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2018/06/14.pdf) *is this initiative designed to align?**The four thematic areas, as UNESCO’s actions around sport and antiracism will involve knowledge sharing and production, multistakeholder engagement, policy development, resource mobilization and impact measurement aimed at strengthening the evidence base on this issue.* *To which action area(s) of the Plan is this initiative designed to contribute?**All areas.* |
| **Outcomes:** | *What are the expected/actual outcomes of the initiative?**Some of the proposed activities for the Network, subject to available in-kind and financial resources, include:*1. ***Advocacy and Awareness Campaigns****. The Network will develop a comprehensive online Campaign against racism in sport leveraging on the Olympic year to raise awareness about the issue.*
2. ***Event Participation:*** *In 2024, UNESCO will organize a launch event for the Fit for Life Network against Racism, probably in connection with the fourth edition of the Global Forum against racism and discrimination. In 2025, UNESCO will organize a policy round table for the launch of the Report on the global status of racism in sport.*
3. ***Research and Publications:*** *The Network will conduct desk research on the publications currently available on the issue of racism in sport, as well as a mapping of the status of diverse representation of people of colours and with different ethnic backgrounds within governing bodies of sport organizations. Based on the results of the mapping, the Network will work in (i) the development of a strategy to promote greater inclusivity within the sport ecosystem, notably in leadership positions and (ii) a publication/Report on the global status of racism in sport to be launched in 2025.*

*UNESCO will promote collective action to raise awareness and enhance capacities within the sport ecosystem, including through training courses that promote useful strategies for tackling racism in sports. UNESCO and the Network will encourage the creation and implementation of evidence-based policies and initiatives related to sports and antiracism. And finally, UNESCO will collaborate with relevant parties to guarantee that athletes receive assistance and support when reporting racist incidents.* |
| **Mechanism for monitoring and evaluating implementation:** | *What are the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation, outcomes and impact of the initiative?**There will be regular reporting to the UNESCO Executive Board at the end of each biennium, focused on the activities implemented by the Network on sport and antiracism. UNESCO will report on the 219th session (March 2024) and the 222nd session of the Executive Board (Fall 2025).**What specific monitoring and evaluation tools are involved?**Regarding the reporting to Executive Board, the Secretariat will present relevant documents and decisions for consideration of Member States. Regarding the Network, each four years, UNESCO will proceed with a review of its members to ensure its effectiveness and relevance.* |
| **Challenges/Lessons learned** | *What have been/were the main challenges to implementation?**The implementation and functioning of the Network will have budgetary implications and will depend on UNESCO’s ability to raise voluntary funds. The Secretariat will actively cooperate with Member States, partners and donors to explore financial needs and opportunities to carry out the identified activities of the Network.**What lessons learned have been/can be utilized in the planning of future initiatives?**Although UNESCO has developed in the past several ad hoc activities to tackle racism in sport, the moment has now come to get to this issue with a systematic approach. Funding and human resources to ensure the activity of the Network will represent one of the main challenges.* |