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

***The 7th International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS VII)***

***(26-29 June 2023 - Baku, Azerbaijan)***

*MINEPS is a global ministerial conference engaging Ministers of Sport and Physical Education, athletes, the private sector, and other stakeholders to increase investment in sport, improve sport practices, foster quality physical education, and magnify the positive impact of sport on health, society and the economy. MINEPS VII, June 2023, was a valuable occasion to define the future of the sport-for-development ecosystem, culminating with the* [*launch of the Fit for Life Alliance*](https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-launches-fit-life-alliance)*.*

***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?**Since MINEPS VI (Kazan, 13-15 July 2017) and the adoption of the Kazan Action Plan (KAP), the world has experienced significant changes due to the global COVID-19 pandemic as well as the ongoing climate emergency and increasing conflicts across countries and regions. In 2021, UNESCO launched its* [*Fit for Life*](https://www.unesco.org/en/fit4life) *sport flagship, designed to activate smart investments in sport to tackle the rising physical inactivity, mental health issues and social inequalities. Fit for Life aims to bridge a major gap identified in the implementation of the KAP: while there has been great progress at the international level, Member States were not provided with sufficient guidance to translate this reference framework into impact at the national level. Fit for Life, MINEPS VII’s core legacy, plays therefore an important role as a follow-up and implementation framework of the Kazan Action Plan.**Despite evidence on their high returns on investment, sport and physical education continue to be underprioritized and under-utilized by global actors. Differences in data collection methodologies and impact measurement capacities lead to global/regional data gaps which need to be filled. In this context, Fit for Life acts as a framework for strengthening the evidence base demonstrating the impact that the systematic use of sport across multiple areas (gender equality, youth empowerment, social inclusion) can generate. MINEPS VII (26-29 June 2023, Baku, Azerbaijan) provided the platform to bringing together governments and public and private stakeholders to discuss collective solutions for these challenges, and to strengthen cross-sectoral, multistakeholder cooperation around Fit for Life and its different workstreams.* |
| **Implementation mechanisms:** | *What are the means/processes of implementation of the initiative?**Created in 1976, MINEPS Conferences (i) facilitate intellectual and technical exchange in the field of physical education and sport, (ii) serve as an institutional mechanism for a coherent international strategy in sport and QPE, and (iii) engage governments, intergovernmental organizations, the sport movement, academia and specialized NGOs, in collective discussions focused on strengthening sport policies and programmes to foster more inclusive and sustainable societies.* *MINEPS VII Conference brough together Member States and stakeholders in a Multistakeholder Forum (26 and 27 June 2023), which was structured around a series of roundtable discussions on gender equality, youth empowerment, data to drive investments, unlocking the potential of the African sport ecosystem and the sustainability of major sport events. Following the forum, the Ministerial segment was organized around three themes: (i) Fit for Life national implementation, (ii) Fit for Life international implementation, and (iii) protecting the integrity of sport and the wellbeing of the participants. Side events focused on impact investment, athlete’s engagement, tackling violence against women and girls in sport, also took place during the Conference.**What are the main deliverables/activities involved?**Over the years, UNESCO’s MINEPS Conferences have played a key role in setting global standards in the field of sport and physical education by promoting coherent and integrated sport policies, and engaging governments and other relevant stakeholders in action-oriented exchanges. These exchanges have contributed to the advancement of sport as a fundamental policy tool for sustainable and inclusive growth and development.**The Fit for Life Alliance, MINEPS VII’s main legacy proposition reflected in the MINEPS VII Outcome Document, was adopted by over 110 UNESCO Member States. During the event, several Member States, including coalitions of the Ibero-American Sport Council (CID), African Member States and Oceania National Olympic Committees, as well as 16 multi-sector partners, joined the Alliance and announced concrete pledges around the implementation of Fit for Life. Some of the Member States who pledged were India, South Africa, Brazil, Colombia, Chili, Ecuador, Morocco, Azerbaijan, Peru, and Slovenia; and regarding the partners we had Nike, Laureus Sport for Good Foundation, the Commonwealth Secretariat and Yunus Sports Hub.**The MINEPS VII Outcome Document reinforced UNESCO’s mandate in sport for inclusion and development, notably in relation to:* * *Advancing gender equality in and through sport;*
* *Empowering youth in and through sport;*
* *Unlocking the potential of the African sport ecosystem to foster sustainable development;*
* *Scaling public and private impact investment in sport;*
* *Strengthening the evidence base on the impact of sport;*
* *Reinforcing actions around the safeguarding of athletes and sport people; and*
* *Fostering the social and environmental legacies of major sports events.*

*Member States also supported the integration of gender, youth empowerment, the fight against all forms of racism and the inclusion of persons with disabilities as cross-cutting components of Fit for Life.**During the Conference, UNESCO and key partners presented the (i) Fit for Life Scoping Study, which identifies key challenges and opportunities to strengthen evidence in and through sport, and to scale strategic sport-focused investments; (ii) the UNESCO-UN Women Handbook on Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls; and (iii) the report “Impact Investment in Sport: Innovating the Funding of Sport for Development”, which presents case studies and highlights impact investments in sport as key opportunities for public and private investors, including governments and development banks.* *In addition to sport ministers and stakeholders, MINEPS VII also involved 20 high-level athletes, most of whom participated in the side event “Unlocking the potential of grassroots sport: athletes unite” held on 29 June 2023. During this event, the athletes shared their stories, showcased their current social engagements, and provided concrete recommendations for awareness-raising, policy advocacy and capacity-building actions within the Fit for Life framework. Some of the athletes participating in the conference included Nawal El Moutawakel, Olympic athlete; Raí Viera de Oliveira, international football player; Joanna Maranhão Olympic swimmer, and Andréa Dirabou, International rugby player.**What is the time frame of implementation?**MINEPS Conferences should occur every four years; however, due to Covid-19, MINEPS VII was held in 2023 instead of 2021. Follow-up conferences, at international, regional or national level, will be organized ahead of MINEPS VIII, to highlight progress with respect to Fit for Life and MINEPS VII Outcomes. Coinciding with the Olympic and Paralympic Games, two follow up Conferences will be organized at UNESCO Headquarters (Paris) in July and August 2024.* |
| **Target Audience(s):** | *Who are the beneficiaries of the proposed/implemented initiative?**Member States: Ministries in charge of sport, physical education, inclusion, health, gender and other relevant portfolios, as well as their population more broadly. Sport organizations, NGOs, academia and private sector actors can also benefit from the knowledge and collective opportunities offered by this Conference.* |
| **Partners/Funding:** | *Who are the main organizations/entities involved in the initiative and what are their roles?**MINEPS VII was attended by more than 500 international participants, including over 110 Member States. The conference was not limited to sport and physical education ministers, but was designed to engage a wider range of stakeholders in the field. While it remains primarily a ministerial conference, it also brought together other public authorities, athletes, international organizations, the sport movement, experts in the field, foundations, development banks and private sector representatives.* *Fit for Life is about bringing together public, private and civil society actors to innovate and implement sport-based solutions collectively. At MINEPS VII, participating Member States were able to share their challenges, needs and good practices when developing and implementing sport policies and programmes. They called for standard-setting frameworks, concrete indicators, shared databases, stronger international cooperation, better policy design, and peer learning. Member States play an important role in strengthening the educational, cultural, and social dimensions of physical education and sport while guiding UNESCO’s work in these fields. Sport organizations and private sector actors’ engagement is also important to ensure more effective implementation of sport policies and programmes.* *What are the main sources of funding of the initiative?**UNESCO Member States (selected host country of the Conference).* |
| **SDG Alignment:** | *To what SDG goal/target/indicator is this initiative targeted?**3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 16, and 17**Please indicate any other national or internationally agreed goals/commitments to which this initiative is aligned.**SDGs/2030 Agenda, UN Action Plan on SDP, Kazan Action Plan, WHO GAPPA, UNCCC Sport for Climate Action, UNICEF S4D4C.* |
| **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?**MINEPS VI (Kazan, 13-15 July 2017) marked a shift from declarations of policy intent to measurable action by adopting the Kazan Action Plan, aimed at maximizing the contributions of sport to sustainable development and peace. Fit for Life was designed to extend the reach of the Kazan Action Plan (KAP) by providing practical guidance on its translation in national and local settings and ensuring its continued relevance in light of contemporary social challenges such as COVID-19 recovery, climate change, sustainability and the energy crisis. In this context, in the* [*MINEPS VII Outcome Document*](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000385925)*, over 110 Member States recognized the role of* ***Fit for Life as a follow-up and implementation framework of the Kazan Action Plan.*** *MINEPS VII created a positive environment around Fit for Life systems change agenda, which connects directly to UNESCO’s core mandate of standard setting and will support sustainability for local impact track in the longer term by supporting policies, investments, impact measurement methodologies and implementation models which leave “no one behind”. This will contribute to the objectives of the several international frameworks on sport and physical activity, as well as to the SDG agenda, by strengthening collective efforts around the common goal of using sport for the benefit of our societies.* *MINEPS VII also endorsed draft Guidelines on Sport Integrity by the Bureau of the Eighth Conference of Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport to ensure integrity and fairness in sport.* |
| **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.**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?**As requested by Member States in the MINEPS VII Outcome Document, UNESCO will host in July 2024 a Global Sport Conference with ministerial participation coinciding with the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in order to present the advancements made in the development of the labelling system for sustainable major sport events, and to take stock of the other strands of work. In this Conference, UNESCO will present:** *The Social Impact of Sport Report, aimed at demonstrating the value-added of sport in driving outcomes in equality, wellbeing, education and employability, and presenting financial instruments and mechanisms which can be used to activate these values systematically and at scale.*
* *The Fit for Life Label for Sustainable Major Sport Events, an impact measurement framework to support host cities/countries and organizing committees in the design, implementation and evaluation of legacy plans that boost social and environmental sustainability.*
* *The Sport and Gender Equality Game Plan, which will support policy makers and sport practitioners in the design and delivery of inclusive sport policies and programmes.*
* *Findings of the Report “Global State of Play of Quality Physical Education”.*

*UNESCO will also advance with other workstreams including activities, including:** *The development of a strategy on Sport and Priority Africa*
* *The roll-out of the first Fit for Life Youth Accelerator Programme, designed to enhance youth employability and community development through values-based grassroots sport activities, trainings, mentoring and professional placements.*
* *The establishment of a Fit for Life Network Against Racism, to strengthen collective action in this fight, implementing the double approach in and through sport.*
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| **Mechanism for monitoring and evaluating implementation:** | *What are the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation, outcomes and impact of the initiative?**UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS) is the mechanism in charge of monitoring and evaluating the outcomes and initiatives of MINEPS Conferences. According the* [*Statutes*](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000372266) *of CIGEPS (article 2), one of its functions is to contribute to the preparation and follow-up of International Conferences of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (“MINEPS”), as well as relevant regional, sub-regional or national fora. CIGEPS, as an intergovernmental action-oriented platform, reinforces accountability of governments and fosters scaling-up of successful initiatives through the monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation. The 2024 CIGEPS Ordinary Session (3 and 4 April 2024) will focus on the follow up of the MINEPS VII Conference.* *What specific monitoring and evaluation tools are involved?**CIGEPS Ordinary and Extraordinary sessions. Meetings with the CIGEPS Bureau. Consultative frameworks including online informal and formal consultations with Member States, organizations and experts.* |
| **Challenges/Lessons learned** | *What have been/were the main challenges to implementation?**After conducting feasibility studies in Kenya and Azerbaijan, the UNESCO Secretariat elected Kenya to host MINEPS VII. This decision was made in recognition of the institutional “Priority Africa” and the fact that the conference had not yet been held on the continent. However, due to complications related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kenya withdrew its candidacy, and Azerbaijan was chosen as the new host for MINEPS VII. In this context, via the Outcome Document, Member States called upon UNESCO to organize the next edition, MINEPS VIII, in Africa.* *What lessons learned have been/can be utilized in the planning of future initiatives?**UNESCO have learned from past experiences (COVID pandemic as example) and has enhanced mechanisms such as CIGEPS (rules of procedure) to be more effective in the face of challenges.*  |