



Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



Reimagining cooperation on sport for persons with disabilities, leaving no one behind

International webinar | Engage and shape the future

Register here: <http://bit.ly/sport-pwds-10Nov2020>



Webinar United Nations

Zoom Platform

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/sport-pwds-10Nov2020>

Date November 10, 2020

Time 8-10am ET (2 hours)

Background

The global outbreak of COVID-19 has heavily impacted the world of sport and access to physical activity, resulting in closure of gyms, stadiums, pools, dance and fitness studios, physiotherapy centers, parks and playgrounds. It has also led to the unprecedented postponement of the Olympic and Paralympic games and the cancellation of sporting events at all levels. This, in turn, also impacts many social benefits of global and regional sport events, which can cement social cohesion, contribute to the social and emotional excitement of fans, as well as their identification with athletes leading to greater physical activity of individuals. Sport has long been considered a valuable tool for fostering communication and building bridges between communities and generations. Within this context, sport is used as a tool for creating learning opportunities and accessing often marginal or at-risk populations

The impacts of COVID-19 have also deepened existing inequalities, including for the world's more than one billion persons with disabilities. The United Nations Secretary General Policy Brief: *A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19*¹ highlights that persons with disabilities are particularly disadvantaged by the socio-economic consequences of COVID-19. In some cases, measures to control the pandemic have also caused significant disruptions to support services that are essential for safe, independent and healthy lives and have limited access to critical opportunities, including the opportunity to organize, develop and participate in disability-specific sporting and recreational activities.

¹ UN, S.-G. (n.d.). UNSDG | Policy Brief: A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19. Retrieved 3 August 2020, from <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/policy-brief-disability-inclusive-response-covid-19>

Article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) sets out measures to be taken by States Parties with a view to enabling persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in sporting activities. The Kazan Action Plan states that sport policy at the national and international levels must be inclusive, in order to contribute to the reduction of inequalities and, therefore, inclusive access by all to physical education, physical activity and sport must be a basic component of any national or international sport policy. At the same time, the preamble of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes sport as an important enabler for sustainable development and peace, promotion of respect and tolerance, and that sport, is a key tool to empower women and young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.

Last July the Secretary-General António Guterres challenged Member States to “reimagine the way nations cooperate” to respond to and recover from the pandemic. The present webinar, organized by the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, aims at raising awareness and identifying collaborative innovative solutions and responses to recovering better from the pandemic with a focus on building more equal, inclusive, resilient and sustainable economies and societies by engaging persons with disabilities and other stakeholders through sport.

Organizer

Since 2017, UN DESA, through the Division for Inclusive Social Development, has housed the substantive portfolio on sport for development and peace in the UN system. Working together with other entities of the United Nations system, international sport federations and committees, including the Olympic, Paralympic and Special Olympic movements, foundations and civil society organizations, UN DESA has been working to maximize the positive contributions of sport through the UN Action Plan on Sport.

Objectives of the Webinar

1. Take stock of challenges that COVID19 has brought in terms of access to sport and physical activity for persons with disabilities.
2. Raise awareness and share good practices regarding how sectors of sports, physical activity and games are collaborating to contribute to the reaction and recovery for

people with disabilities worldwide, aligned with the objective 1(a) and 1(b) of the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace 2018–2020.

3. Propose recommendations and innovative solutions as well as the next steps on how to respond and support the recovery of relevant sectors in the context of COVID19 to best advance the inclusive and accessible development for persons with disabilities.

Guiding questions

1. Describe the challenges faced as result of the pandemic by amateur and professional athletes with disabilities and their organizations and persons with disabilities in general to engage in sport and physical activities.
2. What are the policies, innovative solutions and approaches that have or could be taken to overcome past and present challenges in the recovery process to ensure maximum contribution of sport to inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities?
3. What have you/your organization done in response to the present pandemic and how are you collaborating with others in this work?
4. Which actions and goals are you/your organization will take on sport and persons with disabilities in the next year to ensure that your work will recover in a better form for every person with disabilities in support of the UN Decade of Action?
5. What priority actions do you intend to take in 2021 and 2022 to ensure that sport for all recovers better for persons with disabilities? and how does this align with the decade of action?

DESA/DISD welcomes written contributions from experts and organizations who may not be presenting at the webinar. These contributions, which should be submitted via email, shouldn't be longer than 1000 words, providing examples of good practices and/or detailed recommendations on further development of the field under this recovery process.

Inputs should highlight good practices developed by UN Agencies, Governments, International Sport Federations, Civil Society, Academia and lay solid foundations for the discussion on next steps in maximizing the role of sport in ensuring inclusive development for persons with disabilities.

Outcome

With a wide array of inputs, that comprehensively represents the field of Sport for Development and Peace, UN DESA may use this information to produce a policy and advocacy brief on the topic and to promote the inclusive implementation of the decade of action and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Logistics

Panelists are strongly discouraged to read statements. The time allotted will be strictly respected.

The event will take place virtually, using Zoom platform. We would recommend for panelists to have a plain background during the event; ensure that there are no people passing by in the background; and to test the microphone before the event to avoid technical issues. We will be holding a dry run on October 20, 2020 and further assist in case of additional questions. The event will be conducted in English.

CONTACT: For any questions regarding the event or for any other logistical queries, please contact: Gabriel Mayr, gabriel.mayr@un.org (preferred) Or Amine Lamrabat, lamrabat@un.org

Sign Language and Live transcription will be available