

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

*Title of initiative*

Sport and Cultural Diplomacy and “Casas Lúdicas - (recreational houses)”

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

**Please provide more details on the initiative below:**

The Comprehensive Program for Boys, Girls and Adolescents with Opportunities was created under Decree 2681 of December 2012. Through the Comprehensive Program, Colombia, and particularly its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aims to obtain technical and financial support to promote actions that lead to the integral development of children and adolescents, and to support and guide their access to the institutional offer in the municipalities vulnerable to forced recruitment.

In line with this, Colombia wishes to highlight the Sport and Cultural Diplomacy and “Casas Lúdicas - (recreational houses)” initiatives. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) have been considered by Colombia during the implementation both programs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Sports and Cultural Diplomacy Initiative was developed in the frame of the Promotion Plan of Colombia Abroad and the Comprehensive Program for Boys, Girls and Adolescents with Opportunities, as a means of strengthening Colombia’s international relations and promoting the efforts by the Colombian government to promote social inclusion, peaceful coexistence, and inter-cultural dialogue through sports and culture in the population groups most vulnerable to forced recruitment of minors, based on the conviction that both are key factors for social transformation.

The Sports and Cultural Diplomacy Initiative began in 2011 as an affirmative action after the national government voluntarily adopted the Resolution 1612 of 2005 by the United Nations Security Council on fighting against and preventing the recruitment and use of minors by illegal armed groups.

Likewise, through the Comprehensive Program, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs created safe and protective environments, called “Casas Lúdicas - (Recreational Houses)” that guarantee the development of children between 6 and 17 years old through sports, cultural and educational activities carried out during their spare time.

**Objective(s)**

Please indicate which, if any, of the following dell among the main objectives of the initiative:

	Ensuring that no one is left behind	Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world
	Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies	✓ <b>Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality</b>
	Research development, data collection and/or data dissemination	Preventing and fighting corruption in sport
	✓ <b>Conflict Prevention / Peace Building</b>	Strengthened global framework on sport for development and peace
	✓ <b>Policy development for mainstreaming and integrating sport for development and peace in development programmers and policies</b>	Resource mobilization, programming and implementation
	Research, monitoring and evaluation	Other (please specify)
<b>Implementation Mechanisms:</b>	What are the means/processes of implementation of the initiative?	
	<p>The Sports and Cultural Diplomacy Initiative by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been materialized through sports and cultural exchange programs that last from 8 to 12 days with adolescents linked to the sports and cultural processes of the Recreational Houses. The purpose of an exchange is to give teenagers between 13 to 17 years of age, an international experience that will reinforce their commitment to sports and promoting in them values associated with their practice.</p> <p>On the other hand, the Recreational Houses aim to extend the Comprehensive Program for Boys, Girls and Adolescents with Opportunities to the areas of Colombia with most vulnerable conditions. There are 30 Recreational Houses in 19 departments. Currently, about 12.000 boys, girls and adolescents benefit from this social infrastructure where they participate in activities such as sports, music, dance, singing, computer education and tutoring.</p>	
	What are the main deliverables / activities involved?	
	<p>Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on September 25 of 2015, the Colombia has delivered 78 international exchanges with the participation of 918 adolescents. In total since the creation of the initiative in 2011, 149 exchanges have been carried out</p>	

	<p>in 52 countries with the participation of 1.844 adolescents and 331 adults (coaches and music teachers) from 91 municipalities of 24 departments.</p> <p>As mentioned earlier, there are 30 Recreational Houses in 19 departments where nearly 12.000 boys, girls and adolescents benefit from this social infrastructure and participate in activities such as sports, music, dance, singing, computer education and tutoring. The commitment of the local government as well as the interest and participation of families and local communities have ensured the sustainability of the Recreational Houses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What is the time frame of implementation?</p> <p>The program is planned and delivered on yearly bases. Each sport or culture exchange last from 8 to 12 days. During that lapse, the teens accompanied by their coaches and teachers visit countries that are strong in the discipline that they practice, or whose cultural expression is similar or complementary of the Colombian one. The participants of the exchange programs are talented youth, outstanding in their discipline and academically.</p> <p>The Recreational Houses are lasting in time. They have capacity to attend 400 children and adolescents daily through the infrastructure, which guarantees the existence of a sport facility in an open area, in addition to an area with computers, library, music room, dance, arts, front desk and restrooms distributed in a total area of 1000 Sq. mt. approximately.</p>
<p><b>Target Audience(s):</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Who are the beneficiaries of the proposed/implemented initiative?</p> <p>The sport and cultural exchanges involves teenagers from 13 to 17 from the Recreational Houses.</p> <p>The target population of the Recreational Houses are boys, girls and adolescents from 6 to 17 years old of the cities and villages where they are built.</p>
<p><b>Partners/Funding</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">What are the main organizations/entities involved in the initiative and what are their roles in development and implementation?</p> <p>Executing the Sports and Cultural Diplomacy Initiative is possible thanks to coordinated efforts among the diverse instances of the public sector and authorities at the local, regional, national, and international levels. They have also activated partnerships with communities. Some of the organizations that have backed the Initiative and made its development possible, are the following:</p> <p><b>Colombian Institutions:</b> Embassies, Consulates, department governors, local mayors, and secretaries of culture and sport.</p>

	<p><b>International Institutions:</b> Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ministries of Education and Sports, Embassies, and international cooperation agencies.</p> <p>What are the main sources of funding of the initiative?</p> <p>The Sport and Cultural Diplomacy is funded by Colombia as a part of the Promotion Plan of Colombia Abroad.</p> <p>The Recreational Houses were built thanks to the articulation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) and the municipal governments. Once the construction was finished, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs handed over the Recreational Houses to the local authorities through a transfer certificate. The local governments are committed to their operation henceforth.</p>
<p><b>SDG Alignment</b></p>	<p>To what SDG goal/target/indicator is this initiative targeted?</p> <p>Both, the Sport and Cultural Diplomacy Initiative and the Recreational Houses target the following SDG goals:</p> <p><u>SDG 1 - End Poverty</u> Both initiatives are an engine for the social inclusion of children’s and youth from the most vulnerable population groups. Promoting the development of leaders who positively impact communities affected by poverty caused by conflict has created opportunities for overcoming situations of economic and social inequality.</p> <p><u>SDG 3 - Healthy Lives and Well Being</u> Both initiatives promote healthy lifestyles and motivates good use of free time. They contribute to establishing specific goals such as preventing the use of alcohol and other addictive substances.</p> <p><u>SDG 5 - Gender Equality</u> Both initiatives promote participation under equal conditions for girls and boys, young men and women, in sports and cultural disciplines that were traditionally reserved for the masculine gender, gender empowerment, and the prevention of specific problems such as unintended teenage pregnancy or dropping out of school.</p> <p><u>SDG 10 - Reduce Inequality</u> Both initiatives help overcome inequality between regions with higher and lower rates of development by involving partners from the central government <b>and private enterprise</b>, giving visibility to the problems of less-developed regions and promoting actions in favor of the development of the community.</p>

	<p><u>SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Solid Institutions</u></p> <p>Both Initiatives create scenarios for peaceful resolution of conflict between young people and for tolerance and respect for human rights, while helping reduce the risk of forms of violence against children and adolescents such as forced recruitment, sexual violence, and their use for committing crimes. It also structures joint efforts with regional authorities and institutions, which strengthens State actions.</p>
<p><b>Alignment with global frameworks:</b></p>	<p>How does this initiative align with/contribute to the objectives of the Kazan Action Plan, WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity or other relate internationally agreed frameworks on sport and/or physical activity?</p> <p>The Sport and Cultural Diplomacy and the Recreational Houses align with the WHO Global Action Plan, working towards achieving the shared vision of a more active world, specially through the 4 strategic objectives: Create Active Societies, Create Active Environments, Create Active People and Create Active Systems.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create Active Societies: The Sport and Cultural Diplomacy and the Recreational Houses articulate community-based programs, engaging entire communities to increase knowledge and skills related to their roles and contributions in creating inclusive, equitable opportunities, especially for boys, girls and adolescents.</li> <li>2. Create Active Environments: The Recreational Houses were built to protect children and promote their rights, creating networks and alliances between local, regional, national and international Governments/Institutions/Organizations with the objective of generating high impact policies.</li> <li>3. Create Active People: to heighten awareness, knowledge and understanding of health benefits of regular physical activity, the Recreational Houses program contributes to children’s development through activities based on 7 pillars: Sports, Art and Culture, Cinema, Tutoring, Health, Rights Advocacy and Network and Alliance Building.</li> <li>4. Create Active Systems: The Recreational Houses and the Sport and Cultural International Exchanges create and strengthen leadership and multi-sectoral partnerships.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Alignment with United Nations Action Plan on SDP:</b></p>	<p>Which of the four thematic areas of the UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace is this initiative designed to align?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Global framework for sport for development and peace</li> </ol> <p>To which action area(s) of the Plan is this initiative designed to contribute?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Global framework for sport for development and peace</li> </ol>

	<p>(c) Need for coherent sport for development and peace practice about relevant global frameworks, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a global partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals: Colombia promotes the articulation of different entities and organizations responsible for formulating public policies.</p> <p>(d) Need for leaders and role models to encourage, facilitate and advocate joint efforts and action in sport for development and peace: activities developed at the Recreational Houses, as well as the Sport and Cultural exchanges, promote young leaderships that contribute to inclusion and peaceful coexistence.</p>
<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">What are the expected /actual outcomes of the initiative?</p> <p>Recreational Houses. 400 children and adolescents from 6 to 17 years of age can daily attend classes and activities. Since the implementation of the Recreational Houses, 12.000 children benefited from a safe place where they can participate in sports, cultural, academic and recreational activities. Also, 9.100 heads of family were informed and trained on how to protect children and adolescents.</p> <p>Since September 25 of 2015, Colombia has led 78 international exchanges with the participation of 918 adolescents.</p> <p>One of the most notable achievements of the Initiative in 2017 was the <i>Diplomatic Action of the Year</i> award received by the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since 2008, the international organization <i>Peace &amp; Sport</i> has given out this award “to distinguish organizations and individuals that have made an outstanding contribution to peace, dialogue, and social stability in the world through sports.” In March 2018, in the framework of his first official visit to Colombia, H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, presented the award and the two countries signed a <i>Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation</i> that covers among other things, the areas of culture, education, and sports.</p> <p>Also in 2017, the Initiative was nominated for the National Prize for High-level Management of the Administrative Department of Public Service, which exalts successful experiences with work in government administration.</p> <p>Finally, the Department of Affairs for Black, Afro-Colombian, <i>Raizal</i> and <i>Palanquera</i> Communities at the Ministry of Interior, nominated the Initiative to the <i>Afro Recognition Award</i>, which seeks to give visibility to actions by public institutions in favor of Afro-descendent communities through the inclusion of an ethnic differential focus.</p>
<p><b>Mechanism for monitoring and evaluating implementation:</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">What are the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation, outcomes and impact of the initiative?</p> <p>The monitoring of the Recreational Houses is carried out through constant visits where meetings are held with local authorities, Recreational House Staff, boys, girls and adolescents, parents and the community in general.</p>

	<p>The Sport and Cultural Diplomacy Initiative follow-up the sports and cultural process that participate in the international exchanges through the programmatic offer of the Recreational Houses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What are the specific monitoring and evaluation tools involved?</p> <p>The sports and cultural processes involved in the international exchanges are monitored by two major indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of participants in the process (the main goal is to increase the number of participants)</li> <li>2. Academic performance (there is a record of the school grades)</li> </ol>
<b>Challenges / Lessons learned</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">What have been/were the main challenges to implementation?</p> <p>In international environments relationships tend to be horizontal, hence intensifying multilateral actions for promoting the Initiative with greater effectiveness and sufficiency and seeking new allies in that dimension has proven to be a challenge</p> <p>Another challenge consists in strengthening and expanding achievements in public, cultural, and sports diplomacy, which have shown foreign regions and governments a different image of the country, maintaining institutional presence and the coordination between different sectors and actors in zones where there has been some impact.</p> <p>One of the greatest challenges lies in strengthening the empowerment of children and young people as future community leaders, to continue diversifying Colombian foreign policy geographically and thematically. Sports and culture, by their nature, are customarily associated with the exercise of a soft power that helps nations build and strengthen ties with both traditional and non-traditional partners. It is fundamental to reinforce the cultural and sports component through the promotion of new expressions that build bridges of identity between Colombia and other nations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What lessons learned have been /can be utilized in the planning of future initiatives?</p> <p>The main lessons lie in the importance of the articulation between local, regional, national and international authorities, actors, organizations to develop high-impact public policies that improve development indicators.</p> <p>Finally, the possibilities of public diplomacy are still to be explored, the ease of generating healthy and stable relations must be considered by all States when preparing their foreign policy agendas.</p>

