



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
22 September 2020

Original: English

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## Seventy-fifth session

Agenda item 11 (a)

### Sport for development and peace

## **Sport: a global accelerator of peace and sustainable development for all**

### **Report of the Secretary-General**

#### *Summary*

The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/24](#), reviews progress towards implementation of the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, drawing on input received from Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders. Prepared in the context of the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the report highlights the important role of physical activity and sport in mitigating the impact of the pandemic on health and well-being and examines the role of digital technology in helping sport to fulfil that role. It further examines means of building global resilience to counter future shocks through investment and innovation in sport and sport-related policies.



## I. Introduction

1. In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, sport is described as an important enabler of sustainable development. The growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and vulnerable social groups, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives are also recognized. Such recognition offers a compelling incentive and an unmissable opportunity for joint efforts and action in the field of sport for development and peace.

2. At the request of the General Assembly (see resolution [71/160](#)), the Secretary-General presented an updated United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace. The Action Plan outlines a system-wide approach to leveraging sport for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In his 2018 report on strengthening the global framework for leveraging sport for development and peace ([A/73/325](#)), the Secretary-General proposed an update to the Action Plan. He set out recommendations to improve collaboration related to international sport policy and practice and outlined a global framework for promoting and mainstreaming sport for development and peace, highlighting two major internationally agreed frameworks: the Kazan Action Plan<sup>1</sup> and the global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030.<sup>2</sup>

3. In line with the request of the General Assembly in its resolution [73/24](#), the present report provides a targeted review of the contribution of sport to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with particular attention to the annual high-level political forum on sustainable development. The report serves to explore the role of sport in building global resilience to address COVID-19 and the impact of digital technology on sport and physical activity in mitigating the effects of COVID-19.<sup>3</sup> It also contains a thematic analysis of information submitted by Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders, and tracks progress in the implementation of the updated Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace from the time of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda until February 2020.<sup>4</sup>

4. At the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, held in September 2019, Member States recognized that the world was not currently on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals within the time frame set. In response, the Secretary-General declared a decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals, from 2020 to 2030, calling on all segments of society to accelerate sustainable solutions to such challenges as climate change, poverty and gender inequality. The present report contains recommendations on how sport, as an accelerator of global peace and sustainable development, can best contribute to the decade of action and the realization of the 2030 Agenda and its central promise to leave no one behind, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

<sup>1</sup> Adopted at the sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, held in Kazan, Russian Federation, on 14 and 15 July 2017.

<sup>2</sup> See World Health Organization, document WHA71/2018/REC/1, resolution 71.6.

<sup>3</sup> Information on this topic was drawn from ad hoc experts consulted in May 2020. See [www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/sport-development-peace.html](http://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/sport-development-peace.html).

<sup>4</sup> The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs sent a note verbale dated 18 December 2019 to all Member States and a memorandum dated 19 December 2019 to all entities of the United Nations system, in which they were requested to provide input for the present report.

## **II. Building resilience: policies, investments and innovation in sport to address the coronavirus disease pandemic**

5. The 2020 high-level political forum on sustainable development focused on the theme “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”, with debates on global progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, considering the COVID-19 pandemic. The thematic sessions of the forum included one on the theme, “Protecting the planet and building resilience”. Resilience is the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner.<sup>5</sup> Hazards can include global health threats, spiralling conflict, violent extremism and terrorism, and humanitarian crises, all of which can threaten progress towards or gains made in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

6. A focus on strengthening resilience is relevant in relation to sport, in particular in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected all aspects of the field, from sport supply chains related to athletes’ working conditions, the management of sporting events and mass gatherings, and occupational safety and health. The present section focuses on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sport and physical activity, in particular for different social groups, as well as on approaches to ensuring the resilience of sport, including through technology, and its continued contributions to development and peace in the post-COVID-19 landscape.

### **A. The coronavirus disease pandemic and its effects on sport and physical activity**

7. The COVID-19 pandemic has posed significant challenges to the sporting world and to the physical activity and well-being of individuals and families and their communities. To protect the health of athletes, those employed in the sporting industry and fans, sporting events ranging from major international tournaments to those of local children’s leagues have been cancelled or postponed.<sup>6</sup> Those actions have had major economic and also social repercussions, denying athletes and fans many of the benefits of sport, which has long been considered a valuable tool for fostering communication and building bridges between communities and generations, bringing diverse groups of people together in unique ways and providing unparalleled opportunities for community development and peace.

8. For many, the pandemic has also interfered with participation in physical activities and exercise outside of their homes, challenging compliance with the recommendation of the World Health Organization (WHO) to engage in 150 minutes of moderate-intensity or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity per week for healthy adults, and at least 60 minutes per day for children. That circumstance can result in impacts on both physical and mental health.

9. The closure and cancellation of sporting events, arenas and studios globally owing to COVID-19 has also affected the sport and physical education sector, comprised of a broad range of stakeholders, including national ministries and local authorities, public and private education institutions, sports organizations and athletes, non-governmental organizations and the business community, teachers,

<sup>5</sup> See United Nations, “2009 UNISDR terminology on disaster risk reduction” (Geneva, International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, May 2009).

<sup>6</sup> For more on the impact of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on sport, see United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, “The impact of COVID-19 on sport, physical activity and well-being and its effects on social development”, Policy Brief, No. 73, May 2020.

coaches and parents. For those with access to technology and the Internet, some services and online training promoting fitness and well-being have continued remotely. Gaps in many areas, however, exist, including in accessing online education and physical education. The sections below examine the impact of the pandemic on selected social groups that tend to be among those most “left behind”.

## **1. Women and girls**

10. Owing to gender inequalities, the impacts of COVID-19 are felt more severely by women and girls in many areas of life,<sup>7</sup> including elite sport and sport for development. Women, especially young women, have long been underrepresented in decision-making positions. As responses to the pandemic and recovery plans are being designed, that may lead to policies and strategies that do not take their needs into account. The high increase in the levels of gender-based violence under confinement measures<sup>8</sup> and difficulty in accessing services may make it harder for women and girls to resume their sport practice, affect their performance and leave them even more vulnerable to sexual abuse and harassment inside sport organizations without a strong safeguarding policy in place.

11. Furthermore, owing to event postponements and cancellations and consequent revenue loss, it is likely that men’s sports will be financially prioritized, leaving female athletes with more precarious work contracts and training conditions and, in some cases, the situation may result in the loss of women’s teams and leagues. When sporting events resume, women’s sport events risk clashing with men’s and, as a result, may attract even less audience viewership and media coverage. Finally, with their sports programmes and life skills sessions suspended, girls have lost one of their few safe spaces and their main source of physical and mental health. While at home, many girls are facing the intensification of negative gender norms, extra burdens of care and domestic work, physical and sexual violence and unplanned pregnancies. When sport programmes resume, many girls will not be able to participate, as they will have to support their families at home and economically and catch up on schooling and education.

12. To ensure that women and girls are not left behind, governments and other stakeholders must: mainstream gender in pandemic response and recovery plans in the sports sector (both professional and for development); include women and women’s organizations in consultations and decision-making processes; invest in women’s professional teams; invest in sport for development and peace programmes focused on young women and girls; and adapt sport for development programmes to respond to the specific needs of women and girls in the context of the pandemic.

## **2. Persons with disabilities**

13. Persons with disabilities, who represent 15 per cent of the world’s population, face social, economic and health marginalization owing to discrimination, inadequate public services, and inaccessible and unusable infrastructures. COVID-19 has increased the threat to lives and livelihoods for persons with disabilities, including those employed in sport-related fields. Professional para-athletes, for example, risk losing professional sponsorship and sources of income and are under pressure to reschedule their training while trying to stay fit at home. Although persons with disabilities face the same risk of infection from COVID-19 as the rest of the population, the danger posed by the virus is often compounded by co-morbidities. In addition to the disruption of essential services and support, pre-existing health

<sup>7</sup> See United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), “Policy brief: the impact of COVID-19 on women”, 9 April 2020.

<sup>8</sup> UN-Women, “COVID-19 and ending violence against women and girls”, 2020.

conditions leave persons with disabilities more at risk of developing serious health conditions.<sup>9</sup>

14. COVID-19 has exacerbated the isolation of persons with disabilities whose access to sport, physical activities and services is often already impeded. Stay-at-home orders during the pandemic have magnified the differences between persons with and without disabilities in sport. Not all online resources are accessible, which has resulted in persons with disabilities being left at the margins and secondary to the core business of sport during lockdown.<sup>10</sup> The move towards online physical activity and education can also cause challenges for some young persons with disabilities, who often benefit more from the closer physical interaction with practitioners.<sup>11</sup> The active participation of persons with disabilities in sport has the power to break down barriers and challenge prejudices, to showcase the abilities of persons with disabilities and promote resilience and greater inclusion in society. Therefore, the inclusion and contribution of persons with disabilities is crucial to developing innovative solutions and building a more peaceful and inclusive world, one in which sport for all is practiced without prejudice.

### 3. Older persons

15. Over 80 per cent of COVID-19 cases have been experienced by older persons, and restrictions caused by social and physical distancing measures have also negatively affected the physical and mental health of older persons.<sup>12</sup> Healthy ageing depends largely on the ability to maintain physical activity and recreation, which contributes to the well-being of the person as a whole. Maximizing the mobility of older persons while isolating at home because of the pandemic is therefore vital to avoid a reduction in fitness levels. Evidence suggests that movement and exercise can reduce frailty, which includes a combination of resistance, strength and balance.<sup>13</sup> Innovative approaches that have followed COVID-19 guidelines include active-play video games, otherwise known as exergames, and the use of technology to connect socially to friends and family, thus decreasing loneliness and depression.<sup>14</sup> Not all older persons have access to digital technology, resulting in the use of alternate methods to promote physical activity and exercise at home, such as through radio and television programmes.<sup>15</sup>

### 4. Families

16. During the COVID-19 pandemic, prolonged school closures and stay-at-home orders have resulted in long-term home confinement, negatively affecting all family members, especially children. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) estimates that 1.38 billion children are out of school or childcare.<sup>16</sup> Children do not have access to outdoor spaces, team sports,

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "Leaving no one behind: the COVID-19 crisis through the disability and gender lens", Policy Brief, No. 69, May 2020.

<sup>10</sup> Hayley Fitzgerald, Annette Stride and Scarlett Drury, "Commentary: COVID-19, lockdown and (disability) sport", *Managing Sport and Leisure* (2020).

<sup>11</sup> Kwok Ng, "Adapted physical activity through COVID-19", *European Journal of Adapted Physical Activity*, vol. 3, No. 1 (2020).

<sup>12</sup> Mylene Aubertin-Leheudre and Yves Rolland, "The importance of physical activity to care for frail older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic", *Jamda*, vol. 21, No. 7 (July 2020).

<sup>13</sup> Jamie Hartmann-Boyce and others, "Maximizing mobility in older people when isolated with COVID-19", Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine, 20 March 2020.

<sup>14</sup> Aubertin-Leheudre and Rolland, "The importance of physical activity".

<sup>15</sup> British Geriatrics Society, "Protecting older people from COVID-19 must not come at the expense of their health and well-being", Medical Xpress, 15 May 2020.

<sup>16</sup> Lucie Cluver and others, "Parenting in the time of COVID-19", *The Lancet*, vol. 395, No. 10231 (11 April 2020).

playgrounds or group activities. Under such conditions, they tend to be less physically active and have longer screen times, irregular sleep patterns and worse diets, resulting in weight gain and loss of physical fitness. Low-income families are especially vulnerable to the negative effects of stay-at-home rules, as they tend to have substandard accommodations and more confined spaces, making it difficult to engage in physical exercise.

17. To support physical activities under COVID-19 conditions, Governments need to work collaboratively with health services, the housing sector, schools and families to reduce overcrowding and support physical activity at home. Parents can be supported through online resources. For instance, the Parenting for Lifelong Health online resources<sup>17</sup> portal recommends creating a flexible but consistent daily routine, including physical exercise every day, to help with stress and restlessness. As parents are models for their children's behaviour, keeping physically active and exercising together is key.

## **B. Impact of digital technology on sport and physical activity**

18. As noted in the recent report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2020/57), more than half of the world's population is now online, with 53.6 per cent of individuals, or 4.1 billion people, using the Internet. In recent years, information and communications technologies (ICTs) have become important enablers to advance sport for development. The 2016 Olympic Games, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for example, were considered the "most digitalized" Olympic Games in history. They brought ICT innovation to broadcast competitions and shared the benefits of sport and physical activity with billions of people around the world. The 2018 Olympic Winter Games, held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, were also an example of how cutting-edge ICTs were used to enhance the sporting experience for a global audience. ICTs have also facilitated the Paralympic Movement's engagement of global audiences. For example, during the 2012 Paralympic Games, held in London, an unprecedented audience of 3.8 billion viewers was reached.

19. COVID-19 has demonstrated the vital role of digital technologies. The crisis has accelerated the digitalization of many businesses and services, including teleworking and videoconferencing systems in and out of the workplace and access to health care, education, physical activity and essential goods and services. To facilitate the best response to mitigate the effects of COVID-19, it is imperative to foster engagement and cooperation among governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, and the academic and technical communities. A recent example includes the Fédération Internationale de Football Association and WHO, which have reinforced their efforts through online and social media campaigns to promote healthy lifestyles, including physical activity, mental health, sport and active recreation, as a tool for health across the world. Joint actions to support communications and advocacy for health and physical activity, especially using ICTs, will be important during this difficult period, which continues to affect people's lives around the world.

20. Different organizations are also using ICTs, especially social media, to encourage the public to stay active at home during the pandemic by trying exercise classes online or playing active video games. On the 2020 International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, celebrated on 6 April, and in the context of COVID-19, appeals from athletes, social media influencers and global leaders were made for cooperation, solidarity and unity through the positive values of sport, highlighting the

<sup>17</sup> See [www.covid19parenting.com/](http://www.covid19parenting.com/).

unifying role that sport can play in development and peace.<sup>18</sup> The United Nations also provided resources on how to stay active at home during the pandemic, including targeted exercises for children, older persons and persons with disabilities.<sup>19</sup>

### **Inequality, inclusion and the digital divide**

21. As accelerators and amplifiers of change, ICTs have the potential to quickly and radically improve people's lives. They facilitate access to information and knowledge, simplify the delivery of essential services, and enable social and economic participation. However, the opportunities that ICTs provide are not equally distributed or accessible to all. Among the many inequalities exposed by COVID-19, the digital divide is not only one of the most evident, but also among the most surprising. Even in developed countries, Internet access is often lower than one might think, meaning that low-tech and no-tech solutions must also be accessible.

22. Now more than ever, technology must ensure that everyone can access the information they need to stay physically active. Although many remain offline, it is vital to reach everyone with health messages, whatever their connectivity level. As an example, the International Telecommunication Union, WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund worked together with ICT companies to text people directly on their mobile phones with vital health messaging to help protect them from COVID-19. The text messages reached billions of people who were unable to connect to the Internet. Opportunities are also present in the sports technology space, particularly in eSports. Advanced technology can increase online sports activities and engagement. People can secure employment in eSports as game designers or competitors. In addition, opportunities exist for people to create innovative technology design concepts for adaptive sports equipment.

23. Alongside existing strategies to enable those who are connected to stay connected, safeguards are needed to ensure that people who rely on free, public access points and shared spaces to get online are not left behind because of COVID-19. Members of particular social groups, such as indigenous peoples, and individuals in many developing countries and poorer communities too often do not have access to digital technologies and therefore cannot benefit from virtual sport and physical activity opportunities. Radio and television programmes that activate people as well as the distribution of printed material that encourages physical activity are crucial in bridging the digital divide for many households living in precarious conditions. Some organizations and schools have begun using virtual training as a method for leagues, coaches and young people to remain engaged in sport activities while remaining at home. One example of an e-health solution to mental health issues among younger people, linked with sport-based programming, is the provision of a programme called Championship Language for Kids,<sup>20</sup> which uses sport as a common language to help children understand the pandemic and minimize anxiety. A webinar series<sup>21</sup> on mental health for youth sport organizations was also created.

24. COVID-19 is the first pandemic in human history for which technology and social media are being used on a massive scale to keep people safe, productive and connected while being physically apart. Across the world, young people, in particular, are volunteering to safely help seniors and other at-risk groups to access supplies, such as food and medication, assisting schools with limited resources by transferring

<sup>18</sup> See [www.un.org/en/observances/sport-day](http://www.un.org/en/observances/sport-day).

<sup>19</sup> See [www.un.org/en/observances/sport-day/resources](http://www.un.org/en/observances/sport-day/resources).

<sup>20</sup> Rebekah Roulier, "Championship language for kids during COVID-19", LinkedIn, 17 April 2020.

<sup>21</sup> Rebekah Roulier, "Kids and COVID-19 webinar series No. 1: mental health for youth sports organizations", LinkedIn, 30 April 2020.

and translating school curricula for broader online use or by providing tools for physical activity and sport during confinement. Through social media, young people are also finding ways to check in on each other and support other's mental health.

## **C. The potential of sport for development and peace to contribute to the post-coronavirus disease landscape**

### **1. Sport as a catalyst of social and economic development, health and societal change**

25. Sports in the post-COVID-19 world will be shaped by new ways of living, moving and training. Sport organizations and athletes can continue to make important contributions to ensure that the field is resilient and that sports are best utilized to advance sustainable development and peace. Key focus areas for such work include the promotion of new digital tools, engagement in innovative inclusive forms of mobility and advances in gender equity.

26. The exceptional cross-cultural popularity of athletes empowers them to promote global solidarity in an effective manner during the pandemic. Post-COVID-19, champions for peace,<sup>22</sup> Olympians and sport personalities can continue to advocate sport for good in new and innovative ways. They can be associated with local, national and international campaigns led by governments, the private sector and sports organizations regarding mental and physical well-being, peace education and gender equity. They can also play a key role in the promotion of innovative apps to boost social inclusion and youth empowerment. For example, with the support of champions for peace, the Peace and Sport digital app<sup>23</sup> trains sports coaches as peace educators in Jordan at Za'atari refugee camp and in the Great Lakes region of Africa.

27. Major sporting organizations are working to maintain their contribution to society and address sustainable development challenges in various ways. For instance, the International Cycling Union is gathering resources and case studies to help their national federations and partner cities and regions better promote cycling as a safe and sustainable form of mobility after confinement. Many supporters of sports clubs have come together to support health workers and provide relief and support to vulnerable members of their communities. For example, the #FansvsCovid19 initiative in Europe is encouraging football fans to collect and distribute protective equipment to police stations and hospitals, among other activities.<sup>24</sup>

28. Most sport for peace and development organizations are small and community-based, and depend upon the creative ideas and strong personal commitments of staff and volunteers. Few were prepared for a shock the magnitude of COVID-19. It will be critical to support the efforts of such organizations if they are to continue their crucial contributions to the well-being of children and young people, now living with increased vulnerabilities, as well as of families and communities.

29. If stakeholders wish to see the sport sector continue its well-documented contributions to delivering the Sustainable Development Goals, now and later, it will be critical to find ways to support its adapted deliveries and outreach and build its sustainability. Support to the sector can be provided through financial and

<sup>22</sup> See [www.peace-sport.org/our-champions-of-peace/the-champion-for-peace-charter/#](http://www.peace-sport.org/our-champions-of-peace/the-champion-for-peace-charter/#).

<sup>23</sup> Peace and Sport, "Peace and Sport and My Coach launch an app for peace through sport", 12 December 2019.

<sup>24</sup> See [www.fansvsCovid19.com/](http://www.fansvsCovid19.com/).



non-financial resources, learning, athletes, and sport organizations and networks, as outlined below:

30. **Financial resources.** Such resources include new funding to enable sport for development and peace organizations to continue reaching out and to support them through the crisis and beyond, as is being done, for example, by Laureus and Beyond Sport's Sport for Good Response Fund. It will also be necessary to rethink the use of financial resources already committed to supporting sport for development programmes, allowing for adaptive measures.

31. **Non-financial resources.** Sport for development and peace organizations are used to delivering sports-based activities face to face in sports facilities, playgrounds and other open spaces. Few organizations were prepared to deliver in different ways. Providing advisory and technical support for the development of new ways of engaging, while still basing interventions on sport and its potential, will be important to support such organizations in continuing to be positive stakeholders in the lives of young people.

32. **Learning.** As COVID-19 is global challenge, it is not necessary for everyone to learn everything from scratch; parts of the world are already demonstrating how to work under certain conditions. Facilitating peer learning, such as the online global, regional and national forums delivered by sport organizations, allows organizations to learn from each other and feel less isolated in addressing challenges.

33. **Athletes.** Every athlete has a personal story of facing challenges, overcoming struggles, often succeeding, but also failing and picking themselves up again. Many athletes have millions of followers on social media, and their platforms can therefore be used to reach out to children and young people and to provide an additional layer of continuity in the way programmes deliver to their participants.

34. **Organizations and networks.** Organizations and networks, such as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which is tasked with coordinating the United Nations system's work on sport for development and peace, along with other entities of the United Nations system, international sport federations and committees, including the Olympic, Paralympic and Special Olympic movements, and foundations and civil society organizations, have the platforms, networks, outreach abilities within in the sector and convening power to play a critical role in providing and coordinating the different lines of support to the sector.

## 2. Enhancing cooperation to complement national and local actions

35. The sport for development and peace field faces substantial challenges in the post-COVID-19 landscape. The human and financial resources available to support policy and programme implementation will be further constrained and delivery methodologies will require review and modification to comply with evolving distancing and hygiene measures, while the need to demonstrate impact will be intensified. In that context, cooperation within and between member countries is critical. United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations will continue to play a crucial role in facilitating international and regional cooperation that complements and enhances national level action.

36. Revising and reprioritizing local, national and global policy frameworks for mainstreaming sport in development and enhancing innovative funding mechanisms for policy implementation take on added significance in the post-COVID-19 landscape. Regional and international intergovernmental organizations have utilized digital platforms to support Member State cooperation in that environment. Such approaches have enabled sport policymakers to exchange experiences, share ideas

and develop common solutions through virtual meetings<sup>25</sup> and the establishment of online repositories.<sup>26</sup>

37. United Nations entities have played an important role in developing and disseminating policy guidance to member countries to support national and local responses. The guidance has addressed policy issues, including the impact of COVID-19 on sport, physical activity and well-being and its effects on social development,<sup>27</sup> mitigating the impacts of the pandemic on women and girls in sport,<sup>28</sup> considerations in organizing sporting events<sup>29</sup> and safeguarding children, as more sport providers utilize online delivery methods.<sup>30</sup>

38. The impact of COVID-19 heightens the risk of leaving people behind, especially those in the most vulnerable situations, including older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples. To maximize the potential of sport for development and peace to contribute to minimizing that risk, effective monitoring and evaluation and ensuring access to appropriately disaggregated data will be essential. Progress in the development and adoption of common indicators to measure the contribution of physical education, physical activity and sport to prioritized Sustainable Development Goals and targets, as is being advanced under action 2 of the Kazan Action Plan,<sup>31</sup> provides a basis for enhancements to national monitoring and evaluation systems for that purpose.

39. Supporting ongoing exchanges between policymakers and sector leaders, analysing and disseminating policy guidance and assisting countries in monitoring the response of sport for development and peace to COVID-19 will continue to be important roles for the United Nations system and intergovernmental actors to play in support of local and national action.

### III. Contribution of sport to the 2030 Agenda

40. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Member States, agencies, funds and programmes, and country teams of the United Nations, as well as other stakeholders, have supported many sport for development and peace initiatives that contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. For the present report, a total of 60 submissions were received from 25 Member States,<sup>32</sup> 21 United Nations entities

<sup>25</sup> Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, “The impact of COVID-19 on the sport sector is much broader than just cancelling sport events”, 21 April 2020.

<sup>26</sup> See [www.thecommonwealth.io/sport-and-coronavirus/](http://www.thecommonwealth.io/sport-and-coronavirus/).

<sup>27</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, “The impact of COVID-19 on sport”.

<sup>28</sup> UN-Women “COVID-19, women, girls and sport: build back better”.

<sup>29</sup> World Health Organization (WHO), “Considerations for sports federations/sports event organizers when planning mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19”, 14 April 2020.

<sup>30</sup> United Nations Children’s Fund, “Keeping children safe online: a short guide for sport organizations” (n.d.).

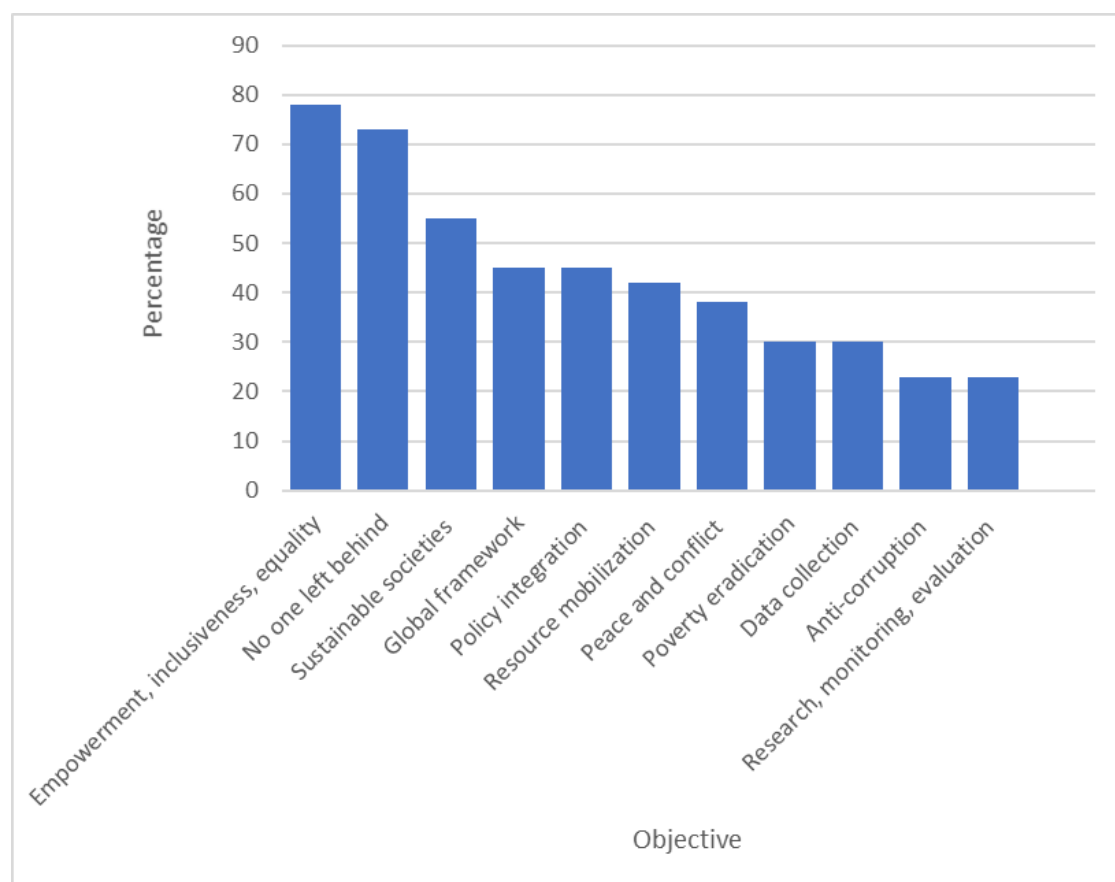
<sup>31</sup> Damian Hatton and others, *Measuring the Contribution of Sport, Physical Education and Physical Activity to the Sustainable Development Goals: Toolkit and Model Indicators*, ver. 3.1 (London, Commonwealth Secretariat, 2019).

<sup>32</sup> Austria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Czechia, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Sudan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(specialized agencies, funds and country teams)<sup>33</sup> and 14 other stakeholders,<sup>34</sup> reporting approximately 187 different initiatives.<sup>35</sup> A thematic analysis was conducted to determine which objectives and goals featured most prominently in the initiatives reported. The three most prevalent objectives that emerged were empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality, ensuring that no one is left behind and transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies, as depicted in figure I.

Figure I

**Percentage of reported sport initiatives aligned with objectives**



<sup>33</sup> United Nations country teams of Afghanistan, Chile, Georgia, Guatemala, Kuwait, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova and Timor-Leste; International Labour Organization, International Telecommunication Union, Office of Counter-Terrorism, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Office at Geneva, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and World Health Organization.

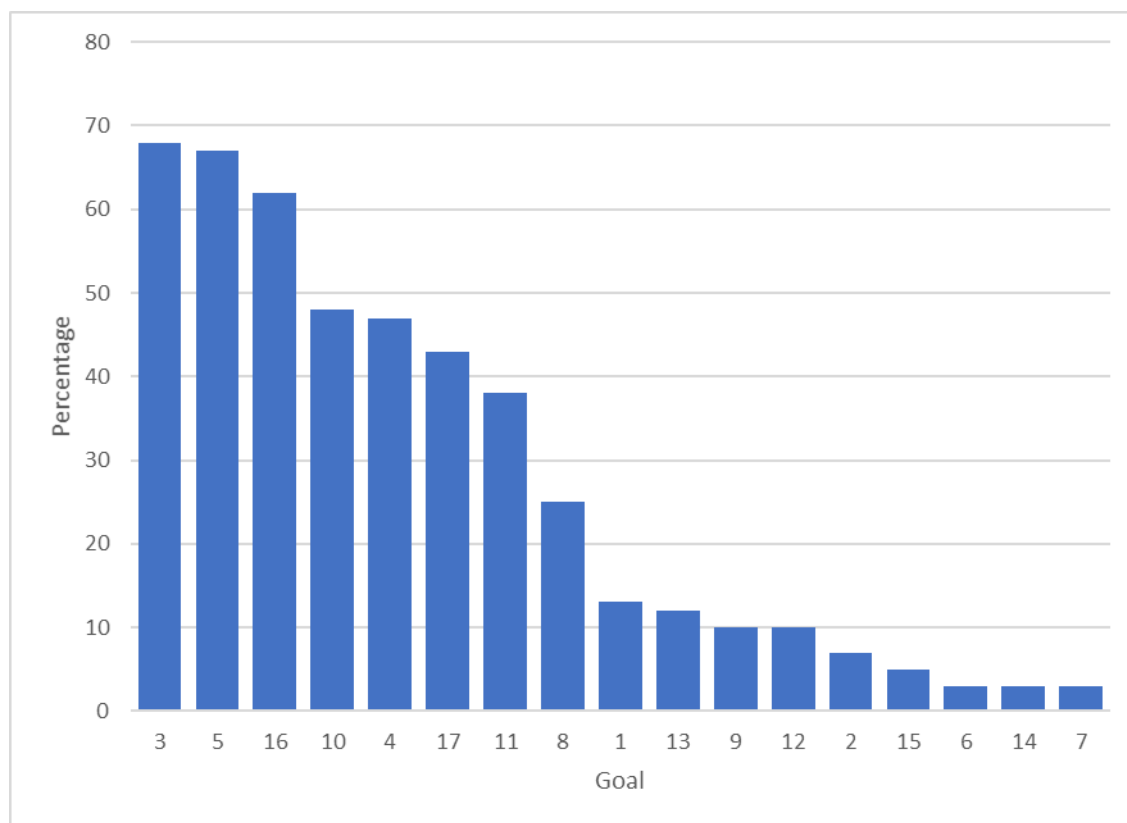
<sup>34</sup> All are Born Equal, Child Fund, Centre for Sport and Human Rights, Commonwealth, International Centre for Sport Security, International Olympic Committee, civil society organizations in Mexico, Peace and Sport, Swedish Foundation for Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Rights, International Platform on Sport and Development, Healthy Lifestyles to Boost Sustainable Growth (STYLE) Finland, Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation, United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network and World Taekwondo.

<sup>35</sup> Submissions can be viewed at: [www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/sport-development-peace.html](http://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/sport-development-peace.html).

41. Submissions were also analysed for alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (see annex), with Goals on good health and well-being, gender equality, peace, justice and strong institutions, reduced inequalities and quality education reported most frequently (see figure II).

Figure II

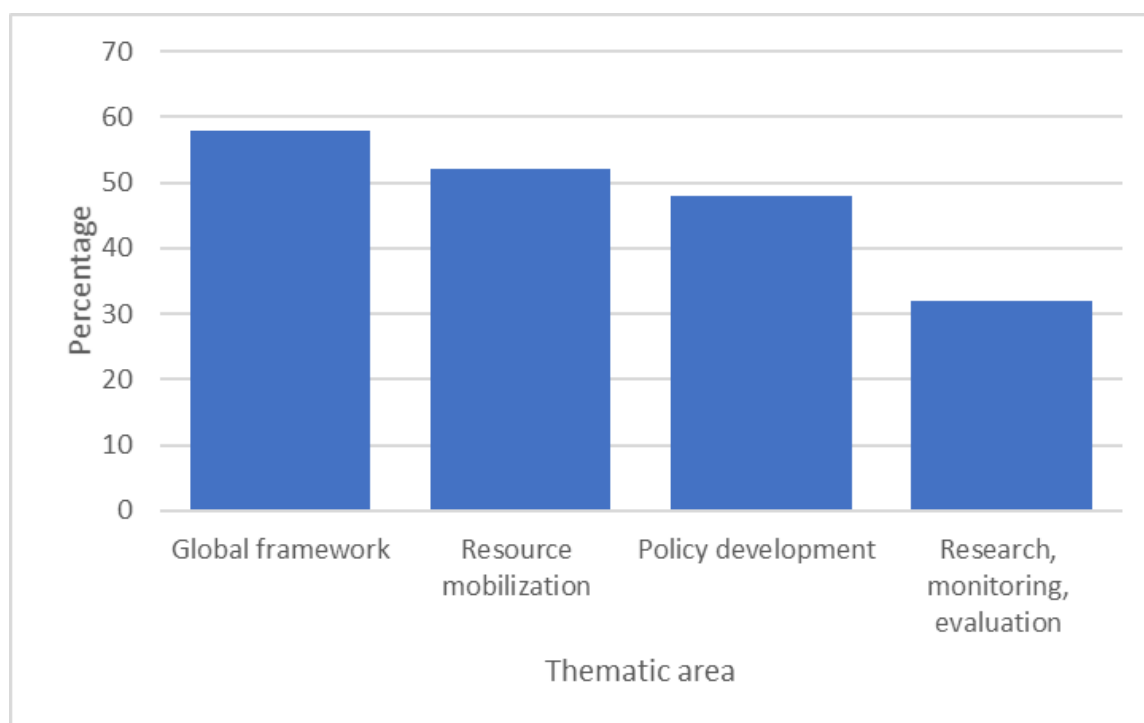
**Percentage of reported sport initiatives aligned with Sustainable Development Goals**



42. More than half of the respondents noted that their initiatives aimed to strengthen a shared common vision and policy approach to guide the work of Member States and the United Nations system on sport for development and peace. Approximately half of the respondents reported initiatives that fostered greater cross-sectoral alignment of the work on sport at the national level and/or established national policy frameworks for mainstreaming sport in development processes, in line with the main policy areas of the Kazan Action Plan. Just less than half reported initiatives that promoted innovative funding mechanisms and multi-stakeholder arrangements at all levels. One third of the respondents reported initiatives that sought to identify cross-cutting issues and/or standards in the field of sport for development and peace and/or ensure that effective attention was given to the contribution of sport and sport-based initiatives in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see figure III).

Figure III

**Percentage of reported sport initiatives aligned with the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace**



43. Many stakeholders recognize the important role of United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace in strengthening system-wide coherence to maximize the contribution of sport as an enabler of sustainable development. Stronger collaboration between relevant United Nations entities within their respective mandates should be encouraged to ensure that the United Nations system works cohesively, without undue duplication, to support the priorities and policies of Member States and enhance coordination with international and regional organizations, sport federations, other stakeholders and existing formal and informal sport for development and peace networks. The sections below provide a selection of initiatives from a variety of stakeholders, aligned with the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, the Kazan Action Plan and global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, where relevant.

**A. Strengthening the global framework on sport for development and peace**

44. United Nations entities and international sporting bodies are advancing sport as a tool to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through their respective mandates, strengthening a shared common vision and policy approach to guide the work of Member States and the United Nations system. The International Labour Organization organized a global dialogue forum on decent work in the world of sport, which was focused on athletes and at which Member States, representatives of workers and employers, and sport bodies agreed on points for consensus related to current practices in advancing decent work in sport, in particular: (a) personal development and skills for athletes; (b) social protection for athletes; (c) social dialogue and collective bargaining; (d) freedom from all forms of violence and

harassment, including by spectators; (e) special protection for children and athletes from abuses and injuries; and (e) equal opportunities.<sup>36</sup>

45. The Department of Social and Economic Affairs, which holds the substantive portfolio of the United Nations on sport for development and peace, has played a key role in coordination, collaboration and cooperation between United Nations entities, Member States and other stakeholders working in the field. The Department has also provided support to the intergovernmental mechanisms in New York on sport-related discussions. The Department of Social and Economic Affairs, the United Nations Office for Partnerships and the Department of Global Communications commemorated the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace in 2019 and 2020 with online and social media campaigns, video messages by athletes and events in New York.

46. The United Nations Environment Programme addressed the problem of plastic pollution through its “Plastic game plan for sport” toolkit,<sup>37</sup> which provides ideas on how to organize more sustainable sporting events and examples of progress from across the sporting community. It provides guidance on how to create a plastic plan and work with suppliers, athletes and fans to reduce, reuse and recycle.<sup>38</sup> Similarly, the Sports for Climate Action Framework,<sup>39</sup> which was developed by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and launched together with several leading sports organizations, such as the International Olympic Committee, was created for sport by sport to raise awareness and action to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. The movement gathers governing bodies, sport federations, leagues and clubs to jointly develop the climate action agenda in sports, by leading and supporting specific working groups and by bringing their expertise, tools and best practices into the Framework.<sup>40</sup> In addition, the Smart Life, Smart Games initiative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in China involves a series of innovative events, focused on the 2022 Olympic Winter Games, to be held in Beijing, related to intelligent human settlements construction in sports venues and related facilities, the promotion of healthy lifestyles, the popularization of winter sports and human settlements heritage protection.

47. UNESCO joined other international organizations to form a partnership aimed at instilling sport values in children. One of the major outcomes of the partnership was the development of a universal toolkit for teachers working with pupils aged 8 to 12, focusing on three core sport values: equity, inclusion and respect.<sup>41</sup> Similarly, UN-Women, in partnership with the International Olympic Committee, announced the creation of the Sport for Generation Equality initiative in 2020. The initiative aims to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in and through sport. The sports ecosystem has been invited to join the initiative to accelerate progress on a set of common principles and aligned objectives that will harness the power of sport in making gender equality a reality within and through sport.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>36</sup> Aligned with Kazan Action Plan, annex I, sport policy follow-up framework, policy areas I.2, II.4, III.1 and III.2.

<sup>37</sup> International Olympic Committee and United Nations Environment Programme, “Plastic game plan for sport: sustainable essentials – a series of practical guides for the Olympic movement”, 2020.

<sup>38</sup> Aligned with Kazan Action Plan, policy area II.7.

<sup>39</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/sectoral-engagement/sports-for-climate-action>.

<sup>40</sup> Kazan Action Plan, policy area II.7; and global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, actions 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4.

<sup>41</sup> Kazan Action Plan, policy areas II.3 and II.4; and global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, action 3.1.

<sup>42</sup> Kazan Action Plan, policy areas I.5, II.6 and III.3; and global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, actions 2.4, 3.1, 3.5 and 4.2.

48. The Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism of the Office of Counter-Terrorism recognizes sports as a resource for preventing violent extremism, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of young people and women, and facilitating integration at large. One of the programme's intended outcomes is to increase the capacity of Member States to develop comprehensive strategies to integrate sport and its values as tools to prevent violent extremism and radicalization.<sup>43</sup>

49. The International Centre for Sport Security has in place a multisectoral, open-ended coalition to foster dialogue and social innovation across the Mediterranean region that trains young athletes in sports events management and empowers youth volunteers through sport. The Centre has also implemented the "Darfur Dreams" Sport for Peace and Development initiative, which benefits internally displaced persons in the Sudan, in partnership with Qatar Charity and the Qatar Fund for Development. Similarly, Peace and Sport and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have provided development opportunities to refugees in Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan. Through sport, the Live Together programme addresses three main social issues: marginalization and disengagement, psychosocial distress and exclusion, and isolation and rejection by the host society.

50. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) supports sport as an enabler of sustainable development through its Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Crime, which comprises awareness-raising, capacity development and technical assistance activities.<sup>44</sup> UNODC, with support from Thailand, organized an expert group meeting to examine effective ways to integrate sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice. The meeting highlighted many sport-based programmes that help divert young people from crime and other problematic activities; offer an introduction to other interventions and services; and can be embedded into specific interventions to address risk factors for crime and achieve certain social objectives and positive personal developmental outcomes.<sup>45</sup> The UNODC programme to implement the Doha Declaration, supported by Qatar, uses sport and sport-based learning for youth crime prevention, including by providing life skills training in a sport context through the Line Up Live Up<sup>46</sup> curriculum and creating safe public spaces in marginalized communities where young people can develop and positively interact with peers.<sup>47</sup> Many Member States are engaged in the initiative, building the capacity of schools, other community-based entities and civil society organizations to enhance life skills and strengthen the resilience of at-risk youth through sport-based programmes. They include Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Peru, South Africa, Tajikistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan and the State of Palestine.

51. WHO supported sport as an enabler of sustainable development through the global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030. The strengthening of global collaborations between sport and health has been key to the work of WHO. For example, in Timor-Leste, the "Walk the Talk: The Health for All Challenge" global event created awareness on health issues and highlighted the importance of physical activity in promoting health. Under a new initiative on sport and health, WHO

<sup>43</sup> Kazan Action Plan, policy areas II.3 and II.4; and global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, actions 2.4, 3.1 and 3.5.

<sup>44</sup> Kazan Action Plan, policy areas III.3 and III.4.

<sup>45</sup> The sport-based programmes are aligned with General Assembly resolution [74/170](#) on integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies.

<sup>46</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Line Up Live Up: Life Skills Training through Sport to Prevent Crime, Violence and Drug Use – Trainer Manual* (Vienna, 2017).

<sup>47</sup> Kazan Action Plan, policy areas II.3 and II.4.

established partnerships with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association in 2019 and with the International Olympic Committee in 2020, and it enhanced collaboration with other international sports organizations.<sup>48</sup> In addition, the Fédération Internationale de Football Association and Qatar, as hosts of the 2022 World Cup competition, developed a joint sustainability strategy<sup>49</sup> to maximize the football tournament's contribution to people's well-being, economic development and environmental protection. The strategy includes five sustainability commitments: develop human capital and safeguard workers' rights; provide an inclusive tournament experience; catalyse economic development; deliver innovative environmental solutions; and set an example of good governance and ethical business practices.

52. The United Nations Office at Geneva has been a key facilitator and convener of the work done by United Nations entities and sports federations based in Geneva and Switzerland, including as external partners to advance collective common agendas on sports matters. The Office has hosted several major meetings, including a special session of the Sport Integrity Global Alliance and the annual flagship event of the Centre for Sport and Human Rights, the Sporting Chance Forum.<sup>50</sup> The Office, with the International Labour Organization and UNESCO, has also established an informal group of sport for development and peace focal points from United Nations entities and other stakeholders.

## **B. Policy development for mainstreaming and integrating sport for development and peace in development programmes and policies**

53. Member States, in partnership with United Nations entities, have been fostering greater cross-sectoral alignment of their work on sport at the national level, including establishing national policy frameworks for mainstreaming sport in development processes. For example, the sport, cultural diplomacy and recreational houses initiatives of Colombia promote social inclusion, peaceful coexistence, and intercultural dialogue in the groups that are most vulnerable to forced recruitment of minors. The initiative fights the recruitment and use of minors by illegal armed groups and guarantees the development of children through sports, cultural and educational activities. It also allows for the peaceful resolution of conflict between young people and for tolerance and respect for human rights, while helping to reduce the risk of such forms of violence against children and adolescents as forced recruitment, sexual violence and crime prevention.<sup>51</sup>

54. Monaco provides physical education and swimming classes to pupils and students from kindergarten through secondary school. Monaco is committed to providing modern and high-quality sport facilities for students who use the facilities as part of their curriculum and members of sport clubs. In addition, Monaco conducted anti-doping awareness-raising lessons to raise awareness among pupils and students, in particular on the physical and social dangers of doping.<sup>52</sup> Awareness-raising sessions on sport ethics and values were also conducted in Portugal,

<sup>48</sup> Global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, actions 3.3 and 4.1.

<sup>49</sup> Fédération Internationale de Football Association, FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, *FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022: Sustainability Strategy* (2019).

<sup>50</sup> See [www.sporhumanrights.org/en/news-events/events-the-2019-sporting-chance-forum](http://www.sporhumanrights.org/en/news-events/events-the-2019-sporting-chance-forum).

<sup>51</sup> Kazan Action Plan, policy areas I.7 and II.4; and global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, action 3.5.

<sup>52</sup> Kazan Action Plan, policy areas I.3 and III.5; and global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, action 3.1.



encouraging all citizens, in particular children and young people, to adhere to ethical values such as respect, honesty, tolerance and solidarity in sports and sports practice.<sup>53</sup>

55. The United Nations country team in Montenegro supported Special Olympics Young Athletes, a sport and play programme for children with and without intellectual disabilities, in which children learn how to play with others and develop important learning skills. The programme also contributes to the capacity development of teachers and kindergarten professionals, so they can adequately respond to the needs of children with disabilities.<sup>54</sup> WHO in Nepal supported the Government in drafting and operationalizing the national multisectoral action plan for the Prevention and Control of non-communicable diseases 2014–2020. One of the 10 voluntary targets under the plan is a 10 per cent relative reduction in the prevalence of physical inactivity by 2025.<sup>55</sup>

56. With the support of the Commonwealth, several countries are advancing the development and implementation of national policies to mainstream and scale up the role of sport in development programmes and policies. In Lesotho, a national policy is being developed to enhance the social and economic impact delivered through accessible, inclusive, safe, well-governed and successful sport and recreation. The process is being led by the Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sport and Recreation, working in conjunction with the Lesotho National Sports Commission and Lesotho National Olympic Committee. Solomon Islands is revising the country's national sport and recreation policy to maximize the contribution of sport and recreation to national development and the achievement of targeted Sustainable Development Goals. Bangladesh is reviewing its national sports policy to enhance the contribution of sport to national development and the Goals. The Commonwealth is supporting those processes through the provision of technical assistance, with a specific focus on the alignment of sport policy with national development plans and the Goals. The technical assistance programme emphasizes policy development and implementation through a multi-stakeholder approach, based on the understanding that well-governed and inclusive sport environments, with a focus on protecting the integrity of sport and safeguarding human rights, are essential to scale up the impact of sport on sustainable development.<sup>56</sup>

### **C. Resource mobilization, programming and implementation**

57. For sport to contribute effectively to accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, multi-stakeholder arrangements at all levels must be leveraged to mobilize resources and strengthen partnerships at the policy level, across the non-governmental development sector, sport federations and other civil society stakeholders. For example, sport is increasingly being used by Germany in its development cooperation efforts to improve the development prospects of disadvantaged children and young people, especially girls and young women, in the areas of education, employment, health and gender equality in the context of displacement and migration. As a result, children and young people in communities and refugee camps benefit from learning and training opportunities, apply strategies for peaceful conflict resolution, and can use the psychosocial support offered, thus improving social cohesion. More than a

<sup>53</sup> Kazan Action Plan, policy areas II.3 and II.4.

<sup>54</sup> Kazan Action Plan, policy areas I.3, I.7, II.3 and II.4; and global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, action 3.5.

<sup>55</sup> Kazan Action Plan, policy areas II.3 and III.1; and global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, action 4.1.

<sup>56</sup> Kazan Action Plan, policy areas I.1 and II; and global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, action 4.1.

million children have been given access to sport facilities and sport for development training measures in more than 30 countries.<sup>57</sup>

58. Italy is promoting social inclusion through sport by involving amateur sports associations and societies, voluntary organizations, associations and social promotion cooperatives in the development of sporting projects. The projects encourage civic and social values and the combatting of exclusion and discrimination by promoting the integration of persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, immigrants and vulnerable social groups.<sup>58</sup>

59. To help disenfranchised female adolescents to access sport activities as a means of empowering them and their communities, the Sport for Development programme in the central region of Afghanistan, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme held 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. Through women's cycling tournaments, they raised awareness of and promoted physical exercise and encouraged families to allow their daughters to engage in social activities, such as sport. They also called on the Government to provide safe and harassment-free environments for women.<sup>59</sup>

60. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, through the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation refugee athletics project, tapped into the energy, potential and talents of young refugees through positive sport-based engagement. The project fostered inclusive engagement and peaceful coexistence, as envisioned under the global compact on refugees. With the support of the International Olympic Committee, the training centre of the Foundation currently hosts 18 refugee athletes and 5 Kenyan athletes. The International Olympic Committee is supporting 50 refugee athletes through Olympic Solidarity Scholarships to enable them to train, compete and prepare for the 2021 Olympic Games, to be held in Tokyo.<sup>60</sup>

61. The Amazonas Sustainable Foundation, in partnership with the Brazilian Canoeing Confederation, began the Amazonas Sustainable Canoeing project. The main objective of the project is to promote the sport and validate the culture of the indigenous and riverside youth communities. The beneficiaries of the initiative are young indigenous people. Indigenous athletes participate and are empowered through professional training to represent the Amazonas State and Brazil in canoeing competitions and the Olympic Games.<sup>61</sup>

62. The Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Rights works with the Swedish Sports Confederation and specialist sports organizations for a sports movement that is inclusive of transgender people. The project encompasses policy, training and empowerment. The primary target audience and beneficiaries are transgender people, especially children and young people.<sup>62</sup>

63. While partnerships are evident at the policy level, across the intergovernmental and non-governmental development sector, sport federations and other civil society stakeholders, Member States, United Nations entities and other key stakeholders should generate innovative and inclusive advocacy and awareness-raising efforts to

<sup>57</sup> Kazan Action Plan, policy areas I.7, II.1, II.3, II.4 and II.6; and global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, action 3.5.

<sup>58</sup> Kazan Action Plan, policy areas I.7, II.1 and II.4; and global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, action 3.3.

<sup>59</sup> Kazan Action Plan, policy areas I.5, II.6 and III.2; and global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, actions 2.4 and 3.3.

<sup>60</sup> Kazan Action Plan, policy areas I.7 and II.4; and global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, actions 3.3 and 3.5.

<sup>61</sup> Kazan Action Plan, policy areas I.7 and II.4.

<sup>62</sup> Kazan Action Plan, policy areas I.7 and II.4; and global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, action 3.3.

promote the power of sport and physical activity for all people of all ages and abilities to contribute to sustainable development and peace at the global, national and local levels. They could include a forum for the systematic exchange of information on good practices in sport for development and peace across the research, programming and policy fields.<sup>63</sup>

## **D. Research, monitoring and evaluation**

64. Multiple countries are working to strengthen national statistical capacity and monitoring systems to improve sport-related data and enhance the measurement of the contribution of sport to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, with technical assistance provided by the Commonwealth.<sup>64</sup>

65. Jamaica has developed a monitoring and evaluation framework and results management system to measure the contribution of sport to national development. The system is aligned to the country's medium-term socioeconomic policy framework, the national development plan, Vision 2030 Jamaica, and prioritized Goals. The framework includes seven headline result areas and associated indicators, including measures of participation levels in sport and organized physical activity, the contribution of the sector to economic development, health and well-being and the creation of a safe and secure society.

66. Mauritius is integrating the measurement of the contribution of sport to the Goals into the country's national monitoring and evaluation system. The system will help track the progress of the country's policy targets to increase the contribution of the sport and physical activity sector to gross domestic product from 1.2 per cent to 1.8 per cent and to increase the percentage of Mauritians undertaking sufficient physical activity from 23 per cent to 35 per cent. Initial data collected in 2019 showed that females are currently 35 per cent less active than males and that there is a substantial decline in activity levels with age. The data are informing the Active Mauritius strategy to foster a nationwide culture of community sport and physical activity to promote health and well-being among all Mauritian people.

67. Sport Canada has mapped the country's existing national sport performance indicators to the Goals and their targets. The process showed that Sport Canada's existing investments, results and associated indicators are aligned to seven prioritized Goals. A key point learned from the process is that the alignment of sport-related indicators to the Goals helps to link sport-based processes with other government departments and the country's lead agencies for achievement of the Goals.

68. Namibia is instituting a national sport development index to quantify the contribution of sport to socioeconomic development in the country. The overall purpose of the index is to track progress towards the goals of increasing employment in the sport sector and the associated economic contribution of sport set out in the country's fifth national development plan.

69. While Commonwealth countries have been supported in improving national statistical capacity and monitoring systems, there is lack of centralized global socioeconomic data and statistics on the global sport ecosystem. There is a need for improved data collection, the analysis of sport-related data and support for the

<sup>63</sup> United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, 2018–2020, action area 3 (ii), see [A/73/325](#), sect. VI.A.

<sup>64</sup> Kazan Action Plan, action 2; and global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, actions 4.2 and 4.3.

indicator framework for assessing the contribution of sport-based initiatives to the achievement of the Goals prioritized in the Kazan Action Plan.

## **IV. Conclusion and recommendations**

**70. To advance the work on sport for development and peace and maximize the contribution of sport to the decade of action, the General Assembly may wish to consider the following recommendations:**

**(a) Strengthen government action to include sport and physical activity in recovery plans post COVID-19, integrate sport and physical activity into national strategies for sustainable development and encourage the United Nations system to support Member States in such efforts;**

**(b) Adopt measures to work together with the United Nations system and other stakeholders to increase engagement and cooperation with one another to harness digital technology to advance sport as a tool to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, to support sport and physical activity at home, while seeking to expand access to the Internet for those who currently lack it;**

**(c) Strengthen the provision of capacity development and technical cooperation services and financial assistance to support the development and implementation of national policies and approaches to maximizing the contributions of sport for development and peace, as well as sport for all, in particular children, women and girls, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and other persons in vulnerable situations, without discrimination of any kind;**

**(d) Ensure continued support to strengthen United Nations system-wide coherence, increase and expand internal coordination among entities of the United Nations system, and encourage their ongoing collaboration within their respective mandates to advance the role of sport as an enabler of development, including through the implementation of the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace 2018–2020, and encourage the extension of the Action Plan through 2030;**

**(e) Encourage United Nations entities to continue to provide research, normative and policy guidance to further advance the engagement of Governments and other stakeholders in their use of sport for the achievement of development and peace, accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and strengthen efforts in that area;**

**(f) Note the lack of centralized global socioeconomic data and statistics on sport while acknowledging progress in the development and adoption of common indicators to measure the contribution of physical education, physical activity and sport, and encourage the United Nations system to continue its ongoing work with the Commonwealth and other international partners to establish a shared indicator framework.**

Annex

Reported sport initiatives aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals

Respondent	Number of initiatives reported	Sustainable Development Goals																
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Member States																		
Austria	7					X					X	X						X
Colombia	5	X		X		X					X	X					X	X
Costa Rica	1		X	X		X											X	
Côte d’Ivoire	1		X	X	X	X				X							X	
Czechia	4			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
Georgia	2			X							X						X	
Germany	1			X	X	X			X			X					X	X
Guatemala	10	X		X	X	X			X		X	X					X	
Hungary	1			X	X	X					X							
Italy	4	X		X					X	X	X	X					X	
Lithuania	1										X							
Malaysia	1			X	X													
Malta	1			X														
Monaco	10			X	X	X					X	X					X	
Montenegro	1			X	X	X												
Myanmar	4			X	X	X				X	X						X	X
Portugal	4			X	X	X			X	X	X	X					X	
Qatar	6			X														X
Romania	1																X	

Respondent	Number of initiatives reported	Sustainable Development Goals																
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Russian Federation	1			X														X
Sudan	11	X		X	X	X						X					X	X
Thailand	1	X				X					X							
Trinidad and Tobago	1		X	X		X												
Turkey	3					X					X							
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2					X											X	
<b>United Nations country teams</b>																		
Afghanistan	1			X	X	X					X						X	
Chile	5			X	X	X					X					X		
Georgia	2					X											X	
Guatemala	1					X					X						X	X
Kuwait	1			X								X					X	
Montenegro	3				X									X				
Republic of Moldova	1										X						X	
Timor-Leste	3			X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X			X	X
<b>Organizations</b>																		
International Labour Organization	1								X									
International Telecommunication Union	2																	X
United Nations Environment Programme	3			X				X		X		X	X	X	X			X

Respondent	Number of initiatives reported	Sustainable Development Goals																
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	10			X	X	X					X						X	X
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)	1	X		X								X					X	
United Nations Children's Fund	5	X		X	X	X			X		X	X					X	
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	4			X	X	X			X		X							X
Office of Counter-Terrorism	1			X	X	X											X	
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	3			X	X	X						X					X	X
United Nations Office at Geneva	4																	X
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	1																X	X
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children	1					X			X								X	
World Health Organization	4			X	X	X						X					X	X
All Are Born Equal	1	X	X	X	X	X			X		X	X					X	X
Child Fund	1			X		X											X	
Centre for Sport and Human Rights	3																X	X
Commonwealth	2			X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X			X	X

Respondent	Number of initiatives reported	Sustainable Development Goals																
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
International Centre for Sport Security	3				X	X					X						X	X
International Olympic Committee	14			X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Civil society organizations in Mexico	6			X	X	X			X		X	X					X	X
Peace and Sport	6			X	X	X					X						X	X
Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Rights	1			X							X						X	
International Platform on Sport and Development	1			X	X	X			X		X	X					X	X
Healthy Lifestyles to Boost Sustainable Growth (STYLE) Finland	1			X						X	X	X	X	X		X		
Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation	1			X	X	X					X						X	X
United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network	4			X	X	X					X	X	X				X	X
World Taekwondo	2			X		X												