ITU 2019 Activities - contributions to the report of the SG on "Sport as an enabler of sustainable development"

Many different international players around the world are helping move forward the agenda of sport for development and peace, especially with the implementation of different actions at the policy and grass roots level. At ITU, for the first time in the 10 year history of the WSIS Forum, a new track was introduced in 2019 on sport as an enabler of sustainable development, highlighting the aspects of youth empowerment and innovative technologies. The occasion also served to celebrate the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, which is an annual celebration on 6 April, declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013, and has been celebrated each year ever since.

At WSIS Forum 2019, three different sport related workshops were carried out on sport and SDGs, intellectual property and domain names, where a diverse group of panellists shared their knowledge and current initiatives. A large group of stakeholders, such as the International Olympic Committee, the Olympic Refuge Foundation, UEFA, UNESCO, ILO, WIPO, the Real Madrid Foundation, Right to Play, Think Sport, Peace and Sport, World Taekwondo Federation and the Centre for Sports and Human Rights, shared with the participants of the workshops their experiences, the opportunities, challenges and lessons learned, as well gave examples of how they are using ICTs in an innovative way to promote sport for development and peace.

The main conclusions reached during the discussions where that sport remains a firm fixture on the United Nations and international agenda, and that ICTs also enhance sport to be a key enabler to achieve the SDGs.

In the past years, many United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental stakeholders have taken bold actions to promote attention to sport as a platform and a catalyst for sustainable development. With the successful launch of the track on sport, development and ICTs at WSIS Forum 2019, ITU has joined the conversation.

For additional information: https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Documents/Forum2019/DRAFT-WSISForum2019OutcomeDocument.pdf?CB=4EAOWW