

UN Inter-Agency Group on Sport for Development and Peace

Key Messages for use by members

How Sport contributes to Development and Peace

1. **Sport unites people and facilitates growth.** It has the power to promote tolerance, build respect, and foster cooperation between peoples. It is a driving force for physical and mental wellbeing and can be a tool for building peaceful and inclusive societies.
2. **Sport has been recognised by the United Nations as an enabler of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and an effective way to create** a better future for all and to help nations and communities achieve sustainable development in the longer term.
3. **Sport is not an ‘optional extra’ but an *essential* part of building a better world** and achieving the SDGs. We must harness the power of sport to build a world in which no one is left behind. It is an essential accelerator for achieving the SDGs in the context of the socioeconomic recovery from Covid-19.
4. **Maximising the potential of sport requires strengthened investment** in people and re-embracing global solidarity, as reiterated in the UNSG report “Our Common Agenda” and its key principles and commitments.
5. **In order to improve access to sport and meaningful inclusion of all groups, stronger engagement is needed** from the United Nations System, international financial institutions and regional banks; humanitarian organisations; governments; civil society; the private sector; and other relevant groups and institutions, including sport bodies.
6. **Everyone should be able to access and benefit from a safe and organised sport ecosystem**, free from corruption, exploitation, and abuse.

What is the role of the UN in sport?

As the guardian of the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN’s overall priority in each country is to ensure that no one is left behind.

UN entities work with governments, decision makers and partners on the ground at local to national level to reach people that may be excluded from practising sport - in particular children, youth, women, refugees, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples or older persons - and to ensure that sport and physical activities are truly accessible for all. The UN does this by:

- Increasing grassroots participation in quality physical education, physical activities and sport as an accelerator of COVID-19 recovery.
- Implementing sport programmes and collecting data on sports to develop evidence-based development cooperation programmes and related national policies.
- Partnering with local organisations in humanitarian situations, to run sports related programmes that enhance wellbeing and social inclusion and cohesion.
- Providing skills training for job opportunities and helping the most vulnerable to engage meaningfully through sport and realise their potential.
- Addressing the broad causes and impacts of complex crises and building sustainable, safe and peaceful societies as set out in the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action for a transformative vision for human rights.

What does the UN Inter-Agency Group on Sports for Development and Peace do?

- **We are a core group of UN entities who have come together under a renewed joint mission and commitment to make sport an *essential* part of achieving the SDGs.**
- **The Group brings together different UN agencies and programmes with complementary mandates, capacities, and related institutional networks to advance the role of sport for development and peace.**
- **The Group is a vital platform to ensure there is a coherent UN system-wide approach in the field of sport for development and peace.** This is the case across all three pillars of the UN (peace and security, human rights and development), This means making sure sport is included in key conventions and relevant intergovernmental processes that may not be sport specific.
- **We want to reaffirm the importance of sport as enabler of the SDGs,** by harnessing the power of sport to build a better world in which no one is left behind.
- **We work to advance sport as cross-cutting in development and peace strategies.** We work to incorporate sport and physical education in international, regional, and national development and peace policies and programmes, on the basis of agreed standards, benchmarks and indicators.
- This includes, inter alia, working together on the full implementation of the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace and other UN tools and instruments related to sport, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development., including but not limited to:
 - the Kazan Action Plan,
 - the Global Action Plan on Physical Activity,
 - General Assembly resolutions 75/18 and 73/24 on sport as an enabler of sustainable development and 74/170 on integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies;
 - Children's Rights in Sport Principles;
 - Sport for Generation Equality Principles;

- Points of Consensus, adopted by the ILO's tripartite constituents at the Global Dialogue Forum on Decent Work in the World of Sport 2020;
- UNCCC Sports for Climate Action Framework.