



SAVE THE DATE

To All Permanent Representatives and Observers to the United Nations

The Permanent Missions of Germany, State of Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russia Federation and Tunisia to the United Nations in New York, cordially invite you for a High-level Event on:

The Value of Hosting Mega Sport Events as a Social, Economic and Environmental Sustainable Development Tool

Tuesday, 16 February 2016, 10:00am to 13:00pm

Trusteeship Council, United Nations

Cognizant that mega sport events create an exceptional potential to stimulate positive change and promote economic, environmental and social development in different geographical, cultural and political contexts, the event will offer an important opportunity to highlight and discuss challenges and opportunities related to the creation of sustainable social and economic legacies around and through hosting mega sports events. The high-level event will also showcase the impact mega sport events have on empowerment of women and girls, well-being of persons with disabilities, and in getting young people off in the right track in life.

Mega sport events present host countries with a unique opportunity for long-term development and to maximize the economic, environmental and social benefits well beyond the event itself and well beyond their borders. They often play an important role in the education and motivation of children and youth to practice sports, women's empowerment, creation of jobs, health, social inclusion, promotion of living conditions, new investments, social and structural improvements in the host country and the respective region. Moreover, mega sport events represent an exceptional potential to stimulate positive change and often bring cultures and societies together. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes sport as an "important enabler of sustainable development."

The UN system has a long history of working with governments and local, regional and international stakeholders and federations around mega sport events. Related initiatives of UN entities have addressed and promoted a wide range of issues including social and economic development, human rights, anti-discrimination, social inclusion, gender equality, children's rights and protection, peacebuilding and environmental sustainability.

Purpose and Scope: the High-level event will: (a) invite the views of Member States and other stakeholders on the challenges and opportunities related to the creation of sustainable social and economic legacies around and through hosting mega sport events; (b) promote the understanding how a host country and its citizens, and regions, can benefit from the long-lasting material and immaterial impact of mega sport events, while managing the opportunities and risks that such an event produces; and (c) highlight the impact mega sport events have on social cohesion, empowerment of women and girls, and inclusion and well-being of persons with disabilities.

Format: the High-level event will consist of a high-level segment; two interactive panel sessions on *Impact on Overall Local, National and Regional Sustainable Development* and *Impact and Challenges of Hosting Major Sports Events*; comments by a well know international Sportsperson; interventions by youth sports leaders; and a closing session.