

Fostering Gender Mainstreaming to Pursue PVE Goals through Sport: Developing New Guidelines for Member States and Sports Federations

Online, 12 July 2023

08:00 AM New York Time; 14:00 PM Madrid Time

The Global Programme on the Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism (Global Sports Programme) is led by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), through its Programme Office in Madrid, in partnership with the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS), and in close consultation with the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). The Global Sports Programme's key objectives are to a) assist Member States in protecting vulnerable targets in the context of Major Sporting Events, and b) leverage the power of sports and its values to strengthen social cohesion and build resilience to violent extremism.

The Global Sports Programme serves as a platform for hundreds of national policymakers and practitioners nominated by 110 Member States as National Focal Points (NFPs) to facilitate substantive engagement vis-a-vis programmatic work. Acknowledging the crucial role that the NFPs continue playing to pursue sustainable policies through practices' implementation, the Global Sports Programme will deliver a series of expert meetings addressing new challenges pertaining to its mission.

A 90-min discussion on ***Fostering Gender Mainstreaming to Pursue PVE Goals through Sport*** will kick start the series to identify actions to eliminate intolerance, gender inequality and double standards in sports practice and promote the leadership role of women and girls in sport for PVE.

Sport is unique in its capacity to empower women and girls through their engagement in physical activities, creating a space to develop crucial life skills. Although women have increasing access to sport globally, gender inequalities persist. Gender disparities in sport including, inter alia, access to and practice of sport which is often a result of limited facilities, cultural norms, and societal expectations in some contexts; low women representation in sports governing bodies and decision-making roles; difficulty accessing and disparity in resources, including funding, training facilities, coaching, and sports equipment which tend to be prioritized for men sports; lower salaries and financial incentives compared to male counterparts; media coverage which often tends to reinforce gender stereotypes; and gender-based violence including harassment and abuse which affect women disproportionately, occurring within sports institutions, during competitions, or even in online spaces- are still very present thus requiring concerted efforts to achieve full and equal participation of women and girls and ending double standards in sports.

Recognizing the imperative to address gender discrimination in sports and ensure equal opportunities, the international community and civil society have intensified their efforts to empower women and girls while integrating gender considerations into sports policies and activities. This growing focus stems from a fundamental commitment to removing barriers and allowing individuals to realize their full potential regardless of gender. By harnessing the power of sport as a catalyst for change, stakeholders are actively striving to create an inclusive and equitable sporting landscape where women and girls can thrive. These

collective endeavours signify an important step forward in dismantling gender-based limitations and paving the way for gender equality, enabling individuals to participate fully in sports while fostering social cohesion and integration. As this global movement gains momentum, it is poised to deliver transformative outcomes and foster a more inclusive and equitable society, where women and girls can assert their rightful place in the sports arena and beyond.

Existing international frameworks and initiatives

UN Security Council Resolution 75/18 (2020) encourages the international community to explore and leverage sport and physical activity to achieve development objectives under the 2030 Agenda, recognizes that sport contributes to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and promotes further consolidation of sport in cross-cutting development and peace strategies, policies, and programmes. As evidenced in the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda of the 15th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), special importance is placed on the role of women in countering violent extremism and terrorism.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has been taking continuous action to advance gender equality. Acknowledging the importance of promoting women in sport at all levels and in all structures, while ensuring an inclusive approach that accounts for diverse and intersectional identities, the IOC has published the [Gender Equality and Inclusion Objectives 2021-2024](#) and the [IOC Gender Equality and Inclusion Portrayal Guidelines](#) which call for the implementation of gender-equal and fair portrayal practices in all forms of communication across the IOC, at the Olympic Games and throughout the Olympic Movement. In 2017, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched the [Gender Equality Review Project](#) to conduct a comprehensive review of the current state of gender equality in the Olympic Movement, which resulted in a report comprising [25 action-oriented recommendations](#) centred around tackling gender biases and stereotypes and achieving full gender equality in sports. The International Olympic Committee has also created a [Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Commission](#), and a Gender Equality Community fostering a solutions-based approach to achieving gender equality both on and off the field.

UN Women has acknowledged sport as a driver of gender equality, as well as the need to close the investment gap in women's sport, tackle gender-biased representation in media, and provide equal opportunities for girls in sport. To this end, UN Women has created the [Sport for Generation Equality Initiative](#) - a coalition convening stakeholders from across the sports universe aimed at achieving gender equality in and through sport- and invited the social media community to celebrate the achievements and unmatched potential of women and girls in sport, ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games by using #WomenInSport and #Tokyo2020.

The Council of Europe has created a thematic area focused on gender mainstreaming in sports and has been committed to fostering an ethical, inclusive, and safe sports environment advancing gender equality in the field of sports. In 2015, the Committee of Ministers adopted a [Recommendation on gender mainstreaming in sport](#), which provided suggestions to integrate gender equality considerations across different areas such as legislation, policies, programs, physical education, combating gender-based violence, awareness raising, data collection, and non-sexist language. Building on this recommendation, the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) initiated the "Balance in Sports

Project", which aimed at developing tools to implement gender equality in sports. This was followed by the joint project with the European Union titled "[ALL IN: Towards gender balance in sport](#)," to assist public authorities and sport organizations in designing and implementing policies and programs to address gender inequalities in sports, emphasizing the importance of adopting a gender mainstreaming strategy. A [toolkit on gender mainstreaming in sport](#), resulted from this project. Building up on these efforts, in 2023, the Council of Europe co-founded together with the European Union the project "[All in Plus: Promoting gender equality in sport](#)" to showcase the benefits of greater gender equality in sports. The project is centered around three main pillars: data collection and analysis; creation of an online resource centre with best practices examples, and media sensitization.

The Fédération Internationale des Associations de Footballeurs Professionnels (FIFPRO) promotes women athletes' rights by working towards a more progressive and gender-responsive vision for the football industry. To this end FIFPRO leads talks on [collective action on professionalisation of the Women's World Cup](#) and adopted [new statutory commitments](#) featuring a greater culture of diversity and inclusivity.

The way forward

Inspired by the aforementioned initiatives, and in line with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and UN Security Council Resolution 2617 (2021), the Expert Meeting on ***Fostering Gender Mainstreaming to Pursue PVE Goals through Sport*** will further operationalize the [GCTF Gender and Preventing Countering Violent Extremism Policy Toolkit](#), focused on the crucial significance of gender mainstreaming in sports. Recognizing the pivotal role played by National Focal Points in advancing dialogues that address gender inequalities and promoting an environment at the national, regional, and international levels wherein women and girls can participate in sports freely, equally, and safely, this session aims to signal a commitment to empowering women and girls through sports and fostering a more inclusive and safe society for all. By fostering awareness, collaboration, and knowledge sharing, this session aims to promote more comprehensive and effective efforts in bridging the gender gap, promoting gender equality, and nurturing inclusive sports environments. By challenging and overcoming gender stereotypes and stigmas, the overarching goal is to address the underlying structural conditions conducive to violent extremism, particularly the marginalization and discrimination faced by women and girls.

Objectives

- Identify actions for pursuing PVE goals through sport-practices mainstreaming gender
- Establish a thematic virtual forum facilitated by the Connect and Learn Platform to develop practical guidelines for National Focal Points and Sport Federation
- Promote knowledge sharing and best practices on fighting gender discrimination at the national, regional, and international level.

Format

- This event will be held online through Microsoft Teams, and will take place on 12 July 2023

Expected Outcomes

- Recommendations on how to integrate youth in National Action Plans and PVE engagements
- Increased awareness on the role and significance of sport in PVE
- Inclusion of sport in National Action Plans and PVE strategies.

Agenda

<p>14:00 – 14:05</p>	<p>Welcoming Remarks and Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Andrea Rodríguez, UN Global Sports Associate Programme Management Officer, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) • Mr. Bram Van Haver, Programme Manager, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)
<p>14:05 – 14:30</p>	<p><i>Moderated by Ms. Andrea Rodríguez, Associate Programme Management Officer, UN Global Sports Programme, UNOCT</i></p> <p>Topic 1: Addressing Gender Disparities Amongst Athletes in Sport</p> <p>This discussion will be focused on highlighting the unique potential of sport as a tool to empower women and girls and as a catalyst for gender equality. To this end, speakers will address and identify the challenges and double standards women athletes are often faced with. For instance, lower salaries, gender biased media coverage, limited access to resources, and harassment. The discussion will help raise awareness of good policies, norms, and practices to increase gender equality and empowerment amongst female athletes.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Khalida Popal, Founder and Director of Girl Power Organization • Ms. Fiona May, Long-Jumper Champion, Save the Dream Ambassador
<p>14:30 - 14:55</p>	<p><i>Moderated by Mr Thaddeus Barker-Mill, Programme Support Officer, UN Global Sports Programme, UNOCT</i></p> <p>Topic 2: The Role of Institutions in Promoting Gender Equality in Sports</p> <p>The aim of this discussion is to address the role of institutions in promoting gender equality in sports, and flag current good practices and initiatives that are being designed at the institutional level. The relationship between gender and major sporting events will also be explored, including how sport organizers and policymakers can take a gender-sensitive perspective to PVE programming and use major sporting events as a powerful platform to advance gender equality.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Olivia Conrad and Ms. Kateryna Lavryk, Council of Europe (CoE), Sport Division, All in Plus, joint EU-CoE Project • Dr. Alex Culvin, Head of Strategy and Research, Women's Football from the Football Player Worldwide (FIFPRO) • Ms. Eva Okyere, Chairperson of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Local Organizing Committee of the 13th Edition of the African Games

14:55 – 15:20	<p><i>Moderated by Mr. Valerio de Divitiis, UN Global Sports Programme Coordinator, UNOCT</i></p> <p>Topic 3: The Potential of Gender Mainstreaming in Policies and Practices relating to PVE Through Sport</p> <p>Discussion to identify steps for advancing PVE goals through gender-inclusive sport practices and emphasising sport’s crucial role as driver for a more inclusive and resilient society. This conversation is aimed at furthering the dialogue to eliminate intolerance, gender inequality, and double standards in sport-related policies and practices for PVE, as well as encouraging women and girls’ leadership roles in sport for PVE.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Nabatanzi Ester, Beneficiary of the Integrated Community Development Initiative (ICODI)• Ms. Sara Negrão, Human Rights and Gender Section, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)
15:20 – 15:25	Q&A
15:25 – 15:30	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Mr. Valerio de Divitiis, UN Global Sports Programme Coordinator, UNOCT</i>