



2023 Counter-Terrorism Week SIDE EVENTS

19–23 JUNE 2023

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS • NEW YORK



The Role of Youth in Preventing Violent Extremism through Sport

23 June 2023, 8:00 – 9:30am EDT, UNHQ Conference Room 9 and online

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The current youth generation is acknowledged as the largest in history, with the global agenda increasingly focused on young people as key drivers for meaningful and impactful social movements. Their diversity in course of action and rationale has greatly contributed to promoting peacebuilding, identifying, and addressing the triggers of violent extremism. The United Nations acknowledges the value of the youth in peacebuilding through the development of United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018), and 2535 (2020) on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) that called upon the United Nations (UN) entities and Member States to improve capacity-building by integrating the YPS agenda into their technical assistance plans. Moreover, young people are the most able to mobilize their peers and become principal stakeholders in societies that are increasingly free from stereotypes, discrimination, and extremism.

As such, the UN **Global Programme on the Security Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism (Global Sports Programme)**, was launched as a cross-cutting global initiative to help Member States leverage the power of sports to strengthen social cohesion and build resilience to violent extremism, safeguard sports from extremist activities, and protect major sporting events against terrorist threats. A high-level and expert meeting, held on the margins of the 75th UN General Assembly opening in Sept 2020, launched the Programme's workstream on PVE through sport. The Programme relies on the critical role of 225 National Focal Points nominated by Member States to secure their engagement.

A key element of the Programme's workstream on PVE through sport has been to empower youth while ensuring that their unique skills and perspectives on PVE through sport are effectively considered by policymakers. The Programme has organized youth consultations such as 1) the Online Youth Consultation on Preventing Violent Extremism through Sport (20-21 January 2021); 2) the MENA Youth Forum on Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) through Sport (21-23 June 2022) in Rabat, Morocco; 3) the Global Youth Forum on PVE through Sport in Fez, Morocco (21-23 November 2022); 4) the ASEAN-UN Regional Youth Forum on Preventing Violent Extremism through Sport in

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Bangkok, Thailand (8-9 December 2022) in order to produce policy recommendations on PVE-Through-Sport from a youth perspective. The consultations included safe spaces to dialogue with senior officials from Member States to integrate youth's views in decision-making processes. The Programme also provides an online space for discussions related to the empowerment of youth within sport policies and practices, hosted on the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism's ["Connect & Learn" website](#).

Considerations for youth are integrated into all other activities and projects of the Programme's PVE-related workstream. The Programme's policy-level *"Guide for Policymakers for The Use of Sport for the Prevention of Violent Extremism"* and *"Preventing Violent Extremism through Major Sporting Events – A Handbook for Organizers"* both actively reaffirm the role of youth in fostering sustainable peace and development. These documents also guide the Programme's technical assistance to leverage the full potential of the use of sport and its values for PVE goals. Additionally, youth are the main beneficiaries of the Programme's grant mechanism which supports grassroots CSOs in the implementation of community-level sport-based projects for PVE. Several of these youth beneficiaries contributed to the Programme's highly successful [global media campaign "#MoreThanAGame"](#) which was launched in partnership with the Generation Amazing Foundation. The campaign has showcased the inspiring stories of these youth, alongside professional footballer Nadia Nadim, to promote the power of sport to make real, positive change.

The Global Sports Programme is implemented by the UNOCT and its partners, the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS), and in close consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), INTERPOL, Generation Amazing Foundation, and the Working Group on PVE of the Global Compact on Counter-Terrorism (CT).

On the occasion of the 8th review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism the Global Sports Programme will hold an event dedicated to sport as a vehicle for youth empowerment and societal resiliency to violent extremism and assert the value of the youth in fostering sustainable peace and development. The side event co-hosted with the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations will aim to promote the multilateral nature of the sport-for-PVE efforts by gathering athletes, youth representatives who have participated in the development of sport-for-PVE policy recommendations for policymakers and regional organizations to address the pivotal role of youth and institutional cooperation in the use of sport for PVE.

Multi-stakeholder cooperation will be highlighted through some of the tangible results of the Programme, such as the development of the policy recommendations from a youth perspective on PVE-through-sport, and the regional organizations committed to sustaining multilateral policies in the pursuance of human rights-based and youth-centric PVE practices through sport, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the African Union (AU).

OBJECTIVES

1. Strengthen the role of youth as one of the key stakeholders and provide recommendations for effective incorporation of youth perspectives in the PVE goals through sport
2. Encourage more institutional cooperation and support towards youth-led sport-based PVE initiatives.

AGENDA	
8:00 – 8:35 am	Keynote speeches: Achievements and Future Goals of the Global Sports Programme
	<p>Moderated by Mauro Miedico, Director, OIC of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and Head of the Special Projects and Innovations Branch of UNOCT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) ▪ Ms. Nihal Saad, Director, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) ▪ Mr. Nasser Al Khor, State of Qatar National Focal Point for the Global Sports Programme and Executive Director of Generation Amazing Foundation ▪ Ms. Antonia Marie De Meo, Director, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) ▪ Mr. Massimiliano Montanari, CEO, International Center for Sport Security (ICSS)
8:35 – 8:50 am	Presentation of Global Sport Programme’s Policy Recommendations on PVE-Through-Sport from a Youth Perspective
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bram Van Haver, Programme Manager, UNAOC
8:50 – 9:20 am	<p>Panel Discussion on the Role of Youth in PVE through sport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ #MoreThanAGame Campaign highlights ▪ Discussion on youth perspective as a key element for effective PVE policymaking ▪ Announcement of the Guide for Policymakers for the Use of Sport for the Prevention of Violent Extremism.
	<p>Moderated by Mr. Valerio de Divitiis, Global Sports Programme Coordinator, UNOCT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Aya Albadarneh, participant of the Global Programme’s MENA Youth Forum ▪ Mr. Ahmad Farhan Bin Rosli, participant of the Global Programme’s South-East Asia Youth Forum ▪ Ms. Isabella Echeverri, Former Football Player from the Colombian National team and Union & Players Officer from the Football Player Worldwide (FIFPRO) ▪ Ms. Lina Kessy, Senior Sports Officer, African Union Sport Council ▪ Mr. Roger Yap Chao Jr., Head of Education, Youth and Sports Division at The ASEAN Secretariat
9:20 – 9:30 am	Q&A