



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM



SPORTS

GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON SECURITY OF MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS &
PROMOTION OF SPORT & ITS VALUES TO PREVENT VIOLENT EXTREMISM



REPORT

Virtual **High-Level Meeting** on Sport for Preventing and
Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism,
18 September 2020

&

Virtual International **Expert Group Meeting** on Sport for
Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to
Terrorism, 21 - 23 September 2020

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Report

- Virtual High-Level Meeting on Sport for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism, 18 September 2020
- Virtual International Expert Group Meeting on Sport for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism, 21-23 September 2020

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) was mandated by the General Assembly to enhance coordination and coherence across the UN System's counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism work to ensure the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Office coordinates and implements technical assistance and capacity building initiatives to support Member States' efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism (PCVE) conducive to terrorism, including through leveraging sport and its values as a tool to prevent violent extremism. Sports have historically played a significant role in the dissemination of positive values throughout the world and across civilization and cultures, especially for the youth, and is a powerful vector for the development of efforts aimed at preventing and countering violent-extremism and radicalization, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and facilitating integration at large.

With this vision in mind and within the framework of the "United Nations Global Programme on the Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism", UNOCT convened a High-Level Meeting on the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Sports on 18 September, 2020 and an international Expert Group Meeting on 21-23 September, 2020 jointly with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS) through its initiative, Save the Dream. Both events preceded the launch of a series of initiatives which include, inter alia, the development of a guide for policymakers, a training handbook, a global campaign and a grant-awarding mechanism for local civil society organizations (CSOs) working on sports-based prevention of violent extremism (PVE).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Security Council resolution 2419 (2018) on Youth, Peace and Security recognizes the "growing contribution of sport and culture to the realization of development and peace in the promotion of tolerance and respect as well as the contributions sport and culture make to the empowerment of youth and women, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives". More recently the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2535 (2020) calling on United Nations entities to improve capacity building by integrating the Youth, Peace and Security agenda into their technical assistance plans.

The virtual high-level meeting featured discussions between senior United Nations Officials, Member States and international organizations representatives, policymakers, and sports personalities committed to the fight against violent extremism. The event was followed by an international Expert Group Meeting where representatives from governments, international and regional organizations, sport bodies, academia and CSOs shared experiences and discussed actionable good practices of sports-based interventions aimed at preventing and countering violent extremism that can inspire the inclusion and further acknowledgment of sports within national and regional action (PCVE) action plans.

The Expert Group Meeting prioritized interactive discussions based on a participatory methodology. It kickstarted a consultative mechanism aimed at providing the Global Programme's partners with insights and technical advice on sport as a tool to prevent violent extremism and, when appropriate, provide a source of expertise and knowledge in support of capacity building and research activities.

Subsequently, working groups will be established comprising of experts and nominated officials. A secure portal to promote regular interactions, facilitate exchange of information and document sharing between International Experts will be made available. This will help prepare the implementation of follow-up activities through the Working Group on preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism (PCVE) of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, for continued engagement with the relevant United Nations entities.

VIRTUAL HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON SPORT FOR PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM CONDUCIVE TO TERRORISM

INTRODUCTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL PROGRAMME



Mr. Mauro Miedico

Deputy Director and Chief, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

On behalf of United Nations Office of counter-terrorism, Mr. Mauro Miedico expressed his gratitude to all speakers, panellists, organizations and Member States for their presence, recalling the high-level meeting is a landmark in the use of sport as a tool to address PVE and within the framework of the 2030 United Nations Agenda. Mr. Miedico highlighted the courage of Ms. Suad Galow and the courageous Somali women whom continue to practice basketball despite the threat posed by Al-Shabaab, noting that UNOCT would soon launch a global campaign to support PCVE intervention and provide resources to support communities at risk.

A STORY FROM SOMALIA

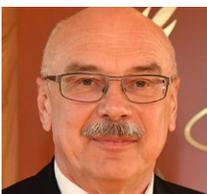


Ms. Suad Galow

Founder and President, Somali Woman Foundation,
Chairperson, Somali Basketball Federation

Ms. Suad Galow discussed her experience with basketball as a child and the skills that were taught to her through basketball; noting that the sport provided her with the ability to travel and experience diversity, until she was unable to return to Somalia. Ms. Galow expressed her shock when she noticed the impact extremist groups were having on women and most specifically on girls; recognizing the threats frequently subjected to them of assault, harassment, rape and threats against their families and themselves. This and her believe that women are the key tool for peace in Somalia led her to create a tournament help bring attention on Somali women through the organization she founded, the Somali Women foundation, which has been key in helping women to attend school, practice a sport and ultimately empower them for their future.

REMARKS



Mr. Vladimir Voronkov

Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

Under-Secretary Mr. Vladimir Voronkov reiterated UNOCT's gratitude and express his sincere honour to have Ms. Galow present, insisting that her work should be seen as an example in Prevention and Counter Violent Extremism (PCVE) work. USG Voronkov noted that sport is a synonym of integrity, peace and recalled recent attacks against sporting events including, which should remind us of the importance of sport in fighting violent extremism. USG Voronkov added that PCVE can be achieved through sport by empowering the youth and vulnerable people to be better, more tolerant and better citizens as it provides the right tool to counter-terrorism.



Mr. Hassan Al Thawadi

Mr. Hassan Al Thawadi, Secretary General, Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, 2022 FIFA World Cup

H.E. Hassan Al Thawadi, Secretary General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC), spoke about Qatar's preparations and unique legacy programmes for the 2022 FIFA World Cup™, noting the value of sport as a means to address socio-economic challenges and to promote dialogue. H.E. Al Thawadi added that in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and through its legacy initiatives – Generation Amazing and B4Development – the State of Qatar has pioneered behavioral insights solutions for the involvement of youth in PCVE efforts, highlighting the importance of tolerance and respect, empowering youth and women, and encouraging education and social inclusion.



H.E. Ms. Alya Al-Thani

Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations

Ambassador Ms. Alya Al-Thani, highlighted the potential of sports to help better a society, remarking that it transcends borders and is a universal language. As an example, the Ambassador cited the significance of Iraq's victory in the 2007 AFC Asian Cup, noting that it displayed the resilience of the Iraqi in the middle of a difficult period.



H.E. Mr. Geng Shuang

Deputy Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Geng Shuang underlined the importance of advocating for peace, respect and integrity through the values of sports and discussed the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Perceiving that it could result in increased attacks, he stressed on the need for increased security during Major Sporting Events. (MSE) He recalled on the positive legacy of the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics, as he looked forward to the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics; and expressed his country's active support to promote the use of sports in PCVE matters, highlighting the need for more international collaboration.



H.E. Mr. Chull-joo Park

Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Chull-joo Park praised the achievements of the programme and highlighted his country's partnership with UNOCT. H.E. Park remarked that COVID-19 had introduced more challenges and that young people were among the most affected. Adding that diminished access to education and interpersonal relationships are significant issues which could contribute to violent extremism, sport stands out as a more significant tool to contribute towards peace, and to protect and empower women, youth and vulnerable communities. H.E. noted the importance of identifying adequate means to reach out to these groups.



H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos
High Representative, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

High Representative Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos expressed UNAOC's pride in this event and in the partnership with UNOCT, UNICRI and ICSS. Reaffirming that UNAOC values sport as a key priority, as demonstrated by their #OneHumanity Campaign launched with Fundación Atlético de Madrid, La Liga and The Global Association of Sports Federations (GAISF). Mr. Moratinos stated that sport is essential to bring people together and to create role models for the youth; remarking the importance of identifying good practices and building appropriate capacity-building frameworks to support Member States. He also noted that learning from local initiatives and supporting them should be paramount. He stressed that UNAOC will capitalize on its broad youth network as he firmly believes that supporting and empowering youth-led organizations who are aimed at strengthening peace-building capacities and promoting diversity and inclusiveness, is one way of addressing the root causes of violent extremism conducive to terrorism.



Ms. Antonia Marie De Meo
Director, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

Director Ms. Antonia Marie De Meo expressed her gratitude to UNOCT, the UNAOC and the ICSS, and highlighted UNICRI's pride in being a partner of the Global Programme. She stated that sport plays an important role in promoting trust, inclusivity, respect for diversity, and cross-cultural engagement, and that UNICRI's work to prevent violent extremism has demonstrated that these values are key to building resilience to the spread of radicalization and violent extremism in communities at risk. Director de Meo concluded by highlighting the need for further research to understand precisely how sport might play both at the preventive and disengagement level in the fight against all forms of extremism.



Mr. Mohammed Hanzab
Chairman, International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS), Founder of Save the Dream

Mr. Mohammed Hanzab expressed his gratitude to UNAOC, UNOCT, UNICRI and Member States for their trust and cooperation, noting that the ICSS is a proud partner of the UN Global Programme. He also highlighted that sport is a universal language which promotes dialogue, mutual understanding and it helps tackle the social despair that contributes to the emergence of radical ideologies. He further remarked that the voices of athletes and their activism are a reminder of the critical role they play, and have played in the past, both as symbols of social change and as advocates for the needed reforms. Mr. Hanzab emphasized that we can learn from the practices used in the field of Sport for Peace and Development, mainly developed in the post-conflict zones, and apply those learnings to address the root causes of violent extremism and other forms of hate-fuelled acts in our society.

UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF EXTREMISM AND SHAPING INTERNATIONAL POLICIES TO TACKLE THEM THROUGH SPORT



Moderator: Ms. Reena Ninan
Television Journalist, CBS News



Mr. José Mourinho
Head Coach, Tottenham Hotspur Football Club

Mr. José Mourinho discussed the impact of COVID19- Pandemic on sports noting that it impacts everyone from children in remote regions to professional teams. Mr. Mourinho added that the rapid return of sport was critical, not for economic reasons but because of the unique role sport plays in societies, adding that "Sport allows people to become better versions of themselves".



Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake
United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake expressed her gratitude to the programme organizers and donors adding that being heard and practicing sport had become increasingly challenging for youth. She emphasized the need to find better ways to give youth a voice and to listen to their messages. She added that sport helps develop skills, such as leadership, which are essential, and is a vector to help young people formally and informally develop a sense of solidarity.



Ms. Sari Essayah
International Olympic Committee (IOC) Member, Former World and European Race-Walking Champion, Member of the Parliament of Finland (Suomen eduskunta)

Ms. Essayah noted that sport is an excellent tool to tackle extremism and violent extremism and that it is critical in promoting peace and understanding amongst athletes, people and countries. She remarked that sport develops self-confidence and that it has long been recognized as an important tool for education, insisting on the fact that every individual should have the opportunity to play sports. She concluded by calling for politicians to be more involved in this discussion and to educate themselves on this issue.



Mr. Chungwon Choue
President of the World Taekwondo Federation

Mr. Chungwon Choue stated that sports can be a huge contribution to society and that peace is much more important than triumph. He remarked that the World Taekwondo Federation contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and that it had been implementing a series of actions, including those targeting gender equality, working towards a more sustainable world, promoting respect for the youth in vulnerable communities, focusing on grassroots practitioners and helping inmates to readapt into society.



Mr. Amadou Gallo Fall
President Basketball Africa League

Mr. Amadou Gallo Fall highlighted the incredible opportunity for basketball to inspire the youth in Africa. He added that participation in sport promotes an increase in productivity and, most importantly, gives hope. Mr. Fall noted that reaching the youth is one of the biggest priorities and strength of the Basketball Africa League especially because it helped increase access to education and microeconomic activities. He also emphasized that developing role models is essential to youth development. Mr. Fall also stated that young talents often have more impact than advocacy groups within their community, which is why Sport should be more included into policies across the continent. He concluded by noting that the Basketball Africa League will contribute to build infrastructure and to create an inspiring ecosystem to keep youth away from violent extremism, terrorism, and crime.



Mr. Fadi Makki
Director of B4Development, Founder, Nudge Lebanon

Mr. Fadi Makki remarked the strong potential of using behavioural insights to support inclusion, social inclusion and the prevention of violent extremism adding that it can help understand the reasons which lead individuals to act in certain ways and to join violent extremist groups. Mr. Makki noted moreover that, using behavioural insights there is great potential to design interventions that promote emotional and psychological resilience for vulnerable populations, and which can then be tested to know what works from what doesn't.

KEY MESSAGES FROM MEMBER STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Kingdom of Belgium

The representative of Kingdom of Belgium expressed remarked that a sporting society is a healthier society in all terms: physically, mentally and socially. He noted that Belgium recognizes the importance of sports regarding drug rehabilitation, youth care and unemployment matters, adding that it is essential to integrate or to re-integrate individuals into society. He cited "Rising You" as an example of initiative facilitating the integration of refugees through sport, vocational training and employment.

Arab Republic of Egypt

The representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt noted that discussing the role of sport as a tool to prevent radicalization, terrorism is timely and essential especially because of the pandemic. The Egyptian representative noted that youth is a source of wealth and peace building, which they affirmed through supporting the 2016 National Youth conference to discuss political, economic and social matters.

Republic of India

The representative of the Republic of India recalled the significance of Sports while fighting COVID-19 Pandemic. As society is suffering from emotional isolation and that internet dependency has increased, the representative noted that encouraging the practice of sport is particularly more important. He also noted that females and youth are crucial stakeholders to mitigate radicalisation and are therefore key to fighting violence extremism.

Islamic Republic of Iran

The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran noted that sports can positively impact the mental of individuals to make them more resilience to extremism, adding that the ideas inculcated by violent extremism could be counter through the use of sports. The representative concluded by stating that finding the causes of terrorism and extremism is critical to properly address the issue and the role of sport in efforts against violent extremism.

Federal Republic of Nigeria

The representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria addressed the importance of sports in countering violence extremism. Noting that Nigeria developed an action plan against Violent Extremism which operates with the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sport as a leading force for implementing preventive measures. The representative named several examples which aim to use sport competitions to identify talent, to educate and to create grassroot-level tournaments between communities in conflicts.

Kingdom of Norway

The representative of the Kingdom of Norway highlighted the relevance of promoting sport values through events such as Olympics, Paralympics and World Cups, stating that to be effective, sport-based efforts needs to take into account age, gender and vulnerability. The representative remarked that having support from both public and private sector was essential, highlighting the positive examples of organizations such as "Right to Play", which have demonstrated a reduction of violent extremism and radicalization.

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Republic of the Philippines

The representative of the Republic of the Philippines noted that preventing and countering violent extremism is a policy priority of the Philippines, which goes hand in hand with the anti and counter-terrorisms strategies, noting that the Philippines approved an action plan in 2019 which includes programs that address the political, economic, cultural, psychosocial and religious factors of radicalisation and sees the youth as the key people vulnerable to extremist ideologies.

Kingdom of Spain

The representative of the Kingdom of Spain highlighted and praised the wide approach by the programme and the events as they recognize the need for multidisciplinary approaches to PCVE. The representative noted the importance of creating a pool of experts that support the PCVE, adding that youth and women need to be at the centre of the United Nations agenda.

Republic of Turkey

The representative of the Republic of Turkey noted that the country was one of the leaders in the field and that it continues to fight against violent extremism, adding that sport is the key to friendship and brotherhood. The representative highlighted the importance of PCVE action plans for the youth.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland reiterated the support given to the Prevent Programme and highlighted the significance of sport as a tool against radicalization and crime, noting that it stimulates grassroots initiatives and can reach youth from vulnerable areas. The representative added that sport allows a safe space to discuss socio-economic matters, and that it should be utilized together with other programmes to provide a holistic approach and increase its impact.

Republic of Uzbekistan

The representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan noted that today, young people reach their physical and professional adulthood earlier but can remain emotionally and psychologically fragile longer. The representative highlighted the importance of using sport to help prevent crime, foster cultural integration and social cohesion and help prevent violent extremism providing the example of the LULU programme, an initiative which uses sport to build resilience and to allow the youth to stay away from crime and radicalisation, which will be complemented with a film involving Uzbek athletes.

European Union (EU)

The representative of the European Union noted that sport contributes substantially as part of a whole society approach and allows the youth to work on the attitudes and life skills that will help them build resilience against radicalisation. The representative remarked that the EU had created a network to assess the impact of sport and that sport should be used as a tool to project positive development among youngsters.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

The representative from UNESCO noted that sport is essential in developing soft skills for the youth and countering violent extremism, highlighting examples of efforts made to empower youth in Morocco, Libya, Jordan and Tunisia to act as promoters of peace. The representative added that youth must be at the heart of the decision to be taken in addressing today's issues discussing examples such as the International Olympic Committee's Youth ambassadors program of to empower next generations and teach values to others.

Benfica Foundation

The representative of the Benfica Foundation stated the importance of using the power of sports for human development and to promote social work. The representative explained that sports organization like Benfica benefit from giving back to their society and in developing programmes to tackle poverty and increased access to education globally. The representative also highlighted that Benfica is currently working on initiatives aimed at addressing both issues. He concluded by stating that football can bring diversity, and inequality produces anger and should be addressed as a major driver of extremism.

Generation Amazing

Generation Amazing Programmes Director Nasser Al Khori stated that the programme was initiated in 2010 during Qatar's successful bid for the 2022 FIFA World Cup™, and continues to make sustainable development, social inclusion and conflict prevention central pillars of the football for development initiative in some of the most under-privileged communities in the world. Closely aligned to the UN SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, Generation Amazing sees sports in general and football in particular as a transformative tool in order to achieve socio-economic and wider development outcomes for refugee communities and disadvantaged youth globally. Al Khori concluded by saying that the programme has reached across four continents, built football pitches in 30 under-privileged communities, and positively impacted the lives of 500,000 young people to date. Generation Amazing works closely with the B4Development behavioural insights unit to make sure the PVE impact is measured and based on scientific insights.

Grupo Internacional de Paz

The representative of Grupo Internacional de Paz discussed the importance of collaborations in the development of communities, promoting peace, reconciliation and the restoration of the communities. The representative noted that using sport to reduce violence in conflict zones in partnership with local, national and international organisations had been effective and that they are committed to continue working with communities and refugees to use sport to improve personal abilities, facilitate cultural changes, overcome trauma and help build confidence. He added that they had reached over 30,000 in Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico since 2019.

HAŠK Mladost / EMCA

The representative of HAŠK Mladost noted that the essence of intercultural conflicts comes from differences and only long-term development and sustainable approaches can be effective in fostering integration and reconciliation efforts. The representative remarked the universal values of sport that represent a unique tool outside of the formal political world. He praised the work of European Multisport Club Association action where clubs bring refugee children together.

Search for Common Ground

The representative of Search for Common Ground emphasized the importance of adopting accessorial and collaborative approaches; recognizing that sport promotes fairness and justice, which are values that many cannot find in their respective communities or societies which could lead to radicalization. They concluded by remarking that in sport, your opponents are not enemies but peers you compete both with and against, which imposes a notion of respect that is too often absent in society.

VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON SPORT FOR PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM CONDUCIVE TO TERRORISM

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS



Mr. Mauro Miedico

Deputy Director and Chief, Special Projects and Innovation, United Nations Office on Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

Mr. Mauro Medico delivered a welcome address presenting the programme and announcing UNOCT's pride in launching the PVE stream of the United Nations Global Programme on the Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism. He noted that this stream would focus on four main objectives: a) identifying and mapping existing policies and practices to enhance the use of sport as a tool to prevent violent extremism, b) supporting and providing capacity building assistance to Member States, particularly those willing to be accompanied by the UN to develop national programs and projects to promote the use of sports and its values in PVE plans, c) launching a major campaign involving sports champions to support PVE actions in vulnerable communities, and d) Working directly and supporting civil society organizations and sport associations.

He further explained that this event aimed to identify and improve good practices to promote the use of sports to raise community resilience in order to prepare the UN guidelines.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Ms. Maria Francesca Spatolisano

Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination & Inter-Agency Affairs, Office of the Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

During her address, Ms. Francesca Spatolisano indicated that sport fosters confidence-building, empowerment and wellbeing of all members of the society, including "those who tend to be left behind such as women and girls, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, and older persons". She recalled the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the adoption of the resolution on Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal by the United Nations General Assembly; noting that they recognize the role of sport in countering terrorism and violent extremism, and its role as an enabler of peace and development.

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KEY POINTS BY THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTATIVES

Moderator

Mr. Khalil Otmane, Programme Officer, UNOCT

Speakers

Ms. Georgia Dimitropoulou, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Mr. Abdul Rahman Lamin, Youth and Sport Section, UNESCO

Mr. Giovanni Di Cola, Special Advisor to the Deputy Director General for Field Operations and Partnerships, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Ms. Joyce Deloge, UN Development Programme (UNDP), Tanzania

Mr. Joseph Callixtus, Regional Crime and Security Strategy Coordinator, CARICOM IMPACS

Ms. Aleksandra Klosinska, Action against Terrorism Unit, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Mr. Mattias Lundberg, Senior Economist, Jobs Cross-Cutting Solutions Area, World Bank

The panel highlighted the importance of sports and sports values in preventing violent extremism and radicalization conducive to terrorism. Panellists agreed that sports provide a framework for responsible citizenship, particularly when it is used as a vehicle to equip young people with life skills promoting violence reduction and enabling their resilience to violence and crime. They noted that sports and its values can be a very helpful tool when it comes to reaching marginalized people and deprived communities, as well as building trust between these communities and security forces.

With regards to inequality and marginalization, panellists expressed the need to dedicate more attention to the way we harness demographic dividends. Noting that in countries with young populations are often affected by inequality and marginalization, sports could provide a framework for creating responsible citizens and could act as a generator and disseminator of positive values such as courage, teamwork, equality, inclusion and respect. This is particularly important as inequality and marginalisation have often been identified as key drivers towards violent extremism. UNESCO detailed its efforts to support young people involved in peacebuilding activities on inclusion, human rights and tolerance and foster inclusion, as part of their focus on SDG 4 on quality education and SDG 16 on peaceful societies.

In addition, panellists insisted on the necessity to develop capacity-building programmes and to provide technical assistance to Member States in order to support their policy development and PCVE efforts. They highlighted the need to tailor specific initiatives to meet the specific needs of respective communities without neglecting gender-related considerations adding that sports and sport-based programmes for PCVE can be effective only when applied as part of a comprehensive set of initiatives that target the values relevant to risk factors. Moreover, the important role of female athletes, especially as positive influences and mentors for girls emerged in the course of the discussion. It was noted that sports do not automatically lead to positive outcomes and can only be effective when certain conditions are met. While concluding, experts also highlighted the need to provide research and evidence-based policy guidance and ensure that programmes have measurable and identifiable outcomes.

“Sport is here to reunite, to counter violent extremism and to achieve peace while contributing to social justice.”

Giovanni Di Cola, International Labour Organization (ILO)



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“We need to work together to assure resilience of the communities.”

Joyce Deloge, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



“We need to have evidence of projects that ‘work’ on the ground, bringing principles to concrete examples, we need to identify and share such programs.”

Mattias Lundberg, World Bank



CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM: SPORTS AND ITS VALUES AS INTEGRAL PART OF PVE EFFORTS

Speakers

Mr. Valerio de Divitiis, Global Sports Programme Coordinator, UNOCT

Mr. Daniel Koehler, Director of the German Institute on Radicalization and De-Radicalization Studies (GIRDS)

During this session speakers noted that the feeling of loneliness and exclusion is a key element contributing to the radicalization of youth and their recruitment by terrorist organizations. They highlighted that sports could be used by violent extremists adding that several groups have used martial arts to portray their ideology and promote action, comradeship, loyalty and the sense of brotherhood. Panellists discussed the importance of the mentor-mentee relationship in this context, mentioning examples where trainers and radicalized competitive martial art fighters were used to encourage and persuade youngsters to join their rows.

“Violence is a very important aspect of extremism; we need to combat this connection through education.”

Daniel Koehler, German Institute on Radicalization and De-Radicalization Studies (GIRDS)



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THE ROLE OF ATHLETES IN PROMOTING DIALOGUE AND PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Moderator

Mr. Massimiliano Montanari, CEO, Save the Dream, International Center for Sport Security

Speakers

Mr. Edgar Davids, Founder of Parc des Reves, former Dutch National Team footballer

Ms. Laura Georges, Secretary-General, French Football Federation

Mr. Johann Koss, Founder of Right to Play, four-time Olympic Gold Medalist in speedskating

Ms. Suad Gallow, Chief Executive Officer, Somali Women Foundation

Ms. Nadia Nadim, Football Player, Paris Saint-Germain Féminine, Danish National Team

Ms. Tegla Loroupe, Captain of IOC Refugee Team, Save the Dream Ambassador

Ms. Honey Thaljih, FIFA Manager, founder of the Female Palestinian National Team, Save the Dream Ambassador

Ms. Fiona May, Board Member UEFA Foundation, Save the Dream Ambassador

Mr. Kashif Siddiqi, professional footballer, co-founder of Football for Peace initiative and KSF foundation

In this panel, speakers were asked to share personal experiences that promoted the values of sports and define the role that athletes could play in preventing violent extremism. Panellists, particularly those who come from marginalized environments, insisted on the necessity to target vulnerable demographics and tailor programmes to the needs of vulnerable communities.

Panellists then highlighted the need for Member States to provide security and ensure the safety of sport athletes to help them convey peace and tolerance messages while simultaneously expressing the need to encourage athletes to be more active in delivering peace messages given their reach.

During the discussions, it was mentioned that the creation of role models is essential because of their impact in society, adding that athletes can inspire future generations by speaking about sport values, spreading positive messages and using their platforms. Speakers noted that as athletes become role models, they should have the responsibility to deliver these messages in a smart and intelligent way and that efforts should be dedicated to find the right language and create awareness of PCVE matters. However, it was also noted that there is a responsibility from all stakeholders to keep athletes informed about these issues and to actively seek their involvement and to help develop the appropriate framework to support and benefit from the rise of athlete activism.

In addition, speakers indicated that civil society and community members should be integrated in the development, establishment and implementation of PCVE programs to ensure cohesion and community-level buy-in. Speakers also noted the importance to ensure that sport-based and all PCVE efforts should be fully inclusive and ensure that no one is left out, including those with disabilities. Recognizing that while there is a stigma around disability, this issue should be brought up front as a central, core power of PCVE conversations, noting that by using a universal and inclusive design, disability can act as a catalyst that impacts everybody.



“Refugee camps should be used as examples to help open people’s eyes. Most of the time, refugees are perceived as criminals but when you get a chance to hear their stories you come to realize that they are people just like you.”

Tegla Loroupe, Captain of IOC Refugee Team,
Save the Dream Ambassador

“If we look at the psychology of identity and group dynamics, we always find evidence of the important role that identity and specifically marginalization of certain groups plays in cultivating extremist ideologies and behaviours.”

Honey Thaljieh, Corporate Communication Manager, FIFA, and co-founder and first ever captain of the Palestinian Women’s National Football Team



“We need to pass the right messages and push people in the right direction... we need to offer hope to the youngsters.”

Edgar Davids, Founder of Parc des Rêves,
former Dutch National Team footballer



“Sport is a fantastic tool which can be used to communicate, educate and learn, especially for the benefit of vulnerable individuals and groups in society.”

Nadia Nadim, Paris Saint-Germain Féminine,
Danish National Team



“Athletics, especially, has a long history of activism since the 1968 Olympics Black Power salute. It was a major opportunity to show the humanity of athletes.”

Fiona May, Board Member UEFA Foundation,
Save the Dream Ambassador



“We need to understand and use the values of sport to create initiatives to prevent violence in our society.”

Johann Koss, Founder of Right to Play,
four-time Olympic Gold Medalist in speedskating

“More girls having opportunities and chance to play sports was a way to create inclusion and promote the legacy of the 2019 FIFA Women’s World Cup.”

Ms. Laura Georges, Secretary-General,
French Football Federation



“We need to create awareness and explain the benefits of sport for youth, to parents and local governments.”

Suad Gallow, Chief Executive Officer,
Somali Women Foundation

“The decade of peace starts now, leaving us with 10 years to work towards the 2030 SDGs and athletes indeed have to support this initiative.”

Kashif Siddiqi, professional footballer,
co-founder of Football for Peace initiative and KSF
foundation



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN SPORT AND PCVE PROGRAMMES

Moderator

Mr. Bram Van Haver, Project Management Specialist – Youth and Education, UNAOC

Rapporteur

Ms. Ivana Pranjic, leader of Sport Diplomacy Working Group, ENGSO Youth

Speakers

Mr. Nasser Al Khorl, Programmes Director, Generation Amazing

Ms. Nevena Vukasinovic, Institutional Affairs, European Sports Policy and Strategic Partnerships Adviser

Mr. Warren Luca, Youth Coordinator, Foundation for Sport, Development and Peace

Ms. Isaura Carrilho, Parc Des Reves

Ms. Nicole Banister, Global Partnerships Coordinator, Grassroots Soccer

Mr. Kato S. Abdu, Executive Director at Integrated Community Development Initiative

Ms. Asma Kaouech, Executive Director, Fanni Raghman Anni

Ms. Caroline Baxter Tresise, Specialist Consultant in Youth, UNESCO

Mr. Umair Asif, Kafka Welfare Organization Pakistan and member of UNESCO Asia-Pacific Task Force on Sport and the SDGs

Mr. Seppe Verbist, Regional Director Africa, Futbol Mas

This panel which reunited youth from different regions and backgrounds was the opportunity to reiterate the power of sports and sport-based programmes in fostering inclusion and cohesion. Panellists agreed on the fact that young people are agents of positive changes; and that empowering youth and women contribute to economic and social development, and enables the use of sport values as a tool to prevent violent extremism. They further noted that sports could secure the future of vulnerable youth and provide them with support mechanisms to help them develop resilience. Panellists noted that Member States and intergovernmental organizations should integrate less privileged youth in the establishment of PCVE programs and ensure that they are part of the implementation, monitoring and decision-making processes.

Speakers also noted the importance of establishing long-term objectives combining sports with community activities and highlighted the need to complement existing and traditional approaches with PCVE elements. Some noted that it would be important to ensure that civil society including organizations working with sports and youth have the space they need to operate safely and freely builds trust between civil society and authorities.

“It is not just about ticking boxes, we need to develop tangible storytelling methods on sport and PVE and the role of youth within.”

Nevena Vukasinovic, alumna of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations



PUBLIC POLICIES IN THE FIELD OF SPORT AND C/PVE: NATIONAL AND LOCAL PERSPECTIVES

Moderator

Mr. Duccio Mazarese, Programme Officer, UNICRI

Mr. Bram Van Haver, Project Management Specialist – Youth and Education, UNAOC

Rapporteur

Mr. Diogo Guia, Director, Sports Public Policy & Chief Operating Officer, ICSS INSIGHT

Speakers

Rt. Hon. Richard Caborn, Former Minister of Sport, UK

Mr. Azoupiou Daouda, Minister of Sport and Recreation, Burkina Faso

Mr. Marcos Diaz, Vice-Minister of Sports, Dominican Republic

Ms. Laurence Fischer, Founder of Fight for Dignity, Ambassador for Sport, French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, 3 times Karate World Champion

Mr. Micheal Shamsu Mustapha, Sierra Leone Ministry of Sports

Mr. Julio Andrade, Director CIFAL Malaga, Centro Internacional de Formación de Lideres de Agencia ONU-UNITAR

UN GLOBAL SPORTS PROGRAMME PVE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS (NFPS)

Mr. André Xavier de Carvalho, Coordination Office of the National Plan for Ethics in Sport, Portugal

Mr. Julio Torres González, Analista, Dirección de Seguridad Internacional y Humana (DISIN), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Chile

Ms. Sopiko Burduli, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia

During the discussions, panellists mentioned that using sport and its values to prevent violent extremism could not be impactful without the support of governments and without being developed and implemented as part of a long-term strategy. Minister Azoupiou Daouda noted that governments should promote sports for all and establish socially inclusive policies focusing on youth, women, seniors, and disabled people. Speakers reiterated the necessity to enhance cooperation between intergovernmental agencies and to develop public-private partnerships. In addition, panellists concurred that values of sports should be taught at an early age noting that governments need to include sports and physical activity in their education system. In this framework the important role that national athletes can have as inspirational model, particularly when those messages are conveyed in comprehensive programs and through the national sport federations was highlighted.

Panellists also noted that governments need to develop policies to identify variables causing vulnerabilities and conducive to violent extremism. It was noted that national institutions responsible for sport should promote effective policies to enhance transparency and integrity in sport, which is a necessary condition ensure that sport remains a credible tool to convey positive values and promote changes in the society.

Towards the end of the panel, Speakers commended the efforts of the United Nations in promoting sports and sports values to prevent violent extremism, remarking that it is crucial to ensure the integrity of sport also at the international level.

“Particular emphasis should be on gender equality projects within sport and development.”

Laurence Fischer, Founder of Fight for Dignity, Ambassador for Sport, French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, 3 times Karate World Champion



Report

- Virtual High-Level Meeting on Sport for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism, 18 September 2020
- Virtual International Expert Group Meeting on Sport for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism, 21-23 September 2020



“Day two of the EGM on #SportsPVE: Rt. Hon. Richard Caborn, former Minister of Sport in the UK, highlighted the importance of keeping sport clean, transparent, accountable and operating with integrity as a vehicle to deliver all of Mandela’s messages.”

@UN_OCT on Twitter

“We need to prepare for post pandemic challenges. Sport should be a part of this.”

Julio Torres González, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Chile

SPORT AND PCVE: THE ENGAGEMENT OF SPORT BODIES AND FEDERATIONS

Moderator

Dr. Marion Keim, Chairperson, Foundation for Sport, Development and Peace, Member of IOC Education Commission

Rapporteur

Prof. Christo de Coning, Institute for Sport and Development South Africa

Speakers

Mr. José María Cruz de Andrés, CEO, Sevilla FC

Mr. Hedeli Sassi, Football & Social Responsibility - Royal Belgian Football Association

Mr. Olof Hansson, Division Director, World Taekwondo

Mr. Shahin Rahmani, Asian Football Federation

Mr. Christian Emeruwa, African Football Confederation

Mr. Levent Akici, International Affairs Coordinator, World Ethnosport Confederation

Mr. Florin Sari, Good Governance Manager, Romanian Football Federation

Mr. Jorge Miranda, Director Coordenador Fundação Benfica

Ms. Rosa Roncal, International Area Manager, Real Madrid Foundation (tbc)

Mr. Martino Roghi, CSR Manager, Milan AC

Mr. Rafael Muela Pastor, Real Betis Balompié Foundation

Mr. João Paulo Almeida, Director General, Portuguese National Olympic Committee

Mr. Marco Befera, Senior Manager, Italian Olympic Committee

Mr. Rodolfo Paverini, President, Confederación Argentina de Deportes

Mr. Joan Cusco, CEO of Beach Soccer Worldwide

This panel was the occasion to identify the important role played by sports organizations to prevent and counter violent extremism. Speakers noted the need to develop sports programs that strengthen integration, education and provide the youth with values and principles, they also highlighted the importance of grassroots work in reaching different communities and promoting sports values such as solidarity, partnership, perseverance, respect and diversity.

Panellists emphasized the importance of joint actions primarily between schools and sports organizations to educate values through sports and promote valued approaches. They also noted the need of a better interaction and coordination between the different stakeholders (civil society, the private sector, the media sports, sport clubs, government organizations) to develop targeted PCVE programs designated for socially vulnerable children and youngsters who have suffered marginalization and discrimination to help them foster their sense of belonging. While discussing the links between schools and sports organizations, speakers also emphasized the importance of having interfaces between the two.

In addition, speakers suggested the conception of a set of best practices to guide international organizations in their development programs. They also indicated that the long-term commitment and sustainability of programs is important and stressed the prominent role played by coaches who are role models for youngsters. They called on governments to identify the main triggers of violence, address the inequalities and provide the youth with opportunities to become active speakers in sports.

Speakers expressed the need for a set of practical guidelines to further development of sport based PCVE and peacebuilding programmes. They also mentioned the significant role of confederations and the importance of addressing socio-economic inequalities which are often the main triggers of violence.

“UEFA and FIFA have the capacity and responsibility to create the rules and tools to prevent violence. They have been creating good guidelines, but we have to collectively give more focus in generic violence in football at professional and non-professional level.”

José María Cruz de Andrés, Sevilla FC



“Sport Federations (international and national) have a big responsibility. They should commit to target these specific issues happening in sports.”

Christian Emeruwa, African Football Confederation



“We need to keep the youth busy with sport to prevent them to have bad experiences in life.”

Levent Akici, World Ethnosport Confederation



FROM POLICY TO IMPLEMENTATION: THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL CSOs

Moderator

Ms. Manuela Brunero, Programme Officer, UNICRI

Rapporteur

Dr. Marion Keim, Chairperson, Foundation for Sport, Development and Peace, Member of IOC Education Commission

Speakers

Dr. Constantinos Filis, Director, International Olympic Truce Center (IOTC)

Dr. Mohannad Al-Arabi, President, Generations For Peace

Mr. Jean-Jérôme Perrin Mortier, COO, Peace and Sport

Ms. Marcia Dyson, Founder and CEO of Women's Global Initiative, Writer, Member of the Save the Dream High-Level Council

Dr. Abdelfatah Mohamed, External Affairs Consultant, Qatar Charity

Mr. Jorge Costa, Chief Venue officer, Oracle Park, San Francisco Giants

Ms. Steffi Biester, Founder of KickFair

Dr. Ben Sanders, Senior consultant at the International Platform on Sport and Development

Mr. Mbulelo Malotana, Grassroot Soccer, South Africa

Ms. Silvia Haba, Executive Director, Futbol Con Corazon

Mr. Edgar Romero, Grupo Internacional de Paz

Mr. John Wroe, Founder and CEO, Street Child United

Mr. Brian Wesaala, Founder, Football Foundation for Africa

Mr. Bojan Mijatovic, International Coordinator, HASK Mladost

Mr. Robert Örell, Director Transform, Director Exit USA at Life After Hate and Member of the Steering Committee EU RAN

Speakers recognized the role of Sports as a vehicle to advocate PVE policies and teach values that help build personal and community resilience to violent extremism. They also discussed the importance of establishing partnerships with local governments, and the use of multidisciplinary approaches; this is cognizant to the specific strengths of civil society such as their presence on the ground, their deep knowledge of local context and their ability to identify potential elements conducive to radicalization.

It was noted that sports can affect people at different levels. At the individual level, it fosters critical thinking, assertive communication, empathy, and emotional education; at the community level, it promotes collective capacities, establish cooperation networks in the community, and protect the common good, and at the societal level, it promotes democratic cultures and teaches how to cooperate with institutions in the achievement of community objectives.

Experts highlighted however that sport is not a silver bullet nor the ultimate solution on its own, adding that it should be viewed as a tool and possibly “applied” in connection with education and the education systems. Speakers noted that sport can represent both a protective element and a risk factor, and that this reality should be taken into consideration when designing sport-based intervention. Ways to ensure that such efforts are properly implemented require a credible theory of change, the presence of a solid non-sport component, a robust monitoring and evaluation process and trained and competent coaches and mentors. This takes into consideration the efficacy of the relationships between coaches/mentors and the youth, which can be one of the most critical factors in successful interventions.

Panellists made some recommendations regarding the use of sports to prevent and counter violent extremism. Among these recommendations, a Promotion, Prevention and Targeted Intervention (PPI) approach, which focuses on promoting democratic and belonging values, preventing specific groups and situations where signal signs of VE are detected, and adapting targeted interventions to individuals developing signs of extremism or already involved in extremist activities.

“In order to keep youth from following a more violent path, we have to offer an alternative life model.”

Constantinos Filis, International Olympic Truce Center (IOTC)



“Sports can be seen as a tool to reduce racism, hate, or xenophobia. Sports can help bring generation together and get the energy of the youth and focus it in the right direction.”

Abdelfatah Mohamed, Qatar Charity



“Sports can and should be viewed as a tool, an entry point, and as a vehicle for attitudinal and behavioral change.”

Mohannad Al-Arabi, Generations for Peace

“Sport is the solution for a civil society organization to support PVE initiatives.”

Edgar Romero, Grupo Internacional de Paz

SPORT AND C/PVE: ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVES

Moderator

Dr. Bahruz Balayev, Head of Global Outreach, Save the Dream, International Center for Sport Security

Rapporteur

Prof. Christo de Coning, Institute for Sport and Development South Africa

Speakers

Prof. Marion Keim, Director Interdisciplinary Centre for Sports Science and Development, University of the Western Cape, South Africa

Prof. Richard Giulianotti, Professor of Sociology, Loughborough University

Prof. Mahfoud Amara, Director of Sport Science Program, Qatar University

Prof. Chiara D'Angelo, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart

Prof. Roy Tamashiro, Webster University

Dr. Paolo Bertaccini, Independent Expert advising the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sport Corruption/ Crime Issues

Mr. Eli Wolff, Director of Power of Sport Lab

Prof. Nico Schulenkorf, Assoc. Prof. Sport Management at UTS, Sydney, Australia

Mr. Renato Operti, Senior Consultant in education at the International Bureau of Education (IBE-UNESCO), Director of the School of Postgraduate Studies, Catholic University of Uruguay (UCU)

During this session, speakers noted that sport alone could not eliminate the causes of social exclusion and those which are conducive to violent extremism. However, they indicated that sport clubs together with schools, families and community services have a central role in generating an effective positive impact. They also highlighted the need to combine different educational resources such as coaches, teachers and family members to help youth better cope with the challenges they face.

In addition, panellists touched on the importance of providing a link between academia and practice, adding that international scholars from different areas should work together on developing a handbook to help address sensitive issues. They recommended that due to differences in learning styles and cultures, the handbook should provide intercultural translation of meanings, feature a clear message, clearly identify its audience, promote long-term planning and the development of sustainable sport-based PCVE practices while offering interactive and visual learning.

Panellists noted that the impacts and slow-down period caused by COVID-19-related disruptions had provided some sports organizations with an opportunity to reposition themselves and develop new capacity in the future. In this regard, the significance of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a framework to achieve a greater and sustainable impact was highlighted. Speakers also remarked the importance of having more impact on youth- and elderly-related work, providing examples of how certain municipalities and cities engaged and encouraged the development of more partnerships with CSOs, sports organizations, schools and different levels of government.

Existing handbooks were also presented to the audience and the panel, highlighting that programmes which emphasize on long-term commitment and approaching sport as a 'school of life' were more likely to be impactful and successful. They also insisted on the fact that a 'sense of belonging' was a critical aspect to address amongst youth and that a sustainable model was needed with proper evaluation to ensure evidence-based information.

Panellists agreed that there was a lack in conversation between academics and researchers on the topic of PCVE and expressed their concern regarding the limitation of literature on this subject. They also indicated that Universities and academic institutions should offer scholarships that support solving conflicts and countering violent extremism. In this regard, speakers noted that monitoring and evaluations tools could greatly benefit from the feedback and contributions of academia and the private sector, recognizing that academics can support intergovernmental, civil society and sport organizations in their efforts.

"The right access and security is important for academia when addressing the issues of radicalization."

Mahfoud Amara, Qatar University



"Academics can support sport organizations in the realization of participative management teams and developing participative evaluation methodology."

Chiara D'Angelo, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart



"Academics play an important role to teach parents, children, coaches."

Marion Keim, ICSSD, University of the Western Cape, South Africa



"More academic commitment needed to make the difference and we need to look at the sport and PVE phenomenon from different perspectives."

Nico Schülenkorf, University of Technology Sydney





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