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Agenda item 12

Sport for development and peace

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 12 November 2024

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/79/L.10](#))]

79/8. Sport as an enabler of sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [58/5](#) of 3 November 2003 and [59/10](#) of 27 October 2004, its decision to proclaim 2005 the International Year for Sport and Physical Education to strengthen sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace, and its resolutions [60/1](#) of 16 September 2005, [60/9](#) of 3 November 2005, [61/10](#) of 3 November 2006, [62/271](#) of 23 July 2008, [63/135](#) of 11 December 2008, [65/4](#) of 18 October 2010, [67/17](#) of 28 November 2012, [69/6](#) of 31 October 2014, [71/160](#) of 16 December 2016, [73/24](#) of 3 December 2018, [75/18](#) of 1 December 2020 and [77/27](#) of 1 December 2022,

Recalling also its resolution [67/296](#) of 23 August 2013, in which it proclaimed 6 April the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace,

Recalling further its resolution [78/10](#) of 21 November 2023 on building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal, and all its previous resolutions on this matter,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,



Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹ supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling Policy Brief No. 73 of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, “The impact of COVID-19 on sport, physical activity and well-being and its effects on social development”, the inter-agency advocacy brief “Recovering better: sport for development and peace – reopening, recovery and resilience post COVID-19”, initiated by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and co-led by the Department and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and Policy Brief No. 128 of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, “Addressing climate change through sport”,

Recognizing the contribution of sport to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, as declared in its resolutions 60/1, and 65/1 of 22 September 2010,

Recalling that, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, sport is recognized as an important enabler for sustainable development,

Welcoming the convening of the Summit of the Future on 22 and 23 September 2024 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and taking note of resolution 79/1 of 22 September 2024, entitled “The Pact for the Future”, and its annexes, that, inter alia, recognizes the protection and promotion of culture and sport as integral components of sustainable development,

Taking note of its resolution 78/310 of 1 July 2024, entitled “World Fair Play Day”, which proclaimed 19 May as World Fair Play Day,

Recognizing that the sport sector can contribute to addressing the adverse impacts of climate change, including by reducing its own carbon footprint, by adopting sustainability standards and by raising awareness and influencing millions of people worldwide and their behaviours,

Acknowledging the importance of holistic approaches to health and well-being through regular physical activity, including sport and recreation, to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and promote healthy lifestyles, including through physical education, as reflected in the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,²

Recognizing that sports, the arts and physical activity have the power to change perceptions, prejudices and behaviours, as well as to inspire people, break down racial and political barriers, combat discrimination and defuse conflict, as reflected in the political declaration adopted at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit in 2018,³

Recognizing also that sport, including sport for persons with disabilities and persons living with rare diseases, has an important role to play in the promotion of peace and development, physical and mental health, gender equality, the

¹ Resolution 70/1.

² Resolution 73/2.

³ Resolution 73/1.

empowerment of women and girls, respect for human rights and the fight against racism and racial discrimination,

Recognizing further the benefits of sport for the health of older persons, as outlined in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,⁴

Recalling article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵ outlining a child's right to play and leisure, and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",⁶ stressing the promotion of physical, mental and emotional health through play and sports,

Recalling also the political declaration⁷ and outcome⁸ adopted at the five-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,⁹ with 2025 marking its thirtieth anniversary, and the commitments made therein to ensure equal opportunities for women and girls in recreational and sports activities, as well as in participation in athletics and physical activities at the national, regional and international levels, such as access, training, competition, remuneration and prizes,

Recalling further article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,¹⁰ in which States parties recognized the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life and are to take appropriate measures to enable persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities, and recognizing that the active involvement of persons with disabilities and persons living with rare diseases in sport contributes to the full and equal realization of their human rights, as well as respect for their inherent dignity, consistent with article 1 of the Convention,

Acknowledging the revised International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport, as proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-eighth session, in November 2015,¹¹ as well as the Declaration of Berlin and the Kazan Action Plan adopted at the fifth and sixth International Conferences of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, held, respectively, in Berlin in May 2013 and in Kazan, Russian Federation, in July 2017,

Recognizing the important role played by the International Convention against Doping in Sport¹² in harmonizing the actions taken by Governments in the fight against doping in sport, which are complementary to those undertaken by the Olympic movement and other sporting organizations under the World Anti-Doping Code of the World Anti-Doping Agency,

Acknowledging the recommendations contained in the report of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group entitled "Harnessing the power of sport for development and peace: recommendations to Governments", and

⁴ Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁵ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁶ Resolution S-27/2, annex.

⁷ Resolution S-23/2, annex.

⁸ Resolution S-23/3, annex.

⁹ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

¹⁰ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

¹¹ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Records of the General Conference, Thirty-eighth Session, Paris, 3–18 November 2015, vol. 1, Resolutions, sect. IV, resolution 43.

¹² United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 2419, No. 43649.

encouraging Member States to implement and further develop those recommendations,

Recognizing the need to strengthen and further coordinate efforts, including multi-stakeholder partnerships, at all levels to maximize the potential of sport to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as other internationally agreed development goals, and national peacebuilding and State-building priorities,

Acknowledging the major role of the United Nations system and its country programmes, as well as the role of Member States, in promoting human development through sport and physical education,

Acknowledging also the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport and the International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, including the declarations that it has adopted, in promoting the educational, cultural and social dimensions of sport and physical education, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda, and in forging commitments and recommendations in this regard,

Recalling the proclamation by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, at its thirty-eighth session, of 20 September as the International Day of University Sport,

Recalling also the role of UN-Women and the opportunities that it provides within its mandate for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including in and through sport, and welcoming the continued advancement of women and girls in sports and sporting activities, in particular the support for their progressively higher participation in sport events, which provides opportunities for economic development through sports,

Acknowledging the Olympic Charter, and that any form of discrimination is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic movement,

Welcoming the memorandum of understanding signed between the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations in April 2014, in which a call was made to strengthen efforts around sport-based initiatives that encourage social and economic development, as well as to strengthen the many partnerships that United Nations organizations have established with the Committee,

Affirming the invaluable contribution of the Olympic and Paralympic movements in establishing sport as a unique means for the promotion of peace and development, in particular through the ideal of the Olympic Truce, acknowledging the opportunities provided by past Olympic and Paralympic Games, including those held in Beijing in 2022 and Paris in 2024, as well as the Winter Youth Olympic Games held in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 2020, welcoming with appreciation all upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games, in particular those to be held in Milano-Cortina, Italy, in 2026, in Los Angeles, United States of America, in 2028, and in Brisbane, Australia, in 2032, as well as the Winter Games in 2030 in the French Alps, France, and in 2034 in Salt Lake City, United States of America, in addition to the Youth Olympic Games held in Gangwon, Republic of Korea, in 2024, and in Dakar in 2026, and calling upon future hosts of such Games and other Member States to include sport, as appropriate, in conflict prevention activities and to ensure the effective implementation of the Olympic Truce during the Games,

Recognizing the role that the Paralympic movement plays in showcasing the achievements of athletes with disabilities to a global audience and in acting as a

primary vehicle to promote positive perceptions and greater inclusion of persons with disabilities in sport and society,

Recognizing also the importance of international, continental and regional sport events, such as the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships, the Special Olympics World Games, the Deaflympics, the World Indigenous Games, the European Games, the Games of La Francophonie, the Pan American Games and the Parapan American Games, the Games of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the All Africa Games, the Asian Games, the Pacific Games, the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, the World Nomad Games, the Commonwealth Games and the World University Games, for promoting education, health, development, peace and solidarity among nations,

Acknowledging the success of the inaugural United Nations New York-based Missions Games (United Nations Games), held in New York from 11 April to 8 May 2024, within the framework of the General Assembly Sustainability Week, and devoted to the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, and welcoming the convening of the second United Nations Games in New York in April 2025 to foster camaraderie, collaboration and dialogue among the staff of the permanent missions accredited to the United Nations and the Secretariat of the United Nations,

Highlighting the importance of continuing to reduce barriers to participation in sport events, particularly for participants from developing countries,

Recognizing that major international sport events should be organized in the spirit of peace, mutual understanding and international cooperation, friendship and tolerance, and without discrimination of any kind, and that the unifying and conciliative nature of such events should be respected,

Reaffirming the importance of Member States, including those that will host such Games and other sporting events in the future, as well as relevant sport-related organizations, federations and associations, as appropriate, enhancing measures to address the risks of corruption related to such events, and in this regard welcoming the conferences on safeguarding sport from corruption, held in Vienna in June 2018 and in September 2019, noting with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in this regard, in particular the publication of the *Global Report on Corruption in Sport*, and noting the efforts of the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport established in 2017,

Taking note of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime *Global Report on Corruption in Sport* and its report entitled “Game Over: Exposing the Linkages between Corruption, Serious and Organized Crime in Sport”, noting with appreciation the efforts of Member States and the Office aimed at preventing, detecting, investigating and sanctioning corruption and organized crime in sport through awareness-raising, capacity-building and activities linked to enhancing cooperation between criminal justice authorities, sports organizations and relevant stakeholders, and recalling in this regard Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption resolution 8/4 on safeguarding sport from corruption,

Noting the high-level debate on the theme “Crime prevention and sustainable development through sports” held at United Nations Headquarters in New York in June 2024 by the President of the General Assembly in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Emphasizing the critical role of productive public-private partnerships for funding sport for development and peace programmes, institutional development and physical and social infrastructures,

Recognizing the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs since 2017 to promote the contributions of sport to development and peace, including its support for intergovernmental mechanisms in New York on sport-related discussions, research and thought leadership, coordination with other United Nations entities on policy, and awareness-raising efforts,

1. *Reaffirms* that sport is an important enabler of sustainable development, and recognizes the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to physical and mental health, education and social inclusion objectives;

2. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders to emphasize and advance the use of sport as a vehicle to foster sustainable development and, *inter alia*, strengthen education, including physical education, for children and young persons, including persons with disabilities and persons living with rare diseases, prevent disease, including non-communicable diseases, and drug abuse, promote physical and mental health, realize gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, realize the empowerment of young people, foster inclusion and well-being, promote healthy and active ageing, help to ensure the participation of everyone without discrimination of any kind, promote tolerance, mutual understanding and respect and facilitate social inclusion, conflict prevention and peacebuilding;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “United by our common goals: ensuring the impact of sport on sustainable development and peace”,¹³ reviewing progress towards the implementation of the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace between 2022 and 2024, focusing on progress in five priority areas of impact and highlighting ways and opportunities for strengthening its implementation within the United Nations system, in line with the respective mandates of United Nations system organizations amid current global challenges;

4. *Welcomes* the growing attention by the international community to exploring and leveraging the role of sport and physical activity in the attainment of development objectives and the enjoyment of human rights, and in this regard acknowledges the endorsement by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the Kazan Action Plan and its sport policy follow-up framework, adopted at the sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, as a voluntary, overarching reference for fostering international convergence among policymakers in the fields of physical education, physical activity and sports, as well as a potential tool for aligning international and national policy in these fields,¹⁴ and the endorsement by the World Health Assembly of the global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030;¹⁵

5. *Encourages* Member States, the entities of the United Nations system, including its peacekeeping missions, special political missions and integrated peacebuilding missions, sport-related organizations, federations and associations, athletes, the media, civil society, academia and the private sector to draw on these frameworks, as appropriate, in a coherent and integrated manner, to advance the consolidation of sport in cross-cutting development and peace strategies and the

¹³ A/79/289.

¹⁴ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-ninth Session, Paris, 30 October–14 November 2017*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, sect. IV, resolution 30.

¹⁵ See World Health Organization, document WHA71/2018/REC/1, resolution 71.6.

incorporation of sport and physical education in international, regional and national development and peace policies and programmes, on the basis of standards, indicators and benchmarks, as well as to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of such strategies, policies and programmes;

6. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying, acceding to and implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto,¹⁶ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women¹⁷ and the International Convention against Doping in Sport;

7. *Calls upon* the relevant entities of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates and existing resources, to strengthen system-wide coherence and to increase and expand internal coordination, and encourages their ongoing collaboration to advance the role of sport as an enabler of sustainable development, in line with the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, to maximize the potential of sport and physical activity to contribute to the achievement of the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and other internationally agreed development goals, and national peacebuilding and State-building priorities;

8. *Encourages* Member States to integrate sport and quality physical education and activity into national strategies for sustainable development, taking note of the contributions that sport makes to health, to promote safe sport as a contributor to the health and well-being of individuals and communities and to effectively use all the opportunities offered by sport and by its values as a vehicle for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and to address the adverse impacts of climate change, and encourages the United Nations system to support Member States in such efforts;

9. *Also encourages* Member States to provide institutional structures, appropriate quality standards, policies and competencies and to promote academic research and expertise in the field to enable ongoing training, capacity-building and education of physical education teachers, coaches and community leaders in sport for development and peace programmes, and equally encourages United Nations entities to continue to provide research, normative and policy guidance to further advance the engagement of Governments and other stakeholders in their use of sport for the achievement of development and peace, accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and strengthen efforts in that area;

10. *Further encourages* Member States, in accordance with their national priorities, to use sport as a lever for education and employment, for health and nutrition, for gender equality and the inclusion of persons with disabilities, for sustainability and hosting major sporting events, and for financing and measuring the impact of sport for sustainable development;

11. *Invites* Member States and international sport organizations to continue to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in their capacity-building efforts in sport and physical education by providing national experiences and best practices, as well as financial, technical and logistic resources for the development of sport-based programmes, including for youth and for sustainable development, and further invites the United Nations system to strengthen the provision of inter-agency capacity development and technical cooperation services and financial assistance, as appropriate, to support the development and

¹⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2171, 2173 and 2983, No. 27531.

¹⁷ Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

implementation of national policies and approaches to maximizing the contributions of sport for development and peace, as well as sport for all, without discrimination of any kind;

12. *Invites Member States to work together with the United Nations system and other stakeholders to increase engagement and cooperation with one another to harness digital technology to advance sport as a tool to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to support sport and physical activity at home, while broadening access to sport training and physical activity opportunities through online platforms;*

13. *Notes the lack of centralized global socioeconomic data and statistics on sport, acknowledges progress in the development and adoption of common indicators to measure the contribution of physical education, physical activity and sport, and encourages the United Nations system to continue its ongoing work with the Commonwealth and other international partners to establish a shared indicator framework, taking note of action 2 of the Kazan Action Plan, adopted at the sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport and endorsed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;*

14. *Encourages relevant stakeholders, and in particular the organizers of sport events, to use and leverage such events to promote and support sport for development and peace initiatives and to strengthen existing and build new partnerships, coordinate common strategies, policies and programmes and increase coherence and synergies, while raising awareness at the local, national, regional and global levels;*

15. *Encourages Member States to adopt best practices and means to promote the practice of sport and physical activities among all members of society, and in this regard welcomes initiatives to adopt dedicated education, health, youth and sport days, including specialized sport days, at the national and local levels, as a means to promote physical and mental health and well-being and cultivate a sport culture in society;*

16. *Also encourages Member States to strengthen collaboration with sport organizations as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, that implement sport for development and peace initiatives, including by enabling partnerships and strengthening local capacities, as appropriate, to monitor impacts and scale up actions, while also noting the role of the private sector, national and international sports federations and organizations, and all relevant national initiatives in this regard;*

17. *Supports the independence and autonomy of sport as well as the mission of the International Olympic Committee in leading the Olympic movement and of the International Paralympic Committee in leading the Paralympic movement;*

18. *Notes the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, Member States and civil society for the observance of the Olympic Truce, and encourages future hosts of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games and other Member States to support the effective implementation of the Truce and to use sport as a tool to promote peace, dialogue and reconciliation in areas of conflict during and beyond the period of the Olympic and Paralympic Games;*

19. *Encourages relevant entities involved in delivering mega sport events to respect applicable laws and international principles, including the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect*

and Remedy” Framework,¹⁸ noting other ongoing initiatives in this regard, at every stage of the event life cycle, to safeguard the many societal benefits that hosting such events can contribute;

20. *Calls upon* Member States to enhance their efforts to prevent and fight against corruption and organized crime in sport, including by supporting efforts aimed at enhancing cooperation between and among law enforcement authorities, relevant United Nations agencies and sports organizations, facilitating the exchange of expertise and the dissemination of information and raising awareness within sports organizations and the sports community, and through educational programmes, of the threat posed by corruption and organized crime in sport, and also calls upon Members States to make use of available tools by relevant agencies in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems;

21. *Calls upon* Member States and the sport sector to enhance their efforts to prevent and fight trafficking in persons, in particular of children and women, as well as forced labour, sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, and all forms of violence in sports;

22. *Encourages* Member States, in particular those committed to promoting sport as a tool for development and peace, and other stakeholders, such as international sports federations, organizers of sport events, sports clubs and leagues, foundations and the private sector, especially businesses involved in the sports and development sector, to continue and intensify their support for the work of the United Nations system on sport for development and peace, including through voluntary contributions and the establishment of innovative partnerships to advance policy and programme development in the field of sport for development and peace;

23. *Encourages* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to continue its work on sport for development and peace, including by updating the 2018 United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, and encourages Member States to support the Department in its efforts, including through voluntary contributions;

24. *Invites* the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat, within existing resources and through voluntary contributions, to support and coordinate the implementation of the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace across the United Nations system and to strengthen normative and policy guidance and the evidence on the impact of sport on the Sustainable Development Goals through the monitoring and evaluation of United Nations policies and programmes using quantitative methods and disaggregated data, in full consultation with Member States;

25. *Encourages* Member States to actively participate in the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace, an informal group of permanent missions to the United Nations in New York and Geneva serving as a platform to promote dialogue and exchange of views and information, including on ongoing initiatives, programmes and partnerships, between Member States and all relevant stakeholders, as well as to facilitate and encourage the integration of sport to support the achievement of the United Nations goals and objectives;

26. *Also encourages* Member States, with the support of the United Nations system, within existing resources, and other relevant stakeholders, to explore ways and means to integrate sport into various development objectives in the review and follow-up processes of relevant development frameworks and agendas, including the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, the Beijing Declaration and

¹⁸ A/HRC/17/31, annex.

Platform for Action, the reviews of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and of the achievement of the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,¹⁹ the follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth,²⁰ the follow-up processes of Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the review and follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, including a detailed needs assessment of the capacity of the Secretariat to implement the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace through 2030 and beyond;

28. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eighty-first session the item entitled “Sport for development and peace”.

*37th plenary meeting
12 November 2024*

¹⁹ Resolution [61/295](#), annex.

²⁰ Resolution [50/81](#), annex, and resolution [62/126](#), annex.