



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council

Eighteenth session

Agenda item 8

Follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council*

18/23

Promoting awareness, understanding and the application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through sport and the Olympic ideal

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights instruments,

Recognizing the potential of sport as a universal language that contributes to educating people on the values of respect, diversity, tolerance and fairness and as a means to combat all forms of discrimination and promote an inclusive society,

Recognizing also that sport and major sporting events can be used to promote awareness, understanding and the application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recognizing further the potential of sport and major sporting events in contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and noting that, as declared at the 2005 World Summit, sport has the potential to foster peace and development and to contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding among peoples and nations,

Recognizing the contribution of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace and the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace to identify synergy and complementarity between sport and the work of the United Nations to promote the values of diversity, tolerance and fairness and as a means to combat all forms of discrimination,

* The resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council will be contained in the report of the Council on its eighteenth session (A/HRC/18/2), chap. I.

Reaffirming the need to combat discrimination and intolerance where they occur within and outside the sporting context,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 9/14 of 18 September 2008, in which the Council urged the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to take measures, in consultation with various international sporting and other organizations, to enable them to contribute to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination,

Recognizing the imperative need to engage women and girls in the practice of sport for development and peace and, in this regard, welcoming activities that aim to foster and encourage such initiatives at the global level,

Recognizing also that special attention needs to be paid to ensuring non-discrimination, including the equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities, including their active participation in all aspects of society, including sports,

Acknowledging the potential of sport and major sporting events to educate the youth of the world and to promote their inclusion through sport practised without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires human understanding, tolerance, fair play and solidarity,

Acknowledging also the benefits of regular sport, physical activity and play in the realization of the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and as a means to prevent and treat illness and disease,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/4 of 18 October 2010, on sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace, in which the Assembly emphasized and encouraged the use of sport as a vehicle to foster development and strengthen education for children and young persons; prevent disease and promote health, including the prevention of drug abuse; empower girls and women; foster the inclusion and well-being of persons with disabilities; and facilitate social inclusion, conflict prevention and peacebuilding,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 64/4 of 19 October 2009, on the building of a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal and, in this context, welcoming the adoption on the same date of resolution 64/3, in which the Assembly invited the International Olympic Committee to participate in its sessions and work in the capacity of observer,

Acknowledging the valuable contribution that the appeal launched by the International Olympic Committee for an Olympic Truce could make towards advancing the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Recognizing the need to observe, within the framework of the Charter, the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, throughout the period beginning with the start of the Games of the XXX Olympiad and ending with the closing of the XIV Paralympic Games,

Welcoming the hosting of the 2012 and 2016 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in the cities of London and Rio de Janeiro, respectively, the hosting of the 2014 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Sochi and the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang, and stressing the opportunity to make use of these events to promote awareness of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights among those watching and participating and of how the principles of the Olympic Charter, aimed at, inter alia, non-discrimination, equality, inclusion, respect and mutual understanding, relate to the Declaration and can translate into all aspects of society,

Recognizing therefore the need to reflect on the value of relevant principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter and on the value of good sporting example in achieving the universal respect for and realization of all human rights,

1. *Decides* to convene, within existing resources, at its nineteenth session, a high-level interactive panel discussion to highlight, examine and suggest ways in which sport and major sporting events, in particular the Olympic and Paralympic Games, can be used to promote awareness and understanding of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the application of the principles enshrined therein;

2. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to liaise with relevant special procedures, States and other stakeholders, including relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, with a view to ensuring their participation in the above-mentioned panel discussion;

3. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a report on the outcome of the panel discussion in the form of a summary.

37th meeting
30 September 2011
[Adopted without a vote.]