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Report of the 2018 Social Forum*

Summary

In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 35/28, the Social Forum was held in Geneva from 1 to 3 October 2018. Participants considered the possibilities of using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all and to strengthen universal respect for them. The present report contains a summary of the discussions, conclusions and recommendations of the Forum.

* The annex to the present report is being issued without editing, in the language of submission only.



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I. Introduction

1. The Human Rights Council, in its resolution 35/28, reaffirmed the Social Forum as a unique space for interactive dialogue between the United Nations human rights machinery and various stakeholders, including civil society and grass-roots organizations.¹
2. The 2018 Social Forum was held in Geneva from 1 to 3 October. It focused on the possibilities of using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all and to strengthen universal respect for them. The President of the Council appointed the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, A.L. Abdul Azeez, as the Chair-Rapporteur of the Forum.
3. The programme of work was prepared under the guidance of the Chair-Rapporteur, with inputs from relevant stakeholders, including United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and sports governing bodies. The present report contains a summary of the proceedings, conclusions and recommendations of the Forum. The list of participants is contained in the annex to the report.

II. Opening of the Social Forum

4. In opening the 2018 session, the Chair-Rapporteur emphasized that the Social Forum was a unique space for dialogue between various stakeholders on diverse aspects of relations between human rights and society. This was especially important at a time when multilateralism was being challenged. He introduced the themes of the panels and stated that sports could bring people together, beyond competition, to promote solidarity and to achieve shared objectives, including the realization of human rights. The Chair-Rapporteur gave the example of how sports promoted human rights and understanding in Sri Lanka. He celebrated the broad diversity of participants and concluded by calling for a constructive, action-oriented discussion.
5. The President of the Human Rights Council, Vojislav Šuc, stated that the Social Forum provided opportunities for Member States, human rights mechanisms, international organizations, sports governing bodies, non-governmental organizations, universities, grass-roots organizations and athletes, especially from developing countries, to dialogue on relevant issues to promote human rights. Broad participation allowed for multiplying the impact and efficiency of the work of the Council and strengthened its linkages with those working on the ground. He recalled Council resolutions and a study by its Advisory Committee on sports and human rights. The theme for the current session permitted the Council to reach broader audiences. The President welcomed the inclusion of films and cultural events during the session.
6. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, emphasized that sports shared common ground with human rights – which included fairness, non-discrimination and equal opportunity. Sport was multicultural and promoted empowerment, cooperation and integration for migrants, women and people from vulnerable groups. Sport could produce outcomes harmful to human rights, such as discrimination, abuse, forced evictions, poor labour conditions related to mega sporting events, and violence against journalists and peaceful protestors. She noted efforts to promote a non-discrimination legacy for the 2018 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup, initiatives relating to the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, and cooperation with the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee. The Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights were a baseline framework for measures and accountability. She called upon all to stand up for human rights in every sport and to help design strategies to make sport promote the best of humanity.

¹ For further details on the Social Forum, see www.ohchr.org/EN/issues/poverty/sforum/pages/sforumindex.aspx.

III. Summary of proceedings

A. Sport, the Olympic ideal, and “a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations” – the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at seventy

7. The President of the International Paralympic Committee, Andrew Parsons, explained how sport and human rights could act together as catalysts for a better and more inclusive world. Seventy years after the first international wheelchair race, the Paralympic Games had become the world’s main sports event for driving social inclusion, with thousands of athletes and billions of television viewers. Paralympic sports provided mobility and empowered persons with disabilities to play active roles in society. This challenged stereotypes. The infrastructure for Paralympic Games had improved accessibility. By promoting inclusive communities, sports fostered harmony and peace, for example, through teams with athletes from both the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea. Persons with disabilities were still denied basic human rights. They faced barriers resulting in poor health outcomes, lower levels of education and higher rates of poverty than among the general population. The International Paralympic Committee worked with partners to help implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, transforming lives and changing the world through sports.

8. Nawal El Moutawakel, a member of the International Olympic Committee, reflected on the Olympic Movement’s mission to build a better world through sport. Both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Olympic Charter prohibited discrimination based on colour, race, sex, language, religion, or political or other grounds. The Committee’s new host city contracts had embedded these principles further with a commitment to increasing the respect of several dimensions of human rights in the organization of Olympic Games, in line with human rights treaties and standards, and by encouraging the organizing committees to achieve these objectives. The Committee collaborated with all stakeholders to uphold its commitment to people’s rights and well-being through the promotion of sustainability, of gender equality, of youth education and empowerment and of integration and community-building through sport, and by addressing harassment and abuse in sport. Ms. El Moutawakel welcomed the collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to uphold efforts in protecting, promoting and respecting human rights, and called for the strengthening of partnerships, dialogue and collective action with governments, international organizations and civil society, with regard to their respective roles and responsibilities, and across their spheres of influence.

9. The Secretary-General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, Hassan al-Thawadi, recalled that 3.4 billion people watched the FIFA World Cup. Football was a global platform that touched the human spirit, regardless of location, culture or beliefs. The Supreme Committee used the power of the World Cup to promote a better future for Arab youth by creating a centre of excellence aimed at young professionals in new industries, by implementing ideas from young entrepreneurs and by enhancing civic engagement and leadership skills. The World Cup had accelerated the improvement of labour conditions in Qatar, which had been accomplished in cooperation with the International Labour Organization and trade unions. The main legacy of the 2022 World Cup would be to break down stereotypes and bring peoples together. The Social Forum and the Kazan Action Plan demonstrated the recognition by the United Nations of the contributions of mega sporting events to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Mr. Al-Thawadi urged stakeholders to work together to harness the potential of mega sporting events to promote a better world.

10. Rose Nathike Lokonyen, a track and field athlete in the 2016 Refugee Olympic Team, shared her personal experiences since fleeing her village in South Sudan after an attack. When she was 15 years old, she had taken part in a 10-kilometre race in a school in a refugee camp. She had performed with excellence and earned the opportunity to join a professional training camp in Kenya. Sport was not only a means to earn a living, but a way

to inspire others. The Olympic Games and sport had provided her with opportunities to nurture talents and share experiences. Refugees' participation in sports had inspired millions of forcibly displaced youth around the world. Sports protected young refugee girls from harmful practices and prevented young people from taking drugs. Sports, education, freedom of movement and freedom of worship were important human rights for refugees. Ms. Lokonyen called upon all to continue to protect refugees and others longing for peace.

11. The Chair-Rapporteur presented a short documentary about sports, human rights, peace, reconciliation and unity in Sri Lanka. This was followed by general statements by Belarus, Brazil, France, Greece, Japan, Qatar and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Others who took the floor included representatives from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UNESCO-coordinated Youth and Sport Task Force, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Global Commission on the Future of Work, the International Paralympic Committee, World Indigenous Nations Sports International, the Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, the Equality League (Pakistan), Association Le Pont, the World Players Association (also representing the Sports and Rights Alliance), the University of Physical Education (Hungary) and the Interdisciplinary Centre for Sports Science and Development, University of the Western Cape (South Africa). Delegates referred to General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions on the promotion of human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal, and acknowledged the role played by the Kazan Action Plan. Basic values in founding documents of the human rights and Olympic movements were universal, and promoted solidarity, transparency, equity and non-discrimination. Sports created opportunities to celebrate diversity, fight racism and xenophobia, and promote gender equality and the right to health. Sporting events and activities were uniquely placed to promote inclusive societies with respect to all human rights, including the right to development, and to promote sustainable development and sustainable cities. The practice of sport was a human right. Sports also promoted peace, through dialogue, understanding, trust and reconciliation among peoples, and multilateralism. At a time of migration crisis, the Refugee Olympic Team presented opportunities to raise awareness of the challenges faced by displaced persons. Delegates recommended human rights mainstreaming in sport events and the adoption of special measures to promote accessibility for persons with disabilities and equal participation of men and women, and rights of specific groups, such as minorities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. Other participants emphasized the role of sport in realizing the human rights of youth and children, women and girls and indigenous peoples. They also underscored the role of trade unions of athletes and other workers related to sport events.

12. In response, Mr. Parsons emphasized the importance of collecting data to assess the human rights and accessibility legacies of mega sporting events. Physical education was an integral part of a values-oriented education. Ms. Moutawakel highlighted the transformative power of sport and mega sporting events to support sustainable development objectives in countries. She referred to efforts to promote the participation of women and youth in sports and its governance at all levels. Mr. Al-Thawadi stated that creativity around sport events allowed for new ways of promoting human rights, including those of indigenous and displaced persons. Ms. Lokonyen spoke about the role of sports in promoting gender equality, peace and hope and in giving voice to refugees.

B. “Born free and equal in dignity and rights”: sports, human solidarity and universal values for all humanity

13. Kipchoge Keino, recipient of the 2016 Olympic Laurel and member of the National Olympic Committee of Kenya, argued that the right to participate in sports was the most important human right of athletes, including women, youth, persons with disabilities and refugees. Political boycotts of Olympic Games undermined that right. Doping denied athletes the chance to participate in games within the bounds of fair play. The right to freedom of movement should ensure that athletes could participate in games abroad. States should invest in infrastructure and improve the coaching for all sports to allow athletes to

participate at a high level. The Olympic Movement could promote unity of youth worldwide, and of all humanity. Mr. Keino acknowledged the roles of human rights mechanisms, sports governing bodies, athletes, coaches, parents and civil society. His Kip Keino children's home worked for the preservation of the environment and to promote access to food, water, shelter and education for those in most need and in least developed regions.

14. Emma Terho, a member of the International Olympic Committee's Athletes' Commission, argued that sport contributed to girls' self-confidence and integration in groups. Sport presented a common universal language that gave hope, opportunities and life skills to the most vulnerable. The threshold to enter sports was high for those who could most benefit from it. Coordination and cooperation between organizations, governments, sports clubs and communities should ensure that everyone had the right to participate. The International Olympic Committee championed that goal, for example by promoting the Refugee Olympic Team and taking seriously the commitments in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development to gender equality. Women had comprised only 4.3 per cent of participants in 1924, but would be 48 per cent in the 2020 Olympic Games. The 2018 Buenos Aires Youth Olympic Games would have gender parity. Increasing the number of women's teams in collective sports, such as hockey, opened up opportunities to many other women and girls to develop and improve their self-esteem.

15. According to the representative of World Indigenous Nations Sports International, Willie Littlechild, the World Indigenous Games, celebrated in Brazil and Canada in 2015 and 2017 respectively, affirmed indigenous peoples' self-determination through sport and culture. Since 1977, Mr. Littlechild had advocated an indigenous perspective to sports and the Olympic ideal. Direct and meaningful participation was crucial to indigenous peoples in sports, but often denied. Traditional teachings and games promoted respect for the physical, mental, cultural and spiritual elements of life. The five rings of the Olympic symbol represented the latter element. Mr. Littlechild recommended that sporting events should include indigenous participation and traditional protocol. He called for the implementation of indigenous peoples' right to cultural manifestations, including sports and traditional games, and called on UNESCO to update its charter for traditional games and sports with accurate references to indigenous peoples. Sport had the power to heal and to promote peace and reconciliation.

16. Juan Pablo Salazar, a member of the International Paralympic Committee, recalled that sport was an instrument for change. The impact on the civil rights movement of Smith and Carlos's 1968 podium salute provided an example. Mr. Salazar proposed a three-step agenda on the human rights impact of sport. First, align the political will of stakeholders. Second, collect data on correlations between sports and human rights. Third, promote change through action plans, budgets, regulations and investments. Bridging the gap between the human rights of persons with disabilities and the Paralympic movement was a major challenge. Setting up networks among athletes and Sustainable Development Goals and human rights activists was an important first step. Globally, UNESCO and the Commonwealth Secretariat had led similar efforts. Mr. Salazar emphasized the importance of networks between activists for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Paralympic athletes.

17. During the interactive dialogue, representatives of Cuba, Association Le Pont, the Indigenous Peoples and Nations Coalition, the International Paralympic Committee, the Intertribal Committee, the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and a former Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, took the floor. Participants condemned racist expressions in sport, and structural injustices against indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, women, children and local populations. They supported a human rights-centred perspective that promoted dialogue and peace. Panellists were questioned on: motivations for athletes to become activists, ways to ensure equal participation in games and inclusion in unequal societies, the promotion of reconciliation through sports after historical injustices, ways to reconcile the rights of athletes and of local populations, and how to commit sports to the rights of the child and to self-determination of indigenous peoples.

18. In response, Mr. Salazar stated that athletes should be activists, as people affected by discrimination (persons with disabilities, women, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, and so on) should lead and be better informed by agendas of their respective affected groups. Athletes' outstanding visibility enabled them to promote ideals and messages that contributed to reconciliation and human rights. In Colombia, a good Paralympic performance reflected positively in inclusion. Ms. Terho considered that sports should provide a platform for athletes to speak out, but that athletes choosing not to express an opinion should also be respected. Mr. Littlechild noted that since 1990, the North American Indigenous Games had had a mandatory policy for 50 per cent women's participation and zero tolerance of abuse. The right of adults to participate in sport was a continuation of the right of children to play, and had the potential to promote solidarity. Referring to the boycott of the Montreal games by African countries, Mr. Keino said the episode had frustrated the right of athletes to participate in sports. He insisted that politics should not deny that right.

C. Sports and the “equal rights of men and women”?

19. The President of the Finnish Paralympic Committee, Mina Mojtahedi, shared her experience, as a child with disabilities, of not having access to sports, until she began practising wheelchair racing. She was the only woman with disability competing at the elite level in Finland. She competed with men in racing and basketball. It was only later, by working in the disabilities movement, that she realized and regretted the fact that women with disabilities were seen as “persons with disabilities” with no recognition of their needs as women. In the women and sport movement there was a lack of understanding of challenges faced by women with disabilities. It was necessary to recognize the different needs of girls and boys and women and men with disabilities, adapting programmes to promote participation by the most marginalized. To empower future generations, women with disabilities must be encouraged to become role models as coaches and leaders.

20. Noreena Shams, a member of the Equality League in Pakistan and a multi-sport athlete, explained that, because her name meant “no more girls”, she had always questioned why her family did not want more girls. From an early age, she had played cricket with boys. Her mother had stopped her from playing in a female team due to the high incidence of harassment. A coach had recommended that she disguise herself as a boy to be able to play in a boys' academy. There, she had performed at the same level as the boys. She had then joined a squash team but had continued to face harassment and boycotts. Ms. Shams believed she was making a difference, by being a role model as a successful young woman athlete who shared experiences at the United Nations. That was her way to demonstrate that women and girls could be elite athletes and among the best, making their countries proud.

21. Badamgarav Gangaamaa, a senior mountaineering guide and the first Mongolian woman to successfully climb the seven summits, explained that Mongolian society was open to women's participation in most sports, but some boundaries still existed due to traditions. Climbing the peak of sacred mountains was once beyond the limits for women. However, it was important to push the boundaries while at the same time honouring traditions. Success in sport should be based on hard work and determination, with complete freedom. She argued that everyone should have the right to participate in sports, irrespective of gender. International solidarity and friendship were the only ways to overcome global challenges relating to poverty and natural disasters. Seven summiters planned to join forces to save “Mother Earth” for future generations and to promote gender equality. For that, they would hold a United Nations-sponsored meeting in 2020 in Mongolia.

22. During the interactive dialogue, representatives of Human Rights Watch, the Interdisciplinary Centre for Sports Science and Development, the Intertribal Committee, Association Le Pont, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and World Indigenous Nations Sports International, as well as the UNESCO Chair and a professional boxer from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, took the floor. Delegates shared best practices on promoting the participation of young and old women, with or without disabilities, in sports and sports governance. Measures included incentives for mass

participation sports and for elite sports, as well as economic empowerment of women. Participants emphasized role models, storytelling and collective action to promote gender equality. The barriers for women to access sports included traditional restrictions, male guardianship, and a lack of economic and moral incentives. Obstacles for women in sports included corruption, harassment, violence, homelessness and refugee status. Participants questioned how to challenge demeaning language directed at female athletes, ways for men to participate in promoting gender equality, and how to connect international and grass-roots campaigns, including in indigenous territories.

23. Reacting to comments and questions, Ms. Mojtahedi hoped that the “me too” movement would gain momentum to tackle sexism also in sports. The practice of sport constituted a right and was also a tool to access other rights. Human rights mechanisms should give greater emphasis to sports. Ms. Mojtahedi welcomed storytelling and solid evidence-based narratives. Ms. Shams stated that in many parts of the world, it was difficult for women to leave the home to practise sports due to traditions and lack of financial support, which was also aggravated by the selectivity of sponsors. She proposed that the International Olympic Committee reflect on how to address women’s underrepresentation in sport in every country. She cited the “Women Win” initiative which trained women worldwide on storytelling, so they could become role models. Ms. Gangaamaa called upon all present, especially athletes, to unite to protect human rights in all countries.

D. Celebrating diversity: inclusivity, equality and non-discrimination in sport – the case of football

24. The head of the KickIn! National Advisory Centre for Inclusion in Football in Germany, Daniela Wurbs, differentiated integration – individuals adapting to society, from inclusion – society adapting its structures and services to the diversity of people. She called for increased inclusion in football. Human rights arguments were not sufficient to convince clubs, as the latter saw inclusion as a cost with no returns. Therefore, it was important to make the business case for inclusion in sports. The German football leagues were the best attended in the world. According to surveys, this was because tickets were sold at fair prices, stadiums were accessible, fans felt ownership through democratic influence on club governance and clubs embraced anti-discrimination. Still, there was room for improving inclusion. The FIFA World Cup, despite being a commercial event, increasingly embraced the idea of creating a legacy on inclusion and on anti-discrimination policies.

25. Robert Ustian, founder of CSKA Fans Against Racism, and a member of the Executive Board of Football Supporters Europe, explained that the 2018 FIFA World Cup had allowed Russians to build personal bridges and trust with people from different parts of the world. Against common misrepresentations in the mainstream media and by officials, direct contact allowed for the mutual perceptions of Russians and foreigners to improve during the games. The positive experience of the World Cup would not be lost and would remain as a legacy if engagement from the grass roots, governments and sports governing bodies continued. This would also require honest, hard and open discussions to address the many issues concerning racial discrimination, homophobia and xenophobia in sports. Only in this way was it possible to harness the potential of football for positive change in society.

26. For Alexey Smertin, anti-discrimination and anti-racism officer of the Russian Football Union and former captain of the Russian national football team, football far surpassed the 90-minute game. It also encompassed what happened among fans and the public at large. It created opportunities to think about team-building and community-building. The World Cup amplified that potential. For the 2018 World Cup, the Russian Federation had created a monitoring system to prevent discriminatory behaviour, and had conducted awareness-raising seminars with fans and held courses in universities. Those actions had ensured that there were fewer incidents of discrimination. Change of behaviour was gradual and required advocacy with younger generations. The World Cup was a collective endeavour, bringing millions together to a global celebration that could catalyse a more inclusive society.

27. The Intercultural Football National Coordinator of the Football Association of Ireland, Des Tomlinson, argued that inclusivity, equality and anti-racism operated together. The European Union considered sport as a tool for promoting inclusion and anti-racism, and sport could be used to counter the polarizing narrative against migrants and refugees. For this, partnerships were essential, such as the one between Football Association of Ireland and the Department of Justice in the framework of the national action plan against racism and of related integration strategies. The cooperation was aimed at promoting participation and challenging racism through an intercultural football strategy supported by UEFA. An OHCHR-supported campaign with fan clubs and social media had encouraged fans to stand up for human rights. This had created momentum for changing behaviours and policies. In Ireland, guidance, training, surveys and audits were aimed at addressing discrimination in football at all levels, including the grass roots. Football also contributed to promoting language skills and cultural exchange with refugees and migrants.

28. During the interactive dialogue, representatives from the Association for Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran-Geneva, the Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Equality League, the Fare Network, Human Rights Watch, Association Le Pont, the Russian LGBT Sport Federation, the UNESCO Chair and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela took the floor. Speakers addressed challenges, such as exclusion of women and other groups from sports activities, mental health in sport, and diversity and respect for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. Participants enquired about ways to better promote diversity in sports. Some emphasized that investments in and commitments to equality and inclusion could benefit businesses, by, for example, attracting more fans to stadiums. Some participants shared good practices at the national and international levels, such as Project Cicetekelo for children in street situations in Zambia, which used football for inclusion.

29. In response, Ms. Wurbs called for victims of discrimination to have independent contact points to protect and support victims' identities. A structural approach with blanket rules to pre-empt incidents was preferable to case-by-case solutions. She advocated giving women a platform to call for action from governments, including access to stadiums. Mr. Ustian pointed out the importance of giving voice to victims of discrimination. However, he warned of the risks of politicizing major sporting events. Change had to come from within societies. He called for sustainable national programmes to monitor authorities and their implementation of anti-discrimination policies, and for human rights education through sports. Mr. Smertin said that the Russian Football Union supported inclusivity and was creating anti-discrimination policies. He noted the large number of girls playing football in the country and the involvement of women in FIFA. Mr. Tomlinson noted the importance of connecting football with wider governmental strategies on integration. This validated sport as a social intervention for non-discriminatory treatment and equality.

E. Sports and rights at work

30. The Executive Director of the World Players Association, Brendan Schwab, stressed the precarious and short-term nature of sporting careers. The Association worked to give voice to players and to promote players' rights enshrined in human rights, ILO and UNESCO instruments. Violations included lack of payment, unjust contract termination and sexual abuse. Many sports governing organizations still failed to embed human rights in their activities and were reluctant to engage with players' associations. In 2017, the World Players Association launched the Universal Declaration of Player Rights, which is organized into four pillars – access to sports, fundamental respect for labour rights, personal rights and legal rights – and also declares the fundamental duty of every athlete to respect the rights of fellow athletes. Mr. Schwab concluded by stating that if the world of sport embraced a genuine dialogue on athletes' rights, then it could be successful as a business and cultural force.

31. A member of the International Olympic Committee's Athletes' Commission, Danka Bartekova, explained the work of the Athletes' Commission, and the first-ever Olympic Movement Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration, inspired by international human rights standards. Athletes and their representatives had led the drafting of the

document, with a consultative and bottom-up approach, guided by a steering committee of athletes' representatives from across the Olympic Movement. The initiative had included a broad and worldwide consultative process, with surveys involving thousands of athletes from 190 countries. Most athletes in the Olympic Movement were not employed by sports organizations. The content of the Athletes' Declaration addressed the rights and responsibilities of all athletes, though also contemplating professional athletes. The Declaration included the rights to compete in fair, clean and discrimination-free environments, to support for mental and physical health and for career transition, and to freedom of expression, as well as the right to be represented in governance bodies and the right to due process. Ms. Bartekova emphasized that the Declaration was a living document which would have updates and revised editions to ensure its continuous relevance.

32. Rita Schiavi, Chair of the International Women's Committee of the Building and Woodworkers' International, described that federation's involvement in sports campaigns for more than 10 years. The federation organized workers to address topics such as better safety and health conditions, negotiations to have collective bargaining agreements in place when engaging with mega sporting bodies, and the implementation of mechanisms to address grievances. The World Cup in Qatar involved specific challenges, as most of the workers were migrants who did not belong to any trade unions. To promote their rights, the Building and Woodworkers' International had undertaken media campaigns, performed inspections and exerted multi-stakeholder pressure. Those efforts had resulted in the adoption of new policies on salaries and on unions' and workers' rights, for those working for the event, as well as for all workers in Qatar.

33. Peter Hall, a representative of the International Organization of Employers, explained that the Organization favoured a holistic approach to mega sporting events and human rights, recognizing that different events and contexts had different needs. He emphasized the importance of embedding the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in sports governing bodies and events. The Organization participated in the advisory council of the Centre for Sport and Human Rights. The Centre promoted collective action to address multiple issues and to stress intersectionality. Mr. Hall described his work in the Centre's task force on business due diligence when sponsoring events. The Centre provided a preventive approach and an opportunity for different stakeholders to learn from one another.

34. During the interactive dialogue, representatives of the Equality League, OHCHR, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and a former Special Rapporteur on adequate housing took the floor. Participants questioned the inequalities between men and women athletes, male and female sports and sports played in different country contexts. Participants addressed means to provide remedies for violations of the human rights of workers and athletes, with specific reference to the commitments of the Government of Qatar to improve the situation of workers. One delegate provided examples of domestic policies against discrimination in sports and of the right to participate in governance. He questioned whether a new international institutional framework could enhance the capacity of sports to promote a more just and equitable international order.

35. Reacting to comments and questions, Mr. Schwab noted that athletes' salary rises and gender equality often resulted from players being organized in unions to fight for rights. Respecting players' interests also improved businesses. Governing bodies should tackle structural gender-based discrimination. The Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights could help prevent unconscious bias and remedy conscious bias. Ms. Schiavi explained that, in cooperation with Qatar, the Building and Woodworkers' International had addressed back wages and workers' living conditions, in particular the distances from housing to labour sites and the number of workers per unit of accommodation. Ms. Bartekova emphasized that the Olympic Charter would expressly reference the Athletes' Declaration, signifying its central status within the Olympic Movement. She reaffirmed the Olympic Movement's commitment to supporting athletes during their sporting and non-sporting careers. The International Olympic Committee's Athletes' Commission was committed to encouraging the ongoing dialogue across the athlete community and with all other stakeholders to ensure the continued relevance and effectiveness of that document. Mr. Hall argued that no other international instrument on sports and human rights was required

beyond the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. He explained that the Centre for Sport and Human Rights was compiling lessons learned for its implementation strategy.

F. Sports, sustainable cities and the right to an adequate standard of living

36. Raphaël Languillon-Aussel, a researcher at the University of Geneva, challenged the theory that development was linear and argued for a model integrating equitable distribution of benefits, as enshrined in the Declaration on the Right to Development. Urban planning implied economic growth, while urban development involved an increase in well-being. He illustrated Olympic-related projects, questioning the sustainability of impacts on economic growth and infrastructure improvement as well as indirect negative impacts on the housing and job markets. Despite positive outcomes on infrastructure and governance, projects often resulted in unemployment and forcefully displaced local populations. This undermined peoples' right to development and their "right to the city". The latter right encompassed physical access, political access, and economic and social access to a city. The correspondent responsibilities relating to the right to development and right to the city rested – respectively – on States and the international community, and on local governments and local communities. The Olympic Movement should consider these rights in the selection of host cities.

37. The International Olympic Committee's Head of Sustainability, Michelle Lemaître, introduced the Committee's "Olympic Agenda 2020" strategic road map. Its recommendations 4 and 5 put forward specific sustainability requirements for the International Olympic Committee, the Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement. To respond to them, the Committee had developed a sustainability strategy encompassing its three spheres of responsibility – as an organization, as the owner of the Olympic Games, and as the leader of the Olympic Movement. To complement the strategy, the Committee had also developed a new strategic legacy approach and the "New Norm" set of reforms. The latter was aimed at making the Olympic Games more affordable, more beneficial to host cities and more sustainable. For host cities to effectively leverage mega sporting events, governments and local authorities should see them as part of their long-term development plans and not as one-off events. The Committee collaborated with cities to leverage the benefits of the Games and adapt them to the long-term vision and needs of the cities. The Committee could only achieve its sustainability goals and address pressing issues through strengthened partnership and collaboration.

38. Miloon Kothari, a former Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, and president of UPR Info, presented data related to displacement in Olympic and Commonwealth Games. Many mega sporting events involved increased poverty, loss of jobs and human trafficking, as well as a lack of information, participation, consultation and compensation in respect of displaced persons. Those impacts constituted violations of the Olympic Charter and human rights instruments, as they breached the human rights to life, health, decent work, an adequate standard of living and freedom of movement. Often, Games permanently changed the social fabric of cities, especially with regard to speculative motivations and gentrification. Mr. Kothari recommended that sports governing bodies include respect for human rights treaties, declarations and guiding principles as requirements in bidding processes – including where evictions and internally displaced persons were concerned. He also recommended that governing bodies conduct social impact assessments before making decisions on mega sporting events.

39. During the interactive dialogue, the Chair-Rapporteur, and representatives of Angola, the Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, the Equality League, Human Rights Watch, the International Paralympic Committee, Montenegro, OHCHR and the Tokyo Organising Committee, and the UNESCO Chair, took the floor. One delegate referred to the positive impacts that medals could have in fostering development and inclusion even in countries not hosting mega sporting events. Another questioned how to reconcile human rights with the risk of politicization of sports. Participants cited international instruments and frameworks that could provide guidance on sustainable cities and inform human rights impact assessments, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban

Agenda of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Declaration on the Right to Development, reports and guidance by human rights mechanisms, and the Olympic Charter. Some stressed the importance of people's participation in the games and bids and the equitable distribution of wealth generated by mega sporting events. One participant questioned whether governing bodies should assess the human rights records of countries or host-city candidates, and whether there was a risk of aiming at unattainable perfection in human rights. According to him, if human rights were used as a precondition for the selection of venues, it would result in only a few venues being preferred for hosting sporting events, at the cost of diversity.

40. Mr. Languillon-Aussel emphasized the importance of freedom of expression and access to information in mega sporting events planning, including through human rights impact assessments. He cited intergenerational dialogue and accessibility as positive impacts of the Tokyo Games. Mr. Kothari considered that the financial burden of mega sporting events was a negative legacy. Some cities became indebted due to games and responded with tax hikes and cuts to social programmes. He lamented the negative impacts of security crackdowns, especially when the needs of populations were disregarded. The human rights threshold in bids should be that of the international obligations of the State. He recommended that sports governing bodies cooperate with human rights mechanisms to assess bidding proposals.

G. The power of collective action for sharing the benefits of sports: protecting and promoting human rights through the life cycle of mega sporting events

41. Minky Worden, Director of Global Initiatives at Human Rights Watch, discussed ways to harness the potential of sports to tackle human rights abuses, especially in host States. This required visibility and voice for victims and civil society. Challenges needing to be tackled included slave labour to build stadiums, discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, barriers obstructing women and girls from playing or attending events, lack of accessibility to persons with disabilities, and persecution and intimidation of human rights defenders and environmentalists. Those abuses violated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Olympic Charter and commitments signed by host cities. Repressive governments saw mega sporting events as opportunities to gain soft power. Mega sporting events could be catalysts to push them to improve human rights records. Human Rights Watch had documented abuses and advocated for reforms in sports governing bodies, including for the adoption of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Human Rights Watch belonged to several alliances which promoted the integration of sport and human rights. Collective action was essential to tackling systemic abuses.

42. The Project Director for Sustainability Planning, Tokyo Organising Committee, for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Nobuyuki Sugimoto, stated that the 2020 Games were aimed at global reform through three concepts: achieving one's personal best, unity in tomorrow and connecting to tomorrow. Tokyo 2020's sustainability plan was in line with the 2030 Agenda. The plan included environmental and human rights-related goals. One goal addressed human rights, labour and fair business practices (celebrating diversity) throughout supply chains. The Games were being organized in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and promoted inclusive societies. A sustainable sourcing code and a grievance mechanism had been developed through a transparent and multi-stakeholder consultative process. Organizers hoped to influence and to bring about more sustainable consumption and production patterns beyond Japan.

43. Rémy Friedmann, Senior Adviser, Human Security Division, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, affirmed that Switzerland was deeply committed to collective action on complex thematic issues and would continue to participate in such efforts. He described the country's engagement in collective discussions on tackling human rights violations related to sports and on how sports could become a force for good. Those endeavours had resulted in the launch of the Centre for Sport and Human Rights, which

was aimed at sharing knowledge, building capacity and increasing accountability. Collective action allowed for the creation of key milestones and indicators for integrating human rights into mega-sport bidding processes, life cycles of events and host actor contracts. Governments, organizing committees, civil society, fans, the public, athletes, communities affected and consumers were enabling the power of collective action to advance the human rights agenda in sport and beyond.

44. Taily Terena, a member of the Intertribal Committee, presented the story of the World Indigenous Peoples Games in Brazil and its connections to human rights. Since 1996, Brazil had hosted two international and several national and local indigenous games. The events had encompassed sports, culture, tradition and spirituality. The games had invoked rituals for ancestors' blessings and used traditional materials in natural environments. They had included football and traditional games practised by all or some indigenous peoples. They had hosted cultural presentations, seminars, workshops and traditional art and agriculture. Indigenous peoples found in sports a possibility to speak about their rights, to be heard and to unite the indigenous and the non-indigenous. Indigenous games made indigenous youth proud of their heritage and rescued their traditions. The United Nations, the International Olympic Committee, governments and others should cooperate and invest in human values for well-being (*buen vivir*). Ms. Terena called for differentiated sport events for women, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and other groups. The importance was in celebrating life, identity and culture.

45. During the interactive dialogue, Brazil, the Centre for Sport and Human Rights, CSKA Fans Against Racism, Japan, Mountain2Mountain, World Indigenous Nations Sports International and a former Special Rapporteur on adequate housing took the floor. One delegate asked about practical difficulties and concrete steps to mainstream human rights and sustainability in the 2020 Tokyo Games. Another enquired how indigenous games could create bonds among indigenous peoples. Participants discussed indigenous games, their value for elders and youth, and the important debates that these games hosted on climate change and peace. One participant asked whether Olympic and FIFA games could incorporate lessons of solidarity expressed in indigenous games. Another asked how to exert collective pressure to ensure broader participation of women. There was a call for more consultation and consideration of the perspectives of fans in sports, and an invitation to all to engage in other dialogues on sport and human rights after the Social Forum, such as the Sporting Chance Forum.

46. In response, Ms. Terena cited, as an example of post-event cooperation, a mission by Canadian indigenous peoples to New Zealand to learn about traditional sport practices. Connections among indigenous peoples allowed the exchange of good practices regarding political mobilization. Indigenous games promoted concrete ways to respect the environment. Mr. Friedmann stated that the Centre for Sport and Human Rights would provide a platform that would give voice to women and fans. Mr. Sugimoto said that practical difficulties were addressed through continued dialogue with all stakeholders in the 2020 Games. He called for help to disseminate the Tokyo 2020 grievance mechanism, particularly for those abroad in the games' supply chain. Ms. Worden said that, for years, groups affected had not been taken seriously, but that recent trends were positive. Success in setting new rules around sports had not yet translated into optimal implementation. The systems implemented in Tokyo could serve as a model for future events.

H. Race against time: sports for sustainable development and sustained peace

47. Juan Sánchez, a participant in the International Olympic Committee's Young Change-Maker+ initiative, described his project in Colombia, created with the Committee's support. Challenged by the failure of the 2016 Colombian peace agreement referendum, Mr. Sánchez saw sports as a tool to overcome polarization in society and to promote attitudes that fostered peace. The project consisted in taking international sports that were not popular in Colombia to communities at the margins of society. Resorting to various sports had allowed different skills and values to be learned, including team- and peacebuilding. Emphasizing the challenges faced by youth in initiating a project, he said that the support of

the Committee had raised his confidence in carrying out his project. He encouraged support for youth initiatives as a way of advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.

48. Marion Keim, Director of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Sports Science and Development, University of the Western Cape, South Africa, argued that promoting peace and development through sports required assessing realities, including through mapping exercises. Peace and violence correlated among other things to income, schooling, regional integration, transparency and corruption. Youth had more opportunities in the global North, while in the global South there were challenges including in health, education and research. Sport should help bridge the North-South gap and promote sustainable development and sustained peace, and, to this end, investment at the grass-roots level was essential. Ms. Keim encouraged a values-based sports education to promote sustainable development and peace, in school curricula, taking into account universal, Olympic and Paralympic values. To avoid adverse effects on certain groups, coordinated efforts should link sports, peace and development through the Kazan Action Plan and regular international dialogue. In concluding, Ms. Keim called for capacity-building, youth network-building, and monitoring of policies.

49. The outreach manager of the Institute for Human Rights and Business, Guido Battaglia, explained that the Institute hosted the Centre for Sport and Human Rights, a multi-stakeholder initiative aimed at sharing knowledge, building bidding capacity and strengthening accountability. A 2018 report by the Centre had mapped the use of human rights principles by partnerships in disadvantaged areas to deliver projects on sport for development and peace. Few programmes acknowledged due diligence responsibilities in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Integrating human rights due diligence would help build trust among stakeholders, prevent, mitigate, identify and remedy adverse impacts, and harness positive impacts of sport-based programmes. Programmes should align with the principles of non-discrimination, participation, rule of law, consent, accountability and good governance. Mr. Battaglia cited, as a good practice, cooperation between UNESCO and the Commonwealth Secretariat to align the implementation of the Kazan Action Plan with the Sustainable Development Goals. The Centre for Sport and Human Rights could play a key role in facilitating collective action to promote human rights through sports.

50. Shannon Galpin, author, activist and founder of the Mountain2Mountain non-profit organization, shared her decade-long experience as a women's rights activist in Afghanistan. When she arrived in the country, women were starting to engage in sports, but riding bicycles was still taboo. Bicycles facilitated access to schools and health care and reduced gender-based violence rates. Ms. Galpin had helped a group of women cyclists to progress on the right to ride in the country and to promote the first national women's team. The latter had attracted extensive media attention and high-level participation, and had even been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, becoming a source of national pride. This had helped to normalize cycling among Afghan women. Bicycles thereby became tools not only for development, but also for sustained peace and social justice.

51. During the interactive dialogue, the Chair-Rapporteur and representatives of the Commonwealth Secretariat, the International Paralympic Committee, the National Olympic Committee of Kenya, Association Le Pont, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and World Indigenous Nations Sports International took the floor. A delegate asked panellists how to foster international cooperation, transfer of technologies and collective action, in order to promote the human rights of youth, sustainable development and peace with social justice, in line with the Declaration on the Right to Development. Another participant considered the Declaration on the Right to Development to be a tool to nurture the interlinkages between peace, development and human rights, to advance on them all. Participants made recommendations regarding indicators, including the adoption of a human rights-based approach to indicators, integrating human rights indicators with those related to sustainable development in sports, and formulating indicators to assess the impact of adaptive sports in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Others recommended the pursuit of reconciliation through sports, an agenda for peacebuilding in conflict-affected areas, integrating climate and environmental action in projects, and promoting unity among the youth of the world.

52. Responding to questions, Mr. Battaglia said that the Centre for Sport and Human Rights was building its capacity with partners to act as a public good to provide a framework of recommendations for all stakeholders in the world of sport, including on development and peace. Ms. Keim emphasized the importance of adopting indicators, building capacity, and promoting development aid based on human values. She emphasized the importance of Sustainable Development Goal 17 on building partnerships. Ms. Galpin said that sport was key in connecting youth in conflict and post-conflict zones. Mr. Sánchez stated that the return on investment in sport was not always clear, and that indicators could help make the argument that sport was a viable tool for development. He called for support for grass-roots initiatives to promote policy and human rights.

I. Youth, children and future generations

53. Youth networks on sports organized this item, based on a quiz game. The panellists were Richard Loat, Vice-Chair of the Commonwealth Youth Sport for Development and Peace Network; Jennifer Macapagal, representative of the UNESCO-coordinated Youth and Sport Task Force; Nevena Vukašinović, representative of European Non-Governmental Sports Organization (ENGSO) Youth; Miki Matheson, member of the International Paralympic Committee's Education Committee; and Mutaz Essa Barshim, Qatari track and field athlete.

54. The first question discussed was what were the biggest barriers to youth accessing sports. For Ms. Matheson, physical, economic and social barriers were the main factors for persons with disabilities. She expressed concerns about limited infrastructure, poor policy implementation, and overprotection of children with disabilities by their parents. Mr. Barshim noted that education was key to overcoming barriers, as it allowed children to understand that they had the right to participate in sports. Ms. Vukašinović argued that sports should provide safe spaces, shelter for the homeless, heritage for indigenous peoples and places of gathering. Access to information was essential to access to sports. Unilateral coercive measures and religious intolerance were major barriers to sports. Ms. Macapagal highlighted socioeconomic status, rapid, unplanned urbanization, and poor quality of public spaces as barriers to youth accessing sports. Data suggested that non-communicable diseases due to lack of physical activity were an important cause of deaths in the Asia-Pacific region. Awareness about physical exercise could be raised among young people at the grass-roots level.

55. The second question discussed was which stakeholders should get more involved in protecting human rights through sports. Ms. Matheson described collaboration between Paralympic sports and ministries of education to promote rights of persons with disabilities and inclusive societies through sports. Mr. Barshim argued that governments and public leaders should promote awareness of human rights through sports, giving the example of a Qatari public holiday that motivated youth to engage with sports. Mr. Loat emphasized that collective action was of paramount importance to achieve policy coherence and operational efficiency. He cited the Centre for Sport and Human Rights as exemplifying good practice, and argued for setting achievable milestones. Ms. Vukašinović called for a cross-sectoral approach and collective responsibility. Businesses should cooperate with humanitarian actors and youth, to provide know-how and other inputs. The United Nations Global Compact's alliance for Sustainable Development Goals financing was a good step towards collective responsibility.

56. Participants next considered which innovations could contribute to promoting and protecting human rights via sports. Ms. Macapagal highlighted "safe spaces" and their different dimensions. It was important to ensure a guarded environment and quality facilities in order to enable participation. Sports should not cause emotional harm but instead bring about a feeling of belonging and well-being for participants everywhere. Ms. Matheson highlighted new sports and the integration of technology. For example, she recommended recognizing "e-sports" as sports that allowed for the participation of persons with disabilities on the same footing as others. Mr. Barshim also emphasized e-sports, stressing that they facilitated communication and skills worldwide. He mentioned the example of the Aspire Academy, which integrates education and sport. Mr. Loat spoke

about leveraging opportunities around emerging sports, with examples such as e-sports representing the largest opportunity, but also alluded to emerging alternative sports such as world chase tag, quidditch and drone racing.

57. Contributions from the floor included comments from the Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Association Le Pont, OHCHR, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and World Indigenous Nations Sports International. The experiences shared related to the national legal framework in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, physical education for persons with disabilities in Colombia, team sports for children in street situations in Zambia, and cooperation to embed human rights values and international humanitarian law in e-games. One delegate enquired how principles of international solidarity, sustainable development and the fight against inequality could contribute to promoting human rights through sports. A participant explained that indigenous sports were an important tool for addressing social challenges to indigenous youth, especially those with disabilities, that brought back their self-esteem.

58. Responding to questions, Ms. Vukašinović highlighted the importance of securing digital “safe spaces” for children. Ms. Macapagal remarked that young people’s evidence-based recommendations and initiatives could amplify their voices. She emphasized the importance of cross-continental collaboration among youth and of promoting socially responsible video games. Mr. Barshim referenced good practices of international cooperation, such as an initiative by Qatar to promote sport among internally displaced persons in Darfur. Mr. Loat stressed that e-sports could promote a level playing field and development objectives, and that it was important to build best practices into emerging sports while the sports structures were still being designed. Ms. Matheson mentioned how apps could help to build awareness of challenges involved.

59. The panellists concluded by considering how to include and increase institutionalized youth voices in decision-making in sports and human rights. For Ms. Vukašinović, this required specific mandates, agendas, diversity, electoral processes and budgets. Best practices in this context were exemplified by ENGSO Youth and the European Athletics Young Leaders Community. Mr. Barshim advocated for youth to be decision makers and to be provided with the necessary tools and environment to be creative. Ms. Macapagal recommended involving youth in the mapping and planning of activities in order to reflect their needs and make the most of available resources. Ms. Matheson called for inclusive and human rights-based education for younger generations. Mr. Loat asked that youth be included in legitimate and authentic decision-making to harness the passion of youth, by youth and for youth, to build a world without injustices.

J. The way forward

60. The Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in Geneva, Abdulaziz Almuzaini, explained that UNESCO was the United Nations agency responsible for sport policy development, and that all its members had adopted the International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport, which affirmed the right of everyone to participate in sports. The protection and promotion of human rights to, and in, sports were central to the Kazan Action Plan. This was a tool to instigate change, share knowledge and scale up good practice in the field of sport and human rights.

61. Catherine Carty, the UNESCO Chair project manager for “Transforming the lives of people with disabilities, their families and communities, through physical education, sport, recreation and fitness”, presented the following collective recommendations from UNESCO, the UNESCO Chairs, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the International Paralympic Committee, Power of Sport Lab, Special Olympics International, and the Physical Activity and Sport Task Force of the Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities: (a) implement the Kazan Action Plan and recognize its scope in aligning national and international policies; (b) enable due diligence reporting on sport and human rights to international mechanisms and in national and institutional policies and investment strategies; (c) take a human rights-based approach to the development of indicators on sport and the Sustainable Development Goals, under the auspices of the Kazan Action Plan and

the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace; (d) include sport-related indicators in the statistical indicators developed by OHCHR; (e) include disabilities under prohibited discrimination in the Olympic Charter; (f) include a panel on inclusive physical education and school sport in the 2019 Social Forum; (g) elevate the status of sport as a sustainable development and human rights tool; and (h) consider the creation of a “sport treaty” to coordinate reporting and responsibility in physical education, physical activity and sports.

62. Philip Jennings, co-founder of the World Players Association and member of the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work, argued that fault lines still existed in sports. For effective collective action, the voice of athletes and players should be taken seriously. Their fundamental human rights, including labour rights, should be respected. The International Olympic Committee should embed respect for international human and labour rights as an operational principle. Organized struggle by players contributed to addressing exploitation and promoting human rights and equality. Civil society and unions had the capacity and experience to contribute to solutions. Involving them would enhance the power of sport. Mr. Jennings requested the International Olympic Committee to delay the adoption of its Athletes’ Rights and Responsibilities Declaration, as the draft fell short of international human rights standards.

63. Stavroula Kozompoli, an Olympic medallist in water polo, a member of the International Olympic Committee’s Marketing Commission, and President of the Hellenic Olympic Winners Association, stated that sport was universal, and had no languages nor barriers. It promoted respect for diversity, teamwork and common views that prevented conflicts and united people. All athletes should fight against racism and stereotypes, and promote gender equality and the inclusion of persons with disabilities, of refugees and of other vulnerable people. Ms. Kozompoli described two initiatives that she led in Greece. The first was a football team for refugee girls, which promoted their dignity and self-esteem. Through the second initiative, Olympic and Paralympic athletes visited primary schools together promoting tolerance for diversity, respect for other cultures and human rights. Athletes were the best role models for positive behaviour, human rights and solidarity, because they experienced extreme challenges and succeeded.

64. Representatives of the Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Human Rights Watch, the Equality League, Association Le Pont, the Sports and Rights Alliance and World Indigenous Nations Sports International made concluding remarks. Participants regretted human rights violations related to sports such as criminalization of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, barriers to women attending matches, promoting bellicose language in sports, and making budgetary cuts that undermined the potential of sports to promote peace and development. Participants called for multi-stakeholder engagement and giving voice to underprivileged groups such as women, youth and indigenous peoples. One participant considered mega sporting events to be a litmus test of the realization of the right to development, as only by abiding by its principles could Member States realize other human rights. Another participant warned against unilateral and uncooperative work, saying it entailed dangers of human rights violations. Good practices included the decision to grant equal pay to men and women players in international squash events, and the empowerment of children in street situations through sports.

65. Reacting to comments, Ms. Carty argued that the power of data and of narratives was critically important, whether they were about good or bad experiences. She stressed calls for change in and through sports, and supported participatory decision-making. The Kazan follow-up framework could be a means to address those demands. Mr. Jennings called for recognition of the role of trade unions, and for freedom of association and collective bargaining. Sport was not exempt from those basic rights. Ms. Kozompoli advocated more education and solidarity programmes and actions using innovative means to promote equality in society and protect human rights. It was important to move from theory to practice in order to achieve results.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

66. The following conclusions and recommendations emerged from the 2018 Social Forum.

A. Conclusions

67. The Social Forum highlighted interlinkages between human rights, and sports and mega sporting events, stressing convergences between the Olympic Charter, ideal and values, and human rights principles enshrined in human rights instruments. Sport touched upon many human rights aspects and served as a catalyst for the promotion of human rights. The importance of pro-sport, pro-human rights policies and practices at all levels was emphasized.

68. Mega sporting events were among the most watched events in the world and an outstanding platform with the potential of being an accelerator of the promotion of human rights. The attention drawn by professional, Olympic and Paralympic athletes allowed them to become role models and sources of inspiration for billions of people. Upcoming sports and new technologies also provided opportunities to mainstream human rights and reach new audiences and constituencies.

69. Sports and sporting events could either promote or could negatively impact on the rights of athletes and other persons who practised sports, fans and fan clubs, local populations, and workers in jobs related to sports, sport equipment and facilities. Some particular groups of concern included persons with disabilities, women, children and youth, elders, indigenous peoples, national or religious minorities, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and persons living in poverty. Challenges remained on means of protecting human rights and remedying violations.

70. Professional players' unions had adopted the Universal Declaration of Player Rights and the Olympic Movement was to adopt the Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration. Other workers in the area of sports had also achieved recognition of rights, including construction workers in the context of mega sporting events.

71. Hosting a mega sports event was an opportunity to promote more sustainable cities in which citizens could have healthier lives thanks to more and better sports facilities, transport integration and housing and planning. However, such events often affected the right to development and other human rights, due to corruption, increased public debt, forced or induced displacements, loss of jobs and livelihoods, and possible negative effects of gentrification. Lack of development also affected the opportunities of billions to access sports.

72. Participants shared examples of human rights policies and other instruments adopted by sports governing bodies, governments and international organizations. However, the complex challenges and opportunities involved in the relationship between sports and human rights could not be solved unilaterally. In this regard, the creation of the Centre for Sport and Human Rights provided important opportunities for effective collective actions.

73. The values and skills transmitted through sports created unique opportunities for the promotion of peace, reconciliation, understanding and solidarity. Sports was also a means for the empowerment and development of groups often left behind and for challenging stereotypes and taboos. Sports and human rights underpinned the national and international drive towards realization of the 2030 Agenda.

74. Various mapping and research exercises had been undertaken on the relationship between sports and human rights. These could provide benchmarks for further action.

B. Recommendations

75. States, sports governing bodies and other stakeholders should respect, protect and consider all human rights in the context of sports. Their actions should be guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, core human rights treaties, the Declaration on the Right to Development and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and other instruments such as the Olympic Charter, the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport. Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda, the Kazan Action Plan and follow-up mechanism, and the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace can help inform this process.

76. States should leverage sport to contribute to human rights protection and achieve the 2030 Agenda by working in collaboration with all interested stakeholders, including the sports community, civil society, international organizations and businesses.

77. Sports and mega sporting events should serve as a platform to promote human rights and more peaceful, inclusive, just and equitable societies and international order. Athletes, as role models, should be encouraged to stand up for human rights. Physical education, physical activities and sport should be inclusive and based on human rights values. Upcoming sports and new technologies should embed human rights by design.

78. Sports and mega sporting events should respect and consider the human rights of especially affected groups, populations and peoples. The planning, implementation and follow-up to sports policies and events should rely on transparent processes, include human rights impact assessment and due diligence dimensions, and provide effective grievance mechanisms for possible violations. The voices of those affected should be taken into account at all times. Decision-making bodies should ensure diversity, including by promoting gender equality. Special sporting events of certain groups – such as indigenous peoples, women, youth, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and others – should be encouraged as a means to broaden opportunities and highlight specific challenges faced by them.

79. Players and other workers in the context of sports should enjoy rights to representation and to organize for their own rights. Migrants, including undocumented migrants, should have their freedom of association and labour rights respected and promoted in the context of sports.

80. Sports policies and events should be based on multi-stakeholder collective action at all levels. Relevant United Nations organizations, in particular OHCHR and UNESCO, should continue to provide guidance on sports and human rights and engage actively with governments, the sports movement, the Centre for Sport and Human Rights and other relevant stakeholders.

81. The Centre for Sport and Human Rights should consider mapping initiatives and disseminate good practices on the promotion of reconciliation, peace and understanding through sports, especially in conflict and post-conflict scenarios.

82. Sports-related reporting should adopt a human rights-based approach to data, and human rights indicators should include sport-related indicators. Human rights mechanisms should continue to consider sports and sporting events in their reports and recommendations.

Annex

List of participants

States Members of the Human Rights Council

Angola, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt, Iraq, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

States Members of the United Nations

Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Colombia, Costa Rica, France, Greece, Honduras, India, Iran, Italy, Kuwait, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Norway, Romania, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand.

Non-Member States represented by observers

Holy See, State of Palestine,

Intergovernmental organizations

Commonwealth Secretariat, Inter-American Bank of Development.

United Nations

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

National Human Rights Institutions

Scottish Human Rights Commission.

Sport Governing Bodies

International Committee of Sports for the Deaf, International Olympic Committee, International Paralympic Committee, National Olympic Committee of Kenya, Special Olympics International, Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy of the 2022 Qatar FIFA World Cup, The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, World Indigenous Nations (WIN) Sports International, Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), United World Wrestling (UWW), World Anti-Doping Agency, World Indigenous Peoples' Games (Brazil).

Non-governmental organizations and others

African Association of Central Finland, Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-tamoul, Association for Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran-Geneva, Association Le Pont,

Associazione comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APGXXIII), BBAG eV – KickIn! Advisory Center for Inclusion in Football, Building and Wood Workers’ International (BWI), Centre pour la Gouvernance Démocratique (Burkina Faso), CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, CSKA Fans Against Racism, Département de l’instruction publique, de la formation et de la jeunesse / République et canton de Genève, Donna-Fit, Equality league organization (Pakistan), European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation, European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation Youth (ENGSO Youth), Fare Network, Foundation for Sport, Development and Peace, Geneva Brass Quintet, Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities’ Physical Activity and Sport Taskforce, Hellenic Olympic Winners Association, Home Box Office (HBO), Human Rights Watch, Indigenous Peoples and Nations Coalition Indigenous Peoples’ Center for Documentation, Innocence In Danger, International Committee of the Red Cross, Inter-Tribal Committee on Indigenous Science and Memory (Brazil), Kipkeino Foundation, Lutheran World Federation, Minority Concern of Pakistan, Mongolia Expeditions, Mountain2Mountain, NGO KulSport, Oak Foundation, ONG Conseil Suisse, Operasjon Skiglede, Peaceful & Active Center for Humanity (PEACH), Power of Sport Lab, PULSE! International Sports Film Showcase, Refugee Olympic Team 2016, Research and Information (DOCIP), Russian LGBT Sport Federation, Samagra Vikas Sansthan, SchweryCade, Service de l’éducation physique et du sport/ Canton de Vaud, Service des sports de la Ville de Genève, Seven Eyes, Sports and Rights Alliance, Sseninde Foundation, Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation, The Out Reach Story, Inc., Together Films, Tourner La Page, UNESCO coordinated Youth and Sport Task Force, UNI Global Union, World Bicycle Relief, World Economic Forum, World Players Association, UPR – Info.

Academic institutions

Académie internationale des sciences et techniques du sport (AISTS), ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich), Federal University of Uberlandia (Brazil), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), Haute École d’Arts Appliqués Genève (HEAD), Haute école de travail social de Fribourg (HETS-FR), Haute école de travail social de Genève (HETS-GE), Haute école spécialisée de Suisse occidentale (HES-SO), Interdisciplinary Centre for Sports Science and Development, Science Po Grenoble, The Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, UNESCO Chair Institute of Technology Tralee (Ireland), Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (Brazil), University of Geneva (UNIGE), University of Lincoln (United Kingdom), University of Physical Education, Budapest (Hungary), University of the Western Cape (South Africa), University of Zurich.