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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 22 June 2020

43/18. Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights instruments, including the relevant provisions of the key international human rights treaties, in particular article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, articles 1 and 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and articles 10 (g) and 13 (c) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Recalling also the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the issue of sport for development and peace, in particular its resolution 73/24 of 3 December 2018, in which the Assembly, inter alia, recalled the proclamation of 6 April as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, and its resolutions on the issue of building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal, in particular its resolution 74/16 of 9 December 2019,

Reaffirming previous Human Rights Council resolutions on the issue of sport and human rights, in particular resolutions 13/27 of 26 March 2010, 18/23 of 30 September 2011, 24/1 of 26 September 2013, 26/18 of 26 June 2014, 27/8 of 25 September 2014, 31/23 of 24 March 2016 and 37/18 of 23 March 2018,

Recalling that the General Assembly has supported the independence and autonomy of sport and the mission of the International Olympic Committee in leading the Olympic Movement, and of the International Paralympic Committee in leading the Paralympic Movement, and noting that they, as well as other relevant stakeholders, also have a role in protecting the interests and rights of athletes and the integrity of sport in accordance with the Olympic Charter, the International Paralympic Committee Code of Ethics and other relevant international standards and principles,

Acknowledging the fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter, in particular principle 4, which states that every individual must have the possibility of practising sport, without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, and principle 6, which states



that the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in the Charter shall be secured for all, without discrimination of any kind,

Recognizing the need to reflect more thoroughly on the value of relevant principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter, the International Paralympic Committee Code of Ethics and good sporting example in achieving universal respect for the realization of all human rights,

Recalling that the General Assembly has recognized the valuable contribution of sport to the promotion of education, sustainable development, peace, cooperation, solidarity, fairness, social inclusion and health at the local, regional and international levels, and noting that, as declared in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, sports can contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding among peoples and nations,

Acknowledging the revised International Charter for 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, and the Kazan Action Plan, adopted at the Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, held in Kazan, Russian Federation, in July 2017, and welcoming the endorsement by the World Health Assembly of the global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030,

Acknowledging also the major role of the United Nations system and its country programmes and the role of Member States in promoting human development through sport and physical education, and the joint endeavours of the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee and the United Nations system in such fields as human development, poverty alleviation, humanitarian assistance, health promotion, HIV and AIDS prevention, child and youth education, gender equality, peacebuilding and sustainable development,

Recalling the final report of the Advisory Committee on the possibilities of using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all and to strengthen universal respect for them,¹ and its recommendations to States, national, regional and international sport organizations and other stakeholders,

Welcoming the significant impetus that the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games and the Youth Olympic Games give to the volunteer movement around the world, acknowledging the contributions of volunteers to the success of the Games, and in this regard calling upon host countries to promote social inclusion without discrimination of any kind,

Recognizing the potential of sport as a universal language that contributes to educating people on the values of respect, dignity, diversity, equality, tolerance and fairness as a means to combat all forms of discrimination and to promote social inclusion for all, and reaffirming the need to combat discrimination and intolerance where they occur, within and outside the sporting context,

Recognizing also that sport, the Olympic and Paralympic Games and other major sporting events can be used to promote awareness, understanding and the application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to promote human rights and to strengthen universal respect for them, thus contributing to their full realization,

Welcoming the continued advancement of women and girls in and through sports and sporting activities, in particular the support for their progressively greater participation in sport events, which provides opportunities for women's and girls' empowerment and the realization of gender equality, and recognizing the imperative need to engage them further in the practice of sport and to enhance, to this end, their participation in sporting events at the national and international levels,

Acknowledging the potential of sport and major sporting events, including the Youth Olympic Games, to inspire and educate the youth of the world, including university students, and to promote their social inclusion through sport practised without discrimination of any

¹ A/HRC/30/50.

kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires human understanding, tolerance, fair play and solidarity,

Acknowledging also the valuable contribution that the appeal by the International Olympic Committee for an Olympic Truce, also known as *ekecheiria*, could make towards international understanding and peace and the advancement of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and recalling in that regard that recreational programmes, sport and games have helped to reduce tensions in some regions where there is armed conflict,

Noting that sports could be a strong force for equality and diversity, and may play a role in the promotion of compassion, tolerance and acceptance for refugees and migrants, and welcoming in this context the participation in Olympic and Paralympic Games as well as in mega sporting events of teams of refugees, which might inspire a new understanding of the rights of millions of people caught up in crises around the world,

Acknowledging the very important role of the media in the promotion and popularization of sport and in raising public awareness of the merits of practicing as a key element of a healthy lifestyle, thus contributing to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the positive role that they may play when reporting on how sport can translate into respect for human rights and promote social cohesion and acceptance of diversity and the values of sport, including integrity, teamwork, excellence, respect, tolerance, fair play and friendship,

Welcoming the hosting of the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games in the cities of Tokyo, Beijing, Paris, Milan and Cortina, Italy and Los Angeles, United States of America in 2021, 2022, 2024, 2026 and 2028 respectively, and the successful conclusion of the Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne, Switzerland in 2020, and stressing the opportunity to promote human rights, especially through sport and the Olympic ideal,

Recognizing the potential of sport and major sporting events in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encouraging Member States to use all opportunities offered by sport and its values to that end, and recalling in this regard that the General Assembly, in its resolution 74/16, recognized that Tokyo 2020 aimed to ensure a sustainable delivery of the Games,

Taking into account the need to address and prevent improper practices of stakeholders engaged in the organization and preparation of sports events, which may lead to human rights violations and abuses and negatively affect the economic, social and environmental spheres, and recalling that the General Assembly, its resolution 73/24, encouraged relevant entities involved in delivering major sporting events to respect applicable laws and international principles, including the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and also recognized that such events should be organized in the spirit of peace, mutual understanding, friendship, tolerance and inadmissibility of discrimination of any kind,

Being aware of the need to actively involve sport, the Olympic and Paralympic Games and other major sporting events in achieving the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities and respect for their inherent dignity, while recognizing efforts made by hosting countries to create a barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities, and stressing the need to continue to build on such efforts, including those made most recently at the latest Summer and Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, the 2018 International Federation of Association Football World Cup in the Russian Federation, and those made ahead of Tokyo 2020, Beijing 2022 and Qatar 2022,

Acknowledging 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 the need to support the independence and autonomy of sport and to preserve integrity in sports in all aspects through good governance of sport executive bodies and the effective and impartial implementation of anti-corruption, anti-doping and other relevant regulations, without prejudice to the human rights of athletes,

1. *Encourages* States to promote sport as a means to combat all forms of discrimination;
2. *Calls upon* States to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee in their efforts to use sport as a tool to promote human rights, development, peace, dialogue and reconciliation during and beyond the period of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, in particular by observing the Olympic Truce;
3. *Encourages* States to adopt best practices and means to promote the practice of sport and physical activities by all members of society, and to cultivate a sports culture in society;
4. *Invites* States and national, regional and international sports organizations to, where appropriate, implement new or strengthen existing programmes that provide more opportunities and facilitate barrier-free access to sport for all, in particular for children and youth, persons with disabilities, and women and girls, and substantially increase opportunities for women's participation and leadership in all areas of sport, and in this regard encourages States to leverage sport and physical education policies and programmes to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
5. *Encourages* States and national, regional and international sports organizations to enhance human rights awareness and education, including the values of sport, of athletes, coaches and other sports officials;
6. *Calls upon* States to take effective measures to address vandalism and violence during and around sporting events while respecting and protecting human rights, and to encourage national, regional and international sports organizations to contribute to that end;
7. *Welcomes* the cooperation among Member States, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee to maximize the potential of sport to make a meaningful and sustainable contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages the Olympic and Paralympic Movements to work closely with national, regional and international sport organizations on the use of sport for this purpose;
8. *Decides*, in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, to postpone the quadrennial thematic panel discussion on promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal, as already incorporated into the programme of work of the Human Rights Council in its resolution 37/18 and due to be held at its forty-fourth session, to its forty-seventh session, prior to the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020, programmed for 2021, using for this purpose the funds already allocated for the forty-fourth session, in accordance with Council resolution 37/18;
9. *Also decides* that the title of the above-mentioned thematic panel discussion, which will be fully accessible to persons with disabilities, will be "The potential of leveraging sport and the Olympic ideal for promoting human rights for young people";
10. *Further decides* to remain seized of the matter.

45th meeting
22 June 2020

[Adopted without a vote.]
