

Virtual International Expert Group (IEG) Meeting on
Sport for Preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism

Within the framework of the

United Nations Global Programme on the Security of Major Sporting Events,
and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism

21 to 23 September 2020

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and its partners are inviting relevant stakeholders to take part in the upcoming International Expert Group on Sport and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, which is aimed to guide the drafting process and the development of guidelines on the role of sports and its values in preventing violent extremism and radicalization.

Background information

UNOCT in partnership with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS) and in consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), has launched the “United Nations Global Programme on the Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism” on 3 February 2020.

The Global Programme and this event are inspired by the positive role of sports in preventing radicalization, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and facilitating integration at large. It is driven by the recognition that sports can be a powerful resource the development of efforts aimed at preventing and countering violent-extremism and radicalization. As noted by Member States in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, sport contributes to the realization of development and peace as well as the promotion of tolerance and respect.

The Global Programme aims at:

- Identifying policies and practices to enhance the use of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism;
- Strengthening Member States’ capacity to develop comprehensive strategies integrating sports and its values as a tool to prevent violent extremism and radicalization;
- Establishing a global network of National Focal Points (NFPs) and International Experts while convening Regional NFPs Fora and expert groups to enhance the exchange of information, best practices and experiences;
- Empowering youth to use sport values as a tool to prevent violent extremism.

The Global Programme takes into consideration:

- The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288), particularly with respect to addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism (Pillar I)
- UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674)
- UN Security Council resolution 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018), and 2535 (2020) on Youth, Peace and Security that recognizes the “growing contribution of sport and culture to the realization of development and peace in the promotion of tolerance and respect as well as the contributions sport and culture make to the empowerment of youth and women, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.”

- The General Assembly resolution on ‘Sport as an enabler of sustainable development’ (A/RES/73/24) that “Encourages Member States [and] the entities of the United Nations system to advance the consolidation of sport in cross-cutting development and peace strategies and the incorporation of sport and physical education in international, regional and national development and peace policies and programmes...”
- The UNESCO Kazan Action Plan (2017) which aims “to facilitate international and multi-stakeholder policy convergence, ease international cooperation and foster capacity-building efforts of governmental authorities and sport organisations” including in the domain of “maximizing the contributions of sport to sustainable development and peace”.

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

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

Participants:

The meeting will be attended by representatives and senior experts from the following sectors:

- Civil society organizations working on sport and/or PCVE, including youth-led organizations
- United Nations
- International and regional organizations
- Sport Federations
- Sport Foundations
- Private Sector
- Academia
- Member States
- Local and regional governments
- Networks, Platforms and Associations
- Media representatives

Objectives and expected results

- Create a transnational and multi-sectorial community of experts to support the development and implementation of UNOCT and its partners engagement on sport and its values for PCVE
- Provide an overview of existing international, regional, sub-regional and national policy frameworks on the use of sport to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization
- Identify best practices and map existing mechanisms for capacity-building in the field of sport and PCVE
- Identify gaps and main needs both in the policy domain and in the field of capacity building, which should be addressed by the Global Programme
- Prepare a preliminary draft of the United Nations Global Guide to assist Member States on using sport and its values to prevent violent extremism and radicalization