



## 2018 Social Forum, 1-3 October

**“The possibilities of using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all and to strengthen universal respect for them.”**

### General Statements by Participants

The 2018 Social Forum is focusing on *“using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all and to strengthen universal respect for them.”*<sup>1</sup>

Sport and Olympic ideals, undoubtedly, can be a means to promote education, health, development and peace all around the world. They play a major role in respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights for all and are used in the promotion and strengthening of universal respect for human rights.<sup>2</sup>

The Olympic Charter says that “The goal of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity.” Since we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and members states are engaged in the implementation of the Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is very important to reflect on sport as a means to promote human rights.

In fact, Sports and Olympic ideals promote the right to Health, right to Life, right to Peace, right to Education, the right to be free from violence and discrimination, the right of the child to engage in play and recreational activities, right of every child to a standard of living adequate for child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development, just to mention a few.

Article 2 of the International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport from UNESCO states “Physical education, physical activity and sport can yield a wide range of benefits to individuals, communities and society at large”, for the latter in particular in terms of health, social and economic benefits.<sup>3</sup> In the situation of inequality or discrimination, for example for disabled children, sport can reduce stigma and discrimination both transforming community attitudes and favouring interactions between people with and without disabilities.<sup>4</sup> Sport helps people with disability, inter alia, to become physically and mentally stronger, contributing to their right to health.

According to UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs: “The goals of the United Nations and the Paralympic Games share the same ideals to serve humanity: the UN strives

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/RES/35/28

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Poverty/SForum/Pages/SForum2018.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport UNESCO

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/issues/disability-and-sports.html>

for the peaceful settlement of disputes, social progress and better standards of life, and harmonious relations among peoples and nations, while the goal of the Paralympics is to place sport at the service of humanity, by harnessing its great potential to contribute to the global struggle for peace, prosperity and the preservation of human dignity.”<sup>5</sup>

Article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities underlines the importance of sports activity stipulating that appropriate measures shall be taken by States Parties “to encourage and promote the participation, to the fullest extent possible of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities at all levels.”<sup>6</sup>

Echoing the words of Pope Francis: “Sports is a meeting place where people of all levels and social conditions come together to reach a common aim. In a culture dominated by individualism and the gap between the younger generations and the elderly, sports is a privileged area around which people meet without any distinction of race, sex, religion, or ideology, and where we can experience the joy of competing to reach a goal together, participating in a team, where success or defeat is shared and overcome; this helps us to reject the idea of conquering an objective by focusing only on ourselves [...] All this makes sports a catalyst for experiences of community, of the human family.”<sup>7</sup>

As APG23, we run different projects for youth around the world that include the promotion of sports. During the discussions in the panels of the following days of the social forum we will contribute specifically with some good practices from the field.

Thank you!

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/united-nations-sports-and-the-paralympic-games-promoting-human-rights-development-and-the-ideals-of-humanity.html>

<sup>6</sup> Convention on the Right of Persons with Disability

<sup>7</sup> [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2018/documents/papa-francesco\\_20180601\\_lettera-card-farrell.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2018/documents/papa-francesco_20180601_lettera-card-farrell.html)