



General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 October 2023

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Fifty-fourth session

11 September–13 October 2023

Agenda item 9

Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 12 October 2023

54/25. A world of sports free from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

Acknowledging that, in paragraph 218 of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance urged States, in cooperation with intergovernmental organizations, the International Olympic Committee and international and regional sports federations to intensify the fight against racism in sport by, among other things, educating the youth of the world through sport practised without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires human understanding, tolerance, fair play and solidarity,

Acknowledging also that the Durban Review Conference, in paragraph 128 of its outcome document, urged all international sporting bodies to promote, through their national, regional and international federations, a world of sports free from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Recalling the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, launched by the Secretary-General in response to the alarming trend of rising hate speech around the world, on 18 June 2019,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 76/13 of 2 December 2021, in which the Assembly reiterated its support for 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 recognized the unifying and conciliatory nature of the Olympic Games and major international sport events, and that such events are organized in the spirit of peace, mutual understanding, friendship, tolerance and the inadmissibility of discrimination of any kind; and resolution 77/27 of 1 December 2022, in which the Assembly recognized that sports, the arts and



physical activity have the power to change perceptions, prejudices and behaviours, as well as to inspire people, break down racial and political barriers, combat discrimination and defuse conflict, as reflected in the political declaration adopted at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit in 2018,

Recognizing the potential of sport as a universal language that contributes to education on the values of respect, dignity, diversity, equality, tolerance and fairness and as a means to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to promote social inclusion for all, and 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 should be secured for all, without discrimination of any kind,

Stressing the importance of combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as discrimination based on religion or belief, in all circumstances, including in sports,

Recognizing that sport 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,

Recognizing also the very important role of the media in the promotion and popularization of sport and in raising public awareness of the positive role that they may play when reporting on how sport can translate into respect for human rights and promote social cohesion, equality and acceptance of diversity and the values of sport, including integrity, teamwork, excellence, respect, tolerance, fair play and friendship,

Recalling that, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, sport is recognized as an important enabler of sustainable development, in particular for its growing contribution to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and girls, youth and persons with disabilities, as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives,

Welcoming the contribution of the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Physical Education and Sport Unit of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace to combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in sports,

Welcoming also the collaboration between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Federation of Football Association in the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 to promote joint commitments in football, and encouraging the Office of the High Commissioner to continue such collaboration, as well as initiatives of hope, solidarity and fighting xenophobia and related intolerance, such as the creation by the International Olympic Committee of the Refugee Olympic Team that took part in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games,

Recalling the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session,¹ in which the Special Rapporteur illustrated some manifestations of racism in team and individual sports, discussed the applicable legislation and standards at the international, regional and national levels, and presented some of the initiatives of sports federations and civil society that focus on preventing and combating racism in sports,

Recalling also the report of the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights on the intersection of race and gender discrimination in sport,² in which the High Commissioner recommended that sporting bodies should commit themselves to protecting and respecting internationally recognized human rights and meet their responsibilities to

¹ A/69/340.

² A/HRC/44/26.

protect rights and minimize harms to rights by adopting human rights policies that apply to athletes, events and competitions, fans, journalists and others,

Recalling further that, in the above-mentioned report, the High Commissioner elaborated on relevant international human rights norms and standards and the corresponding obligations of States and the responsibilities of sporting bodies towards women and girl athletes,

Expressing deep concern at past and recent incidents of racism and discrimination in sports and at sporting events, and in this context encouraging sport governing bodies to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including by pursuing anti-racism initiatives and by developing and applying disciplinary codes that impose sanctions for these acts,

Noting with concern that women and girls face multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination and gender-based violence in sport, and therefore recognizing the imperative need to engage women and girls in the practice of sport for development and peace, and in this regard welcoming activities that aim to foster and encourage such initiatives at the global level,

Noting with appreciation the initiatives taken by the United Nations system, as well as national, regional and international sports federations and organizations, to promote development and peace through sport and physical education, and in this respect acknowledging the importance of the work of grass-roots organizations,

1. *Recognizes* the shared commitment to a world of sports free from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as from discrimination based on religion or belief, and calls upon all States to take all necessary measures to that end;

2. *Underlines* the importance of combating impunity and enhancing accountability for racially motivated crimes in sport, and urges States to take all appropriate measures, in accordance with domestic legislation and international obligations, to prevent, combat and address resolutely and effectively all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the context of sporting events, and to ensure that racially motivated acts are sanctioned appropriately;

3. *Stresses* the importance of combating and addressing acts of incitement to discrimination, hatred, hostility or violence at all phases of sporting events, and the need to intensify efforts at all levels, including policies, legislation, programmes and campaigns at the local and global levels;

4. *Urges* States, in partnership with national, regional and international sports federations and organizations, including grass-roots organizations, to develop and finance awareness-raising campaigns for preventing and combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in sport;

5. *Invites* States to consider including in their national reports, to be submitted to the Human Rights Council under the universal periodic review mechanism, information on measures to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in sports and to promote sports as a tool to combat all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

6. *Encourages* States to share experience and best practices in fighting all forms of racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in sport and in promoting integration and intercultural dialogue in and through sport;

7. *Requests* the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to continue its work on sports and racism and to build on previous discussions and recommendations;

8. *Invites* host countries of major sporting events, including the biggest and most impactful mega events, in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, relevant parts of the United Nations, the International Olympic Committee, the International Federation of Association Football and other relevant international sporting bodies to seize the opportunity offered by major sports events to develop concrete measures

to prevent racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including through campaigns aimed at sensitizing a wide public on the eradication of these scourges;

9. *Invites* the High Commissioner to cooperate with relevant parts of the United Nations Organization, the International Olympic Committee, the International Federation of Association Football and other relevant international, regional and national sports associations and federations, and in collaboration with various actors, including civil society, to develop measures and programmes to contribute to the prevention and eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in and through sports and sports events;

10. *Requests* the High Commissioner and other relevant parts of the United Nations Organization to support the development and implementation of practical measures and policies with international sporting bodies aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in sport, including the development and promotion of codes of conduct against racism in sport for clubs and sports associations cooperating with programmes aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as discrimination based on religion and belief, in and through sports;

11. *Calls upon* States, the United Nations Organization and sport-related institutions to help to initiate and assist in the implementation of grass-roots initiatives aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in sports, and invites the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, jointly with the Office of the High Commissioner, where appropriate, to coordinate and facilitate the engagement of respective stakeholders;

12. *Requests* the High Commissioner to organize regional consultations with States, sport associations, federations and civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, with a view to identify ways to strengthen national and local actions to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in and through sport;

13. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to present to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-seventh session an oral update on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, and a report thereon to the Council at its sixtieth session.

*48th meeting
12 October 2023*

[Adopted without a vote.]
