

Commission: Sports

Session : 6th Zonal MUN 2019

Sponsors : Botswana, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, Cote d'Ivoire, France, Mexico, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Zambia

QUESTION OF: USING SPORTS AS A TOOL FOR POST-CONFLICT RECONCILIATION AND RE-INTEGRATION

The General Assembly,

Expressing deep concern about social instabilities within a country's borders, as well as in its international relations which is the major cause of civil or ethnic war, manifestation and mutillery, dividing the nation, begeting conflict and traumatising the population,

Grieved by the fact that, in many parts of the world, sports is insignificant and even non-existent in the education of young people though it is a hobby that allows youngsters to develop and learn fundamental values such as teamwork, respect, communication and solidarity,

Bearing in mind that sports can help alleviate social and economic problems but due to the lack of financial means many countries cannot offer adequate sports infrastructure to their citizens further exacerbating their current problems,

Deeply disturbed by the fact that in regions where peace has been restored, sustaining peace can be a significant challenge, with 50% of countries that emerge from violent conflict slipping back into instability or violence within five years,

Recalling that in 2016 Brazil invited Colombia to play in charity match to support victims of the Chapecoense tragedy which was made to help the victims family and created a bond based on solidarity between the two countries

Alarmed that post-conflict reconciliation is very difficult as past conflicts polarize communities, foster hostility and distrust, and undermine the collaboration needed to advance development initiatives,

Fully aware that sport works primarily by bridging relationships across social, economic and cultural divides within society, and by building a sense of shared identity and fellowship among groups that might otherwise be inclined to treat each other with distrust, hostility or violence;

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1. Urges member states to educate young people through sport which is a good way to improve communication between individuals, to learn respect through healthy competition and to experience teamwork where several associations including UNESCO, UNICEF, ACEI and GPE share the same goal, which is maximizing the evolution, development and communication skills of youngsters;
2. Appeals to developed countries to provide financial support to improve sport facilities in less developed countries as sport programs can play a contributing role in this process by:
 - a) creating more opportunities for social contact,
 - b) establishing community sport organizations,
 - c) generating social ties through the participation of community sport volunteers and
 - d) creating a community infrastructure that help to build peace and stability;
3. Affirms that friendly and charity matches help to rebuild or fortify international relations between countries;
4. Encourages specialized organizations, such as Institute for Sports and Physical Activity, found in Netherlands which promote sports practices, **to** be set up in various countries in order to promote sports and request developed countries to help the developing ones, thus promoting international cooperation;
5. Calls upon member states with robust sports systems and organisations to contribute to the healing of physical and mental injuries caused by war through sports programmes especially for the children and youth;
6. Encourages the diversification of the teams and clubs to establish tolerance, peace and facilitate re-integration;
7. Considers traditional sports, such as the Senegalese wrestling, Donkey racing, Nguni 'Stick fighting', requiring an extreme level of skills in Africa, to be an essential part in the process of reconciliation and re-integration;

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8. Invites the International Olympic Committee ("IOC"), the International Sports Federations ("IFs") and the National Olympic Committees ("NOCs") to support all endeavours to establish sports programs especially in regions which are in a post-conflict period so as to promote reconciliation and re-integration of past soldiers.