

## MUNEXUS Chair Report

**Committee:** General Assembly

**Issue:** Building a peaceful and better world through sports and the Olympic ideal

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### I. Description of Issue

Have 29 Summer Olympics and 22 Winter Olympics led to a more peaceful world? Among all Olympic movements, how many of them made our world to be more peaceful? Will hosting the XXIII Olympic Winter Games and the XII Paralympic Winter Games bring peace to the world? Are sports capable of building a peaceful and better world? Is the Olympic ideal powerful enough to induce such changes? The ambiguous Olympic ideals obscure These questions that nations follow when hosting any Olympics. Considering the possible answers to these questions, the international community believes all member nations should cooperate to create a concrete resolution on the issue of building a peaceful and better world through sports and the Olympic ideal.

The primary purposes of the Olympics, in general, are the following:

1. To initiate sports programs to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women
2. To encourage the Member States to ratify the International Convention against Doping in Sport
3. To encourage the Secretary-General to maintain the mandate of Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace and to provide guidance on the institutional future of sport for development and peace within the United Nations system
4. To request the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the resolution and on progress at the national, regional and international levels to encourage policies and best practices related to sport for development and peace

The Generally Assembly wants to promote the observance of the Olympic Truce among Member States and support for human development initiatives through sport with the cooperation of International Olympic Committee (IOC).

### II. Defining Key Terms

#### i. Olympic Ideal (Olympism)

Olympism or Olympic ideal is a philosophy of life combining all qualities of body, will, and mind. Olympism seeks to create a way of life emphasizing the value of education, social responsibility and respect for universal ethical principles through blending sport with culture and education. The goal of it is to use sports itself as the driving force to the harmonious development of humankind and the promotion of a peaceful society.

Under the authority of the IOC, the Olympic Movement is organized by the action of all individuals who are inspired by the values of Olympism. The movement reaches its peak and fulfills the Olympic ideals by bringing the world's athletes together at the big sports festival.

The practice of sport itself should be considered as a human right. All individuals must enjoy the fruit of practicing sports, without violating any of the Olympic spirits which require the mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play—core values of Olympics given by the IOC.

The rights and freedoms outlined in this Olympic Charter should be secured without discrimination of any kind, such as race, sex, language, religion, national or social origin, property, birth or any other status.

## **2. Olympic Truce**

The "Truce" or "Ekecheiria" was first established in ancient Greece in the 9th century BC by the treaty between three kings. During the period of Truce, every individual could travel under the safe condition to participate in or attend the Olympic Games and return afterward to their respective countries.

To protect the interests of the athletes and sports in general and to find peaceful solutions to the global conflicts, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) decided to revive the ancient ideal of Olympic Truce to diplomatic.

Through this global and symbolic concept, the IOC aims to:

1. Mobilise youth for the promotion of the Olympic ideals
2. Use sport to establish contacts between communities in conflict
3. Offer humanitarian support in countries at war
4. Create a window of opportunities for dialogue and reconciliation.

To IOC, embracing Olympic Truce extends beyond the period of the Olympic Games and also sport as a tool to bring peace with the cooperation of its National Olympic Committees.

## **3. International Olympic Committee (IOC)**

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) acts as a catalyst for collaboration between all parties of the Olympic family—the National Olympic Committees (NOCs), the International Sports Federations (IFs), the athletes, the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games (OCOGs), to the broadcast partners, United Nations agencies. Working with all member nations and various committees, IOC is looking forward to success through a wide range of programs and projects like Olympics.

On this basis, IOC ensures the ceremony of the Olympic Games every four-year and supports all affiliated member organizations of the Olympic Movement. Last but not least, IOC strongly urges, by appropriate means, the promotion of the Olympic values.

### **III. Timeline of Key Events**

#### **1. Fighting for Peace in the Favelas of Rio de Janeiro**

Fight for Peace, a recipient of an IOC Sport for All award and grant in 2013, is a non-governmental organization located in the favelas (slum) in Rio de Janeiro. The IOC supports Fight for Peace's Maré Academy through its "Community Champions" project cooperating with the Brazilian Olympic Committee. This project addresses the realization of young people's potential and guides communities tainted with crime, violence, and social exclusion through the means of boxing and martial arts, combined with education and personal development. Young people can develop tools and resilience to become life champions and their positive futures. Additionally, workshops for coaches in Rio de Janeiro are conducted to teach them about the Olympic values.

#### **2. Preventing Youth Violence in Colombia: A Joint IOC-War Child Project**

The IOC and NGO War Child launched a two-year project in Cambodia. The project targets more than 11,000 children and young people in 39 schools in the indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities in the rural zones of Corinto, Northern Colombia. Following the Olympic ideals, the project implemented a methodology that combines the development of life skills as well as promoting the peaceful coexistence. Through multi-sports activities, the project seeks to enhance social cohesion and to prevent violence among children and the community. For activities like tournaments, two organizations have recruited specifically-trained community sports leaders to implement the program.

#### **3. Building Resilience through Sports in Violence-Affected Communities of Jamaica**

A pilot program implemented in Jamaican urban communities with histories of violence is supported by the IOC in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Jamaican Red Cross, and the Jamaican Olympic Committee. Sports is used as a means to cultivate resilience among young people who face barriers to social integration for social, economic, or geographical reasons. Through the program, an after-school sports-based development program is implemented to reduce frequencies of violence in communities with "at-risk" children. It aims to lead behavioral change and expand opportunities through involvement in sport, enhance capacities in leadership and conflict management, and offer psychosocial support.

#### **IV. Position of key member nations and other bodies on issue**

##### **1. International Olympic Committee**

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has defined three core values, which are "the heart and soul of the Olympic Movement ... [which] are meant to inspire us an individual and at the organizational level." The three core values are excellence, friendship, and respect.

Excellence stands for giving one's best, on the field of play or in the professional arena. This value emphasizes that the Olympics are not only about winning but also about participating to make progress towards personal goals and to create harmony between all member nations. It is also the expectation that athletes should set for themselves and it is captured in the Olympic Motto *Citius, Altius, Fortius* (Faster, Higher, Stronger). The value of excellence indicates that the individuals and groups are working together to reach the common goal and to be the best in all that we do. The Olympic Movement expresses its commitment to upholding the value of excellence in many ways like well-organized Olympic Games to developing sports, and education and culture programs that enable the world's youth to be the best they can be.

Friendship encourages all member states to consider sport as a tool for better understanding among individuals and global citizens. The Olympic Games pursue humanity to create a bonding between political, economic, gender, racial or religious differences and shape friendships in spite of those differences. The value of friendship is originated from the tradition of the ancient Olympic Truce—building a peaceful and better world through sport. The athletes express this value by forming lifelong bonds with their teammates as well as their opponents. Moreover, citizens reach each other globally through this value by interacting with residents from more than 200 nations with a fundamental humanistic approach to all its actions. Currently, IOC is putting its effort to establish various programs to reflect the Olympic Movement's commitment to the value of friendship such as developing culture and education programs and encouraging open dialogue on sport and peace.

The last value, respect incorporates respect for one's body, for the rules and regulations, for sports and the environment. The value ensures fair play, the fight against doping, and any other unethical behavior. The universal value of respect refers to respect for ourselves, for one another, for the rules, for fair play, and the environment. The Olympic Movement expresses its commitment to the Olympic ideals in different ways and through a number of targeted initiatives like fighting against doping in sport. IOC defines that respect has an underlying message that symbolizes moral and the ethical principle that inspires all who participate in the Olympic movement.

##### **2. Rio de Janeiro**

Although Rio de Janeiro put efforts into building a peaceful and better world through sports by promoting the Olympic ideals, the consequences were controversial.

It was challenging to realize the true olympic ideal between the stark contrast between the “supposed Olympic ideal” and the “reality of a capitalist system.” Mired in economic crisis and social inequality, Rio de Janeiro tried to achieve Olympism, but failed to meet the expectations. For example, half a mile away from the opening ceremony of the Rio games, which was taken place in the city’s iconic Maracana Stadium, happened a brutal attack by the Brazilian police against a demonstration. It is hard to say that such game was the epitome of the Olympic ideals.

Incidents related to doping scandals also fall far short of the Olympic ideal. Russia was proved to have been operating a “state-sponsored doping program” for four years before the Rio game. Such incidents are against the Olympic ideal to “respect ... rules and regulation,” ensuring fair play, and specifically fight against doping.

Before the game, as the first country in South America to hold the Olympics, Rio de Janeiro had high expectations of providing the country with new opportunities. Critics, however, criticized it can actually act as an example on the precariousness why developing countries should be cautious in hosting international events such as the Olympics.

### **3. South Korea**

As the host country of the XXIII Olympic Winter Games and the XII Paralympic Winter Games, South Korea is also working to effectively embrace the Olympic ideals. Especially, in terms of the Olympic truce, South Korea is focusing on mobilizing youth for promoting olympic ideals through sports and creating a window for opportunities for dialogue and reconciliation. One of the methods to promote Olympic ideals is to set up advertising booth in big cities like Seoul (Samsung-dong and Jongno) and Pyeongchang.

### **4. United States of America**

The United States of America hosted XIX Olympic Winter Games in 2002, commonly known as Salt Lake 2002. U.S. President George W. Bush opened the Winter Olympics, which took place only five months after the September 11 attacks. During the opening ceremony, an American flag rescued from the World Trade Center was carried into the stadium by the guard of American athletes and was carried in by firefighters and police officers. The International Committee and the sports world concluded the Salt Lake Games was the best-ever Winter Olympics after overcoming the impact of the 9/11 crisis. To the United States, everything felt uneasy and frightening, but the peace-loving world needed them to be successful in bridging the sense of peaceful community through Olympic games.

However, the games have already been dubbed the "red, white and blue Olympics" because the majority of the events included patriotic propagandas in the wake of the terrorist attacks on

September 11. The IOC officials recognized that nationalism has always been a part of the Olympics, but, felt the event is being used merely as propaganda for the US war effort.

## 5. **Russia**

In 2014, Russia hosted XXII Olympic Winter Games which is also known as Sochi Winter Olympics. As the most expensive Olympics host country, the three-hour of opening ceremony blended Olympism with a Russian history and culture with a musical backdrop of Russian classical music. The IOC President reminded all participants of Olympic ideals and Olympism: "Russia and the Russians have set the stage for you, the best winter athletes on the planet. From this moment on, you are not only the best athletes; you are Olympic athletes. You will inspire us with your outstanding sports performances" (Olympic).

Despite Russia's efforts to create the best Olympic environment with \$50 billion, they violated human rights of innocent citizens. Many houses that sat in the midst of an area of immense construction of Olympic infrastructure and venues. Their property was expropriated for Olympic construction without compensation. Human Rights Watch states that the forced eviction and demolition violate Russia's obligations under international human rights law. The Russian government is required to adequately protect the rights of all citizens from unreasonable intrusion in their house and life. The failure to respect all rights and ensure a fair process concerning the home where the residents have lived since 1996 was a violation of Olympic ideals.

## **V. Suggested Solutions**

During the XXIII Olympic Winter Games and the XII Paralympic Winter Games, Member States should individually and collectively observe the Olympic Truce within the Charter of the United Nations. All Member States could also cooperate with the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee to utilize sport as a tool to build a peaceful and better world by fixing conflicts during and beyond the Olympic Games period.

In the realization of those objectives, the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee and the sporting community, in general, will cooperate with the Secretary-General to promote the observance of the Olympic Truce among the Member States and support for human development initiatives through sport.

International sports organizations and the National Olympic Committees and National Paralympic Committees of Member States should engage in four concrete actions: at the local, national, regional and world level. The purpose of the action is to promote and strengthen a culture of peace based on the spirit of the Olympic truce. Those organizations and national committees will be invited to share information and best practice with the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee.



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