



Joint Statement

Diverse Coalition Commits to Establishing Centre for Sport & Human Rights in 2018

30th November 2017

We, the Steering Committee of the Mega-Sporting Events Platform for Human Rights, are pleased to announce our commitment to the establishment of an independent Centre for Sport & Human Rights during 2018.

Our unprecedented alliance includes intergovernmental organisations, governments, sports bodies, athletes, hosts, sponsors, broadcasters, civil society representatives, trade unions, employers and their associations, and national human rights institutions.

Over the past two years, we have come together united in the understanding that there is a generation of work to be done to fully align the world of sport with the fundamental principles of human dignity, human rights, and labour rights. This effort will build on the progress made by a number of leading actors in the world of sport who have worked to develop and strengthen their systems to manage human rights risks associated with their activities.

Our cooperation is rooted in the belief that ensuring respect for human rights across the world of sport and mega-sporting events cannot be achieved by individual organisations working alone. It instead requires joint action aimed at sharing knowledge, building capacity, and ensuring transparency and accountability. This will help to build a world of sport that protects, respects, and upholds the human rights of those affected by sport, including athletes, workers, communities, children, fans, volunteers, and the press.

A Centre for Sport & Human Rights will need to promote effective approaches to prevent, mitigate, and remedy human rights impacts associated with sport. This means working with all actors to build capacities, share knowledge and lessons learned, and help to shape and strengthen mechanisms for transparency and accountability. The Centre will therefore need to support the efforts of a range of stakeholders, including sports bodies, local organising committees, governments, intergovernmental organisations, sponsors, broadcasters, and other commercial partners, civil society and trade union representatives, national human rights institutions, as well as individuals from affected and potentially affected groups.

This work will need to be undertaken in full alignment with international human rights and related instruments, principles, and standards including the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights with its three pillars of Protect, Respect, and Remedy, ILO Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, amongst others, including those that may apply to potentially vulnerable or marginalised groups such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the Sporting Chance Principles on Human Rights in Mega-Sporting Events.

All organisations on the Steering Committee of the Mega-Sporting Events Platform for Human Rights are committed to the establishment of a Centre in 2018 that responds to these needs.

Signed by:

Steering Committee members:

- adidas Group
- Amnesty International
- BT plc
- Building and Wood Workers International (BWI)
- The Coca-Cola Company
- Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 (Former Chair)
- Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)
- Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)
- Football Supporters Europe
- Government of Switzerland
- Government of the United States of America
- Human Rights Watch
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Olympic Committee (IOC)
- International Organisation of Employers (IOE)
- International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
- New Zealand Human Rights Commission
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)
- Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- Terre des Hommes
- Transparency International Germany
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)
- World Players Association, UNI Global Union

Chair:

- Mary Robinson

Secretariat:

- Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB)

Also supported by:

Task Force members:

- Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)
- Commonwealth Secretariat
- Discovery Communications & Eurosport
- Sky
- Sport Equality League
- The Procter & Gamble Company
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)