



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Crime

Concept note for a High-Level Event at the 14th Crime Congress in Kyoto

Wednesday 22 April 2020, 9:00-10:30AM

A. Context

Sport has the power to change perceptions, prejudices and behaviours, as well as the ability to inspire people, break down racial, political and gender barriers. Cheering for our favourite teams and athletes brings us together. The inspiration and positive emotions which sport generates build community and contribute to the broader social good. For the United Nations, harnessing this potential can help to promote peace and achieve the 2030 Agenda, which explicitly recognizes the role of sport as an enabler of sustainable development.

However, sport cannot fulfil this role if it is undermined by corruption. This point has been clearly understood by the international community with the adoption of resolution 7/8 on corruption in sport, by the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its Seventh session, held in Vienna from 6 to 10 November 2017, and with resolution 8/4 on safeguarding sport from corruption, adopted by the 186 States parties at the Eighth Session, held in Abu Dhabi from 16 to 20 December 2019.

Through the adoption, the 186 Governments have agreed on a new set of commitments aimed at tackling corruption in sport, including competition manipulation (also commonly known as match-fixing), illegal betting, money laundering, infiltration of sport by organized crime, strengthening cooperation between sport and criminal justice authorities and relevant stakeholders, bribery in sport, governance of sport organizations, reporting mechanisms, protecting vulnerable groups from corruption to include youth, women and young athletes and corruption risks linked to the organization of major sports events.

The adoption of resolution 7/8 on corruption in sport and resolution 8/4 on safeguarding sport from corruption each represents a landmark moment for international efforts to safeguard sport from corruption and crime and to allow sport to work as an enabler for sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

B. Focus of the high-level event

The main aim of the high-level event is to raise awareness among representatives about the risks posed to sport by corruption and crime and to highlight recent initiatives to overcome them.

C. Proposed format

The session will involve introductory presentations or speeches by the speakers (currently five speakers envisaged), followed by a panel discussion.

This would be an opportunity to highlight some of the key issues and envisaged future risks that organizations and governments are taking to address corruption and crime in sport and strengthen its integrity.