

Resolution 8/4 adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its eighth session, held in Abu Dhabi from 16 to 20 December 2019

Safeguarding sport from corruption

The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Reaffirming its resolution 7/8 of 10 November 2017, entitled “Corruption in sport”, in which it called upon States parties to strengthen and further coordinate their efforts to effectively mitigate the risks of corruption in sport,

Recognizing the important role played by the United Nations Convention against Corruption¹² in harmonizing the actions taken by Governments in the fight against corruption in all its forms, and reaffirming its relevance to promoting integrity, transparency and accountability and preventing corruption, including in sport,

Reaffirming that sport is an important enabler of sustainable development, and recognizing the growing contribution of sport to the realization of justice and peace through its promotion of tolerance, fairness and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and young people, individuals and communities, as well as to development objectives relating to health, education and social inclusion,

Recognizing that sports organizations within the Olympic movement have the rights and obligations of autonomy, which include freely establishing and controlling the rules of sport, determining the structure and governance of their organizations, enjoying the right to elections free from any outside influence and the responsibility for ensuring that principles of good governance be applied,

Recognizing also that corruption in sport undermines the fundamental principles of Olympism, as reflected in the Olympic Charter,

Noting with great concern that corruption and organized and economic crime can undermine the potential of sport and its role in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹³

Recognizing the importance of protecting children and young people in sport from potential exploitation and abuse so as to ensure a positive experience and a safe environment that supports their healthy development,

Concerned that the challenges posed by corruption could undermine the potential of sports to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Affirming the invaluable contribution of the Olympic and Paralympic movements in establishing sport as a unique means for the promotion of peace and development, in particular through the ideal of the Olympic Truce, acknowledging the opportunities provided by past Olympic and Paralympic Games, welcoming with appreciation all upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games, and calling upon States parties that will host such Games and other major sporting events in the future, as well as other States parties, to enhance measures to address the risks of corruption related to such events,

¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

¹³ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

Recognizing the importance of ensuring transparency and integrity in the process used for selecting locations for major sporting events,

Acknowledging the fundamental role played by States parties, with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in preventing and combating corruption in sport,

Recognizing the crucial role of the United Nations in combating and preventing corruption in sport and promoting integrity in sport,

Recognizing also the contributions that other intergovernmental organizations and forums¹⁴ make in the fight against corruption in sport and the promotion of integrity in sport,

Noting that, while the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption is the responsibility of States parties, the promotion of integrity, transparency and accountability and the prevention of corruption in sport are responsibilities to be shared by all relevant stakeholders,

Highlighting, in this context, the contributions of sports organizations and the role of athletes, the media, civil society, academia and other private sector entities in safeguarding sport from corruption, and highlighting also the key role of public-private partnerships in this regard,

Recognizing the continuing importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in combating and preventing corruption in sport, and noting the contributions of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to those partnerships,

Welcoming the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and corruption, including through the development of relevant tools and guidance material and the provision of technical assistance, including in the context of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration: Towards the Promotion of a Culture of Lawfulness, and the Global Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Crime,

Referring to the Memorandum of Understanding between the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime signed in May 2011, which provides a framework for cooperation between the two entities in the fields of preventing and fighting corruption in sport, including through the delivery of capacity-building and technical assistance, upon request,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [73/24](#) of 6 December 2018, entitled “Sport as an enabler of sustainable development”, and the references made therein to the threat to sport posed by corruption,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2019/16 of 23 July 2019, entitled “Integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies”, in which the Council expressed concern about the risks to youth posed by corruption and crime in sport,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the global framework for leveraging sport for development and peace,¹⁵ in which he proposed an update to the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace,¹⁶

Welcoming the international conferences on the theme “Safeguarding sport from corruption”, held in Vienna on 5 and 6 June 2018 and on 3 and 4 September 2019,

¹⁴ Such as the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Organization of American States and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. See also, inter alia, the Group of 20 leaders’ declarations of 5 and 6 September 2013 and 8 July 2017.

¹⁵ [A/73/325](#).

¹⁶ See [A/61/373](#).

noting their contribution towards international progress, and acknowledging their outcomes,

1. *Calls upon* States parties to strengthen and further coordinate their efforts in an inclusive and impartial manner, including under the auspices of the United Nations, to promote synergies between all relevant work streams,¹⁷ inter alia, but not limited to, existing multi-stakeholder partnerships, to ensure the mainstreamed consideration of efforts to safeguard sport from corruption, which will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹³ and to highlight the role of sport as a unique means for the promotion of peace, justice and dialogue during and beyond the period of the Olympic and Paralympic Games;

2. *Invites* States parties, entities of the United Nations system, the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee and other stakeholders, including sports organizations, federations and associations, athletes, the media, civil society, academia and the private sector, to promote greater awareness, develop their capacity and provide technical assistance, where applicable and upon request, in order to address corruption in sport;

3. *Encourages* States parties to further increase capacity, where possible, to strengthen cooperation between their law enforcement authorities, with a view to more effectively tackling corruption crimes in sport, exacerbated, in particular, by the infiltration of organized crime, and to guarantee, without prejudice to their domestic law, the timely sharing of information concerning corruption, fraud and money-laundering in sport at the national, regional and international levels, and to do so using relevant modern technologies;

4. *Urges* States parties to enforce their national legislation criminalizing bribery and other forms of corruption by preventing, investigating and prosecuting corrupt acts involved in sports, bearing in mind, in particular, articles 12, 15 and 21 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption¹² and without prejudice to article 4 of the Convention;

5. *Encourages* States parties to enhance cooperation between their law enforcement authorities and sports organizations in order to effectively prevent, detect in a timely manner and counter corruption crimes in sport, as well as to facilitate the exchange of expertise and the dissemination of information, and to raise awareness within sports organizations and the sports community of the gravity of corruption offences;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, building on the outcomes of the international conferences on the theme “Safeguarding sport from corruption”, to hold further international forums in Vienna to raise awareness and promote cooperation among relevant stakeholders;

7. *Invites* States parties to consider establishing a Vienna chapter of the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace, an informal group of permanent missions to the United Nations in New York and Geneva serving as a platform to promote dialogue and exchange of views and information on issues relevant to the present resolution, Conference resolution 7/8 and activities and mandates of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;¹⁸

8. *Calls upon* States parties, where possible and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, to inform the Secretariat of the names and addresses of authorities that may be able to assist other States parties in developing and implementing specific measures to address corruption in sport;

¹⁷ Including those on procurement, conflicts of interest, good governance and cooperation between criminal justice, law enforcement and sport organizations, other crimes, misconduct and misbehaviour in sport.

¹⁸ See General Assembly resolution [73/24](#).

9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to develop, within its mandate, in close consultation with States parties and in cooperation with interested stakeholders, a comprehensive thematic study on safeguarding sport from corruption, including consideration of how the Convention can be applied to prevent and counter corruption in sport, to update training materials, guides and tools for Governments and sports organizations, to disseminate information and good practices and to develop projects and deliver technical assistance, upon request, to support the implementation of the present resolution and further strengthen measures against corruption in sport;

10. *Urges* States parties and relevant stakeholders to address risks to vulnerable groups, in particular children and young athletes, posed by corruption in sport, with a view to promoting healthy lives and principles of integrity and to creating an atmosphere of intolerance towards corruption in junior and youth sport;

11. *Invites* States parties and relevant stakeholders, with a view to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, to actively encourage the greater participation and representation of women in sports-related activities, programmes and initiatives and in sports governing bodies, including by developing robust awareness programmes that address gender-related barriers in sport caused by corruption;

12. *Encourages* States parties and sports organizations, bearing in mind in particular articles 8, 32 and 33 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in conformity with national legislation and in the context of sport, to consider developing reporting mechanisms in sport and establishing effective protection measures for reporting persons and witnesses, to increase awareness of such measures and to make use of the joint publication of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Olympic Committee entitled *Reporting Mechanisms in Sport: A Practical Guide for Development and Implementation* and the publication of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled *Resource Guide on Good Practices in the Protection of Reporting Persons*;

13. *Encourages* States parties and relevant stakeholders, including organizing committees, in the course of organizing sports events, to take the necessary steps to establish appropriate systems of procurement, based on transparency, competition and objective criteria in decision-making, that are effective, inter alia, in preventing corruption and to make use of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime publication entitled *The United Nations Convention against Corruption: A Strategy for Safeguarding against Corruption in Major Public Events*, as well as of its support tool;

14. *Urges* States parties, in accordance with their domestic legal systems, to strongly encourage sports organizations at all levels and relevant stakeholders to promote and enhance ethical practices and transparency in sport, including through the adoption, where appropriate, of term limits for senior officials of sports organizations and by developing and implementing conflict of interest policies, preparing and making publicly available relevant information, including statutes, rules and regulations, annual activity reports and main events reports, annual financial reports and summaries of reports or decisions taken during executive board and committee meetings, election processes and results, and monitoring the implementation of such policies and procedures, and encourages the use by sports organizations of the publication of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled *An Anti-Corruption Ethics and Compliance Programme for Business: A Practical Guide*;

15. *Encourages* States parties, in order to tackle the problems of competition manipulation, illegal betting and related money-laundering activities, to periodically evaluate national policies, effective practices and national law with a view to determining their efficiency and effectiveness in preventing and combating corruption in sport and to make use of the booklet entitled "Model criminal law provisions for

the prosecution of competition manipulation” and the study entitled *Criminalization Approaches to Combat Match-Fixing and Illegal/Irregular Betting: A Global Perspective*, joint publications of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Olympic Committee, and of the *Resource Guide on Good Practices in the Investigation of Match-Fixing* and *National Anti-Corruption Strategies: A Practical Guide for Development and Implementation*, published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

16. *Also encourages* States parties to enhance international cooperation to tackle illegal betting, given its cross-border dimension;

17. *Calls upon* States parties to ensure that organizations involved in host selection operate in a transparent manner and in conformity with the applicable rules and procedures;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide information to the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 7/8 and the present resolution as a possible contribution to his report on the implementation of resolution 73/24 on sport as an enabler of sustainable development, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session;

19. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes identified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.