

Safeguarding Sport from Corruption: Day One: Tuesday, 3 September 2019 - 16:30 to 17:50

Speaking notes for Marco Teixeira, Senior Programme Officer, Doha Declaration Global Programme

- How to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women by fighting corruption in sport?
- Relevance: Session linked to operative paragraph 6 of resolution 7/8 on corruption in sport.
- Session objective: Presentation on gender and corruption followed by panel discussion on addressing corruption risks which undermine sport's role in advancing gender equality and empowerment of women in sport.

Suggested topics for intervention: How can sport be used as a vehicle for female empowerment and gender equality and are there examples of initiatives to showcase this impact?

Q2: You are the Senior Programme Officer and Coordinator of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration. Part of this programme involves implementing a project called *Line Up Live Up* which is a global youth crime prevention initiative that builds on the power of sports as a tool for peace. Could you briefly describe the project and what has it done for young women?

The youth crime prevention initiative aims to promote sports and related activities to prevent crime and to effectively build the resilience of at-risk youth. Strengthening the life skills of youth helps to maximize protective factors against crime, violence and drug use. Through *Line Up Live Up*, youth practice sports and learn to better cope with daily life challenges.

We truly believe that sport is a tool and vehicle for female empowerment and that working with girls early helps address various gender stereotypes and also empower them in the area of sport. This can be strengthened by providing safe spaces for girls and promoting female mentorships and role models for girls. Such effort contributes to challenging and transforming gender roles, norms and attitudes that can lead to gender-based violence and discrimination.

Through the *Line Up Live Up* programme, sports coaches, teachers and others working with youth in sports settings receive training to support youth in obtaining valuable life skills, such as resisting social pressures to engage in delinquency, coping with anxiety and communicating effectively with peers, through a set of interactive and fun exercises.

The training programme has been first tested and piloted in Brazil in 2017 and is being implemented in more than 10 countries across the world, including those in Africa, presently in Central Asia, the Middle East and South America. Over 5,900 youth have received the full *Line Up Live Up* Training by over 750 coaches that have been trained under the Programme. This figure consists of nearly 2,400 girls and over 200 female coaches. An impact assessment will soon be finalized in Brazil and is presently being carried

out in the Dominican Republic and South Africa. The curriculum developed under Line Up Live Up include gender equality aspects and take into consideration the needs and interests of girls. The training programme helps young people to understand that gender roles, norms and attitudes which do not promote equality may lead to disrespect and violence, especially against girls and women. Together, boys and girls learn to understand the importance of collaboration to exercise and promote gender equality and become youth ambassadors in their communities. We have also recently produced a brochure that focuses on girls' empowerment through sports. Finally, I want to conclude by sharing a heartfelt testimonial from Camila Mariano, a 17-year-old, girl from Brazil who said "I would like to be a champion not only in sports but also in life"

Follow up question:

Q3: Looking at the challenges faced, and impact achieved through the *Line Up Live Up* initiative, what would you recommend as concrete steps that could be taken in order to strengthen efforts to use sport as a vehicle for gender equality and female empowerment?

Sport is a tool to build peace, tolerance and respect. As our Programme and many others present today have shown, sport can also be used as a vehicle to promote gender equality and female empowerment. **To achieve that aim, we recommend relevant stakeholders should make sure that women are equally represented in sports-based activities.** This should include the provision of safe spaces for girls to practice sports and the promotion of female role models. Also, sports activities that attract women should be offered. It is important to make it possible for women and girls to participate in sports while respecting cultural norms of their environment. Gender aspects should be integrated into the curricula of sports classes in schools and in other places, such as youth centres, where sports-based activities are provided. Life-skills and matters of gender equality and female empowerment should also be mainstreamed in sport curricula. We believe that the presence and success of girls and women in sport can lead to more action on gender equality and female empowerment in all aspects of society.

As 17 years old Laila Shaikh, from the State of Palestine, stated: "To all the girls in the world, practice the sport you like whether or not society is supportive and despite the difficulties. Do what you love no matter what."