



“SAFEGUARDING SPORT FROM CORRUPTION AND CRIME”

Location: Conference Room A and online

Date: Thursday, 10 March 2021

Time: 11:30 - 13:00 Japan Standard Time (JST) – 03:30 - 05:00 Central Europe Time (CET)

A. Context

Sport has the power to change perceptions, prejudices and behaviours, and has the ability to inspire, break down racial, political and gender barriers. It is also a key socio-economic driver in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Estimates about the value of the sports industry vary but when sport is linked to other sectors, such as transportation and entertainment, estimates rise to \$756 billion.

However, sport cannot fulfil this role if it is undermined by corruption and crime. This point has been clearly understood by Member States (including through the adoption of relevant resolutions¹ by the United Nations General Assembly, the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption), international organizations (including through the implementation of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)'s Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Crime²) and the sports community (including through the launch of numerous initiatives and programmes by the International Olympic Committee and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association).

B. Aim of the special session

The aim of the special session is to raise awareness about the risks posed to sport by corruption and crime and to highlight and propose initiatives on how to overcome them.

The main beneficiaries of the event would include representatives from: international, regional, and national sports federations, associations and committees; law enforcement and criminal justice representatives (such as anti-corruption authorities, financial investigation units, judges and prosecutors).

Priority issues that link to the special session include strengthening cooperation between sport and criminal justice authorities and relevant stakeholders, tackling the manipulation of sports competitions, illegal betting, money laundering in sport, infiltration of sport by organized crime, bribery in sport and protecting vulnerable groups from corruption and crime including youth, women and young athletes.

C. Proposed format

The session will involve messages from high-level officials from Member States, UNODC, and Sports Organizations involved in the Olympic Games or FIFA World Cups and will raise awareness of initiatives and proposals aimed at tackling the threats of corruption and crime to sport.

¹ <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/safeguardingsport/international-legal-framework.html>

² <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/safeguardingsport/index.html>