

Promoting human rights, including the right to the highest attainable standard of health, through sport, physical activity and play

Cross-regional statement

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Mr. President,

I have the honour of addressing the Human Rights Council on behalf of Algeria, Costa Rica, Germany, Italy, Qatar, Romania, Turkey

Mr. President,

We are confident that sport, as universal language, has the potential to increase respect for diversity, tolerance and fairness and to inspire especially young people to believe in themselves.

In this spirit, we recall that the General Assembly Resolution 67/17 of 11 December 2012 on sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace, emphasises and encourages the use of sport as a vehicle to foster development and strengthen education for children and young persons, prevent disease and promote health, including the prevention of drug abuse, empower girls and women, foster the inclusion and well-being of persons with disabilities and facilitate social inclusion, conflict prevention and peace building.

As we acknowledge the benefits of sport, physical activity and play for the enjoyment of human rights, we affirm the need for the Human Rights Council to reflect on the value of sport in achieving universal respect and realisation of all human rights, including the right to health.

We also recall that the right to the highest attainable standard of health is recognized, among others, by the International Convention on the economic, social and cultural rights, as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Moreover, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities stipulates the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport.

On 5 and 6 June 2013, the 3rd International Forum on Sport for Peace and Development will take place in New York. Based on the Forum's conclusions, we are looking forward to seeing how the Human Rights Council could raise awareness on the role of sport in achieving human rights through an event dedicated to young persons.

We encourage the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to liaise with the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace and the Office of Sport for Development and Peace, whose

tasks are also to identify synergy and complementarities between sport and the work of the UN, in all matters relating to the promotion of human rights through sport, physical activity and play.

We also encourage the Human Rights Council to address the relation between human rights, including the right to the highest attainable standard of health, and sport, physical activity and play.

Thank you.