

Strengthening health and well-being through sport events¹

**Draft decision proposed by China, Egypt, the European Union
and its 27 Member States, Iraq, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico,
Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Türkiye,
United Arab Emirates and Yemen**

The Executive Board, having considered the report by the Director-General,²

Decided to recommend to the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly,

(PP1) Having considered the report by the Director-General;

(PP2) Reaffirming the commitment to the principles of the Alma-Ata Declaration (1978), the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion (1986), the Jakarta Declaration (1997), the Bangkok Charter (2005) and other relevant international agreements on health promotion and disease prevention;

(PP3) Recalling the global burden of noncommunicable diseases accounting for 74% of all global deaths³ and 1.62 billion disability-adjusted life years (DALYs),⁴ and noting with concern the rising prevalence of noncommunicable diseases, injuries and other health challenges;

¹ Definition of sport events: Sport events are events of limited duration that have a global, regional, national or community reach (in terms of participation, audience and/or media coverage), may require investment and may have an impact on the population and built environment.

Definition of legacy of sport events: “Legacy” means the planned and unplanned outcomes from the hosting of a sport event.

Reference: OECD definition of Global Events and definition of Legacy of Global Events (2018) modified.

² Document 154/23.

³ WHO NCD Factsheet, available online via <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/noncommunicable-diseases>.

⁴ The Lancet, Non-communicable diseases—Level 1 cause, available online via [non-communicable-diseases.pdf \(thelancet.com\)](https://www.thelancet.com).

(PP4) Reaffirming the importance of advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals set in 2015 (United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1), including Goal 3, while acknowledging the lack of progress in meeting Sustainable Development Goal 3.4 to reduce premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being by one third by 2030, as well as United Nations General Assembly resolution 75/18 on sport as an enabler of sustainable development and of the UNESCO Fit for Life sports flagship initiative;

(PP5) Recognizing the significance of the Global alcohol action plan 2022–2030 (decision WHA75(11), 2022), as well as the global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020 (resolution WHA66.10, 2013), as extended to 2030, and its call for multisectoral actions to address the determinants of noncommunicable diseases, including those related to physical inactivity, unhealthy nutrition and social inequalities;

(PP6) Recognizing the critical impact of regular physical activity on both physical and mental health, and the concerning shortfall in meeting WHO's recommended levels of physical activity included in the global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030 (resolution WHA71.6, 2018) and the challenges presented by the pandemic of coronavirus disease (COVID-19);

(PP7) Building on Health Assembly resolution WHA75.19 (2022) on well-being and health promotion and decision WHA76(22) (2023) on a global framework for integrating well-being into public health utilizing a health promotion approach, as well as resolutions WHA76.7 (2023) on behavioural sciences for better health and WHA76.2 (2023) on integrated emergency, critical and operative care for universal health coverage and protection from health emergencies;

(PP8) Recognizing the significant challenges related to the health security of sport events and reaffirming resolution WHA74.7 (2021) on strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies, which underlines that preparing for and responding to health emergencies is primarily the responsibility and crucial role of governments, as well as resolution WHA75.7 (2022) on strengthening health emergency preparedness and response in cities and urban settings, which recognizes the important role that cities and local authorities have in preventing, preparing for and responding to health emergencies;

(PP9) Reaffirming the resolutions adopted at previous sessions of the United Nations General Assembly and World Health Assembly emphasizing the significance of collaboration between public and private sectors, aiming at promoting health integration within sport events, in full accordance with the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (resolution WHA69.10, 2016);

(PP10) Recognizing the significant role of sport in promoting health and well-being and the importance of sport events as a channel for reaching a large number of people and the influence of sport events in the society at all levels, as well as their potential to impact human behaviour, physical and mental health, and well-being;

(PP11) Recognizing that sport plays an important role in promoting respect for human rights and is a bridge between cultures to promote dialogue, mutual understanding, fairness, non-discrimination, respect, and equal opportunities for all, as aimed by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, and acknowledging the wide reach of sports, forming a conduit for societal change through empowerment and inclusion;

(PP12) Recognizing the importance of access to sport and sustainable physical activity for all, including people with disabilities as per resolutions WHA74.8 (2021) and WHA76.6 (2023) who have higher barriers to access sports and sport events, including infrastructure that does not allow for participation;

(PP13) Stressing the potential of digital technologies, as stated in resolution WHA71.7 (2018), to advance health outcomes, and for this purpose to promote innovation in the planning, organization and evaluation of sport events and beyond, as well as to enhance physical activity measurements, epidemiological surveillance, behavioural change and innovation,

(OP)1. URGES Member States,¹ in accordance with the national context and priorities:

- (1) to leverage the power of sport events and sport settings, according to the best available evidence, to address broader public health challenges, such as health emergencies preparedness and response, noncommunicable diseases, violence and injuries, mental health conditions, social inclusion, and improve societal well-being, through collaboration and partnership with all relevant stakeholders, while addressing the risk of undue influences, through transparency and accountability measures, and the potential negative impacts on human health;
- (2) to implement effective, evidence-based health promotion measures in sport events at international, regional and national levels and in subnational community-based, organized, sport settings, including by utilizing innovative digital technologies as well as behavioural science, to improve impact on population health through reducing risk factors of noncommunicable diseases and enhancing mental and social health, and well-being;
- (3) to facilitate and strengthen capacity in health emergency preparedness, readiness and response and to ensure that activities are planned by applying a risk-based approach and implemented in line with WHO guidance on mass gatherings² to avoid adverse health consequences and to maintain and strengthen the full operation of existing health systems without disruption and overload during sport events;
- (4) to cooperate with the WHO and other relevant organizations, as necessary, in the preparation of mega sport events, including through emergency medical care planning and response, also by applying the Emergency Medical Teams initiative principles, core and technical standards as appropriate;
- [(5) to ensure that actions are undertaken at sport events and settings to support global health priorities including nutritious food, clean air, clean water, and physical activity, to limit the marketing of products for unhealthy diets, as well as to prohibit or restrict the advertising, promotion, and sponsorship of tobacco, in accordance with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), to promote alcohol control policies, and to curtail gambling and minimise gambling-related harm;]³

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

² Managing health risks during mass gatherings (who.int).

³ The paragraph will be subject to further consultations with Member States.

(6) to integrate, as part of the objectives of sport events, the promotion of regular, adapted, and sustainable physical activity, in people of all ages and abilities, as well as sustainable safe green mobility, and thus contributing to air quality control and improvement;

(7) to encourage the event organizers to conduct health impact assessments of sport events, events legacy and associated programmes, to guide evidence-based decision-making, planning and evaluation, as appropriate, and to ensure adequate planning and resources to conduct post-event short, medium- and long-term evaluations to assess the public health impact including the societal cost-benefit resulting from these actions;

(8) to share and recognize best practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches to integrating health promotion into sport and sport events, and to foster global collaboration, research and knowledge exchange in order to inform public health policies, across sectors, including through WHO's dedicated activities and Healthy Cities Networks, aiming at improving health and creating urban environments that support well-being, reduce health inequalities and build resilient communities;

(9) to increase accessibility to sport events and to inclusive sport and physical activity interventions, as part of sport event legacy, in community settings including sport clubs, educational institutions, medical and social centres, and workplaces, using evidence-based approaches, in order to increase participation in sport and physical activity, whilst paying special attention to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations, and reduce health inequities;

(10) to foster opportunities and partnerships with relevant stakeholders, while addressing the risk of undue influence, to implement and evaluate the use of awareness-raising and behavioural change interventions and campaigns aiming at promoting health and well-being through sport events, including through traditional and social media platforms, according to context and target audience, and to build the evidence on cost-effective approaches;

(11) to consider establishing a national annual "Sport and Physical Activity Day" to strengthen advocacy and promotion of the benefits of sport and physical activity for health and well-being;

(12) to enhance collaboration and partnerships with other relevant stakeholders, while addressing the risk of undue influence, to develop and test new ways of resourcing health promotion in and through sport events and their legacy;

(OP)2. INVITES other relevant international organizations and relevant non-State actors to cooperate with Member States:

(1) to jointly implement effective, evidence-based health promotion measures, and to contribute and support health emergency preparedness and response when organizing sport events in order to promote and protect population health, improve community well-being, and mitigate any negative impacts on health;

(2) to strengthen partnerships with other relevant stakeholders and to mobilize expertise and resources, in order to support the delivery of health promotion through sport events on

the basis of transparency, openness, inclusiveness, accountability, integrity and mutual respect;

(3) to support evaluation of health promotion and health emergency preparedness and response in sport events and make available such data and information to strengthen the evidence base associated with the planning, implementation and evaluation of sport events and their legacy in the short, medium- and long-term;

(OP)3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to develop and strengthen the evidence base on the short, medium- and long-term impact of sport events and their legacy programmes on health;

(2) to develop technical guidance for Member States on how to implement and leverage the opportunities and reach of sport events and their legacy programmes in order to improve health and well-being, and minimize detrimental effects on health, as well as to provide technical assistance upon the request of Member States, in the application of the guidance within country context;

(3) to provide Member States with appropriate technical tools, support and training to conduct health impact assessments of sport events and their legacies;

(4) to provide technical assistance and training to Member States, upon request, on the application of existing WHO mass gathering guidance and tools, including for the development of Emergency Medical Teams as appropriate, and to develop additional instruments as required for the planning, implementation and evaluation of sport events;

(5) to set up a platform to coordinate efforts and activities of the Member States, to facilitate exchange of experiences and best practices in order to ensure synergies and increase the positive impact of sport events and their legacy programmes for health and well-being;

(6) to support Member States to effectively use appropriate national and international days on sport or relevant health issues to stress the importance of physical activity and sport to promote health and well-being;

(7) to establish and strengthen partnerships with other international organizations, and non-State actors, in full accordance with the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors, to mobilize expertise and resources, and review and analyse possible models, including funding, to strengthen health promotion through sport events, while safeguarding public health interests from undue influence by any form of real, perceived or potential conflict of interest;

(8) to provide a progress report to the Health Assembly in 2027 and 2030, outlining achievements and challenges related to the integration of health and well-being into sport events.

= = =