



BACKGROUND

In the last decades, many terrorist attacks were perpetrated in public places against soft targets. Attacks occurring during sports events are particularly hideous as sports have historically played a significant role in the dissemination of positive values across civilizations and cultures, especially for young people.

The 6th Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy encourages “[...] to identify and share best practices to prevent terrorist attacks on potentially vulnerable targets, and recognizes the importance of developing public-private partnerships in this area.”

The UN Security Council resolutions 2341 (2017) and 2396 (2017) emphasized the importance to strengthen the protection of “soft” targets through national risk and threats assessments and the development of appropriate contingency and emergency-response plans for terrorist attacks.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Security Council resolution 2419 (2018) recognize the “growing contribution of sport and culture to the realization of development and peace in the promotion of tolerance and respect,” and the contributions that “sport and culture make to the empowerment of youth and women, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.”



UN Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events & Promotion of Sport and its Values to Prevent Violent Extremism

“

Sports push people to be better, to aim higher and further. It promotes tolerance and gender equality. It strengthens communities, builds resilience and channels natural competitive instincts in a harmonious way. We therefore have a moral obligation to protect sports and promote them as a powerful means to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism.

”

*Vladimir Voronkov
Under-Secretary-General
UN Office of Counter-Terrorism*



For more information, please visit
www.un.org/counterterrorism/sports

With the generous support of:

*the State of Qatar
the United Nations Peace and Development
Fund (UNPDF)
and the Republic of Korea*

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

1. To increase Member States awareness of terrorism-related threats against vulnerable targets in the context of major sporting events;
2. To increase the ability of Member States to prevent and counter threats against major sporting events;
3. To promote sport and its values to build resilience especially among youth; and
4. To prevent violent extremism.

PARTNERSHIPS

The programme is led by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), in partnership with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS). It is also developed and implemented in close consultation with the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and other relevant United Nations entities, and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

Fostering public-private partnerships, the programme is also strategically consulting with sport committees as well as sports federations, global digital companies and national initiatives.

FUNDING

As of January 2020, the Programme is funded by the State of Qatar, the United Nations Peace and Development Fund (UNPDF), and the Republic of Korea.

SAFEGUARDING SPORTS EVENTS

Protecting major sporting events is a key component in the fight against terrorism that requires complex security and policing arrangements, such as securing locations, cybersecurity measures, managing and responding to attacks, communication, crowd management and emergency operations. These critical measures often go far beyond the capacity of single States and require coordination for supporting not only the countries hosting the major sports events but all other stakeholders potentially affected by this transnational threat.

It is therefore necessary to further promote international cooperation and public-private partnerships to identify sustainable security approaches to strengthen the protection of major sporting events while promoting the values of sport.

MAIN ACTIVITIES



Setting up a Global network of National and Regional Focal Points to facilitate the exchange of information, good practices and experiences for operationalizing procedures.



Developing specialized training curricula and technical assistance for major event security planning – such as inter-agency coordination, public-private partnerships, social media management, post event evaluation, security legacy and dissemination.



Providing a capacity building framework for policy makers, law enforcement and security operators, with a special focus on planning and decision-making.

PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Sports plays a positive role in preventing radicalization, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and facilitating integration at large. Sports' values are a powerful vector for development and youth resilience.

The Programme will:

- promote the value of sport as a tool to prevent violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism especially among youth and vulnerable groups; and
- establish synergies with major sporting events organisers, sport federations and influential athletes to empower and inspire youth across nations.

MAIN ACTIVITIES



Identifying and disseminating good practices



Developing UN Global Guidelines and e-tools



Providing technical assistance to Member States to develop national strategies integrating sports as a tool to prevent violent extremism.



Organizing of a major campaign: "Sports say NO to Terrorism" with athletes; and



Working with civil society organizations on projects at the grassroots level.

