Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - New York

Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Albania
to the United Nations - New York

How to Achieve International Cooperation in Sport To Promote a Truly Inclusive Future even in Humanitarian Emergency Situations

Concept note

Thursday 13 June 2024 | 3 - 4.15 pm
United Nations headquarters, CR5

As Article 30 of the CRPD affirms the right for persons with disabilities to practice sport and resolution A/RES/73/24 of 3 December 2018, co-sponsored by Italy, defines sport as an enabler of sustainable development, new spheres of activity are emerging for future cooperation in sport.

Italy's longstanding vocation for international cooperation can be widely seen in many areas – none the least - sport, including, sport for persons with disabilities. Indeed, Italy hosts many international, inclusive, sporting events open to all on an equal basis.

Through the years, the Filippide Sports Project for persons on the spectrum of autism has expanded its work to create the International Event of the Filippide Project: a meeting of women and men - with or without disabilities – that promotes the right to practice sport. Against this background, RUN FOR AUTISM has been launched - the only totally inclusive race in the world, which sees the participation of over 600 athletes with autism and more than 2,500 neurotypical runners.

The sport activity for persons with autism was developed in collaboration within the UNDESA project, “Social Inclusion of Children and Youth with Autism through Sports” for Countries, such as Panama, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, and the 2024 edition of International Evento of Progetto Filippide dedicated to Lebanon, Tunisia and Albania. The event takes place in Rome every year on the occasion of World Autism Awareness Day on 2 April and on World Sports Day for Development and Peace on 6 April.

In these complex times we are living, with protracted conflicts involving all Countries, the purpose of this side event is to identify the most effective way to support the Countries that need it most, in particular, through the practice of sport.

Article 32 of the CRPD, regarding “international cooperation”, affirms that States Parties recognize the importance of promoting and undertaking appropriate and effective measures - also in partnership with civil society - in particular organizations of persons with disabilities.

The side-event will aim to find a concrete answer to the following question:

What are the true prospects and capacities for international cooperation in sports for persons with disabilities?