

# YOUNG LEADERS MAKING REAL CHANGE THROUGH SPORT



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



여승원야구장학재단

The Youth and Sport Task Force represents creative, passionate and innovative young leaders across Asia and the Pacific who use sport as a tool for positive social change in their communities.

These young leaders are using sport to make a difference: to empower young women and girls, to promote tolerance, to counter extremism, to reach out to the vulnerable and marginalized, to educate about the environment, to promote the values of respect, empathy, and fairness – the list goes on! Ultimately, they are using sport as a universal force for good.

In other words, the Task Force and its Youth Members are using sport to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The youth are in control. They design their own programmes, determine their own priorities and collectively, decide on the strategic direction of the Task Force. UNESCO supports the Task Force by providing opportunities for the members to promote and enhance their work by connecting with each other and with regional and global opportunities for growth and capacity building.

Want to experience how? Join us for 2019 Funshop of Sport and SDGs in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 5-8 September!

[www.youthandsport.org](http://www.youthandsport.org)



# THE YOUTH AND SPORT TASK FORCE

# SPORT AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly acknowledges the potential for sport to be an enabler of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition to bringing significant psychosocial and physical benefits for individuals, sport can also unite, engage and mobilize diverse populations towards a common goal.

UNESCO is the lead United Nations agency mandated to protect and promote physical education and sport for sustainable development and peace. UNESCO works with governments and civil societies around the world to harness the power of sport towards a variety of individual and societal benefits, such as health, social and economic development, youth empowerment, social inclusion, and reconciliation and peace.



From practicing martial arts to raise awareness about human trafficking along the mountainous border between Viet Nam and China; to building community resilience through football in the post-disaster area of Tacloban city, the Philippines; preparing homeless children to compete in the Street Child World Cup in Indonesia; practicing yoga to raise awareness about disappearing public spaces in Phnom Penh;

or a cycling programme within a conflict zone in Hat Yai province, Thailand, the 22 programmes currently represented in the Task Force are diverse and each with a special story to tell.

By the end of 2019, the Task Force is expected to grow to 60 members, representing 30 Asia-Pacific countries.

# THE PROGRAMMES

# THE 2019 Funshop ON SPORT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

## A MAJOR YOUTH EVENT TO TAKE PLACE IN SEOUL, KOREA 5-8 SEPTEMBER 2019

UNESCO, together with the Lee Seung-Yuop Baseball Foundation, will host the Seoul Sport & the SDGs Youth Funshop on 5-8 September 2019.



The opening ceremony is expected to draw thousands of youth from local universities and high schools and will include performances and motivational speeches from top artists and athletes.

The Funshop will bring together youth leaders from across Asia and the Pacific for a four-day intensive capacity-building and networking programme.

Through structured exchanges that will draw on their own experiences, the youth will gain a deeper understanding of the role that sport can play in achieving specific SDG targets. The thematic discussions will focus on youth empowerment, health & non-communicable diseases (NCDs), social inclusion & gender equality, climate change, and prevention of violent extremism (PVE).



# THE THEMES

## Meaningful youth empowerment

Meaningful youth empowerment is more than merely listening to young people's voices, it's about hearing what they are saying. UNESCO has found that despite being consulted in the policymaking process, young people's ideas are rarely reflected in the actual policies. The Task Force captures a diversity of opinions, knowledge and skills among its members and amplifies them to support youth in being active and effective both as agents of change in their communities and as meaningful contributors to policy design.

## Health: Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs)

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), NCDs are currently "collectively responsible for over 70% of all deaths worldwide", with the large majority occurring in low- and middle-income countries. The increasing prevalence of NCDs has been mainly due to four major risk factors: tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets, and physical inactivity. Participation in sport and physical activity can address all of these risk factors, which is the driving goal for the Task Force. We aim to engage young people in sport in a way that is aligned with the 2030 Agenda and to promote healthy lifestyles.



## Social Inclusion/Gender Equality

Collectively, the Task Force members regularly engage thousands of youth through various community-based sport programmes. Each programme is tailored to the local context and targets relevant issues in the community – whether it is gender inclusion through a volleyball programme, integration of displaced persons through a football academy, or promoting social cohesion in multi-ethnic communities through sports competitions.

The programmes are designed to maximize participation opportunities for all diseases.



## Climate Change

Climate change, one of the greatest challenges of our time, is wreaking havoc around the world. From the destruction caused by extreme weather patterns to the economic hardships related to increasing food prices, some of the most vulnerable populations are bearing the heaviest burden. Given that sport can be a highly effective tool for education and awareness raising, the Task Force has taken on this challenge with the young champions using sport to promote a meaningful narrative on climate change, to instigate the necessary behaviour change and to help adjust social and cultural norms in order to join global efforts for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

## Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE)

Violent extremism is fuelled by the beliefs and actions of people who support or use violence to achieve ideological, religious, or political goals. Sport-based interventions can help prevent these patterns by breaking down stereotypes, promoting positive values and channelling emotions through peaceful means of expression. Sport is a simple, universal social integration mechanism as it provides a commonality between people from different backgrounds. Additionally, sport can promote resilience and critical thinking which can contribute to preventing violent extremism, particularly among young people. In addition, sport can also help rehabilitate those affected by violent extremism.

# THANK YOU



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