



32nd regular session of the Human Rights Council
**PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF USING SPORT AND THE
OLYMPIC IDEAL TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL, INCLUDING
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

28 June 2016

Mr. President,

Terre des Hommes, Defence for Children International, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik and Vienna Institute for Development and Cooperation welcome the convening of this panel discussion on the possibility of using sport and the Olympic Ideal to promote human rights.

With just over one month until the 2016 Games in Rio, we believe that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) risks becoming more entangled with human rights abuses unless it acts urgently to change the way it awards the Olympics.

While we acknowledge that IOC's reform programme Agenda 2020 marked some progress, in truth, good practice around human rights has been minimal. During preparations for the Games in Rio, independent reports have highlighted widespread police violence, street "clean-up operations" and forced evictions without due process or compensation in order to make way for Olympic venues and related infrastructure. This comes after well-documented evidence of human rights violations and corruption linked to other big international sports events, which included repression of government critics, crackdown on LGBT rights and serious violations of workers' rights.

Whereas we strongly believe in the "use of sport as a tool to promote human rights, development, peace, dialogue and reconciliation", a global sporting event can only be truly successful and legitimate if it does not harm the hosting population – including its children. It is time the IOC aligns its practices to its ideals by putting in place all measures necessary to prevent, monitor and provide remedy to human rights abuses connected to the Olympics.

We therefore call upon the Human Rights Council to increase its leadership in speaking out objectively in the face of human rights violations related to Mega



Sporting Events and provide further support for identifying, highlighting and developing responses to abuses related to such events.

We also encourage Member States hosting Mega Sporting Events to fully comply with international human rights standards in order to be active game-changers towards the effective implementation of the use of sports and the Olympic Ideals to promote human rights for all.

Thank you