



Traditional Sports and Games

Chairman's Message

Dear colleagues in TSG and
Members in Group of Friends,

Greetings to you all. As we are approaching the end of 2018. It is my privilege to apprise you on behalf of the UNESCO Ad Hoc Advisory Committee and its Members about the progress we made so far in TSG since July 2017.

UNESCO has been working to promote and safeguard TSG since decades now. In 1999, on the occasion of the 3rd Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials of Physical Education and Sports (MINEPS III), held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, the international community proposed that a significant action from UNESCO could be initiated within the framework for the promotion and preservation of traditional games and sports.

UNESCO's work in relation to safeguarding and promoting traditional sports and games (TSG) has focused on scientific research, creation of an online encyclopedia, development of guidelines and the creation of an international platform, with the participation of relevant stakeholder.

The 1st Collective Consultation was held at Paris in 2006 where participants targeted to contribute on the outcomes of the Ministerial Conference (MINEPS IV). Following this UNESCO and International Association of Traditional Wrestling Sports (IATWS) established partnership to preserve and promote the traditional sports across the globe.

In order to ensure the revitalization of the TSG project, the third Collective Consultation on TSG took place in July 2017 at Paris where many important decisions were taken by the participants that include but are not limited to the establishment of Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on TSG headed by IATWS President Khalil

Ahmed Khan. Working Groups were also appointed to target work on strategic issues.

AAC's Group of Friends of UNESCO TSG was also established to strengthen political advocacy for the Project has become operational. Various Member States of UNESCO continue being approached and many have expressed their willingness to integrate TSG actively into their respective policies at governmental level. More than 20 Member States have signed the Letter of Commitment to join the TSG Project.

The 4th Collective Consultation 2018 on TSG was held in August 2018 at Istanbul – Turkey with the support of the Government of Turkey, WEC and AAC.

It brought together more than 82 participants from over 40 countries including Ministers, representatives of UNESCO Member States, experts and non-governmental organizations etc with the aim of further developing the program on the safeguarding of traditional sports and games.

This Meeting resulted in many significant decisions taking place. The Logo and official website of the TSG was approved in addition to TSG's webpage on UNESCO's website. International Platform was created as ICTSG.

Participants also approved the draft statutes of ICTSG.

First World Traditional Sports & Games (WTSG) were allocated to Kazakhstan in 2021.

As TSG is growing rapidly we assure you our best efforts to promote and develop the same around the world.

Wishing you all the best and prosperous 2019 as a year of TSG.



Khalil Ahmed Khan

Background:

UNESCO has recognized the importance of traditional sports and games for their intrinsic cultural values and their ability to increase participation in physical activity and sport for almost two decades.

In 1999, on the occasion of the 3rd Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials of Physical Education and Sports (MINEPS III), held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, the international community proposed that a significant action from UNESCO could be initiated within the framework for the promotion and preservation of traditional games and sports.

In this regard, *inter alia*, the following proposals were made during MINEPS III:

- that Member States be requested to organize and support festivals of traditional sports and games at both national and regional level, and to provide opportunities for participation in the World Traditional Sports and Games; and
- that the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS), with the help of the relevant regional and national bodies and networks and the support of the NGOs, associations and institutions concerned, be requested to prepare a worldwide list of traditional sports and games.

Accordingly, the Director-General of UNESCO at the time, with the cooperation of existing and future regional and national bodies and networks, was invited to consider the eventual possibility of an international charter on traditional sports and games, to be followed by a mid-term and a long plan of action to govern and regulate the same.

As part of the 1999 Declaration of Punta del Este, adopted by MINEPS III, Ministers emphasized the preservation and the appraisal of traditional and indigenous sports from different regional and national cultural heritages, including the establishment of a World Heritage List of Traditional Sports and Games.

- First Collective Consultation in 2006 at Paris
- Second Collective Consultation in 2008 at Tehran
- Third Collective Consultation in 2017 at Paris
- Signing of LoI with Govt. of Kazakhstan in 2018
- Fourth Collective Consultation in 2018 at Turkey



4th Collective Consultation on TSG:



UNESCO organized the Fourth Collective Consultation on TSG with the support of the World Ethnosport Confederation (WEC) and the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on TSG, in Istanbul, Turkey, on 13 and 14 August 2018. The Consultation gathered Ministers and representatives of UNESCO Member States and Group of Friends for UNESCO TSG, as well as NGOs, experts from sports federations, academics, with the aim of further developing the following strategic achievements; continue synergetic efforts to implement objectives set out during the Third Collective Consultation held at UNESCO Headquarters in 2017 and achieve the following: Developing the E-Encyclopedia on TSG as a digital and interactive platform completed with a mobile application and educative materials; Leveraging the International Platform on TSG to establish the International Council of TSG (ICTSG); Elaborate Policy Guide lines on TSG; Fostering TSG cultural events at local, regional and international levels, such as the 2021 World Traditional Sports and Games. The Consultation also innovatively focused on women empowerment through TSG, raising high expectations from the civil sphere and representatives of Governments on addressing this challenge.

Towards the establishment of the International Council of Traditional Sports and Games (ICTSG): Draft statutes of the ICTSG were presented as the international platform tasked with ensuring the safeguarding and promotion of TSG whilst aiming to support and assist Governments and NGOs as well as the Sport Movement through harmonization, coordination and guidance. Strategic documents shall be circulated among key stakeholders for feedback to incorporate all aspects relevant to the future operation of the ICTSG. Mandate and strategic mechanisms of the ICTSG will be explored during the Fifth Collective Consultation.

Women empowerment through TSG was also discussed.

World Traditional Sports and Games 2021 were allocated to Kazakhstan and Astana 2021 was announced during the 4th Collective Consultation Meeting on TSG.

Chairman's Visit to Iran

On the invitation of the office of the Supreme Leader of Iran and Ayotallah Mohsen Araki, Member of Assembly of Experts in Iran and Secretary General of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic School of Thought Chairman AAC Mr. Khalil A Khan visited Tehran – Iran in the last week of November 2018. During their meeting, the traditional sports of Iran were discussed along with future road map. It was decided that the Government of Iran will explore and look out for opportunities to host TSG events in near future including the technical meetings and/or Fifth Collective Consultation on TSG in close collaboration with AAC.

UNESCO Expert Meeting on traditional sports and games in Ashgabat

UNESCO and Government of Turkmenistan organized the Expert Meeting on traditional sports and games alongside the Silk Road from 4-5 December 2018 at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. Experts and stakeholders from different countries along with the members of UNESCO AAC and UNESCO Secretariat discussed the importance of the safeguarding and preservation of TSG and appreciated efforts for TSG done so far. The participants also fix prototype traditional sports and games to include in online version of Atlas of Silk Roads to be published by UNESCO.

The members of AAC those were in attendance of the Expert Meeting and International Conference on importance of Silk Roads; Present and Future also attended the meeting of AAC under the chairmanship of Mr. Khan. Members resolved and agreed to work under the leadership of Chairman Mr. Khan by escalating the cooperation among each other and by getting involved their respective governments. Chairman also re-allocated the members in the different Working Groups to have more conducive working environment.

Sporting Chance Forum 2018

SCF 2018 was held at UNESCO Headquarters – Paris from 12-13 December 2018. It was attended by sports federations, representatives of UNESCO Permanent Delegations, IOC, Commonwealth Games Federation, OC of Paris 2024, Mayor of Paris, members of House of Lords of UK, HRH Prince Hussein bin Abdullah of Jordan and many other stakeholders. Chairman AAC attended this Forum and met with GoF Members as well as other stakeholders to discuss TSG.





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Mr. Khalil Ahmed Khan
Chairman
Ad Hoc Advisory Committee
Traditional Sports and Games
UNESCO

Dear Mr. Khalil Ahmed Khan:

I am pleased to transcribe the agreement taken by the 28th Culture Sector Meeting of the Central American Educational and Cultural Coordination (CECC / SICA) held in Belize (San Pedro-Cayo) on November 21, in relation to the joint actions on TSG:

The Agreement number 1.1 of the declaration of Ministers of Culture and ministerial representatives establishes:

Support to the Executive Secretary of the Central American Educational and Cultural Coordination (SE/CECC) to promote with UNESCO the project to consider the Central American Integration System (SICA) countries to integrate the "TSG friends group", in order to participate officially in the process to recognize this kind of cultural heritage in the United Nations Agenda, because of the priority area to promote the fraternity between the cultures and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The agreement adopted initiates a process of dialogue that should conclude with the entry of de countries of Central America and Dominican Republic into the "TSG friends group".

This Executive Secretariat expresses its commitment in a coordinated work with the UNESCO Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on TSG to achieve progress in this topic, based on this agreement within the work of the CECC/SICA, and has entrusted Mr. Luis Bruzón Delgado, Culture Coordinator of this Secretariat, to continue with the planning and the road map of actions on TSG for the year 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Carlos Staff S.
Secretario Ejecutivo de la CECC/SICA



C.c. Mr. Shammi Rana, Rapporteur/Secretary General Ad Hoc Advisory Committee TSG
Mr. Hamid Ali Taha, Office of the Chairman Unesco Adhoc Advisory Committee
Mr. Hamza Khan, Office of the Chairman Unesco Ad Hoc Advisory Committee TSG

ESTA ES UNA DE LAS INSTITUCIONES DEL SISTEMA DE INTEGRACIÓN CENTROAMERICANA
"SOLIDARIOS HACIA UNA REGIÓN DE PAZ, LIBERTAD, DEMOCRACIA Y DESARROLLO".

Meeting with Phillipine Senator

AAC Rapporteur Mr. Shammi Rana and Member Mr. Hari Osias Banaag met with Emmanuel Dapidras Manny Pacquiao, Philippine politician and senator in Los Angeles where they discussed the concept note and future road map of UNESCO Traditional Sports and Games. Manny Pacquiao vowed to support TSG Project and promised to meet the delegation again to discuss the detailed agenda. In the same context the House of Representatives in Philippines has unanimously approved on third and final reading a bill seeking to preserve the indigenous games of the country

Meeting with Mayor of Charlotte Mrs Vi Lyes

Mr. Shammi Rana AAC Rapporteur along with Mr. Scott Wendel President US Traditional Wrestling Society had a meeting with Mayor of Charlotte – USA Mrs. Vi Lyes who expressed interest in hosting UNESCO TSG events including Collective Consultation Meetings in Charlotte.

Meeting with OC of Los Angeles 2028

Mr. Shammi Rana and Mr. Hari Banaag met Mrs. Erin Bromagham Director of Olympic and Paralympic Development Los Angeles 2028 at California in the office of mayor of Los Angeles Mr. Eric Garcetti. They discussed the possibilities of hosting traditional sports and games alongside 2028 Summer Olympics.

TSG Promotion in different countries

Traditional sports and games are being promoted by many countries under the décor of UNESCO AAC including Costa Rica, Tunisia, India, Turkey, Mexico, Spain, Denmark etc. The Central American Cultural and Educational Coordination (CECC/SICA) based in Costa Rica sent a letter to the Chairman AAC informing about the progress made by the region to safeguard and promote TSG and appointed Mr Luis Bruzon Delgado to coordinate TSG in the region. Prof. Ezzedine Bouzid of Tunisia sent a report to the TSG Members telling about the activities of promoting TSG that included events for women and children as well. Prof Ravi Sahu of India organized the Annual HVPM TSG Festival in India which gathered together local and international participants as well. Prof Pere Lavega of Spain's project was approved by the European Commission.



UNESCO Traditional Sports and Games

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<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/physical-education-and-sport/traditional-sports-and-games>

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