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Organización
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Collective Consultation on the Safeguarding and Promotion of Traditional Sports and Games

Fourth Collective Consultation, Sheraton Grand
Hotel Atasehir
Istanbul - Turkey
13-14 August 2018

Limited distribution

SHS/TSG/2018/DOC.4
August 2018
Original: English

Executive Report

UNESCO organized the Fourth Collective Consultation on the Safeguarding and Promotion of Traditional Sports and Games (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-Encyclopaedia** 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 Guidelines** 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.

Regional ownership of TSG activities and policies is also vividly encouraged to ensure efficient and contextualized implementation of safeguarding and promoting TSG.

- **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.

- **Strengthening the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee:**

Established in 2017 as a temporary body, the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee is entrusted with the strategic supervision and coordination of TSG activities in close cooperation with the Secretariat. Composed of experts, academics, professional of the sport movement, the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee shall be representative of the civil sphere and ensure key cooperation with political authorities such as members of the Group of Friends for UNESCO TSG and representatives of UNESCO Member States.

It has been approved to foster the governance of TSG, to establish a statutory framework of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee towards a UNESCO Advisory Committee. Therefore, it is expected that Statutes and Rules of Procedures will be presented by the Secretariat to the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to proceed.

- **Women empowerment through TSG:**

With the participation of women, experts and scientists specialized on TSG denounced disparities between women and men in the practice of TSG.

TSG are powerful instrument to empower women, notably girls through formal and informal education.

Key component of the debate is to recognize the social dimension of these practices. It is very important to safeguard traditional games through the knowledge people are given and women have had a critical function to safeguard all this important knowledge. She highlighted that contribution and participation of women in sport was a representation of cultural strength as well and should be taken into account as it was necessary to promote the equality between men and women when they wanted to put in practice any physical activity of TSG.

Empowering women through TSG entails the following:

- Facilitating accessibility in all levels: schools, public spaces, network and associations;
- Safeguarding the role of women in informal transmission of TSG practices;
- Ensuring space for women in committee borders; and

Two methods can be examined to achieve this purpose:

- Understanding each one of the manifestations on TSG in its fundamental characteristics so that we can identify what the main elements are; and
- Understanding tradition as something that needs renovation and adaptation, considering the perspective of youth and gender equality.

Some of the actions that could be taken in relation to gender quality could be:

- Increasing research on TSG and gender;
- Improving the presence of TSG at schools in PE classes and as multi-disciplinary projects;
- Promoting TSG festivals with an inclusive perspective;
- Fostering TSG in teacher-training programs;
- Improving the presence of TSG in public policies; and
- Adopting affirmative actions to improve women and youth participation in practices, committees and policy-making.

- **World Traditional Sports and Games 2021:**

Participants discussed the opportunity to organize the First World Traditional Sports and Games 2021 (WTSG2021). Carried out by the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on TSG and UNESCO Secretariat, Kazakhstan volunteered to host the First WTSG.

This initiative supports the ideal of safeguarding TSG as an intangible cultural heritage with an innovative approach based on the massive mobilization and awareness-raising of public opinion and communities on this challenge. This event will be the first and the largest happening entirely dedicated to TSG, and will also represent a compromise between the necessary promotion of the TSG without risking denaturation that could come along with.