

54th Session of the Human Rights Council
Item 9 General Debate
6 October 2023

Joint Statement on Combating Antisemitism in and through Sport

Delivered by H.E. Mr. Jan Lipavský. Foreign Minister of Czechia

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to deliver this **statement on behalf of Austria, Slovakia, and my own country, Czechia**, with the support of a cross-regional group of countries.

Antisemitism, racism, and all forms of intolerance and discrimination undermine human rights and the rule of law, and threaten the basic fabric of our societies. They pose constant and serious challenges to the dignity of every person.

Various forms of antisemitism – including Holocaust denial and distortion – are on the rise throughout the world, and for far too long have plagued our societies, continuously developing into new manifestations. Sports are not immune from such challenges.

Despite multiple efforts made by governments, international organizations and sporting bodies, antisemitic incidents in stadiums, among fan groups or on social media continue to be a serious problem that affects the reputation of sport.

At the same time, the world of sport, amateur or professional level, must be recognized for its potential to positively impact on society. It reaches millions of people weekly, from all walks of life. It contributes to the promotion of peace, cooperation, social inclusion and health at various levels. It can play an important role in combatting antisemitism and all forms of hatred.

Equally, sport plays a fundamental role in the education of children and young persons on the values of respect, dignity, diversity, equality, tolerance and fairness as a means to combat all forms of discrimination.

The UN General Assembly has repeatedly recognized the value of sport in combating all forms of discrimination and in promoting human rights. In the same spirit, the UN Human Rights Council has addressed the issue of sport and human rights in a number of resolutions.

Therefore, today:

We reiterate our commitment to combat antisemitism and all forms of racism, intolerance, prejudice and discrimination – anywhere, at any time and through all channels, including in sport.

We call on governments, international organizations, sporting bodies, civil society, media and all other stakeholders to intensify the fight against racism, antisemitism and all other forms of intolerance in sport by educating the youth of the world through sport practised without discrimination of any kind.

We invite sporting bodies to meet their responsibilities to promote human rights and minimize harms by adopting effective policies against racism, antisemitism and other forms of intolerance and discrimination that apply to athletes, events and competitions, fans, journalists and others.

Thank you.

List of signatories

1. Albania
2. Argentina
3. Armenia
4. Australia
5. Austria
6. Belgium
7. Bolivia
8. Bosnia and Herzegovina
9. Brazil
10. Bulgaria
11. Cameroon
12. Canada
13. Colombia
14. Costa Rica
15. Croatia
16. Cyprus
17. Czechia
18. Denmark
19. Estonia
20. Finland
21. France
22. Georgia
23. Germany
24. Greece
25. Guatemala
26. Hungary
27. Ireland
28. Israel
29. Italy
30. Japan

31. Kazakhstan
32. Kyrgyzstan
33. Latvia
34. Lichtenstein
35. Lithuania
36. Luxembourg
37. Malta
38. Mexico
39. Moldova
40. Monaco
41. Montenegro
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