



Fact Sheet: Human Rights and Mega-Sporting Events

Mega-Sporting Events, at their best, inspire humanity and have the power to unite people under the sporting ideals of fair play, dedication, equal access, and teamwork.

To set a high bar for mega-sporting events — to not only showcase the best in athletic achievement, but to also be respectful of universal human rights — the U.S. Department of State joined the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Institute for Human Rights and Business to convene the Sporting Chance Forum in October 2016.

Forum participants explored measures to fully integrate respect for human rights into the life-cycle of mega-sporting events across all major sporting traditions.



Left to Right: Don Fehr, President, UNI World Athletes; Greg Vines, Deputy Director-General, ILO; David Grevenberg CBE, Chief Executive, Commonwealth Games Federation; Linda Kromjong, Secretary-General, International Organisation of Employers; Antony J. Blinken, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State; Virginia Bennett, U.S. Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; Mary Robinson, Former President of Ireland and High Commissioner for Human Rights; Alexandre Fasel, Deputy State Secretary, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; Anita L. DeFrantz, Executive Board Member, IOC; Tim Noonan, Director, Campaigns, and Communications, ITUC

The joint initiative helped build the case for a collaborative framework, and the following [principles](#) to guide efforts to address the human rights and labor rights impacts of mega-sporting events:

Guiding Principles

- 1. Bidding to host Mega-Sporting Events is open to all.**
- 2. All actors respect internationally recognized human rights and labor rights.**
- 3. Mega-Sporting Events need to take account of human rights at every stage of their lifecycle.**
- 4. Affected groups merit a voice in decision-making.**
- 5. Access to remedy is available.**
- 6. Lessons are captured and shared.**
- 7. Stakeholder human rights capacity is strengthened.**
- 8. Collective action is harnessed to realize human rights.**

For more information about these principles and on what the U.S. government is doing to promote human rights in Mega-Sporting Events, please visit: www.humanrights.gov.