

Pere Lavega Report. UNESCO

From November 20 to 23, I travelled to Paris to participate in the activity organized by UNESCO. Fit for Life Workshop: Empowering Girls and Young Women through Sport. This activity was held on Monday, November 21, 2022, at the UNESCO headquarters (Room II) in Paris, France.

The Deputy Director General of Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO, Mrs. Gabriela Ramos, was present at this activity. The event was moderated by Ms. Benny Bonsu. Also participating were representatives of Member States, "Fit for Life" partners, including UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations, academics, NGOs and private companies working with girls and young women in and through sport.

Table 1. Fit for Life Workshop: Empowering Girls and Young Women Through Sport – Schedule

Time	Topic	Overview	Intended Outcomes
9:45-10:00	Arrival at UNESCO HQ		
10:00-10:15	Opening: dialogue session between the Assistant Director-General of Social and Human Sciences, Gabriela Ramos, and Event Moderator, Benny Bonsu.		
10:15-11:30	Grow what we know: learnings from sport for development initiatives focused on girls and young women	A moderated panel presentation featuring three good practice case-studies, to be presented by Nike, WomenWin and Laureus, will be followed by a plenary discussion. Focus will be given to the importance of impact measurement, the strategic alignment of agendas, shifting power and philanthropic trends.	Learn about and exchange on approaches to the development and delivery of sport for development activities which advance gender equality, as well as challenges (e.g. related to scaling and systematising approaches) that can be tackled through collective action.
11:30-11:45	Coffee break		
11:45-12:30	Fit for Life's scoping study and baseline study: towards a common theory of change	UNESCO's Chief of Section for Sport will briefly introduce Fit for Life's scoping and baseline studies, before handing over to infocus to present a proposal for a common theory of change for sport and gender equality, which integrates health, education and employability outcomes. Participants will be invited to comment and exchange during a plenary discussion.	Gather inputs on good practice activities and priority outcomes for women and girls, as well as identify women and girls who are difficult to reach/experience access barriers. Feedback will be integrated into the common theory of change, which will be included in the Fit for Life Action plan.
12:30-14:00	Lunch		



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14:00 - 14:05	Video message from President of the Norwegian Football Association, Lise Klaveness		
14:05-15:15	Developing a Fit for Life action plan for the empowerment of girls and young women in and through sport	An interactive workshop discussion will be kicked off with a plenary overview before participants are divided into small breakout groups to propose key content and structure for Fit for Life's action plan to be presented at MINEPS VII. Each breakout group should appoint a rapporteur to present a high-level summary of key content to the plenary. Within each group, participants are asked to draw upon their own experiences and knowledge of needs and good practices in the field.	Build on discussions around a common theory of change and determine how a Fit for Life action plan can support the operationalisation of existing frameworks, including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action , UN Women's Sport for Generation Equality Framework and IWG's 2022 Progress Report Snapshot . Breakout discussions will co-create key content which can be used by national stakeholders to develop inclusive and outcome-oriented policies and projects related to sport and gender equality. Focus areas include action plan structure and priorities, as well as processes, tools, shared metrics and geographically representative case-studies to spotlight.
15:15-15:30	Coffee break		
15:30-15:35	Video message from Ultra-runner and activist, Nelofar Sorosh		
15:35-16:30	Commitments to collective action: what? how? who?	UNESCO's Chief of Section for Sport will be joined by the CEO of the Global Observatory for Gender Equality & Sport , Dr Payoshni Mitra, Research Director, Dr Lombe Mwambwa, and Strategic Communications Advisor, Nadia Bonjour, who will provide a synthesis of key content from break out groups . Participants will then be invited	Commitments will be sought for the action plan to be presented during MINEPS VII, the co-design and implementation of Fit for Life community level pilots to be implemented by early adopter countries, and pledges from participants interested in joining the Fit for Life Alliance .
		to engage in a plenary exchange to propose next steps, how best to align with existing agendas and make commitments for collective action.	
16:30-16:45	Wrap up and reflections by Event Moderator, Benny Bonsu		
16:45-17:00	UNESCO Closing by the Assistant Director-General of Social and Human Sciences, Gabriela Ramos		

My intervention could show the contribution of traditional games and sports in favor of gender equality. I highlighted the uniqueness of the TSG regarding sports. I took the opportunity to make visible the experience of AEJeST in this field and the European projects in which we participate.

I also had the opportunity to personally meet Mr. Philipp Müller-Wirth Head of the Sports Section Social and Human Sciences Sector. During last few months, Mr. Philipp Muller-Writh has been coordinating all actions related to games and traditional sports.

The meeting with him was very cordial. He expressed interest in having our collaboration in his actions on the TSGs.

I also took advantage of this meeting to express our interest in participating as an observer or expert in the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS). This committee is very important for our field since, through CIGEPS, UNESCO has a unique capacity to promote the actions of governments in the field of sport and physical education and to guarantee the implementation of physical and physical education policies and programs. Evidence-based sport around the world. Due to its intergovernmental nature, CIGEPS has the potential to unite Member States and engage governments in coordinated international efforts to optimize the tangible socio-economic benefits of physical education and sport programs and their potential to generate a high return on investment.

Mr. Philipp Müller-Wirth is the secretary of this committee and he gave me the go-ahead to be invited to participate in this committee. In fact, I have already received a first email from UNESCO to collaborate in the next work sessions. They are currently working very actively for the next MINEPS VII ministerial meeting to be held from March 14 to 17, 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan.





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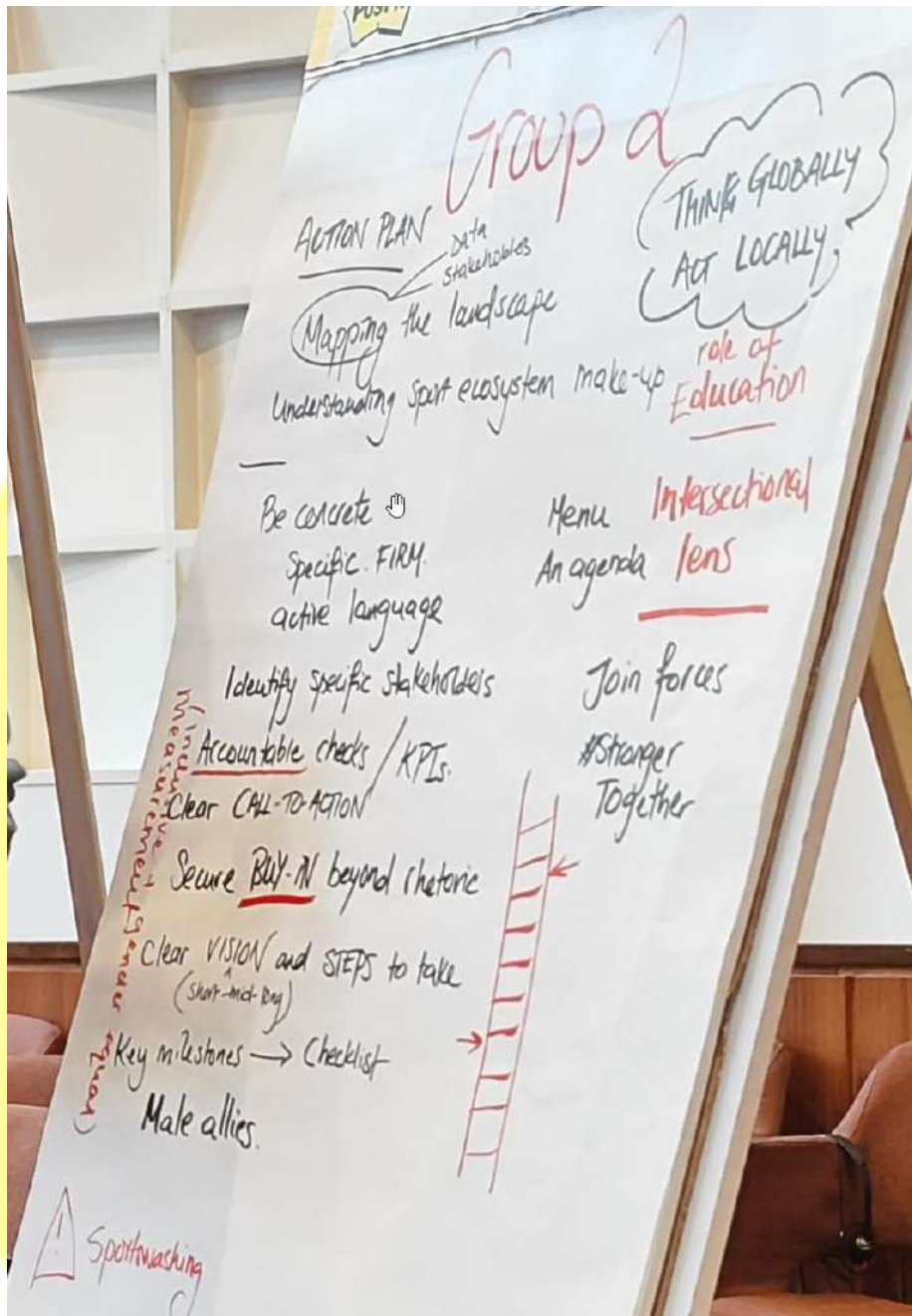
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Examples of activities that were carried out during this meeting





In one of the reflection activities, I participated in this group 2. As you can see, they considered my proposal of such important slogans as “thinking globally to act locally”, the importance of education; actions between different sectors.

On November 22, I requested a working meeting with the people who hold the most important positions of responsibility in the UNESCO Secretariat, section of social and human sciences. Specifically, Ms. Ángela Melo (Director - Policies and Programmes), Mr. Marcellin Dally (responsible for many years of UNESCO actions in the field of games and traditional sports), Mr. Philipp Muller-Writh (head of the sports section), Ms. Tara Golkar (program assistant research, policy and prospective section), Ms. Mehrdad Shabahang (representative of the project in this area and



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coordinator of UNESCO actions with the program route of silk) and Mr. Florent To Lay, secretary of Mr. Philipp Muller-Writh.

Mr. Philipp Muller-Writh excused his absence as he had to go on a trip to carry out other actions on behalf of UNESCO.

Ms. Zhaira Ben Chaâbane, member of the board of directors of the African JDT Association was also invited to that meeting. She is also responsible for the scientific part of the JDT African Forum that they are going to organize in September.

In this meeting, topics of great interest were discussed in relation to the actions that we are carrying out from the AEJeST and also on a priority issue for UNESCO: gender equality. We explain the Opportunity project actions around training (MOOC course); application (design of a manual and teaching units of JDT) and analysis (with an APP).

This meeting must be understood as very exceptional, since everyone was present to listen to our reflections. My assessment is very positive.



Pere Lavega,
President AEJeST
Lleida, November 29, 2022.

