



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

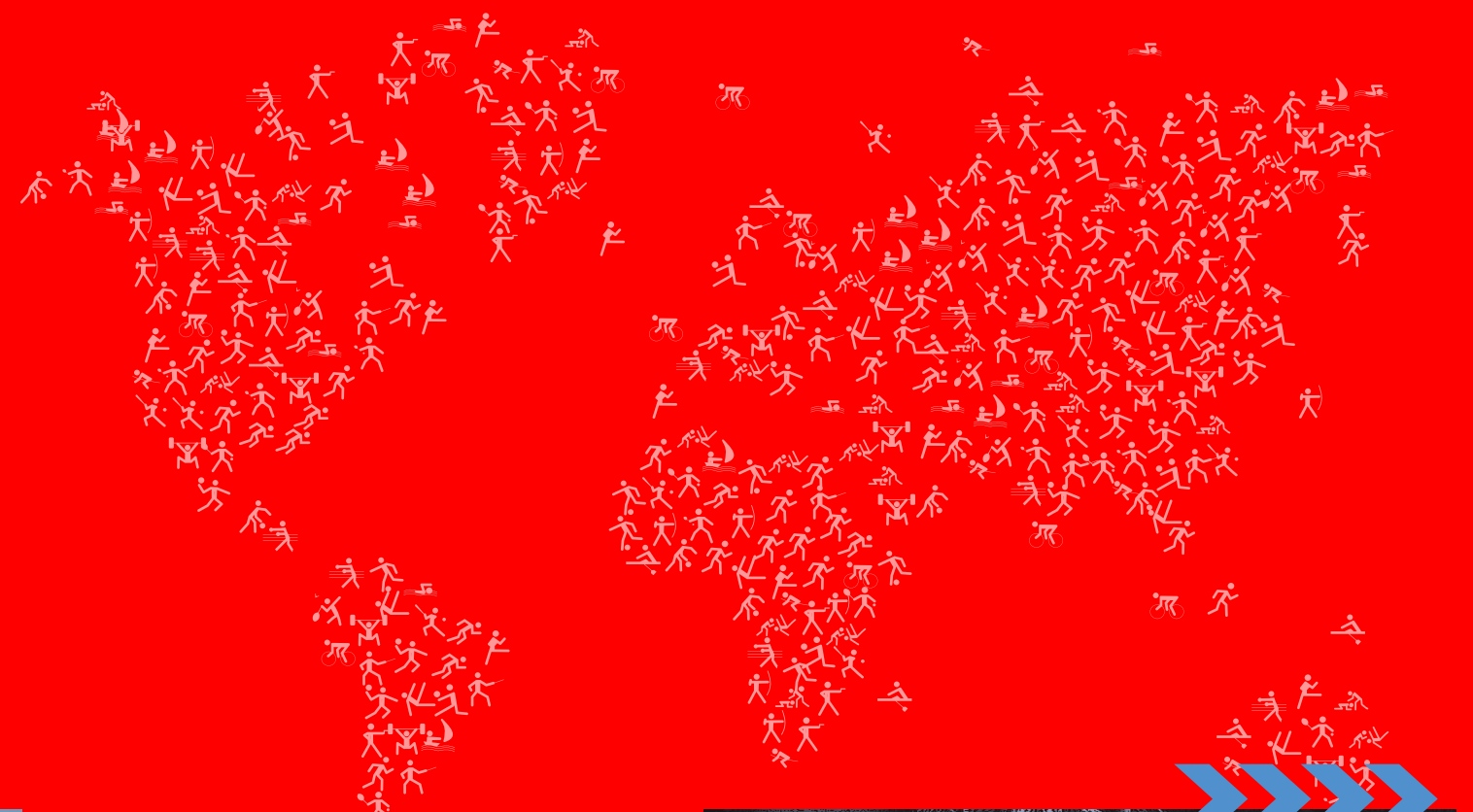
**safeguarding  
sport**

# UNODC PROGRAMME ON SAFEGUARDING SPORT FROM CORRUPTION AND CRIME





# SETTING THE STAGE



# OBJECTIVE AND IMPACT OF THE PROGRAMME

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the global leader in the fight against corruption and crime, with widely recognized expertise and specialization, including on issues pertaining to international cooperation in criminal matters.

UNODC operates in more than 80 countries around the world through its network of 115 field offices with 2,400 UNODC personnel globally. UNODC works closely with Governments and civil society towards building security and justice for all.

UNODC is the guardian of the United Nations Conventions against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). In particular, UNCAC is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. UNODC implements most of its anti-corruption activities, including tackling corruption and crime in sport, through its Global Programme to Prevent and Combat Corruption through Effective Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Support of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (GLOZ99), of which the Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Crime is a key part.



## OUR COMMITMENT TO THE 2030 AGENDA



The UNODC Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Crime was established by UNODC in 2017 and is an integral part of the UNODC Global Programme against Corruption. It provides a framework through which to support Governments, sport organizations and relevant stakeholders to tackle corruption and crime in sport.

Specifically, the Programme's aim is to support the effective implementation of:

- » Resolution 7/8, entitled "Corruption in Sport", adopted in Vienna, in November 2017;
- » Resolution 8/4, entitled "Safeguarding Sport from Corruption", adopted in Abu Dhabi, in December 2019.

Adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), respectively at its seventh and eight sessions, by over 180 States Parties, these resolutions represent a major and significant commitment by the international community to preventing and tackling corruption in sport, while contributing to an emerging global framework aimed at enhancing the contribution of sport to development and peace.

Furthermore, they provide the mandate for the development of UNODC's Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Crime.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/safeguardingsport/international-legal-framework.html>



## JUSTIFICATION AND RELEVANCE OF THE PROGRAMME

Addressing corruption and crime risks that prevent sport from “building back better” is a key entry point for the Programme, given the importance of sport in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

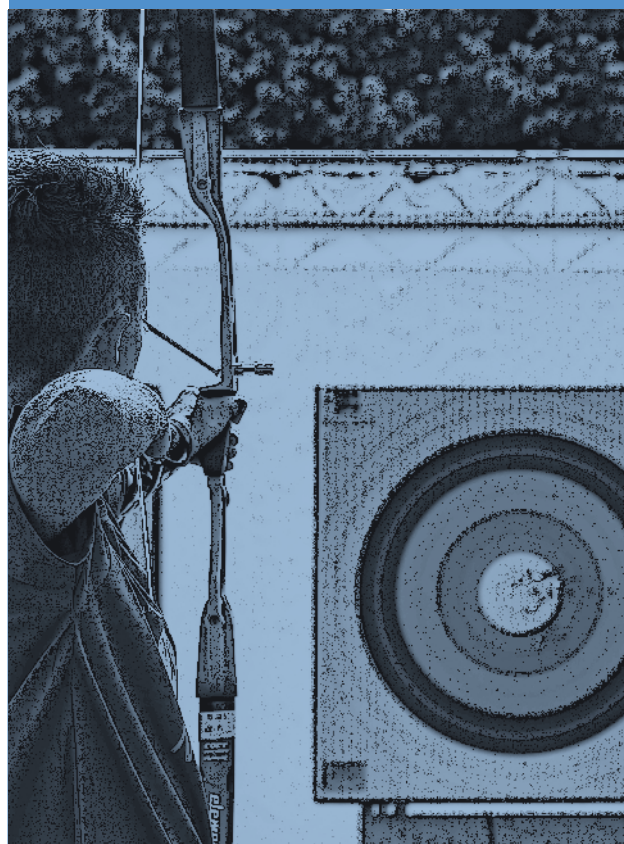
To this end, actions taken by governments, sport organizations and relevant stakeholders, aimed at tackling corruption and crime should be applied to key leverage points in order to both strengthen the integrity of sport and ensure that it emerges from the pandemic as strong as possible.

For such an overarching and ambitious programme of change, a number of areas require focused actions over time, including:

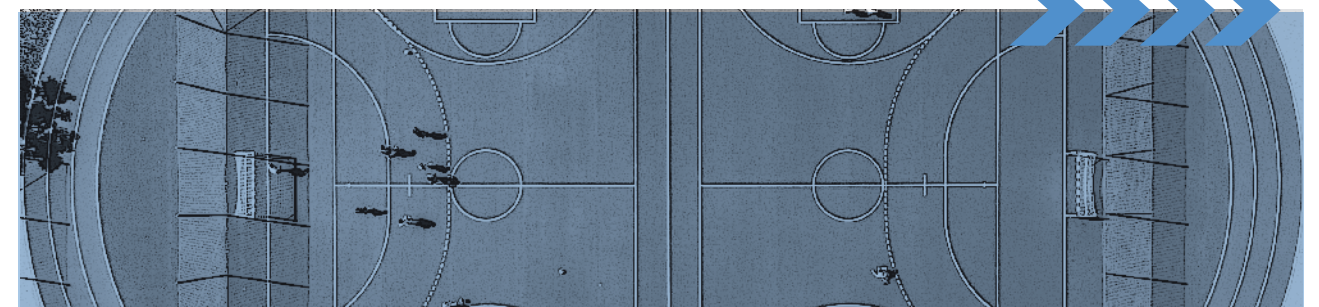
- » Developing tools to support detection and reporting on corruption and crime in sport;
- » Preventing corruption and crime in sport by continuing to raise awareness about these risks through virtual and in-person formats, as appropriate;
- » Ensuring legislation, regulations and policies are in place to help tackle corruption and crime in sport;
- » Developing effective cooperation frameworks between law enforcement, criminal justice authorities and sport organizations;
- » Enhancing capacities of relevant stakeholders in the investigation and prosecution of cases involving corruption and crime in sport.

### OUR ACHIEVEMENTS (JANUARY 2018 - DECEMBER 2021)

- » Six new publications
- » Over 8,000 beneficiaries from law enforcement authorities, anti-corruption agencies and other relevant government representatives, as well as officials from sports organizations and the private sector
- » Over 200 capacity building and awareness raising activities



## UNODC'S PROGRAMME ON SAFEGUARDING SPORT FROM CORRUPTION AND CRIME



### OVERALL AIM:

**“GOVERNMENTS AND SPORT ORGANIZATIONS ARE SUPPORTED IN THEIR EFFORTS TO SAFEGUARD SPORT FROM CORRUPTION AND CRIME”**

The Safeguarding Sport Programme seeks to accomplish its overall aim through the following three pillars:

### PILLAR 1

- » Strengthened legal, policy and institutional frameworks to counter corruption and crime in sport.

### PILLAR 3

- » Enhance understanding and capacities to tackle corruption and crime in sport through research and analysis.

### MAIN BENEFICIARIES

The main beneficiaries of the Programme are representatives from governments, sports organizations and relevant stakeholders, including members of the private sector and academia.

The principle beneficiaries of the Programme would be representatives of Ministries of Justice and Interior and relevant government department(s) and agencies, including:

- » Law enforcement and criminal justice representatives;
- » National integrity in sport units;
- » Financial investigation units;
- » Judges and prosecutors;
- » Anti-corruption authorities.

Additional beneficiaries include officials from relevant National Olympic Committees and national football associations, and other national and international sports federations.



# STRUCTURE AND PROPOSED ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME

## PILLAR 1

STRENGTHENED LEGAL, POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS TO COUNTER CORRUPTION AND CRIME IN SPORT

UNODC has developed extensive technical expertise and substantive experience in the areas of tackling corruption and crime in sport. UNODC will enhance work with identified national governments and sports organizations to apply this experience.

In addition to mitigating threats to sport, there are secondary overarching socio-economic benefits linked to the longer-term aim of building a culture of good governance and integrity by reducing opportunities for corruption more generally to enable detecting and sanctioning, and of strengthening education and intelligence sharing on sport-related crime, in particular.

The nature of the support provided is flexible and can be adapted to the requests and needs of the targeted audience (i.e. technical assistance, including support in drafting of relevant legislation and strategies to further implementation of the resolutions, supporting and contributing to relevant conferences or seminars, capacity building workshops, training, mentoring).

In providing the support, UNODC would draw on its network of staff placed at headquarters and in over 100 locations in the field. Such a network allows UNODC to bring together valuable expertise from diverse backgrounds, including prosecutors, law enforcement officers, forensic accountants, senior anti-corruption agency officers and government experts.

This collective expertise enables UNODC to provide tailor-made, integrated and coordinated responses to corruption and crime challenges along with emerging trends related to sport.



## OUR COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING SPORT FROM COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In July 2020, the Programme presented a policy brief “Ensuring that integrity is at the core of sport’s response to the pandemic: preventing corruption in sport and manipulation of competitions” that looks to set out a policy framework and playbook of recommendations for those involved in the context of addressing corruption in sport and preventing the manipulation of competitions. Jointly developed with IOC and Interpol, its objective is to place the integrity of sport at the centre of any response is key to ensuring that sport emerges from this challenge as strong as possible. The policy brief is available in the Programme’s website.

It is widely recognised at national, regional, and international levels that the threat of corruption needs to be addressed in a comprehensive and holistic manner, centred on cooperation between sport organizations, law enforcement and criminal justice authorities, and all relevant stakeholders.

Launched in 2017, IPACS is an innovative multi-stakeholder platform aimed at developing capacities of sport organizations and States parties, with the support of intergovernmental organizations, to tackle corruption in sport, through the work of dedicated Task Forces.

Along with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), UNODC will continue to provide necessary secretariat services to the Steering Committee and to the Bureau of IPACS. UNODC will also co-chair with the IOC the work of the Task Force 4 of IPACS, launched in April 2021 and designed to enhance effective cooperation between law enforcement, criminal justice authorities and sport organizations. This will be accomplished through the identification of gaps that weaken common efforts and the development of mechanisms and instruments of cooperation, including best practices and standards.<sup>3</sup>

UNODC will develop a Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities. This will involve, among others, organizing regular coordination meetings in Vienna, national and regional United Nations offices, if

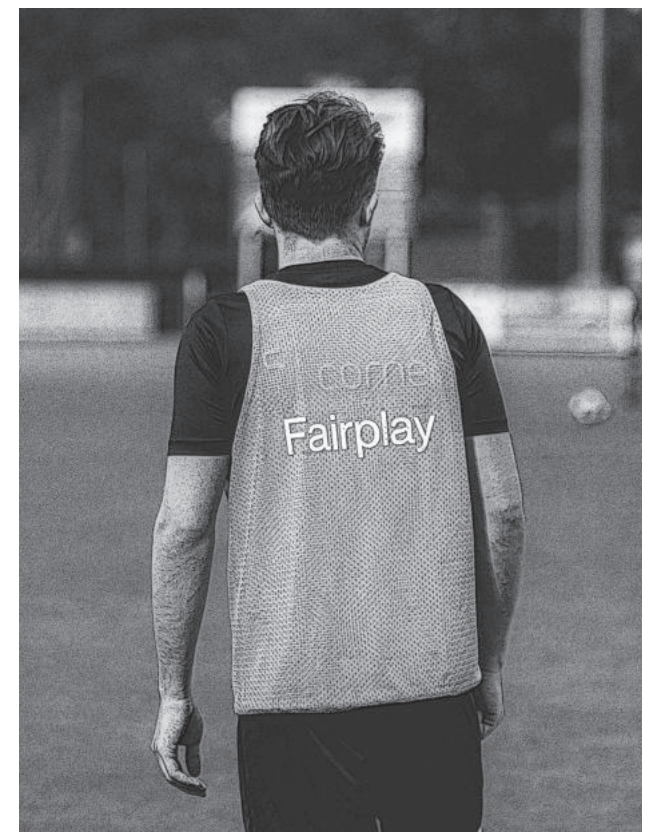
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ipacs.sport/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ipacs.sport/cross-sector-cooperation>

needed. These meetings will serve as platforms to share knowledge and good practices, discuss new trends and challenges and facilitate exchanges and international cooperation to support investigation and exchange of information.

This ambitious initiative will comprise dedicated focus sections linked to sport for government officials working on overlapping and related issues, where appropriate.

These meetings will also be used to create synergies through developing parallel networks (such as a Network of Sport Integrity Analysts, Network of Sport Crime Prosecutors, Network of Sport Integrity Educators etc.), facilitating bilateral and multilateral exchange of information related to investigations and enabling cooperation between sport organizations and anti-corruption law enforcement.

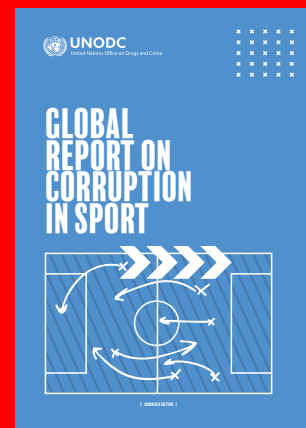




UNODC will continue to conduct research and analytical work to increase knowledge and promote education on corruption and crime in sport, with a view to facilitating guidance on related issues, identifying key trends and to developing international good practices. Such activities will focus on topics identified in the relevant resolutions and areas outlined above.

UNODC will continue the development and enhancement of existing platforms, in particular the “Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge” (TRACK portal, under reconstruction), with the possibility of adapting for sport specific purposes (i.e. creation of a dedicated Sports TRACK). This would foster the availability and circulation of detailed information, as well as facilitate access to relevant tools, publications, studies, training material and guidelines developed under the Programme and other relevant initiatives.

Existing tools, resources and information can be found here: [www.unodc.org/safeguardingsport](http://www.unodc.org/safeguardingsport).



## UNODC GLOBAL REPORT ON CORRUPTION IN SPORT

On 9 December 2021, on the occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day, the UNODC Programme presented the Global Report on Corruption in Sport (advanced version), its first-ever in-depth evidence-based research of key trends and developments linked to corruption in sport. Composed of 10 thematic sections, the Global Report it provides an in-depth analysis of the different forms and manifestations of global corruption in sport and identifies good practices and policy consideration to effectively tackle them

Developed thanks to the significant contributions of almost 200 experts based all over the world, the Global Report includes analyses on: Evolutions in Sport, United Nations Convention against Corruption and Sport, International Initiatives, Major Sports Events, Gender and Corruption, Abuse in Sport, Competition Manipulation, Illegal Betting, Organised Crime, Detection and Reporting.

The UNODC Global Report calls for greater international, regional and local cooperation between government authorities, sports organizations, and other stakeholders to combat corruption in sport and protect youth.

This ground-breaking publication will steer the future work and priorities of the Programme and will provide the basis for enhancing technical cooperation with its key partners in the years to come.

The report is now available in our website: [www.grcs2021.unodc.org](http://www.grcs2021.unodc.org)

# LEVERAGE POINTS

## MANDATES AND CONVENING POWERS

The United Nations Convention against Corruption is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument, and, thanks to its far-reaching approach and the mandatory character of many of its provisions, an unique tools for developing a comprehensive response to a global problem.

UNODC is the Secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC. The Conference, through its adoption of the above-mentioned resolutions 7/8 on Corruption in Sport and 8/4 on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption, mandated UNODC to develop and implement anti-corruption activities in the area of sport.

Furthermore, UNODC can draw on its significant convening power to bring together relevant stakeholders involved in the fight against corruption and crime in sport through the use of specially designed bodies, or to link them into existing or developing initiatives at national, regional and international level. In concrete terms this will involve:

- » Working with the Vienna Chapter of the Group of Friends for Sport for Development and Peace,<sup>4</sup> once it is established;
- » Holding international forums<sup>5</sup> in Vienna, as well as other locations, to raise awareness and promote cooperation among relevant stakeholders;<sup>6</sup>
- » Mainstreaming, where feasible, a sports dimension into all relevant activities of UNODC and incorporating its work on supporting networks of Anti-Corruption Authorities.

## RELATIONSHIPS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

UNODC has privileged access to key anti-corruption stakeholders, given its role as the Secretariat of the Convention's Implementation Review Mechanism. Moreover, it has established a long-term productive working relationship with many of the 189 Sates parties to the Convention and relevant sports organizations.

4 Operational paragraph 7: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/Safeguardingsport/Documents/Advance\\_unedited\\_resolution\\_8\\_4.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/Safeguardingsport/Documents/Advance_unedited_resolution_8_4.pdf)

5 <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/safeguardingsport/meetings/safeguarding-sport-from-corruption-conference-september-2019.html>

6 Operational paragraph 8: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/Safeguardingsport/Documents/Advance\\_unedited\\_resolution\\_8\\_4.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/Safeguardingsport/Documents/Advance_unedited_resolution_8_4.pdf)



## UNODC'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE IOC

Since the first signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in 2011, UNODC and IOC have enjoyed a long-standing fruitful partnership focused on tackling corruption and crime in sport. This included the joint development of numerous knowledge products, the delivery of over 20 multi-stakeholder national and regional workshops, and contribution to activities covering over 90 countries. Given the success of this cooperation and the strong convergence of common priorities, UNODC and IOC further strengthened joint responses to tackle corruption and crime in sport through the extension of their Memorandum in November 2021.



To date, UNODC has signed cooperation agreements with the International Olympic Committee, the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) aimed at tackling corruption in sport.

Excellent working relationships have also been developed with numerous relevant stakeholders which include the Asian Racing Federation Anti-Illegal Betting Task Force,



## UNODC'S PARTNERSHIP WITH FIFA

Thanks to the Memorandum of Understanding signed in September 2020, UNODC and FIFA cooperate to safeguard football and sporting events from corruption, promote youth crime prevention and keep children safe from violence and exploitation. A successful example of our partnership is exemplified by the FIFA Global Integrity Programme, co-designed and co-implemented in 2021-2022, which aims to provide Integrity Officers within 211 FIFA's member associations, members of 6 football confederations, with an in-depth understanding of the scourge of match manipulation and ways to tackle it. UNODC has invited over 250 Government representatives to the various workshops to further enhance the collaboration between governments and sport organizations.



International Cricket Council (ICC), South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL), Hogan Lovells, International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA), Interpol, Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU), Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), World Athletics, World Rugby, amongst many others.

UNODC wishes to express its gratitude to all its partners, and specifically the Governments of Norway and the Russian Federation, European Commission and the IOC for their generosity in providing funding for the Programme.

### LEADING AWARENESS RAISING EFFORTS AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Thanks to its long-standing experience and comprehensive expertise, UNODC supports the awareness raising of corruption and crime risks in both sport and non-sport specific international initiatives, with the aim of raising the profile of these issues and enhancing joint efforts through its leading position in numerous relevant initiatives, including



in the context of the work of the United Nations on Sport for Peace and Development, and the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group.

International days, such as the International Anti-Corruption Day celebrated every 9 December and the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace annually marked on 6 April represent the ideal occasion for the Programme to raise awareness and mainstream key messages on the importance of safeguarding sport from corruption and crime among its partners and the wider public.

### TECHNICAL AND SUBSTANTIVE EXPERTISE: DATABASES AND WEBSITES

UNODC manages several databases relevant to anti-corruption practitioners and law enforcement authorities, namely:

- » The Directory of Competent National Authorities (CNA directory)
- » "Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge" (TRACK portal) which includes a variety of tools developed to meet the growing demands of States in the area of anti-corruption and asset recovery (under development).
- » Website of the Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption website, which include latest news on the work of the Programme and relevant resources and publications.

### OVERARCHING CONSIDERATIONS

At all times, the Programme will be guided by the cross-cutting objective of promoting:

- » Safety and health of beneficiaries, particularly regarding the impact of COVID-19 pandemic;
- » A gender perspective in all three pillars of work of the Programme;
- » The impact of the Programme through advocacy and multilingualism;
- » The role of sport in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals;
- » Efforts to include people living with disabilities and youth as agents of change.
- » Website of the Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption website, which include latest news on the work of the Programme and relevant resources and publications.

## OUR MOST RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- » UNODC Global Report on Corruption in Sport, 2021
- » UNODC-IOC "Legal Approaches to Tackling the Manipulation of Sport Competitions" (2021)
- » IPACS Task Force 4 "Tackling Bribery in sport: an overview of relevant laws and standards" (2021)
- » UNODC-IOC-INTERPOL "Ensuring that integrity is at the core of sport's response to the pandemic: Preventing corruption in sport and manipulation of competitions." (2020)
- » UNODC-IOC "Reporting Mechanisms for Sport: A Practical Guide for Development and Implementation" (2020)







# UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



## CONTACT US

For further details and information about the Programme, and for interest on partnering together to safeguard sport from corruption and crime, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

[uncac.sport@un.org](mailto:uncac.sport@un.org)

Visit our website:

[www.unodc.org/safeguardingsport](http://www.unodc.org/safeguardingsport)

