Mega-Sporting Events
Platform for Human Rights

www.megasportingevevents.org
Background

Mega-sporting events (MSEs) have the potential to bring many societal benefits, but are complex to deliver, with a lifecycle from planning through to construction, delivery, and legacy requiring a years-long planning process. As such, these events carry inherent risks, including to human rights.

Chaired by Mary Robinson, the Mega-Sporting Events Platform for Human Rights (MSE Platform) is an emerging multi-stakeholder coalition of international and intergovernmental organisations, governments, sports governing bodies, athletes, unions, sponsors, broadcasters, and civil society groups. The Institute for Human Rights and Business serves as the secretariat.

Through dialogue and joint action our mission is to ensure all actors involved in staging an event fully embrace and operationalise their respective human rights duties and responsibilities throughout the MSE lifecycle.

The MSE Platform is driven by the efforts of a multi-stakeholder Steering Committee of more than 20 organisations, supported by a high-level Advisory Group.

The 2016 Sporting Chance Principles

To further the efforts of the MSE Platform, the 2016 Sporting Chance Principles were proposed by the U.S. Department of State, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and Institute for Human Rights and Business in October 2016. The Principles aim to underpin the common goal of ensuring that human rights are central to MSE’s throughout their lifecycle.

All stakeholders are invited to reference the Principles, and expressions of support or endorsement are welcome.

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.
Focus in 2017

Four Task Forces have been established to advance the MSE Platform’s mission in 2017, facilitated by IHRB. Drawn from members of the Steering Committee and a wider group of participants, the work clusters around key stakeholder groups:

Sports Governing Bodies

Embedding human rights into governance and management systems.

Host Actors

Assessing human rights risks throughout the MSE lifecycle within the domestic context.

Sponsors and Broadcasters

Building leverage with sports governing bodies, hosts, and other key actors through human rights due diligence.

Affected Groups

Increasing accountability through dialogue and exchange between those affected by MSEs and those involved in the MSE lifecycle.
Dialogue and Joint Action

Dialogue and joint action are key to achieving the MSE Platform’s mission of ensuring all actors involved in staging an event fully embrace and operationalise their respective human rights duties and responsibilities throughout the MSE lifecycle.

Members and partners of the MSE Platform have been bringing together stakeholders involved in or affected by mega-sporting events since 2015.

- October 2016: The Sporting Chance Forum, brought together over 100 stakeholders over two-days, hosted by IHRB and the US and Swiss Governments in Washington D.C.. The opening session was live streamed, featuring a keynote from athlete and activist Martina Navratilova.

- April 2016: The United Nations Asia Regional Forum on Business & Human Rights in Doha, Qatar featured two high-level panel discussions on the human rights challenges of MSEs in the region.

- November 2015: A two-day private Wilton Park event hosted by IHRB, Wilton Park and the Swiss Government in Glion, Switzerland. The event was a first in bringing together international experts with a collective global reach to more than 100 sport federations, 155 national business federations, 180 million workers, and 10,000 athletes.

Joining the MSE Platform

MSE Platform Task Forces are inclusive. We encourage any stakeholders with direct experience in one or more components of the MSE lifecycle, or representing those affected by it, to contribute their time and energy to the work of one or more Task Forces.

Email MSE@ihrb.org for further details.

As a member, you contribute:

- Your commitment to the MSE Platform’s core mission that all actors involved in staging an MSE fully embrace and operationalise their respective human rights duties and responsibilities throughout the MSE lifecycle
- Lessons learned, tools, and case studies to add to a growing body of good practice around delivering MSEs.

As a member, you gain:

- Recognition of thought leadership in striving to reduce the negative impacts of mega-sporting events and amplify the positive outcomes.
- Participation in a broad-based high-level multi-stakeholder initiative enabling peer-to-peer learning and information exchange.
- A platform for individual and collective advocacy to raise standards and drive good practice within and beyond your own stakeholder group.
- An opportunity to raise debate and shape the agenda with leading decision makers in an effort to maximise scale and impact.
- Invitation to a major MSE Forum in 2017 (Geneva, 30 Nov. 2017) and a number of preparatory Task Force meetings.