

TIME RECEIVED
May 5, 2014 12:13:35 PM GMT+02:00

REMOTE CSID
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DURATION
175

PAGES
4

STATUS
Received

From: Mission of Bahrain

To: 00229179011

05/05/2014 12:03

#245 P.001/004

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البعثة الدبلوماسية لملكة البحرين لدى الأمم المتحدة
للرياضة والأولمبية
جنيف / فيينا

Geneva, 1 May 2014
1/5-179 (sr)

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee Secretariat, **through sport and the Olympic ideal**", pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 24/1.

In this regard, the Mission has the honour to enclose herewith the requested questionnaire, duly filled by the Ministry of Human Rights Issues of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee Secretariat the assurance of its highest consideration.

Human Rights Council Advisory Committee
c/o Ms. Meena Ramkaun
OHCHR
Palais Wilson, Room 4-060
United Nation Office at Geneva
CH-1211 Geneva 10
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Responses on questionnaire on
Human Rights Council Resolution No. 24/1 concerning the
"promotion of human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal"

1. Bahrain Olympic Committee falls under the umbrella of the International Olympic Committee and is accredited by them, hence, the Olympic Charter is a vital guideline to develop BOC's plans that consist with its principles and values. Moreover, the rules and regulations of Bahrain Olympic Committee is based on the concept of fair play and respect whether for The opponent, the competitor or even the referee in all participation locally, regionally and internationally. One of the practices that Bahrain conduct every year is the Olympic Day where many people of different ages and different perspectives from all over Bahrain participate in to spread the Olympic values and Olympic culture. Bahrain is committed to promote human rights through sport and be part of United Nation activities. Recent activity was on march 30, 2014 an event to celebrate the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace which reaffirms that sport is being increasingly recognized and used as a low-cost and high-impact tool in humanitarian, development and peace-building efforts. Furthermore, human rights of the people of Bahrain is addressed through channeling the youth specially into playing sports and providing all the means to practice sports from uniforms to transportation to facilities insuring that the human rights for the people is respected even for the unprivileged part of the population. Many programs are being organized and delivered by the sport authorities to develop the community in various aspects including education, sport and employment.

2. Sport is a wide and broad scope that does not only include exercising but is used as a tool to improve life style, employment, empowerment for different groups, peace, development, respect and anti-racism. All of these principles combined can generate outstanding results and outcomes if sport is used in the right way to accomplish the goals set and consequently build a generation and environment that is based on respect and cooperation among each other, thus strengthening the respect for human rights. It is worth mentioning that Bahrain Olympic Committee's strategy emphasize on the athlete life cycle that is

essential in spreading the Olympic values and ideal and focus on respect for other and human rights.

3. Bahrain has 27 sport associations and each association is responsible for developing teams from all ages and both genders, women are empowered in Bahrain and has the freedom to practice sport just as their opponents and the same goes to the youth covering all categories from cadets to junior to seniors. Moreover there is a specific association that is completely dedicated to facilitate practicing sport for the people with special needs and another association for Sport for All as it is responsible for promoting sport and encouraging the people to practice sport and be active and conduct a healthy life style, so the focus is not only on participating in the events and games but also on providing sport for all and the other way around of all for sport. The goal goes beyond just practicing sport, nevertheless it reaches to the healthy, competitive and recreation aspects.

4. a. Sport, Olympic ideal and the values it holds can play a major role in spreading peace and consequently spread these values of equality, cooperation and respect for human rights among everyone who is involved in sports.

4. b. Bahrain Olympic Committee's strategy enables it to promote development and the steps and actions taken by BOC shows how it is important to develop human resources as a main asset and capital to every country.

4. c. We strongly believe in the fight against any discrimination and the Olympic charter supports racism and this and our country, as Bahrain is an open and multicultural country and every person whether citizen or expat enjoys this freedom.

5. The challenges that will be faced are common for the whole world with a bit of differences according to the culture. One of the main challenges would be the different perspective and understanding of people as this may cause a disagreement on the best and possible ways to promote human rights.

Moreover, overcoming the resistance that some may have in accepting new ideas and unconventional ways for a better and cooperative community. Also, it might be challenging to reach out to all segments of the country.

6. Bahrain Olympic Committee has its strategy regarding media plan and how to approach media and make them on their side in fulfilling the goal of spreading the Olympic values and ideals. Social media is vital in promoting human rights as it has the ability to reach maximum number of audience, plus the use of the TV, radio and press. The media can assist in introducing more people to sport and proves the fact that it is inclusive.
