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Date:21/05/2024

تهدي الممثلة الدائمة لجمهورية العراق لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة والمنظمات الدولية الأخرى في جنيف أطيب تحياتها إلى مكتب المفوض السامي لحقوق الإنسان، وبالإشارة إلى رسالة المقررة الخاصة في مجال الحقوق الثقافية المؤرخة في 12 نيسان 2024، تتشرف ان ترافق اجابة وزارة الشباب والرياضة في حكومة جمهورية العراق، بشأن التقرير المقبل للمقررة الخاصة الذي ستقدمه الى الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة والتي تعزم ان تتناول فيه الحق في المشاركة في الالعاب الرياضية.

تغتنم الممثلة الدائمة لجمهورية العراق لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة والمنظمات الدولية الأخرى في جنيف هذه المناسبة لتعرب لمكتب المفوض السامي لحقوق الإنسان، عن فائق التقدير والاحترام.

جنيف: 21 آيار 2024



مكتب المفوض السامي لحقوق الإنسان - جنيف

لمرافقات:

- اجابة (6 صفحة).





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(Courtesy Translation)

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the letter of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, dated 12 April 2024, has the honour to transmit the response of the Iraqi Ministry of Youth and Sport, regarding the Special Rapporteur's forthcoming report to the General Assembly in which she intends to address the right to participate in sports.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 21 May 2024

**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,  
Geneva**

**Attachment:**

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- Response (6 pages)



## Ministry of Youth and Sport

### 1. The benefits of practicing sport and playing in developing an individual's identity:

It contributes to build the individual's personality in terms of social, health, psychological and mental aspects:

#### Socially:

It allows the acquisition of social experiences that greatly help in personality, satisfies in him the feeling of belonging to the group, develops sound social and moral values, and increases his interaction in society if he is characterized by high physical fitness. Among the social values that an individual can acquire through practicing sports activities are sportsmanship, cooperation, leadership, discipline, pleasure, good citizenship, social relations, obedience and the system.

#### From a health standpoint:

Physical activities improve general health, as they increase the vital capacity of the lungs, increase the size of the heart so that it works with lower beats and more economically, develop the muscular system, and reduce widespread diseases, especially heart disease and excessive obesity. Fitness also improves strength, harmonious body composition, and weight control. It helps build an attractive personality.

#### Psychologically:

It provides the individual with multiple opportunities to possess the ability to express himself, and to develop emotional control that enables him to behave well in critical situations. It also works to form a balanced personality characterized by comprehensiveness and integration, psychological balance, happiness, success and satisfaction.

#### Mentally:

Sports activities provide individuals with values, experiences, and cognitive concepts, as well as developing various skills and mental processes such as

understanding, application, analysis, synthesis, perception, visualization, attention, and thinking thus has a role in academic achievement in the academic field.

Disadvantage of exercising and playing:

Sport has many disadvantages if practiced excessively, including:

- Causing some psychological disorders and problems such as: mood swings, depression, and anxiety.
- Suffering from sleep disorders.
- Exhaustion and fatigue.
- Feeling of constant burning in the muscles.
- Muscle problems related to overuse of certain muscles and joints of the body.
- Weakened immune system and increased chances of catching colds.
- Dehydration.
- Increasing the chances of developing osteoporosis. Increased chances of developing some serious heart diseases and problems, such as cardiac arrest and heart rhythm disturbances.
- Suffering from a hormonal imbalance, which may have many health complications.

The aforementioned benefits have a positive impact on the country's policies and programs.

2.

- Article (36) of the Iraqi Constitution in force for the year 2005 stipulates that practicing sports is a right for every individual, and the state must encourage and sponsor its activities and provide its requirements.
- Article (3) First) of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Law No. (25) of 2011 stipulates the preparation, fortification, protection and rehabilitation of young people intellectually, politically, scientifically, socially, culturally and athletically, and directing their energies and talents towards contributing to

building Iraq and expressing the spirit of good Iraqi citizenship and respect for the law.

- Renouncing violence and spreading a culture of respect for opinions and other opinions.” Article (3) / Second) of the same law above specializes in developing the sports sector through working with...
- The various governmental and non-governmental sports bodies to activate the movement of clubs... and federations of mental and private disabilities, and to support their activities by all possible means in a way that contributes to performing their tasks in a manner befitting Iraq and the importance of its representation internationally”.
- Article (3) / Third) of the same law stipulates the organization of educational, cultural, artistic, scientific, physical and sporting activities in various capacities
- Athletes have the right to receive compensation in appreciation of their efforts and achievements, and therefore a law of granting champion and pioneer athletes No. 6 for the year 2013 was enacted.
- Article (15/Fifth/a) of the Law for the Care of People with Disabilities and Special Needs No. 38 of 2013 stipulated “the establishment and support sports centers and clubs with the aim of opening the field for people with disabilities and special needs to practice their various activities to meet their needs and develop their abilities.
- Article (15/Fifth/b) of the same law stipulates “supporting the participation of distinguished athletes with disabilities and needs in national and international conferences”.
- Article (15/Fifth/c) of the same law stipulates “the inclusion of sports and recreational programs and activities within the programs of institutions,

centers and schools working in the field of disability and the provision of specialized staff and appropriate equipment”.

- Article (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 stipulates that “every human being has the right to enjoy all rights and freedoms without any discrimination such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, wealth or Birth or any other situation, without any distinction between men and women...”.
  - Article (1) of the International Charter on Physical Education and Sport stipulates that “the practice of physical education, physical activity and sport is a fundamental right for all”.
  - The Olympic Charter has a substantial role in the context of human rights and sports, as it stipulates that “practicing sports is one of human rights”.
3. A court specialized in examining sports affairs and disputes, located in Baghdad - the Courts Complex in Al-Karkh (Al-Zawraa), Baghdad / Al-Karkh Federal Court of Appeal.
  4. Sports associations have a prominent role as they are considered an important sports part to official sports institutions, discovering talents, encouraging sports practices, and an official umbrella for interested sports practitioners and amateurs who wish to practice sports according to an organized regulatory and technical framework under the supervision and regulations of the relevant government agencies. These structures can be improved by providing them with the necessary support.
  5. There are several major obstacles that prevent everyone from participating in sports, including:
    - Poor awareness of the importance of sport and its benefits for physical and psychological health.
    - Lack of sports facilities and public sports facilities in some areas.

- Lack of time and resources needed to exercise.
  - Lack of financial and media support for athletes and sports teams.
  - The cultural and social barrier that prevents some people from practicing sports due to gender, age, or cultural background.
  - Lack of incentives and encouragement to participate in sports activities.
6. No measures have been taken to limit or facilitate the participation of athletes outside the scope of applicable laws, regulations and instructions.
  7. In general, the state strives to do everything it can to promote culturally diverse sports programs, and a vivid example of this is the Ministry's annual organization of the Al-Muhaibas Championship in the holy month of Ramadan.
  8. Symbols, images, and names of *former* people are used in sports in many tournaments. Some sports facilities, such as stadiums and halls, are named with these names. A vivid example of this is the naming of two football fields at the Ministry's headquarters after the names of *former* international players (Ali Hussein) and (Ali Kazem), and all of this is not used. Unless with approval and respect.
  9. Yes, traditional *games* games and sports are included in national and international sporting events, and indigenous people are included in the planning, and benefit equally from the sporting events in which they participate.
  10. This has a positive impact on major sporting events from the following perspectives:
    - Fan Perspective: For many fans, sport events are an opportunity to escape the monotony of daily life, filling the soul with passion and excitement. Whether it is the adrenaline rush of a close game, the thrill of victory, or the agony of defeat, sporting events are an emotional rollercoaster that keeps fans coming

back for more. For example, an event. The Iraqi State Ministries and Institutions Football Cup, which brings together ministries and media institutions, is a local event that creates a sense of coincidence and shared experience and really unique.

- Athletes' perspective: For athletes, sport events are the coronation of years of hard work and dedication, as they are an opportunity to showcase their skills on the largest possible stage and compete against the best. For example, the Olympic Games are the top of sport achievement and represent the highest level of competition in many sports.
- From an organizational perspective: for organizers, sporting events are a huge task that requires months or even years of planning and preparation, from securing venues and sponsors to coordinating logistics services and ensuring the safety of participants and spectators. Organizing any sporting event is a complex and difficult task. However, the reward is the satisfaction of seeing the event vibrant with life and joy. Which brings it to fans and athletes alike, for example, organizing the popular teams championship that our ministry holds annually at the country level.

11. There are no decisions issued or actions taken of this nature.