



EUW REPORT 2020 / B E I J I N G + 25

Taken from Guidelines 11

What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve education outcomes and skill for women and girls ?

Chosen field : SPORT

1. SIGNIFICANCE OF SPORT IN THE HISTORY :

- Through the **CEDAW** : Convention on the Elimination of all forms of « Discrimination against Women » (December 1979) United Nations will encourage States Parties to take all appropriate measures :

Article 10 :

To eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure to them equal rights with men in the field of education and in particular to ensure on a basis of equality of men and women, § (9) : the same opportunities to participate actively in sports and physical education.

Article 13 :

To eliminate discrimination against women in the other areas of economic and social life to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular, § © : the rights to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life.

- The concept of « **Sport for Development and Peace** » (SPD) exists since 1978. Sports become a tool, a vehicle for emancipation. In 1978 **UNESCO** adopts « **The International Charter of physical education, of physical activity and of sports** ».

The practice of physical education, physical activity and sport is a fundamental right for all. Every human being has a fundamental right to physical education, sport without

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discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, **gender**, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property or any other basis.

The fundamental *principle N°4* says : The practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practicing sport, without discrimination of any kind (...).

Rule 50.2 : No kind of demonstration or political, religious or social propaganda is permitted in any Olympics sites, venues or other areas.

A few historical events

In 1920 **Baron Pierre de Coubertin** says in the Olympic Games in Amsterdam, he is opposed to the participation of women in the Olympic Games. They are admitted against his will. This physical activity is unsuited to their condition. Their role should be to crown the winners. Their health is rather delicate . Sport can be an obstacle to give birth. Too much physical exercise makes women's look masculine etc.

The women themselves alone conquered on their own sport. « History of sport was not « her history », but « his history » (Gertrud Pfister : « Her story in sport : towards the emancipation of women »).

Before the 19th century only a few noble women take part in a sportive activity. Marie Stuart was the first woman playing golf.

In France physical education becomes compulsory in Primary school in 1882.

The goal is to prepare the boys for the military life, the women for the housework.

Before 1851 the sportswomen must run with long skirts. Amelia Jenks Bloomer created the « bloomers ».

Alice Milliat, a French sportswoman, created in 1917 the « Fédération des sociétés féminines sportives » in France, then the « International Federation of Sports. »

1970 : Coeducational system in the physical education classes.

Sport is still today one of the fields where the women have difficulty to become famous.

However progresses are made today:

- 1900 : Olympic Games in Paris : 997 athletes of whom only 22 women. Their sports are cricket, tennis, golf, horseriding, sailing.
- 1928 : 10% of women.
- 1936 : Skiing (only a few events.)
- 1960 : 20% of women.
- 1981 : 2 women are members of the « International Olympic Committee » (IOC).
- 1991 : IOC makes a historic decision : Every new sport must have women's events.

Of course, a few years ago a sports journalist who did a commentary about figure skating, expressed his ironic admiration for the « entrechats » of these young women on the ice, but the « **Fourth World Conference on Women : Action for Equality, Development and Peace** », which took place on 4-15 September 1995 in Beijing, China sped things up.

The United Nations convened 189 governments and more than 5000 representatives from 2100 ONGs.

The three previous World Conferences took place in Mexico City (1975), Copenhagen (1980), and Nairobi (1985).

Deeply entrenched attitudes and practices perpetuate inequality and discrimination against women, in public and private life, in all parts of the world. Accordingly implementation requires changes in values, attitudes, practices and priorities at all levels.

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The principal themes were the advancement and empowerment of women in relation to women's human rights, women and poverty, women and decision-making, the girl-child, violence against women and other areas of concern.

Governments and the UN agreed to promote the « gender mainstreaming » in policies and programmes.

The two resulting documents of the Conference are **The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**. They are very important documents and the « travel warrant » for Gender Equality » (Ban Ki-Moon, UN General Secretary).

The *Platform for Action* sets out a number of actions that should lead to fundamental changes.

A few examples of the **Declaration**, this resolution adopted by the UN :

5. « The status of women has advanced in some important respects in the past decade but inequalities between women and men have persisted.

17. The explicit recognition and reaffirmation of the right of all women to control all aspects of their **health**.

30. Ensure equal access to and equal treatment of women and men in education and **health care** and enhance women's sexual and reproductive **health** as well as education.

32. Intensify efforts to ensure equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all women and girls who face multiple barriers to their empowerment and advancement because of such factors as their race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion.

What can we observe 25 years later ?

Other international reference texts are published :

- **The Council of Europe** in the **9th Conference of the European Ministers in charge of sports** commits itself (May 2000) and with the Partial Extended Agreement (APES) (2010).
- **The European Union** with the Resolution of the 5 June 2003 : Elimination of the barriers between male sports and female sports as it is called. Every girl and every boy

can practice the physical activity that appeals to them. It's confirmed in « E.U. White Paper » (published in 2010).

1995 : IOC creates the Working group « Women and Sport ».

1997 : Anita L. De Frantz is the first woman Vice president of the IOC.

2000 : First Trophy IOC « Women and Sport »

2nd World Conference : 20% of the women must have authority to decide.

2012 : **5th World Conference** : « **Women and Sport** » (Los Angeles).

IOC must work closely with **UN, UN Women** and participate in the activities of the **CSW**.

An agreement is signed with UN Women to promote autonomisation of women through sport.

What happened during the last five years ?

- **United Nations** adopts (25.9.2015) the programme of **Sustainable Development** for 2030. The **goal 5** is : « **to reach the gender equality and autonomise all women and girl** ».
- 2015 : An agreement is signed between **IOC** and **UN** : 40% of women and girls in Olympic Games and 49% in « Youth Olympic Games » are necessary.
- 2016 : Result : 45% of women participate in Rio de Janeiro. 3/9
- 2018 : (February) historical phase : 25 recommendations. 42,7% of women have a seat in the Commission of IOC.
- 2019 : 33% of women in IOC.
- «**The Olympic Charter** (1978) is reviewed in November 2015.

Article 9.3 : The physical education is an excellent way to prevent the violent acts whose cause is **gender**. The result is **Action Plan Kazan** (2017) during the **6th World Conference of the Ministers and senior civil servants in charge of physical education and sport**.

The autonomisation of women and girls and **Gender Equality in sport** is reaffirmed.

2. Concretely : What happens in practice ?

Sport is making progress, what actions have our countries taken ?

Thanks to the goals of the the **Sustainable Development** the implementation of programmes which promote the female participation, an increasing media coverage, women are making progress significantly.

- In the international Federations 26% of the managers are at the moment women. In 2015 they were only 6%.

One woman is President of federation.

- A french woman (Florence Guillemin) is international referee.

Stephanie Frappant is the first referee woman in a man match 1st league.

- More than 10 Ministers for Sports were women since 1981 in France.
- The percentage of women athletes in Olympic Games is now 45%.

We can be optimistic if we analyse the situation in the main sports :

Football : We have an interesting example with this sport in England. During the 1st World War many firms offer workwomen activities, including football. Charity matches are organized. But in 1921 the Government forbids the women to play football, and that during 40 years.

Since the Football Women World Cup the stadiums are fast full, the number of the registered members is continually increasing : 60% more since 2011. The coaches appreciate women's teams. They respect the team, don't cheat, have tactics, don't grumble at referee, stand up again when they fall.

Rugby : =103% more between 2007 and 2016. This sport exists also in Senegal.

Handball : 34% more. A Television audience record during the Handball Euro (December 2018) with the victory of the « Bleues » (France).

Basketball : The women will be perhaps in the next Tokyo Olympics Games !

Skiing : - *Nordic skiing* : - 2018 : In Pyeongchang 5 women athletes from Jura in France won medals.

- *Biathlon* : women win in the World Cup 2020 Women relay, mixed gender team events and mass-start.

- *3th Youth Olympic Games* : A lot of gifted girls.
The Olympic Flamme was carried by a woman athlete (Nordic Skiing).

Judo : 2 French women won Gold and Bronze medals in the last World Championship (Margaux Pinot and Clarisse Agbegnenou).

Karate : Certainly a French woman athlete will be in the next Olympic Games (Laura Silvert).
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Kick- Boxing, Panorace : Combat sport. French Women are at the top.

Driving : They take part in many rallies : « Raid des Alizés, Rally « Aïcha des Gazelles », « Rose des Andes », « Gypsum flower Trophy », « Paris-Dakar ».

Autocross, Quad : Participation in the World Championship.

Twirling bâton : 2 French girls are world champions.

We are filled with admiration for the French sportswomen of the Extreme, who go alone to Antarctic etc.

Jumping is allowed since 2014 (Sotchi).

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See attached documents 1-2

But many obstacles and problems remain still :

A. - In the *French Federations* the results are disparate. Too many federations limit themselves to a few actions.

37% of women are registered members.

11 women are President of federations. 25% of women are referees or umpires.

- In *Spain*, although the number of federated women has increased by 8,8% since last year, double that men, women represent 22% of the total federated athletes. They are representing 34,5% of the total High level athletes.

In London 2012 and in Rio 2016, Spanish athletes contributed more metals to the medal table than men. This circumstance, on the other hand, is unfortunately not reflected in the day-to-day life of athletes.

Tennis is one of the few sports in which attempts have been made to bridge the wage gap. But they are related to sponsorships since they are linked to publication in the media.

Only 5% of the sports press space is dedicated to women.

Existence of pre-pregnancy clauses.

- Too many sports **lack money**, have not the necessary resources. For example : *fencing*

The disparity in wages of the female players is indecent, although the gap between men and women has narrowed significantly in Spain in recent years. A « normal » football female player must have a job to earn enough to live on. The men earn 96% more than the women. In 1st League a man earns on average 7500€/month, a woman 4500€.

- The sportsmen are in the majority in the sports fields. The **training grounds** are not enough.

- *Sexism* is everywhere :

There are still too many **sexist adverts**. During the Football World Cup we can observe the pink sandwiches for the women of « Burgers Speed Burger », « Come to eye up the girls ! » at the main entrance of a café, advert for shoes with heels and studs etc.

The attacks are incessant against LGBT (lesbians association) with Megan Rapinoe (football) or bisexual women.

In spite of the success of the « Handball Euro » in 2019, the championship is suddenly no more broadcasted by the channel be In sports !

- Mrs Roxana Marcineanu, Minister for Sports in France was heckled during a match in Paris and must leave the stadium (13.12.19) 5/9

- During the mixed double matches in Triathlon, the boys give sometimes hard taps on the shoulder of the girl who swims next to him.

B. - Two matters of topical interest :

At the moment the ice-sports, **ice skating** in France goes through a critical time. Female ice-skaters as Sarah Abitbol give important information to the Police, verbally and wrote a book : « A so long silence » about her youth. As young female ice-skater she was raped regularly by her coach when she was 15 years old. Unfortunately **she is not an exception**.

These offences, these affairs were covered up, hushed up. The minors brought no action against the coaches, the Federations dissociate themselves, the law don't react. After 30 years the affair is closed.

The same scandal exists also in **skiing** and **horseriding**.

In Athletics the scandal Ophélie Claude–Boxberger. This young woman was doped without being aware of it by her stepfather and coach (Alain Flaccus). Finally now treated and recovered she will participate in the next Olympic Games in Tokyo.

C. - The Islamic sporting model is a regression :

The first gold Medallists from North Africa ran with uncovered heads, legs and arms.

Nawa El Moutawakel was the first muslim woman to win an olympic gold Medal.

The first participation of female athletes was in London (London). They came from Brunei Darussalam, Saoudi Arabia and Qatar.

But at the moment there is an identity Deviation in Sport. In October2015 the press revealed a confidential note of the Territorial Information Service admitting that amateur sport had become a vector of communautarism and of radicality (called « separatism » today in France), specially in sports clubs for muslim women. This phenomén exists all over Europe, but people do not want to see it ». (Médéric Chapitiaux). For example :

- The Declaration « Accept and Respect » signed in Oman in 2008 and promoted by the women and sport networks : « We urge international sport federations to demonstrate their attachment to integration in seing that their dress code for competition satisfies muslim requirements, by considering the principles of propriety, of safety and of integrity ».

- The subservience of the FIFA and numerous other international sport federations to these non-sport requirements apply only to women and open a fabulous « islamic » clothing market immediately taken advantage of by the brands Nike and Mattel.

Athletes complain of the discomfort of the traditional hidjabs. It is « better breathing » !!! It is gaining ground not only with athletes but also with the muslim public on the pretext of « Freeing the muslim woman ».

- Today Shiva Amini, Iranian Football star is exprunged for life from national team and from any position as coach for having played in a friendly match without headscarf and in shorts with boys during a private trip in Italy and Switzerland (26.4.17).

The IOC must sanction the apartheid imposed on Saoudi and Iranian Women.

-The threats against Sadaf Khadem, Iranian female boxer are more and more important. She trains in France with a man as coach, don't cover head, legs and arms during training. She is wanted.

- Dorsa Derakshani, Iranian chess champion, was sanctioned for having played in competitions without a headscarf.

Rules forbidding discrimination and political or religious interference in sports do exist :

The United Nations have condemned racial apartheid in sports and approved the *International Convention* against racial apartheid in sports (entered in force April 3rd 1988)

Kuwait has been suspended in October 2015 by IOC and FIFA because of political interferences in sports. Kuwaitis athletes were deprived from Rio Olympics and Mundial 2018 qualifications.

South Africa has been banned from international competitions for thirty years because of racial apartheid.

And that although the Cheik Al-Farad Al-Sabah is member of the IOC and President of the Association of CNO and says : « We must offer the whole benefit of the sport the women and girls ». The women must sit on the committees, boards of the federations, in the affairs and sports medias.

D. – Transgender problem : Where is the limit between man and woman ?

Fresh becoming Brazil's first transgender volleyball player, Tiffany Abreu is taking on another challenge : running for Congress under the campaign slogan « why not ? » ; More than 100 national records are held by athletes who have this particularity. The real sex or gender of the athletes raises sometimes a real question. Is a neutral category the real solution ?

In conclusion :

Sport appears as a significant factor. It contribute to the education of girls and women, the development, the Peace thanks to the tolerance and the respect which it recommends, to the autonomisation of young people, women, and communities, and to the execution of the goals in the fields of education, social inclusion and health.

At the end of 2020, one thing's for certain, we will still not have achieved equality. Violence and misogynist populist governments are more and more increasing. We achieve the 5-year mark of the Sustainable Development Goals and it's goal 5 « Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment » is not reached.

Nevertheless gender equality will not be reached if only women, the women alone contribute to the change. Men and women must work together. Sport is not « men's thing ». The word « women sport » must disappear. It's essential and urgent to improve education for women and girls. Consequently we need to hold high the commitments of Beijing. Education is the main progress factor. 2020 is clearly a critical year for women's rights. We have to act quickly. But don't forget « leave no One behind ».

What sorts of **recommendations** can we make for the future ?

What interesting actions have we already taken until now to improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls ?

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We have to take measures, action against laxity and breaches of the society. How educate and help girls and woman thanks to sport so that they become integrated in our society and later they get no difficulty as workers or managers ? How change sport to reach this goal ?

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

1. Education and training :

- Influence of sport practice in schools. To respect equality between girls and boys : playground , gymnasium occupancy. Coeducation in sport.
- To fight against sexism and violence at school.
- To do away with the stereotypes of the girl : in schoolbooks, adverts etc.
- To teach very young children that equality is a right.
- More develop the programme nutrition health « eat, move ».
- To develop physical activity, from the beginning at school, in infant school without sexual discrimination.
- To develop degree course in university.

2. Health and prevention

- To develop free activities, to fight against sedentary lifestyle of the girls who are too often excused from gym.
- To create multifunction gardens with disabled access.

3. The world of sport

- To organize schedules which take account of the domestic work and obligations of the women in a single-parent family.
- To inform, educate the young under age athletes. They can be in great danger.
- Examine psychological and judicial profile of the trainers and managers.
- To increase the number of female referees, umpires, coaches etc. These functions are not a male speciality.
- To introduce equal wages. The authorities must respect equality in the financial help.
- Men and women trainers must manage indiscriminately girls, women and men.

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- To maintain strict control over clubs. Discover sexual harassment and violence. (Marlène Thiappa, French Secretary of State in charge of Equality between Women and Men and fight against Discrimination (11.3.2019).

4. The media

- Media must introduce more norms and quotas in favour of women.
- To develop more press, magazines as « Les Sportives » (Aurélie Bresson) in France, broadcasting for women. More collaborate with employers in the media.
- To do away with all sexist and stereotyped advertisements.

5. The authorities

- A « gender » criterion in every urban project.
- To build equipments specific to the girls : toilet, separate changing rooms etc.
- To secure public places.
- Allotted slots : reserved for girls and women

6. Businesses

- To plan rooms reserved for physical activity. Sport eliminates or relieves stress, makes possible losing weight, limit the risks of burn out and consequently absenteeism. 8/9
- Flexibility of working hours.
- No more national insurance contributions when the firm places sport equipment at disposal of the staff (Example : France)
- Sport on medical prescription.

7. Associations

- To do that girls get a personal satisfaction.
- To integrate all girls without exception : age, origin or sexual orientation.
- To further solidarity instead achievement.
- To develop coeducation.
- To promote female sports=health sport.

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Sources :

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- historical dates : Wikipedia
- Paris 2024 : « Back to the olympic spirit »

Les femmes aux JO

Date d'entrée des athlètes féminines dans les disciplines olympiques

1900
tennis, golf

1904
tir à l'arc

1908
patinage artistique

1912
natation

1924
escrime

1928
athlétisme, gymnastique

1936
ski alpin

1948
canoë-kayak

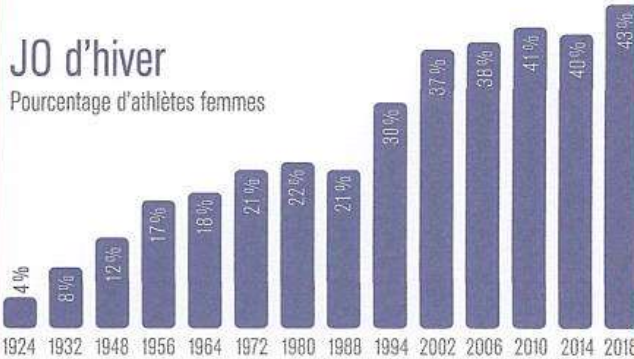
1952
équitation

Les normes de féminité et de masculinité sont intimement liées aux pratiques sportives. On reprochera aux hommes qui n'aiment pas le sport de manquer de virilité ; aux femmes musclées, de s'écarter des formes traditionnelles de féminité.

La participation aux Jeux olympiques est le reflet d'un combat plus large mené par les femmes pour s'imposer dans le domaine sportif. La présence d'athlètes femmes aux JO profite en effet au financement et à la légitimité du sport féminin en général.

JO d'hiver

Pourcentage d'athlètes femmes



1988

tennis, tennis de table, voile

1984
tir sportif, cyclisme, judo

1980
hockey sur gazon

1976
aviron, basketball, handball

1964
volleyball, luge

1960
patinage de vitesse