



COOPERATION PROTOCOL

between

UNION DES ASSOCIATIONS EUROPEENNES DE FOOTBALL

Route de Genève 46
1260 Nyon
Switzerland

(referred to as "UEFA")

and

THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Case Postale 2500
1211 Genève 2 Dépôt
Switzerland

(referred to as "UNHCR")

PREAMBLE

This Cooperation Protocol (hereinafter 'Protocol') represents an enhanced commitment to the partnership between the Union of European Football Associations (**UEFA**) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (**UNHCR**), hereinafter collectively referred to as "**the Parties**" and individually as "**a Party**".

This Protocol has been developed in recognition of the respective mandates, responsibilities, strategic objectives, and mission statements of the two organizations, and will focus on the inclusion of refugees and others forcibly displaced in sports activities, social cohesion and youth development.

UEFA is the official body for European football responsible to its member associations for the governing of the sport of football in accordance with its statutes and regulations. UEFA works extensively in areas related to social inclusion of disadvantaged groups, including refugees, and has maintained over the years institutional relations on these matters with International Organizations such as the Council of Europe and the European Union.

UNHCR, on the basis of its Statute of 1950, the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and subsequent resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, is mandated to provide international protection, assistance and solutions to refugees and other categories of persons of concern and to prevent and reduce statelessness.

The present Protocol is fully aligned with the cooperation established by UEFA and the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) with the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding on 21 January 2021. The specific goal of the latter is, inter alia, to foster cooperation between the UNOG and UEFA aimed at adapting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the European football context.

Considering that the UEFA Foundation for Children (hereinafter "UEFA Foundation") was formally established in 2015 and pursues the objective to improve living conditions of children, including refugee and other children displaced by war and conflict.

Acknowledging UEFA's Football and Refugees Grant Scheme which offers UEFA member associations the opportunity to pursue projects intended to facilitate the integration of refugees by means of football activities.

Taking note of paragraph 44 of the Global Compact on Refugees that recognizes the important role that sports and cultural activities can play in social development, inclusion, cohesion, and well-being, particularly for refugee children (both boys and girls), adolescents and youth, as well as older persons and persons with disabilities, partnerships will be pursued to increase access to sporting and cultural facilities and activities in refugee-hosting areas.

Recalling the sports pledges launched by the 'Sports Coalition' at the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019, whereby sports organizations and federations committed to:

- i. Promote and ensure access for all refugees, without distinction of any kind, to safe and inclusive sporting activities;
- ii. Increasing availability and access to organised sports and sport-based initiatives for refugee and hosting communities, actively considering age, gender, ability and other diversity needs;
- iii. Promote and facilitate equal access to and participation of refugees and other persons of concern in relevant sporting events and competitions at all levels.

Further noting that sport also has the potential to contribute to the SDGs and in particular SDGs 3, 4, 5, 10, 16 and 17 [as recognized by the UN office on Sport for Development and Peace], and the 'leave no one behind' agenda to which UNHCR is firmly committed.

This Protocol outlines current and future priority areas for cooperation where the respective and complementary tools, capacities and expertise of the two organisations can be optimised and assistance towards forcibly displaced and stateless persons can be improved.

1. BASIS OF COOPERATION

The purpose of this Protocol is for UEFA and UNHCR to commit to continue assisting and upholding the rights of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other persons of concern to UNHCR (hereinafter "PoCs") and affected communities using sport as a tool for inclusion, social cohesion, solutions, protection, equality and resilience and peace building.

2. AREAS AND OBJECTIVES OF COOPERATION

To enhance their cooperation, the Parties agree:

- 2.1. To facilitate and strengthen the cooperation between UEFA's national associations and the UNHCR offices, through the organization of seminars, exchange of best practices, organization of football events and other joint activities to be identified. The activities will be focused on the following specific objectives:
 - 2.1.1. To enhance social cohesion between refugee and host communities through sport and recreational activities;
 - 2.1.2. To foster sustainable social inclusion of refugees through a sport-related, holistic approach that encompasses education and vocational training, facilitates access to the labour market, enhances health and well-being and combats negative sentiment towards refugees in society.

- 2.1.3. To increase the availability and access to organised sport and sport-based initiatives for refugees and hosting communities, actively considering age, gender, ability and other diversity needs;
 - 2.1.4. To provide opportunities for young athletes from affected communities to access elite sport support programmes;
 - 2.1.5. To promote and facilitate equal access to and participation of refugees and other persons of concern in relevant sporting events and competitions;
 - 2.1.6. To support the prevention of gender-based violence and promote gender equality.
- 2.2. To use UEFA events, and events organized by UEFA member associations, to raise awareness on refugee issues and to provide a further platform to advocate for refugee inclusion.
 - 2.3. To evaluate the opportunity of submitting joint project proposals on the inclusion of refugees through sport, including through seeking specific funding from the EU and other donors involving UNHCR and UEFA member associations (reflecting the specific objectives stipulated under article 2.1. of this Protocol).
 - 2.4. To explore and consider the possibility of implementing projects within and outside of Europe with the involvement of the UEFA Foundation, through financial instruments to be identified (including the different funding programmes of the European Commission).
 - 2.5. To increase refugee access to sporting opportunities through possible fundraising and advocacy initiatives, including jointly with the UEFA Foundation.
 - 2.6. Furthermore, to identify and participate in joint events, programmes and other activities, to facilitate regular dialogue, coordination and cooperation and to exchange information, knowledge and best practices.
 - 2.7. The implementation of joint activities shall be subject to the availability of adequate resources to be determined by each Party in accordance with their respective rules and regulations.

3. WORKING METHODS

- 3.1. Each Party shall designate a contact person for providing overall direction for the implementation of this Protocol.
- 3.2. The Parties will establish a steering group comprising an appropriate number of representatives of the Parties. The steering group will meet once every two months and will have the main task of monitoring and encouraging the implementation of the Protocol.
- 3.3. The parties shall seek to agree on a concrete workplan of activities for the operationalization of this Protocol, which workplan shall be submitted to the steering committee for approval and, once approved, appended to this Protocol as an Addendum hereto.

3.4. The Parties aim to hold a senior-level meeting at least once a year.

4. ENTRY INTO FORCE, AMENDMENTS AND TERMINATION

4.1. This Protocol shall be effective as of its date of signature by the Parties.

4.2. This Protocol may only be modified/amended if agreed in writing and signed by both Parties.

4.3. Either Party has the right to terminate the Protocol at any time but should endeavor to provide the other Party a three-month written notice.

4.4. The term of the Protocol shall run until 31 December 2030. In due time prior to the expiry of the term, the Parties may decide on an extension.

5. PRINCIPLES OF PARTNERSHIP

5.1. Both parties recognize rights-based, age, gender and diversity as well as community-based approaches as central to their collaboration.

5.2. Code of conduct: The Parties commit to carrying out all their activities with the highest ethical and professional standards, both within their respective organizations and externally, in conformity with their mandates and the nature of their work. Both parties have a policy of zero tolerance to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and agree to collaborate in prevention, protection from, and response to SEA.

6. GENERAL PROVISIONS

6.1. The Protocol does not create any legal rights and obligations for the Parties, including financial obligations, under international or national law.

6.2. The Parties agree that any dispute or controversy arising between the parties in respect of this Protocol shall be settled amicably or by way of arbitration governed by the UNICTRAL Rules of Arbitration. Decisions of the arbitral tribunal shall be guided by generally accepted principles of international commercial law.

6.3. Each Party shall retain title to all of its intellectual property and other proprietary rights and nothing herein shall be deemed to be a transfer thereof or license thereupon. The Parties acknowledge and agree that it is prohibited to use any marks, designs, artwork or material that include any of the Intellectual Property belonging to the Parties (including logos), for any purpose other than the promotion of the present Protocol or from creating and/or using any combined logos in a manner that is confusingly similar to any of the existing logos.

6.4. A co-branded logo lock-up should be used to promote the partnership. The lock-up should follow the format where UNHCR logo is placed on the left side and the UEFA logo on the right side. The color, relative size and prominence of each logo shall not be amended without the other party's consent.



6.5. All images, video, audio and multimedia from UNHCR's Refugee Media website <https://media.unhcr.org/> are copyrighted and may only be reproduced with permission from authorised staff at UNHCR. Images, video, audio and multimedia may only be used under licence for editorial use relating to UNHCR-supported issues and only where the content of the media is accurately represented and captioned. Use in a commercial context is not allowed. A credit is always required in the format '© UNHCR/Photographer' for photo images and '© UNHCR' for video, audio and multimedia unless stated otherwise.

6.6. Notwithstanding clauses 6.3 and 6.4, the parties agree that any public statement, oral or written, that contains the other party's logo shall be subject to prior consultation and approval between the parties.

6.7. Nothing in or relating to this Protocol shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs and/or of UNHCR (as a subsidiary organ of the United Nations).

This Protocol has been signed by duly authorised signatories:

For and on behalf of UEFA:

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

For and on behalf of UNHCR:

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____