

المجلس المدني لمناهضة جميع أشكال التمييز Consell civil de lutte contre toutes les formes de discrimination—— ccl.b

CONTRIBUTION:

A SPORTING WORLD
FREE FROM RACISM,
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION,
XENOPHOBIA
AND RELATED
INTOLERANCE FEBRUARY 2025

TO THE REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 25/54 OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - HRC

Submitted by:

Prometheus Institute for Democracy and Human Rights

ABOUT THE NGO SUBMITTING THIS CONTRIBUTION

The Prometheus Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (hereinafter referred to as "IPDDH") is an NGO independent of the state, political parties, and trade unions. It serves as a platform for exchange among young Moroccans committed to promoting the values of human rights as universally recognized. Established in 2013, the NGO engages with the United Nations human rights system, particularly the Universal Periodic Review mechanism as well as special procedures.

The Prometheus Institute is also the coordinator of the Civil Council for Combating All Forms of Discrimination (CCLD), which operates as an independent initiative free from any ideological, political, religious, and/or state affiliations. It embodies a commitment to creating a space for converging efforts in the fight against discrimination in Morocco.



ABOUT THE NGO SUBMITTING THIS CONTRIBUTION

المجلس المدني لمناهضة جميع أشكال التمييز Conseil civil de lutte contre toutes les formés de discrimination CCLD

A Girls' tournament as part of the "Sport, Human Rights and Active Citizenship" initiative run by the Prometheus Institute for Democracy and Human Rights with financial support from Manus Unidas © Prometheus Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (PIDHR). 2024

CONTEXT

CONTEXT

The theme of this contribution is of crucial importance in Morocco, as the country prepares to host two major international football tournaments. Indeed, Morocco has been officially designated as the host country for the **2025 Africa Cup of Nations** (AFCON). This will be the second time it has organized the competition, following the 1988 edition. Morocco will also co-host the **2030 FIFA World Cup** alongside Spain and Portugal. This tripartite bid was approved by FIFA in October 2023. These events represent two unique opportunities for Morocco to strengthen and promote human rights and the fight against all forms of discrimination in this context.

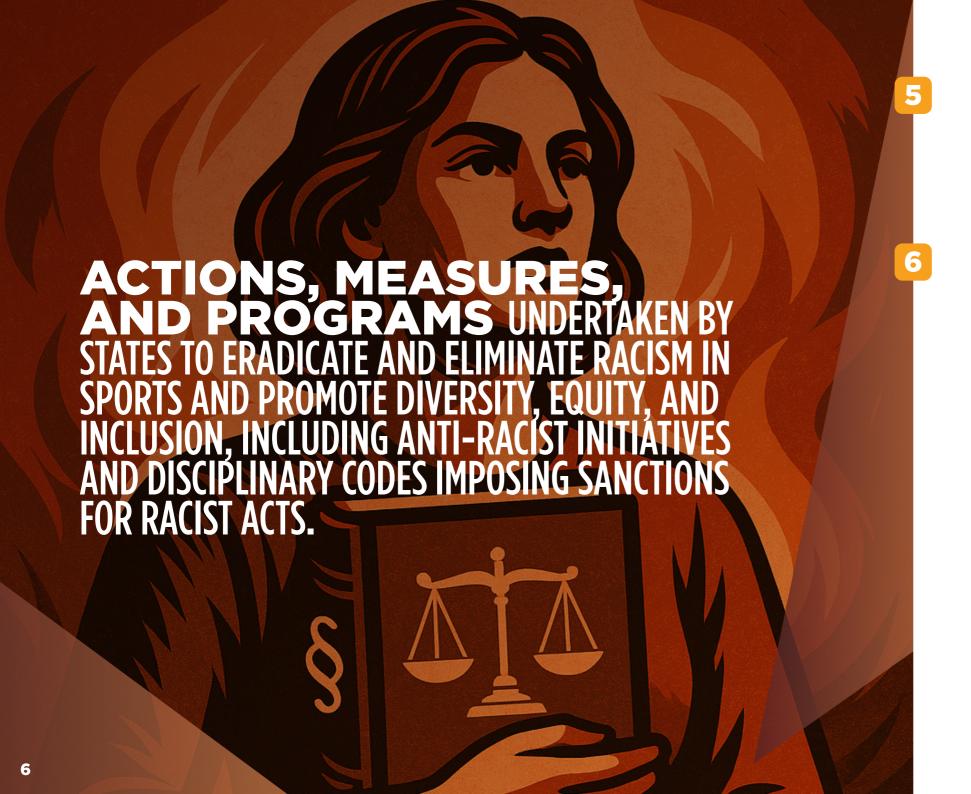
The crafting of this contribution is part of the response to the Call for Contributions to the Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with Human Rights Council Resolution 54/25: "A global sports world free from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance." The Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights will be presented to the Human Rights Council during its 60th session.



The Islamic World Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), based in Morocco, has launched programs such as "Sport for Societal Change," "Sports Diplomacy," and "International Youth Volunteers in Sports." These initiatives aim to use sports as a vehicle for intercultural dialogue, creativity, and international cooperation.

The popularity of sports and its potential to drive social change motivated the **Prometheus Institute for Democracy and Human Rights**, with financial support from **Manos Unidas**, to organize a series of men's and women's football tournaments. During these tournaments, young boys and girls played under the banners of human rights values. This demonstrated that sports can inspire and unite people beyond cultural differences while reinforcing the values of diversity, equity, and human rights¹. Equality, justice, non-discrimination, and dignity were the most frequently selected values by the youth to be showcased during the football matches.

¹See the women's tournaments: https://web.facebook.com/institutprometheus/videos/909274854515568, See the men's tournaments: https://web.facebook.com/institutprometheus/videos/1274732630153086



The Moroccan Constitution, through its articles: 19, 164, 171, 21, 23, 30, promotes gender equality on the one hand, and the fight against racism and racial discrimination on the other. Moreover, the provisions on non-discrimination affecting both Moroccan and foreign nationals are provided for in various legal texts in Morocco²;

However, there is no comprehensive legislation dedicated to combating discrimination. In this regard, the National Human Rights Council (CNDH) made a recommendation in its 2022 annual report³ regarding the development of a general legislative framework against discrimination and its harmonization with relevant laws. Also, the Civil Council for the Fight Against All Forms of Discrimination (CCLD) called on March 29, 2024, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to establish a law clearly defining all forms of discrimination and to adopt in its drafting an approach that takes into account multiple discrimination, including intersectional discrimination⁴.

²Decree of August 29, 1957; Law No. 75-00 on associations, 1958; Law No. 29-38 on the organization and functioning of penitentiary establishments, 1999; Law No. 02-03 on the entry and stay of foreigners in the Kingdom of Morocco, on emigration and irregular immigration, 2003; Law No. 65-99 on the Labor Code, 2003; Law No. 09-09 on combating violence during sporting events, 2010; Penal Code, 2015; Law No. 73.155 amending and supplementing certain provisions of the Penal Code, 2016; Law No. 88-13 on the press and publishing, 2016; Law No. 27-14 on combating human trafficking, 2016; Decree No. 2-17-740 setting the composition and operating procedures of the national commission responsible for coordinating measures aimed at combating and preventing human trafficking, 2018; Framework Law No. 51.17 on the education, training, and scientific research system, 2019; Ministerial Order No. 456-11 on the internal regulations of hospitals, 2011......
³ Recommendation No. 16 of the CNDH, included in its 2022 Report:

https://www.cndh.org.ma/sites/default/files/rapport_annuel_cndh_2022_va_-_digital_0.pdf

⁴ See: https://web.facebook.com/photo?fbid=377043878638056&set=pb.100089973404280.-2207520000

The Moroccan National Olympic Committee is responsible, among other things, for acting against all forms of discrimination in the field of sports and for contributing to the dissemination of the noble values of Olympism. in accordance with Law No. 30-09 relating to physical education and sports⁵;

Order No. 1100-16 issued by the Minister of Youth and Sports, which establishes the standard statutes for sports associations, specifies in Article 7: "The standard statutes of sports associations prohibit any discrimination. Any member of the association is expressly prohibited, under penalty of suspension, expulsion, or exclusion, from inciting discrimination or hatred against a country, a person, or a group of people on the grounds of their national or social origin, color, sex, family situation, state of health, disability, political opinion, union membership, or true or supposed membership or non-membership in a race, nation, ethnicity, or religion⁶".

committed within stadiums and other infrastructures8.

The law 09-09⁷ condemns acts of vandalism or violence sports

⁵ Dahir No. 1-10-150 of 13 Ramadan 1431 (August 24, 2010) promulgating Law No. 30-09 relating to physical education and sports

The creation of local commissions to combat violence in sports venues at the level of prefectures or provinces entrusts the government authority responsible for sports, the federations and sports clubs, and the local commission responsible for combating violence within sports venues, as well as the public authorities and forces and the judicial police officers, each in their respective capacity, with the mission of enforcing the judgments rendered by the court regarding the prohibition of attending competitions and sporting events, in accordance with Decree No. 2-23-1559;

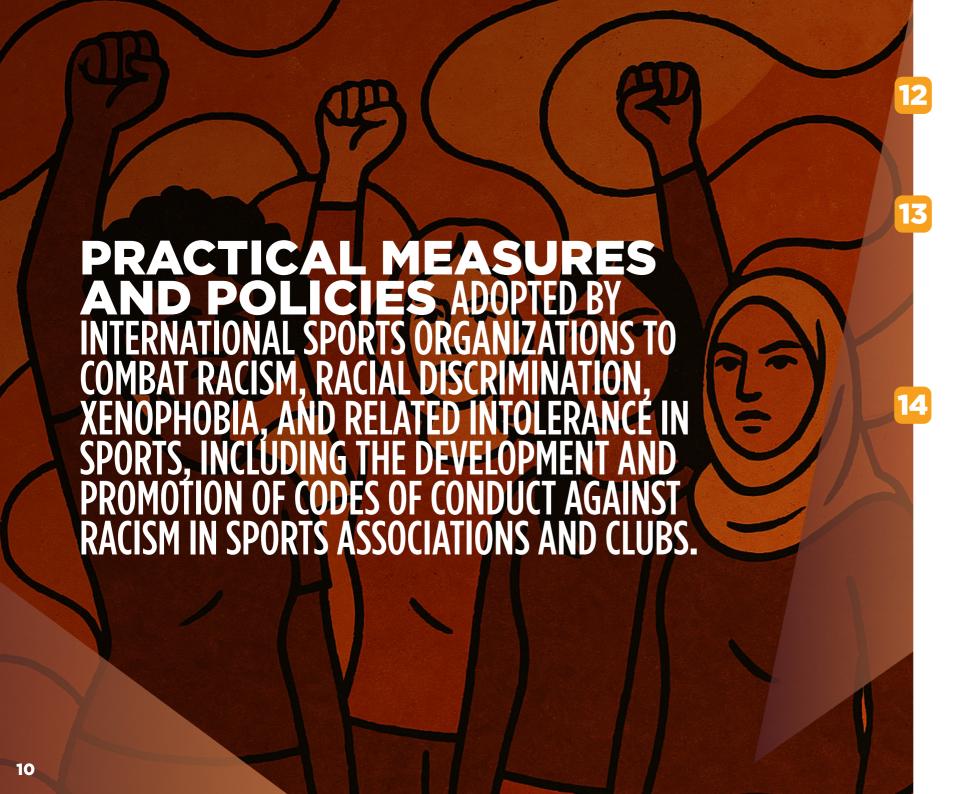
However, there is a lack of programs and concrete actions aimed at eradicating and eliminating racism and forms of discrimination in sports and promoting diversity, including awareness campaigns for supporters, integration of training modules into the curriculum of professional educators. contractual agreements with sports federations under their delegation to get them involved in actions to prevent acts of discrimination, hate speech, combat cyberbullying, and capacity-building programs for the media...

⁶ Decree of the Minister of Youth and Sports No. 1100-16 of 27 Jumada II 1437 (April 6, 2016) establishing the standard statutes for sports

Law No. 09-09 amending the Penal Code, promulgated by Dahir No. 1-11-38 of 29 Jumada II 1432 (June 2, 2011)

⁸ Punishes with imprisonment from 1 to 5 years and a fine of 1,200 to 20,000 dirhams anyone who participates in acts of violence during or on the occasion of competitions or sporting events in accordance with the conditions provided in Article 403 of the same law. The text also provides for a prison sentence ranging from 3 months to two years and a fine ranging from 1,200 to 10,000 or one of these two sanctions against any person who participates in acts of violence, causing injury to others or any other act of violence.

Decree No. 2-23-155 of 9 Sha'ban 1445 (February 19, 2024) establishing local commissions to combat violence in sports venues was published in BORM No. 7279 of 23 Sha'ban 1445 (March 4, 2024).



The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) has developed a Code of Good Conduct for its member associations, encouraging the implementation of anti-racist measures at the national level¹⁰;

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance adopted General Policy Recommendation No. 12 on combating racism and racial discrimination in the field of sport. This recommendation presents a wide range of measures that the governments of the member states are encouraged to adopt to effectively combat racism and racial discrimination in sports¹¹;

The FIFA commits to respecting and promoting human rights, in accordance with Article 3 of its Statutes. Moreover, Goal No. 6 of the FIFA President's Strategic Objectives for Global Football 2023-2027 focuses on social responsibilities, particularly human rights. Moreover, FIFA has partnered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in its fight against discrimination. No Discrimination is a campaign of awareness, action, and education aimed at freeing the world of football from all kinds of discrimination¹².

¹⁰ Union of European Football Associations - UEFA. (2003). Union of European Football Associations - UEFA. (2003). UEFA Code of Conduct: Everyone Against Racism in European Football.

https://editorial.uefa.com/resources/0193-0f8424c23ad7-b2a8b80a2e2f-1000/uefa_code_of_conduct_-_french_edition.pdf

[&]quot;General Policy Recommendation No. 12 of the ECRI - European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)

Moreover, a procedure for reporting racist incidents is now being implemented during FIFA competitions, approved unanimously at the 74th FIFA Congress in Bangkok (Thailand) on May 17, 2024.¹³;

The Royal Moroccan Football Federation (FRMF), in accordance with Article 5 of its Statutes, ensures the respect of the principle of non-discrimination by its members as well as the respect of the ethical rules established by the international sports movement and particularly by the International Football Association (FIFA) and the African Football Confederation (CAF)¹⁴. Similarly, under Article 6, the FRMF specifies that: " Any member of the FRMF is expressly prohibited, under penalty of sanctions that may include exclusion, from inciting discrimination or hatred against a country, individual, or group of people based on their national or social origin, color, gender, family status, health condition, disability, political opinion, trade union affiliation, or actual or presumed belonging or non-belonging to a race, nation, ethnicity, or religion."15

Regarding the disciplinary decisions of the CAF on racial discrimination, the latter remained silent on the racist remarks made by supporters present at the opening ceremony of CHAN 2023, which were denounced by the Royal Moroccan Football Federation (FRMF) in an Official Statement¹⁶. In this sense, the Jury made disciplinary decisions on two aspects opposing the Algerian Football Federation and the Royal Moroccan Football Federation, namely 1. The non-presentation of the Moroccan team in Algeria for the tournament and 2. The statement made during the opening ceremony of the CHAN, completely ignoring the 3rd aspect related to the proliferation of discriminatory chants¹⁷ and racist remarks at the opening of the CHAN 2023¹⁸:

However, at the level of the African Football Confederation (CAF), there is a deficiency in concrete measures and commitments towards the prevention, awareness, communication, and reporting of discriminatory practices;

¹³ See · Inside FIFA

⁴ Statutes of the FRMF: https://frmf.ma/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/STATUTS-FRMF-JUIN-22.pdf

¹⁵ lbi

¹⁶ Communiqué of the FRMF – FRMF

 $^{^{17}}$ See: "Give them bananas, Moroccans are animals" the racist chants of the Algerians.

¹⁸ Decisions of the disciplinary jury of the CAF related to the CHAN



To our knowledge, there are no specific initiatives or projects linking international partners, national institutions, and civil society associations in Morocco aimed at developing and financing awareness campaigns or actions to prevent and combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and the associated intolerance in sports.



The media in Morocco are not open to the diversity of viewpoints and do not take the initiative to present aspects of the game other than the technical details¹⁹. In this sense, they lack the capacity to fulfill their role as a vehicle for promoting human rights and intercultural dialogue. Additionally, they are unable to effectively influence public opinion, raise awareness about misconduct, or encourage sports stakeholders to uphold their commitments to combating all forms of discrimination;

The airtime dedicated to women's sports in news broadcasts and sports programs, as well as the number of reports dedicated to them, did not exceed 13% and 9%, respectively (87% and 91% for men), while female athletes represented nearly 20% (19.4%) of all members of the royal sports federations, according to the Moroccan High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HACA)²⁰;

High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HACA). (2023). Violence in stadiums: what responsibility for audiovisual media? P. 4: https://www.haca.ma/sites/default/files/upload/ETUDE%20SPORT%20VIOLENCE%20synth%C3%A8se%20%20VF%20Last.pdf
OS Study conducted within the framework of the Network of Media Regulatory Authorities (RIRM), Equality Between Men and Women in the Sport Programmes Through Audiovisual Media Services (Spain, Croatia, Andalusia, Catalonia, Morocco, Portugal, Serbia, and France), November 2017, https://www.rirm.org/wpcontent/uploads/02/2018/Study-Gender-Equality-in-sportsprogrammes_2017_english_anglais.pdf

The Prometheus Institute for Democracy and Human Rights and the Civil Council for the Fight Against All Forms of Discrimination (CCLD) conducted a monitoring of the media treatment given to the participation of the Moroccan women's national football team in the 2023 Women's World Cup in Australia: #BreakTheBias. In this regard, 3 cases of discrimination were recorded: the first on a Moroccan radio station that mentioned the pregnancy or the lack of pregnancy planning of the Moroccan footballer Sanae Massoudi. Discriminatory remarks with a double-entry type 2: the criteria of sex and pregnancy²¹.

The second case was detected during the press conference on the eve of the first match of the national women's team. On this occasion, a journalist from an international channel asked the coach and the captain of the Moroccan team, Ghizlane Chebbak: "Are there any homosexual girls on the Moroccan national team?" Not only is it a question that touches on the players' private lives, but this question is laden with very caricatured stereotypes mixing women's participation in football and homosexuality. An inappropriate question based on a prohibited criterion of type 3 discrimination: sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, identified by Moroccan legislation as a crime.²²

Finally, the third case concerns the media coverage by a French outlet regarding the wearing of the veil by Moroccan footballer Nouhaila Benzina²³.

Beyond traditional media, it is necessary to include social networks as essential tools for promoting human rights and combating discrimination in sports. Otherwise, social media will turn into spaces for the outpouring of racist and hateful speech²⁴;

²¹ See: https://web.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=231603593182086&set=pb.100089973404280.-2207520000

²² See: https://web.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=232586029750509&set=pb.100089973404280.-2207520000

²³ See: https://web.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=232637589745353&set=pb.100089973404280.-2207520000

²⁴ See: https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1NWf9DNJek/



Morocco has proposed a Human Rights Action Plan for the FIFA World Cup 2030 as a mega-sporting event, structured around 7 main objectives and 42 normative and operational objectives, covering the phases of: planning, execution, and legacy of the World Cup;

The Moroccan Action Plan includes objective 2, which aims to provide Morocco with an effective ad hoc grievance mechanism, and objective 4, which aims to ensure that acts of discrimination and racism are effectively addressed;

The operationalization of these objectives requires a series of measures, including the operationalization of the Authority for Equality and the Fight Against Discrimination (APALD) and extensive collaboration with civil society;

The Prometheus Institute for Democracy and Human Rights and the Civil Council for the Fight Against All Forms of Discrimination (CCLD) have also developed an Action Plan as part of the "الكرة كونيةو حقـ وق الانسان حتى هي" Initiative, including proposals for concrete measures to promote and protect human rights and combat all forms of discrimination during the 2030 World Cup, by proposing the strengthening of its innovation and adaptability based on a pilot project for the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations.



- N° 16 Rue New York Quartier Océan Rabat
- contact@prometheus.ma
- +212 (5) 37 73 30 73
- www.prometheus.ma

