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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

**Written submission by the New Zealand: Human Rights
Commission, Canada: Canadian Human Rights Commission,
El Salvador: Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos
Humanos, Finland: Finnish National Human Rights
Institution, Georgia: Public Defender's Office, Kenya:
National Commission on Human Rights, South Africa:
Human Rights Commission, The Philippines: Commission on
Human Rights***

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to transmit to the Human Rights Council the written submission by the New Zealand: Human Rights Commission, Canada: Canadian Human Rights Commission, El Salvador: Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, Finland: Finnish National Human Rights Institution, Georgia: Public Defender's Office, Kenya: National Commission on Human Rights, South Africa: Human Rights Commission, The Philippines: Commission on Human Rights**, which is being circulated in accordance with rule 7 (b) of the rules of procedure of the Council (see resolution 5/1, annex) and with the arrangements and practices agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2005/74.

* National human rights institution with A status accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

** Circulated as received, in the language of submission only.



Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities Theme: Participation in sport under article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The GANHRI Working Group on Rights of Persons with Disabilities thanks you for the opportunity to contribute to this interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities and participation in sport.

We welcome the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and its guidance for States on meeting their obligations to facilitate persons with disabilities participation in physical and sporting activities.

We concur that in the context of lower life expectancy, higher risks for chronic or comorbid conditions and overall poorer health outcomes, that unrestricted access to the physical, social and leadership benefits derived from physical activity and sport is particularly critical.

Of particular concern, is how early exclusion begins with pre-school children with disabilities often unable to join in play activities with their peers, and the negative impact of barriers continues throughout education and across the life span. In order to equalise access to the many benefits sport and other physical activity brings.

We urge States:

- (a) to ensure universal design is the default approach for public activity spaces and to also promote and encourage its use by third parties,
- (b) to support and fund modifications for facilities or equipment where equal access is not achieved through universal design,
- (c) to work with persons with disabilities and their representative organisations to develop disability inclusive practice expectations for sport and physical activity bodies and
- (d) to make active demonstration of these practices a pre-requisite for government funding to these entities, and finally,
- (e) to provide equitable funding for disability specific sporting and physical activity bodies.

Physical activity and sport bring people together in common purpose and enjoyment and in doing so break down many barriers. Persons with disabilities people must be able to contribute to, and benefit from, these core pillars of social and cultural life.
