

Thank you, Mr. President

Because it is the first time for me to take a floor in this Committee, I would like to echo congratulations for the election of you, Mr. President, and other member of the bureau. With your good guidance, I believe, we can work for important tasks before us, in efficient and productive manner.

Although sport is rather new topic in the context of human rights, sport and its major events like Olympic and Paralympics Games, have already contributed to the promotion of human rights in many respects. Sport itself promotes to health of individuals, in particular, the youth and children. International sports events extend over tolerance through providing opportunities to meet the persons of different nationalities and ethnicities. Paralympics Games are a vivid picture of wonderful and fruitful accomplishments of the protection and promotion of rights of persons with disabilities. In this context, I would like to refer to the fact, among others, that many athletes have who have wonderful records and awards, visited to the affected areas by the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 to encourage the suffered peoples and children by delivering spirits of sports

Mr. President,

I must confess that I am a football fan and sometimes excited by great performance of players. But as an expert in the field of human rights, I think I should take a sober position. I would also like to draw your attention, to aspects of challenges and difficulties we face in the context of sports and human rights I can refer to the historical lessons that the Olympic Games had been mobilized for political purpose, over-glorification of nations hosting it. We could be easily induced to rather antagonistic feeling with over-heated competition among nations. In my view, the media should highlight more on individual aspects of athletes who paid great endeavor to overcome their weakness and to straighten their strong points, rather than drawing too much attention by the general public to race for the greater number of medals among nations.

These positive and probably negative linkages demonstrate significance of this topic, namely promotion of human rights through sport. By taking this opportunity, I would commend Mr. Levedev, and Mr. Seetulsingh to assume the offices of the Rapporteur and Chair for each of the drafting group on this topic. While I am not a member of the group, I would like to support the works as a member of the Committee.

Thank you.