

Save the Dream and United Nations Alliance of Civilizations UNAOC sign new agreement to empower youth through sport

UNAOC-Save the Dream agreement follows inspirational panel discussion at 7th UNAOC Global Forum



28 April 2016; Baku, Azerbaijan: With the aim of encouraging more organisations to empower young people and intercultural dialogue through the values of sport, the **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)** and **Save the Dream** have signed a new agreement at the **7th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)** in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Following the Save the Dream session at the 7th Global Forum titled *Sports for Peace, Sustainable and Inclusive Development*, the new agreement will see the two organisations work together to develop joint projects - including education workshops, youth seminars and sport programmes - to help empower young people through the values of sport, promote inter-cultural dialogue and encourage better social inclusion and cohesion within society.

The signing is major boost for Save the Dream and follows on from an inspirational panel session this week, which saw several sporting champions share their experiences about how sport has changed their lives and what role it has played for them in promoting peace, breaking down barriers and encouraging inter-cultural dialogue between people and communities.

Aligned with the conference theme *'Living Together in Inclusive Societies: A Challenge and Goal*, speakers, panellists included:

- **Christian Karembeu** – Football legend and winner of 1998 FIFA World Cup, 2000 UEFA Championship and UEFA Champions League.
- **Elkan Mammadov**, Secretary General, Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA)
- **Nelsa Curbelo** – Ecuadorian Peace and Sport activist.
- **Honey Thaljieh** – Save the Dream Ambassador and co-founder and first captain of the Palestinian Women’s National Football Team
- **Osama Abdul Mohsen** – famous Syrian refugee and football coach

H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al Nasser, United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, said:

“We recognize that sports convey values such as discipline, sacrifice, solidarity, courage and ethics. They are more important than ever, particularly in the resolution of significant global issues. In joining forces with Save the Dream, sports will be further emphasized as a crucial mean to facilitate the peace and inclusion of societies.”

Mohammed Hanzab, President of the International Centre for Sport Security and Founder of Save the Dream, said:

“Sport has a unique ability to break down barriers and misunderstandings between people and communities. It promotes peace and unites and inspires many people – young and old - around the world.

“We are delighted to be working with UNAOC on such an important cause and would like to thank them for joining forces with Save the Dream and adding their internationally-recognised knowledge and expertise. With their support, we are determined to continue reaching out to more young people around the world through the power of sport and promoting inter-cultural dialogue between people and communities.”

Save the Dream Executive Director, Massimiliano Montanari, concluded:

“Sport brings together people from different social and cultural backgrounds, from grassroots right up to the elite level. Through the power of its values and its ability to break down social barriers and promote inter-cultural dialogue, it is the perfect tool to facilitate social inclusion amongst youth.

“Our partnership with UNAOC will further enhance Save the Dream’s growing global network, as well as furthering its ability to achieve our objective to promote peace and inspiring and empowering young people through the values of sport.”

NOTE TO EDITORS

Please find attached 1 photo to accompany the release. High-resolution version available upon request.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

About Save the Dream

Save the Dream is an initiative of the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS) in partnership with the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC), supported by technology partner Ooredoo.

Working on a global scale with leading organisations across sectors, Save the Dream implements and inspires activities to empower youth and communities through sport, while promoting inter-cultural dialogue and social innovation through the power of its values.

Save the Dream is also actively engaged in programmes that protect youth from misconduct in sport such as violence, corruption and discrimination.

For more information, please visit <http://www.save-the-dream.org/>

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