

# IF SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT A SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY FOR HOCKEY



# NOC AND IF SUSTAINABILITY CASE STUDIES

The world faces significant challenges across a wide spectrum of economic, social and environmental matters. The Olympic Movement has both an opportunity and a duty to actively contribute to the global sustainability debate in line with its vision of “building a better world through sport”.

With this in mind, and in response to Olympic Agenda 2020, the International Olympic Committee (IOC)

launched the International Federation (IF) Sustainability Project in 2016 to obtain an overview of IFs’ sustainability initiatives – identifying

common topics, challenges and good practices while also sharing information among the IFs. One outcome of the project was a series of case studies illustrating how IFs are actively contributing towards a more sustainable world.

As part of the IOC’s objective to “profile the role of the Olympic Movement in sustainability through the aggregation of information and collective reporting”, it was agreed that the identification and sharing of information contribute to the holistic integration of sustainability and should be continued.

These case studies, which now also showcase the best practices of National Olympic Committees (NOCs), form part of a strategic support system made available to the Olympic Movement through the IOC Sustainability Strategy. Each case study is aligned with one or more of the IOC’s five sustainability focus areas: infrastructure & natural sites; sourcing & resource management; mobility; workforce; and climate. They are also aligned

with one or more of the United Nations (UN) framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide a common framework for

organisations to explain how they plan to contribute to sustainable development and tackle the key global sustainability challenges.

This framework is pivotal for the Olympic Movement – in September 2015, the UN General Assembly confirmed the important role that sport can play in supporting the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

The IOC provides support to NOCs and IFs in establishing, designing and developing their sustainability strategies.



*“Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognise the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.”*

**PARAGRAPH 37, UN 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



Each NOC/IF sustainability project contributes to one or more of the IOC's sustainability focus areas and one or more of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



# HOCKEY'S FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

As an Olympic International Federation, the Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH) is following the UN and the IOC's leadership in recognising sport as an important enabler of sustainable development and peace. As part of its Corporate Responsibility and good governance, FIH has released a new **Sustainability Strategy** in 2022, with the aim of encouraging the global hockey community to contribute positively to the FIH's development goals. It sets a framework for Continental Federations and National Associations to align with this global Strategy and expand it to all domestic leagues, hockey clubs and schools. The Strategy focuses on the three main areas of People, Planet and Prosperity, which are aligned with the corresponding UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Having a positive impact on all PEOPLE involved in hockey:

Strong governance structures at all levels of the sport will allow the FIH to achieve its objective of providing opportunities for everyone to join hockey with no discrimination. FIH is implementing gender equality campaigns and initiatives, including mentoring programmes to open the path for women to take up leadership positions, as well as inclusion and LGBTQI+

policies to drive an universal growth of the sport. The FIH aims to have a positive impact on the communities within which hockey is played. For example, bringing hockey to communities in Africa affected by violence and abuse, or through projects like "Sport for Development", run in every continent. Moreover, the FIH Academy will provide best practice education to the global hockey community through Sustainability workshops and courses.

## OBJECTIVES

- Build a healthy long-term future for hockey, our society and the planet, assuming the responsibility to take action and encouraging all members of the global hockey family.
- Align with the increased focus on sustainability of hockey, the Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement that athletes, fans, the media and the IOC are demonstrating.
- Provide a structure benchmarked against the UN SDGs and recognised by the IOC, within which the FIH can place existing activity and set targets within identified areas for sustainability initiatives and projects.



## BENEFITS

- Illustrate the decision-making processes of the FIH towards its stakeholders regarding the long-term sustainable growth it aims to achieve for hockey.
- Increased trust from the UN, the IOC, athletes and from society at large, demonstrating that hockey makes a positive contribution globally and is on the right path.
- Every member of the global hockey family can understand how to contribute to a sustainable future for the sport: from players to coaches, administrators to officials, fans and volunteers, commercial partners and suppliers, all can contribute to a positive change.

*"There was a pressing need for us to develop a Sustainability Strategy and to build a healthy long-term future for hockey. It is part of our Corporate Responsibility and as our athletes, fans, the media and the IOC are increasingly focused on the sustainability of sport, it is the right thing to do for hockey and the planet to celebrate existing sustainability projects and to provide leadership and alignment to the global hockey community".*

**TAYYAB IKRAM, FIH PRESIDENT**

## Hockey activities leaving the smallest possible footprint on the PLANET:

Some of the most important environmental initiatives in the last years have included building the first non-watered turf for an international competition, the Hockey5s Lausanne. The goal is to keep improving dry surfaces and implement more each year, significantly reducing the use of water in hockey.

Another priority is reducing travel for events and offsetting the emissions from air travel for international competitions, as well as encouraging all the FIH staff, Continental Federations and National Associations to adopt everyday habits that reduce their carbon footprint (like cycling to work).

Moreover, the FIH is working on ways to reduce the plastic used in hockey, recycle and use recycled plastic, and find end-of-life solutions for artificial turf pitches and hockey equipment. A great example was the Tokyo 2020 bio-plastic turf, made from 60% of sugar cane derived plastic. This new type of pitch also brought

significant reductions in water needs: 66% less compared to the one used in the previous Olympic Games.

## Ensuring the future PROSPERITY of hockey:

In order to maintain its Olympic status and secure funding linked to Sustainable Development Goals for hockey, the FIH must grow awareness and attractiveness of the sport to generate more fans, increased media/broadcast coverage, and thus increased income to invest back into the development of the game.

The global growth of hockey will be achieved through continuous innovation to find new economically viable solutions to deliver events, adequate cost management, and an event portfolio that balances income generation with geographic distribution.

A great example was building the first ever top class hockey facility in Uzbekistan, aimed to be a catalyst for the sport's growth in the country, focusing on youth development and training programmes.