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Sport for development and peace

Letter dated 29 November 2024 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It is our great honour to convey to you the highlights of the fifth World Nomad Games, held under the patronage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization from 8 to 13 September 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan. Recognized on the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices maintained by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Games were aptly described by the President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, as the “Olympics of nomads”.

Attracting over 2,500 athletes from 89 nations across all regions of the world, the Games united participants and spectators alike in a spirit of friendship and respect. They unequivocally demonstrated the strength of global cooperation in addressing issues affecting communities globally.

The Games showcase 21 highly skilled sports, celebrating the rich and enduring heritage of nomadic cultures of Central Asia and beyond. The Games also play a crucial role in promoting the values of peace, resilience and cooperation across diverse ethnic and cultural landscapes, representing a common humanity with a shared destiny.

Furthermore, the Games hold profound importance for Indigenous Peoples worldwide, offering a platform to celebrate, preserve and share their ancestral traditions and identities. By doing so, they promote the cultural resilience of Indigenous communities while raising awareness about the challenges that they face, such as the preservation of language and culture. This inclusivity reaffirms the Games as a space where Indigenous voices contribute to the shared cultural heritage of humanity.

The Games, in addition, transcend mere athletic competitions, representing a profound cultural festival that celebrates the rich heritage of nomadic culture. They facilitate a vibrant exchange of traditional forms of music, dance, arts and crafts that promote mutual respect and trust among civilizations at a time when they are eroded by the forces of globalization and modernization.



We would like to acknowledge and commend the main role played by Kyrgyzstan in initiating the biennial World Nomad Games, in 2014, followed by two others, in 2016 and 2018. Today, the Games have become a major and much-anticipated international event, and we welcome the sixth Nomad Games, scheduled for 2026 in Kyrgyzstan on a much larger scale. The system of rotating locations fosters a shared sense of ownership and pride among the nations of Central Asia and beyond, with a deep commitment to celebrating this intangible heritage.

We, the proud signatories of the present letter, represent participants from various regions of the world. We are passionately determined to support this noble initiative and the values that it represents for the international community. We will work in conjunction with the United Nations, which can play a central role in its promotion and recognition, and envisage the Games' signifying the ideals championed by the Summit of the Future.

In light of the above, we kindly request your assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 12.

(Signed) Yashar T. **Aliyev**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan

(Signed) Valentin **Rybakov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Belarus

(Signed) Zsuzsanna **Horváth**
Permanent Representative of Hungary

(Signed) Kairat **Umarov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan

(Signed) Aida **Kasymalieva**
Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic

(Signed) Ankhbayar **Nyamdorj**
Permanent Representative of Mongolia

(Signed) Vassily A. **Nebenzia**
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation

(Signed) Aksoltan **Ataeva**
Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan

(Signed) Ulugbek **Lapasov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan
