The reality for much of the world, our reality has shifted drastically, and in many instances aligned since the onset of the Corona virus pandemic. Due to this unforeseen global crisis, we have all had to adapt and make daily life adjustments. However, we are all witnessing many people coming together to contribute beautiful acts of kindness as the world is uniting to ensure we keep our physical distances, that precautionary measures are taken and where health is made a crucial priority: TO PROTECT HUMAN LIFE.

In light of our new reality, United Through Sports (UTS) has been given the opportunity to reflect, to acknowledge and to brainstorm towards the new and potentially revolutionary path ahead.

We would like to acknowledge and thank each and every person who has supported, contributed and shared in our vision and mission to use the powerful platform of sports towards social change. To the IOC and particularly President Thomas Bach for his support and for the granting patronage towards the annual UTS Festival as a part of SportAccord Convention. To the AIMS and UTS President Stephan Fox for your vision and team spirit, as well as the entire AIMS family for your continued support and our home-base of strong alliances. To SportAccord for all the support under the leadership of Raffaele Chiulli and GAISF for their financial support on the Gold Coast. The UTS Family would like to show our gratitude to Ban Ki-Moon for being an active supporter and sharing in our vision and mission, to His Royal Highness Prince Feisal Al Hussein for his dedicated and heartfelt support on and off the field of play, to IPC President Andrew Parsons for your dedication, your support and contribution, to Francesco Ricci Bitti President of ASOIF for supporting, speaking and joining the youth at our festival, to FISU President Oleg Matytsin for personally dedicating time to support and speak at our annual conferences, to Dr Chungwon Choue who has been a wonderful supportive speaker and contributor towards UTS events worldwide, to Sir Craig Reedie for delivering thoughtful, valuable support during our opening conferences.

Let us also give our respect and gratitude to the late SportAccord and GAISF President Patrick Baumann who was our firm supporter since the day of our inception, to every International Federation and all the National Federations we have had the honour of working with taking an active role in our festivals, to the NOC’s, Sport Ministries, UNESCO, Peace and Sport, Right To Play, UN Women and our partners Generations For Peace. Importantly, to every single athlete, performer, artist, youth and child who contributed towards our events (particularly the migrant, refugee, different ability and indigenous youth) and made so many smile and we are here because of you!
Making the impossible possible, is key in the vision and mission of UTS. Forming strong alliances using the platform of sports towards giving children a chance to flourish and grow through their journey of life is paramount. The 2018 SportAccord Convention saw the kingdom of Thailand open their golden gates to the leaders of the sports world.

It was also to be the first time that UTS, an AIMS initiative would partner up with SportAbility’s Julia Govinden to deliver a festival that brought the “sport into the accord.” Thailand’s Olympic champions stood proudly with the special guests of the festival, a young group of refugee youths who were given special permission to leave the Tak Province camps and participate in all the festival activities. These forgotten youths brought awareness to society and reminded us all of our duty to protect and nurture them. The festival was about fun, friendship, equality, opportunity and sports giving youth and particularly challenged youths the chance, to be part of a unique event and to get actively inspired, experiencing the variety of sports.

The mission of the festival was and is to leave a legacy behind for the youth and UTS was determined that this event would not be a spark, but a warm burning flame of hope lasting far beyond the closing of the festival and SportAccord 2018.

In cooperation with IFMA, EX Sports and with the support of Right To Play, the “Bangkok Urban Youth Tournament” was born. This social initiative took to the Bangkok urban streets and brought a purpose to hundreds of challenged youths.

The magic of this tournament was the blend of youth, some of whom came from more privileged backgrounds, others, migrant youths, those from challenged socio-economic status’ or youths with different abilities. In this tournament, at the Bangkok Urban Facility refurbished using donations from SportAccord 2018, everybody is equal. Children were invited to join in the tournament which included; Futsal, 3X3 Basketball, Sepaktakraw, Muaythai, Chess and Badminton and each month, a tournament event was held bringing the youth, their friends, family and their communities. SportAccord’s Managing Director Nis Hatt also made a special visit from Europe to attend the opening event and thanked the youth for their contribution and inspiration.
The BUYT final was held on the 28th July and brought more collaborations and support from the sports world. Held in honour of His Majesty the King’s birthday celebrations, the renowned World Taekwondo National Demonstration Team flew over from Korea where the roots of the sport are nurtured, to demonstrate the elegant martial art of Taekwondo. World Taekwondo President Chungwon Choue was also present himself showing his support, Thailand's IOC representative Khunying Patama was present and mingling with the youth, President of the International Jujitsu Federation, Mr Panagiotis Theodoropoulos travelled from Greece to show his dedication towards the event and where the final also welcomed the International Testing Agency (ITA) represented by Olya Abasolo and Marco Petric who both came on board to promote clean sports and provide access to education. Many ambassadors from the various embassies came to support with their families making the event truly universal. Since the final of this event, the refugee and migrant youths have been granted special permission to leave their camps and homes to attend future UTS events and this initiative lives on where the next tournament will hopefully be held later on this year.

“Every child should have the right to play, to have access to opportunity from which to flourish and to feel a part of something. Building friendships, having fun and having a chance to dream on the playing field of life.” -Julia Govinden, CEO UTS

WHERE WE ARE

Currently, we were all meant to be together celebrating the annual SportAccord Convention and our sincere acknowledgment and respect must be given to both the Beijing LOC and to Lausanne, Switzerland. We may not be able to celebrate physically together this year, but together we will overcome all challenges and where health and safety are and will always be paramount.

Our stance at present is with a focus on connecting people around the globe and giving a platform to share thoughts, ideas, knowledge, talents OPENING UP THEIR HOMES AND THEIR HEARTS to one another where unity in diversity prevails. We all have 24 hours in our day, but how do we spend them? This is a time for change, A CHANCE TO REVOLUTIONIZE AND TO GROW. We have the OPPORTUNITY TO FORGE HEALTHIER RELATIONSHIPS with ourselves, practise a flexible approach to our circumstances and be willing to adapt so we may all come back stronger and more united than ever before.

CURRENT CAMPAIGNS

For UTS the Covid-19 crisis is a time to get active, get creative and to take action. Where THE POWER OF WORDS CAN CHANGE MINDS and visual imagery can inspire and motivate, it is vital that we all contribute in our capacity.

United Through Kindness: Animation Campaign

The Corona Virus Pandemic raises issues, diverse reactions, communication and introspection. We are focusing on bringing added awareness, appreciation and education concerning the effects that the virus has on human behaviour such as racism and discrimination. Our aim is to encourage acts of kindness, empathy and to understand that we are stronger when we work together and we are all affected by Covid-19 in one way or another.

Campaign Collaborations

We have begun to join forces with sport entities to encourage a healthy active lifestyle. Now is the time for federations and the sport community to encourage, inspire and motivate everybody to look after their health and with much time spent at home, to keep moving. A healthy body and a healthy mind go hand in hand. To see one of our an active collaborations:
UTS will be sharing the latest news on an upcoming event where the International Sports Community will have the opportunity to get activated, as UTS will launch an online campaign which will certainly bring smiles. All International Federations will be invited to participate and will function to promote a healthy lifestyle, the sharing of hopes and dreams. With AIMS President Stephan Fox recently made UTS President during the last AIMS Council meeting in Lausanne, our UTS Family are dedicated and motivated to do our utmost to contribute towards a future of positive change where together, we can do so much more. We do not want humankind to simply survive, but to thrive.

LETS CONTINUE TO BE UNITED THROUGH SPORTS

YOURS SINCERELY,
THE UTS FAMILY

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