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. These case studies, which now also showcase National Olympic Committees’ (NOCs) best practices, form part of a strategic support system given 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 the definition, design and development of their sustainability strategies.

Paragraph 37, UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

“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
FIA Launches Guidelines for Sustainable Events of All Sizes

The Federation Internationale de l’Automobile (FIA) has introduced a practical guidebook which provides guidance and support to FIA stakeholders and members to increase their sustainability performance in delivering events.

The “FIA Introductory Guide for Sustainable Events” has been designed to provide event organisers with the technical support and guidance to identify simple and clear actions for improving their sustainability performance.

The focus is on small actions that can lead to significant changes allowing for a practical approach that can be applied to events of all sizes.

The guidelines are also in close alignment with the requirements of the FIA’s Environmental Accreditation Programme. The application of the guidelines is meant to lead the user to achieve a two-star level, the second of a three-tiered accreditation system.

The guidelines are structured around six key impact areas:

- **Energy use.** Including identifying the sources, measuring use and targeting.
- **Air Quality & Transport.** Commonly considered the main source of emissions, the attention is centred on reductions and efficiency.
- **Waste Management.** Focusing on reducing, reusing and recycle in order to build a successful waste management plan.
- **Water & Biodiversity.** Providing access to fresh drinking water to participants and preventing any potential harm or disruption to natural habitats while protecting and educating on its importance.

With the introduction of their “Introductory Guidelines for Sustainable Events”, the FIA aims to:

- Provide a user-friendly guide supporting event organisers of all sizes with simple actions that make events more sustainable while improving efficiency and saving costs.
- Help preserve the positive public image of motorsport events and motorsport in general.
- Lead stakeholders’ journey from small actions into a comprehensive environmental management system (FIA Environmental Accreditation programme).
Sport organisations can gain credibility by acting responsibly within the circular economy.

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**THE GUIDELINES AIM TO HELP SPORT ORGANISATIONS TAKE THE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS DEVELOPING A SUCCESSFUL SUSTAINABLE EVENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. THROUGH THE CONCRETE AND DIRECT ACTIONS OUTLINED HERE, WE WANT TO ENGAGE MORE MEMBER CLUBS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN THE FIA ENVIRONMENTAL ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME AND IN OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES.**

MR. JEAN TODT, FIA PRESIDENT

**EVALUATION**

The FIA’s guidelines for sustainable events were launched in October 2020 to increase the interest and action of its stakeholders towards meeting their sustainability goals. They are focused on delivering practical and convenient information that all events can adopt with immediate impact. The guidebook is intended to be kept under constant revision to incorporate newly emerging best practice in order to remain approachable and maximise its impact.

**BENEFITS**

- The creation of guidelines for sustainable events can serve both externally and internally, guiding the organisation of all types of events in a more sustainable way.
- Having a guide for sustainable events can serve as an entry point for more advanced programs, such as the FIA Accreditation programme, driving both awareness and practical action points.
- FIA can share the environmental awareness in a user-friendly way which helps the FIA to fulfil its required goals and environmental targets.

**Supply Chain.** By recognising the power over the supply chain, organisers can align with suppliers and sponsors that follow the sustainable vision of the event.

**Social Responsibility.** Driving social and economic benefit to local and regional communities, involving its people, businesses and authorities.

While FIA encourages organisers to implement and track as many as possible, it also acknowledges the context of each event is critical to the relevance of the actions. Event organisers are advised to create an action plan and strategy that is specific to each event.

FIA, a signatory of the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework since 2020, invites all event organisers to measure their greenhouse emissions, plan for reductions, and offset unavoidable emissions.

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