

## **CISM And International Peace: Challenges and Opportunities**

**By**

**Mr Subhrajit Chanda**

Asst Professor, Jindal Global Law School, OP Jindal Global University, Sonipat, India  
&

PhD Research Scholar, GD Goenka University, India

Email: [schanda@jgu.edu.in](mailto:schanda@jgu.edu.in)

Phone: +919432282141

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4340-9952>

**Prof. Dr Seyed Mohammad Hosseini**

Department of Law, Faculty of Literature and Humanities, Gonabad University, Gonabad,  
Iran

Email: [hosseini.s.m@gonabad.ac.ir](mailto:hosseini.s.m@gonabad.ac.ir)

Phone: +989153529173

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3028-3828>

### **Abstract**

Peace is the ideal that humanity has been pursuing since the beginning of creation. Absence of war is one of the main components of peace. But the absence of conflict is not the only way to establish peace. Sports and sports games are one of the most important components that are not only effective in shaping and creating peace, but also have a great impact on maintaining, establishing, and continuing it. Sport reduces the sense of revenge and hatred between different races and nations towards each other and is replaced by reconciliation and brotherhood. Sport has also been able to build the capacity to reduce tensions and conflicts between ethnicities and nations and even states. In recent decades The International Military Sports Council (**IMSC**) or Conseil International du Sport Militaire (**CISM**) by holding sports competitions between the world's military tried to build and maintain peace. This study examines the role of world military games in creating, establishing and maintaining peace with a descriptive-analytical method. After discussion and conclusion, it has been concluded that the role of CISM in shaping, maintaining and establishing peace is evaluated as effective and efficient.

**Key Words:** CISM, International Peace, International Organization, Sport Games.

### **1. Introduction**

Sports is one of the most engaging topics in the world today that different countries deem fit to deal with in different ways. Engaging with sports is not just limited to being professional or amateur athletes or other sports personnel, but also as fans, audience, and supporters of different sports all over the world. Due to the international nature and the breadth of its engagement across societies and communities, governments all over the world look up to sports as a means of bringing people together. Many ministries and sports departments have been established, and a lot of money is spent on sports: building stadiums, complexes and sports clubs, as well as providing sports equipment and clothes or watching sports matches. Exercise has ensured and improved the physical health, security and mental health of the community. Sport influence's public opinion, and so governments try to achieve their goals through sport and use sport as a form of public diplomacy. Sports is a safe space where political and ethnic

grudges fade away and they are replaced by respect and love, which is nothing but peace and stability.<sup>1</sup>

The founder of the modern Olympic movement and sports theorist, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, sincerely expected sports grounds and stadiums to be a place where glorious competitors compete with each other to achieve to olive branch as a symbol of peace (Goodarzi *et al.* 2012, p. 60). Sports and sporting competitions can prevent conflicts that disrupt peace. They can be very effective in creating and strengthening peace and tranquillity after a conflict. In this regard, attention to the international games held by the International Military Sports Council (CISM) is significant. Article 2 of its Statute states that one of the purposes of holding military sports competitions is to achieve to international peace (Statutes of International Military Sports Council (*Statutes of International Military Sports Council (CISM)* 2010, p. Art 2). The motto of the council is "Friendship through sport", which displays a message of peace and friendship between the member states. The main question raised in this study is to what extent can world military competitions promote peace and tranquillity for the international community.

Peace in a general sense means the absence of war. This minimal interpretation of peace has been interpreted by lawyers as "negative peace" (Askary, Poriia Khosravy 2017, p. 241) in the sense that peace is a state in which war does not rule. Peace had the same meaning in international relations before the establishment of the United Nations. But along with the concept of "negative peace", one must mention the concept of "positive peace", in which, in addition to the absence of war, justice is needed to create peace. Positive peace, according to a simple definition, is "respect for human rights, justice and non-violence in international relations, whether structural violence or direct violence" (Askary, Poriia Khosravy 2017, p. 241). In today's world, peace is not only seen as a need of human beings and societies, but also as a right for human beings to live in an atmosphere full of peace and tranquillity". (Ashrafi 2015, p. 85) The United Nations has expanded the concept of peace to include "the establishment of an international order based on justice." Therefore, from this point of view, not only the lack of war does not mean the establishment and continuation of peace, but also any action that is in conflict with justice may cause the threat to peace and its violation (Ashrafi 2015, p. 85). In fact, in the positive sense, peace means "calm conditions, carefree and free from anxiety, no conflict, and in general, the existence of comprehensive conditions is safe" (Jamshidi 2018, p. 5). An important concern of the international community after the end of wars and armed conflicts is the establishment of peace and, more importantly, the establishment of sustainable peace. Transition from war to sustainable peace has always been difficult and complicated. Often, or at least in half of the cases, we are witnessing the reverse of armed conflicts, both international and domestic. The creation of such a peace needs to be consolidated and strengthened.

## 2. Research Methodology

Research methodology describes the methods and techniques of collecting the data which has been used in the study (Jansen & Warren 2020). Primary and secondary are two kinds of data that are equally important for the study. This study has been undertaken by conducting quantitative research. In the following research paper, secondary data collection is

---

<sup>1</sup> Of course, in a few cases, it has been observed that holding sports competitions is a provocative and anti-peace factor. Honduras and El Salvador declared war on each other in 1969 after a football match and field and stadium incidents, and attacked each other with tanks, artillery and aircraft. This war, which later became known as the football war, killed about 3,000 people and left thousands homeless.

applied to conduct the study. Secondary data has a significant role in the research, it helps in drawing a conclusion on the existing data available (Bhasin 2020).

For the collection of secondary data, books and journal articles are given more preference in this study, consisting in-depth study of existing literature on the topic “*CISM and International Peace: Challenges and Opportunities*”. For this study, reliable data has been taken from national and international studies. Literature review of credible journal articles has been taken for the study, their findings has been analyzed and concluded in a useful manner.

Moreover, secondary data is also collected by credible websites and news articles. For accurate results of the study, the researcher has taken data from the report of “*UNOSDP Annual Report 2014*”. Relative legal statutes have been mentioned for getting more clarity. Sports have a significant role at the global level hence, data has been collected from different countries.

### 3.Literature Review

(Goodarzi *et al.* 2012) Studied the relationship between sports and politics by examining sports incidents and states' policies towards it and concluded that sports have minimized political tensions between states. (Eltiyaminia and Mohammadiazizabadi 2015) studied the position of sports as one of the tools for achieving international peace by states at international relations through a descriptive-analytical method and concluded that sport and sports competitions are an important factor in achieving international peace. (Faghihisatari and Rezairad 2007) research shows that sport has reduced crime and some states have expanded the use of sport among the population, especially the young due to their lack of inclination to crime and social corruption.(Keim 2006, Nikshaar 2008) discusses the role of sport as an opportunity for community development and peace building in South Africa and concludes that the methods and processes of holding sports competitions are important in making peace through sport. (Parry 2012) by Examining the role of sport in maintaining peace, has been concluded that sport not only has the capacity to create international peace, but also the ability to maintain peace.(Spaaij and Burleson 2012) discussed the role of peace in the London 2012 Olympics and concluded that the role of peace in this tournament was small and understanding of peace and peace-making remains poorly developed within the peace-making discourse espoused by the Olympic movement.(Cárdenas 2012) examined the role of sport in development and peace and concluded that sport is a good tool for resolving disputes in times of conflict and poverty alleviation to achieve peace. (Giulianotti and Armstrong 2011) have examined the role of sports and the military in maintaining peace as peacekeepers and have concluded by evaluating the role of International Military Sports Council (CISM) that it plays an important role in maintaining peace through competitions.

#### 3.1 Sports games as a tool for achieving international peace

The expansion of communication and interaction between nations in various forms and levels helps to maintain, establish and promote world peace, and sport is one of the best tools in this regard, because it has an international language and brings people together regardless of any borders or restrictions. With sports, messages of peace and friendship are easily conveyed (Zargar 2015, p. 26) One of the influential factors in creating and consolidating international peace is holding international competitions. Whether these competitions are specifically designed for peaceful purposes or for a different purpose is what has divided the opinion of experts ( see: Cárdenas 2012; Giulianotti and Armstrong 2011; Keim 2006; Lea-Howarth 2006; Parry 2012) Whatever be the reason, it is undeniable that in today's world, sport has increasing

interaction with domestic and international politics and an impression has been made that sport can enhance the level of development, creating the condition of peace and settling disputes. The big sport events like the Olympics and the World Cups can bring countries together and lead to close and friendly relations among the countries (Eltiyaminia and Mohammadiazizabadi 2015, p. 149)

The United Nations has also considered sport as a tool for peace and its establishment and perpetuation and has referred to this in Resolution 58/5 of the General Assembly (A / RES / 58/5). The United Nations as the most important and largest international organization in the world, in 2001, established "The United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP)". UNOSDP based in Geneva and supported by a Liaison Office in New York, is the entry point to the United Nations system with regard to the use of sport as a tool in the pursuit of development cooperation, humanitarian aid and peace-building efforts. UNOSDP assists the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace (*UNOSDP Annual Report 2014* 2014, p. 4). In 2013, the UN General Assembly declared April 6 as the International Day of Sport for Peace and Development, emphasizing the impact of sport on improving education, human development, developing healthy lifestyles, and creating world peace. The United Nations believes in the role of sport for peace and development: Sport has the potential to change the world. Sport should be a powerful tool in the service of social cohesion, gender equality and youth empowerment.

## **4. The Achievements of CISM at International Peace**

Maintaining international peace is one of the goals of the UN Charter. In fact, one of the reasons for the establishment of international and also regional organizations after the Second World War, is to help create a friendly atmosphere between states and provide the conditions for international peace. One of the most important tools for creating and maintaining international peace has been sports and international sports competitions. The CISM as an international organization, has been able to play this role to some extent by holding sports competitions between the military of the states of the world.<sup>2</sup> The council has been able to play a fundamental role in promoting and maintaining peace between nations in the conduct of sports competitions between the world's militaries (Giulianotti and Armstrong 2011, pp. 379–394).

The CISM Military World Summer Games are a multisport event organized every four years, one year before the year the Olympic Games are organized. It is an event that is based on the CISM and Olympic spirit, without political, religious and racial consideration nor discrimination. After the success of the CISM World Summer Games, CISM decided to gather all its member nations during its first Winter Military World Games in Aoste (**Italia**) from 20 to 25th March 2010. The CISM Military World Winter Games are a multisport event organized every four years, one year before the year the Winter Olympic Games are organized. It is an event that is based on the CISM and Olympic spirit, without political, religious and racial consideration nor discrimination.

### **4.1 Sports games as a tool for achieving peace**

Sports and games have significant place in CISM to build peace across the world. The idea of fitness, exercise, sports and health is always recognised by the CISM and constitutes

---

<sup>2</sup> At the time of writing, 140 countries are members of CISM. For more information, see: <https://www.milспорт.one/cism/members-nations>

integral part of the council. The goal of CISM is to achieve international peace through sports and games. They are focussed to change the atmosphere of the council from military to sport in order to achieve the benefits that a sport person have. This may include an affinity for healthy competition, collaboration in gaming and sports events, sporting activities and sportsmen spirit (*Statutes of International Military Sports Council (CISM) 2010*). It is believed that such a change would be beneficial for the fraternity members. The goal of CISM is to promote the sports in armed forces throughout the world. By promoting and encouraging sports the council aims at boosting the cohesion and confidence among its soldiers. They are determined to frame their soldier in to military fit and build higher degree of motivation. Through international competition they are determined to identify, train and motivate the young and fresh talent and also to provide them with the best experience (*CISM Europe The International Military Sports Council 2016*). Their secondary purpose behind changing the atmosphere from military to sports is to attract talented sports associated people to join military services.

Looking through history, it is evident that sports have always played a crucial role in bringing peace among nations. CISM has been recognized as the only organisation to bring the militaries of different nations together and enabling them to share their experiences in the sports ground and not in the battles(Kyröläinen and Urbancq 2017). Other international organisations have also outreached and linked up with the CISM for its sports spirit.

#### ***4.2 Putting the Motto "Friendship through sport" at the forefront***

One of the main goals of CISM is peace through sport. To achieve this, friendly relations should be established between the armed forces. This is a strong motivation and a great opportunity to strengthen and expand contacts between male and female athletes so that they can make positive social changes through the power of exercise. Sport has historically played an important role in creating the peace process. In this regard, CISM is a unique organization that can bring together military personnel from all countries to exchange their experiences in the field of sports rather than the experiences of war and conflict.

This has led to the position of CISM among international organizations. "CISM, linked with both sports system and Armed Forces, when taking into consideration its potentialities, can be an important player in the world and sport peace movement"(Medeiros Nóbrega and Mataruna-Dos-Santos 2019, p. 73). The motto of CISM, which is "friendship through sport", has always been the driving force of CISM in the development of friendly relations between the armed forces of member states. They compete in a friendly way. the soldiers who participating in these competitions are members of the armed forces of their home states and they may even reach the highest level of military position in their country, and this friendly spirit will prevail in the competitions. At the same time, this motto will be very important when it is stated by military athletes. Soldiers who have met on the battlefield in the past, will face each other in CISM-sponsored Competitions that have friendly atmosphere. This is one of the existential philosophies and ideals of CISM. This has been reflected even in the statements of CISM officials and even representatives of CISM member states.

#### ***4.3 Changing the atmosphere: from military to sport***

Another unique feature of the CISM is the change of atmosphere from military to sports. This means that although all participants in the CISM sports competition are military staff of the member states, but during and even after the competition, the spirit of sports is created among participants with friendship. In addition, all military athletes are subject to the specific rules of each sport in which they have participated. Therefore, in these competitions, the rules of war and conflict do not prevail, but all are subject to the rules of sports. Participants must be



familiar with the rules of the sport and act within the same framework, and in case of objection or protest, they must express their objections in the mechanism of the rules of the sport. All of these conditions facilitate the provision of a peaceful and friendly atmosphere that can bring together soldiers of all ranks and military positions in this sport atmosphere and compete in a healthy sport.

An environment which promotes and prioritise the spirit of games and sports will help its members to achieve the following:

- They will possess high degree of consciousness and awareness towards a fit and healthy lifestyle.
- The person who is actively involved in sports would be in a position to expand their circle through organic process and a readymade channel by making new friends and relationships. Specially among military and armed forces this leads to making strong and solid equations.
- This also helps in reducing the stress and tension among the people.
- The engagement of a person in sport activities on a regular basis helps them to develop valuable attitudes. These includes dealing with failure, anger and loss.
- They value and understand the concept of growth, inclusion, perseverance and how to graciously accept win.
- They will understand how to give everything in situation when odds are not stacked in their favour.
- These interactions spark the spirit of learning and the desire to learn together.
- They develop competitive spirit to do better by co-ordinating with people in who have accomplished the goals in their own respective sports.

CISM seeks to achieve peace through sports and games which helps to create friendly relations. They give so much importance to sports and games due to its nature of bringing positive social change(Canadian forces morale and welfare services (CFMWS ) 2021). They see it as a great opportunity and strong motive to increase their contacts.

The International Boxing Association has tied hand with the CISM by entering into a Convention of Collaboration. They decided to build camps and academies to conduct joint training to their members. Their convention also includes a plan to open a museum. It is considered as an historic moment and achievement for both the civilians and well as the military world. This was a great initiative on the part of both organisations to increase their membership. Boxing as a lifestyle is popular among the young generations of the world and therefore would help in increasing the member by participation from different nations (The Times of India 2021). Development was always the hot topic for CISM and hence received good amount of attention by the council. In the year 2021, they are going to organise 58<sup>th</sup> Military World Championship in Moscow. Through this convention the organisations are planning to organise tournaments and other international sports competition in the memory of people who died while serving in military. The funds raised through such convention will be used by them to help the refugees to get the sports equipment along with the basic necessities such as food and shelter (Palmer 2021). Through this initiative this can be seen that the organisation is dedicated to change the atmosphere form military to sports

Football is a very special and significant sports activity. People in Africa used to play football even during the times of conflict. Even during the civil war in Angola people were

seen playing everywhere. They Play football either by using balls made of plastic or sometimes with balls made out of unimaginable materials such as fishing net, old T-shirt or a handbag. They would feel such materials with grass and play with them, treating it as a whole. Just like football, even soccer is a very famous Sport in Angola (CISM, 2021). Henning Mankell claimed that work and never clean the sport of soccer in Bangalore. During the times of war, the soccer fields were usually free from the control and reach of military and were included in the militarised zones. The face-off between the teams were intense but also helps with them to involve in friendly battles which was a great help against the horror that was reaching all around the world. It is observed that people who play soccer together are not likely to go out and kill their partners.

The main initiative of CISM to promote sports is to encourage the sports activities as a means to achieve peace and solidarity. The elite soldiers are compared with the elite athletes in order to demonstrate their physical performance. Sessions are conducted by the CISM to demonstrate the studies conducted in the countries which are member of CISM in the field of physical performance of the soldiers(Kyröläinen 2017). the very important issue which was covered by the CISM was to explain how injuries can be prevented with the help of physical training. In order to develop the physical fitness of the military personnel, they believe that sports are very important as it tests the operational fitness and the health-related fitness of the individuals.

An environment which promotes and prioritise the spirit of games and sports will help its members to achieve the following:

- They will possess high degree of consciousness and awareness towards a fit and healthy lifestyle.
- The person who is actively involved in sports would be in a position to expand their circle through organic process and a readymade channel by making new friends and relationships. Specially among military and armed forces this leads to making strong and solid equations.
- This also helps in reducing the stress and tension among the people.
- The engagement of a person in sport activities on a regular basis helps them to develop valuable attitudes. These includes dealing with failure, anger and loss.
- They value and understand the concept of growth, inclusion, perseverance and how to graciously accept win.
- They will understand how to give everything in situation when odds are not stacked in their favour.
- These interactions spark the spirit of learning and the desire to learn together.
- They develop competitive spirit to do better by co-ordinating with people in who have accomplished the goals in their own respective sports.

CISM seeks to achieve peace through sports and games which helps to create friendly relations. They give so much importance to sports and games due to its nature of bringing positive social change(Canadian forces morale and welfare services (CFMWS ) 2021). They see it as a great opportunity and strong motive to increase their contacts.

The International Boxing Association has tied hand with the CISM by entering into a Convention of Collaboration. They decided to build camps and academies to conduct joint training to their members. Their convention also includes a plan to open a museum. It is considered as an historic moment and achievement for both the civilians and well as the

military world. This was a great initiative on the part of both organisations to increase their membership. Boxing as a lifestyle is popular among the young generations of the world and therefore would help in increasing the member by participation from different nations (The Times of India 2021). Development was always the hot topic for CISM and hence received good amount of attention by the council. In the year 2021, they are going to organise 58th Military World Championship in Moscow. Through this convention the organisations are planning to organise tournaments and other international sports competition in the memory of people who died while serving in military. The funds raised through such convention will be used by them to help the refugees to get the sports equipment along with the basic necessities such as food and shelter (Palmer 2021). Through this initiative this can be seen that the organisation is dedicated to change the atmosphere from military to sports

Football is a very special and significant sports activity. People in Africa used to play football even during the times of conflict. Even during the civil war in Angola people were seen playing everywhere. They Play football either by using balls made of plastic or sometimes with balls made out of unimaginable materials such as fishing net, old T-shirt or a handbag. They would feel such materials with grass and play with them, treating it as a whole. Just like football, even soccer is a very famous Sport in Angola (CISM, 2021). Henning Mankell claimed that work and never clean the sport of soccer in Bangalore. During the times of war, the soccer fields were usually free from the control and reach of military and were included in the militarised zones. The face-off between the teams were intense but also helps with them to involve in friendly battles which was a great help against the horror that was reaching all around the world. It is observed that people who play soccer together are not likely to go out and kill their partners.

The main initiative of CISM to promote sports is to encourage the sports activities as a means to achieve peace and solidarity. The elite soldiers are compared with the elite athletes in order to demonstrate their physical performance. Sessions are conducted by the CISM to demonstrate the studies conducted in the countries which are member of CISM in the field of physical performance of the soldiers (Kyröläinen 2017). The very important issue which was covered by the CISM was to explain how injuries can be prevented with the help of physical training. In order to develop the physical fitness of the military personnel, they believe that sports are very important as it tests the operational fitness and the health-related fitness of the individuals.

#### ***4.4 Increase membership: A Sign of Success***

The cornerstone of CISM was laid by five European countries. But At the time of writing, 140 state are members of CISM. Of these, 47 are from Africa, 19 from the Americas, 32 from Asia and 42 from Europe (CISM -Members Nations of International Military Sports Council 2021). in the law of international organizations, the expansion and increase of members is one of the signs of that international organization in achieving its main goals. Because if an international organization fails to increase its initial members, or the process of increasing the number of members in that international organization is erosive or faces many challenges, it indicates the inability of that organization to achieve its goals. The CISM, as an international organization, has been able to increase its membership 28 times, which is a testament to the realization of the main goal of this organization, which is to establish international peace and friendship through sports.

CISM is one of the largest and popular multidisciplinary organisations across the globe. It currently has around 140 members which are categorised on the basis of continents and



names (CISM -Members Nations of International Military Sports Council 2021). The organisation was originally developed by five European countries, but it is now followed by 46 respected members. Various sporting events have been organised by in order to bring members of different countries together. For this purpose, they organise more than 20 military World Championship programmes annually. They include more than 30 sports activities and organise regional and continental competitions(GAISF 2021). The Winter Games, Military Sports Games and World Cadet Games are example of this. With the help of these games, they aim to introduce the CISM to the world population. The long-term goal of CISM in to use sports and sports activities to bridge the gap among nations due to the cultural and language barriers. This will help them to bring the nations together and increase the members of the organisation.

CISM believes that by bringing together the soldiers on the field of sports would encourage them to improve their quality of performance and the sports science. They have always encouraged the Motto of friendship through sports to bring together the members from different countries. CISM has realised that it is important to collaborate with the other institutions in order to work for the cause of peace(CISM – International Military Sports Council 2021) CISM Entered in collaboration with the people-to-people committee in order to improve the relationship with other countries so that all the common people of the world could be involved for a similar course. The people-to-people committee stating that while government might have some Ulterior motives but the common people of the nation and even across the globe exchange mutual interests. The interaction of common people results in genuine friendships. A good sportsman inherent the capacity to encourage fair play and have a potential to become lay ambassadors having good will. After the establishment of CISM, they have found cooperation from the international Olympic Committee, the United Nations, different sports federations, the general Association of international sports Federation etc. in the year 1965, CISM authorities visited Pope Paul IV , he stressed that how important sports is in order to develop sense of universality and mutual understanding among nations.

In order to make international recognition and acceptance, CISM in the year 2006 introduced CISM Day Run. This event was organised to promote sports practices in military context and aimed to bring together every sports community. The committee which was bought together were Olympic Committee, Sports Federation and International Institutions which were in contact with the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces. After 2006, this day was celebrated every year on 18th February across the world and an event was organised in order to celebrate the anniversary of the council as the date of its establishment. In 2019, this day was names as the International Day of Military Sports (CISM, 2021). They wanted to show the world about their presence and the value and importance of sports for the military activities. Later on, they promoted and organised CISM Day Run For Peace and also other activities related to sports by involving both the military and civilians together. These activities included jogging, skiing, walking, carrying the flags of friendship together for promoting sports and peace.

In the Republic of Korea, CISM organised 6th World Military Games from 9th October to 12th October 2015 in order to strengthen the power of peace and sports worldwide(Ha *et al.* 2015). The aim of organising this game was to promote and encourage friendships amongst the personnel of military throughout the world. CISM has the following vision behind organising these games:

- Creating solidarity and friendship through games and sports.
- Encouraging harmony and communication in order to achieve world peace.

- Promoting humanity through peace and honour.

By increasing the members in the organisation, CISM would have great support and cooperation from other countries, and this will help them to achieve their goals and objectives in an efficient manner. The awareness related to the CISM activities, their work and accomplishment has helped the organisation to attract more and more members. This helps the council to invite ideas and opinions of different people who come from different background (OCR, 2021). Once a country becomes the member of CISM, it has to adhere to the rules and regulation of the organisation. Increase in membership helps the organisation to work towards a common goal through the support and cooperation of other states. Increasing membership does not only benefits the organisation but also encourages and boosts the morale of the individuals who participate in the activities and sports championship of the CISM.

Friendship through sports has always been a significant leading force by CISM. They have always tried to bring together nations and develop friendly relations with them and the armed forces of different nations. In reality they have given this phrase “friendship through sports a much meaningful and wider meaning.” They believe that people who have lived and evolved through friendships and their experiences are better to perform well in the battlefield with their supposed opponents (Houlihan and Zheng 2015). This would also help them to use their experiences and nurture their memories while working in any future occupation even if it is related to military or not.

#### ***4.5 Bringing members closer together***

One of CISM's initiatives to build and maintain peace and friendship is to hold friendly matches in countries that have recently been liberated from war and conflict. CISM is working towards several activities on behalf of peace and sport, like CISM Day Run for Peace, CISM Futsal Cup for Peace, CISM Judo East Tournament, and others. In 2006, for example, CISM friendly matches between the former Republics of Yugoslavia were held in Belgrade. The purpose of this competition was to reduce the differences between the respective nations. This project was started in order to smooth a fixed differences and disputes among the concerned nations and counted on the participation of Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro. Slovenia and Croatia did not take part, because it was not included in their annual plan. The dimensioned project gave huge contribution to friendship among Armed Forces of above-mentioned countries. The success of the project has already been internationally recognized. In 2009, in Monaco, the CISM Futsal Cup for Peace was one of the nominees' projects for “The Peace and Sport Awards 2009”, which was conducted by Peace and Sport, l'Organisation pour la Paix par le Sport, under the high patronage of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco (CISM Futsal Cup For Peace 2021).

With the express purpose of marking the presence of CISM worldwide, the year 2006 saw the birth of CISM DAY RUN. The event aims at promoting the practice of sports in the military context, bringing together all community of Sports, which includes Sports Federations, Olympic Committees, and other International Institutions in contact with the Armed Forces and Ministries of Defence. Since the first edition, in 2006, this special day is held every year on 18 February worldwide, as the most important event created to celebrate the anniversary of the Council and remind the date of its establishment. Totally integrated in CISM solidarity principles, this event also intends to contribute to world peace and became a tradition between CISM-family worldwide. For this reason, in 2017, the event was renamed as CISM DAY RUN FOR PEACE. Up to now, 83 member countries have already organized at least once a sport activity for celebrating the date. In 2019, CISM decided to name the 18th of February, date of

our anniversary, as the INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MILITARY SPORTS. The goal is to show the world in an even stronger and more comprehensive way the presence of CISM worldwide and the importance of sports for the military and for their activities, organizing and promoting the CISM DAY RUN FOR PEACE or any other sport activities, outside or even inside the barracks, with military and civilians together worldwide, jogging, walking, skiing, carrying on together the flags of friendship, sport and peace(The International Day of Military Sports 2021).

In the last years, the situation has slightly changed. There are more and more solidarity actions organized by our member nations, who organize training camp, send or invite coaches in exchange for knowledge, provide and coordinate transportation and even pay commercial flight tickets. All based either on CISM membership and “Friendship through Sport” or often based on bilateral contracts apart from CISM. Very close contacts with IOC and FIFA, as well as with other international organizations, will very soon lead to concrete actions in the solidarity field with the aim of pooling together the means and the material efforts to benefit the less advanced countries. With its network, manpower, infrastructures, and its capacity of initiative, CISM wishes nonetheless to give, within and outside CISM, a significant contribution in terms of solidarity. Therefore, the CISM Board of Directors during a meeting in Cameroon, December 2006, approved a new definition as the following: “Solidarity in CISM is a means to promote sustainable development to strengthen less privileged CISM member countries, in order to create equal opportunities to all CISM nations for their participation in CISM events”. As it is reflected on CISM Statutes and Mission Statement, Solidarity is the second pillar of our organization. Consequently, this General Secretariat will increase our activities in that field, making it more visible for CISM country members and for other organizations (Solidarity in CISM - International Military Sports Council 2021).

Another huge event which brought together members and was completely devoted to peace among the nation was the fourth CISM Military world games which was conducted in India. The game was held in Hyderabad in the year 2007. This was a historic moment when 6000 soldiers and other representatives and also 101 armed forces gathered in the sports field together for the first time (CISM, 2021). Such games were the perfect occasion in order to bring peace and harmony for the International Forum on Sports for peace. As a result of which a declaration known as Hyderabad declaration was produced. After this in March 2008, the secretary general and the special Project Officer of CISM met the representatives from CCOE. CCOE is a multinational, NETO accredited institution which provides its period and civil military cooperation for the military and civilian customers or members(GAISF 2021). During the agreement it was agreed by the parties that projects related to sports are a significant and excellent tool which can help to promote peace.

During these activities contact was made by CSM with the permanent supporter of sports and peace initiative known as the international Federation of football Association. FIFA gave financial support to the CISM in order to expand and develop its activities and for solidarity purposes. This amount was invested by the CISM into the “open the gates and bring the children in” projects. Every initiative helped the CIA seem to unite and bring together nations (Prontenko, Kostiantyn Grihan, Grygoriy Medvedeva, Iryna Okhrimenko *et al.* 2019). The support given by FIFA, and the armed forces and National football Federation was a great help to the CISM. In 2010 the first CISM Winter military world games were organised in which around 700 athletes and 40 nations participated (CISM, 2021). Environment of peace was shared by these individuals in the historic and ancient city of Aosta. Recognised that CISM plays a very important role in the sports for peace movement. The institutions also agreed that

partnerships among nations through use of sports can be a very important in order to develop tools in conflict areas. In the year 1993, Canada by including Taekwondo became the first country to include women category in sports. The first Women in CISM week was hosted in Kingston in the year 2008 (Giulianotti and Armstrong 2011). All of these initiatives and activities by bringing together nations and members from different countries enables the CISM to bring about peace and harmony among these nations. By establishing mutual and bilateral agreements among nations and other organisations, CISM aims at providing effective and good practices to be implemented in the sports programmes to bring peace.

#### ***4.6 Participation in competitions: a symbol of peaceful state***

One of the functions of sports diplomacy in the international arena is to gain prestige for states. Gain prestige and reputation is a term used in various domestic and international literature and is usually defined differently in each of them. Trying to gain status is an accepted motivation for the actors of a society (Sabbaghian 2016, p. 137). In many countries, sport has been used directly and openly in the form of political propaganda to gain prestige and support for its particular political regime. In other words, sport, both domestically and internationally, is often seen as a means to gain specific political privileges, often linked to foreign policy. In this regard, the officials of the member states have considered their presence in these sports competitions as a proof of the peace-loving nature of their respective government.

#### ***4.7 Peaceful programs and activities***

In 2005, CISM organized the seminar “Sport and peace” which was held in Mantova, Italy. Representatives from more than 22 countries, International Organizations, IOC, UN, UNICEF, Sports Associations, CISM Member Nations and organizations directly dealing with peace, health, sport and education attended the Seminar. All participants agreed that sport had become a significant tool to help the rebuilding of societies in post conflict situations. In October 2007, during the 4th CISM Military World Summer Games in India, CISM organized in partnership with the IOC, the Indian Olympic Association and the Organizing Committee of the World Games, an International Forum on Sport for Peace, with the theme: “Sport, a concrete fundamental tool to promote Peace”. Through their lectures, the different authorities presented their experiences and expectations concerning the usage of sport as a tool to educate and help the process of reconstruction in post conflict situations.

On the 20th of March 2010, within the framework of the Winter Games, CISM organized in close cooperation with IOC, the International Forum on the subject Sport for Peace – “From positive initiatives to systemic integrated programs”. This extraordinary event, together with previous initiatives (Mantova 2005 and Hyderabad 2007), have successfully demonstrated that sport (and especially military sport) is a fundamental tool capable of promoting peace and may be useful for peacekeeping missions worldwide. All participants and institutions recognized that CISM and the Armed Forces are important players in the Sport for Peace Movement and agreed that partnerships are the most relevant learned lesson that can concretely foster the use of sport as a development tool in conflict areas. All participants of the Forum have signed a declaration entitled “CISM Aosta Call-to-Action 2010 on Sport for Peace” (CISM Today 2021).

According to this declaration, CISM has called on all members and their senior military officials to commit to the following:

- Formally establish a bilateral and/or mutual agreement in order to effectively implement Sport for Peace programs.



- Reinforce among all CISM nations that it is important to continue promoting sporting events for their military personnel and encouraging the participation in CISM activities.
- Establish and increase close relationships between the military and civilian society, allowing both to expand and enhance the visibility and importance of military sports activities worldwide.
- Call to all Institutions represented in Aosta and all CISM Member Nations, to join each other and effectively foster programs aimed at the development of the educational, social and sportive activities, especially those that could be easily integrated in peacekeeping operations coordinated by the United Nations.
- Undertake to develop programmes for sharing good practices with IOC, Peace and Sport Organization, UN Office on Sport for Development and Peace, NATO and other relevant partners(*CISM AOSTA CALL TO ACTION 2010 ON SPORT FOR PEACE 2010*)

## 5. Conclusion

Given the importance of sports in the health of the community, sports and sports competitions have an important role in maintaining peace and its establishment. Sports competitions have been able to reduce tensions between ethnicities and reconcile different cultures, which is one of the most important effects on maintaining peace. In the international arena, sport has been able to bring countries closer to each other and prevent conflicts between them and even, countries have tried to hold international sports competitions to show their peace. The CISM has played a leading role in building international peace and friendship between nations due to its unique position, and one can hope it will continue to do so in the future.

## References

- Ashrafi, D., 2015. New Interpretation on Peace and International Security and Its Influence on the National Sovereignty. *Public Law Research*, 15 (42), 83–109.
- Askary, Poriia Khosravy, Y., 2017. International Law and the Necessity & Importance of Peace Studies. *International Relations Research*, 6 (22), 237–266.
- Bhasin, H 2020, Sources of Secondary Data and its Advantages and Disadvantages, viewed 29 October 2021, <<https://www.marketing91.com/sources-of-secondary-data/>>.
- Canadian forces morale and welfare services (CFMWS ), 2021. CISM [online]. Available from: <https://www.cfmws.com/en/AboutUs/PSP/CFSports/International/CISM/Pages/default.aspx>.
- Cárdenas, A., 2012. Exploring the use of sports for peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Colombian association for research and social study of.
- CISM -Members Nations of International Military Sports Council [online], 2021.
- CISM – International Military Sports Council [online], 2021. Available from: <https://www.ilsf.org/about/recognition/cism/>.
- CISM AOSTA CALL TO ACTION 2010 ON SPORT FOR PEACE, 2010. Italy.
- CISM Europe The International Military Sports Council, 2016.
- CISM Futsal Cup For Peace [online], 2021. Available from: <https://www.milспорт.one/events/sport-and-peace#meancre4> [Accessed 21 May 2021].
- CISM Today [online], 2021. What is CISM? (Vision and Mission). Available from: <https://www.milспорт.one/cism/what-is-cism> [Accessed 26 Apr 2021].



- Eltiyaminia, R. and Mohammadiazizabadi, M., 2015. Consequential and Catalytic Role of Sport in Creating Conditions of Peace Conditions among the States. *Political and International Research (PIR)*, 7 (22), 149–179.
- Faghihisatari, A. and Rezaiirad, M., 2007. Crime prevention through sport and physical activities. *Crime Prevention Studies Quarterly*, 1385 (1), 75–96.
- GAISF, 2021. International Military Sports Council [online]. Available from: <https://gaisf.sport/members/international-military-sports-council/>.
- Giulianotti, R. and Armstrong, G., 2011. Sport, the Military and Peacemaking: history and possibilities. *Third World Quarterly*, 32 (3), 379–394.
- Goodarzi, M., Asadi, H., Khabiri, M., and Dostii, M., 2012. Sports and politics. *mojehghalam publication*.
- Ha, J.-P., Lee, K., and Ok, G., 2015. From Development of Sport to Development through Sport: A Paradigm Shift for Sport Development in South Korea. *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, 32 (10), 1262–1278.
- Houlihan, B. and Zheng, J., 2015. Small states: sport and politics at the margin. *International Journal of Sport Policy and Politics*, 7 (3), 329–344.
- Jamshidi, M.H., 2018. Explanation of Peace in the Farabi's theory of Medina al-Mussalemah (Peace City) and Kant's permanent peace theory. *Contemporary Political Investigations*, 8 (25), 1–28.
- Jansen, D & Warren, K 2020, What (Exactly) Is Research Methodology?, viewed 29 October 2021, <<https://gradcoach.com/what-is-research-methodology/>>.
- Keim, M., 2006. Sport as opportunity for community development and peace building in South Africa. In: Y. Vanden Auweele, C. Malcolm, and B. Meulders, eds. *Sport and development*. Leuven: LannooCampus, 97–106.
- Kyröläinen, H., 2017. International Military Sports Council (CISM) &#x2013; Sport Science Commission. *Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport*, 20, S59.
- Kyröläinen, H. and Urbancq, A., 2017. The role of the International Military Sports Council (CISM) in science development. *Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport*, 20, S59.
- Lea-Howarth, J., 2006. Sport and conflict: is football an appropriate tool to utilise in conflict resolution, reconciliation or reconstruction. Unpublished MA dissertation, University of Sussex.
- Medeiros Nóbrega, L.F. and Mataruna-Dos-Santos, L., 2019. CISM contributions to peace. In: *CISM 2019 international symposium*. Quito.
- Nikshaar, A., 2008. The role of sports in the development of world peace. *growth of physical education*, 8 (3), 50–53.
- Palmer, D., 2021. AIBA and International Military Sports Council announce 'huge plans' after signing agreement [online]. Available from: <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1108307/aiba-military-boxing-deal>.
- Parry, J., 2012. The power of sport in peacemaking and peacekeeping. *Sport in Society*, 15 (6), 775–787.
- Prontenko, Kostiantyn Griban, Grygoriy Medvedeva, Iryna Okhrimenko, I., Yuriev, Stanislav Dzenzeliuk, Dmytro Kuznietsova, Olena Yavorska, Tetiana Dovgan, Nadya Tkachenko, P., Khatko, A., and Mozolev, O., 2019. Development of cadets' physical qualities during various sports activities. *Contemporary dilemmas: Education, Politics and Values*, 7 (4), 1–18.
- Sabbaghian, A., 2016. Sport Diplomacy. *Journal of Culture-Communication Studies*, 16 (31), 132–151.
- Solidarity in CISM - International Military Sports Council [online], 2021. Available from: <https://www.milспорт.one/events/programs#meancre2> [Accessed 21 May 2021].

- Spaaij, R. and Burtleson, C., 2012. London 2012 and beyond: concluding reflections on peacemaking, sport and the Olympic movement. *Sport in Society*, 15 (6), 905–913.
- Statutes of International Military Sports Council (CISM), 2010.
- The International Day of Military Sports [online], 2021. Available from: <https://www.milспорт.one/events/sport-and-peace#meancre3> [Accessed 21 May 2021].
- The Times of India, 2021. AIBA to collaborate with International Military Sports Council [online]. Available from: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/boxing/aiba-to-collaborate-with-international-military-sports-council/articleshow/83028212.cms> [Accessed 28 May 2021].
- UNOSDP Annual Report 2014, 2014.
- Zargar, A., 2015. Sport and International Relations: Conceptual and Theoretical Aspects. *Political Science Quarterly*, 11 (31), 7–48.