



GLOBAL AGENDA
FEMALE EMPOWERMENT
AND LEADERSHIP IN SPORT
2020 - 2021

1 WHY FEMALE EMPOWERMENT AND LEADERSHIP IN SPORT?

An independent survey carried out by SIGA demonstrates that, in 2019, the percentage of women's representation at the highest executive organs of the 32 internationally recognised sports federations was merely 18.3%.

This means we still have a long way to go to achieve true diverse representation within the governance of Sport!

2 WHAT IS SIGA'S ROLE?

In pursuance of its efforts to enhance good governance at all levels of Sport, SIGA is committed to promoting a gender equity governance culture, where access to leadership roles in sports organisations is determined, not by gender, race or any other discriminatory factor, but by merit².

3 WHAT HAS SIGA DONE TO DATE?

Since its inception, SIGA has been a strong advocate for gender equity and female leadership in Sport. To this end, a series of impactful initiatives have since been developed. This included, among other initiatives:

- Consecrating gender equity, diversity and inclusion within the decision-making structures of sports organisations as a bespoke universal standard;
- Launching and implementing the SIGA Global Mentorship Programme for Aspiring Female Leaders in Sport, in 2018 and 2019; and
- Organising a series of Special Sessions on Female Leadership in Sport around the globe.

4 WHICH INITIATIVES SIGA WILL DEVELOP OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS?

There is an urgent need to instigate real cultural change and transform SIGA's "Gold Standard" from words on a page into a meaningful and long-lasting practical reality. To this end, SIGA is announcing its **Global Agenda on Female Empowerment & Leadership in Sport** today, 07 June 2020, symbolically coinciding with the anniversary of the inaugural match of the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup.

Composed of a series of projects and thought leadership initiatives, this Global Agenda is to be implemented over the course of the next 12 months, starting today, in order to accelerate progress in this field.

THE SIGA 2020/2021 GLOBAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME FOR ASPIRING FEMALE LEADER IN SPORT

Initially announced in 2018 at the SIGA Special Session held in Paris on the eve of International Women's Day, SIGA will launch a worldwide, action-orientated mentorship programme to support and encourage future female leaders in Sport to reach their potential and achieve their potential.

1. The SIGA independent survey was presented on 28 June 2019, during the third edition of our Special Session on "Female Leadership in Sport", hosted by the Sorbonne University, in Paris.

2. This doctrine is enshrined in the [SIGA Universal Standards on Good Governance in Sport](#), specifically on Standard 3.3, together with the principles of inclusivity and diversity of the board of directors or equivalent organs.

Open to women aged 24 or over, the programme is designed to promote future leaders in sport and foster greater gender diversity within the industry, in line with [SIGA's Universal Standards on Good Governance](#). Teaching vital leadership skills and creating insightful experiences, the programme will see the chosen candidates spend one business week with their assigned mentors.

Given the current challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme will be carried out in a brand-new digital format.

I SIGA SPORT INTEGRITY WEEK

The first-ever Sport Integrity Week will be organised by SIGA between 07 and 11 September 2020.

The SIGA Sport Integrity Week will involve a wide range of awareness raising, coalition building and thought leadership initiatives over the course of the coming year. Female empowerment, leadership, diversity and inclusion in Sport will be key components of SIGA's activities planned to enhance good governance in sport and accelerate reforms in the sector.

I THE SIGA 2020 SURVEY ON FEMALE REPRESENTATION ON INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS

This Survey will identify the percentage of women who are members of the highest executive organ (i.e. executive committee or equivalent body) of the 32 internationally recognised sporting federations. It will also enable us to ascertain what has changed, or not, since 2019, and provide objective grounds for a public reflection on the matter.

I WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO MAKE A WOMAN PRESIDENT IN THE SPORTS WORLD? CURRENT CHALLENGES & FUTURE PERSPECTIVES – “4 QUESTIONS FOR 4 LEADERS” – SPECIAL SESSION:

As part of the **SIGA STRIVES Action Plan**, SIGA launched in March 2020 a series of new thought leadership initiatives. Designed to foster knowledge sharing and instigate reform, this editorial piece will provide readers with the opportunity to analyse the main trends and streams of opinion regarding the most pressing integrity issues facing the sport sector and the wider industry.

One of the editorial initiatives developed by SIGA was **4 Questions for 4 Leaders**³.

In support of its Global Agenda to promote and empower female leaders in sport, a **4 Questions for 4 Leaders - Special Edition** will be developed, on **“What Will it Take to Make a Woman President in the Sports World? Current Challenges & Future Perspectives”**.

Four inspiring female leaders in sport will be invited to share their views on four specific questions. Answers will be published by SIGA and Inside World Football, allowing the sporting community and the wider public to compare, contrast and make their own judgements.

I WOMEN IN ACTION

Woman in Action is the title of the digital conference series that SIGA will produce over the next twelve months.

Broadcasted on the SIGATV channel on YouTube, the series will showcase female leaders in action on key topics related to SIGA's reform agenda, including Good Governance in Sport, Financial Integrity in Sport, and Sports Betting Integrity, and Youth Development and Child Protection in Sport.

4. Questions for 4 Leaders” is one of SIGA's editorial initiatives developed in partnership with Inside World Football (see #SIGASTRIVES Boosting Measures # 06 and 09, released on 31 March and 08 April 2020)

I #SIGAWOMEN

The SIGA Members and Committed Supporters are the lifeblood of the world's largest Sport Integrity collation. Within each of these organisations there is a myriad of women who have pierced the gender glass ceiling and render exceptional services to Sport every day.

With their example and dedication, they inspire other women and girls to achieve their ambitions and pave the way towards a culture that truly values gender equity, diversity, and inclusion in the board room and beyond.

#SIGAWomen will tell the story of these exceptional professionals, to showcase their achievements and pay homage on behalf of SIGA.

I NEW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Gender equity is a shared global responsibility that can only be achieved through collaboration.

SIGA invites all likeminded organisations and individuals willing to be directly involved in the implementation of this Global Agenda.

5 KEY DATES

- 17 June 2020:** **The SIGA – Soccerex Webinar Series: “Football for All: Gender, Diversity and Inclusion”**
- 07-11 September:** **SIGA Sport Integrity Week**
- 04 March 2021:** **Special Session on Female Leadership in Sport**

NOTE

Further announcements regarding SIGA's specific thought leadership events and initiatives will be made on a regular basis.

The SIGA Global Agenda for Female Empowerment & Leadership in Sport is part of #SIGASTRIVES Boosting Measure 22, released on 26 May 2020

