Today, our people and our world are facing challenges and threats on a diverse scale never seen before – from climate change to civil unrest, non-communicable diseases, isolation, oppression, poverty, terrorism and the threat of nuclear war. These are not problems unique to any one demographic, geography, belief system or political status. These are global problems, faced by all of us, our friends, our neighbours, our families and our children. Without immediate and effective action, generations to come will not enjoy the world as we have done. The world they will live in will be a less harmonious world than ours. This is not only unfair, but unacceptable... and preventable.

Sport for All has the power to make a change, to make the world a better place and to contribute to solving the world’s problems like little else can. All people are made to play and play is understood by all people. Sport for All builds bridges and bonds between people by crossing boundaries of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, socio-economic status, geographic location and ability level. It increases physical, mental and social health, reduces environmental and economic costs, preserves cultural diversity and creates peace. Sport for All is a basic human right and a powerful tool to combat many of the world’s greatest global challenges.

TAFISA’s Mission 2030 is to create a better world through Sport for All for the next generation to enjoy. There is a strong body of research, white papers, policy papers and guidelines which make the case for Sport for All and physical activity, aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It is however clear that further efforts are required to achieve the Mission 2030, and this is not fully achievable single-handedly.

In 2021, 84 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced, 80% in countries or territories affected by acute food insecurity and malnutrition. More countries experienced war and violent conflict than at any point in almost 30 years and conflict remained the primary driver of terrorism. Clearly in today’s world we are experiencing an increased need to forge peaceful and cohesive societies, and this is something which we must all contribute to.

Sport for All is inclusive and partnership driven. Knowledge, experience and resources are readily available and generously shared, regardless of demographics, chosen physical activity, target group or competition level. At an individual level, participation in Sport for All is strongly linked to community cohesiveness and social inclusion. It fosters a sense of belonging and values of respect, friendship, tolerance and discipline. It occupies what otherwise might be idle time, reducing potential detrimental pursuits such as conflict, crime and violence. Sport has proven itself to be an effective tool in building peaceful bridges between people and communities.

The participants of the 27th TAFISA World Congress strongly support the significant role of Sport for All in creating harmony and peace across nations and confirm their commitment to contributing towards building bridges between groups, communities and nations when reconciliation or mediation is required. The participants of the 27th TAFISA World Congress strive to create friendships in times of recovery and healing and will continue to utilise Sport for All to connect people. The participants of the 27th TAFISA World Congress call for immediate action, with concrete aims and activities to support those objectives.