

# Marseille Declaration



## Marseille Declaration

*Universal Fitness Innovation & Transformation - UFIT Launch October 2015. A Commitment to Inclusion by and for the Global Fitness Industry.*

The leaders of the fitness industry, and all those serving, operating and shaping the sector, as signatories to this Declaration and in recognition of the need to increase opportunities for engagement of people with disabilities therein, **by this Declaration undertake to advocate, innovate and transform practice with the intention of enabling the full and effective participation of people with disabilities in the fitness sector.**

*This Declaration represents a commitment to inclusion by and for the Fitness Sector and is in full alignment with **UNESCO's International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport 2015** (of which UFIT and the UNESCO Chair are Champions) the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006.*

### What is the Marseille Declaration?

The Marseille Declaration represents a global social change movement supported by UNESCO, and promoted by the UNESCO Chair and its signatories. The Declaration is a mechanism to encourage the diverse players who shape the sector, to actively advocate and act to transform the sector globally into an advanced inclusive sector that actively, willingly and positively seeks to provide increased opportunities for quality participation of people with disabilities therein.

The UNESCO Chair 'Transforming the Lives of People with Disabilities their Families and Communities through Physical Education, Sport, Recreation and Fitness' over a three year period developed a programme specifically designed to empower the fitness sector to improve inclusivity in keeping with the goals of the UN and UNESCO. In keeping with the UNESCO Charter (2015) the UFIT programme and resources:

- enable and support the exchange of good practice in the fitness sector
- provides a programme experience designed to influence organizational cultural change
- fosters capacity development
- promotes advocacy
- and embeds quality indicators and other monitoring and evaluation tools based on inclusivity principles.

This programme entitled UFIT- Universal Fitness Innovation & Transformation launched in Palais Du Pharo, Marseille on October 19<sup>th</sup> 2015 in association with IHRSA's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual European Congress. At this launch it was agreed that the Marseille Declaration would follow as an instrument to further the momentum of the UFIT programme as a global sectoral change enabler.

## Who Should Sign the Marseille Declaration?

As a Social Change Movement the Declaration should be signed by all those who believe in the power of the Fitness Sector\* to act as a key societal conduit through which we can foster greater social inclusion of people with disabilities and other marginalised groups.

(\*The 'Fitness Sector' herein incorporates health clubs, fitness clubs, community recreation and leisure facilities and amenities, aquatic facilities, green gyms, sports clubs.)

- I. The **Sector Skills Alliance** that collectively shape the sector are herein called on in a top down and bottom up manner to be signatory to the Declaration. Thereby the declaration seeks signatories from, Federations (Nationally and Internationally), Club and Facility Operators, Fitness Professionals, Equipment Manufacturers and Suppliers, Architects and Designers, Training Providers, Educational Institutions, Employers Professional Bodies and all Allied Sector Agents and Agencies.
- II. The Declaration seeks the support of **Disability Advocacy groups and Disability Service Organisations** and individuals with disabilities who would like to avail of the service offerings and career offerings within the sector.
- III. All those related **Physical Activity, Sports and Disability Sports organisations** whose members or alumni make use of the fitness sector and its offerings for social, rehabilitative, leisure, fitness performance and maintenance ends. The declaration herein asks for these bodies to include equality, diversity and integration clauses in their constitutions.
- IV. As key advocates and influencers the Declaration calls on **Sports Stars, Celebrities and Public Figures Internationally** to support the Marseille Declaration. We particularly seek the endorsement of those persons of note who see the opportunity to access the Fitness Sector and its offerings as a fundamental human right, regardless of ethnic origin, gender, age, disability, cultural and social background, economic resources, gender identity, or sexual orientation.
- V. **Public Authorities** at local and national levels are encouraged to support the exchange of good practice, education programmes, capacity development, advocacy, as well as the design and application of indicators and other monitoring and evaluation tools based on inclusivity principles set forth in UNESCO's International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport.
- VI. **Social Enterprises and Trade Unions**
- VII. Global Bodies such as **UNESCO, United Nations, UNICEF, WHO, OECD, OSCE and NGOs** operating towards the attainment of better societies, social justice, equality and human rights.
- VIII. The **Global Public** who wish to support the declaration.

**Signatory:**

**Signatory:**

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**On Behalf of the UNESCO Chair**

**On Behalf of**

**Date:**

**Date:**