



NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY  
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

# Honorary Award

Mr Frank Fredericks



**CITATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONFERMENT OF**

**Honorary Degree,  
Doctor of Philosophy in Sport Management  
*(Honoris Causa)***

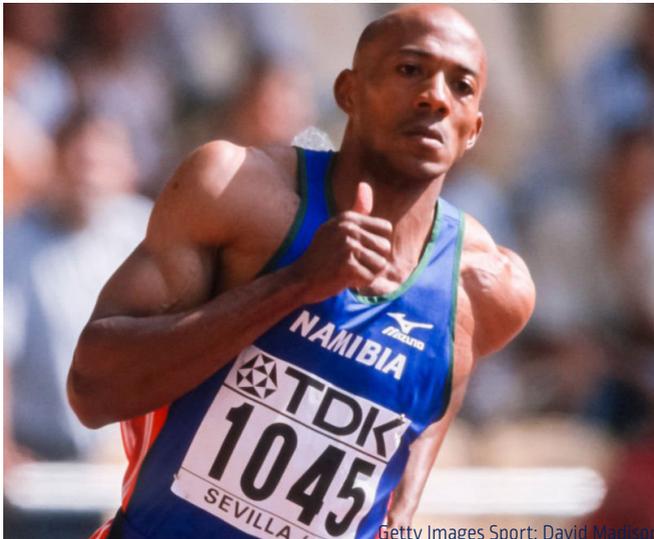
Upon

**Frank Fredericks**

Citation by

**Dr Eroid Naomab**  
*Vice-Chancellor*

**13 October 2023**  
Windhoek, Namibia



Getty Images Sport: David Mulvaney

# SALUTATIONS

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- Director of Ceremonies,
- Honourable Dr Iita Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation,
- Honourable Prof Peter Katjavivi, NUST Chancellor,
- Dr Leake Hangala, Chairperson of the Interim NUST Council,
- Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliament,
- Honourable Governors and Traditional Leaders,
- Leaders at National and Local Levels,
- Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
- Members of the University Council,
- Members of the University Executive Management,
- Invited Guests,
- NUST Staff members present,
- Parents and Guardians,
- Dear Graduands,
- Members of the Media,
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

# YOUR EXCELLENCY, MR CHANCELLOR, SIR

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I have the great honour in reading the citation for the conferment of the degree, Doctorate Honoris Causa, to one of the outstanding and respected national and international sports icons whom the Council of the Namibia University of Science and Technology has found worthy of being bestowed this highest academic honour. Mr Frank Fredericks is a son of the Namibian soil, whose national service and esteemed international profile in the world of sport has made him a highly celebrated flag bearer of our nation. We, his fellow citizens, are immensely proud of him and his achievements, and it is a joy to be able to do our part in recognising what he has done for Namibia.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

**Mr Chancellor Sir**, the Namibia University of Sciences and Technology, like other universities in the world, has an academic tradition of awarding honorary doctorates to recognise distinguished personalities for their exceptional contributions to humanity. As an inspirational advocate for education, Frank shares the same values as the Namibian University of Science and Technology. Since retiring, he has founded several businesses while continuing to promote excellence inside and outside of the boardroom. This conferment, therefore, **Mr Chancellor Sir**, is a testimony not only of NUST's pledge to quality education, but a true symbol of recognition of higher order of achievement by the recipient. It is, therefore, my privilege to present to you our choice for this award at this befitting occasion. Frank is a distinguished Namibian citizen, a man of true humility and great sporting and societal philanthropy, but above all, a man who remains an inspiration to us all.

## 2. EARLY CHILDHOOD

Frank (also known as **Namblitz - the King of African Sprinting**) is Namibia's first star athlete and accomplished ambassador. He was born in Windhoek on the 2nd of October 1967 and grew up in the dusty streets of Katutura in an area known as Groot Winkels, with his mother, Aunty Rickey Fredericks. She was a strict disciplinarian who instilled in him the principles of self-discipline, respect, morality, and Christianity.

Despite being a seamstress, Aunty Rickey was also a passionate sports enthusiast and a dedicated Christian. Her name was synonymous with Black Africa (BA) and her love for the team had no confines. Thus, Frank inherited his passion for sports from her, a former prolific tennis player and netball player. The young Frank grew up in their four-bedroom house, always full of Black Africa football players and the netball girls known as Aunty Rickey's babes. For those of you who do not know what Black Africa is, it is a local football team that has made footprints in the local soccer premier league.

Like all children, Frank would play with the other children until sunset and then had to run with the speed of lightning back home to meet his curfew. They mostly played their own competitive football where you would find the current NFA technical centre and the Shifidi Secondary School sports grounds. If they were not playing football, they played games at Groot Winkels (shops). Back in the days, between Frank and the late Lucky "Bazooka" Richter, you had the best Katutura table tennis champions.

Frank's mom always ensured that he had the best in both education and sports. Aunty Rickey would take him to school in her Green Datsun which she later upgraded to the beautiful white Toyota Corolla. They say it takes a village to raise a child; similarly, many people played a role in the upbringing of the young Frank, as the elders knew each other, and there was a strong bond among them. He was mentored by the late Hon Daniel Jeundikwa Kaova Tjongarero, who ensured that he knew no boundaries. Mr Tjongarero, a former formidable footballer, Member of Parliament, Deputy Minister, and Managing Director of the NBC, along with his wife, the current Minister of Sport, Hon Agnes Tjongarero, were always present to guide and support Frank in making the best decisions.

Other Katutura legends like Oom Vorster "Vossie" Moetie, Sister Karamata, Uncle Bethuel Five Hochobeb and many others, moulded Frank and took him to football games at the then Katutura stadium, now known as the Sam Nujoma Stadium. There he saw his idols and built his dreams of being the best. He was also taught to drive cars by the legendary Namibian Rally driver, Lukas Oupapa Hipondoka.

All these experiences shaped a competitive young Frank into playing football, rugby, table tennis, and actively participating in athletics, ultimately transforming him into a true all-rounder. He was a mean goal machine, and this enabled him to make his debut for Black Africa, the Lively Lions, at a



remarkably young age. This allowed him to graze the field with many of the players he idolised, like Rusten Mogane, Lucky Bonstander, and Dawid Snewe, to name but a few in the star-studded Black Africa team.

He represented Namibia, the then South-West Africa, in football and athletics at junior level. In football, his flurry of goals propelled the South-West Africa team to victory in the South African Inter-Provincial Impala Cup in 1986. In the same year, Frank was voted Sportsman of the Year, with many more accolades to follow.

He completed his secondary education at Concordia College, where his primary focus was on academics and football, later shifting more towards athletics. Due to Namibia being under South African rule in 1987, Frank became the South African 200m Champion. In 1989, he achieved remarkable milestones by setting new South African and African records in the 100m, where he clocked 10.02 seconds and in the 200m 20.31 seconds.

During his time in the United States, he made history as the first foreigner to achieve double gold in the 100m and 200m events at the NCAA championship while representing Brigham Young University in Utah.

### 3. PURSUIT OF EDUCATION

**Mr Chancellor Sir**, Frank attended St. Andrews Primary in Khomasdal from 1973 before starting his secondary education in 1980 at St. Joseph's R.C High School Dobra and left for Concordia College where he matriculated. After completing his schooling, he joined Rossing Uranium Limited and worked for six months in a training programme for promising graduates as a Business and Marketing Associate. A coach from Brigham Young University (BYU) in Utah, Pat Shane, spotted him at a meeting in South Africa and believed he could get a solid education and compete in big-time sports in the comfortably small-time city of Provo, Utah. In the autumn of 1987, Frank headed off to the United States, to continue his studies in Computer Science and completed a Master's degree in Business Administration in 1994 with an emphasis on Finance and Marketing at Brigham Young University in Salt Lake City. At BYU, Frank trained with coach Willard Hirschi BYU's sprint coach and the University's head coach. Unfortunately, coach Hirschi passed away this year. He was not only a coach, but a mentor, as well as a true inspiration to Frank, who led him to become the legend he is today. He is also responsible for the best memories of Frank to Namibia through his performance in Namibia's post-Independence era.

#### 4. FAMILY LIFE

Frank is the son of the late Inyangu Andreas Ndekete Kangootui and the only child of the late Anty Rickey Fredericks. He is also the proud father of Soraya Jamaica Fredericks and Jamie Fredericks.



#### 5. SPORTING CAREER

**Mr Chancellor Sir**, Frank is a four-time Olympic silver medallist (finishing second in the 100m and 200m at Barcelona in 1992 and again at Atlanta in 1996). He also claimed the 200m gold at the 1993 World Championships in Stuttgart (GER) with three silvers over the same distance in 1991, 1995 and 1997. Moreover, Frank claimed the Commonwealth Games 200m gold on two occasions (1994 and 2002), a 100m and 200m double at the African Games in Cairo (EGY) in 1991 and was crowned African champion three times (200m in 1998, 100m and 200m in 2002). Apart from athletics, Frank also excelled in football and was selected for many junior teams before donning the jersey for his beloved Black Africa, terrorising many defences with his speed and precision in shoot passes. Frank retired from athletics in 2004 and now only participates in charity sports events. He also enjoys playing golf in his spare time.

## 6. SOCIETAL CONTRIBUTION AND PHILANTHROPY

On 7 April 1999, Frank established the Frank Fredericks Foundation (FFF) with the primary goal of enabling young Namibian athletes to fulfil their academic and athletic potential. Frank Fredericks firmly believes that athletes worldwide have the potential to make positive contributions to society in both the realm of sports and beyond. This foundation serves as his expression of gratitude to the Namibian people for their unwavering support over the years.

During his preparations for the Commonwealth Games in 2002, Frank contemplated the sacrifices made by liberation fighters who risked their lives to open the doors of opportunity for him and countless others. He recognised the profound sacrifices made for his nation's freedom, including the lives lost by his fellow countrymen and women. In his own words, he expressed his willingness to bear the costs of competing in the Games as a token of appreciation for the sacrifices made. Over the past 24 years, Frank has offered scholarships to young Namibians from diverse backgrounds, supporting them in their pursuit of their dreams. He has also committed to constructing sports facilities in Okahao, Outjo, and Windhoek to expand opportunities for Namibians.





Through the Frank Fredericks Foundation, notable figures such as Beatrice Masilingi and Christine Mboma received assistance in the lead-up to the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. Since 2017, the foundation has also provided scholarships to Paralympian Johannes Nambala. Following the 2020 Paralympic Games, Frank made a generous donation of N\$ 100,000 to the Paralympic Team, recognising the challenges athletes face in transitioning from competition to their everyday lives.

**On the event of addressing Refugees at the Osire Camp Frank said, "For the young people in refugee camps, a T-shirt, a baseball cap or a ball represents a few moments of joy in a life that has little hope left. Sport has given a lot to all of us. It's now our turn to be able to give back by making such a donation." Speaking at the Osire Camp to address refugees, Frank emphasized the importance of sports in bringing moments of joy to young people in refugee camps who have little hope left. He acknowledged that sport has given a lot to all of us and emphasized the need for giving back through donations like T-shirts, baseball caps, and balls.**

In addition to awarding scholarships, the Foundation also provides school uniforms and shoes to underprivileged Namibians to ensure that no one feels excluded, especially during the winter season. The foundation also conducts awareness campaigns through sports in informal areas, educating Namibians on important social issues such as HIV/AIDS, alcohol, and drug abuse.

Currently, Frank holds the position of Honorary President within the NUST Welwitschia 77 Athletics Club, making him an integral member of the NUST community. This club stands out as the preeminent athletic organisation in Namibia, boasting a remarkable track record of producing athletes who have participated in the Olympics, Paralympics, World Championships, Commonwealth Games, African Championships, and National Championships.

## 7. PROFESSIONAL, SPORTING AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2004, Frank was elected to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes Commission and assumed the role of Commission Chair from 2008 to 2012. Subsequently, he became a member of the IOC Executive Committee. Additionally, he served as a member of the Coordination Committee for both the 2012 Olympic Games in London and the 2010 Youth Olympic Games in Singapore.

He received a nomination from the International Organisation of Peace and Sport to join their esteemed group of 54 Champions for Peace, which comprises prominent current and former athletes dedicated to promoting human and social development through sports initiatives across the globe. Frank's remarkable journey stands as an inspiring testament to the extraordinary accomplishments one individual can attain.

- 🎓 **1991 - 2004** International Career as a Professional Athlete
- 🎓 **1991 - 1994** MBA, Brigham Young University (BYU), Provo (USA)
- 🎓 **1987 - 1991** Bachelor of Computer Science BYU, Provo (USA),
- 🎓 **1986** Matriculated from Concordia High School, Windhoek (Namibia)

## 7.1 Special Professional Achievements

- **2008 - 2012** Executive Board Member of the IOC
- **2008 - 2012** Chairman of IOC Athletes Commission
- **2011 - 2016** Chairperson of the IAAF Athletes Commission
- Namibia Goodwill Ambassador
- UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador
- Frank Fredericks Foundation Chairperson
- "Champion for Peace" – Peace and Sport
- Board Member of the World Academy of Sport



## 7.2 Sporting Achievements Highlights

-  **1991** The start of Frank Fredericks's international career in athletic track and field was at Tokyo World Championships where he came second after Michael Johnson in the 200m.
-  **1992** The following year at the Olympics in Barcelona he became Namibia's first Olympic medalist with two silver medals.
-  **1993** He "struck" gold when he came first in the 200m beating Carl Lewis and John Regis in a dramatic finish at the Stuttgart World Championships. At the same event, he came fourth in the 100m.
-  **1994** He won the Commonwealth 200m title in Vancouver and came second in the 100m.
-  **1995** He came second to Michael Johnson in the 200m at the World Championships in Gothenburg.
-  **1996** By the time the Olympics had arrived, Frank had broken two Indoor World Records – 100m in Finland (10.05s) and 200m in France (19.92s). At the Atlanta Olympics, he came second in both the 100m and 200m. He was ranked number 1 in the world in 100m and 200m and he was also Golden Four-Meetings (a combination of 4 Meets held in different locations in Europe) winner in 100m (the previous year he took the same title in the 200m).
-  **1997** Frank is the only person who has won both titles in the men's sprint. The same year he came second in the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. At the World Championships in Athens, he came second in the 200m.
-  **1998** Frank took two more titles – in Moscow, he won the IAAF GP 100m final and then the World Cup's 200m in Johannesburg.
-  **1999** At the World Indoor Championships in Japan he came first in the 200m. In June at the Grand Prix meet in Athens, he came fourth in the 200m.

In summary, during a long and illustrious sporting career, in which he competed at the pinnacle of international athletics for 14 years, Frank Fredericks established himself as one of the most successful sprinters Africa has ever produced.

## **Sub-10 seconds 27 times**

Throughout his career, he ran sub-10 seconds in the 100m on no less than 27 occasions and recorded 24 sub-20 second finishes in the 200m. His final competition took place in October 2003 at the age of 36, during the All-Africa Games in Abuja, Nigeria. In this event, he added another silver medal to his extensive collection. Following this, he immediately shifted his focus toward a future dedicated to assisting others in realising their sporting aspirations. He expressed his intention to travel across Africa and share his valuable experiences with young athletes.

In 2018, during the 9th decision-making meeting of the Cabinet, it was approved to honour him with a lifetime recognition award by erecting a statue in his likeness in front of the Independence Stadium.

## **8. HOBBIES**

He finds pleasure in music, literature, soccer, and spending leisure time with friends.

## **9. REMARKABLE LEADERSHIP TRAITS**

Frank's remarkable journey stands as a shining illustration of the incredible achievements a single individual can attain. Renowned for his down-to-earth and compassionate nature, he is often referred to as the gentleman of the track. Even in retirement, he remains a source of inspiration, extending his humble support to fellow Namibians in their pursuit of dreams and, as a businessperson, employing many of them. "He is very competitive and remains humble" (Hamhola, Chief Paralympic Coach, 2023).

Agnes Tjongarero, the Honourable Minister of Sport, Youth, and National Service, has known Frank since his childhood and describes him as a "very respectful person who has never forgotten his roots" (Tjongarero, 2023).

## 10. THE CONTRIBUTION OF SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT TO NATION BUILDING

**Mr Chancellor Sir**, sports competitions and other special events have been recognised for many years as factors in the development of a sense of national identity, social cohesiveness, and civic pride. To commemorate 'historic' victories and national accomplishments, people have been attending sporting events in stadiums or following international tournaments through the media. Nelson Mandela is well known in sports for wearing a Springbok cap and shirt in 1995 after South Africa won the Rugby World Cup. He pointed out that sport might be the new glue that can keep the South African Nation together by symbolically demonstrating the necessity for the new "Rainbow Nation" to cooperate and respect one another (Jarvie, 2003; Jarvie & Reid, 1999). Possibly, the ability of sport to bring people and nations together has been one of the factors that led FIFA, the world's governing body of football, to choose Japan and South Korea to host the 2002 World Cup (Butler, 2002; Horne & Manzenreiter, 2002). When choosing Poland and Ukraine to host the 2012 European Football Championships, UEFA may have had similar socio-political considerations in mind. In general, there is a lot of anecdotal evidence that shows how sports can unite different people, groups, and countries. This is true not only for massive or mega events but also for smaller Sport-for-Development initiatives that are increasingly used as a strategy for local development, particularly in underdeveloped countries and/or societies with diverse cultures or ethnicities. Here, various humanitarian groups, NGOs, and grassroots initiatives are presenting sports and event programmes more frequently to promote peace and reconciliation and to work towards the Millennium Development Goals.

For instance, initiatives have been put into place to address discrimination and promote respect for "others" (Brown et al., 2003; Meier & Saavedra, 2009); to reunite social, cultural, and ethnic groups (Gasser & Levinsen, 2004, Schulenkorf, 2010, Stidder & Haasner, 2007, Sugden, 2006); to fight HIV/AIDS (Banda et al., 2008; Webb, 2004); and to eradicate non-communicable diseases (Siefken, Schofield, & Schulenkorf, 2010); contribute to gender equality (Meier & Saavedra, 2009); and heal psychological wounds among traumatised victims of disasters, civil unrest or war (Gschwend & Selvaranjanu, 2007, Kunz, 2009).

## 10.1 Development through Sport

Many countries have historically favoured the "development of sport" approach, which emphasises elite progression while making sure sporting organisations draw in and develop talent to support elite-level representation (Schulenkorf, 2012). The performance of elite athletes is the primary focus of this strategy. The outcome-obsessed sports culture, which mostly derives from the "development of sport" concept, has been criticised for frequently putting the genuine value of sport in danger.

On the other hand, Development through Sport primarily focuses on the role sport can play in contributing to social development and social change. This is echoed in the United Nations' explanation and justification for the 'development through sport' approach: "By its very nature sport is about participation. It is about inclusion and citizenship. Sport brings individuals and communities together, highlighting commonalities and bridging cultural or ethnic divides. Sport provides a forum to learn skills such as discipline, confidence, and leadership and teaches core principles such as tolerance, cooperation, and respect. Sport teaches the value of effort and how to manage victory as well as defeat. When these positive aspects of sport are emphasised, sport becomes a powerful vehicle through which the United Nations can work towards achieving its goals" (United Nations (UN), 2005 pg25).

Even though there have always been ideas about how powerful and pro-social sport is in different communities, the "Development through Sport approach" has become increasingly popular since the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000, when the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were set. Numerous domestic Sport for Development (SFD) programmes and initiatives are currently supporting social benefits including supporting social inclusion and integration, encouraging tolerance and non-discrimination, and promoting healthy lifestyles, among others. Most of these projects target those who are at risk and are in vulnerable situations (such as young people, women, people of colour, and those with impairments).

According to Ha, Lee and Ok (2015, pg1265), the Development through Sport approach cover the following:

- Resolution of inter-group conflict (facilitating diplomacy in international relations).
- Human development (physical and psychological benefits).
- Promotion of cultural understanding.
- Development of infrastructures (physical, social, and community).
- Health promotion and disease prevention.



- Empowerment (often on how sport can empower girls and women).
- Social integration and the development of social capital.
- Driving economic development (as seen through national development strategies of some low-income countries that aim to encourage an increase in foreign direct investment and sports tourism through, for example, staging sports events).

In his candid reflection about Frank's life story, Fredy Mwiya, Chief Administrator at the Namibia Sports Commission reiterates that *"Frank Fredrick's contribution towards sport, was a historic beginning in independent Namibia. Having been the first to market Namibia through sport, he is indeed a great ambassador of sports tourism, earmarking the beginning of great strides in Namibian sports tourism. Therefore, this award comes at the right time as it serves as a testimony that sport is a universal tool that will go a long way in motivating current and future athletes as they manoeuvre in their sports endeavours"* (Mwiya, Namibia Sports Commission, 2023).

Rusten Mogane, former Brave Warriors Coach and former Chief Administrator of the Namibia Sports Commission further that *"Frank would train right throughout the year to stay competitive to be amongst the best on the national and international levels. Frank deserves to be honoured as he did not only do it for himself but to promote Namibia internationally"* (Mogane, 2023).

## 10.2 Development of Sport

The promotion of sporting opportunities across a community or region is known as sports development. Effective collaboration between basic and secondary educational institutions, national governing bodies, local governments, sports clubs and councils, and landowners is essential for the development of sports. Initiatives for sports development may include developing or enhancing volunteer opportunities, sports coaching and educational frameworks coaching, school and community engagement programmes, projects aimed at demographics, event management and fundraising strategies, and pathways from amateur to elite performance. Major changes in international policy are responsible for the emergence and ongoing evolution of sport and development. Here is a timeline of the major developments in sport and development on the global stage during the last few decades:



- **1978**

UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation) General Conference adopts the International Charter of Physical Education and Sport.

- **1997**

Heads of State and Government of the European Commission focused special attention on sport during the Amsterdam treaty negotiations, during which it was stated that "the Conference emphasised the social significance of sport, in particular, its role in forging identity and bringing people together".

- **2001**

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed Mr Adolf Ogi (former President of the Swiss Confederation) as the first Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace to enhance the network of relations between UN organisations and the sports sector.

- **2002**

The UN Secretary-General convenes the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Sport for Development and Peace to review activities that involve sport within the UN system.

- **2003**

First International Conference on Sport & Development, Magglingen, Switzerland. The conference was the first international, high-level event on Sport and development, involving participants from sports federations, governments, UN agencies, the media, athletes, business, and civil society.

First Next Step conference: 'International Expert Meeting on Development in and through Sport', Amsterdam, the Netherlands. On a different level to the Magglingen conference series, the Next Step conference was established to target practitioners, mostly at the grassroots level, to share experiences and best practices in Sport and development.

- **2004**

Roundtable forum: Harnessing the Power of Sport for Development and Peace, Athens, Greece. The roundtable forum was hosted during the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens and brought together political leaders and experts in development to discuss the potential of sport in achieving development goals. The roundtable forum laid the cornerstones for establishing the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group (SDPIWG) creating a new policy framework for the use of sport for development and peace.

- **2005**

International Year of Sport and Physical Education (IYSPE) 2005 was proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group (SDPIWG) was formed, with representatives from Ministers of Sport, Youth and Development from 15 countries, directors of UN agencies, and NGOs in the field of Sport for Development and Peace.

Second Magglingen Conference on Sport & Development, Magglingen, Switzerland.

Second Next Step conference, Livingstone, Zambia.

Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS) was established.

- **2007**

Third conference 'Next Step', Windhoek, Namibia. The inaugural meeting of the SportandDev Steering Board was held at the Next Step conference.

European Commission publishes a White Paper on Sport stating it will promote

the use of sport as a tool for development in international development policy.

- **2008**

IOC and the UN agree on an expanded framework for action to use sport to reach the goals of the UN.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon appointed Mr Wilfried Lemke as the new Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace after Mr Adolf Ogi stepped down.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon established a trust fund for Sport for Development and Peace.

- **2009**

First UN-IOC Forum on Sport for Development and Peace held in Lausanne, Switzerland

- **2010**

sportanddev highlights Sport & Development at the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

- **2011**

Second UN-IOC Forum on Sport, Peace and Development held in Geneva, Switzerland

The fourth conference 'Next Step' was held in Trinidad & Tobago.

- **2012**

Meeting of Experts (including sportanddev) in Sport & Development held at the Commonwealth Secretariat to develop guidelines on Sport for Development and Peace to be used throughout the Commonwealth.

- **2013**

Third UN-IOC Forum on Sport for Peace and Development held in New York, USA. The forum closed with a call for a United Nations International Day of Sport and Physical Activity.

The 67th United Nations General Assembly proclaims that 6 April is to be observed as the "International Day of Sport for Development and Peace".

- **2014**

The fifth edition of the Next Step conference is held in New Delhi, India. Live streaming coverage was provided on sportanddev.

On 6 April 2014, the inaugural UN observed International Day of Sport for Development and Peace was celebrated globally. sportanddev provided

coverage of the day.

Responding to requests from the S&D community for different language versions of sportanddev, a French-language version of the website was launched to better service the fast-growing French-speaking S&D community. A Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group (SDP IWG) Thematic Meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland to address Gender-Based Violence in and through sport.

- **2015**

Sport is recognised in the sustainable development goals as an important enabler of sustainable development.

Beyond Sport Summit hosts the launch of the Child Safeguards to make sport safer for children.

- **2017**

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres announced the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) has closed.

The 6th International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Sport and Physical Education (MINEPS VI) adopted the Kazan Action Plan.

- **2018**

sportanddev.org attends the IWG World Conference on Women and Sport in Gaborone, Botswana.

### 10.3 The contribution of sport to the Sustainable Development Goals

Sport has been widely acknowledged as a global mechanism through which to strategically map and measure commitments to sustainability (Guilianotti et al., 2018; Lemke, 2016; Lindsey & Darby, 2018). Numerous targets within the SDGs are addressed through sport, and global organisations like the UN have been vocal in their support and advocacy for this approach (Collison et al., 2017; Guilianotti et al., 2018). This has led many organisations, both privately and publicly funded, to incorporate sport as a cultural tool to aid in the achievement of these targets.

To show how sport can help achieve the SDGs, many case study examples of sport-based programmes have been presented, analysed, and promoted (e.g., Burnett, 2019; Lemke, 2016; Mojtahedi & Katsui, 2018; Oby & Egaga,



2018; Otterbein, 2020). The contribution of sport can be mapped to SDGs, for example: ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all (SDG 3); ensuring inclusive and quality education for all and promoting life-long learning (SDG 4); achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (SDG 5); promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8); making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG 11); and promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies (SDG 16) (United Nations, 2019). In addition, it has identified the need for alignment with SDG 17 (sustainable development through global partnerships) to enable configurations of various SDP stakeholders to be formed as an effective means of implementation for these identified SDGs (Lindsey & Chapman, 2017; Lindsey et al., 2020). For example, The fact that gender-based empowerment is widely seen as a crucial element of many SDP programmes (Collison et al., 2017) may provide preliminary evidence of the efficacy of coordinated efforts across national and international policy objectives to achieve gender equality.

Fredericks has demonstrated time and again the power of sports philanthropy at home. One of his local beneficiaries, Frank Puriza recalls:

*“In 2001, At the age of 15 in Grade 9, Frank Fredericks saw the talent in me as I was winning local high school competitions. He immediately grabbed the opportunity to place me under the Frank Fredericks Foundation and invited me to the Independence Stadium where he introduced me to his endurance coach, Lucky Gawanab. For the entire year, the foundation supported me with my immediate needs such as transport to the Independence stadium and pocket money whenever we raced out of the country. Frank monitored my talent and helped me sharpen my speed. The following year, in 2002, I achieved 4th place in the 400m at the World Youth Championships in Montreal, Canada. This has ranked me the fastest youth in Africa and obviously 4th in the entire world. Coming back to Namibia, Fredericks helped me secure a full scholarship to study at Brigham Young University after completing my grade 12. As a sprinter at BYU, Frankie visited me multiple times and constantly advised me to study a major which would make a difference back home. My exposure in the United States opened doors to multiple local and international career opportunities including my current position as the Head of the Maintenance and Infrastructure Department at the Namibia University of Science and Technology” (Puriza, 2023).*

## 11. WHY THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SPORT MANAGEMENT?

- Frank's lifelong participation in community development projects cemented Namibia as a sporting nation on equal footing with developed nations.
- Established the Frank Fredericks Foundation which has been pivotal in Namibian youth academic and athletic development. Young Namibians from diverse backgrounds have received scholarships from Frank throughout the past 24 years, helping them to realise their potential.
- To further expand chances for Namibians, Frank has also committed to building sporting facilities in Okahao, Outjo, and Windhoek.
- As the Honorary President of the NUST Welwitschia 77 Athletics Club, Frank has enabled the club's creation of Olympians, Paralympians, World, Commonwealth, African, and National Champions.
- Without a doubt, Frank has spearheaded not only NUST Welwitschia 77 Athletics Club to be Namibia's most successful club, but indeed placed Namibia as a Nation and Africa as a continent in the global sporting arena, thus contributing to the economic emancipation of its people. Which in turn:
  - ✓ Facilitates diplomacy and international relations.
  - ✓ Contributes to human development.
  - ✓ Promotes cultural understanding.
  - ✓ Fosters development of infrastructures (physical, social, and community).
  - ✓ Contributes to health promotion and disease prevention through sport.
  - ✓ Empowers the Namibian child, girls, boys, men and women through sport and Education.

## 12. CONCLUSION AND THE PRESENTATION OF THE GRANDUAND

**Mr Chancellor Sir**, using the words of Nelson Mandela, president and advocate for world peace, "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination". Frank has gracefully shared such power for a common purpose both locally and internationally. He is valiant not only on the playing field but also in the community. He is a champion and deserves the world's recognition. He is not only an inspiration to many, but he has also placed the Namibian flag at various local, regional, international, and global podiums. He has without no doubt contributed to social integration and the development of social capital by driving economic development through national development strategies that have enhanced goodwill towards foreign direct investment, sport tourism, sports promotion and awareness. Thus, Frank's success as a role model for Namibians has promoted healthy lives and well-being (SDG 3), inclusive of quality education for all and an emphasis on life-long learning which his philanthropy has also supported (SDG 4). In addition, he has been a champion of gender equality, empowering women and girls through sport, corporate citizenship, and education (SDG 5). He has also sought to promote sustained, inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for Namibians through skills development and entrepreneurship focus (SDG 8); making cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable through peace promotion and through his diplomacy (SDG 11); and promoting just, peaceful, and inclusive societies through his continued advocacy of inclusiveness in sport.

**Mr Chancellor Sir**, our candidate has made meaningful contributions as a sporting figure and indeed as a philanthropist and a role model for Namibia, its people, and the world. As a nation, convinced and proud of Frank's achievements, we could not be silent while this giant is still with us. Therefore, today, we are honouring not only a sports icon in Namibia but also a World Champion and a son of the Namibian soil for such an outstanding career achievement. Mr Chancellor Sir, on recommendations of the Honorary Award Committee, the Senate, and the approval by the Council of the Namibia University of Science and Technology, I present to you the 56 years old Frank Fredericks to be conferred **a Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa in Sport Management**.



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