



Commonwealth Advisory Body of Sport (CABOS)

Chair's Statement

June 19, 2015

The Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS) met in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on June 18 and 19, 2015. Appointed by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, CABOS provides advice to the Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth governments on sport policy, particularly with respect to Sport for Development and Peace (SDP). The 2015 meeting was hosted by the Caribbean Sport and Development Agency, with support from the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago through the Ministry of Sport and Ministry of Tourism.

Sport and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

CABOS reiterated that sport has the potential to make a valuable contribution to the post-2015 development agenda and emerging Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Members emphasised the contribution sport can make to improving health (Goal 3), education (Goal 4) and gender equality (Goal 5), underscoring the evidence base, policies and programmes already contributing to these areas. CABOS highlighted the potential of engaging sport in efforts to promote peaceful and inclusive societies (Goal 16), as well as the emerging contribution sport can make to the link between innovation and inclusive, sustainable growth and employment (Goals 8 & 9). Members called on Commonwealth leaders, including Heads of Government, to promote multi-sectorial approaches and public-private partnerships to scale these contributions.

Inclusive policy development, good governance and transparency in sport

CABOS stressed that the emphasis on inclusive development, good governance and transparency in the post-2015 development agenda underscored the need for sport stakeholders to intensify efforts to protect the integrity of sport. To contribute to this critical issue, CABOS used the meeting to advance the development of a framework of key principles, guidance and signposting to relevant resources that will be presented to member Governments at the Eighth Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting (8CSMM).

Engaging young people in decision making processes

Finally, members made an emphatic call to action to member governments, the Commonwealth sport movement and Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) stakeholders to better engage young people in decision-making processes across sport and specifically to work with the Commonwealth Youth Sport for Development and Peace (CYSDP) working group in taking forward this agenda. To this end, CABOS endorsed the advocacy toolkit developed by CYSDP for this purpose.

The CABOS meeting was preceded by the Trinidad and Tobago International Sport Conference.



CABOS attendance at this Conference enabled members to deliberate in detail on the interplay of sport, business and economic development, including the importance of integrity and good governance in sport as pre-requisites for sustainable business models.

Mrs Louise Martin CBE
Chair, Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS)

19 June, 2015
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago



Recommendations

CABOS members made the following recommendations to the Commonwealth Secretary-General and invited the Commonwealth Secretariat to circulate these to member governments and identified stakeholders.

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1. The contribution of sport to the Post-2015 development agenda

1.1 Priority goals and targets to maximise the contribution of sport to the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Sport and the post-2015 development agenda	CABOS reiterated sport can make a positive contribution to the post-2015 development agenda and that consideration should be given to the role sport can play across the six essential elements for delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) highlighted by the UN Secretary General - people, planet, partnerships, justice, dignity, and prosperity. ¹
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>Following discussion with international and Caribbean regional experts, CABOS endorsed the conclusions of the Commonwealth expert roundtable held in April 2015, which identified six of the emerging Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as areas where sport can make the most substantial contribution. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages• Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all• Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls• Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all• Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable• Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

¹ *The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet, Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General On the Post-2015 Agenda*, United Nations, New York, December 2014.



Priority goals CABOS highlighted that at present the most significant contribution made by sport-based approaches was in the areas of health (Goal 3), education (Goal 4) and gender equality (Goal 5). They also highlighted the emerging contribution of sport related industries in the intersection between economic growth (Goal 8) and fostering innovation (Goal 9).

1.2 Role of Commonwealth stakeholders in maximising the contribution of sport to the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Commonwealth sports movement CABOS underscored the important role of the Commonwealth sport movement, including Commonwealth Games stakeholders, in promoting and advancing the contribution of sport. Accordingly, members applauded the emerging strategic focus of the Commonwealth Games Federation to position the Games to ensure they widely benefit Commonwealth communities.²

SDP research and capacity building Recognising the need to better understand the impact sport-based contributions can make, CABOS called on research institutions to further prioritise research on the link between sport and sustainable development. In particular, CABOS identified the need for additional research on:

- policy levers and strategies to scale sport-based contributions to sustainable development;
- the implications of growing public-private partnerships in this space; and
- the broader sport and economic development agenda.

CABOS highlighted the need to continue efforts to build the capacity of policy makers, practitioners and youth across the Commonwealth to maximise the role sport can play in sustainable development. CABOS outlined three practical measures:

- Governments establishing a unit responsible for the coordination of SDP in the country;
- academic institutions embedding SDP in curriculum frameworks and course offerings; and
- scaling on-going work to build the capacity of young leaders and athletes as advocates for SDP.

1.3 Implications of the Post-2015 Development Agenda for sport policy development

Inclusive policy development Recognising the importance of ‘leaving no-one behind’ in the post-2015 agenda,³ CABOS encouraged governments to make inclusive policy development a focus. Sighting local ownership as integral to successful sport policy formulation, CABOS applauded efforts where all stakeholder groups,

² *Transformation 2022: Commonwealth Games Federation Strategic Plan 2016-2022*. Commonwealth Games Federation, London, March 2015.

³ *A new global partnership: Eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development*. The report of the high-level panel of eminent persons on the post-2015 development agenda. United Nations, New York, 2013.

including but not limited to youth, people living with a disability and religious and ethnic minorities, were engaged in sport policy development.

Good governance

CABOS highlighted that the emphasis on good governance, transparency and accountability in the post-2015 agenda reinforces the critical importance of these issues in sport. Global attention on these issues should act as further impetus for efforts to strengthen governance across the sporting landscape.

Central to the post-2015 agenda is recognition that sustainable development will require coordinated effort across international agencies, government, NGOs and the private sector. CABOS highlighted that for sport to contribute effectively to this agenda, the roles and responsibilities of sporting stakeholders need to be clearly defined in national policy including those of Government and national sport federations.

2. Financing Sport for Development and Peace in the Commonwealth

2.1 Strategies to sustainably resource SDP initiatives

**Blended models:
International-domestic and public-private**

CABOS highlighted that financing sources for SDP in the Commonwealth are fluid and changing. Members noted the model proposed by the *Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing* on the flow of funds from international and national financing sources to sustainable development.⁴ Applying this model to SDP funding, CABOS underscored the importance of both international and domestic sources of funding for SDP and engaging public and private partners.

CABOS strongly endorsed approaches where governments had taken responsibility for SDP and embedded the use of sport as a tool for development in domestic policy frameworks and funding models. Members were unequivocal that this offered the most sustainable approach.

Targeted multi-sectorial approaches

Given the potential for sport-based approaches to make a valuable contribution across policy domains, CABOS underscored a multi-sectorial approach as most effective, reiterating the importance of SDP stakeholders to engage partners across policy domains where sport can make a contribution.

CABOS expressed concern that ‘SDP’ may be too generic a term and concept when engaging multi-sectorial partners. Members endorsed engagement strategies and communication approaches that linked sport to the specific development challenge programmes or projects addressed, e.g. ‘sport for crime prevention’ or ‘sport for social inclusion’.

⁴ Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. United Nations, New York, 2014.

Engaging new ideas and expertise	Recognising that resourcing SDP is an ongoing issue, CABOS recommended SDP stakeholders seek expertise and innovative ideas for sustainable funding outside of the sport and development sectors.
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3. Advancing economic development through sport

3.1 Positioning sport as a tool to advance economic development

National economic development metrics	CABOS emphasised that sport stakeholders need to articulate and enhance the contribution sport makes to overall national economic development. Sport is a multi-billion dollar global industry and to evidence the contribution this industry makes to economic development across Commonwealth countries, CABOS advocated for sport and physical activity to be identified as distinct sector in metrics used to analyse economic activity.
Addressing growing health costs stemming from physical inactivity	Health is a central and growing issue facing Commonwealth countries. Physical inactivity is a key health risk factor and directly correlates to significant health costs across the Commonwealth. Recognising this dynamic, CABOS endorsed models where the Ministry of Sport had expanded its remit to include increasing levels of participation in physical activity. CABOS recommended all sport ministries consider including this issue within their policy remit.
Prioritising social mobility	CABOS underscored that economic inclusion and broad social mobility must be key considerations in assessing and promoting the contribution of sport to economic development. Governments were encouraged to strengthen policy levers to ensure that public and private investment in sport, in particular through major events, would benefit local communities including marginalised groups and those outside of the formal market.
Innovation	In an increasingly complex economic environment, CABOS highlighted the importance of promoting innovative approaches to maximise the contribution sport makes to economic development. Drawing on discussions at the Trinidad and Tobago International Sport Conference on <i>Sport as a Business</i> , the sport tourism sector was cited as an example where new and innovative approaches had been employed.

4. Commonwealth consensus on integrity in sport

4.1 Priorities, next steps and roles and responsibilities

Central importance of sport integrity	CABOS reiterated previous recommendations that protecting the integrity of sport should be a key focus for member governments. If the integrity of sport is compromised, then the positive potential of sport to contribute to broader economic and social development is also comprised. CABOS agreed to continue to focus its efforts in the areas of good governance, safeguarding of participants, equality, anti-doping, and manipulation of sporting competition. CABOS urged further Commonwealth collaboration with and alignment to the efforts of the World Anti-Doping Agency, International Safeguarding Children in Sport Working Group, and other international organisations.
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Commonwealth framework CABOS members reaffirmed their commitment to present a framework of key principles, guidance and signposting to member governments at 8CSMM. This document will provide guidance on key principles of integrity in sport, recommendations on their implementation and sign-posting to existing international agreements, mechanisms and resources.

5. Youth as partners in advancing sport and development

5.1 Improving the quality of experience for young people in SDP.

Youth engagement	CABOS commended the contribution the CYSDP has made in positioning youth as key partners in maximising the contribution of sport to sustainable development across the Commonwealth. CABOS endorsed the CYSDP position, highlighting the critical importance of engaging young people in all phases of program and policy development. CABOS recommended defining and embedding roles for youth leaders in governance and leadership models as key strategy to advance this issue.
Promoting CYSDP's Advocacy Toolkit	Members enthusiastically endorsed the <i>Sport for Development and Peace Youth Advocacy Toolkit</i> , recommending the tool to member governments and SDP stakeholders. ⁵ CABOS recognised the value this tool could add beyond the Commonwealth and encouraged the group to engage a wide body of SDP and youth stakeholders as part of the emerging agenda of the <i>Commonwealth adding global value</i> .
Considering contextual and cultural considerations	Members encouraged CYSDP to consider contextual and cultural differences in engaging young people in decision-making processes, including the issue of supporting young people affected by conflict, displacement and social unrest.

5.2 Recognising SDP in the Commonwealth youth work framework.

Embedding SDP competencies in youth work qualification frameworks	CABOS highlighted the importance of standardising education and qualification frameworks for the sport workforce in relevant jurisdictions, including for coaches and SDP peer leaders. Moreover, members encouraged Commonwealth stakeholders responsible for youth work qualifications and frameworks to recognise and embed SDP as a stream of youth work and recognise trained practitioners accordingly. This strategy was seen as critical to fully maximise the contribution of SDP to youth engagement and employment outcomes.
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5.3 Strengthening the links between CYSDP, CABOS and member Governments.

Call to action	CABOS called on member governments, the SDP sector and Commonwealth sport movement to intensify efforts to engage the CYSDP, and young people more broadly, in advancing initiatives. CABOS committed to brief its own member governments on the CYSDP's agenda and explore opportunities to engage the group in national activities and events.
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⁵ Commonwealth Youth Sport for Development Working Group (2015) *Sport for Development and Peace Youth Advocacy Toolkit*. Commonwealth Secretariat, London. [On-line] Available at: <http://assets.thecommonwealth.org/assetbankcommonwealth/action/viewAsset?id=26137&index=0&total=30&view=viewSearchItem>.

6. Emerging sport policy issues in the Commonwealth

6.1 Emerging issues for consideration when developing, strengthening and implementing sport policy

Emerging policy issues	Through its deliberations CABOS identified the following emerging areas as issues that Commonwealth governments should consider to strengthen sport policy frameworks:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">strengthening the provision of sport and physical activity for ageing populations;gender identity and participation in sport;transfer of athletes nationality and citizenship; andthe interplay of sport policy and Quality Physical Education (QPE) provision.

7. Transformation 2022: The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) Strategic Plan 2016 - 2022

Aligned agendas	CABOS endorsed the direction outlined by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) in Transformation 2022, the CGF's draft Strategic Plan 2016 -2022. In particular, CABOS was pleased to note the intention of the CGF to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Share expertise and champion best practice in the fields of social, economic, cultural and environmental impact to nurture sustainable Games legacy for host cities/nations and their local communities;Strengthen governance arrangements, including the 'adoption of an industry-leading Code of Ethics, which promotes integrity, respect and human rights'; andUphold the Commonwealth Charter, supporting Commonwealth Development and integration via strategic relationships with key partners, including leading Commonwealth institutions.⁶
Commonwealth Youth Games	The Commonwealth Youth Games were highlighted as an opportunity for further partnerships to promote wider youth development, with the potential for a strong partnership to be developed with the Commonwealth Youth SDP Working Group.

8. The Commonwealth Secretariat's Sport for Development and Peace work

Commonwealth commitment to SDP	CABOS congratulated the Commonwealth Secretariat on the establishment and mainstreaming of a Head of Sport for Development and Peace post within its staffing structure and recognised the commitment this demonstrates to delivering its mandate for SDP.
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⁶ Transformation 2022: Commonwealth Games Federation Strategic Plan 2016-2022. Commonwealth Games Federation, London, March 2015.



CABOS endorsed the strategic direction outlined by the Commonwealth Secretariat, whilst recognising that this is currently an evolving model. There was wide endorsement of the prominent positioning within this strategic direction of the leading role of youth within SDP.

Monitoring and evaluation In considering the Commonwealth Secretariat's provision of technical assistance to governments to strengthen SDP strategy and action plans, CABOS encouraged the Commonwealth Secretariat to intensify efforts to monitor and evaluate the impact of this work. To this end, CABOS highlighted the importance of making robust monitoring and evaluation a key platform for all SDP work. Further, CABOS noted the need to ensure sustainability of impact beyond the direct involvement of the Commonwealth Secretariat and recommended a level of multi-year engagement and monitoring.

Further Information

For further information about the Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport contact the Sport for Development and Peace Section, Youth Division, Commonwealth Secretariat (p. +44 20 7747 6296 e. sdp@commonwealth.int)