
Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS)

Chair's Statement

Ebène Cybercity, Mauritius - 9th October, 2019

The Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS) held its annual meeting from the 7th to 9th October in the Republic of Mauritius. CABOS is the primary sport policy advisory body in the Commonwealth reporting to Commonwealth Sports Ministers and the Commonwealth Secretary-General.

The 2019 CABOS meeting focused on strategies to resource, implement and scale key sport policy priorities in the Commonwealth, with an emphasis on quantifying the contribution of sport to the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), building collective capacity to protect the integrity of sport and advancing consensus on promoting human rights in and through sport. CABOS also reviewed the objectives for the 10th Commonwealth Sports Ministers meeting to be held in 2020 and considered the implications for sport policy of the rapid digitalisation of sport and growth of e-sports.

Convening in Mauritius afforded CABOS members the opportunity to be appraised of the impact of the country's National Sport and Physical Activity Policy, launch of a nation-wide 'Active Mauritius' strategy and an enhanced focus on creating a vibrant sport economy on the island. CABOS was also updated on the commitment made by Mauritius to introduce a common indicator framework on Sports and the SDGs into their national monitoring and evaluation system.

Policy Context

1. CABOS reiterated that well designed sport and physical activity policies have the potential to make a valuable contribution to national development priorities and achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To maximise this contribution, CABOS re-emphasised that sport policies must be intentionally designed to contribute to social, economic and environmental development priorities.
2. In this regard, CABOS reaffirmed the importance of recognition in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* that sport is an 'enabler of sustainable development' and the commitment of the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting to work with the Commonwealth Sports Movement to maximise the positive contribution of sport.
3. CABOS reaffirmed that the *Kazan Action Plan*, *UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace* and *Global Action Plan on Physical Activity*, coupled with the direction provided by the *9th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting*, provide overarching reference points and direction for national policy.
4. CABOS acknowledged the *2019 Pacific Islands Sports Ministers Meeting* and *First Regional Conference of African Ministers on the implementation of the Kazan Action Plan in Africa* provided valuable guidance on regional priorities, and noted the increasing convergence and coherence between regional policy the aforementioned international frameworks.

5. CABOS applauded the *Refresh of Transformation 2022*, the Commonwealth Games Federation's strategic plan, highlighting that it would further position Commonwealth Sport as the leading sport movement in realising the collective impact of its members to contribute to creating peaceful, sustainable and prosperous communities.
6. CABOS endorsed a point of convergence and common position across these policy declarations and strategies that emphasised scaling the positive impact of sport is dependent on good governance, enhancing sport integrity measures, eliminating sport-related corruption in all its forms and protecting human rights in and through sport.
7. Reflecting on updates provided by members, CABOS recognised that there had been a discernible shift from 'policy intent' to 'policy action' to enhance the contribution of sport to economic, social and environmental development, in particular by:
 - i. Enhancing alignment of sport policy to national development plans, regional policy and the SDGs;
 - ii. Strengthening whole of government approaches, inter-ministerial collaboration and multi-stakeholder approaches to sport policy implementation;
 - iii. Prioritising access for all to sport and physical activity as a central tenet of policy, including investment in marketing and educating community members on the benefits of sport and physical activity;
 - iv. Establishing mechanisms and competent bodies to promote, investigate, sanction and/or arbitrate on issues of sport integrity, harassment and abuse in sport; and,
 - v. Improving access to and rehabilitation of sport infrastructure, in particular regulations and guidelines to promote active environments, including community and local-level facilities and spaces for sport.

Quantifying sport's contribution to sustainable development

8. CABOS strongly recommended that the shift from intent to action must extend to monitoring and evaluating the type, and scale, of the contribution of sport to sustainable development.
9. CABOS therefore reiterated its support for Commonwealth leadership of global efforts to develop common indicators and measurement frameworks to monitor and evaluate the contribution of sport to the SDGs, noting this work delivered on Action 2 of the Kazan Action Plan and Action Area 4 of the UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace.

To advance this issue, CABOS:

10. Endorsed the methodology, measurement framework and model indicators on 'Measuring the contribution of sport, physical education and physical activity to the Sustainable Development Goals' produced by the Commonwealth Secretariat as coordinators of this collaborative international initiative.
11. Recommended that to scale up implementation of robust measurement of the contribution of sport to national development and the SDGs:
 - i. Tools and resources be developed to support advocacy efforts on the importance of strengthening sport-related data and measuring sports contribution to sustainable development;

- ii. Communicate and group key policy action and associated indicators and data sets under a series of clear results statements - or ambitions - that clearly demonstrate the key non-sport outcomes to which sport can contribute to (e.g. health, economic development, education, employment, gender equality as referenced by the CHOGM 2018 Communique) and the stakeholders they are most relevant to (e.g. elite and professional sport, community sport and physical activity stakeholders);
- iii. Complement national initiatives with regional approaches and collaborative action for countries with similar contexts and opportunities (e.g. small island states; emerging economies etc.); and,
- iv. Increase the focus on maximising the potential use of big data, especially in relation to sport, health and economic development.

By the 10th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting in July 2020, CABOS has agreed to:

12. Provide technical input to support the Commonwealth Secretariat to finalise a toolkit and model indicators for measuring the contribution of sport, physical education and physical activity to the Sustainable Development Goals to be endorsed for scaled implementation.
13. Report on the progress and learning from Canada, Jamaica, Kenya, Mauritius and Namibia who have committed to develop national frameworks to monitor and evaluate the contribution of sport to sustainable development, drawing on the measurement framework and model indicators developed by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Building collective capacity to protect the integrity of sport

14. CABOS agreed that building collective capacity to protect the integrity should continue to be a priority for Commonwealth cooperation on sport policy issues. In doing so, it emphasised the interdependence of sport integrity, protecting and promoting human rights in sporting contexts and the contribution of sport to sustainable development. CABOS encouraged this link to be emphasised across policy and programming at national and international level.
15. CABOS emphasised the importance of coordination and coherence between Commonwealth initiatives and other international coalitions and action, especially Action 3 of the Kazan Action Plan, the International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport, and the development of Africa Union Commission Sport Policy Framework.
16. To support coherence and convergence, CABOS recommended that the following working definition of sport integrity guide current Commonwealth action:

*“Sport Integrity relies on the ethical conduct of **athletes, officials and participants** in sport at all levels and is conditioned upon **transparent, protective and accountable** governing bodies and administrators. Whether professional or for leisure, an **organised sport** driven by integrity shall **reject manipulation, discrimination, cheating, violence, abuse and corruption** and commit itself to **fundamental internationally recognised human rights**. Sport Integrity is displayed when it enables Sport, at all levels and by all means, to inspire and engage everyone on the path towards human fulfilment and in particular **social inclusion, healthy lifestyle and ethical behaviours.**” [KAP Action 3]*

17. CABOS noted that a number of member countries had progressed the establishment of national sport integrity bodies to coordinate multi-stakeholder action and strengthen arbitration mechanisms at national level. CABOS acknowledged the value of these mechanisms in exemplar countries and contexts, therefore recommended additional countries assess the value of similar mechanisms based on their specific context.
18. In considering the current sport integrity environment, CABOS underscore the value of supporting countries to self-assess strengths, challenges, gaps and vulnerabilities in national sport integrity responses. CABOS agreed that the Commonwealth sport integrity survey tool would support this process as well as the development of targeted tools and responses to optimise collective capacity to protect the integrity of sport.

To advance this issue, CABOS:

19. Finalised and endorsed a survey instrument and methodology to map the diversity of sport integrity capabilities and vulnerabilities across the Commonwealth as requested by the 9th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting.

By the 10th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting in July 2020, CABOS has agreed to:

20. Request that the Commonwealth Secretariat disseminate the finalised survey instrument for completion by Commonwealth member countries.
21. Prepare a comprehensive report that presents the findings of this process, analyses implications for member countries and convene the CABOS Sport Integrity Working Group to consider recommended actions to strengthen collective capacity to protect the integrity of sport across the Commonwealth.

Advancing consensus on sport and human rights

22. CABOS noted and commended the substantial action on sport and human rights since the 9th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting requested CABOS advance the preparation of a consensus statement on this issue. A number of international, continental and national policy statements, guidance documents and tools have been agreed or developed on this matter, including the outcomes statements of meetings of Pacific Island and African Ministers referenced above.
23. Of particular importance are advances in recognition of the access to sport and physical activity as a human right, action by both Commonwealth member states and organisations to promote human rights of minority and affected groups in and through sport; and, enhanced alignment of policies to SDGs so as to reflect and enhance contributions to human rights such as education, health, gender equality, decent work, inequality, sustainable cities and settlements, just and peaceful societies.
24. CABOS commended these important and impactful initiatives but, in doing so, encouraged further practical action to embed respect for human rights in and through sport and for Commonwealth stakeholders to continue to move from 'intent' to 'action' on this matter. CABOS specifically highlighted the importance of countries working to meet the human rights obligations relevant to sport in the treaties they have ratified, especially the *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*, *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)* and *Convention on Elimination Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*.

25. To build capacity and capability in member countries for this purpose, CABOS recommended Commonwealth government, sport and civil society stakeholders:
 - i. Utilise the *Mass On-line Open Course (MOOC) on Sport, sustainable development and building peaceful and just societies* which mainstreams a human rights approach; and,
 - ii. Utilise the *Centre for Sport and Human Rights* repository of resources and tools on human rights and sport so that good practice is available to all; and,
 - iii. Join collaborative efforts and coalitions working on advancing the human rights of children, women, persons with disability and minorities and affected groups in and through sport.
26. In this overall context, CABOS agreed that a statement capturing Commonwealth consensus on promoting human rights in and through sport, as requested by the 9CSMM, should be high level, strategic and accessible to a wider range of stakeholders in member countries.
27. To support practical action on issues raised in the Consensus Statement, CABOS recommended an accompanying explanatory paper and resources be developed along with a proposed action plan to support implementation.
28. CABOS recommend that this action plan cover the role of Commonwealth countries and institutions working collaboratively with other national, regional and international stakeholders to:
 - i. Mainstream human rights in national and institutional sport policy and strategies and build capacity to implement;
 - ii. Enhance partnerships between sport and national Human Rights Institutions; and,
 - iii. Strengthen remedy mechanisms in line with the requirements of the United Nations Guiding Principles of Business and Human Rights to enhance capacity to prevent, investigate and apply appropriate sanctions on issues of violence, harassment, abuse and other abuses of human rights in and through sport, including the movement of athletes.
29. CABOS agreed that the shift from ‘intent’ to ‘action’ must extend to monitoring and evaluating the contribution of sport to human rights and sustainable development. In doing so it encouraged, wherever possible, coherence and convergence between sport-related SDG and human rights indicators.

To advance this issue, CABOS:

30. Finalised a Zero Draft of the Commonwealth Consensus Statement on Promoting Human Rights in and through Sport
31. Requested that this final Zero Draft be disseminated to all Commonwealth Countries for review and endorsement through official channels ahead of 10CSMM.

By the 10th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting in July 2020, CABOS has agreed to:

32. Develop an explanatory paper setting out more detailed guidance on the implementation of the Consensus Statement. This paper will also signpost collaborative efforts and coalitions working to advance human rights, in or through sport, with a

specific focus on the human rights of children, women, persons with disabilities and minorities or affected groups and identify possible new areas for collaborative action.

33. Develop a recommended Plan for Action to accompany the Commonwealth Consensus Statement on Promoting Human Rights in and through Sport to assist countries move from 'intent' to 'action'.

Sport policy, the digital economy and e-sports

34. CABOS paid particular attention to the impact and policy implications of the ongoing digitalisation of our economies and societies and growth of e-sports. CABOS recognised the importance of maximising the economic and social return from digital assets for Commonwealth countries, small and medium enterprises and Commonwealth athletes.
35. CABOS also recognised there are prevalent risks of this digitalisation, relevant to sport and physical activity and sport entertainment industries, including potential negative impact on physical activity levels, on-line harassment and abuse, intellectual property violations and illegal and irregular betting and problem gambling.
36. CABOS welcomed the analysis and recommendations of the Commonwealth Youth Sport for Development and Peace Network on the potential, opportunities and challenges, of e-sports in Commonwealth countries. It also applauded the initiative of member countries, and regional bodies, working to proactively respond to digitalisation and growth of e-sports. CABOS committed to share good practice and innovations in this regard including those presented by the African Union Commission Sports Council (Region 5) and Government of Mauritius.
37. Overall, CABOS agreed that implications of the digitalisation of economies and societies and growth of e-sports on sport policy development needed further analysis and more substantive attention within future Commonwealth sport policy cooperation.

To advance this issue, CABOS took the following decisions:

38. Elevate the implications for sport policy of the ongoing digitalisation of our economies and societies including e-sports to be a future focus area for CABOS and prepare a resource paper on this issue for 10CSMM, drawing particularly on the input of the Commonwealth Youth Sport for Development and Peace Network.

The 10th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting (10CSMM) and Commonwealth Cooperation on sport policy issues

39. CABOS applauded the leadership of Kenya in agreeing to Chair the 10th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting to be held in Tokyo, Japan in July 2020 directly ahead of the 2020 Summer Olympic Games
40. CABOS welcomed the offer of Kenya to host the Annual CABOS Meeting in 2021 to assist in tracking and catalysing action from 10CSMM.
41. CABOS also endorsed the theme proposed by the Kenyan Government -

Quantifying the Value of Sports as an Enabler of Sustainable Development: Promoting Investment and Scaling Action.

42. On this basis, and in reflecting on the direction provided by 9CSMM, CABOS recommended the focus areas and objectives for the meeting include:
- i. Focus Areas:
 - Scaling innovative public and private financing for sport's contribution to sustainable development;
 - Stimulating the domestic sports market in small and developing Commonwealth countries;
 - Convergence of sport-related legal instruments, policies and measurement frameworks; and,
 - Building collective capacity to address the diverse sport integrity threats facing Commonwealth countries and protect the rights of athletes and those participating in sport
 - ii. Objectives:
 - Promote innovative models to scale and finance sports contribution to the SDGs, enhance private sector investment and stimulate domestic sports markets towards youth economic empowerment;
 - Enhance capacity to promote, systematically measure and quantify the contribution of sports to national development plans and the SDGs;
 - Progress the adoption and standardisation of legal instruments and policy models on sport and the SDGs, sport integrity and sport and human rights; and,
 - Strengthen networking between Commonwealth countries to build collective capacity on sport policy priorities.
43. In light of the increased demand from member countries for services provided by the Commonwealth Secretariat Sport for Development and Peace result area, CABOS recommended that 10CSMM review the funding arrangements for this work area.
44. CABOS also proposed revisions to current Terms of Reference to set-out specific reporting responsibilities for CABOS members to regional ministerial and senior official meetings, and to international stakeholders in member countries governments, especially to Foreign Affairs and the office of Head of Governments.
45. Finally, CABOS expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government of Mauritius for hosting the 2019 Annual Meeting and applauded their leadership on key sport and physical activity policy issues.

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Chair, Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS)

9th October, 2019

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