

## Commonwealth Youth Network making an impact in sport for development and peace

Established in 2013, the Commonwealth Youth Sports for Development and Peace Network (CYSDP) brings together culturally diverse young people who are passionate and have the expertise in sport for development and peace (SDP). Their mission is to be the leading voice of the Commonwealth youth in the promotion of SDP in their respective communities. The Network aims to Advocate, Educate and Demonstrate the use of sport as a viable tool for development and peace. This is done through contribution to research and policy documents, raising awareness and developing youth friendly resource materials such as the [Youth Advocacy Toolkit](#). Recently, the Network strengthened and expanded its reach to ensure young people from all Commonwealth nations are represented fairly. As part of this commitment, CYSDP recently recruited Local Focal Points and additional Steering Committee members, from across the Commonwealth.

The 9th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting recently held in April ahead of the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia endorsed the expansion of the CYSDP Network. The theme for meeting was **'Strengthening policy coherence to maximise the benefits of investing in sport'** and facilitated discussions around contributing to the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the impact of sports on human rights, and strengthening integrity and governance in sport.

The work of the CYSDP will be important to help achieve this aim, and will be greatly enhanced with the clear endorsement from ministers in the communique, which stated:

“Ministers endorsed the expansion of the Commonwealth Youth Sport for Development and Peace Network so as to engage local focal points across the diversity of the Commonwealth.”



CYSDP also holds a permanent seat on the Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS), whose purpose is to provide advice and recommendations to the Commonwealth Secretary General and Sports Ministers, with respect to Sport for Development and Peace. In this capacity, CYSDP participated in the Commonwealth Sport Policy Stakeholder Roundtable and the CABOS Annual Meeting, in October 2017, which contributed to the development of a proposed agenda and thematic discussions papers for the 9<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting.

In 2017 network also carried out the **#Sport4DevelopmentNG** campaign, which encouraged the inclusion of SDP initiatives in the Nigeria Sports Bill. This campaign was spearheaded by CYSDP's African Representatives.

As part of its engagement with young people and sport policy stakeholders across various platforms, CYSDP, through the Commonwealth Secretariat, collaborated with the Commonwealth Games Federation, UNICEF, and the Royal Commonwealth Society to facilitate a series of Athlete Impact Lab workshops to over 240 athletes and officials at the 2017 Commonwealth Games in Bahamas. Additionally, the network attended and participated in the Youth Forum at the 2017 Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting in Uganda.



As the work and reach of CYSDP continues, representatives from the network also engaged and led discussions on health and well-being and inclusion at the London Commonwealth Youth Forum in April 2018. Hosted by the UK Government, the forum was part of the Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting which promotes cross-cultural ties and provided the commonwealth youth a platform to discuss about the challenges and the opportunities, and put forward youth led initiatives and youth voice influencing decision making.

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**Contact us on [cysdpcommonwealth@gmail.com](mailto:cysdpcommonwealth@gmail.com) for any query.**