



# 6th Commonwealth Debate on Sport and Sustainable Development

Thursday 31 March 2022 1800-2000 BST  
Virtual Event on Go To Webinar



The Commonwealth

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development set by The United Nations recognises sport as an important enabler of sustainable development and peace. The Commonwealth supports member governments, the Commonwealth sports movement, and key stakeholders to maximise the contribution that sport can make to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Key areas of focus for this impact include health, education, gender equality, human rights, social cohesion, good governance and building strong institutions.

The Commonwealth Secretariat supports this mission by being a leading advocate for the use of sport for sustainable development and peace and providing tailored technical assistance involving policy and strategy development. A key milestone in our annual work programme is the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP).

To mark the 2022 International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, the Secretariat will host its 6th Commonwealth Debate on Sport and Sustainable Development virtually, on Thursday 31st March 2022.

The sixth edition of this annual event will see two teams made up of officials, experts, athletes and youth leaders debate whether:

**'To ensure inclusive, equitable and safe access to sport for all, investment should only be made to organisations demonstrating complete adherence to international human rights laws and principles.'**

**Event registration: [Click here](#)**

Join the conversation online **#CommonwealthSDP**





## Provisional Programme

Log in from 1750 BST

- 1800 **Welcome remarks from Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland QC**,  
Secretary-General of the Commonwealth
- 1810 **An introduction to the debate by the moderator**  
**Radha Balani**, Co-Managing Director thinkBeyond
- 1815 **6th Commonwealth Debate on Sport and Sustainable Development**. 'To ensure inclusive, equitable and safe access to sport for all, investment should only be made to organisations demonstrating complete adherence to international human rights laws and principles.'

*Arguing for the motion.*

**Hon. Aurore Mimosa Munyangaju**, Minister of Sports,  
Government of Rwanda

**Sir Hilary Beckles**, Vice Chancellor, University of West Indies

**Dr Payoshni Mitra**, CEO, Global Observatory for Women,  
Sport, Physical Education and Physical Activity

**Professor Jack Anderson**, Professor of Law, University  
of Melbourne

*Arguing against the motion.*

**Hartwell Mhondru**, Human Rights and Inclusion Lead, The  
Commonwealth Games Federation

**Fahmida Faiza**, Head of Social Responsibility and  
Safeguarding, South Asian Football Federation

**Paula Tesoriero MNZM**, Disability Rights Commissioner,  
New Zealand Human Rights Commission

**Theresa Goh**, Para Athlete representing Singapore

- 1915      **Questions from the audience and open panel discussion**
- 1940      **Special Address**  
**Anne Wafula Strike MBE**, Commonwealth Champion for Equality in Sports  
**Dr Ben Sanders**, Senior Consultant, sportanddev
- 1950      **Adjudication and Closing Remarks**  
**Dame Louise Martin DBE**, President, Commonwealth Games Federation  
**David Rutherford**, Principal, Tuhana Business and Human Rights Chairperson, and CABOS  
**Stephen McCubbin**, Co-ordinator, Commonwealth Youth Sport for Development and Peace Network (CYSDP)
- 2000      **Close**



## Speaker Profiles



**RT Hon Patricia Scotland, QC [Welcome Keynote]**  
Secretary General

Patricia Scotland was born in the Commonwealth of Dominica. She is the tenth of twelve children and grew up in London. She completed her LLB (Hons) London University at the age of twenty and was called to the Bar at Middle Temple at the age of twenty-one. Her career has been marked by achieving a number of extraordinary firsts, not least of which was to be the first woman in the more than 700-year history of the office to serve as Her Majesty's Attorney-General for England and Wales and for Northern Ireland. While holding these and other senior ministerial office she was given responsibility, inter alia, for gender equality, domestic violence, forced marriage, and international child abduction, and from these positions promoted diversity and equality of opportunity, particularly for women and girls. As the only woman to have been appointed Secretary-General of Commonwealth she is placing special emphasis on mobilising the 54 nations of the Commonwealth to tackle climate change – including its disproportionate impact on women – and, through women's enterprise, to build the resilience of smaller or more vulnerable countries. Eliminating domestic violence and violence against women and girls is another area of focus.



**Radha Balani [Moderator]**  
Co-Managing Director thinkBeyond

Radha is an experienced strategist, facilitator, design-thinking specialist, and MC. Radha has spent her career within the sport, business, and international development space, creating strategies, developing narratives and designing workshops for, brands and talent such as: ESPN, The NFL, Liverpool F.C., The North Face, Euroleague Basketball, SAP, Legal & General, Sport England, Welsh Rugby Union, World Rugby and UK Sport. She has designed and delivered several international leadership programs that support exceptional talent



from disadvantaged backgrounds. She is regularly asked to comment on sport's role in society. Radha previously worked for the Football Foundation, Women in Sport and London Sport. She is a former Loughborough University Athletic Union President and graduate of its Sports Science and English programs.



**Dame Louise Martin DBE [Adjudicator]**

President, Commonwealth Games Federation

Dame Louise Martin was elected to the role of President by the Commonwealth Sport Movement in September 2015 in Auckland, New Zealand, becoming the first female to hold the prestigious office. She was re-elected to a second term in September 2019 in Kigali, Rwanda. Dame Louise has a long and distinguished association with the Games as an athlete (swimming for Team Scotland at the Perth 1962 Commonwealth Games) and thereafter as Team Manager, Administrator and Honorary Secretary, while she was the first female elected to the CGF Executive Board. In 2008, she joined the Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport, which she chaired from 2014-2018. In 2018, she was awarded a Damehood in the New Year's Honours List for services to Commonwealth Sport. This came after she was awarded the CBE in 2003 for services to the Commonwealth Games.



**David Rutherford [Adjudicator]**

Principal, Tuhana Business and Human Rights  
Chairperson & CABOS

David Rutherford is a Director of Tuhana Business & Human Rights Limited. He is a veteran in the field of business and human rights. He has been New Zealand's Chief Human Rights Commissioner and chair of New Zealand's OPCAT NPM. He is an independent business and human rights consultant, Special Advisor to the Centre for Sport and Human Rights. David has held management and governance positions in rugby union, netball, Paralympics and Special Olympics at national, regional and international levels. He is also an independent expert member of

the Commonwealth Advisory Board on Sport (CABOS) and chairs its Working Group on Governance, Integrity and Human Rights in Sport. He is trustee of the Attitude Trust.



**Stephen McCubbin [Adjudicator]**

Co-ordinator of CYSDP

Stephen McCubbin is a Policy, Community and Youth Development Specialist with over 10 years' experience in Sport for Development. Coming from humble beginnings and being offered the opportunity at a non-traditional path, it is here he built a career that would seek to provide new avenues for youth who hailed from similar backgrounds. Stephen is a Co-ordinator for The Secretariat's Youth Network for Sport Development and Peace.



**Hon. Aurore Mimara Munyangaju [Panellist]**

Minister of Sports, Rwanda

Hon. Aurore Mimosa Munyangaju is Rwanda's Minister of Sports. She holds a master's degree in Project Management from the Maastricht School of Management in the Netherlands. Prior to her appointment, Minister Aurore Mimosa Munyangaju was the Chief Executive Officer of SONARWA Life Insurance. She also served as the CEO of African Alliance, an investment banking group operating in Africa. She has a vast experience in the banking industry especially in Treasury management operations; Trade finance and institutional Banking. She has an extensive knowledge of the Rwandan Stock Exchange Operations. Minister Aurore Mimosa served as a Board Member in different institutions. At a young age, Minister Mimosa always took an interest in sports. She started out playing volleyball and basketball, then joined her school basketball team which propelled her into a lifelong passion for the game. She also joined the national league playing in different clubs. Minister Mimosa still actively plays basketball whenever she gets time.



**Theresa Goh [Panellist]**

Singapore Para Athlete, Paralympian/LGBTQ+ Rights

Theresa Goh is a Queer Paralympic Swimmer from Singapore. She represented her country internationally for 20 years before retiring end of 2019. A former world record holder in the 50m and 200m Breaststroke SB4 category, she finally clinched a bronze medal in the 100m breaststroke SB4 category, at the Rio Paralympics on her 4th Games outing. She is an advocate for LGBTQ rights especially in Singapore, but also aims to be a voice for other causes that speak to her. Theresa strongly believes in the importance of seeing the ability in a person without erasing their disability. At home, Theresa along with her girlfriend, occasionally share about their experiences as an interracial, interabled couple on their YouTube channel: Kopi-Oh No! She also has four cats, Seb Patches Lobster and Nyx, whom she loves, however, their love for her remains in question.

**Sir Hilary Beckles [Panellist]**

Vice Chancellor, University of West Indies

Sir Hilary Beckles is the Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies. Before assuming this office on May 1, 2015, he served the university as Professor of Economic History, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies, and Principal of its Cave Hill Campus in Barbados for thirteen years (2002-15). Sir Hilary has had a distinguished career as an academic, international thought leader, United Nations committee official, and global public activist in the field of social justice and minority empowerment.

**Professor Jack Anderson [Panellist]**

University of Melbourne

Jack Anderson is a Professor of Law and Director of the Melbourne Law Masters at the University of Melbourne. Jack's research specialisation is in sports law. He is a member of World Athletics' Disciplinary Tribunal, the integrity unit of the International Hockey Federation,

and the International Tennis Federation's Ethics Commission. Jack is an arbitrator for the National Sports Tribunal of Australia and Sport Resolutions UK.



#### **Hartwell Mhunduru [Panellist]**

Human Rights and Inclusion Lead, Commonwealth Games Federation

Hartwell Mhunduru is the Human Rights and Inclusion Lead at the Commonwealth Games Federation and has a multi-disciplinary approach to Human Rights, management and problem solving. He comes from a strong education background and has extensive experience in capacity building and technical support within Human rights.



#### **Fahmida Faiza [Panellist]**

Head of Social Responsibility and Safeguarding, South Asian Football Federation

Fahmida Faiza is the Head of Social Responsibility and Safeguarding at South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) and currently leading the safeguarding policies and practices across South Asia. While she shares a close working relation with AFC and FIFA's Safeguarding, SAFF also is involved with different global safeguarding platforms such as International Safeguards for Children in Sports. She has initiated the practice of safe, clean, and inclusive sports through South Asian football while working with the national federations. She has made a name and proved her expertise through initiating multi stakeholders' engagement for safe & clean sport by organizing SAFF Regional Safeguarding Seminars. As a British Barrister by education, Faiza's previous engagements with the UN was to help the Secretary General's Youth Envoy on UN Youth Strategy 2030 implementation. Faiza has been engaged with multiple youth networks of the Commonwealth.

**Paula Tesoriero MNZM [Panellist]**

Disability Rights Commissioner, New Zealand Human Rights Commission

Paula Tesoriero MNZM is New Zealand's Disability Rights Commissioner. She has a broad mandate under the Human Rights Act 1993 to protect and promote the rights of disabled New Zealanders. Paula is a former lawyer and was a senior public servant for several years. She is a life trustee with the Halberg Foundation and has held a range of governance roles on various Boards. She is also a Paralympian cycling gold medalist and holds a number of sports related roles including being a member of the New Zealand Sports Tribunal and she was the Chef de Mission for the NZ Paralympic team for Tokyo 2020.

**Dr Payoshni Mitra, [Panellist]**

CEO, Global Observatory for Women, Sport, Physical Education and Physical Activity

Dr Payoshni Mitra is an Athlete's Rights advocate and scholar who has more than ten years' experience of working closely with women athletes. Her work focuses on the mental and physical harm caused by the Differences in the sex development (DSD) regulations of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and its predecessors. With her research and advocacy work, she has been able to help athletes win legal cases on complex gender issues on more than one occasion. The breadth of her work is substantial, enabling her to form effective alliances with athletes, government officials, advocates, scholars, scientists, lawyers, ethicists and media figures across the world. In the past, she has successfully led research projects on issues related to sport, sexual harassment, and other forms of gender discrimination with financial support from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, under the Human Resources Development in Sports Scheme at Jadavpur University.

**Anne Wafula Strike MBE [Speaker]**

Commonwealth Champion for Equality in Sports

Born in Mihiu, Kenya, Anne was a fit and healthy child before polio struck when she was two years old. She was given the middle name of Olympia at birth, a title of prophetic significance for the future and prescient of hurdles she would face in forthcoming years. 2004 marked the beginning of an Olympic career when Anne became the first wheelchair racer from Sub-Saharan Africa to compete at the Paralympics in Athens. In 2006 Anne became a British citizen and joined Team GB and in 2007 she was officially recognised by the Queen at a Buckingham Palace reception for her work as a disabled athlete and for involvement in charity work for people with disabilities.

**Dr Ben Sanders [Speaker]**

Senior Consultant, sportanddev

Dr Ben Sanders is a thought leader in sport for development and peace. He has extensive practical and theoretical experience, including working with the Commonwealth, United Nations, FIFA, Laureus and others, in designing, delivering, and evaluating policies and programmes that use sport to achieve development outcomes, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He is currently a senior consultant at the International Platform on Sport and Development and works with a range of other actors.

# Commonwealth Publications on Sport for Development and Peace

These publications are available at

<https://thecommonwealth.org/our-work/sport-development-and-peace>

## The Commonwealth Consensus Statement on Promoting Human Rights in and through Sport.



This document is a Commonwealth Consensus statement aimed at promoting Human Rights in and through Sport. It provides notes from Commonwealth Sports Ministers highlighting the importance of international human rights and ways forward on how to insure inclusivity for all individuals within sports.

## States' Obligations Under International Human Rights Conventions



This paper examines how human rights can be protected in sport and through sport. It provides guidance on how states can meet their human rights obligations through sport to contribute to peaceful and inclusive sustainable development. The vision to maximise the contribution of sport to sustainable development can be advanced through investment in building effective, accountable, accessible and inclusive sport ensuring sport provides justice for all people connected to it.

## The Implications of COVID-19 for Community Sport and Sport for Development - A Discussion Paper



This paper examines the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on community sport and sport for development in Commonwealth countries. It contains an extensive review of literature from The Commonwealth and other websites, including the Commonwealth Coronavirus Resource Centre, programme documents from seven Sport for Development agencies operating across 13 Commonwealth countries and includes the results of interviews with academic and professional colleagues with expertise in Community Sport and Sport for Development across the Commonwealth.

## Resourcing the Sustainability and the Recovery of the Sport Sector during the Coronavirus Pandemic



This paper addresses the impacts of COVID-19 on the sport economies of Commonwealth member countries and introduces policy options countries can consider in seeking to resource the positive contribution sport can make, in response to the pandemic, towards economic and sustainable development, health cost savings, social well-being and engaging and empowering young people to participate meaningfully in society.



## Policy Guidance to Commonwealth Governments on Protecting the Integrity of Sport



Sport plays an important role in the shared identity of the Commonwealth. The shared interest in sport across many communities in the Commonwealth plays a key role underpinning 'the unique connections and friendships which bring together a third of the world's population as citizens of the nations and territories of the Commonwealth. Commonwealth Heads of Government and Sports Ministers have consistently recognised the potential of sport to be employed as a catalyst for human and social development and to promote respect and understanding.

## Sport and SDG Indicators – Category 1, 2 and Toolkit



The Sport and SDG Indicators provide a base set of measures to monitor and evaluate the contribution of sport, physical education and physical activity to the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is an essential resource to support the development of national and institutional monitoring and evaluation

systems and enhance the collection of common data on sport, physical education, physical activity and the SDGs. The series of three publications provide guidance on indicator frameworks for change expected at a population, institutional and community level alongside indicators that can be utilised based on contextual factors.

## About the Commonwealth Youth Programme

The Commonwealth Secretariat's Sport for Development and Peace work is delivered through the Commonwealth Youth Programme.

The Commonwealth Youth Programme engages and empowers young people, provides thought leadership on youth development, and supports governments, youth work professionals and young leaders to create policy and practice environments that enable young people's social, economic and political potential. We encourage the effective participation of young women and men in development processes, and promote their full engagement at all levels of decision-making, including with Heads of Government. We also showcase and celebrate the achievements of young people in driving democracy and development, to demonstrate their capabilities and inspire further action.

We place special emphasis on supporting young people to design and drive youth-led initiatives, and to have a meaningful voice with decision makers. This includes convening Youth Forums in partnership with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings and Ministerial Meetings, as well as technical assistance and support for national, regional and global youth networks.

These include:

- Commonwealth Youth Sport for Development and Peace Network
- Commonwealth Youth Council
- Commonwealth Students Association
- Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs
- Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network
- Commonwealth Youth Health Network
- Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network
- Commonwealth Youth Human Rights and Democracy Network
- Commonwealth Correspondents
- Commonwealth Sustainable Cities / Urbanisation Initiative (Youth)
- Commonwealth Young Planners
- Commonwealth Youth Gender & Equality Network
- Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network

