

The 10 Guiding Actions for the Implementation of the Commonwealth Consensus Statement on Promoting Human Rights in and through Sport

# **Background:**

- 1. As the Commonwealth, we recognise that sport is an enabler for positive behaviours in our communities and society. We recognise the important contribution that sport and physical activity can make to improving wellbeing and healthy lifestyles, socio-economic development and building peaceful and just societies. Therefore, sport can be used as a catalyst for accountability and action both at the professional and community level across the Commonwealth.
- 2. The strength of the Commonwealth is its unwavering commitment to the fundamental values and principles outlined in the Commonwealth Charter. This common agenda reiterates the importance of securing the socio-economic, physical and mental wellbeing of our current and future generations, a common future that ensures that no one is left behind.
- 3. Given member states' commitment to the Commonwealth Consensus Statement on Promoting Human Rights in and through sport, CABOS discussions emphasised the need for practical actions that member states can take over the next ten years when Australia will host the Olympic Games in 2032.
- 4. This timeframe is also chosen to allow member states sufficient time to develop the capacity to measure progress using the Sport and SDG Indicator framework with respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights by member states and non-state actors.
- 5. In developing the 10 Actions for the next ten years, account was taken of the many significant events to be held in Commonwealth member states, which could serve as a platform for promoting the shared values and principles of the Commonwealth. For example, New Zealand and Australia will host the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023. The FIFA Men's World Cup 2026 will be jointly hosted in Canada along with other non-Commonwealth countries. Australia will host the Olympic Games in 2032. The legacy programs for these events could include an emphasis on promoting human rights, good governance and integrity aligned to these 10 Actions.
- 6. The objective of the proposed 10 Actions is to provide practical, tangible and measurable actions for member states and non-state actors as they implement the principles of the Commonwealth Consensus Statement on the Promotion of Human Rights in and through Sport in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Kazan Action Plan (KAP).

## The 10 Actions

The 10 Actions correspond to the three key strands of Commonwealth work programme on **Human Rights**, **Governance** and **Integrity**, and are linked to corresponding SDGs and the Commonwealth Consensus Statement priorities on Promoting Human Rights in and through Sport.

# **Human Rights:**

## Equality in Sport (SDG 5, SDG 10)

 Strengthen equality in access to sport, especially for children, youth, people with disabilities and groups in a situation of vulnerability. This involves all aspects of Gender Equality, Racial Equality, and Equality for All. Progress advisory work from a human rights perspective on the inclusion of all athletes, as well as pertinent disability and sports issues, towards a holistic and sustainable Pan-Commonwealth pathway.

### Shared Human Rights Standards (SDG 5, SDG 16)

2. Embed the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) into national sports regulations to ensure fairer and safer access to sport for all children of the Commonwealth. Including the Right to be Safe from Violence (Art. 19), Right to Education (Art. 28), Right to Freedom of Expression (Art. 13), Right to Relax and Play (Art. 31) and the Right to be Heard (Art. 12)

#### Reject all forms of Exploitation in Sport (SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 9)

3. Strengthen government enforcement and oversight of sports' governing bodies to reject all forms of exploitation in sport and promote fair wages and working conditions for athletes.

### Safeguarding (SDG 3, SDG 5, SDG 16)

4. Bolster safe online (e.g., esports) and offline sporting spaces (e.g., stadiums, gyms, sporting parlours, training camps etc) promote athlete safety, freedom of expression by encouraging a culture of safeguarding at all levels. This includes systems (legislations, policies, and procedures), as well as safeguarding behaviours reflected in codes of conduct.

#### **Governance:**

## Foster Good Governance and Partnerships in Sport (SDG 16, SDG 17)

5. Foster good governance of sport through partnerships in the public and private sector to mitigate the risks of corruption in sport, including through mechanisms such as the International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport (IPACS).

### Transparency and Accountability (SDG 9, SDG 16)

6. In addition to adhering to existing accountability frameworks and processes in sport, encourage further reporting of Sport and SDG Indicator framework and similar, to measure the impact of sport aligned to SDGs.

# State Obligation in Sport to Respect, Protect and Fulfil Human Rights (SDG 5, SDG 16, SDG 17)

7. Uphold the State's duty to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all citizens participating in sport, including protecting third parties from discrimination and harassment, and from abuse by third parties in the State. This includes the implementation of safeguarding mechanisms to prevent and respond to harm and abuse and engage in meaningful dialogue with relevant stakeholders.

# Encourage Greater Responsibility of Non-State Actors in Respecting Human Rights (SDG 8, SDG 16, SDG 17)

8. Encourage non-state actors seeking funding or partnership to commit and respect internationally recognised human rights principles, including the monitoring of the supply chain of merchandising and labour exploitation.

# Integrity:

## Promoting Safe Sport (SDG 3, SDG 16, SDG 17)

9. Consider the establishment of independent mechanisms for safe sports, which promote integrity, ethics and robust response to harm and abuse in sport, in public, private and online spaces.

# Maintain the Integrity of Fair Sport - Free from Manipulation and Corruption (SDG 10, SDG 16, SDG 17)

10. Advocate for sport to be free from manipulation and corruption at all levels through the use of relevant national platforms that promote accountability, visibility and integrity in sport.