
7th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting Communiqué

Glasgow, Scotland | United Kingdom 2014

21st July 2014

The 7th Commonwealth Sports Minister Meeting (7CSMM) was held in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom on 21st July 2014. Delegations from 45 member countries attended the meeting. The meeting was opened by Commonwealth Secretary-General, HE Kamallesh Sharma, and chaired on behalf of the United Kingdom by Ms Shona Robison MSP, Minister for the Commonwealth Games and Sport, Scottish Government.

In acknowledging the important role that sport plays in contributing to a shared identity in the Commonwealth, the meeting focused on the positive impact sport can make across the wide development agenda shared by Commonwealth members. The meeting also considered ways to protect the integrity of sport, to ensure that its full potential can be harnessed for positive social and economic outcomes.

Sport for Development and Peace (SDP)

1. Ministers recognised the valuable role of sport in development and peace, as an approach to addressing a range of challenges and delivering significant benefits, and noted that this has been repeatedly and successfully demonstrated by practitioners across the Commonwealth. Ministers noted that this work occurs in a wide diversity of cultural and demographic contexts, and contributes to various development goals such as health, education, youth empowerment, gender equity, equality and inclusion, social cohesion, economic growth, and community and peace building.
2. Ministers noted the power of sport to drive and support a range of development outcomes, and therefore its importance to successful delivery of the post-2015 development agenda. Ministers called for sport and the role it can play in social and economic development to be explicitly recognised in the post-2015 development agenda.
3. Ministers affirmed the importance of high-level policy commitments being translated into detailed policy frameworks and action plans to drive SDP activity to benefit millions of people across the Commonwealth. Ministers also agreed that national investment in sport should reflect its transformational potential across multiple policy areas.
4. Ministers commended and endorsed the work undertaken by the Commonwealth Secretariat since 6CSMM to support member governments to develop national SDP policies and action plans, including three SDP publications:
 - *The Commonwealth Guide to Development through Sport* (SDP Guidelines), which were provided in final draft form at 6CSMM;
 - A workbook accompanying the SDP Guidelines, *Implementing the Commonwealth Guide to Advancing Development through Sport: A Workbook for Analysis, Planning and Monitoring*; and

- Strengthening *Sport for Development and Peace: National Policies and Strategies*, a good practice guide.

5. Ministers commended the Governments of Barbados, Rwanda and Sri Lanka for piloting the SDP Guidelines with support from the Commonwealth Secretariat, and were pleased to note the success of these projects. In particular, Ministers noted the report on the impact that sport has played in sustaining peace and supporting reconciliation in former conflict areas of Sri Lanka; and the focus on improving health and preventing non-communicable diseases in Rwanda; further Ministers noted the importance demonstrated by the pilot projects of using sport intentionally for development and peace and the value of multi-sectorial collaboration.
6. Ministers committed to the development of quality national policies to promote and support sustainable SDP programmes with clearly planned outcomes, and requested the Commonwealth Secretariat to extend technical support for the development of SDP National Action Plans to additional member states and monitor the impact of the existing pilots. Ministers agreed that sustainable funding for this work should be a priority for member states.
7. Ministers recognised the importance of the Commonwealth Secretariat working with other international organisations to ensure continued advancement of SDP approaches. In particular they noted the MINEPS V Declaration of Berlin as a high-level policy statement for sport that complements the Commonwealth SDP Guidelines and policy work. Ministers requested the Commonwealth Secretariat to engage with UNESCO's follow-up process for the Berlin Declaration, to ensure alignment and complementarity of approaches and guidance given to member governments, thus ensuring the greatest benefit.
8. Ministers noted the important role that physical education and school sport plays in introducing children to sport and physical activity, developing positive attitudes to continued participation in sport and leading healthy lives; and that increased quality and quantity of physical education and school sport can, by reaching children at a young age, support and deliver sport for development and peace outcomes.
9. Ministers welcomed the steps taken by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) to use the Games as an instrument for peace and development, and commended the partnership between the CGF and UNICEF. Ministers requested the CGF to build engagement with the Commonwealth Secretariat to ensure alignment and enhancement of SDP policy and grassroots programming in the Commonwealth.
10. Ministers noted the importance of ensuring that SPD initiatives are sustainable. Ministers agreed that potential exists for partnerships with the private sector to further sport for development and peace, and requested the Commonwealth Secretariat to explore options. Ministers also recommended that development cooperation partners be encouraged to increase the priority and quantity of sporting interventions in development programme planning, and called for wide recognition of the power of sport for development and peace
11. Ministers agreed that potential exists to leverage expertise between Commonwealth member states for technological transfer to enable the production of sports equipment locally and at low cost, to increase grassroots sports participation. Ministers requested the Commonwealth Secretariat to explore options for such an undertaking.

12. Ministers applauded the formation of the Commonwealth Youth SDP working group, and endorsed it as the Commonwealth's leading youth voice in promoting best practices towards SDP. Ministers further endorsed the CYSDP's call for mechanisms in governmental processes and sporting organisations for the inclusion of youth voices, as a major stakeholder group in sport. Finally, Ministers agreed to consider support for any young person from their country who may be selected for membership of CYSDP, and to support the CYSDP to access major regional and global forums for advocacy about SDP.
13. Ministers recognised the Commonwealth Secretariat's enhanced commitment to supporting member governments in the area of SDP, with the creation of permanent SDP staff positions. Ministers also recognised with appreciation the contribution, by UK Sport and the Government of India, and most recently by **sportscotland**, of seconded staff and financial resources to the Secretariat to allow delivery of the SDP mandate. Ministers acknowledged the need to ensure adequate financial resources for the Commonwealth Secretariat to deliver its SDP mandate, and committed to consider providing funds for this work.

Integrity in Sport

14. Ministers reiterated their belief in the importance of integrity in sport, recognising that if it is undermined then it corrodes the positive potential of sport. Ministers reaffirmed their 6CSMM request for the Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS) to develop a framework encapsulating a Commonwealth consensus on issues related to integrity in sport, including good governance, safeguarding of participants, and addressing match-fixing.
15. Ministers emphasised that good governance underpins the integrity of sport, and welcomed, as a principle of good governance, the need for shared collective responsibility by both governments and sporting organisations.
16. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that safeguards are in place to protect children and other vulnerable groups participating in sport. Ministers acknowledged that National Safeguarding in Sport policy instruments and systems are key to the protection of vulnerable participants, and thanked CABOS for outlining some of the key features of these.
17. Ministers noted with concern the growing threat to sport from manipulation of sporting competition for purposes relating to betting (match fixing). Ministers acknowledged that as this is a global issue which crosses many borders, it is important for the Commonwealth to work in partnership with other organisations. Ministers noted that this is an issue of transnational crime and requires the attention of law enforcement agencies. Ministers noted recent international developments in this area, including the *Declaration of Berlin*, the draft *Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competition* and the Sorbonne-ICSS *Guiding Principles for Protecting the Integrity of Sports Competitions*. Ministers committed to participating in the battle against the manipulation of sporting competitions, and requested CABOS to continue to collaborate with other international organisations to address this issue and provide advice to member governments.
18. Ministers recognised that the Government of Australia is a global leader in addressing the issue of match fixing at a national level, and received with appreciation Australia's provision of practical national policy templates and resources that can be adapted by individual member governments. Ministers noted that these resources have been tailored to allow for both countries where betting is legal and those where betting is illegal, and committed to

consider using these resources in their own national context.

19. Ministers highlighted the importance of ensuring education programmes on integrity in sport are in place to inform and protect young athletes.
20. Ministers requested that CABOS continue to work with the Commonwealth Secretariat, consult with member governments and relevant international partners, and to collate and share members' good practice, to finalise the framework of Commonwealth Consensus on Integrity in Sport for 8CSMM in 2016. Ministers endorsed the recommendation by CABOS that the framework should cover other crucial aspects of integrity in sport, including equality and anti-doping. Ministers agreed to commit their efforts towards building respect and understanding, so as to combat racism and all other forms of discrimination in sport.
21. Ministers commended CABOS on the work undertaken in the area of integrity in sport to date, and thanked the members of CABOS for their continued efforts to provide advice and expertise to member governments and the Commonwealth Secretariat in this and other aspects of sport.

Commonwealth Games and Major Events

22. Ministers received presentations on efforts to create legacies from major events. Ministers congratulated the Government of the UK on the continued impact being achieved around the world by the International Inspiration programme launched to coincide with the London 2012 Olympic Games. Ministers also commended the Scottish Government on its work to ensure the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games delivers a legacy for Scotland across a range of areas, such as business, education and sport. Ministers noted that the planning for this started several years prior to the Games and evaluation will continue for several years after the Games have finished. Finally Ministers were pleased to hear of the raising of awareness of the Commonwealth and its values through the Commonwealth Class initiative supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat.
23. Ministers received an update on the activities of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), including preparations for upcoming Commonwealth and Commonwealth Youth Games. Ministers wished Scotland success in hosting the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, Samoa and Saint Lucia success with hosting the Youth Games in 2015 and 2017 respectively, and Australia with hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2018.

8th CSMM and future Olympic year CSMMs

24. Ministers welcomed the offer by the next Commonwealth Games host, Australia, to host and chair the 2016 CSMM in the margins of the Rio Olympic Games, with the meeting to be a full day meeting. Ministers agreed that CSMMs should remain on a two-year cycle and agreed to consider options for future Olympic years (2020 and beyond), with the understanding that meetings might be hosted separately from the Olympic host country and that this would create the opportunity for smaller members to host.

Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom 21st July 2014