
Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS)

Chair's Statement

September 14, 2018

The Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS) held its annual meeting from the 12th to 14th September 2018 at the Commonwealth Secretariat Headquarters in London, United Kingdom. As the primary sport policy advisory body in the Commonwealth, CABOS provides guidance on key sport policy issues to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meetings and, through the Commonwealth Secretariat, to member governments.

The 2018 CABOS meeting focused on advancing the joint strategies and collective actions on sport and sustainable development agreed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and 9th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting, both held in April 2018. These meetings:

affirmed the valuable contribution sport can make to the 2030 Agenda and committed (Commonwealth governments) to work with sports bodies to maximise this positive impact and take collective action to promote good governance, address corruption, protect the integrity of sport, and promote human rights (Commonwealth Heads of Government, 2018).

The annual CABOS meeting was coordinated with the inaugural meeting of the Open Ended Working Group on Model Indicators on Sport and the SDGs, hosted by the Commonwealth Secretariat on 13th September 2018.

Evidence-based decision making on sport and the SDGs

1. CABOS has consistently argued for the valuable contribution that well designed and effectively implemented sport-based policy and programmes can make to achieving identified SDG targets and in building peaceful and just societies.
2. CABOS recognises that at present there is only limited understanding of the scope and scale of this contribution. It identified an urgent need for government and sport stakeholders alike to target and prioritise investment into the sport sector based on the evidence of the return on health and wellbeing, community cohesion and shared prosperity. This prioritisation was seen as urgent in relation to health in the context of the high levels of NCDs in many Commonwealth countries, and the associated need to get more people from more diverse backgrounds active through sport.
3. CABOS therefore welcomed the commitment of the international sport policy community to strengthen data collection on sport, physical education, and physical activity and the SDGs through Action 2 of the Kazan Action Plan, and the foresight of Commonwealth Sports Ministers to call for the development of practical guidance and

'*model*' indicators to support the measurement and evaluation of the contribution of sport to the SDGs and therefore to national development plans.

4. In advancing this work, CABOS reiterated the value of mapping national sport policies against the SDG framework. **They encouraged Commonwealth countries to make their current sport policy documentation available in support of this process.**
5. CABOS endorsed the draft *Model Indicators and Toolkit to Measure the Contribution of Sport, Physical Education and Physical Activity* produced by the Commonwealth Secretariat. **CABOS encouraged governments and other relevant stakeholders to engage in the process of testing the draft Model Indicators to integrate the Model Indicators into a measurement and evaluation framework to support the iterative development of a set of common indicators and data collection approaches.**
6. CABOS commended the Commonwealth Secretariat's work coordinating global action to develop indicators and measurement tools on sport and the SDGs. They agreed to merge the CABOS Working Group on Measuring the Contribution of Sport to the SDGs with the International Steering Group for Action 2 of the Kazan Action Plan.
7. **To advance this work CABOS emphasised the following principles and encouraged that they be integrated into future iterations of the model indicator toolkit and pilot implementation projects:**
 - a. Principles emphasised by the Working Group are:
 - Enhancing policy coherence and reducing the monitoring burden
 - Focus on the intentionality of sport-based approaches and creating the right conditions to bring about change through sport
 - Better programmatic utility for countries
 - Knowing the extent of social, economic and environmental issues (to which sport can contribute) and reallocating resources accordingly
 - Drawing on multiple innovative data sources and bridging levels and types of data
 - Ensure proper alignment with other relevant indicator processes, such as the WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity (GAPPA)
8. **By its next annual meeting in 2019, CABOS has agreed to:**
 - a. Report on the extended mapping of alignment of sport policies and results framework to prioritized SDGs and targets.
 - b. Report on mapping and analysis of existing data sets.
 - c. Report on key learnings from national and institutional testing of Model Indicators.
 - d. Provide an updated Toolkit and Model Indicator bank based on input from testing of indicators.

Addressing the diversity of sport integrity vulnerabilities and capabilities across the Commonwealth

9. CABOS noted the concern of Commonwealth Heads of Government and Commonwealth Sports Ministers about the global sport integrity environment and their resolve to intensify national action, regional cooperation and international collaboration to address this issue.
10. Protecting the integrity of sport has been a long standing focus area for the Commonwealth and CABOS. This is based on recognition that well-governed, inclusive, harm-free and clean sport is essential in maximising the contributions sport can make to sustainable development.
11. CABOS welcomed Commonwealth Sports Ministers' endorsement and support to survey the sport integrity environment in the Commonwealth.
12. The objective of the survey is to quantify the diversity of challenges, common vulnerabilities and capacity of Commonwealth countries to protect the integrity of sport.
13. The outcome of the survey will assist the development of targeted tools and responses to optimise sports integrity frameworks across the Commonwealth.

CABOS will now design and scope a survey of the sports integrity environment in the Commonwealth. CABOS agreed that the Government of Australia, through the National Sport Integrity Unit, will coordinate this project through its leadership of the CABOS Sport Integrity Working Group.

14. **In advancing this work CABOS will:**
 - a. build on the Commonwealth Charter and decisions at previous CHOGM, Commonwealth Sports Ministers and CABOS platforms;
 - b. draw on other key international initiatives, including the Commonwealth Sports Movement, the MINEPS Sport Policy Framework, the International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport, and others as relevant;
 - c. analyse the interrelated human rights conventions and principles to ensure these are reflected in the work;
 - d. align this work with action aimed at maximising the contribution of sport to the SDGs (including drawing on the Sport and SDG Model Indicators Project); and,
 - e. regularly communicate with key stakeholders across government and sport in member countries on progress.
15. **By their next annual meeting in 2019, CABOS has agreed to:**
 - a. Develop and present a draft strategy to map the sports integrity environment in the Commonwealth.
 - b. CABOS will ensure ongoing consultation throughout this development phase.

Consensus statement on promoting human rights in and through sport

16. CABOS is a strong advocate of the relevance for sport policy of states' obligations under international human rights conventions.
17. CABOS welcomes intensified international action on the promotion and protection of human rights in and through sport, and specifically applauded the adoption of the London Declaration on Sport and Human Rights and launch of the Centre for Sport and Human Rights.
18. CABOS acknowledged the contributions of the Commonwealth Games Federation, Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutes and selected member governments which are playing a leadership role in this international action.
19. CABOS emphasised the critical role of local stakeholders in promoting human rights in and through sport noting the importance of national human rights institutions and national sporting bodies in advancing this work.
20. CABOS noted the request of Commonwealth Sport Ministers that a consensus statement on promoting human rights in and through sport be developed for the consideration of the 10th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting in 2020.
21. CABOS agreed the statement should focus on the relevance of international and national human rights instruments to sport. The statement should be concise, high level and aimed at enabling action across the diversity of Commonwealth countries.
22. In advancing this work CABOS will:
 - a. reinforce the legal basis for the promotion and protection of human rights in and through sport;
 - b. use the Commonwealth Charter, the Gleneagles Agreement and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights as a basis for the consensus statement;
 - c. ensure the statement includes accessible language and concepts;
 - d. produce or signpost to tools and guides to assist with implementation and action;
 - e. coordinate with other Commonwealth and international organisations; and,
 - f. ensure diverse input into the development of the consensus statement.

23. **By its next annual meeting in 2019, CABOS has agreed to:**

- a. Consult Commonwealth stakeholders to draft the Consensus Statement.
- b. Submit a draft Consensus Statement with an accompanying explanatory note.

Coordination and collective action on sport integrity and sport and human rights

24. CABOS recognises that with increasing international action on sport integrity and sport and human rights there is increased potential for duplication or conflicting approaches. There is also the danger that this work is selective, with some of the most difficult issues and most pressing reforms required not being adequately addressed.
25. CABOS raised the disconnect between government and sport in a number of contexts as one such issue. It highlighted the importance of a shared understanding among these stakeholders on what constitutes good governance, accountability and autonomy, as well as on what constitutes appropriate interventions of government, Commonwealth Games Associations and sporting bodies respectively in promoting adherence to these principles.
26. CABOS committed to intensify its work supporting partnership working and dialogue between Commonwealth Governments, Commonwealth Games Federation and the Commonwealth Sports Movement, the CFNHRI and the Commonwealth Youth Networks.
27. CABOS recommended regional platforms as the most effective forum for this dialogue and to advance collective action. CABOS requested the Commonwealth Games Federation to involve Sports Ministers or Senior Government Officials at Commonwealth Games Federation Regional Meetings as appropriate.
28. CABOS identified the need to ensure its core work also promoted coherence and collective action. **To support this objective, CABOS has committed to integrating the following content into future policy documents, reports and advisory publications:**
 - a. Set out the relevance of the issue and Commonwealth consensus on the role and appropriate intervention of governments, sporting bodies and other key stakeholders.
 - b. Reference to the Commonwealth Charter and applicable human rights conventions and obligations relevant to the policy issue(s) being addressed.
 - c. Reference to the SDG targets relevant to the policy issue(s) being addressed.
 - d. Recommendations on the practical implications and interventions of key stakeholders in relation to:
 - Protecting and promoting human rights
 - Good governance
 - Equality, inclusion and safeguarding

CABOS Membership

29. CABOS extended a vote of thanks to the CABOS Chair and two expert members whose terms conclude at the end of 2018:
 - Louise Martin CBE (Chair)
 - Sir Hilary Beckles, University of West Indies
 - Associate Professor Selina Khoo, University of Malaya

30. The current membership of CABOS looks forward to the constitution of the new membership for the 2019-20 period and working with incoming members to support Commonwealth sport policy priorities.

Louise Martin CBE

Chair, Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS)

14 September, 2018

London United Kingdom