

SPORT AND CHILD & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ACTION PLAN 2010-2012

I. SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP (SDP IWG)

MANDATE

The SDP IWG promotes and supports the adoption of policies and programmes by national governments to harness the potential of sport to contribute to the achievement of development objectives, specifically the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and peace.

STRUCTURE

The SDP IWG consists of the following bodies, which are overseen by the Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace:

1. Plenary: Consists of *Members*, i.e. Member State representatives and *Observers*, i.e. representatives of the UN system, academia, civil society, private sector, sports organizations and non-governmental organizations.
2. Executive Board: Consists of the Special Advisor on Sport for Development and Peace, Regional Representatives, Working Group Representatives and Donors.
3. Thematic Working Groups: Are based on the thematic divisions contained within the SDP IWG Report “Harnessing the Power of Sport for Development and Peace: Recommendations to Governments” (2008).
4. Secretariat: Hosted by the UN Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP).

II. SPORT AND CHILD & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THEMATIC WORKING GROUP

OBJECTIVES

The Sport and Child & Youth Development Working Group will:

1. Utilize available resources to identify issues and best practice approaches within the Sport and Child & Youth Development Working Group thematic;
2. Provide a forum for governments to benefit from each other's experience and share best practices with regard to sport and child & youth development;
3. Support the implementation of the recommendations with regard to sport and child & youth development which include the following strategic areas of priority (see annex):¹ Child Protection in Sport; Sport to Strengthen Child and Youth Education; and Sport to Enhance Transferable Skills and Employment Opportunities.
4. Sustain momentum with regard to government awareness and take-up in sport and child & youth development policy and programmes.

¹ Based on Policy Recommendations contained in: Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, “*Harnessing the Power of Sport for Development and Peace: Recommendations to Governments*”, 2008, pp. 109-117.

STRUCTURE

MEMBERS

- Government Representatives: Sport for Development and Peace focal point (preferably with specialization in sport and child & youth development) from within UN Member States.
- The appointed representative will also sit on the SDP IWG Plenary unless the Member State would choose to appoint different representatives for the SDP IWG Thematic Working Groups and Plenary.

CHAIR AND CO-CHAIRS

- Chair: United Kingdom (temporary until election to take place at first SDP IWG Plenary)
- Chairs and Co-chairs are Member State representatives elected by the SDP IWG Executive Board on a rotating basis for a one year period. Must include one developed and one developing country.

OBSERVERS:

- Observers will be invited by the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace on behalf of the Member States to contribute their knowledge and expertise to the Sport and Child & Youth Development Thematic Working Group. Members will be able to draw on this expertise to further advance their policies and programmes.
- Observers will be involved in providing their expertise to ensure the Strategic Plan of the Sport and Child & Youth Development Thematic Working Group is fulfilled.
- Through teleconferences and regular email exchanges, observers will be able to contribute to the substantive outputs of the Working Group.
- Observers must have a demonstrated commitment to sport and child & youth development.

SDP IWG SECRETARIAT

- Hosted within the UN Office on Sport for Development and Peace, the SDP IWG Secretariat provides technical support to the Thematic Working Groups including the drafting of the Rules of Procedure to be approved by the Plenary.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2011

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGY	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUT/INDICATOR
1. Building awareness & encouraging dialogue on sport and child & youth development	1. Outreach and engagement activity to expand the number of governments that actively engage in sport and child & youth development dialogue	<p>1.1. Drafting of Rules of Procedure for SDP IWG Plenary and Thematic WGs.</p> <p>1.2 Identification and invitation of Members (government representatives) and Observers (experts) for Sport and Child & Youth Development Thematic WG.</p> <p>1.3 Identification of preliminary chair and co-chair of Sport and Child & Youth Development Thematic WG prior to election by Plenary.</p> <p>1.4 Develop 2 year Strategic Plan (2010-2011) for Sport and Child & Youth Development Thematic WG to be adopted at first SDP IWG Plenary. Strategic priorities based on recommendations contained in SDP IWG Report.²</p> <p>1.5 Sport and Child & Youth Development Thematic WG strategic priority areas presented to UN inter-governmental meetings, UN Communications Group Working Group and Task Force on SDP meetings, Group of Friends on SDP, SDP Conferences etc to ensure expert input into the work of the WG and to encourage implementation of the recommendations.</p> <p>1.6 Launch and maintenance of Sport and Child & Youth Development section on website of UN Office on Sport for Development and Peace.</p> <p>1.7 Oversee the organization of one SDP IWG Plenary Conference.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules of Procedure Membership list: Members and Observers of Sport and Child & Youth Development Thematic WG Strategic Plan 2010-2011 developed and adopted by SDP IWG Plenary SDP IWG Plenary meeting/ Sport and Child & Youth Development Thematic WG Workshop to elect Chair and Co-Chairs Conferences/meetings attended at which Special Adviser/ Secretariat specifically addressed work of Thematic WG Website: offering practical, operational and relevant guidance and tools, including updated contact details for Thematic WG
	2. Strengthening existing Sport and Child & Youth Development initiatives of governments	<p>2.1 Support peer outreach of early adopter governments.</p> <p>2.2 Engage and strengthen the UN Group of Friends on SDP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active membership in Thematic WG Sharing of best practices/policy/ programmes with regard to sport and child & youth development
	3. Supporting the integration of Sport and Child & Youth Development recommendations into national and international development strategies and programmes.	<p>3.1 Promote the inclusion of Sport and Child & Youth Development on the agenda of inter-governmental meetings.</p> <p>3.2 Engage multilateral organizations in Sport and Child & Youth Development dialogue to promote implementation of recommendations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport and Child & Youth Development on the agenda of inter-governmental meetings Membership of multilateral organizations in WG
2. Benchmark	1. Encourage regular, voluntary	1.1 Benchmark Report drafted for WG, identifying key recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benchmark Report to enable

² See Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, *"Harnessing the Power of Sport for Development and Peace: Recommendations to Governments"*, 2008, pp. 109-117.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGY	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUT/INDICATOR
Report for Sport and Child & Youth Development Thematic Working Group	reporting	(both policy and programmatic) against which reporting can be made. 1.2 Benchmark Report distributed to all member states and made available online. 1.3 UN Secretary-General Note Verbale sent to Member States in June 2010 calling for reporting based on Benchmark report.	Governments to structure their reporting on implementation of the recommendations to enable tracking of the activities of governments
3. Building capacity of National Governments	1. Support governments in policy development	1.1 Knowledge exchange on sport and child & youth development issues through virtual discussions/ meetings, communications products. 1.2 Identify policy experts/academics to assist governments in implementation of recommendations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual and physical forum for Members and Observers interested in sport and child & youth development to network, disseminate programme/policy ideas and programme/policy developments • Partnership agreements between Members and Observers to assist Members in policy development related to sport and child & youth development
	2. Support governments in policy implementation	2.1 Sensitize athletes/federations to development principles to assist governments in implementation of recommendations. 2.2 Stimulate and encourage research and gather evidence related to sport and child & youth development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of development principles in sport and child & youth development dialogue • Evidence and research made available on website with regard to sport and child & youth development

ANNEX:

SPORT AND CHILD & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC AREAS OF PRIORITY

The following strategic areas of priority (Child Protection in Sport, Sport to Strengthen Child and Youth Education, and Sport to Enhance Transferable Skills and Employment Opportunities.) and the associated recommendations may be challenging for some governments to pursue due to a scarcity of resources and also due to the jurisdictional division of responsibilities with provincial/state and local governments for education and other matters. It is assumed that governments will seek partnerships wherever possible to leverage the resources necessary to advance the objectives below. It is also assumed that, where governments do not have direct jurisdiction, they may use their convening power, shared-cost partnerships, and other forms of influence to promote positive action by other levels of government.³

1. CHILD PROTECTION IN SPORT

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Phase I:

- Develop policies with specific provisions and implementation plans to prevent the exploitation and abuse of children and youth in sport contexts.

PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Ensure that programme managers screen prospective coaches and physical education teachers and help them to develop the teaching and coaching skills they will need to be positive and effective role models.
- Work with partners to ensure that all communities have physical play environments that are safe, accessible, and encourage enjoyable physical activity.

2. SPORT TO STRENGTHEN CHILD AND YOUTH EDUCATION

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Phase I:

- Enhance the capacity of schools and teachers to effectively deliver sport and physical educational programmes.
- Make universal child and youth access to physical education and sport and play an explicit policy objective in the context of national education, health, and sport policy frameworks.
- Make child and youth development an integral component of all training programmes for physical education teachers and sport coaches.
- Account for implementation challenges with disadvantaged communities and groups when developing sport and physical activity policies for children and youth.

³ Based on Policy Recommendations contained in: Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group *"Harnessing the Power of Sport for Development and Peace: Recommendations to Governments"*, 2008, pp. 109-117.

Phase II:

- Invest in research to determine the most important factors influencing physical activity within different child and youth target groups and design national strategies and programmes to address these factors.
- Extend physical education sport and play to all children, using strategies that include mandatory comprehensive, daily physical education for students in kindergarten through secondary school.
- Adopt national physical activity guidelines for children and youth, and consider actively promoting them through multisectoral approaches that target schools, families, sport clubs, community organizations and municipal governments.

PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATIONS:

Phase I:

- Engage Ministries of Education to work with schools and community sport partners to offer extracurricular physical activity programmes that address the needs and interests of all students.
- Design Sport for Development programmes to include all children and youth, with strategies to ensure the participation of:
 - Girls
 - Children with intellectual and physical disabilities
 - Out-of-school children and youth, and
 - Those from impoverished and/or minority ethno-cultural communities.
- Design programmes to engage parents in physical education instruction and in extracurricular or community sport and physical activity events.

Phase II:

- Build mechanisms for effective planning and reflective action into all programmes.
- Deliver health education courses in schools to help students acquire the knowledge, attitudes, behaviour and confidence needed to maintain a physically active lifestyle.
- Evaluate school and community physical activity instruction, sport programmes, and facilities on a regular basis.
- Ensure that a complementary range of developmentally appropriate, community-based sport and physical activity programmes are available for children and youth.
- Develop simple, clear and practical resource materials on sport and child and youth development, together with age-appropriate sport and physical activity guidelines, for use by parents and community volunteers who may not have access to training programmes.

3. SPORT TO ENHANCE TRANSFERABLE SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Phase I:

- Recognize the different developmental stages of children and youth to ensure that physical education and sport policies, implementation guidelines, training resources, programmes, and curricula are age-appropriate.

Phase II:

- Provide children and youth with a direct voice and decision-making opportunities in the development of physical education, sport and recreation policies and action plans that concern them.

PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATIONS:

Phase I:

- Create opportunities for children and youth to participate in dialogue and decision-making with regard to the day-to-day activities of sport and physical activity programmes.
- Focus sport programmes on education and development (not winning), emphasizing skills improvement, tactical knowledge, success for all participants, enhanced confidence, positive social relationships, choices, and enjoyment.

Phase II:

To harness sport's potential for community renewal through employment, it is recommended that sport and development actors in communities should:⁴

- Develop a sport and employment plan;
- Support the creation of new employment opportunities in the sport sector;
- Adopt a policy of local recruitment and provide local opportunities for related skill development, training and qualifications;
- Provide local opportunities to increase employability and transferable skills through sport;
- Demonstrate the impact of sport and employment projects.

⁴ renewal.net, "Renewal.netOverview:SportandEmployment" at 2 online: <http://www.renewal.net>