



Communique

9th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting

The 9th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting (9CSMM) was held on the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia on 3 April 2018. Delegations from 45 Commonwealth nations and territories attended the meeting. The meeting was opened by Commonwealth Secretary-General, The Rt. Hon Patricia Scotland QC, and chaired by Senator the Hon. Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Sport, Australia.

The meeting was conducted in the context of significant international momentum on aligning sport policy to the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this context, the objective of the meeting was to agree joint strategies and collective action to strengthen policy coherence to maximise the benefits of investing in sport.

Strengthening the value and integrity of sport through policy coherence

Ministers reiterated the valuable contribution sport can make to national development priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, stressing that a well governed and inclusive sport environment, with strong integrity measures and human rights protections, was essential to maximise impact. Specifically, Ministers:

1. Emphasised the need for sport to be mainstreamed in national development policies and reaffirmed their commitment to align sport policy to targeted national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Highlighted the importance of coherent policy that works to enhance the positive economic, social and environmental impact of sport and balances investment in participation and high-performance focused outcomes.
3. Underscored that encouraging participation for all, promoting gender equality and safeguarding sport participants from abuse and non-accidental harm are critical components of the good governance of sport.
4. Encouraged all sporting stakeholders to take action to address the environmental impact and sustainability issues associated with sport.
5. Reiterated their strong concern about the global sport integrity environment and resolved to intensify national action, regional cooperation and international collaboration to address threats to the integrity of sport, such as corruption, unethical or illegal behaviour, match-fixing and doping.
6. Reaffirmed that protecting the integrity of sport must be a shared responsibility of governments, sporting organisations, community groups and industry and called for stronger partnerships between these fields. These responses must be multidisciplinary and multinational in nature and require improved information sharing between countries-
7. Agreed to raise with the Commonwealth Games Federation the important role of national governments in supporting Commonwealth Games and concerns about relationships between national Commonwealth Games Associations and national governments.



8. Endorsed the Commonwealth Sport Policy Coherence Self-Evaluation Toolkit as a valuable resource to support the development and implementation of coherent sport policy.

In considering joint strategies and collective action, Ministers:

9. Agreed to take action to strengthen the alignment and coordination of sport policy implementation, in particular across government and with the Commonwealth Games Federation, affiliated member associations and the broader Commonwealth sport movement, but also working with a broad range of stakeholders.
10. Within the context of the broader integrity challenges, called for Commonwealth member states to support the particular issues of small and vulnerable states in international fora on sports integrity, so these initiatives better reflect the diversity of challenges and differing capacity to respond across Commonwealth member countries.
11. Endorsed and agreed to support Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS) to survey the sports integrity environment in the Commonwealth to quantify the diversity of challenges, vulnerabilities and capacity to respond across member countries and enable the development of tools to assist countries to optimise sports integrity protection frameworks, in particular in small and vulnerable states.
12. Requested that sport be included in the work undertaken by the Commonwealth Office for Civil and Criminal Justice Reform and provided space on the Commonwealth Innovation Hub.

Measuring the contribution of sport to national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals

Ministers reiterated the importance of clearly articulating the benefits of investing in sport and, to support this process, the need to strengthen measurement and evaluation of the contribution of sport policy and related investments to national development priorities and the SDGs. Specifically, Ministers:

13. Recognised the transformative economic value of sport as highlighted by the growing gross value added of the sports industry. Highlighted inequities of opportunity at this time across the diversity of Commonwealth countries and stressed the need for international sport policy frameworks that support countries to promote inclusive economic development and social justice to manage the impacts of the rapid globalisation of sport.
14. Agreed that, in addition to previously identified SDGs to which sport can contribute, sport can also make a valuable contribution to SDG 9 on promoting industry, innovation and infrastructure. Ministers called for further analysis and action on the role of sport in achieving this SDG.
15. Stressed the complexity and challenge of effectively measuring and evaluating the contribution of sport to non-sport sustainable development outcomes.
16. Supported further international collaboration to strengthen measurement and evaluation of sport policy, notably through alignment with Action 2 of the Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS VI) Sport Policy Follow-up Framework and Kazan Action Plan aimed at developing common indicators and data sets.



In considering joint strategies and collective action, Ministers:

17. Endorsed and committed to support the mapping of national sport policies against prioritised SDGs and the identification of existing measurement processes and available data on sport and the SDGs.
18. Requested that the Commonwealth Secretariat establish a high level technical working group and broader learning alliance on measuring the contribution of sport to the SDGs. They emphasised that the technical working group should contribute to the work of the Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport on this issue and have representation that reflects the diversity of the Commonwealth.
19. Encouraged the development of practical guidance and model indicators to support the measurement and evaluation of the contribution of sport to the SDGs.

Sport as a means for promoting human rights

Ministers acknowledged that promoting human rights in and through sport is an essential component of maximising sport's role and potential as an enabler of sustainable development. Specifically, Ministers:

20. Reaffirmed that it is essential to protect, respect and fulfil the human rights of all involved in the delivery of sport, physical education and physical activity and emphasized the importance of developing appropriate policies and frameworks that aim to protect and promote human rights in sport, and of communicating progress and lessons learnt.
21. Highlighted the importance of protecting the rights of athletes engaged in the globalised sport arena.
22. Supported increased collaboration on sport and human rights between governments, the Commonwealth sports movement, private sector, civil society groups and human rights bodies, including through the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, and agreed where feasible to engage with these processes to enhance policies and frameworks.
23. Noted the CABOS paper on the implications for sport policy of states' obligations under international human rights conventions.

In considering joint strategies and collective action, Ministers:

24. Tasked CABOS to develop a consensus statement on promoting human rights in and through sport for consideration by the 10th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting.

Commonwealth cooperation to promote a cohesive sport policy agenda

Ministers stressed the value of the Commonwealth's global leadership on sport and the SDGs and importance of continued cooperation on sport and social policy issues. Specifically, Ministers:

25. Encouraged continued alignment and coherence between regional, Commonwealth and international sport policy cooperation platforms. Ministers affirmed that the MINEPS Sport Policy Follow-up Framework is a valuable reference point to support the development and implementation of coherent sport policy.



26. Welcomed the contribution, impact and evolving governance of the Commonwealth sports movement. They highlighted the value of the Commonwealth Games and Youth Games in promoting and advancing Commonwealth values.
27. Commended the achievement of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games as the first major international multi-sport event to offer an equal number of medals for men and women, for presenting the largest para-sport programme in Games history and in implementing a Reconciliation Action Plan to deliver legacy outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They recognised the legacy of the Glasgow 2014 and Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games and looked forward to the Birmingham 2022 Games.
28. Supported the inclusion of a dedicated outcome on sport and sustainable development in the Commonwealth Secretariat's Strategic Plan 2017/18 - 2020/21 and affirmed the value of the Secretariat's technical assistance, policy analysis and capacity building on sport and the SDGs.
29. Received with appreciation the recommendations of the CABOS, agreed to consider nominating a senior official for the next CABOS membership cycle and affirmed the value of the alignment of CABOS to Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting cycles.
30. Endorsed the expansion of the Commonwealth Youth Sport for Development and Peace Network so as to engage local focal points across the diversity of the Commonwealth.
31. Requested an update on the joint strategies and collective action in this Communique at the 10th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting and proposals for subsequent action for Ministers to consider.
32. Agreed to be role models for their nations to demonstrate the benefits from sport and physical activity and proposed that future CSMMs include a social sporting activity for Ministers and officials, to be referred to as *CSMM walking the talk*.
33. Thanked and commended the Government of Australia for chairing and hosting a successful and action-orientated meeting, and wished the country every success in hosting the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.
34. Agreed to meet again in the margins of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Queensland, Australia, 3rd April 2018