



# 5th Commonwealth Debate on Sport and Sustainable Development

Tuesday 30 March 2021 1800-2000 BST  
Virtual Event



The Commonwealth



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development set by The United Nations recognises sport as an important enabler of sustainable development and peace. The Commonwealth supports member governments, the Commonwealth sports movement and key stakeholders to maximise the contribution that sport can make to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Key areas of focus for this impact include health, education, gender equality, social cohesion, good governance and building strong institutions.

The Commonwealth Secretariat supports this mission by being a leading advocate for the use of sport for sustainable development and peace and providing tailored technical assistance involving policy and strategy development. A key milestone in our annual work programme is the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.

To mark the 2021 International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, the Secretariat will host its 5th Commonwealth Debate on Sport and Sustainable Development virtually, on Tuesday 30 March 2021.

The fifth edition of this annual event will see two teams made up of officials, experts, athletes and youth leaders debate whether: *Investment in technology is the key to re-building the sport sector post COVID-19.*

Join the conversation online [#CommonwealthSDP](#)

Event registration: [Click here](#)

Event webpage: [Click here](#)



## Programme

Log in from 1750

- 1800      **Welcome remarks from The Commonwealth**  
**Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland QC**, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth
- 1810      **An introduction to the debate**  
**Dr Arjoon Suddhoo**, Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth
- 1815      **5th Commonwealth Debate on Sport and Sustainable Development.** Investment in technology is the key to re-building the sport sector post COVID-19.  
*Arguing for the proposition.*  
**Yves Iradukunda**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of ICT and Innovation, Government of Rwanda  
**Chester King**, Vice President, Global Esports Federation  
**Alex Zurita**, Head of Sport Tech Hub, London Sport  
*Arguing against the proposition.*  
**Hon. Olivia Grange**, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Government of Jamaica  
**Simon Darnell PhD**, Associate Professor, Sport for Development and Peace, Faculty of Kinesiology & Physical Education, University of Toronto  
**Natalie du Toit**, Commonwealth, Olympics and Paralympic Gold Medal Winning Swimmer representing South Africa
- 1930      **Questions from the audience**
- 1940      **Special Address**  
**Anne Wafula Strike MBE**, Commonwealth Secretary-General's Champion for Equality in Sports
- 1950      **Adjudication and Closing Remarks**  
**Dame Louise Martin CBE**, President, Commonwealth Games Federation
- 2000      **Close**
- MC and moderator – Dr Arjoon Suddhoo**, Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth

## Speaker Profiles



### **Dame Louise Martin DBE**

President, Commonwealth Games Federation

Dame Louise Martin was elected to the role of President by the Commonwealth Sport Movement in September 2015 in Auckland, New Zealand, becoming the first female to hold the prestigious office. She was re-elected to a second term in September 2019 in Kigali, Rwanda. Dame Louise has a long and distinguished association with the Games as an athlete (swimming for Team Scotland at the Perth 1962 Commonwealth Games) and thereafter as Team Manager, Administrator and Honorary Secretary, while she was the first female elected to the CGF Executive Board. In 2008, she joined the Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport, which she chaired from 2014-2018. In 2018, she was awarded a Damehood in the New Year's Honours List for services to Commonwealth Sport. This came after she was awarded the CBE in 2003 for services to the Commonwealth Games.



### **Anne Wafula Strike MBE**

Commonwealth Secretary-General's Champion for Equality in Sports

Born in Mihu, Kenya, Anne was a fit and healthy child before polio struck when she was two years old. She was given the middle name of Olympia at birth, a title of prophetic significance for the future and prescient of hurdles she would face in forthcoming years. 2004 marked the beginning of an Olympic career when Anne became the first wheelchair racer from Sub-Saharan Africa to compete at the Paralympics in Athens. In 2006 Anne became a British citizen and joined Team GB and in 2007 she was officially recognised by the Queen at a Buckingham Palace reception for her work as a disabled athlete and for involvement in charity work for people with disabilities.



### Yves Iradukunda

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of ICT and Innovation,  
Government of Rwanda

Yves is the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Innovation and ICT for the Government of Rwanda. Yves joined the public service from the Allan&Gill Gray

Philanthropy where he served as the Rwanda Country Director. Prior to AGGP, he was a Senior Director at MASS Design Group overseeing operations in Rwanda and ensuring coordination across other global offices for the design collective. Yves is an alumn of the African Leadership University School of Business where he earned an MBA degree. He holds a BS in Mathematics and Computer Science from Oklahoma Christian University.



### Chester King

Vice President, Global Esports Federation

Chester has a 28-year career in sport and since 2015 in esports. Since 2016 Chester has been the CEO of the British Esports Association. 2019 he became a member of the International Olympic Committee's 'Esports and Gaming Liaison Group' and Vice President of the Global Esports Federation. 2020 he became a trade advisor for the UK Government for esports.



### Alex Zurita

Head of Sport Tech Hub, London Sport

Alex Zurita is Head of The Sport Tech Hub, hosted by London Sport, with lead responsibility for shaping its strategic commitments to supporting technology, data and digital initiatives designed to raise levels of participation in physical activity and sport in the capital. This includes leading the Sport Tech Hub's implementation and delivery since inception, supporting over 31 ventures which, between them, have reached more than 130,000 Londoners and raised £4.2m



of investment. Having used technology and data while coaching football with grassroots and international players, Alex is a committed technophile, a widely recognised advocate for the role of technology in boosting participation in physical activity and sport, and a champion of the importance of sport for the future health of London and its residents.



**The Honourable Olivia Grange, CD, MP**

Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport,  
Government of Jamaica

The Honourable Olivia Grange has served as Member of Parliament for the constituency of Central St Catherine since 1997 and is currently the longest serving female MP in the House of Representatives. She was appointed Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport in March 2016. Miss Grange's wide portfolio includes: arts and culture; cultural and creative industries; entertainment and media arts; gender affairs; heritage; publications (legal deposits); national commemorative events; reparations; religious and faith-based organisations; and sport. Previously, Miss Grange served in the Cabinet between 2007 and 2011 as Minister with responsibility for Information, Youth, Sports, Culture, Women and Gender Affairs, Entertainment, Community Development and Special Projects. During this tenure, she led the development of the National Policy for Gender Equality, the Youth Entrepreneurship Policy as well as the National Sport Policy of Jamaica.



**Simon C. Darnell**

Associate Professor, Sport for Development and  
Peace, Faculty of Kinesiology & Physical Education,  
University of Toronto

Simon C. Darnell is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education at the University of Toronto, Canada. His research focuses on the relationship between sport, international development and peacebuilding; environmental sustainability in sport-for-development, and the place of social



activism in the culture of sport. He has published widely on the topic of sport-for-development, including *The History and Politics of Sport-for-Development: Activists, Ideologues and Reformers* (with Russell Field and Bruce Kidd, 2019, Palgrave MacMillan) and *Sport for Development and Peace: A Critical Sociology* (2012, Bloomsbury Academic). He served as Associate Editor of *The Sociology of Sport Journal* from 2014 to 2020 and sits on the editorial boards of four other journals.



### Natalie du Toit

Commonwealth, Olympics and Paralympic Gold Medal  
Winning Swimmer representing South Africa

Natalie du Toit is best known for the gold medals she won at the 2004 Paralympic Games as well as the Commonwealth Games, being one of the most successful disabled athletes of all time, often competing alongside able-bodied athletes. Natalie was born in Cape Town and at the age of 14 she took part in the 1998 Commonwealth Games held at Kuala Lumpur. In February 2001, her left leg had to be amputated at the knee after a car accident but despite this, she started swimming again in May of the same year, even before she had started to walk again, with the intention of competing in the 2002 Commonwealth Games. During the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, Du Toit, who was then 18 years old, won both the multi-disability 50m freestyle and the multi-disability 100m freestyle in world record time. She also made sporting history by qualifying for the 800m able-bodied freestyle final - the first time that an athlete with a disability had qualified for the final of an able-bodied event. Natalie is a Laureus Ambassador and since June 2004, has been a champion for the use of sport to create social change. She has visited many of the 30 programmes that Laureus Sport for Good supports in South Africa and is passionate about the role sport can have in changing young people's lives.

# Commonwealth Publications on Sport for Development and Peace

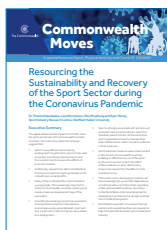
## The Implications of COVID-19 for Community Sport and Sport for Development – A Discussion Paper



This paper examines the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on community sport and sport for development in Commonwealth countries. It contains an extensive review of literature from The Commonwealth and other websites, including the Commonwealth Coronavirus Resource Centre, programme documents from seven Sport for

Development agencies operating across 13 Commonwealth countries and includes the results of interviews with academic and professional colleagues with expertise in Community Sport and Sport for Development across the Commonwealth.

## Resourcing the Sustainability and the Recovery of the Sport Sector during the Coronavirus Pandemic



This paper addresses the impacts of COVID-19 on the sport economies of Commonwealth member countries and introduces policy options countries can consider in seeking to resource the positive contribution sport can make, in response to the pandemic, towards economic and sustainable development, health cost savings, social well-being

and engaging and empowering young people to participate meaningfully in society.

## Sport and SDG Indicators – Category 1, 2 and Toolkit



The Sport and SDG Indicators provide a base set of measures to monitor and evaluate the contribution of sport, physical education and physical activity to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is an essential resource to support the development of national and institutional monitoring and evaluation systems and enhance the collection of common data on sport, physical education, physical activity and the SDGs. The series of three publications provide guidance on indicator frameworks for change expected at a population, institutional and community level alongside indicators that can be utilised based on contextual factors.

## Enhancing the Contribution of Sport to the Sustainable Development Goals: Commonwealth Policy Guide



Aimed at governmental policy-makers, senior officials and other key stakeholders, this guide provides evidenced and balanced policy options to support the effective and cost-efficient contribution of sport towards six prioritised SDGs. The guide prioritises strengthening the means of implementation and the measurement and evaluation of progress, as emphasised by the SDGs and existing Commonwealth principles. Developed through extensive Commonwealth Secretariat-led consultation with relevant experts and organisations, it represents an important addition to the growing body of SDP research..

These publications are available at  
[www.thecommonwealth.org/sport-development-and-peace](http://www.thecommonwealth.org/sport-development-and-peace)

## About the Commonwealth Youth Programme

The Commonwealth Secretariat's Sport for Development and Peace work is delivered through the Commonwealth Youth Programme.

The Commonwealth Youth Programme engages and empowers young people, provides thought leadership on youth development, and supports governments, youth work professionals and young leaders to create policy and practice environments that enable young people's social, economic and political potential. We encourage the effective participation of young women and men in development processes, and promote their full engagement at all levels of decision-making, including with Heads of Government. We also showcase and celebrate the achievements of young people in driving democracy and development, to demonstrate their capabilities and inspire further action.

We place special emphasis on supporting young people to design and drive youth-led initiatives, and to have a meaningful voice with decision makers. This includes convening Youth Forums in partnership with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings and Ministerial Meetings, as well as technical assistance and support for national, regional and global youth networks.

These include:

- Commonwealth Youth Sport for Development and Peace Network
- Commonwealth Youth Council
- Commonwealth Students Association
- Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs
- Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network
- Commonwealth Youth Health Network
- Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network
- Commonwealth Youth Human Rights and Democracy Network
- Commonwealth Correspondents



