

CABOS
DEVELOPMENT



COMMONWEALTH
SECRETARIAT

THROUGH SPORT

Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS) 2008–2010



The Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS) was established by the Commonwealth Sport Ministers' Meeting (CSMM) in Athens in 2004 to advise the Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth governments on sport policy, particularly with respect to sport for development and peace, and to investigate issues referred to it from time to time by CSMM, the Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Meeting (CYMM) and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The 14-member body is appointed by the Secretary General. Its members are drawn from every region of the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Games Federation, the Commonwealth Youth Caucus and the host government of the Commonwealth Games, currently the Government of India. Members serve four-year terms.



The current Chair, Dr Bruce Kidd from Canada, succeeded founding Chair Baroness Sue Campbell of the UK in January 2009. The full membership is listed on the end pages of this report.

Since the last CSMM in Beijing in 2008, CABOS has met once, in London in July 2009. In carrying out its Work Plan between meetings, the Chair and members have

- used every opportunity, from the 2009 meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) in Trinidad and Tobago and the 2010 Mid-term Review Meeting of the Commonwealth Youth Programme by the Commonwealth Youth Ministers in Sri Lanka, to national and international conferences, to make an evidence-based case for the use of sport and physical activity to realise the major tasks of development, especially in education, health, and youth, and to urge governments to mainstream sport and physical activity in all public policy;
- in keeping with the recommendations of the 2008 CYMM and the 2008 CSMM, worked to advance the links between sport and youth policy development;
- worked with the Secretary General and the Commonwealth Youth Programme to strengthen the capacity for sport policy analysis and advocacy within the Commonwealth Secretariat;
- worked with the Secretary General to encourage all member states to sign the UNESCO Convention Against Anti-Doping. To date, 38 Commonwealth countries have now endorsed the UNESCO Convention; and
- worked to establish collegial relations with the other international bodies working in the field of sport for development and peace, especially the UN Office of Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) and the International Platform on Sport for Development and Peace.

During the months ahead, CABOS will further this work, and in step with the Commonwealth Partnership Platform Portal (CP3) create an e-repository of policy, programme and 'best practice' for sport for development and peace within the Commonwealth.

These activities are set out in greater detail in this report.

The power of sport for development and peace

The Commonwealth is an important site of the growing movement to use sport to address the most difficult challenges of humankind, Sport for Development and Peace or SDP. While the power of sport to instruct and empower is age-old, increasingly it is being planned, carried out and evaluated as an explicit strategy to realise the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of universal education, gender equality, child and maternal health, the anti-stigmatisation and prevention of HIV/AIDS, and global partnerships, and the Commonwealth goals of democracy and development.

Sport programmes may contribute to social inclusion, in schools, at the community level and in post-conflict areas, and make a positive contribution to reducing youth crime as diversionary, rehabilitation and gateway programmes. School sport programmes have been linked to increased educational attainment, school retention and school safety in many countries. Sport participation may be linked to character-building, including moral behaviour, empathy, and leadership.

In Rwanda and Sierra Leone, sport has been used to restore 'normalcy' in violence and war-torn communities.

In Ghana, its popularity is used to extend basic education;

In Kenya, to keep adolescent boys and girls in school and teach them community responsibility; and

In Botswana and Namibia, to give youth the skills and self-discipline of leadership, organisation and entrepreneurship.

In Africa, it is used to combat the stigmatisation of persons with HIV/AIDS and to educate children and youth about responsible sexuality;

In Pakistan, to enrich the lives of children and youth in refugee camps;

In Oceania, to improve the lives of girls and women and affirm them as leaders in community life.

In the Caribbean, sport enriches a skill-based curriculum around physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

It is not only in the global South. In Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom, sport is used to empower aboriginal and other marginal youth, and combat the spread of drugs, guns and gangs in blighted cities.

What is also impressive is the way that SDP throughout the Commonwealth has become a vehicle for the idealism of youth. Many successful

programmes – such as the Canadian Sport Leadership Corps, the British IDEALS programme, SCORE in southern Africa, the Mathare Youth Sports Association in Kenya, and Physically Active Youth in Namibia – are led and carried out by youth.

But the extent of opportunity varies widely and is closely associated with income and economic class. Survey research suggests that only a minority of children and youth in Commonwealth countries enjoys the benefits of sport and physical activity, and those from higher income groups enjoy significantly more opportunity than those from lower income groups. In some countries, sport participation may actually be falling.

The models of successful programmes are based upon the cultural fascination and popularity of sport, the embodied learning and strengthened health of doing sport, the confidence and social legitimacy sport provides, especially for subordinate or vulnerable groups, the intercultural interactions that sport affords and the social networks that grow up around sport. But there are no guarantees that the desired outcomes will be achieved. The quality of programmes and context are key. The quality of programmes and context are key, as the policy recommendations of the 2008 CSMM and CYMM made clear.

Participants must feel that programmes meet their needs, i.e. that it's 'their programme', and have genuine access, including equipment and transportation. Effective programmes directly involve youth in planning and implementation.

Participants must feel physically safe, personally valued, socially connected, morally and economically supported, personally and politically empowered; and hopeful about the future. Programmes should be clean, affordable and enjoyable.

The skills and enthusiasm of trained, committed administrators, coaches and volunteers is key.

The benefits of sport participation and sport initiatives cannot be understood in isolation

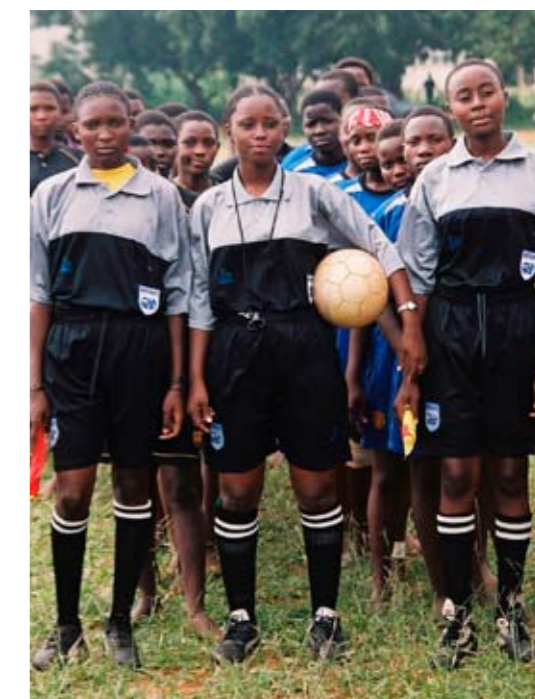
'Programmes must be sustained to have a lasting impact.'

from other social and material conditions. To be successful, sport programmes should be closely linked to other interventions, especially in education, health, employment and youth development.

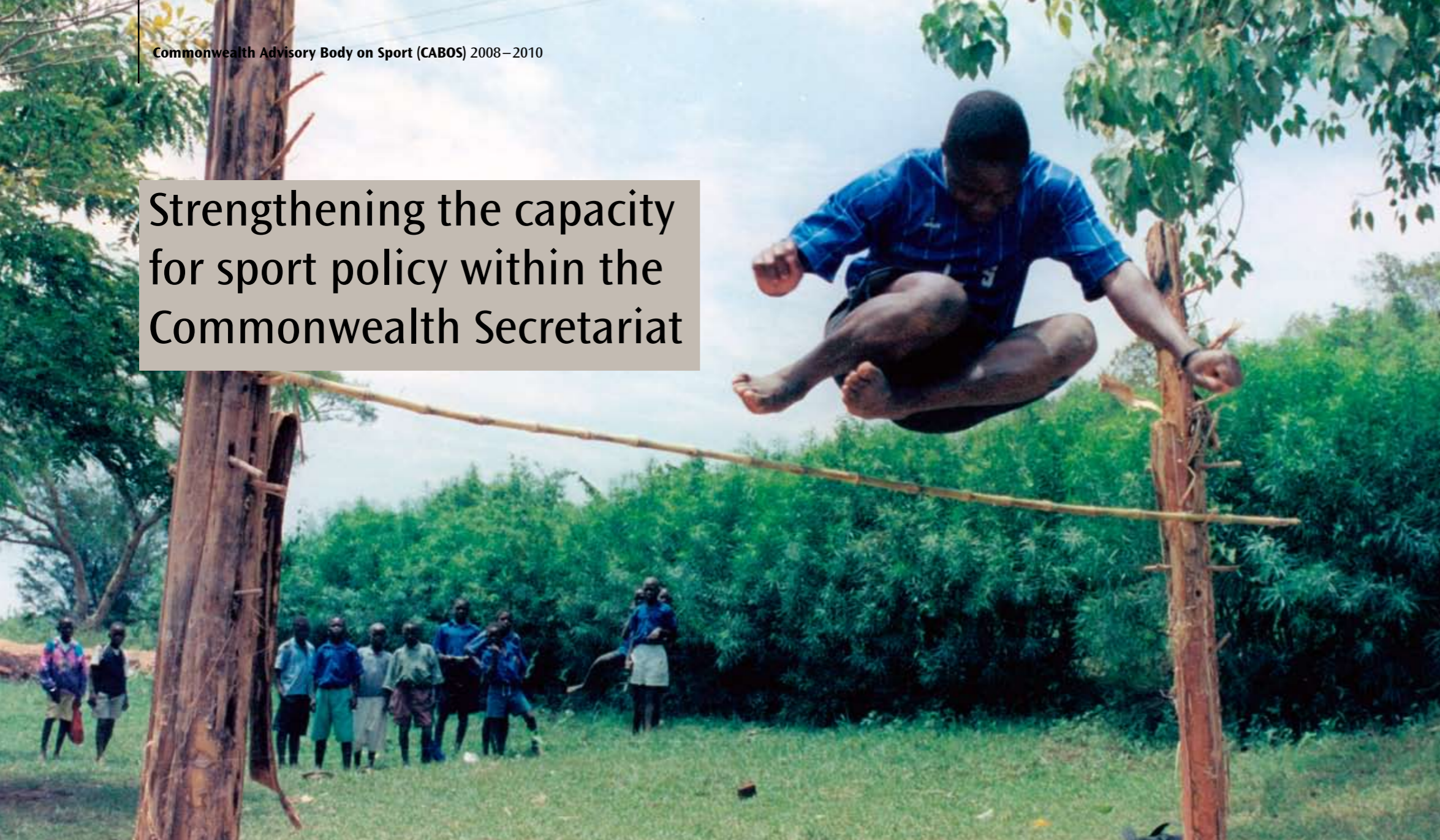
Programmes must be sustained to have a lasting impact.

It is clear that much more needs to be done to ensure that every young person enjoys the rights, benefits and cultural participation of sport and physical activity set out in international agreements such as the UNESCO Charter on Sport and Physical Education and the International Convention on the Child and the declarations of previous CSMM and CYMM. When 60% of the total population of the Commonwealth is under the age of 30, sport for youth development is an urgent priority.

In its ongoing advocacy, policy analysis and coordination, CABOS will not only push for the greater provision of sport and physical activity, but insist that such provision occur under conditions that promise a reasonable chance of effective outcomes.



Strengthening the capacity for sport policy within the Commonwealth Secretariat



Staffing for the work of CABOS and the Commonwealth Secretariat in sport was provided by UK Sport between 2005-2009. CABOS and the Commonwealth Secretariat are extremely grateful to the UK Government for this contribution. In particular, we commend Nick Pink of UK Sport for his thoughtful, unstinting service. During the last year, Commonwealth Secretary General Kamalesh Sharma has put an arrangement in place that will ensure that there will be full-time staffing to CABOS and work on sport policy. The idea is to create a full-time secondment of a qualified and experienced person from the host government of the Commonwealth Games to work as a Sport Development Advisor in the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP). This process has been initiated by the Government of India which has in the recent past also launched programmes of promotion of sports at the grass root level across the country

including annual sports competitions at various levels and is the host for the IXX Commonwealth Games 2010 in Delhi.

The Government of India, recognising the multiple benefits sport offers in promoting national fitness, social inclusiveness, gender equality, youth development and above all, national pride, launched a nationwide sport promotion programme in 2008, 'Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan' (PYKKA). In the two years of its implementation, more than 30,000 community play fields and 10,000 community sport volunteers have been developed, leading to the participation of more than 2 million young people in organised competitions starting from the grassroots level up to the national level. Further, the recent initiative of the Government to include the right to play as part of the right to education is expected to

benefit children across over 1.2 million schools in the country, and enable India to reap a huge demographic dividend as a nation with a young population.

Effective June 1, 2010, S. S. Chhabra from India joined the Commonwealth Secretariat for a three-year term as Sport Development Adviser. He was chosen through an interview process on the basis of the job description prepared by the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the Director of the CYP, participated in the selection process.

In 2013, a second secondment will be provided by the Government of Scotland on a four-year basis, Glasgow being the host for the XX Commonwealth Games.

The newly appointed Sport Development Adviser is part of the CYP team and will ensure that CYP's strategic vision for sport as a tool for development

and peace is implemented at international, regional and national level within the Commonwealth. At the same time, the CYP plans to hire one further staff person to assist in the work on sport and youth development. The addition of this expertise to the CYP team will greatly enhance the mainstreaming of sport in youth development.



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‘strive to mainstream sport and youth policy and programmes in the work of all government ministries, especially those of education and health’

Linkages to the UN system

Following the adoption of the report, *Harnessing the Power of Sport for Development and Peace: Recommendations for Governments*, by the 4th CSMM in Beijing, the United Nations strengthened the Office of Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) in Geneva. In May 2010, the UNOSDP created a Working Group on Sport and Youth Development at a meeting in Geneva, to coordinate policy development on youth protection in sport, youth and education, including physical education in the schools, and youth employment through sport. Commonwealth governments played a leading role in the establishment of the Working Group, and representatives of two Commonwealth governments, Ms Debbie Lye, Director of International Programmes, UK Sport, and the Hon. Akua Sena Dansua, Minister of Youth and Sport, Ghana, were elected Chair and Co-Chair of the Working Group respectively. CABOS was represented at this meeting by Dr Bruce Kidd, and Dr Emmanuel Owusu-Ansah.

In speaking to the meeting, the CABOS members agreed that CABOS and the CYP should work closely with the UNOSDP to coordinate the tracking, analysis and dissemination of sport policy as it relates to children and youth in the Commonwealth countries.

Dr Kidd also attended the annual meeting of the International Platform on Sport for

Development and Peace in Nyons, Switzerland, as a representative of CABOS with a view to strengthening the links between this leading-edge e-repository of programmes and the work on sport and youth policy in the Commonwealth.

Strengthening the fight against Doping in sport in the Commonwealth

At the recommendation of the CSMM and CABOS, the Commonwealth provided three years of seed funding to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to create Regional Anti-Doping Organisation (RADOs) in three regions of the Commonwealth (Africa, the Caribbean and Oceania) where neither national governments nor National Olympic Committees had the resources and expertise to do so. The RADOs are now fully operational, conducting both testing and educational programmes for athletes and youth in their respective jurisdictions.

The Secretary General and CABOS members have also encouraged Commonwealth governments to sign the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport that came into force in 2007. To date, 38 Commonwealth countries have agreed to the Convention.

The full list is at <http://portal.unesco.org/la/convention.asp?KO=31037&langua>

Next steps

During the next two years, CABOS will build upon these efforts with the help of the Sports Development Adviser and the CYP, including the four regional Commonwealth Youth Centres.

It will strengthen its evidence-based advocacy and policy analysis with respect to sport for development and peace, especially as they relate to

Sport for girls and women

Sport for child protection

Sport for education

Sport for youth employment

Sport for social cohesion

Sport for persons with disabilities

Sport as preventive education about HIV/AIDS

It will strive to mainstream sport and youth policy and programmes in the work of all government ministries, especially those of education and health.

In keeping with the Commonwealth Partnership Platform Portal (CP3), it will consider developing a pilot e-repository of policies, programmes and examples of ‘best practice’ about the use of sport to enhance the inclusion and empowerment of girls and women, coordinating such efforts with the International Platform on Sport for Development and Peace and other agencies.

It will work closely with the UN Office of Sport for Development and Peace, the International Platform and other international agencies to ensure that the data collection about other Commonwealth policies, programmes and metrics are effectively coordinated.

It will also follow up the recommendations of the mid-term review meeting of the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) by the Commonwealth Youth Ministers held in Sri Lanka in August 2010 and the forthcoming Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting in October 2010 in the margins of IXX Commonwealth Games. In the mid-term review meeting ministers acknowledged the importance of sports in promoting peace and a country’s economic performance.

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Designed and printed by: Commonwealth Secretariat.



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