

**MINUTES OF THE 3rd
COMMONWEALTH ADVISORY BODY ON SPORT (CABOS) MEETING**

6 June 2007

Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, London

Attendees:

Rt Hon Don McKinnon

Members Present:

Ms Sue Campbell - Chair
Ms Low Beng Choo
Dr Bruce Kidd
Mr Michael Fennell

Mrs Agnes Tjongarero
Mr Surinder Arora
Mr Leonard Thadeo
Mr Phil Lane (representing IPC)

Apologies:

Dr Emmanuel Owusu-Ansah
Mr Mark Peters

Vacancies:

Caribbean representative
Pacific representative

Advisers:

Mr John Scott (UK Sport)
Mr Martin Niblett (Commonwealth Secretariat)

Observers:

Lindsay Glassco (Right to Play, Director of SDP IWG Secretariat)

Agenda Item No.1: Meeting opening and welcomes

The meeting was opened by the Chair and began with the approval of the agenda. The Chair welcomed all members to the 3rd meeting of CABOS, and in particular those new members who have recently been appointed to the board; Agnes Tjongarero, Leonard Thadeo, Surinder Arora and Phil Lane. It was explained that Phil Lane, in his position of CEO of the BPA, is representing the IPC whilst they decide on future representation.

The Chair then expressed her thanks on behalf of the body to Richard Caborn, UK Minister for Sport, for hosting the dinner for CABOS members the previous evening. She also thanked the Secretary-General (SG) for his personal enthusiasm and commitment to CABOS and these sentiments were echoed by all the members. She then invited the SG to make some opening remarks ahead of the meeting discussions.

SG thanked the Chair for her leadership of the group and the members for all their work to date before making his remarks. He expressed his view on the role of CABOS as an effective policy and operations group in sport for development and gave both his and the Commonwealth Secretariat's full support for the body and the work it is carrying out. He highlighted the achievements of CABOS to date and stated that this work has made a real difference in the Commonwealth, giving the examples of the body's role at the Youth Ministers meeting and also the progress made by the anti-doping project in 3 regions. He concluded by stating that the question CABOS has now to address is how it can build on this effective advocacy work at Ministerial meetings and develop its work beyond this and make real difference to the lives of young people throughout the Commonwealth.

The members thanked the SG for his comments and Bruce Kidd (BK) asked that as CABOS sets the agenda for sport and development issues throughout the Commonwealth could the Secretariat offer any further resources and staffing support in addition to the part-time Sports Adviser role? The SG acknowledged these issues but added that the Secretariat has a fixed budget from member governments with the emphasis on its work from the Executive Committee moving away from social development areas such as education and health towards strengthening good governance. He advised members to encourage their respective governments and lobby Leaders, Finance and Foreign Ministers for additional support from the Secretariat's resources for sport and development work.

Low Beng Choo (LBC) stated that CABOS should be looking to further integrate sport into other areas of the Secretariat's work such as youth as this will unlock further, additional resources. Mike Fennell agreed with this stating that progress had been made with sport now further established thanks to the work of CABOS and the sports adviser but added that it can be a slow process and that the body needs to be patient.

Action:

- **Chair to write to SG thanking him on behalf of CABOS for his personal commitment and support for the body and its work (Chair/MN)**

Agenda Item No.2: Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the 2nd CABOS meeting held on 14 March 2006 in Melbourne were approved by the meeting and the Chair expressed her thanks to MN for drafting them.

Agenda Item No.3: Matters arising from last meeting

It was agreed that the matters arising would be covered under the Work Plan 2006-07 progress report. MN then gave an update on the two vacant membership positions. The ASC are working with regional partners and are due to recommend a potential candidate from the Pacific region shortly. Through their working contacts in the Caribbean region, the CGC has provided some suggestions for a potential candidate but it was agreed that further enquiries should be made within the region through Mike Fennell.

Action:

- **ASC to provide a recommendation for a potential candidate from the Pacific region by 31 July 2007 (Mark Peters/Geoff Howes)**
- **MN to make enquiries with other contacts within Pacific region**
- **Mike Fennell to make enquiries over potential Caribbean representative within region and report back to Chair by 30 June 2007**

Agenda Item No.4: Role and history of CABOS

The Chair then gave a presentation on the role and history of CABOS (**presentation slides attached to minutes**). For the benefit of the new members present, the Chair asked LBC to outline briefly the regional representation role of CABOS members which she did by highlighting the importance of members proactively developing a communications network of governments and other partners to ensure that CABOS's advocacy work can be carried out effectively. The meeting endorsed these comments and the regional role required of members.

Agenda Item No.5: CABOS Activities and Work Plan 2006-2007

There were presentations from LBC, the Chair and BK on their respective presentations at the Commonwealth Youth, Education and Health Ministers meetings.

These presentations were then followed by a general discussion amongst the members as to what key objectives CABOS had achieved over the past year and how it could build on the afore-mentioned advocacy work at ministerial meetings. *(There is no official minute of these discussions as MN was called out of the meeting at this stage to attend the Accreditation Committee meeting also being held in MH to agree the accreditation of CABOS as an official Commonwealth body)*. The Chair stated that all the future action points agreed by the meeting would be set out under Agenda Item Number 7: CSMM Beijing 2008.

MN took the meeting through the remainder of the activities from the Work Plan 2006-07 which had not been covered thus far. He highlighted in particular the anti-doping development project and the work of the ComSec-funded experts leading the work of the Regional Anti-Doping Organisations (RADOs) to develop anti-doping controls and programmes. He explained that their work as RADO administrators involved carrying out education work with athletes and their support staff, wider preventative education work with the local community and training work with doping control officers and government and sports officials. He added that the experts were also using their role in the region to promote some wider messages on sport and the work of ComSec to the local communities.

The meeting agreed that this was an excellent project and should be linked more closely to CABOS's wider promotion work. LBC & MF also expressed their concern that the Commonwealth was not receiving sufficient acknowledgment from WADA on their role in the development of these RADOs. Both MN & John Scott (JS) advised some caution

on this as they believed that ComSec was receiving due acknowledgement from WADA and this has been a successful partnership approach. MN advised that CABOS should write to the 3 RADOs Chairs and WADA to see how they could work together in the future to further promote the role of the RADOs and also of CABOS's work.

Action:

- **Chair to write to the 3 RADO Chairs and WADA over possible CABOS collaboration with the RADOs project (MN)**

Agenda Item No.6: Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group (SDP IWG) and CABOS collaboration

The Chair welcomed Lindsay Glassco (LG) and thanked her again for attending the meeting. She stated that LG has been in contact with her and MN over potential collaboration between the bodies and believed it would be helpful for members to learn more about the IWG to help ensure that both bodies could complement each other's work rather than duplicating it.

LG then gave a presentation on the role and work of the SDP IWG (**presentation slides attached to minutes**) which will be presenting its final report to Ministers at the Beijing Olympics in August 2008. She explained that their strategy up to Beijing had 4 key areas: expand outreach and engagement to improve regional representation; develop practical and generalisable policy recommendations; build the evidence base on sport for development and peace and; build a communications toolkit.

BK then commenced the discussions regarding future collaboration by stating that it was important that the two bodies collaborate - the work must not be merged but the messages are the same. The Chair stated that CABOS has its policy in place and must now work with member governments to implement it. She added that there are many examples of projects that demonstrate the power of sport in development but very few of these projects have been lifted into government policy and achieving this remains the challenge for CABOS.

Surinder Arora (SA) argued that the IWG and such pieces of work have to look beyond the success stories and learn lessons from existing policies implemented by member governments. LG replied that the final report would include up to 35 national overviews from governments covering all aspects of their current development policies involving sport. SA added that the report should look at integrated sport policies and highlight issues such as employment spin-offs. LG stated that economic development will be included in the report but there is little in the way of evidence in this area at present.

BK outlined the work that he and colleagues at the University of Toronto were doing to provide literature reviews for the IWG in five areas - the use of sport to foster child and youth development and education; the use of sport to foster inclusion, health and well-being of persons with disabilities; the use of sport to achieve health objectives; gender, sport and development; and peace, sport and development. Apparently, the final IWG

report will take the form of seven stand-alone booklets: a booklet outlining the movement of sport for development and peace; booklets on each of the above five areas; and then a booklet summarizing findings and policy recommendations. He stated that he and his colleagues developed eight criteria for 'best practice' that were used in all of the reviews. Most examples of 'best practice' came from NGOs. Whilst the evidence is encouraging it is not conclusive.

Action:

- **CABOS members to flag up further examples of good practice in sport for development on top of those included in 2006 CABOS Report and inform LG accordingly (All members)**
- **CABOS will input into final policy recommendations of SDP IWG report as requested by LG (Chair/MN)**
- **CABOS to use its network of regional contacts and partners to connect IWG to the right people involved in sport for development where needed (All members)**

Agenda item No.7: Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting – Beijing 2008

Following the earlier discussions surrounding CABOS's future work, **the meeting agreed the following action for CABOS to take forward as part of its next work plan:**

- **Chair to write to Ministers of Sport, copied to Permanent Secretaries, enclosing the three Communiqués from the Youth, Education and Health Ministers Meetings encouraging them to work with their ministerial colleagues responsible for these areas and report back to the Beijing CSMM in August 2008 (Chair/MN)**
- **Members to follow-up this letter with their respective regional governments and offer any support necessary (All members)**
- **Members to find policy champions for sport in their own countries/regions (All members)**
- **Develop strategy to provide further policy advice on sport and physical activity to the Commonwealth Secretariat on its programme delivery (Chair/MN)**
- **Develop leaflet/booklet on CABOS and its work including the ComSec anti-doping development project for circulation throughout the Commonwealth (Chair/MN)**
- **Ensure all relevant sport and physical activity literature is included in the Commonwealth Information Centre (MN)**

Agenda item No.8: Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games

MF gave an update on the Games stating that progress on construction was well on track. He stated that planning had changed considerably after the bid but there were rigid timelines in place, particularly relating to the stadium. He added that there were concerns over the sports development of the host country given the great expectation always

placed on the Games hosts to perform well and that the sports federations of some of the lesser known sports in the country needed support funding to help build their development.

MF then highlighted the 2008 Commonwealth Youth Games in Pune. He explained the background behind the Games and believed that with the support of the 2010 Organising Committee, the Youth Games would be a great success with a real enthusiasm for them throughout the country. This was followed by brief updates on the 2014 Games bid and the forthcoming CHOGM Sports Breakfast in Kampala in November of this year.

JS raised the issue of legacy impact of major events on member countries and cited the example of the Barbados CWC legacy strategy which established a continuing legacy body to harness the enthusiasm generated by the tournament. He believed that this would be a good example to highlight if the next Sports Ministers meeting was discussing this area.

The Chair asked the meeting whether there was a focus for CABOS's work around the 2010 Games. BK stated that the focus should be on disadvantaged children from rural areas. SA thanked the meeting for their positive comments regarding the Games and highlighted briefly some of the aspects that the government was working on including a legacy strategy that provided much better use of the facilities for communities and a volunteering programme that could include up to 100,000 people from throughout Delhi. He added that the government would use the Games to develop a greater synergy in their sports policy and other areas. The Chair concluded by saying that where CABOS could add value to the government's work around the Games it would and invited SA to come back to the body with any proposals.

Action:

- **SA to inform Chair of any areas of government's work around the Games that CABOS could assist in.**

Agenda item No.9: Date of next meeting

It was agreed by the meeting that the body should meet in advance of the Sports Ministers Meeting in Beijing next year in order that they can plan their work ahead of the meeting. MF asked whether the meeting could be tied into a sports event in order to make member's attendance easier. The Chair agreed with this and asked for possible suggestions and expressions of interest from members in hosting the meeting in their respective countries. LBC confirmed that Malaysia was still willing to host a future meeting.

It was confirmed that the SDP IWG would be presenting their final report to Ministers in Beijing on 7 August 2008 and this presented a potential clash with the next Sports Ministers meeting. MF suggested that in order to avoid this, the CSMM could be held on 9 August, the day after the Opening Ceremony, as Ministers should still be there and

there will not be so many other commitments as there are the day before the Games. The meeting unanimously agreed with this.

Action:

- **Members to notify MN by 31 July 2007 if their respective governments/ organisations would like to host the next CABOS meeting in 2008**
- **Chair/MN to then notify all members of date and location of next meeting.**
- **MN to liaise with Australian government as hosts of the next CSMM over date of meeting in Beijing**

Agenda item No.10: Any other business

Phil Lane thanked the meeting for the informative discussions around the role and work of CABOS and stated that he would report back to the IPC. Before doing this however he wanted to clarify the future role of the disability representative on the body given the commitment of all the members to be fully inclusive in all areas of their regional work.

The Chair replied that it was very important that disability sport issues were included in the body's work. JS gave a brief history behind the formation of CABOS and the willingness of the IPC to be involved in and to use the body to ensure that disability issues were to be received throughout the Commonwealth. The Chair stated that the body was about development through sport with the representative from disability sport there as an expert in this field to ensure that the group is thinking inclusively at all times, much in the same way as MF is there to represent the CGF and ensure that the synergies between the body and the Games are developed wherever possible.

Action:

- **Phil Lane to report back to IPC on the meeting discussions and ask them to notify Chair/MN of their views regarding future representation.**

Finally, the Chair thanked all members again for attending the meeting and for the very positive, informative discussions. The meeting then expressed their thanks to MN for all his support work with the body.

**Martin Niblett
CABOS Secretariat
23 June 2007**