



The Commonwealth

11 Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting

Ministerial Statement

25 July 2024

Paris, France, 25 July 2024

Agenda Item 7

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11th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting (11 CSMM) Ministerial Outcome Statement



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Preamble

1. We, the Sports Ministers of the Commonwealth, met in Paris, France, from 24-25 July 2024, hosted by the Government of Canada, for the 11th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting (11CSMM). Under the theme '*Building Inclusive and Resilient Societies through Sport*,' we convened to accelerate action on key sport policy issues across the Commonwealth.
2. Building on the 10th CSMM held in 2022 in Birmingham, United Kingdom, our meeting forged consensus and cooperation towards implementing priority actions. These include promoting good governance, safeguarding, strengthening respect for and protection of human rights in sport, encouraging intersectoral approaches, deepening evidence-based impact, and fostering a united Commonwealth through sports. As we mark the 75th anniversary of the Commonwealth, our discussions contributed to the wider policy agenda of '*One Resilient Common Future*' set to be explored at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Apia, Samoa, in October 2024.

On Implementing Good Governance and Human Rights Frameworks

3. We recognize the importance of robust governance structures and the respect and protection of human rights in sport.
4. We support the *Commonwealth Sport Declaration on Reconciliation and Partnership with Indigenous Peoples* and commit to transparent and accountable governance frameworks with zero tolerance for corruption, discrimination, and abuse. We call on all stakeholders to strengthen their efforts to respect, protect, and promote the rights and opportunities of Indigenous Peoples in and through sport, and request the Commonwealth Secretariat to complement these efforts through the work of the Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport. Furthermore, we commit to reporting on progress against the 10 Calls to Action of the Declaration at future Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting.
5. We look forward to increased cooperation with sports organisations, intergovernmental organisations, and other stakeholders to combine efforts to tackle corruption in sport through platforms such as the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport (IPACS).
6. We support the *Commonwealth Model Law on Protection of Vulnerable Persons* as a framework for legal protections against abuse by persons in positions of trust, in sport and related fields. We call on all stakeholders to strengthen safeguarding across all sports and to protect and promote the mental health and well-being of athletes.



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7. We acknowledge the meaningful attempts by member states and stakeholders to promote inclusion and equality and to tackle all forms of stigma and discrimination in and through sport. We welcome the implementation of programmes such as the Commonwealth Sport GAPS (Gather, Adjust, Prepare, Sustain) programme that are designed to support the development of inclusive sport pathways for persons with disabilities throughout the Commonwealth.

On Promoting a Renewed Vision of Collective Impact: *Resetting the Commonwealth Games of the Future*

8. We are committed to renewing our vision for the Commonwealth Games. We welcome the *Commonwealth Games Reset Policy Paper* and the *Commonwealth Games Strategic Plan 2023-2034: Commonwealth United*, which aim to deliver inspirational and impactful Games, drive equality in sport and society across the Commonwealth while inspiring and empowering our athletes and young people. By embracing innovation and sustainability, we aim to enhance the Games' resilience and foster renewed partnerships and widen hosting opportunities with national and international sports bodies.
9. We acknowledge the role of the Commonwealth Games and Youth Games as positive and essential enablers in helping the Commonwealth achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
10. We support the principles outlined to reset the Commonwealth Games as a more innovative, affordable model that maximises legacy and sporting, cultural, diplomatic, economic, social and environmental impact; We will continue to make the case for continued investment in sport and further explore partnership, development and hosting opportunities for the benefit of local athletes, citizens, and communities.
11. We congratulate the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for hosting the VII Commonwealth Youth Games and welcome the findings and recommendations of the evaluation report of the youth games.

On Strengthening Intersectoral Approaches

Health

12. We advocate for intersectoral collaboration to maximize the impact of sport. We recognize the interconnected challenges and opportunities of sectors, including education and health. We reaffirm our commitment to leveraging the power of sports as a catalyst for health outcomes. Recognizing the multifaceted benefits of sports, we pledge to promote intersectoral collaboration between government entities, NGOs, private businesses, and community organisations. Our focus will be



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on integrating sports with public health initiatives to enhance physical and mental well-being. By aligning sports programmes with broader health goals, we aim to create comprehensive strategies that promote active lifestyles, address health disparities, and improve overall community health outcomes. Through coordinated efforts, shared resources, and continuous dialogue, we will work towards building a healthier society through the unifying power of sport. We therefore welcome the launch of the Commonwealth *Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Guiding Framework*.

Education

13. We recognise that sport and education are intrinsically linked, each complementing and enhancing the other. The integration of sport into the education system instils values such as discipline, teamwork, resilience, and fair play. We support incorporating sport into the educational curriculum as crucial for promoting physical health and well-being, as well as to enhance learning outcomes. We are committed to ensuring access for all students, regardless of their background or ability to quality sports programmes in alignment with country specific context. We further commit to supporting the integration of sport and education through various initiatives, investing in sports infrastructure in schools, training physical education teachers, and developing inclusive sports programmes. Additionally, we will collaborate with local and international organisations to bring best practices and innovative sports programmes to our education system.
14. We support the crucial role of non-formal education in lifelong learning, reaching individuals who may not have access to formal education systems. We encourage community sports programmes, after-school sport activities, and youth clubs to engage individuals in non-formal educational settings and provide valuable opportunities for skill development, social interaction, and community building.

Gender

15. We are dedicated to advancing gender equity in sports. We commit to ensuring equal access, participation, and leadership opportunities for women and girls in sports. In accordance with country contexts, we will work with stakeholders to implement policies that address gender biases, increasing investment in female sports programmes, and creating safe, inclusive environments for female athletes. Collaboration across sectors is essential to amplify the impact of gender equity initiatives. By leveraging the strengths and resources of diverse stakeholders, we will promote a culture that values and supports female participation in sports at all levels. Together, we aim to drive substantial progress towards gender parity in sports, thereby contributing to a more equitable society.



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Climate Change

16. We note the ongoing impact of climate change on sport and its implications for athletes, sports facilities, and the broader community. We welcome and support initiatives aimed at reducing the carbon footprint of sports activities, promoting sustainable practices in the construction and maintenance of sports facilities, supply chains and scope 3 emissions, and integrating climate resilience into sports planning and management. Additionally, we recognize the role of sport in raising awareness about climate change and advocate for leveraging the influence of athletes and sporting events to promote environmental sustainability, including eliminating the use of single-use plastics in sporting events and promoting ocean sustainability. We acknowledge the work being undertaken by the Commonwealth Secretariat to support developing and vulnerable countries, in accessing finance through the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH) and the Commonwealth Living Lands Charter supporting policies and actions, including capacity building for climate mitigation, adaptation, nature conservation, and resilience building.

Youth

17. We emphasize that youth engagement in sports is crucial for fostering healthy lifestyles, developing life skills, and building community cohesion. Sport provides young people with opportunities to improve physical health, mental well-being, and social connections. We emphasize the importance of creating accessible, inclusive, and safe sporting environments for all children and youth, regardless of their socio-economic background, gender, or ability including in school settings. Participation in sports provides young people with opportunities for personal growth, helping them to build confidence, set goals, and develop resilience. Sport also develops leadership skills and essential lifelong competencies.

18. Sport is a powerful tool for social inclusion and equality. It brings together young people from diverse backgrounds, promoting mutual respect and understanding. In community settings, sport can help break down social barriers and foster a sense of unity. We are committed to ensuring that all youth, regardless of their background or ability, have access to quality sports programmes. We will continue to support and invest in sports infrastructure, developing inclusive sports programmes, and supporting grassroots sports organisations, and youth clubs.

19. We celebrate the achievements of our young athletes. Their dedication and success on the local, national, and international stages inspire others, and bring pride to our nation. It is essential to recognise and support their efforts, providing them with the resources and opportunities they need to excel.

20. We welcome the recommendations of the Commonwealth Youth Council and the Commonwealth Youth Sports Network.



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Technology

21. We also acknowledge the critical need for ongoing research into generative technology and its application in sports. Generative technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and data analytics, have the potential to revolutionize the sports sector. We note that to fully harness the potential of generative technology in sport, more research is needed to understand its implications, opportunities, and challenges. This includes exploring ethical considerations, data privacy concerns, and ensuring equitable access to technology across different levels of sports. Collaborative efforts between tech developers, sports organisations, academic institutions, and policymakers are essential to drive innovation while maintaining the integrity and fairness of sports. We acknowledge the Secretariat's Commonwealth Artificial Intelligence Consortium (CAIC) which aims to develop the entire AI ecosystem from research and innovation, capacity building, policy and data and infrastructure.
22. We encourage partnerships with related ministries and stakeholders to deliver meaningful interventions for our citizens, using sport as a tool for achieving development outcomes.

On Generating Evidence to Stimulate and Leverage Investment

23. We emphasize the need for an evidence-based approach in sport for development and peace (SDP). We welcome the Global SDG Impact Report Progress Paper and acknowledge the importance of capacity building, knowledge sharing, and better data collection to mobilize resources and stimulate investment. To this end, we commit working with our National Statistics Offices and other relevant agencies to explore opportunities for centralized data collection on sport, the impact of sport to development outcomes and to track the progress and impact of SDP initiatives across the Commonwealth using the Sport and SDG Indicator framework and Impact report as a guide.
24. We commit to conducting regular evaluations and publishing reports on the outcomes of SDP programmes to ensure transparency and accountability based on country context. We will support programmes that provide training for government officials, sports administrators and policymakers on evidence-based decision-making and programme design in sport.

On progress against previous Ministerial Mandates

25. We note the increased advocacy for the strengthening of the sport industry in member states and welcomed the appointment of the Secretary General's Envoy for Sport, Enterprise and Development to drive innovations, explore investments in sports and broker partnerships with industry leaders.



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26. We commend the Commonwealth's efforts in strengthening the capacity of experts and government officials in *Designing Effective Sport Policies and Programmes* through the use of the Massive Open Online Course and note the introduction of hybrid delivery of the programme.
27. We acknowledge the 20th Anniversary of the international platform Sport and Development (sportanddev) for its contribution to sharing knowledge, building good practice, facilitating coordination and fostering partnerships in sport and development.
28. We welcome the Commonwealth's progress on sport for development and peace with respect to supporting member states with the review, design and implementation of sports policy in keeping with the Commonwealth Charter, the Sustainable Development Goals and regional special priorities such as the Africa 2063 of the Africa Union priorities.
29. We welcome the newly reconstituted Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS) and note the actions and priorities proposed for consideration over the next 2 years.
30. We welcome the partnerships with regional and development partners including UNESCO, World Health Organisation, the Africa Union, ASEAN, Council of Europe, the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF), and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), in advancing the Commonwealth's sport for development and peace priorities.

Our Commitments

31. We reaffirm our commitment to the Sport for Development and Peace Commonwealth priorities for action and to resourcing and implementing the decisions made at the 11CSMM in keeping with country context.
32. We will align our actions with the priorities to be presented at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa in October 2024.
33. We will share progress on the implementation of agreed actions in subsequent high-level meetings and forums.
34. The 11CSMM has reinforced our collective resolve to leverage sport as a catalyst for social development and peacebuilding. Through our commitments and collaborative efforts, we aim to build inclusive and resilient societies, driving forward the Sustainable Development Goals and fostering unity and cooperation among Commonwealth member states.
35. We thank the Government of Canada for hosting the 11th Commonwealth Sports Ministers meeting preceding the XXXIII Olympiad in Paris, France.