



Measuring the Contribution of Sport to the Sustainable Development Goals

Discussion Paper for the UN Expert Group Meeting on “Strengthening the Global Framework for Leveraging Sport for Development and Peace” - June 2018

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Overview and summary

- 1 The potential of sport-based interventions to contribute to wide ranging development outcomes has been recognised across international policy declarations, most significantly in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹
- 2 To realise this potential, mainstreaming Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) orientated policy in national and international development plans, and improving measurement and evaluation of the contribution of sport-based policy to sustainable development, have been identified as key requirements. These issues are important focus areas for sport-related policy cooperation among Commonwealth countries and an emphasis of the Commonwealth Secretariat’s work.²
- 3 This paper focuses on the latter issue, measuring the contribution of sport-based policy and related investments to national development priorities and identified Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The paper presents a synopsis of current practices and approaches, identifies key issues and challenges faced by policy makers and proposes strategies in response.
- 4 Challenges highlighted include the difficulty in attributing development outcomes to sport-related policy interventions, differing levels of monitoring and evaluation capacity within and across member countries, and a wide variance in the availability

and relevance of data to inform policy decisions and scaled investment.

- 5 Among the strategies and responses proposed are a stronger alignment of sport-related measurement and evaluation frameworks to established SDG indicators, drawing on learning and data from across sectors, and in doing so, engaging more substantively with central statistics agencies and public bodies responsible for development planning, and finally, bridging the different levels and scale of data available to decision makers. The importance of disaggregated data is also underscored, in particular in the context of leaving no-one behind, gender equality and empowering women and girls being at the centre of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.
- 6 The paper introduces a collaborative international project being led by the Commonwealth aimed at developing model indicators and data collection tools to strengthen capacity in this area. It is envisaged this initiative will assist countries to improve sport-related data and develop national results frameworks linking sport to the SDGs. The iterative approach being utilised to deliver this project will support an assessment of the viability and value of developing common global indicators and data sets on sport and the SDGs.
- 7 Overall, the key argument made in the paper is that improving data on sport and the SDGs will provide governments, sporting organisations and the private sector with better information on how, where and why to invest in sport to maximise the contribution to broader national development objectives and prioritised SDGs.

Key recommendations to the UN Expert Group Meeting

- 8 The paper makes three key recommendations for the consideration of the UN Expert Group Meeting:

Key Recommendation 1: In working to strengthen the ‘global framework for leveraging sport for development and peace’ in the SDG era, a targeted

approach is recommended. Rather than positioning sport as a generic contributor across all SDGs, priority should be given to identifying and articulating specific SDG targets, or clusters of targets, where there is an evidence base and well developed theoretical frameworks articulating how and why sport can contribute.

Key Recommendation 2: To more effectively measure the contribution of sport-related policy to prioritised SDG targets, a two-tiered approach is recommended. The first tier would concentrate on strengthening the scale of sport-related data available to policy makers. Refining indicator protocols and ensuring appropriate disaggregation is built into this first tier will help bridge levels of evidence available to inform policy making and scaled investment. The second tier would then seek to articulate and strengthen the relevance of sport-related data to specific policy domains and prioritised SDGs. The second tier would likely remain context specific and dependent on national, regional or institutional priorities. This tier should distinguish direct from indirect contributions of sport policy interventions to specific SDG targets.

Key Recommendation 3: That developing common approaches and tools to measure the contribution of sport-related policy to the SDGs be an important consideration in strengthening the ‘global framework for leveraging sport for development and peace’. The forthcoming report of the United Nations Secretary-General to the 73rd Session of the General Assembly offers a valuable opportunity to raise awareness on, and elicit broader support for, this objective. There would also be substantial value in UNDESA, alongside UNESCO and other key UN institutions, formally engaging with efforts to develop shared measurement approaches on sport and the SDGs. This would ensure coherence across the UN system and that the wide ranging non-sport expertise and experiences of UNDESA and other key UN bodies are fully utilised.

Contributions of sport to sustainable development

9 The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and associated SDGs](#) outline the agreed plan of action to address global development challenges over the next 15 years.³ This framework serves as the key reference point for future policy development across all sectors, including sport.

10 Notably, the 2030 Agenda recognises sport as an ‘important enabler of sustainable development’.⁴ This acknowledgment responds to wide ranging work over the past two decades to design and implement policy and programmes to position sport as a contributor to peace building and sustainable development outcomes.⁵

11 A range of international organisations, sporting bodies and academic institutions have analysed the implications of the adoption of the SDGs for sport-related policy. This has been spearheaded by the Commonwealth Secretariat’s extensive [analysis report](#) and [policy guide](#) on the contribution sport-based approaches can make to the 2030 agenda.⁶ This analysis took a targeted approach, identifying specific SDG goals and targets where there was evidence and developed theoretical frameworks articulating how, why and in which circumstances sport may contribute to non-sport outcomes.

12 The Commonwealth Secretariat’s work articulating specific goals and targets that sport-based interventions could credibly contribute to was key in securing the commitment made at the 8th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting (2016)⁷ and MINEPS VI (2017) to align future sport policy to the SDGs.⁸

13 This commitment is best reflected in the [Kazan Action Plan](#), a pledge by the international community to develop and implement policy that strengthens alignment between sport policy and the SDGs.⁹ Central to this plan is the [MINEPS Sport Policy Follow-up Framework](#), a tool to assist with policy convergence, promote international cooperation and provide a framework for capacity building efforts of governmental authorities and sport organisations.

14 The MINEPS Framework identifies 9 SDGs and 36 associated targets where sport-based approaches could make effective and cost-efficient contributions. These are health (SDG 3); education (SDG 4); gender (SDG 5); decent work and economic growth (SDG 8); equality (SDG 10); sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11); sustainable consumption (SDG 12); combating climate change (SDG 13); and, peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16).¹⁰

Key Recommendation 1

In working to strengthen the ‘global framework for leveraging sport for development and peace’ in the SDG era, a targeted approach is recommended. Rather than positioning sport as a generic contributor across all SDGs, priority should be given to identifying and articulating specific SDG targets, or clusters of targets, where there is an evidence base and well developed theoretical frameworks articulating how and why sport can contribute. The preliminary work of the Commonwealth Secretariat and policy framework adopted by the Sixth International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Sport and Physical Education (MINEPS VI) provides a basis for such an approach.

Strengthening policy monitoring and evaluation

15 The 2030 Agenda emphasises that improved data collection, analysis and evaluation will be important in achieving the SDGs. Two specific targets on monitoring and accountability have been included in the SDG framework. They focus on building capacity to improve data availability, disaggregation and improving measurement of progress (Target 17.18 and 17.19).

16 On the issue of SDGs, data and accountability, the United Nations Economic and Social Council stated that:

high-quality, timely and disaggregated data is vital for evidence-based decision-making and to ensure accountability for implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Tracking progress on the Sustainable Development Goals requires an unprecedented amount of data and statistics at all levels.¹¹

17 The need to improve data collection, analysis and evaluation systems has also been a key theme across international policy forums and ministerial meetings focused on sport and development.¹² Improved data has been highlighted as essential to assess the value of adopting and resourcing policies that position sport as a contributor to development.¹³ [United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/71/L.38](#) on sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace, highlights ‘evidence of impact and follow-up’ as one of four key principles required to

contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through sport-based initiatives.

18 Equally, one of the five key areas for action agreed by MINEPS VI is to:

develop common indicators for measuring the contribution of physical education, physical activity and sport to prioritized SDGs and targets.¹⁴

The objectives of this action are to support sport policy actors to improve ‘planning, implementation and reporting (on sport policy) in the SDG context’.¹⁵

19 The 9th Commonwealth Sport Ministers Meeting held in April 2018 reiterated the need to strengthen measurement and evaluation of the contribution of sport policy and related investments to national development priorities and the SDGs. In doing so, Commonwealth Ministers stressed the complexity and challenge of effectively measuring and evaluating the contribution of sport to non-sport development outcomes. As a first step, Ministers encouraged the development of practical guidance and ‘model’ indicators to support the measurement and evaluation of the contribution of sport to the SDGs.¹⁶

Current approaches and learning

Evaluation and academic research on Sport for Development

20 Over the past two decades there has been significant growth in projects and programmes using sport as part of a suite of interventions in working to deliver non-sport development outcomes.¹⁷ Alongside this growth has been substantial investment in improving, monitoring and evaluation capacity, in part to respond to debate around the impact and efficacy of using sport in development.¹⁸ A range of practical manuals, tool kits and resources have been developed for this purpose. However, most are focused at project and programme level with few seeking to aggregate data to inform policy making.¹⁹

21 Academic research on sport for development has also expanded considerably over the past two decades. A systematic review of academic articles

on youth, sport and development recently undertaken for the Commonwealth Secretariat and Laureus Sport for Good Foundation, identified 9,239 ‘sport for development’ academic articles published since 1995.²⁰ This work aligns with other publications highlighting that the volume of research on sport and development has increased significantly over this period.

22 In order to synthesize this large body of academic research on sport for development, a number of literature reviews have been undertaken, including by the [International Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace](#) and by the [International Council for Sports Science and Physical Education in preparation for MINEPS VI](#).²¹ These reviews identify policy areas and development goals to which sport may, in particular circumstances, make a measurable contribution. In doing so, these reviews are consistent in presenting “nuanced and carefully qualified conclusions regarding the potential of sport to contribute to development outcomes”.²²

23 Academic work focused on monitoring and evaluating sport for development have, again, predominately been focused at programmatic level and on methodologies used to evaluate discreet interventions. Conclusions presented in these papers include calls for increased independent evaluations based on clearly defined theoretical frameworks,²³ more participatory evaluation approaches in the sector,²⁴ and for more stakeholders to report both positive and negative outcomes.²⁵

National and regional data

24 Where national scale data on sport does exist, it predominately relates to the percentage of the population participating in sport, analysis of the size and contribution of the sport workforce or measurement of the contributions of the sport economy to GDP.

25 Work undertaken by stakeholders in the Pacific, Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe to improve regional data has provided valuable learning for future international efforts.

26 Following MINEPS V (2013), governments across Latin America and the Caribbean, under the leadership of the Columbian Ministry of Sport, collated available definitions and data on physical activity, physical education and sports across 39

countries. A register of the available data on participation in physical activity and access to physical education was produced drawing on national data collection tools.²⁶

27 The focus on physical activity and physical education highlights the challenge of disaggregating sport and broader physical activity data. This dynamic is somewhat offset by an increasing focus on sport, physical activity and physical education as a joined up policy area. However, it is important to recognize the nuance and difference between these streams, and different outcomes that can be delivered by investment in each domain. For example, the outcomes of a well-designed group-based sport initiative in which skilled facilitators bring together participants from different communities or backgrounds will have different outcomes to initiatives aimed at encouraging people to exercise more regularly using individual orientated activities such as walking or cycling.

28 Notwithstanding, data on physical activity collected by the World Health Organisations’ Global Health Observatory,²⁷ is relevant to note, as are associated analysis and monitoring projects such as the [Global Physical Activity Observatory](#) maintained by a coalition of higher education institutions.

29 The Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC) and University of South Pacific, working with the Governments of Fiji and Samoa, have initiated a project to assess the [economic and social contribution of sport in the Pacific](#).²⁸ This initiative responds to calls from Pacific Finance and Sports Ministers for improved measurement frameworks to inform policy-making in and through sport in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). The initiative will utilise existing data sources to assess the % contribution of sport to GDP in Fiji and Samoa and develop a regionally appropriate measurement framework on the contribution of sport to identified SDG indicators related to health, economic development and reducing inequalities.

30 The specific priorities emphasised in this project underscore the need for global initiatives to be reflexive to varying regional (and national) priorities and maintain adaptability to ensure contextual relevance.

- 31 The European Commission has comprehensively examined the [economic contribution of sport in Europe](#)²⁹ and, more broadly, [approaches to strengthen the monitoring of sport policy in Europe](#).³⁰ This work has highlighted that where scaled sport-related data is collected, national statistics agencies and research institutions play a key role. This factor is important to note when considering stakeholders to engage in designing indicators to measure the contribution of sport. A second key finding was that most sport-related data collection has been one-off. In response, improved standardisation of indicators and producing time-series data is recommended so trends can be tracked.
- 32 One exception to single time point data collection is the [Eurobarometer survey on sport and physical activity](#) conducted in 2002, 2009, 2013 and 2017. This continent-wide data collection focuses on tracking disaggregated participation and volunteering trends in sport.³¹ Linked European work on developing national [Sport Satellite Accounts](#) provides a model and methodology for the ongoing collection of data on trade of sport-related services, sport-related consumption and employment.³²

Complexities and challenges

- 33 Collecting, monitoring and evaluating sport-related data at scale is, in itself, a complex undertaking. Considering sport in the context of broader non-sport policy aims and objectives adds another layer of complexity. While sport may be positioned to contribute to a range of development outcomes, it is rarely the primary policy approach to achieving a specific outcome.
- 34 When sport policy does include non-sport development considerations, the policy-makers and officials driving strategic decision-making are often not accustomed to, nor have capacity for, identifying, tracking and reporting on non-sport outcomes associated with sport for development initiatives and policies. Adding to the complexity is the fact that not all investments in sport can, nor are intended to, contribute to non-sport, sustainable development outcomes. While investments in approaches and initiatives to develop sport (coaching, infrastructure, athlete development etc.) can produce benefits in non-sport areas such as health, gender equity and economic development, the greatest benefits are derived from approaches that intentionally use

sport as a means to target sustainable development outcomes (i.e. Sport for Development and Peace interventions).

- 35 However, it must be recognised that sport-based approaches can have unintended positive impacts, regardless of their intended objectives. Equally, approaches that do not integrate basic principles of integrity, inclusion, human rights and safeguarding, can produce significant negative impacts for their participants.
- 36 Attribution of non-sport development outcomes to sport for development orientated policy interventions is often very difficult to demonstrate. Sport-based initiatives are often delivered at the same time as, if not in conjunction with, other related programmes with similar objectives. As a result, it can be difficult to demonstrate that sport-based interventions contributed to the outcomes that are being observed.
- 37 Perhaps the most significant challenge is limited availability of data to fully assess the contribution of sport to sustainable development outcomes, and that the capacity to collect data varies significantly across contexts. Data that is being collected is either too general to link to sport-based approaches, or, as highlighted earlier in this paper, is project and programme-specific, making it difficult to aggregate and demonstrate impact and contributions to national, regional or global objectives.
- 38 Given these challenges, there remains a need for further international cooperation, significant capacity building and dedicated investment to develop effective approaches to monitor and evaluate the use of sport in development, especially at national policy level.³³

Strategies and responses

- 39 Given the recognised challenges to generating sufficient broad-based evidence to support policy-level decision-making, consideration should be given to establishing frameworks to co-ordinate and harmonise data collection and evaluation processes across multiple sectors, engaging a range of stakeholders including sport, government, business and civil society.

Aligning to the SDG Indicator Framework

40 As the SDGs outline the agenda for global action across sectors for the next 15 years, they provide an appropriate foundation upon which to build such frameworks and coherent processes. Especially the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals³⁴ which provides a start point to consider sub-indicators relevant for sport-related policy.

41 A Commonwealth Sport Policy Experts Roundtable convened in 2016 on measuring the contribution of sport to the SDGs emphasised that the SDG indicators 'should provide a key reference point to guide future sport policy evaluation approaches.'³⁵ In considering the value of developing common indicators to measure the contribution of sport to the SDGs, the Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS) also emphasised that this work must draw on the existing SDG indicator framework.³⁶

Drawing on other sectors

42 Both expert groups further emphasised the development of specific indicators to measure sport-related contributions to the SDGs cannot be developed in isolation from ongoing measurement and evaluation work across numerous sectors. The knowledge of what data is being collected, and how it is being collected across other sectors relevant to the SDGs, can provide sport policy-makers with valuable insight into considerations about whether specific sport-based indicators need to be developed and, if so, how data can be collected and analysed.

43 Building on existing mechanisms and processes from other sectors for which tracking development outcomes are their business (such as health, education, housing etc.) would allow sport stakeholders to avoid unnecessary duplication of data collection, learn from existing expertise and to explore how sport-based indicators and the collection of related data can be co-ordinated with, or contribute to, existing efforts to attain development outcomes and report on the achievement of the SDGs. Integral to such an approach is engaging with data collection methods and tools employed by central statistics agencies and public authorities responsible for national development planning and evaluation.

Recognising the value of outputs, outcomes and impact

44 In engaging across sectors, and with central planning and statistical agencies, due care and attention must be given to the way that definitions of value are constructed and how sources of data are interpreted to indicate positive contributions across sport-related policy.³⁷

45 Previous Commonwealth guidance on *Enhancing the Contribution of Sport to the SDGs*, argued that output, outcome and impact measurements have value in assessing progress in relation to sport and the SDGs.³⁸ These levels were defined as follows:

- **The value of outputs** - this is usually a measure of the value of the productivity of the intervention. Often it is possible to enumerate this value, i.e. the number of people who participated in sport-based initiatives, or who fulfilled particular leadership roles. Such measures indicate the level of *productivity* of a project, but do not necessarily indicate its *social, economic or environmental value*.
- **The value of outcomes** - outcomes can be defined as changes in people's lives, the economy or the environment that have been achieved as a direct result of activity associated with particular institutional policies, interventions or initiatives.
- **The value of impact** - impact can be defined as the identification of a tangible effect that wholly or partly meets wider strategic goals. This is more difficult to measure because initiatives and interventions generally occur in the context of many other indirect influences.

46 This guidance goes on to highlight that, as it is generally not possible to isolate contributory factors to provide 'proof' of the direct contribution of sport-based policy to sustainable development outcomes, 'triangulation' of different sources (and levels) of data is required to assess the direct and indirect contributions of sport to sustainable development and inform policy formulation.

Bridging levels of data

47 To this end, a range of data sources can be available to policy makers and officials,³⁹ including:

- **National and international level data** - such as official statistics on the economy, health, education, labour market, some of which may have particular indicators relevant to sport;
- **Regional and local level data** - such as disaggregated census data and official statistics, and data generated to monitor public sector initiatives driven by local policy;
- **Evidence drawn from monitoring and evaluation of discrete initiatives** - such as the monitoring and evaluation of international, national or locally-based sport-based initiatives undertaken by civil society or private sector organisations; and,
- **Evidence from academic research** - findings which may have been collected locally or in other similar locations that can therefore provide understanding upon which, for example, policy decisions for scaling up of sport-based approaches can be reasonably made.

48 Bridging these different levels of data is a key issue. There is a substantial variance in scope between many of the typically small scale sport for development initiatives presented as exemplifying the contribution of sport to broader development outcomes and that of national policy.

49 Extrapolating and quantifying the economic, social and environmental return of targeted investments in sport-based interventions offers one strategy to bridge this evidence gap. There are a number of sport for development evaluation projects that provide a model of such an approach. For example, a UK-based evaluation drew on data from more than 160,000 participants in sport for development programmes to identify that the risk of these participants experiencing social problems was reduced by between 4.5 per cent and 19.2 per cent, generating a total societal cost saving of £4,174.12 for each programme participant.⁴⁰ A separate report analysing the service usage savings from culture and sport participation in the UK, estimates a 14 per cent increase in the likelihood of people participating in sport reporting good health, with estimated population level cost savings of £903.7 million due to reductions in the use of health services.⁴¹ Information of this nature is particularly useful in informing policy formulation and supporting a better understanding among decision

makers of the direct and indirect contributions sport policy and related investments can make.

Disaggregated data

50 Advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, combating inequality within and across countries, and promoting the economic, social and political inclusion of all are central tenants of the SDG framework.⁴²

51 Advancing equality and inclusion is also prioritised in sport-related policy. The Kazan Action Plan stresses gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls “are not only fundamental components of national and international sport policy but are also crucial factors for good governance, and for maximizing the contribution of sport to sustainable development and peace”.⁴³ In their most recent summit, Commonwealth Heads of Government called for all sporting institutions to work towards gender equality as a priority.⁴⁴ The IOC, Commonwealth Games Federation, and Council of Europe headline other international organisations instituting specific initiatives to advance equality and inclusion in sport.

52 Equality and inclusion are also key themes across sport for development programming.⁴⁵

53 It is well established that to measure progress in these areas, collecting appropriately disaggregated data is important. The Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG - SDG) have advised:

*SDG indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.*⁴⁶

54 Disaggregated data collection must therefore be a fundamental tenet in working to strengthen measurement and evaluation of the contribution of sport-related policy to the SDGs. Supporting this recommendation, [United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/71/L.38](#) invites all relevant actors to:

*promote and facilitate monitoring and evaluation tools, including indicators, data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.*⁴⁷

A two-tiered approach

55 As outlined earlier in this paper, the complexities in measuring the contribution of sport to sustainable development are considerable. In the first instance there is a need to improve capacity to collect and analyse sport-related data at scale. This need is not confined to sport stakeholders; it is relevant to national statistics offices, stakeholders in other relevant policy areas and research institutions. Second, is a requirement to link scaled sport-related data to prioritised SDGs and targets.

56 In response a two-tiered approach is proposed. This strategy was endorsed by MINEPS VI to advance Action 2 of the Kazan Action Plan focused on developing common indicators. The approved text endorses the following tiers of data collection:

- *First*, national data collection should provide valid and reliable information on basic, general indicators (e.g. budget allocations, physical infrastructure, workforce numbers and participation) and include their disaggregation in accordance with key variables of the SDG framework (e.g. sex, age and persons with disabilities).
- *Second*, more specific indicators should allow governments to measure the contribution of sport to identified SDGs, targets and/or indicators that are prioritized according to their specific context. Such indicators should distinguish direct from indirect contributions of sport policy interventions to specific SDG targets.⁴⁸

Key Recommendation 2

To more effectively measure the contribution of sport-related policy to prioritised SDG targets, a two-tiered approach is recommended. The first tier would concentrate on strengthening the scale of sport-related data available to policy makers. Refining indicator protocols and ensuring appropriate disaggregation is built into this first tier will help bridge levels of evidence available to inform policy making and scaled investment. The second tier would then seek to articulate and strengthen the relevance of sport-related data to specific policy domains and prioritised SDGs. The second tier would likely remain context specific and dependent on national, regional or institutional priorities. This tier should distinguish direct from indirect contributions of sport policy interventions to specific SDG targets.

Model indicators on sport to the SDGs

57 The intergovernmental Committee of Sport and Physical Education (CIGEPS), which has oversight of the implementation of MINEPS outcomes, has endorsed the Commonwealth Secretariat to lead the implementation of Action 2 of the Kazan Action Plan. This work will be integrated into the Commonwealth's on-going work on strengthening measurement and evaluation of the contribution of sport to sustainable development.

58 The first phase of this project was initiated in July 2017. This phase focused on mapping alignment of existing sport policies and results frameworks to prioritised SDGs. A pilot mapping exercise was undertaken by the Commonwealth Secretariat working with Swinburne University in Australia and covered ten countries. This will be extended in phase two of the project.

59 A specially formed working group of the Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport, chaired by Canada, analysed the issue of measuring the contribution of sport to sustainable development and produced a discussion paper for the consideration of the 9th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting and CIGEPS.

60 The second phase of the initiative commenced in April 2018 and is focused on the development of a set of model indicators and indicative data collection tools on sport and the SDGs. These will constitute a minimum viable product that will be tested and revised by member countries as part of an iterative development process. During this phase a series of national and regional consultations will be facilitated. These will involve government and sporting stakeholders, as well as relevant civil society and private sector organisations.

61 A high-level steering group and broader open-ended working groups will be formed during Phase 2. These groups will be charged with supporting the identification of existing good practice and relevant data sets, will input into the iterative development of model indicators and provide direction on future validation and testing. Appropriate engagement of the UN system and other intergovernmental organisations in these steering groups will be important to ensure coherence between this

initiative and broader data, monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

62 The third and most extensive phase of the project, will encompass extensive testing and modification of model indicators at national level, collating mapping data and fully assessing the viability and time frames to develop common indicators and comparable data sets.

Key Recommendation 3

That developing common approaches and tools to measure the contribution of sport-related policy to the SDGs be an important consideration in strengthening the 'global framework for leveraging sport for development and peace'. The forthcoming report of the United Nations Secretary-General to 73rd Session of the General Assembly offers a valuable opportunity to raise awareness on, and elicit broader support for, this objective.

There would also be substantial value in UNDESA, alongside UNESCO and other key UN institutions, formally engaging with efforts to develop shared measurement approaches on sport and the SDGs. This would ensure coherence across the UN system and that the wide ranging non-sport expertise and experiences of UNDESA and other key UN bodies are fully utilised.

Development and Peace' include an appropriate emphasis on national policy considerations and associated measures of progress. A nuanced approach, that prioritises SDGs and associated targets where there is evidence and well developed theoretical frameworks articulating sports contribution, should be central to this emphasis.

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Conclusion

63 Improving capacity to measure and evaluate the contribution of sport policy and related investments to the SDGs will be key to ensuring the full and positive contribution of sport to the global development agenda is realised. Improved data and parameters to measure progress will provide governments, sporting organisations and the private sector with better information on how, where and why to invest in sport to maximise the contribution to broader policy objectives and sustainable development.

64 For this to occur, more countries will need to develop and operationalise results frameworks for sport-related policies that are aligned to overall national development plans and identified SDGs.

65 It is therefore imperative that efforts to strengthen the 'global framework to leverage Sport for

End Notes

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- ¹⁵ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁶ Commonwealth Secretariat (2018) *9th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting Communique*, Gold Coast, Australia.
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