



CYSDP Position Statement

The CYSDP – a youth designed and driven working group which aims to be the leading voice for youth in the Commonwealth towards promoting best practices for sport, development and peace – urges governments, intergovernmental organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders in the SDP field to commit to:

1. Ensuring organisations have a functioning mechanism to ***involve youth in decision-making processes*** (e.g. youth committees, youth position on board of directors, feedback mechanisms for participants to organisational and national decision makers),
2. Developing, implementing and/or ***engaging in youth centred research*** in the SDP field,
3. ***Providing education and training opportunities***, using the CYSDP Advocacy Toolkit or other similar resources to encourage youth to become leaders and advocates for SDP in their countries.

We do this through our three strategic pillars:

- **Advocate** for representation of the youth stance at sport and non-sport platforms
- **Demonstrate** a contribution to the existing body of knowledge in SDP and bring to the fore areas of particular concern for youth
- **Educate** on how to advocate for issues relevant to their environment.

Background:

Established in May 2013, by the Commonwealth Secretariat, CYSDP is composed of 10 youth practitioners in the field of Sport for Development and Peace who have demonstrated a commitment to putting young people at the centre of sustainable development. Its members, with a diversity of experiences and cultural backgrounds lead the working group's vision – ***to be the leading voice for youth in the Commonwealth towards promoting best practices towards sport for development and peace in their respective societies - by targeting young people and policy makers***



The commitment statement is founded on the following:

- Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) is a rapidly growing field that actively contributes to the realization of the UN Millennium Development Goals, international peace processes and human & social development world-wide.
- Governments and key field stakeholders are currently working together to develop policies, and international frameworks necessary to guide the future development of the SDP field.
- Broader development fields have international mechanisms to ensure input from youth, but at the moment this is non-existent in the SDP field.
- The majority of SDP programmes target youth engagement and are most often implemented by young leaders at the local level.
- Participant centred programmes with defined mechanisms for participant input, have better impacts and more sustainable outcomes.

For further information about CYSDP please visit: <http://www.yourcommonwealth.org/cysdp/>