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/