



Outcomes of the Pacific Youth Advisory Plenary 2nd December 2017 at Ramada Resort, Port Vila, Vanuatu

The inaugural Pacific Youth Advisory Plenary was held in conjunction with the Vanuatu 2017 Pacific Mini-Games. The plenary was attended by representatives of Vanuatu Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Fiji Ministry of Youth and Sports, Vanuatu National Youth Council and Pacific Youth Council, representatives of Pacific Games Associations, representatives of United Nations agencies and civil society organizations.

Draft key recommendations for the Sports Ministers' consideration at the 5th Pacific Sports Ministers Meeting:

1. Create the space for youth in sports policy dialogue

Youth need to be engaged as equal partners in policy dialogue. Often youth are considered as civil society representatives but they need to be part of government so that youth affairs are consistently on the agenda. Sports Ministers need to facilitate this process to ensure that youth are provided the space and opportunity to be heard to improve their credibility and experience.

2. Youth athletes can be champions for national development priorities (and SDGs)

Significant resources are being invested in sports by governments as exemplified by the Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu. Therefore, it is critical to build the case for sports to benefit the whole of government and society. Youth athletes can act as champions for ministries to achieve development outcomes such as combating NCDs and promoting gender equality, whilst facilitating the link with sports federations and partners. The Vanuatu Government's Sports Ambassadors Program is a good practice example of this potential.

3. Engage youth in legacy efforts and the management of sports facilities

Creating the space for youth input into decision making is critical when it comes to sustainability and legacy plans for sport. Being more creative in the management and maintenance of sports facilities and involving youth and communities to local improve ownership are such examples.

4. Recognize and promote the potential of sport as a pathway for youth through training, and career development and opportunities

Involvement in sports and physical activity opens many doors for young people for personal, social, physical and professional development. Sport and physical activity also provide a platform for youth to express themselves outside of national and local governance structures. Support for parents and communities to encourage youth participation in sports, and increase opportunities such as through scholarships can facilitate this process.