For Immediate Release

Commonwealth Sport unveils St John's Sports Pledge to drive change beyond the field of play

- **New initiative, launched at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Antigua and Barbuda, aims to strengthen sport's role in health, economic growth and international cooperation across the Commonwealth**

Tuesday 3 November 2026 – Commonwealth Sport has unveiled the ***St John's Sports Pledge***, designed to strengthen collaboration across the Commonwealth and give sport a greater role in tackling some of society's biggest challenges.

The proposed Pledge was at the heart of the first Commonwealth Sport Summit, held alongside the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Antigua and Barbuda on Monday (2 November).

Bringing together government ministers, internationally recognised athletes and senior sporting leaders, the Summit explored how sport can contribute to healthier and more inclusive societies, economic prosperity and stronger international cooperation.

The draft Pledge outlines ten proposed commitments across three areas:

- **Resilient, healthy and inclusive societies:** harnessing sport to improve population health, empower young people, advance disability inclusion and strengthen climate resilience.
- **Economic prosperity through sport:** supporting sustainable event hosting, sport tourism, enterprise, employment and investment.
- **Unity, culture and international cooperation:** using sport to strengthen social cohesion, celebrate cultural heritage and deepen cooperation across Commonwealth nations.

It aims to build on the momentum of the successful Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, with the Malta 2027 Commonwealth Youth Games and the Centenary Commonwealth Games in Amdavad in 2030 providing further opportunities to extend sport's impact across the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Sport President Dr Donald Rukare said: "We need to stop asking only what governments can do for sport, and start demonstrating what sport can do for governments and the people they serve.

"Glasgow showed us the extraordinary power of sport to bring people together and deliver wider benefits. But sport cannot be front and centre in our national conversations only once every four years.

"The St John's Sports Pledge is about building a stronger, more connected sporting movement and working with governments and partners to ensure sport makes a lasting difference to more people and communities across the Commonwealth."

Sir Vivian Richards, cricket legend and Special Envoy to CHOGM 2026, said: "Sport has given me opportunities I could never have imagined growing up in Antigua. I've seen first-hand how it can inspire young people, bring communities together and give entire nations something to be proud of.

"But its greatest impact isn't always measured in runs, wickets or medals. It's measured in the opportunities we create for the next generation and the difference we make to people's lives.

"That's why this Summit is so important. We have a chance to build on the extraordinary sporting connections across the Commonwealth and make sure more young people and communities benefit from the power of sport."

Honourable Dwayne George, Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Sports and Creative Industries, said: "Antigua and Barbuda is proud to have hosted the first Commonwealth Sport Summit and to see the St John's name associated with an ambition to strengthen the role of sport across our Commonwealth.

"As a small island nation, we understand the power of sport to inspire young people, bring communities together and create opportunities that extend far beyond the field of play.

"The proposed St John's Sports Pledge offers an important opportunity to build on that potential, strengthen cooperation between our nations and ensure more people and communities benefit from sport in the years ahead."

The draft Pledge will now be developed in consultation with Commonwealth Sport's member Commonwealth Games Associations before being shared for agreement by Governments through the newly established Commonwealth Sport Coordination Forum, co-chaired by India as the next host of the Commonwealth Games, and Commonwealth Sport.

The Forum will meet virtually each year between Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meetings, providing a mechanism for ongoing government engagement and reviewing progress against shared priorities.

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Media Enquiries

Rob Arnott

e. rob.arnott@commonwealthsport.com / Media@commonwealthsport.com

m. +44 (0) 7787 841604

Notes to Editors

About Commonwealth Sport

Commonwealth Sport is the organisation with responsibility for the direction and control of the Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games, and for delivering the vision of the Commonwealth Sport Movement: 'Our Commonwealth, united through sport'. Our mission is to deliver inspirational and impactful Games; to excite and empower Athletes and young people; and to drive equality in sport and society across the Commonwealth.

Established in 1930, the Commonwealth Sport Movement brings together 74 independent nations and territories creating a diverse Commonwealth community of over 2.5 billion individuals, representing one-third of the world's population. Together we stand as a beacon of unity, diversity, and equality, completely integrating Para athletes, driving gender equality and advocating for legacy and social change through sport.