



The Commonwealth

10<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting

# Policy Paper

September 11-15, 2023

Marlborough House, London  
United Kingdom

Agenda Item 9

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## Ministerial Outcome Statement

# 10<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Meeting

## Ministerial Statement

11-15 September 2023, London, United Kingdom

1. We, the Commonwealth Youth Ministers, met in London, United Kingdom from 11 to 15 September 2023 for the 10<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (10CYMM). We met under the theme: *'Aiming Higher: Delivering More for Young People in the Commonwealth'*.
2. Our meeting recognised the significance of 2023 as the Commonwealth Year of Youth; the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Commonwealth Youth Programme established in August 1973; the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Commonwealth Charter, and the establishment Commonwealth Youth Council. These milestones occur at the mid-point to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and we recognise the imperative of increased engagement of young people to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
3. In this 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the Commonwealth Charter, we reaffirmed our commitment to the Commonwealth's values, principles and aspirations, including **Article 13** on the Importance of Young People in the Commonwealth. We recognise the positive and active role and contributions of young people in promoting development, peace, democracy and in protecting and promoting other Commonwealth values, such as tolerance and understanding, including respect for other cultures.
4. This being our first meeting since 2017, we restated our enduring commitment to the principles of meaningful youth participation as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant human rights covenants and international instruments. We are committed to equality and respect for the protection and promotion of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development for all without discrimination on any grounds as the foundations of peaceful, just and stable societies.
5. We note that these rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and cannot be implemented selectively. We are implacably opposed to all forms of discrimination, whether rooted in gender, race, colour, age, disability, creed, religion, political belief, or other grounds.
6. We recall our commitment to youth mainstreaming as a strategy for making young people's capacities and rights an integral dimension of the design, implementation, analysis and monitoring and evaluation of conventions, legislation, policies, and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, at all levels.
7. We will continue to see young people as partners and active contributors in development within an asset-based framework that focuses on recognizing and mobilizing the strengths, skills and resources that young people bring to the table. By harnessing their assets and strengths, this approach fosters empowerment, collaboration and sustainable positive change, and emphasises the agency and potential of young people.
8. We recognize the amplified challenges borne by our youth amidst an era characterized by economic flux, political instability, post-pandemic recovery and escalating threats posed by climate change. We note that the commitment of young people of all abilities to be agents of socio-economic progress and cultural sustainability, continues to be

undermined by the wide range of challenges they confront, and we commit to redouble, rejuvenate, and realign our collective effort for youth development and empowerment.

9. We agree to provide a sense of hope to Commonwealth young people, inspired by their resilience demonstrated during the pandemic, motivated by their creativity and innovation, and encouraged by their aspirations for a fairer, more secure, safe and sustainable Commonwealth.
10. We note the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant increase in the number of marginalised and at-risk young people, and we call on the Commonwealth Secretariat to partner with key development partners to engage in and promote strategies to improve the social and economic conditions of this population.

### **Year of Youth**

11. We welcome the Heads declaration of 2023 as ‘Year of Youth’, in acknowledgement of the significant contribution made by the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) in promoting youth development and youth work globally. The year is dedicated to youth-led action for sustainable and inclusive development, and the Heads called on all stakeholders at all levels to renew and strengthen their commitment to youth engagement and empowerment.
12. We welcome the ongoing implementation plan for the Year of Youth under the theme: *‘Youth as Co-creators of a Peaceful and Sustainable Commonwealth Future’* and the suite of activities and projects planned and initiated by the Secretariat in partnership with member governments, Commonwealth organisations, youth networks and other delivery partners, and call upon the Secretariat to allocate adequate financial resources from the CYP reserves, following due governance process as stipulated in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to bolster the Year of Youth impact.
13. We note that the Year of Youth will highlight the strategic importance and invaluable contribution of young people and their diverse priorities for the sustainable and inclusive development, the challenges they face, and how their potential can be strengthened. The Year provides an important opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the Commonwealth Youth Programme and prepare the ground for its revitalisation to meet the needs of young people and help member countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
14. We agree to extending the ‘Year of Youth’ initiatives until CHOGM 2024 to ensure maximum and sustained impact.
15. We call on all member Governments, Commonwealth accredited organisations, youth networks, civil society organisations, regional inter-governmental organisations, international development partners, the private sector and other stakeholders to take note of the **Year of Youth** and take practical actions to promote and support youth-led action for sustainable and inclusive development.

## Delivering More for Young People through the Power of Technology

16. We recognise the transformative impact of technologies on the employment prospects of young people and the digital divide and digital skills gaps that exists within and across member states. We note the need to support our young people to harness the power of transformative technologies and to prioritise inclusive and affordable digital access for all, including investing in critical infrastructure and digital skills training for young people.
17. We acknowledge that Artificial Intelligence has the potential to enhance the youth dividend by empowering young people to innovate, develop entrepreneurship skills and generate employment in Commonwealth countries. We welcome and endorse the launch of the “**AI for Youth**” initiative and call upon the Secretariat to explore how best to leverage the support of industry leaders to support particularly small and vulnerable member states, with research, infrastructure, capacity building and ethical AI policy and to empower, educate and engage youth, including young women, and young people with disabilities in member states and bridge the digital AI divide.
18. We commend the Secretariat's ongoing collaboration with industry leaders and experts, including Simplilearn and Intel, to offer digital skills training and capacity building to upskill young people across the Commonwealth. We welcome the formation of **Commonwealth AI Consortium** with champion countries, industry leaders and experts to accelerate the scope and reach of similar programme across the Commonwealth through a holistic approach.
19. We recognise that the digital platforms and technologies are playing a key role in reshaping the educational landscape for the young people, and it is imperative to make these platforms accessible and effective for young people across diverse settings. We will redouble our efforts to bridge the digital educational gaps that exist across the Commonwealth and ensure equitable access to online training in a secure cyber space for all young people. We welcome the support of the **Commonwealth of Learning (COL)** to assist Commonwealth member states and institutions to use distance learning and technologies for expanding access to education and training.
20. We also recognise the significant opportunities that technology offers for driving broad-based youth engagement and skill exchange at local and global levels, through digital gaming and learning platforms, including for example those for Esports.

## Delivering more through Meaningful Youth Engagement

21. We recognise the importance of promoting and facilitating the active, meaningful and inclusive participation of young people in decision making processes at various levels of governance, thereby enhancing their representation and influence in national development processes. We welcome the *Commonwealth's Youth Participation Framework* which reaffirms the basic principles and values to guide member states with their own youth participatory models, practices, and institutions for meaningful youth engagement at all levels. We will champion young people's meaningful and inclusive participation in national decision-making institutions and processes through a range of policy measures, such as the establishment and strengthening of national and regional youth councils, national students' organisations, youth-led bodies and Commonwealth youth networks or other youth led bodies based on specific country context.

22. We acknowledge the Heads' commitment to increasing meaningful representation of young people in decision-making processes and mechanisms, including in conflict resolution and peace-building, and pledge our continued commitment to mainstreaming youth aspiration and priorities into national development agendas, policies and plans especially in the post-COVID-19 recovery context.
23. In this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Commonwealth Youth Council, we acknowledge the role and contribution of the executives past and present, and commend the general assembly of the council for their stewardship, commitment and advocacy in ensuring that the voices of young people are included in Commonwealth decision making processes. We agreed to work with the CYC to fully implement the mandate as envisioned by our Heads in 2013 in their **Magampura Declaration on Commitment to Young People**. We acknowledge the challenges faced by the CYC and commit to supporting the current executives overcome the barriers currently facing the institution.
24. We commend the Commonwealth Students' Association and the Commonwealth Youth Networks for their advocacy, leadership and youth-led action in the areas of education, climate change, peace-building, democracy, human rights, youth entrepreneurship, disability and inclusion, gender equality, health, journalism and sustainable urbanisation and agree to support the expansion of youth-led initiatives according to country context, particularly in sectors like sustainable development, digital innovation, and social entrepreneurship, with the aim of tapping into young people's innovation while offering them opportunities for growth and leadership. We welcome the recommendation to establish an Asian Regional Youth platform to foster regional advocacy, engagement and cross-cultural learning in keeping with other similar Commonwealth regional youth platforms.
25. We welcome the strategies proposed in our roundtable discussions to enhance inclusion and safeguarding of our young people by exploring the use of various policy approaches and tools, such as the young carer's charter, to raise awareness, train and enhance youth work practice among youth workers, practitioners and youth serving organisation. We welcome the **Commonwealth's Model Law on Protection of Vulnerable Persons against Abuse by Persons in Positions of Trust** and agreed to implement, in collaboration with other stakeholders, the Heads of Government **Kigali Declaration on Child Care Protection and Reform**.
26. Given the size of the youth populations across the Commonwealth, we acknowledge the under representation of young people in national legislatures and welcomed the recommendations proposed during our roundtable discussions, to establish a Commonwealth young parliamentary forum and to better support existing young MPs and explore practical solutions to encourage more young people to take an active interest in legislative processes across the Commonwealth.
27. We note the many benefits and opportunities available to our young professionals through membership of the Commonwealth accredited and professional bodies. We will work closely with interested accredited bodies to raise their awareness and visibility among young people, promoting new opportunities for engagement for young professionals in our member states while fostering inter-generational dialogue and strengthening these Commonwealth institutions for the long term.
28. We acknowledge the importance of global citizenship education and cross-cultural learning and understanding in our world today. Through our roundtable policy discussions, we identified practical recommendations to enhance intra-Commonwealth

youth exchanges and programmes by tapping into the existing national, regional and pan-Commonwealth youth networks and agreed to explore more inclusive and accessible bilateral exchange programmes between Commonwealth members aimed at enhancing Commonwealth values and principles.

### **Delivering more through Inclusive and Accessible Education**

29. We acknowledged the challenges faced by education systems, especially in the post COVID-19 context in low- and middle-income countries. We agree that to keep pace with the rapid advancement of technology and in an effort to *'leave no one behind'*, we embrace the concept of lifelong learning, and support accessible education programmes, including human rights education and opportunities that train our young people to think critically, problem-solving, learn independently while bridging the digital divide and exposing them to the new transformative technology tools. We welcome the proposals discussed in our meeting aimed at assisting our young people with critical skill set for the future, including complex problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, emotional intelligence, cognitive flexibility and resilience. We welcome the media partnerships being developed to empower young people using informal and non-formal approaches and tools.
30. We believe our education systems should foster a culture of continuous growth, encouraging our young people to constantly update their knowledge and skills, and welcome the recommendations of the 21st Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers for better coordination between education and labour policies to facilitate youth transition from school to work and we support the Education Ministers commitment to the continuing strengthening of the **Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP)**.
31. We recall our leaders' affirmation on the important contribution of non-formal education and its role in the development of young people's knowledge, skills and competencies for the labour market. We welcome the **Commonwealth Alliance for Quality Youth Leadership** launched in 2022 in promoting non-formal education and learning, to support the training and capacity building of young people across the Commonwealth. We commit to supporting this Alliance and to further the development of non-formal learning programmes as a catalyst for empowerment and promoting a culture of continuous learning beyond traditional schooling years.
32. We recognise the invaluable influence and contribution of youth workers in shaping the future trajectories of young individuals and note the critical role youth work plays in nurturing critical thinking skills, problem solving, self-management, resilience, working with others, fostering civic participation, and promoting holistic development and empowerment of young people. We are committed to championing and investing in youth work, ensuring it remains at the heart of our youth policies framework, and advancing a Commonwealth where youth work's transformative power is universally acknowledged and harnessed.
33. We reaffirm our commitment to the Commonwealth Youth Programme's work on the Professionalisation of Youth Work, including the education and training of youth workers through the **Commonwealth's Consortium for Youth Work Education**, support for National Youth Work Associations, and support to **Commonwealth Alliance of Youth Worker Associations (CAYWA)**. We welcome the formation of a Commonwealth network

of **Professional Association of Lecturers in Youth and Community Work (PALYCW)** that will assist us achieve our goal of having qualified youth workers.

34. We thank the UK Government for hosting the **4<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Youth Work Conference** as part of the Year of Youth activities. We welcome Government of Malaysia's offer to host the **5<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Conference of Youth Workers** in 2025.
35. We recognise the impact of mental health on educational attainment and note the escalating mental health challenges that has been exacerbated by the pandemic, global conflicts and economic stresses, notably impacting children, young people and women. We recall the **Dhaka-Kigali Compact on Mental Health** agreed in CHOGM 2022 and note with concern the existing treatment gap and the lack of mental health policies in a quarter of Commonwealth member nations. We pledge to support efforts to develop robust mental health policies, launch focused well-being campaigns, countering stigma, and support to the empowerment and mental wellness of our young people.

### **Aiming Higher: Raising our Ambition for a more Sustainable Future**

36. We acknowledge that young people throughout the Commonwealth are at the forefront of climate activism, demonstrating a profound commitment to environmental preservation and sustainability. We welcome the mainstreaming of youth considerations into the work of the **Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH)**. We encourage investment in youth led initiatives that can contribute towards renewable energy development, conservation of natural resources, marine life conservation, carbon-neutral endeavours and waste management, and help secure a resilient, sustainable and biodiverse planet for generations to come. We welcome support for SIDS to assist in securing sustainable financing for youth development and environment projects, such as Common Pool Investment approach, which seeks to leverage public/private partnerships.
37. We recognise that the success of our climate goals depend heavily on equipping our younger generations with the skills and tools they need to tackle the climate crisis, and will promote climate change education and literacy across the formal and non-formal sectors in mitigating and adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change while seizing existing opportunities, such as green and blue jobs. We recognise the value and role of traditional and indigenous knowledge in climate change adaptation and encourage its integration in mitigation strategies.
38. We support efforts aimed at strengthening the capacities of young people to participate in climate change negotiations as critical stakeholders in the international climate discussions and we will champion young people's right to participate in National Adaptation Planning while encouraging national delegations for climate negotiations to have youth representatives.
39. We welcome the Secretariat's initiatives to boost energy literacy across the Commonwealth and commit to championing initiatives that magnify the depth of knowledge and heighten awareness among our children, young people and local communities through tools, such as the Commonwealth children's books on clean energy. By providing them with a comprehensive grasp of the environmental consequences linked to energy practices, we take another step towards a conscious and sustainable Commonwealth.

40. We welcome the formation of the Commonwealth Youth for Sustainable Urbanisation Network and the **Ocean Youth Working Group** and commend the **Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network** and the many young people taking bold action on climate change and the environmental health of our oceans and natural resources. We note the *Commonwealth Youth Statement on Climate Change* with its call to support communities and safeguard the most vulnerable, including youth, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

#### **‘Exploring Opportunities in Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment’**

41. We acknowledge the youth unemployment crisis facing many member states. We reaffirm the CHOGM 2022 mandate on the imperative of constructing robust pathways for youth employment and agreed to explore the innovative entrepreneurship and employment opportunities, strategies and policies that promote the economic empowerment of young people, focussing on fostering skills acquisition, nurturing entrepreneurship ecosystems, championing apprenticeships, making the economic case for investing in youth, advocacy for tacking public debt and leveraging data for targeted interventions. We agree to promote private-public multi-stakeholder partnerships and adopt a systems approach with the support of the Secretariat in addressing youth unemployment challenges.

42. We note the CHOGM 2022 Communique on the pivotal role of trade in transforming economies and spurring sustainable growth, and acknowledge the untapped potential of our youth in this sector. We note the work of the **Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs (CAYE)** in supporting youth entrepreneurship and promoting regional and intra-Commonwealth trade and agree to support them in these endeavours.

43. We note the transformative potential of blue and green jobs (*including in agriculture*) in catalysing sustainable economic empowerment and generating employment for young people, noting that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) highlighted that around 8.4 million employment opportunities for youth exist in green and blue jobs. We commit to investing, promoting and expanding green and blue job initiatives for our younger generations, ensuring they are at the heart of our sustainable economic future.

44. We recognise the pivotal role of the creative sectors in economic diversification, cultural expression and innovation, and commit to nurturing and investing in the creative economy, ensuring it thrives as a dynamic force for sustainable development, employment generation and cultural enrichment across member nations.

45. We recognise the dynamic interplay of economic development and social responsibility, and reaffirm the profound potential of social entrepreneurship as a transformative force within the Commonwealth. We acknowledge that socially driven ventures not only catalyse job creation, but also amplify the Commonwealth’s collective strides towards sustainable development, and pledge to foster an environment that nurtures and scales such ventures, ensuring that they contribute significantly to the economy and social well-being. We further agree to champion social entrepreneurship and design policies and programmes to support Social Entrepreneurship.

46. We recognise the significant opportunities that Esports offers in driving youth engagement, employment, fostering innovation in technology and contributing to technological advancements. We recognise that this could add economic value to the member states and welcome partnership with the Global Esports Federation and other

stakeholders to further develop initiatives and projects to extend the potential of the Esports for Commonwealth member states.

47. We acknowledge the transformative role of startups in the shifting global economy, emphasizing their potential and the rise of sectors like Esports. We recognise the pivotal impact these areas have on employment generation, innovation, community engagement, and technological advancement, and agree to bolster and strengthen startup and technology ecosystems through appropriate policies and programmes.
48. We recognise the need for and importance of apprenticeship and work-based learning, for its potential for reducing skills mismatch, meeting skills demand of a fast-changing labour market, providing cost-effective training, promoting private sector development, and promoting school to work transition. We welcome the efforts of the Secretariat in promoting apprenticeship and work-based learning, and agree to collaboratively establish and strengthen quality apprenticeship schemes to enable young people to overcome the work-inexperience trap, gain new and enhanced skills and recognized qualifications.

### **Global Youth Development Index (YDI)**

49. We welcome the **Commonwealth's Global Youth Development Index (YDI) Update Report 2023** and note with concern the persisting inequalities in levels of youth development within and among Commonwealth countries, and resolve to take meaningful and concrete actions to empower and address the specific needs of young people in marginal positions, such as young people who are poor and live in rural and maritime areas or conflict zones, as well as young women and young people with disabilities.
50. We acknowledge the growing use of the YDI in various regions and national contexts as a useful tool for assessing youth development at the global and national levels, and commit to take steps to invest in gathering data, disaggregated by age, gender, disability and geography in accordance with country context. We agree to work with National Statistical Offices to gather better youth specific data and develop monitoring tools for assessing and evaluating youth programmes, to ensure effectiveness and facilitating the development of evidence-based policies and programmes for youth development.

### **Commonwealth Youth Programme**

51. We acknowledge the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Commonwealth Youth Programme and commend the significant contribution made by the Secretariat in promoting youth development and empowerment globally. In congratulating the golden jubilee of the CYP, we reaffirm our commitment and pledge to renew and bolster the programme for the future.
52. We note the ongoing consultations on the revised Memorandum of Understanding of the Commonwealth Youth Programme to reflect the changed youth development landscape. We look forward to any suggested revisions being deliberated by the appropriate governance mechanisms within the Commonwealth Secretariat and endorse a period of consultation before submitting to Board of Governors ahead of CHOGM 2024 in Samoa.
53. We note the Commonwealth Youth Programme Report 2017-2023 presented to the Meeting and commend the CYP for its technical assistance to member states and its

strategic priorities in areas of: Youth Policy development; youth mainstreaming; youth participation and engagement; Promoting youth employment, youth entrepreneurship and skills development, and professional youth development work sector.

54. We note the insightful and useful thought leadership products and toolkits/guides/manuals produced by the CYP such as the Youth Mainstreaming Online Training Resource for senior officials, youth leaders and stakeholders.
55. We encourage the Secretariat to develop a repository where all the toolkits, guides, research reports and data, best practice examples including from member countries and other resources that will facilitate member states to easily access a wide range of resources related to youth development. The repository will facilitate real time knowledge and information sharing, efficiency in accessing opportunities and tools, and enhanced programme design.

### **Delivering More through Policy Coherence and Partnerships**

56. We note the importance of leveraging strategic partnerships to support youth development efforts, and commend the Secretariat's efforts in strengthening strategic partnerships with regional and global development partners that aim to exploit synergies, reduce duplication and lead to a more effective deployment of resources for youth empowerment in member states.
57. We thank regional organisations such as African Union (AU), Association of South- East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation(SAARC) and Pacific Community (SPC) for their continued support and partnership, and call on the Secretariat to further strengthen regional collaboration for greater policy coherence, foster sharing of best practices, south-south collaboration and driving collective impact for youth development in the regions.
58. We acknowledge with appreciation for the good collaboration and work of Commonwealth Accredited Organisations and support their active engagement with our youth networks and partnership with the Commonwealth Youth Programme.
59. We recognise that media play a crucial role in shaping perceptions, disseminating information, and influencing public opinion and when harnessed effectively, it is a powerful tool for advancing youth empowerment. We welcome the Secretariat's initiative to develop greater partnership with the media to engage and empower young people. Where feasible, we will engage the media to harness its influence to create a more inclusive, informed, and supportive environment for youth development and participation.
60. We take note of the Commonwealth Alliance of Youth Worker Associations (CAYWA), and Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC) reports and commend them for their work in promoting youth work professionalisation and youth leadership, advocacy and representation, respectively.

## **Ministerial Taskforce**

61. We thank the Co-Chairs, Uganda and Rwanda, and members of the outgoing Commonwealth Youth Ministerial Task Force (CYMTF) for their work since their appointment at 2017 CYMM in monitoring progress on the CHOGM mandates and other commitments made at Ministerial meetings, which refer to youth development and providing advice and strategic direction in implementing them. We further agree to nominate Ministers from Pakistan (Co-Chair), Rwanda (Co-Chair), The Bahamas, Cyprus, The Gambia, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Sierra Leone, St. Lucia, and Uganda to the CYMTF for 2023 - 2025.

## **Aiming Higher**

62. We acknowledge the specific, bold and ambitious commitments/pledges given by member states as part of their individual country commitment to achieve more for young people before the next meeting.

## **Marlborough House Commitment for Youth Development**

63. We agree to establish a common minimum commitment '*Marlborough House Commitment*' to the young people of the Commonwealth (**Annex A**) to signal our combined aspiration to ensure their well-being, empowerment and overall progress of our young citizens. This commitment reflects an undertaking by each member states to invest in the well-being and future of our young people. We recognize young people as essential contributors to the development and progress of their nations, and emphasize the need for comprehensive and inclusive youth-focused policies and programmes. Specific commitment and priorities may vary depending on the unique needs and circumstances of each country.

## **Next Meeting**

64. We thank the Government of Pakistan for chairing the 10CYMM in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat and look forward to their leadership on the realisation of these deliberations. We welcome the offer of the Government of Jamaica to host the 11CYMM.

## Marlborough House Commitment for Youth Development

We as Ministers of youth agree to the ‘*Marlborough House Commitment*’ to the young people of the Commonwealth to signal our combined aspiration to ensure their well-being, empowerment and the overall progress of our young citizens in this the Year of Youth. The ‘*Marlborough House Commitment*’ for youth development are a significant step in recognizing the importance of investing in young people's well-being, empowerment and holistic development. A plan for meaningful action; working together for the common good. This Commitment is a baseline for policies, programmes and initiatives aimed at supporting young people across various sectors and domains, and include:

1. **National Youth Policies and Legislations:** ensure that each country has in place policies and enabling environments that promote youth engagement and empowerment at social, economic and political levels, in line with the international best practices and adopted recommendations. These includes an evidence based National Youth Policy and Action Plan, and Youth Mainstreaming Strategy.
2. **Youth Participation in Policy Development:** ensure young people are involved in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes that impact them.
3. **Social Inclusion and Equity:** ensure that the national youth policies and legislations promoting social inclusion and equity by addressing disparities and discrimination based on factors such as gender, race, ethnicity, disability, or socio-economic status, and promoting gender equality and working to eliminate gender-based discrimination and violence.
4. **Youth Participation and Engagement:** ensure youth participation in decision-making processes, civic engagement and community development initiatives. This includes the establishment, strengthening and resourcing of National Youth Council (*or similar bodies*), National Student Organisations and other youth participation mechanisms (*such as Youth Parliament and Youth Advisory Board*).
5. **Safeguarding of Children and Young People:** ensure that safeguarding policies and procedures are designed and in place to protect children and young people from harm, abuse or neglect. This includes a commitment to appropriate training and awareness programmes, and ongoing monitoring and evaluation to improve safeguarding measures to ensure their effectiveness in maintaining safe and secure spaces for all involved parties.
6. **Employment and Economic Opportunities:** ensure opportunities for decent work, skills development and entrepreneurship to enable young people to achieve economic independence. This includes working in collaboration with other Ministries and partners, in developing and implementing policies and programs on youth employment, youth entrepreneurship, national apprenticeship schemes, digital skills training and sector specific policies (*such as sports, green, blue and creative industries*). The visibility and agency of youth with disabilities should be considered in this space.

7. **Youth Work Professionalization:** ensure the development and enhancement of the status, recognition and standards of youth work as a legitimate and respected profession to ensure that youth workers are adequately prepared, supported and empowered to work effectively with young people. These include establishing accessible and inclusive formal education and training pathways for aspiring and existing youth workers, establishing a code of ethics or a set of professional values that guide the behaviour and conduct of youth workers, establishing national youth worker associations as per national circumstances and capacities, and advocating for the recognition of youth work as a distinct profession and raising awareness of its importance in supporting young people's development.
8. **Environmental Sustainability:** ensure young people are actively engaged in environmental conservation efforts and sustainable development initiatives. This includes promoting climate change and ocean education, engaging and supporting young people's engagement and involvement in policies and programmes on sustainability and providing support and resources for youth-led initiatives and actions.
9. **Interconnectedness with Global Agendas:** ensure that national youth development efforts are aligned with international frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Commonwealth Commitments to address global challenges and opportunities.
10. **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning:** establish mechanisms for monitoring the effectiveness of youth development policies and programmes and regularly evaluating their impact.

We recognize young people as essential contributors to the development and progress of our nations, and emphasize the need for comprehensive and inclusive youth-focused policies and programmes. Specific standards and priorities may vary depending on the unique needs and circumstances of each country.

We encourage the implementation of Marlborough House Commitment by each Government and report on progress on each commitment, including achievements, challenges and lessons learned to be submitted to the Commonwealth Youth Ministerial Taskforce. The final report on progress to be presented at the next Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting.