



The Commonwealth



Concept Note

CHOGM Climate Breakfast: Building Consensus for Climate Finance Targets in the Commonwealth

Venue: Samoa Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration Court House,
Room SC1

23 October, 0800 - 0930 hrs

Introduction

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 56 independent and equal countries, home to 2.5 billion people, including both advanced economies and developing countries. Thirty-three members are small states, many of which are island nations. The Commonwealth's environmental commitment dates back to the [1989 Langkawi Declaration](#) and is reiterated in the [Commonwealth Charter](#). Over the past decade, initiatives like the [Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub](#), [Commonwealth Blue Charter](#), and the [Commonwealth Living Lands Charter](#) have supported SIDS member states in progressing towards Sustainable Development Goals and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). These programs help member states access climate finance and build capacity to tackle climate change and development challenges.

The Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH), through its Regional and National Climate Finance Advisers, enhances access to climate finance by developing bankable projects, supporting climate policy, strengthening human and institutional capacity, and facilitating knowledge exchange. Since 2016, CCFAH has mobilized USD 363.55 million in climate finance, including USD 9.3 million in co-financing through 88 approved projects in 15 countries and the Africa region¹.

At CHOGM 2022 in Rwanda, the Commonwealth adopted the Living Lands Charter, committing all 56 member countries to safeguard global land resources and take coordinated action on climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainable land management. Financing nature-based solutions (NbS) like reforestation, wetland restoration, and sustainable agriculture is crucial for the Charter's success, ensuring long-term benefits and resilience to climate change impacts. Protecting and restoring ecosystems preserves biodiversity, vital for ecological balance and human well-being, aligning with the Commonwealth's goals.

As nations prepare for the New Collective Quantified Goals (NCQGs) on Climate Finance at COP 29, the breakfast event offers a vital opportunity for stakeholders to address pressing climate finance needs and set ambitious targets. This goal is a critical part of the international climate finance architecture, aiming to mobilize financial resources to support climate action in developing countries, starting from USD 100 billion per year.

¹ As of August 2024

The CHOGM climate breakfast aims to bring countries together to discuss for the development of a more inclusive and equitable climate finance landscape, fostering consensus on targets, and strengthening partnerships among Commonwealth member countries. By working together, member countries can leverage their collective expertise and resources to address common challenges and advance shared goals. Prioritizing the needs of small and vulnerable member countries ensures no nation is left behind in the global effort to combat climate change. This includes ensuring the sustainability of the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub. This event will also build towards the Commonwealth Secretariat's official side event at COP 29 on the role of indigenous and local knowledge systems in climate action, providing a platform for participants to exchange knowledge, share experiences, and explore joint initiatives. Through collaborative action and sustained commitment, participants can help build a more resilient and sustainable future for all.

Objectives

The objectives for this breakfast meeting are:

- To build momentum and support greater ambition for the New Collective Quantified Goals on Climate Finance (NCQGs) for COP 29 in Baku
- To highlight progress and steps being undertaken through Commonwealth Climate Change Programme for enhancing climate action, especially access to global climate finance for member countries;
- To enhance collaboration with member countries and partner organisations for accelerated climate action and commitment on the need for joint efforts aimed at tackling land, biodiversity and climate challenges;
- Stronger partnerships and renewed commitment between the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Rio Conventions to continue working collectively in the execution of the work programme of the Commonwealth Call to Action on Living Lands;

Expected Participation

The event is expected to draw participation from:

- Commonwealth Member Country Heads of State, Foreign Ministers/ Environmental Ministers
- Heads and representatives of partners and accredited organisation
- Commonwealth Accredited Organisations
- Civil Society organisations engaged in climate action

Provisional Agenda

Event Moderator: Prof. Ruth Kattumuri Senior Director, Economic, Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate (EYSD), Commonwealth Secretariat

Time	Agenda
07:30-08:00	Registration
08:00-08:15	Welcome Remarks The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth
08:15-08:50	New Collective Quantified Goals and Nationally Determined Contributions 3.0: Ambition for COP 29 and beyond Country Interventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Honourable Shebaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan • The Honourable Sitiveni Rabuka, Prime Minister of Fiji • <i>Honourable Harini Amarasuriya, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka (tbc)</i> • <i>Honourable Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda (tbc)</i> • <i>Honourable Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, Prime Minister of Samoa (tbc)</i> • <i>Mauritius (tbc)</i> • <i>Seychelles (tbc)</i>
08:50-09:05	Commonwealth and Climate Action: Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub at 10 Highlights of the Commonwealth Climate Programme (Presentation)
09:05-09:20	Announcements: Supporting the Commonwealth's Climate Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Australia (tbc)</i> • <i>Canada (tbc)</i> • <i>United Kingdom (tbc)</i> • <i>Azerbaijan (tbc)</i>
09:20-09:30	Closing Remarks and Way Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Ruth Kattumuri Senior Director, Economic, Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate (EYSD), Commonwealth Secretariat