



Concluding Statement of the Sixty-Eighth Meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group

11 March 2025

1. The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) held its Sixty-Eighth meeting in Marlborough House, London on Tuesday 11 March 2025. The meeting was chaired by Hon Dr Ian Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism of Malta. The Honourable Prime Minister of Samoa, the Honourable Ministers and distinguished representatives from Antigua and Barbuda, Botswana, Canada, Grenada, Malaysia, Mauritius, and Zambia were in attendance.
2. The Group reaffirmed their commitment to the fundamental values and principles of the Commonwealth as enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter.
3. The Group reiterated their support for the Secretary-General's Good Offices, a mechanism to protect and promote Commonwealth values and principles, and welcomed the report from the Secretary-General on her Good Offices engagements with member states.
4. The Group received reports from the Republic of Gabon and heard from the Foreign Minister the Honourable Régis Onanga Ndiaye, on behalf of Gabon. The Group welcomed the accelerated progress on the transition roadmap and the timetable for Gabon's return to democracy, the full restoration of the rule of law and constitutional order. Ministers noted significant milestones such as the completion of the constitutional referendum, and the enactment of a new electoral code, and commended the call for an early Presidential election to be held on 12 April 2025. Ministers encouraged the Transitional Government to continue to strengthen policies and practices that build peace and stability.
5. The Group encouraged the Secretary-General to continue her Good Offices engagement with Gabon. The Group also encouraged the Transitional Government to use all the available technical support of the Commonwealth to facilitate processes of peaceful and credible elections, a fair and transparent justice system and a smooth return to constitutional order. Representatives of the Republic of Gabon expressed their country's gratitude for the Commonwealth's companionship throughout this endeavour.
6. The Group reiterated the importance of the Commonwealth's support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all member states.
7. The Group noted with concern developments in Venezuela since the 67th meeting of CMAG in October 2024, in Samoa. These include President Nicolás Maduro's plan for the citizens of Guyana to participate in Venezuelan Governor and Legislative Council

elections in Guyana's territory that Venezuela has called the "State of Guayana Esequiba". Ministers cautioned that these actions could be deemed to constitute a threat to Guyana's sovereignty, a disregard for the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) Order of 1 December 2023, and a departure from the Joint Declaration of Argyle of 14 December 2023. The Group reiterated its steadfast, strong, and unconditional support for the preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Guyana, for Guyana's right to develop the entirety of its territory for the benefit of its people, and for the ongoing work of adjudication of the ICJ.

8. The Group welcomed the work of the Secretariat on strengthening democratic institutions and the rule of law in member states through election observer missions and the whole of electoral cycle approach in member states. Ministers also welcomed the Secretariat's support for member states on human rights capacity building, the rule of law, legislative drafting, civil and criminal justice, and public sector governance reform, among others.
9. The Group applauded the Secretariat's work to strengthen partnerships with regional and international organisations, and with the international development community to promote sustainable development, democracy, good governance, stability, and peace.
10. The Group, recognising that this is the last CMAG under the able guidance of the Secretary-General, The Right Honourable Patricia Scotland, KC, thanked her for her acuity, incisive political and legal analyses, prompt and effective actions, and the positive manner in which she has conducted her Good Offices to support democratic strengthening in the Commonwealth member states over the last nine years.
11. It was agreed that the next meeting of CMAG will be convened in September 2025 in the margins of the 80th United Nations General Assembly.

11 March 2025