

**Concluding Statement of the
Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG)
Fifth-fourth Meeting, London
28 June 2019**

1. The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) held its fifty-fourth meeting in London on 28 June 2019.
2. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Monica Juma, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Kenya and co-chaired by Hon Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister of Namibia. The meeting was attended by Ministers and Representatives of Australia, Barbados, Belize, Ghana, Malaysia, Samoa and the United Kingdom.
3. CMAG discussed its enhanced mandate as endorsed by CHOGM in 2011, and considered ways to ensure its effectiveness in providing support to Commonwealth member states through working in partnership with national governments to strengthen their democratic processes and institutions. The Group noted the potential support the CMAG High Commissioners could provide to ensure the Group's mandate is carried out in an effective and flexible manner.
4. The Group received a briefing from the Secretary-General on her Good Offices engagements in support of member governments' efforts to strengthen their human rights, rule of law and democratic processes. The Group reaffirmed that the Secretary-General's Good Offices complements CMAG's pursuit of its enhanced mandate. The Group commended the Secretariat's ongoing democracy work through the deployment of Commonwealth Observer Groups, including post-election follow-up work and technical support to implement electoral reforms to improve national democratic processes.

5. In line with CMAG's strengthened mandate, the Group reviewed developments in a number of Commonwealth member states. CMAG encouraged the Secretary-General to continue supporting member states through her Good Offices engagements, and through the Secretariat's democracy and governance support programmes, to enhance the capacity of national institutions to promote and strengthen all Commonwealth values as set out in the Commonwealth Charter.
6. The Group encouraged the Secretariat to continue working in close partnership and collaboration with regional and international organisations in advancing the Secretary-General's Good Offices engagements.

Other Matters

7. CMAG noted and conveyed support to the Secretary-General's ongoing efforts in considering applications from countries who have expressed an interest to join the Commonwealth. CMAG noted that Maldives and Zimbabwe had applied to be readmitted to the Commonwealth, and supported the Commonwealth dealing with their applications in an expeditious manner, consistent with established rules and procedures. It also noted the expression of interest of Togo in joining the Commonwealth.

Next Meeting

8. CMAG's next meeting will be held in New York in the margins of the 2019 United Nations General Assembly.

London

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