



**Commonwealth Law
Ministers Meeting**
Republic of Fiji
9–12 February 2026

Nadi Declaration on Democratic Resilience and Participation

**A Framework for Advancing Democratic Resilience
through the Rule of Law, Human Rights and Good Governance**

Affirming the centrality of the rule of law to democratic resilience, good governance, and sustainable development, and recommitting to the shared values and principles of the Commonwealth as articulated in the Commonwealth Charter and the Commonwealth Latimer House Principles.

Affirming that democratic resilience is fundamental to peace, prosperity, and inclusive development, enabling countries to withstand and overcome pressures that threaten democratic governance, and recognising the demonstrable links between good governance, ethical public administration, and more stable and predictable trade and investment.

Recognising democratic resilience and citizen participation as a core pillar of the Commonwealth Secretariat's Strategic Plan 2025-2030.

Recognising the disproportionate impacts of climate-change related sea level rise on our Small Island Developing States (SIDS), least developed countries, and coastal communities, and the urgent need to enhance their adaptive capacities and resilience.

Recognising the important role of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) in upholding the values and commitments of the Commonwealth Charter and supporting members in meeting their democratic obligations.

Reaffirming the importance of adherence to the Commonwealth Principles on Freedom of Expression and the Role of the Media adopted at CHOGM 2024 and noting the contribution of Commonwealth Law Ministers to their development.

Law Ministers now adopt the **Nadi Declaration on Democratic Resilience and Participation** as a framework for advancing democratic resilience through good governance, human rights and the respect for the rule of law.

This framework provides a structured approach for member countries and the Secretariat to support democratic consolidation, prevent democratic backsliding, and strengthen democratic institutions in keeping with their shared Commonwealth values.

In this respect member countries and the Secretariat, working collaboratively and incrementally, will progress the following objectives:

Upholding the Rule of Law

- Strengthen legal frameworks that protect democratic processes, electoral integrity, constitutional rights, and national sovereignty, and uphold respect for international law as a foundation of a rules-based international order.
- Promote independence, impartiality, and effectiveness of the judiciary.
- Support legislative and regulatory reforms to enhance access to justice, legal certainty, and accountability.
- Promote legal awareness and legal literacy to ensure laws are transparent, accessible, and understood by citizens.
- Support the development and use of Commonwealth tools, benchmarks, legal twinning and peer-learning mechanisms to strengthen, by monitoring, assessing, and tracking, adherence to the rule of law.

Protecting and Advancing Human Rights

- Uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other applicable international human rights instruments.
- Protect and advance the equal enjoyment of fundamental civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.
- Strengthen national and regional mechanisms for monitoring and addressing human rights violations, including, where appropriate, independent institutions dedicated to addressing human rights abuses and related issues.
- Encourage and support participation of citizens, and in particular women, youth, and marginalised and minority groups in democratic processes.
- Promote the full realisation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities without discrimination of any kind on the basis of disability.

Strengthening Good Governance

- Promote transparency, accountability, and integrity in public institutions.
- Support anti-corruption initiatives and mechanisms for ethical public administration.
- Encourage effective, inclusive, and responsive policy-making processes.
- Promote strong, independent and democratic Parliaments.

Building Trust

- Build trust in democracy and public institutions for all citizens, including through engagement with young people, recognising their central role in the future of democratic governance.

Promoting Citizen Participation

- Expand avenues for meaningful public engagement in democratic decision-making, policy formulation, and oversight.
- Support civil society, youth, and community-based organizations as partners in governance and accountability initiatives.
- Develop programs that increase civic literacy, awareness of rights, and

- understanding of democratic institutions.
- Include customary law, traditional leadership and indigenous knowledge systems, alongside constitutional and representatives structures, guided by the principle that effective democracy must reflect the realities of place.
- Emphasise the need to ensure participation and empowerment of all people in ocean-related decision-making and benefit-sharing, especially those in a situation of vulnerability.

Implementation

- Align Secretariat and member state initiatives with the strategic priorities outlined in the Commonwealth Strategic Plan 2025-2030.
- Develop and strengthen mechanisms to monitor, document, and review progress in democratic resilience, governance, and citizen participation, including through indicators, peer exchange, and reporting on good practices.
- Encourage intergovernmental collaboration, regional workshops, and technical assistance programs as tools for knowledge sharing and capacity building.
- Leverage the Secretariat's convening power and the good offices of the Secretary-General to promote multi-stakeholder dialogue, peer accountability, and best practice dissemination.
- Provide targeted support and technical assistance to member countries, particularly those most vulnerable, to enhance institutional capacity and understanding of Commonwealth democratic standards and commitments.

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