



The Commonwealth

Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group Seventy-Third Meeting

10 July 2026

Concluding Statement

1. The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) held its seventy-third meeting in extraordinary session on Friday, 10 July 2026. The Group welcomed the Honourable Chris Fearne, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Malta, and agreed to the Honourable Minister's assuming the Chair of CMAG in Malta's capacity as Chair of the Group. The Group expressed sincere appreciation to the Chair's predecessor, Dr. Ian Borg, and to the Government of Malta, for their steadfast commitment to the work of CMAG and to the Commonwealth's enduring values of democracy, good governance, human rights and the rule of law. Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Botswana, Canada, Grenada, Malaysia, Mauritius, Samoa and Zambia were in attendance.
2. CMAG reaffirmed its commitment to the fundamental political values of the Commonwealth, as enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter, and reiterated its support for the Secretary-General's Good Offices as an essential mechanism for the protection and promotion of those values.
3. CMAG received with thanks the Report of the Secretary-General on the visit to the United Republic of Tanzania by her Special Envoy, His Excellency Dr Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, former President of the Republic of Malawi, together with an update on the Good Offices process.
4. CMAG welcomed the cooperation shown by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania in facilitating full and free access for the Special Envoy across Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Zanzibar, and recognised this as an important confidence-building step. The Group noted the report of the Government-appointed Commission of Inquiry and the Government's stated commitment to reconciliation, reform and accountability.
5. Recalling the four conditions identified at its seventy-first meeting on 5 December 2025, CMAG noted with concern that while one of the conditions has been met and another has been partially met, two other conditions remain unaddressed. CMAG also expressed concern that the situation has deteriorated since the Special Envoy's visit, including a nationwide restriction on political activities, continuing pressure on civic space, on some social media platforms and media space generally, as well as the unresolved detention and legal proceedings of the principal opposition leader, and an atmosphere of fear among the opposition.
6. On the status of Tanzania, CMAG decided to retain the United Republic of Tanzania on its Formal Agenda at this stage. CMAG encouraged the Secretary-General to continue her engagement with Tanzania to support tangible progress by Tanzania on the three outstanding matters mentioned at CMAG's 71 meeting of 5 December 2025:

- a. The lifting of restrictions on freedom of assembly and expression, civil society and the media;
 - b. The holding of an inter-party consultative forum to agree on a collective framework on the way forward for the next election;
 - c. The implementation of transparent legal and administrative processes to hold perpetrators of the violence and its results accountable and to compensate victims, as appropriate.
7. CMAG noted the recommendations of the Special Envoy for specific time-bound action as follows:
- a. Within 30 days: resolve the detention of Tundu Lissu through a political and legal pathway, and release others held solely for the peaceful exercise of rights.
 - b. Within 60 days: restore full access to digital platforms and cease intimidation of media and free-expression advocates.
 - c. Within 90 days: convene a credible, inclusive inter-party forum with neutral facilitation, with a mandate covering electoral-framework reform, political competition, detainees and accountability.
 - d. Initiate, without delay, the independent criminal investigation recommended by the Commission of Inquiry, including such issues as victim compensation, with defined eligibility, funding and timelines.
8. CMAG agrees to meet again in extraordinary session in September 2026 and invites Tanzania to submit a report on progress in advance of this meeting.
9. At its meeting in November 2026, CMAG will consider further action in the absence of the expected progress.
10. CMAG welcomed the Secretariat's readiness to provide technical assistance at Tanzania's request, and encouraged continued coordination with the African Union, the Southern African Development Community, the East African Community and the United Nations.
11. CMAG requested the Secretary-General to remain actively engaged with the Government and people of Tanzania and to report further developments.

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