



The Commonwealth

Commonwealth Youth Ministerial Task Force - Special Meeting

# Policy Paper

Tuesday, 28 July 2026

Online

Agenda Item 5

CYMTF (26)

## The Commonwealth Youth Ministerial Task Force Outcome Document

## **PREAMBLE**

Ministers and senior government officials from The Bahamas, Cyprus, The Gambia, India, Kenya, Namibia, Naoero, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Saint Lucia and Uganda, together with representatives of the Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC) and the Commonwealth Association of Youth Work Associations (CAYWA), convened online for a meeting of the Commonwealth Youth Ministerial Task Force.

Co-chaired by Pakistan and Samoa, the meeting reviewed progress in developing the Commonwealth Youth Programme Strategic Framework 2026-2030; considered feedback received from member countries; provided strategic guidance on the future direction and implementation of the Commonwealth Youth Programme; and received updates on the Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF), the CYC and preparations for the 11th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM).

The following conclusions were reached by the members of the Taskforce:

### **Commonwealth Youth Programme Strategic Framework 2026-2030**

1. Reiterated their strong support for the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) and recognised its significant contribution to youth development across the Commonwealth through technical assistance, capacity-building and leadership development.
2. Recognised the significant contribution that young people are already making to advancing democratic, economic and environmental resilience across the Commonwealth through their leadership, creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship and use of technology. They reaffirmed their commitment to empowering young people to realise their full potential through strengthened cooperation, targeted support and the work of the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP), including by expanding opportunities for skills development, employment, entrepreneurship and meaningful participation in decision-making.
3. Considered the draft Commonwealth Youth Programme Strategic Framework 2026-2030 and the written feedback submitted by member states. They welcomed the broad support for its strategic direction, its alignment with the Commonwealth Secretariat Strategic Plan 2025-2030, and its focus on positioning young people as partners and leaders in advancing democratic, economic and environmental resilience through stronger youth mainstreaming, evidence-based programming and strategic partnerships.
4. Welcomed the Commonwealth Secretariat's reaffirmation that the Commonwealth Youth Programme will remain the Commonwealth's dedicated institutional mechanism for youth development and that youth mainstreaming should complement, rather than replace, the Commonwealth's dedicated youth function. They welcomed confirmation that the Programme's mandate, governance arrangements and resources will continue in accordance with the Commonwealth Youth Programme Memorandum of Understanding.

5. Endorsed the Secretariat's commitment to finalise an implementation plan, subject to available resources, that reflects member state recommendations, together with a strengthened monitoring, evaluation and learning framework. They requested that the Secretariat report on implementation progress through the Programme's established governance mechanisms.
6. Noted that the proposed Commonwealth Youth Programme Strategic Co-Investment Model is intended to mobilise additional resources and strategic partnerships, increase investment in youth development and maximise programme impact, while preserving the Programme's governance arrangements, mandate and institutional status.
7. Endorsed the Commonwealth Youth Programme Strategic Framework 2026-2030, including its strategic direction and priority areas for implementation, subject to the incorporation of recommendations arising from member country consultations and the deliberations of the Commonwealth Youth Ministerial Task Force in the implementation plan.
8. Reaffirmed their commitment to continued collaboration with member states, young people and partners to advance implementation of the Strategic Framework and improve outcomes for young people across the Commonwealth.

### Youth Work Professionalisation

9. Noted the report presented by the Commonwealth Alliance of Youth Work Associations (CAYWA), acknowledged progress it has made in professionalizing the youth work sector, and expressed appreciation for its continued commitment. Members recognised that greater recognition and use of professional youth work, youth workers and youth work networks can strengthen implementation, improve equity and support better long-term outcomes for young people and agreed that professional youth work remains a proven development tool for youth empowerment, leadership development, community strengthening, social inclusion and sustainable development.

### Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC)

10. Noted the report outlining the programme of work undertaken by the Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC) and congratulating the Council on its significant contribution to advancing the outcomes of the Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM).
11. Urged the Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC) to conclude the election of its Executive Committee, in accordance with the CYC Constitution and Commonwealth values, by the 2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), thereby safeguarding its legitimacy and recognition by Member States as the representative voice of young people across the Commonwealth.

### Update on Commonwealth Youth Forum and CHOGM

12. Noted the update on the Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF) and expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for hosting CHOGM

2026 and the CYF. Member states committed to full participation in the CHOGM youth agenda and agreed, where feasible, to support their young delegates to ensure meaningful engagement and representation.

### **Provisional Plans for the 11<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Ministers' Meeting**

13. Noted the update on the forthcoming 11th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting, including the offer from The Bahamas to host the meeting. Members welcomed the Secretariat's intention to begin formal discussions with The Bahamas on the necessary arrangements and to put in place a consultation process with Member States, young people, regional youth networks and other stakeholders to help shape the priorities, agenda and expected outcomes of the meeting. Members looked forward to receiving further confirmation and details in due course.

### **CONCLUSION**

Reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the Commonwealth youth development agenda and ensuring that young people across the Commonwealth are empowered to lead and contribute to a sustainable and prosperous future.

Expressed their deep gratitude to the Commonwealth Secretary-General for her unwavering commitment to young people across the Commonwealth. Members also thanked the Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General for his presence and address to the Task Force, and the Co-Chairs for their leadership in steering the deliberations.

The meeting concluded with a renewed sense of purpose and collaboration among participants and stakeholders. Members expressed their gratitude to the Commonwealth Youth Programme and the Commonwealth Secretariat for their ongoing support and leadership and thanked all those who contributed to the meeting's success.

Members acclaimed the spirit of the Samoan call to "Toe Timata le Upega" ("Cast the Net Anew"), recognizing the need to renew approaches, widen participation and placing young people at the center of Commonwealth development efforts.