

Extraordinary Meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG74)

Concluding Statement

20 September 2026

1. The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) held its Seventy-Fourth Meeting, in extraordinary session, on Sunday, 20 September 2026, on the margins of the Eighty-First Session of the United Nations General Assembly, in New York.
2. The meeting was chaired by the Honourable Chris Fearne, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Malta. The Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa, the Honourable Mulipola Anarosa Ale Molio'o, Honourable Ministers and distinguished representatives from Antigua and Barbuda, Botswana, Canada, Grenada, Malaysia, Mauritius and Zambia were in attendance.
3. CMAG observed a minute of silence in honour of Mr Hafidh Ameer Hassan, husband of Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, who passed on 7 September 2026.
4. 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 and enduring mechanism for the protection and promotion of those values, exercised in a spirit of partnership, mutual respect and full regard for the sovereignty of member countries.
5. CMAG had a productive exchange with the Honourable Ambassador Dr Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, and with the Honourable Professor John Palamagaba Kabudi, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office of the United Republic of Tanzania. CMAG recognised Tanzania's cooperation with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, the recent engagement with political parties and the steps towards reconciliation in Zanzibar as a constructive basis for further progress.
6. CMAG recalled the four conditions outlined at its Seventy-First Meeting of December 2025 and the time-bound expectations set out at its Seventy-Third Meeting of July 2026. Acknowledging progress in certain areas, CMAG underlined the need for further work to advance an inclusive and credibly facilitated inter-party process; the protection of civic, political and media freedoms; fair, timely and transparent due process arrangements in outstanding cases; and trusted processes for accountability, redress and appropriate compensation for those affected.

7. CMAG encouraged the Tanzanian Government to commit to an early date for a visit by the Secretary-General to engage with Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan and other stakeholders. It agreed to retain Tanzania on its Formal Agenda.
8. CMAG had a productive exchange with the Honourable Adonia Ayebare, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda. CMAG welcomed the Secretary-General's continued and deepened engagement on matters related to Uganda, and welcomed the resumption of operations by Nation Media Group outlets as an encouraging development. CMAG encouraged the Government, in partnership with the Secretary-General and drawing on available Commonwealth support, to continue to work to strengthen civilian constitutional governance and the separation of powers; to safeguard civic and media space; to uphold due process and address the humanitarian circumstances of persons in detention; and to reinforce the effectiveness of human rights and administrative justice institutions.
9. At this point, CMAG decided that Uganda would remain on its Formal Agenda and invited the Secretary-General to remain actively engaged, to visit Uganda and to report on developments and on the areas where Uganda may request technical support from the Commonwealth.
10. CMAG commended the Secretariat for its sustained efforts to support constructive dialogue and confidence-building across the Commonwealth family.
11. It was agreed that the next regular meeting of CMAG will be convened in November 2026 in Antigua and Barbuda, in the margins of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, where CMAG will also address its biennial report to the Commonwealth Heads of Government.

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