

Third Global Biennial Conference on Small States

Building Resilience in Small States

Bay Gardens Hotel, Saint Lucia
26 – 27 March 2014



The Commonwealth

Commonwealth Secretariat
Marlborough House
Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX
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PROCEEDINGS REPORT

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community Secretariat
CCRIF	Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CLGF	Commonwealth Local Government Forum
CMC	Caribbean Media Corporation
COL	Commonwealth of Learning
DFN	Debt for Nature
GBCSS	Global Biennial Conference on Small States
IFI	International Financial Institution
IGO	Intergovernmental Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
OAS	Organization of American States
OCTA	Overseas Countries & Territories Association
OEMWG	Open-ended Ministerial Working Group
OLSSI	Ole Siosiomaga Society Incorporated
PSIP	Public Sector Investment Planning
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SOS (Malta)	Solidarity Overseas Service (Malta)
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TWG	Technical Working Group
UN	United Nations
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
VRP	Vulnerability-Resilience Profiling
VUSSC	Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth
WTO	World Trade Organisation





Introduction

The Third Global Biennial Conference on Small States (GBCSS) was convened by the Commonwealth Secretariat and hosted by the government of Saint Lucia from 26–27 March, 2014 in Saint Lucia. The objectives of the conference were two-fold. Firstly, it enabled policy practitioners in small states, international institutions and donor agencies to share experiences and learn from each other on how best to address the particular vulnerabilities that small states face. Secondly, the conference aimed to formulate key messages to be delivered on behalf of Commonwealth small states to: international institutions such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Trade Organisation (WTO); and relevant global meetings such as the G7/8, G20 and the United Nations Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS 2014) conference.

Among other outcomes of the conference was the importance of mobilising greater international support and appreciation for the particular challenges of small states, in order to improve their access to available donor resources and other forms of assistance. In this regards the Commonwealth Secretariat will disseminate the information contained in the studies commissioned and presented at the conference on building resilience in small states. The intention is to distil the key messages arising from the discussions during the conference to a wider audience of international interlocutors. In addition, the Commonwealth and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) will hold a joint high-level side event on building resilience in small states during the SIDS 2014 conference in Samoa in September.

This paper provides a report on the Third GBCSS including a brief background on this important meeting in the global agenda on small states

issues. In particular, it highlights key messages from participants, the way forward and an outcome statement from the meeting.

What is the Biennial?

One of the platforms that the Commonwealth uses to advance the concerns of small states is the GBCSS. The Biennial is a forum that brings together senior government officials from the Commonwealth small states and beyond, including overseas and dependent territories of Commonwealth countries and a wider range of international development partners to share good practices and experiences and identify practical policy approaches to build resilience and sustainable economic growth in small states. It also identifies areas for advocacy, consensus building and development partners' support.

The biennial serves three broad purposes.

- First, it serves as a forum where small developing states and the international institutions and donors that provide advice and assistance, can share experiences and learn from each other on addressing their peculiar vulnerabilities.
- Second, it provides an opportunity for small states to discuss the impact and challenges they face as a result of major global developments – political, economic, financial, environmental, and other. The relevant international institutions would be best placed to help prepare this aspect of the agenda.
- Third, it agrees and delivers messages on behalf of small states. Within the Commonwealth such messages might be directed to the biennial meetings of Heads of Government. But a global rather than Commonwealth meeting of small states also feeds important messages to relevant

global meetings, including the G7/8 and G20; to the UN; and to international institutions such as the World Bank, IMF and WTO and their governing bodies. The Commonwealth Secretariat with help from the relevant regional Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs) is best placed to prepare and help negotiate agreed messages, in the form of a communiqué or concluding statement.

This Biennial event produces an outcome document that includes recommendations with specific actions to be taken by small states themselves and by the broader international community. This document highlights areas of particular concern for small states and the required action needed to address such concerns. The outcomes are fed into future technical and political international processes, such as the Commonwealth Ministerial Working Group meetings, Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGMs) and conferences such as the *Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS 2014)*.

Outcomes of previous GBCSS

The inaugural Biennial that took place in 2010 recognised the importance of natural resource sectors in some small states and the need to formulate natural resource policies and strategies based on small states' development needs. This matter was taken forward by Commonwealth Environment Ministers in February 2012 when they considered a five-point practical action framework on ocean governance in the context of a green economy, based on valuing natural blue capital, quantifying the goods and services offered and creating new harmonised and holistic approaches to ocean governance.

During the first biennial conference on small states participants agreed that small states need to build resilience to cope with their inherent vulnerabilities. Climate change was identified as one of the greatest challenges to achieving sustainable development for small states. It was recognised that small states

are disproportionately reliant on international capital flows. Many small states lack access to concessional finance. To make the situation worse, the global economic crisis has reduced small states access to international finance.

Debt was also highlighted as a vital issue impeding economic development in small states. These states had high levels of indebtedness before the global economic crisis. The debt level of small states was exacerbated by the global economic crisis as the reduction in accessing international private credit of small states impacted their sovereign ratings and subsequently increased their debt servicing obligations. The result has been a significant deterioration in the debt sustainability outlook in many small vulnerable economies. Trade deficits were pointed out as another issue facing small states.

To help small states address the issues as indicated in the first Global Biennial Conference outcome, the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat focused on the following:

- Advocacy and research on vulnerability and the need to build resilience of small states.
- Contribution to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy to bring about sustainable development in small states.
- Advocacy on behalf of small states to ensure that their debt issues are addressed and provide small states with technical assistance on debt management issues.
- Advocacy on behalf of small states on the trade issues, including through the provision of the studies and technical assistance and capacity building on international trade.

The Second Biennial convened in 2012 examined practical options for facilitating inclusive growth in small states, including tourism policy, regional integration, migration and transformation to a green economy. The papers from the meeting, *Tourism and Inclusive Growth in Small Island Developing States* and *Transitioning to a Green Economy: Political Economy of Approaches in Small States*, are available from the Commonwealth

online bookshop: www.thecommonwealth.org/publications. As a result of the discussions at this meeting, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the World Bank convened a follow-up meeting in Barbados in November 2012 on Data and Statistical Challenges in Small States. The preliminary findings of this scoping meeting are published in *Small States: Economic Indicators and Basic Statistics, Volume 17* publication. The papers from the Third Biennial on Migration and Development in Small States will also be published and made available later in 2014.

The on-going and deepening partnership between the Commonwealth Secretariat and the World Bank Group was welcomed by the participants of the second GBCSS the participants. The meeting also established the recognition of the many emerging opportunities to advance the interests of small states, including through the strengthening of the Commonwealth-Francophonie-G20 relationship; the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting of 2013; the 2014 UN Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS); and through consultations to address the emerging global discourse on the post-2015 development framework.

The Third Global Biennial Conference on Small States

The Third Global Biennial Conference on Small States was convened by the Commonwealth Secretariat and hosted by the government of Saint Lucia from 26–27 March 2014 in Saint Lucia. The conference welcomed a record 100 participants, representing 25 regional and international organisations and 30 countries and overseas territories, and covering 77 per cent of Commonwealth small member countries. Among the participants were government ministers, senior-level government officials, representatives from civil society, youth representatives, academics and senior officials from international organisations.

The conference centred on the theme 'Building Resilience in Small States'. It included an examination of aspects of resilience building – including governance, social, and environmental perspectives. The meeting also reviewed the key development concerns of small states and the impact and challenges that result from major global developments.

The objectives of the conference were two-fold. Firstly, it enabled policy practitioners in small states, international institutions and donor agencies to share experiences and learn from

each other on how best to address the particular vulnerabilities that small states face. Secondly, the conference aimed to formulate key messages to be delivered on behalf of small states to Commonwealth Heads of Government; international institutions such as the World Bank, IMF and WTO including their governing bodies; and relevant global meetings such as the G7/8, G20 and the United Nations Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS 2014) conference. With 2014 designated as the *International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*, the Third Biennial sought to review priorities for small states for the upcoming SIDS 2014 conference and for the post-2015 development framework in the context of resilience building.

Importantly, the conference was preceded by the inaugural meeting of the Open-Ended Ministerial Working Group (OEMWG) on Small States. This Group was formed as an outcome of the 2013 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Colombo¹ and aims to progress practical and concrete proposals to address the priority development concerns of Commonwealth

1 Paragraph 53 communiqué.

Commonwealth Secretary-General HE Karmelesh Sharma, Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Deodat Maharaj, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia Honourable Dr Kenny Anthony, Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis Rt Hon Dr Denzil L Douglas, Ministers and Senior Delegates who attended the GBCSS 2014



small states, including through SIDS 2014 and development of the post-2015 development agenda.

At its meeting in Saint Lucia, the Group identified five priorities for the focus of future work:

1. Strengthening resilience, as an overarching framework.
2. Development financing and trade, including the use of vulnerability criteria for access to resources, debt, debt swaps, and trade preferences.
3. Ocean governance frameworks.
4. Climate change, including capacity building efforts and energy concerns that might also be addressed in other priority areas in different ways.
5. Outreach in the context of the G20 and with regional organisations, including strengthening regional organisations and mechanisms for resilience.

The outcomes of the meeting were conveyed at the opening session of the Third Biennial Conference and the Chair's Summary was distributed to all participants (see page 19).

Highlights of the Conference Sessions

The conference opened with an address from Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma that emphasized the conference's theme: 'Building resilience in Small States' which he described as a primary focus of the Commonwealth.



HE Kamalesh Sharma

This was followed by the welcome remarks from Prime Minister of Saint Lucia Honourable Dr Kenny Anthony. He saluted the Commonwealth's hard and continuing work as it networks for and on behalf of all small states, even those that are not its members.



Hon Dr Kenny Anthony

The opening session concluded with Saint Lucia's Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation, Honourable Alva Baptiste. He reminded policy makers and experts who attended the conference that it was impossible to speak about development without considering sustainability and protecting our patrimony for succeeding generations



Hon Alva Baptiste

The conference had six main sessions, two of which were concurrent sessions.

Session 1: A Policy Framework for Building Resilience

In this session, delegates explored the key requirements for building resilience, discussed the priority areas for policy intervention at the national level and the need for support by development Partners of resilience. The Commonwealth’s approach to resilience building was presented by Professor Lino Briguglio. Nikhil Seth tabled the model used by UNDESA for national assessments. The Commonwealth’s resilience index is comprised of measures of macro-economic stability, market flexibility,

good political governance, social development and environmental management. Countries are divided into four scenarios depending on where they lie in the index, as shown in Figure 1.

UNDESA’s Vulnerability-Resilience Profiling (VRP) model covers three dimensions of sustainable development – environmental, economic, and social – but does not address the role of political governance. Like the Commonwealth’s index, VRP is useful in helping SIDS to assess their own vulnerabilities and resilience, and then planning appropriate response policies, as shown in Figure 2.

Best-case Scenario	Self-made Scenario	Prodigal-son Scenario	Worst-case Scenario
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low vulnerability scores• High resilience scores• Includes mostly large developed countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High vulnerability scores• High resilience scores• Includes a number of small states (such as Malta, Mauritius, Barbados, Singapore)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low vulnerability scores• Low resilience scores• Includes mostly large developing countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High vulnerability scores• Low resilience scores• Includes some SIDS

Figure 1: Categories in the resilience scale – Commonwealth Resilience Framework

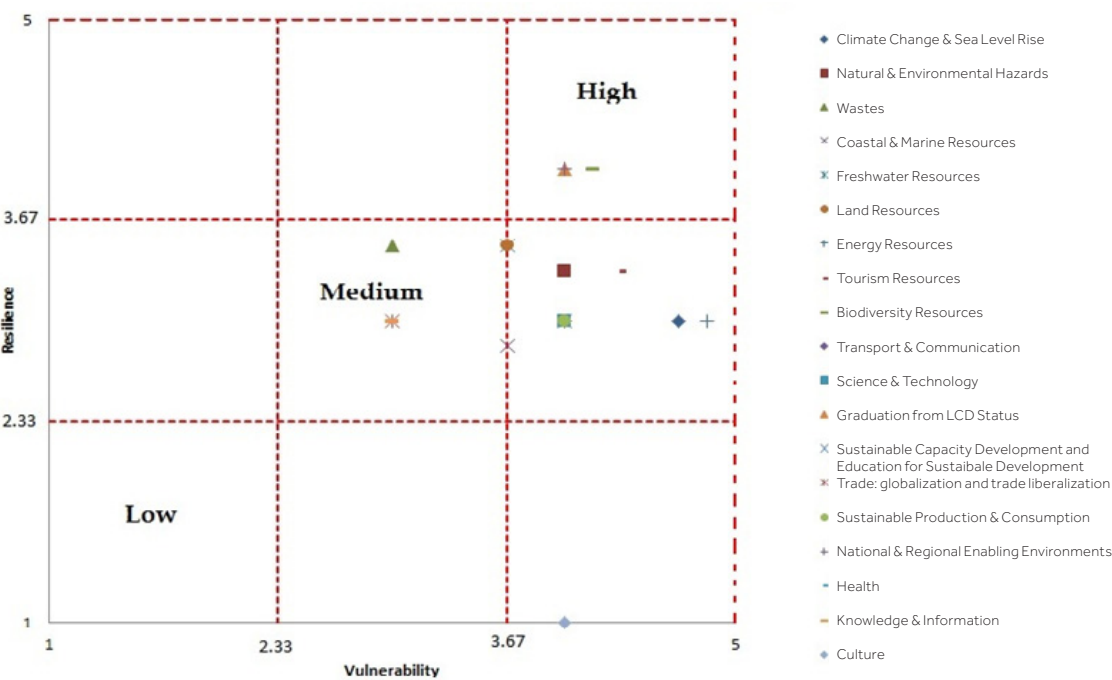


Figure 2: UNDESA's Vulnerability Resilience Profiling model

The similarities in the Commonwealth and UNDESA frameworks for building resilience were evident and prompted a call for collaboration among the two organisations.

Session 2: Debt Challenges and Solutions for Small States

Session 2 considered solutions to the pressing debt challenges facing many Commonwealth small states. Despite debt restructuring operations undertaken by indebted Commonwealth small states, most continue to face high and unsustainable debt burdens. This persistent debt implies that existing mechanisms are not sufficient to deliver the volume of relief needed to contain small states' debt issues. Moreover, as most of the major donors grapple with slow economic growth, there appears to be no appetite for debt relief. However, it is evident that resolving the escalating situation in small states requires some form of debt relief as a number of small states show non-negligible risks of debt default.

This session focused on non-traditional solutions for helping small states address their high debt burdens, against a background of the need to build resilience in small states. Representatives from two Commonwealth small states, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and key international and regional financial institutions (World Bank, International Monetary Fund and Caribbean Development Bank) examined innovative ways of providing small states with urgent and necessary debt relief. In particular, the Commonwealth presented its 'multilateral debt for climate change adaptation and mitigation swaps' proposal. This initiative marries small states' indebtedness with their need for finance for climate change adaptation and mitigation given their high environmental vulnerability.

Zeinab Partow, Senior Economist at The World Bank gave a presentation that highlighted important factors to take into considerations for small states that wish to use the multilateral debt swap for climate change. According to Ms Partow the Debt for Nature (DFN) swaps can form part

of a strategic country approach to address heavy debt burdens, but unlikely to provide a comprehensive solution. Second, traditional debt restructuring has often led to significant reduction in debt service, however DFN swaps do not usually involve new net resource transfers, just a redistribution of existing resources. Third, there is a large headline figures for climate finance but the share available to small states for adaptation is far smaller. Country capacity to use conservation funds needs to be built. Last, swaps may begin to address debt stock issue however, debt flows will continue to grow in the absence of macroeconomic reforms and fiscal adjustment. The speaker however noted that the impact of DFN swaps on conservation finance is far greater than the impact on debt reduction.

Robert Weary from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) gave a presentation on the commercial debt swaps using the case of Seychelles. The TNC debt swap model involves raising funds through acquisition of grants and loans, and use the fund to buy back a country's commercial loan from creditors at a discounted price. Once the debt has been bought by the Trust, a debt forgiveness agreement is made between the trust and the concerned country. Specifically, TNC agrees a price below that of the debt face value (redemption) but above the discounted price. This allows countries to raise funding for activities related to nature conservation for better climate management. Seychelles was able to raise \$38 million (3.8% GDP) for climate adaptation work through the commercial debt for climate change adaptation and mitigation swaps.

Session 3: A Governance Structure for Building Resilience

In exploring the link between governance and resilience building, participants considered and discussed options for policy-makers in small states to strengthen their governance framework given their limited human and financial resources. The evidence presented by Jean-Paul Fabri, a consultant hired by the Commonwealth, pointed to effective governance as one of the

key requirements for building resilience. In this context, governance is defined as the whole of public as well as private interactions taken to solve societal problems and create societal opportunities, and those which capture the formulation and application of principles guiding those interactions and care for institutions that enable them. A state's governability is comprised of two elements: the system-to-be-governed and the governing system. See Figure 3.

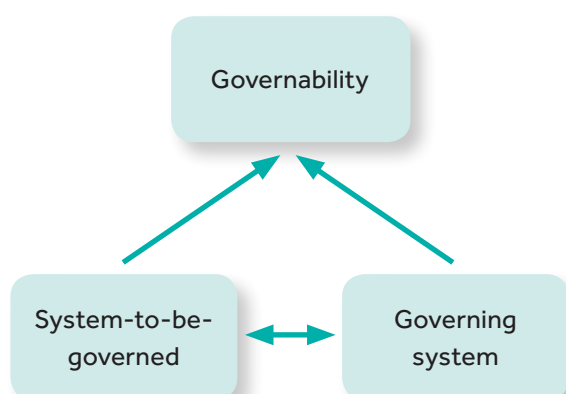


Figure 3: Commonwealth's governance framework model

In the assessment framework, each component has a number of indicators and questions. Malta was used as a case study to illustrate how the model could be applied to assess governance in a small states.

In their presentation, Matthew Bishop and Nelson Oppong, Commonwealth consultants, defined a resilient governance system as one which has the capacity to absorb change, the ability to self-organise and reflexive learning. However, many current approaches to governance do not adequately take into account the special circumstances of small states, such as the scales of smallness and migration challenges. As a result, many small states are considered to have low governance indicators. For Bishop and Oppong, resilience is not about rendering a system impervious to change, but rather is it about generating the capacity to adapt and transform. Their initial framework for a governance capacity resilience model (Figure 4) takes account of inclusiveness, sustainability and shared values.

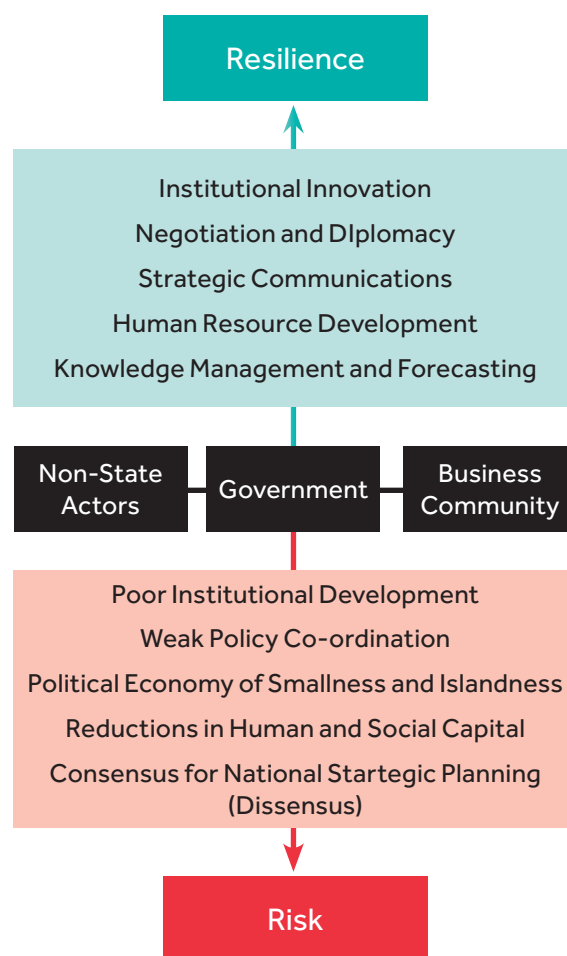


Figure 4: Link between governance, resilience, and vulnerability

Book Launch: Transitioning to a Green Economy

A new publication entitled: '*Transitioning to a Green Economy: Political Economy of Approaches in Small States*' was launched on 26 March 2014². The Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General, Deodat Maharaj, highlighted the valuable insights that the book provides on steps that small states are taking towards low-emission, climate resilient and inclusive economies. The value of the research, he said, lies in the detailed case studies presented, which provide lessons and insights

² *Transitioning to a Green Economy: Political Economy of Approaches in Small States*, edited by Nadine Smith, Anna Halton and Janet Strachan. London: Commonwealth Secretariat, March 2014, xviii + 213 pp., ISBN 978-1-84929-127-9.

into practical, rather than theoretical approaches towards a Green Economy, drawn from small states own experience.

Dr David Smith, one of the authors, explained that the book is based around case studies of Botswana, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Mauritius, Nauru, Samoa and Seychelles, all prepared by independent researchers with a detailed knowledge of the country concerned. The research involved both desk study and interviews with a range of different groups. The book explores solutions to some of the challenges that these small states are facing, such as the challenges of the high cost of strategic imports such as energy. One of the solutions is renewable energy, he noted. Many small states are known for their sunset and sea rather than for having vast sources of energy, yet the sun and the sea can be important sources of energy for development. The book explores ways to start tapping these sources of energy and creating greater energy efficiency in small states. Another key constraint discussed in the book is skills and education for a Green Economy. By illustration, Dr Smith asked whether small states have enough trained people to fix solar panels and address technical faults?

The authors of the book recommend using a measurement of the wellbeing of citizens rather than simply measuring the size of the economy. They suggest that international development agencies allow countries to access concessional financing up until their rating on the Human Development Index is 0.8. Further topics

discussed in the book are the effective use of debt and how governments could take the lead in bringing about a Green Economy.

To mark the launch of the book, ministers and other delegates from different Commonwealth small states who attended the event were given a copy of the Transitioning to a Green Economy book.

Session 4.1: Environment Resource Management and Climate Resilience in Small States



Road leading to Hewanora International Airport in Saint Lucia torn apart by extreme weather
Photo taken 30 March 2014

The aim of this session was to identify and examine priority actions in resilience building in regard to environmental resource management regimes and institutions in small states. The exposure of small states to external shocks from environmental disasters, and the deeply integrated nature of small states' economies, social well-being and the natural resource base, make this an important element of the resilience building framework.

Commonwealth consultant Derrick Oderson presented his work on environmental governance and its role in resilience building. He argued that a key rationale for strengthening environmental management in resilience building is the improvement of human well-being. Assessing the effectiveness of environmental governance mechanisms requires a multi-levelled approach of international, regional and national policies. A review of these elements will be used to



Ministers, author and editor at the book launch, Bay Gardens Resort 26 March 2014

develop a composite index for the quality and effectiveness of environmental management. This work will then be integrated into the Commonwealth’s resilience framework.

This session also included a specific discussion on governance structures and arrangements for ocean resources at the national and regional levels by Rosemarie Cadogan, Special Advisory Services Division, Commonwealth Secretariat. Oceans offer a wide range of resources, services, and manufacturing opportunities. They are estimated to provide 350 million jobs globally. For SIDS in particular, oceans play a critical role in food security, sustainable economic growth, energy security, climate change mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and mitigation. Small states are increasingly seeing their future development through the effective management, development and use of their marine resources.



Oceans offer a wide range of resources; a cruise ship in Castries, Saint Lucia

However, ocean governance is a broad term with many different definitions from different agencies. The Commonwealth’s approach to ocean governance goes beyond ocean management or coastal management, but rather sees ocean governance as embedded in national and also regional visions, applying all the general concepts of good governance (Figure 5). The Commonwealth’s model starts with a mapping of resources and potential. The next step is understanding values associated with oceans. Then, priorities are identified to be taken forward through appropriate policies and planning. This portfolio approach to marine opportunities balances competition between different sectors and looks for synergies. Activities need to be planned to take place at right time and scale, so that they do not overwhelm existing systems.

Session 4.2: Appropriate Policies in Support of Social Resilience Building in Small States

This session explored appropriate social policy responses for resilience building in small states and considered how to strengthen the social framework to enable small states to cope with shocks. Godfrey St Bernard, a consultant for the Commonwealth, presented his work on the topic. He explained that the dynamics of population in small states are critical to the social policies implemented to build social cohesion in these states. The presentation highlighted that social

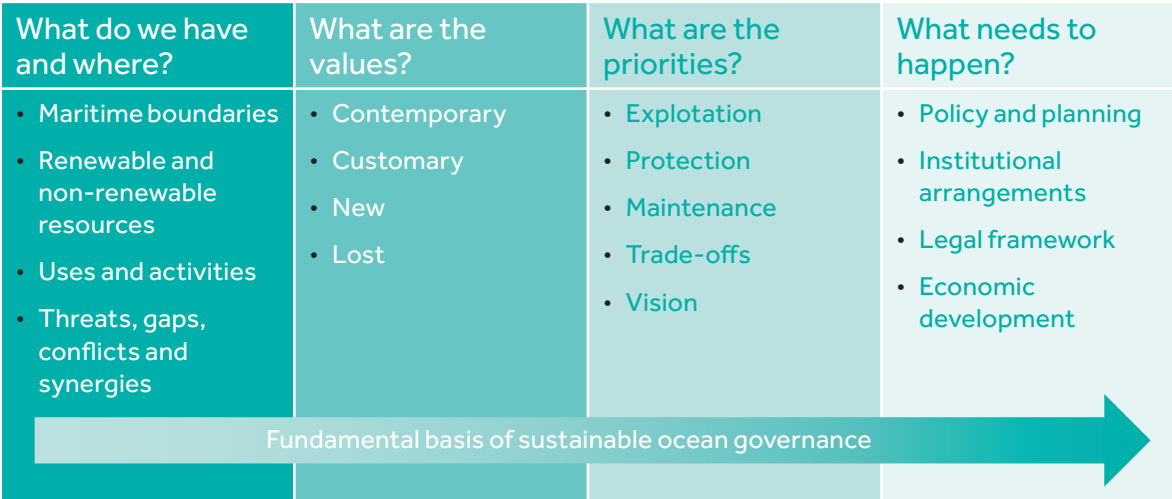


Figure 5: The Commonwealth approach to ocean governance

change takes time and, as such, policy responses should be contemplated over the long- rather than short- or medium-term. Additionally, social change requires adequate financing and investment, which is not always readily available to small states. The presentation also focused on the differing trends in small states' population growth, their important social policy implications and their role in resilience building (Figure 6).

Classification	Country examples
Moderate growth momentum populations	Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Fiji, Singapore
Quasi-stationary ageing populations	Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Guyana, Malta, Mauritius, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Seychelles, Tonga, Tuvalu.
High growth momentum populations	Belize, Kiribati, Maldives, Namibia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu.
Ageing populations with high potential for declining size	Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago
Moderate growth in high mortality populations	Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland

Figure 6: Population classifications of small states

The presentation also identified indicators in several policy domains which would help to measure social resilience. The policy domains include: accumulation of wealth, ICT, economic activity, public participation, social protection, exposure to education, access to health treatment, HIV/AIDS, fertility, and public order/public safety.

Participants reflected on their respective country models and agreed that social policies that effect social cohesion are both essential and desirable.

While some small states have succeeded in improving their social indicators through appropriate social policies, distinctive gaps still exist in social development and cohesion, which see some states falling behind and others failing. Despite their inherent vulnerabilities, some small states have been successful precisely because of the complementary social policies and strategies that they have implemented.

The meeting concluded that social policy should not be formulated in isolation. Participants recognised that social cohesion is dependent on other factors of resilience including governance, environmental and economic management.

Session 5.1: Building Resilience in Small States: The Role of Youth and Education

(Youth Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth of Learning)

This session considered the role and contribution of young people in building resilience in small states, an aspect not often included in policy discussions. Rianna Gonzales, Regional Chair of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network, gave a presentation on the 'Role of Youth in Building Resilience'. She noted that young people have a critical role, not only as beneficiaries or as a target group, but as partners and leaders in building resilience at the community and national levels. They help to shape the policy recommendations that will guide resilience efforts in small states and lead practical sustainable development efforts.

So where do young people fit in?

- 60% of the Commonwealth population is under the age of 30, approximately 2 billion people.
- Young people will be the ones living with the decisions made today.
- Youth are the centre of sustainable development.
- Young people are not just the leaders of tomorrow but the leaders of TODAY.

Figure 7: The role of youth in building resilience

Additionally, Ayesha Constable, consultant for the Youth Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, gave a presentation on the challenges and opportunities for young people in building resilience. Among the main challenges she highlighted were unemployment, education, climate change, cybercrime, culture and ICT access (Table 1).

To better understand what can be done to increase the involvement of youth in the decision-making process, participants discussed the current challenges to youth involvement and development in small states. The main obstacles highlighted were: non-expressive culture, mass migration of trained youth, narrow political vision and the exclusion of youth in policy planning, the marginalisation and stigmatisation of forms of education, and a lack of opportunities and resources for youth.

Youth representatives asked small states to proactively rein in on brain drain, crime and violence by providing productive opportunities and better sources of work for youth. Youth also called for increased and more appropriate forms of engagement, for youth encouragement as nation builders and for a greater recognition that the resilience of a nation depends highly on the resilience of its people.



HE Kamalesh Sharma Commonwealth Secretary-General with students from the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, Castries, Saint Lucia, after engaging with them on the role of the Commonwealth and particularly on building resilience in small states

Participants also learnt of efforts by the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) to build resilience in small states by addressing the issue of capacity building in small states through the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC). This is a network

Challenges	Opportunities for youth	Opportunities in youth
Lack of opportunities to participate and have voice heard	Education to tertiary level	Creativity Ingenuity
Divisive politics which lead to division among young people	Scholarships	Energetic
Pervasive culture which teaches that young people should be 'seen and not heard'	Jobs in tourism	Quick learners Energetic
Single industry economy	Jobs in agriculture	Technological ability
Lack of financial resources	Grants for young people of SIDS	Risk takers Adventurous
Mass migration of trained youth - 'brain drain'	Opportunities to migrate	New ideas and perspectives Risk takers
Lack of vision on the part of leaders	-	-

Table 1: Challenges and opportunities for youth in small states

initiated by and built on the support of Ministers of education of developing small states of the Commonwealth. Mr John Lesperance from the COL gave a presentation on how the VUSSC is addressing the capacity shortage in small states. Through established partnerships with educational institutions from small states, VUSSC builds professional capacity of educators and institutions in small states, enables learners to have access to quality education, strengthens small states through the establishment of the shared ICT learning content and infrastructure and adds value to both conventional on-campus instruction as well as serving learners at a distance. By addressing the capacity constraints in small states, the VUSSC contribute towards building resilience in small states.

John Lesperance pointed out that the factors associated with resilience include: the capacity to make realistic plans and take steps to carry them out, having a positive view and confidence regarding one's strengths and abilities; skills in communication and problem solving; and the capacity to manage feelings and impulses. The VUSSC helps small states to build capacity that could be transferred into building resilience.

Session 5.2: A Civil Society View of Priorities for the Post-2015 Agenda: building economic resilience through the Green Economy

(Commonwealth Foundation)

This session explored the green economy as an applicable concept for helping small states build economic resilience in the context of sustainable development. In particular, the panel of representatives from civil society organisations explored:

1. whether the green economy offers sufficient scope for economic expansion in small states; and
2. whether it provides scope for inclusive growth. In his presentation, Gordon Bishpam presented several enabling factors required for effective green growth, including

governance and institutions, education, training and capacity, and data and statistics.

The concept of the green economy has gained recent currency as a formula for economic growth that is both ecologically and people friendly, thus emphasising the complementarities that could exist between economic development and the environment. For small states, green growth should be at the centre of the post-2015 framework that will replace Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and they should consider Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to enable them to green their development strategies, halt environmental degradation and address their current challenges.



Agricultural activities, Saint Lucia

Economic growth is considered as the fundamental pre-requisite for improved livelihoods and job creation across small states. However, participants agreed that the concept of economic growth needs to be further explored to ensure that growth respects all three pillars of sustainable development (Figure 9) and is appropriate to the realities of small states. A paradigm shift is needed that recognises the particular value of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises to economic growth in small states, and does not undermine the finite natural resource base within small island countries. Agriculture and food security are critical components of any growth strategy.



Small business established on the side of the road to Soufrière, Saint Lucia

Participants discussed the importance of governance in growth and development, and placed emphasis on the need for participatory and inclusive approaches that involve all stakeholders. There is a need for capacity building to ensure that multi-stakeholder processes can function effectively and that national dialogue can be truly representative.

Civil society shared their perspectives on the green economy and the need to address all three pillars of sustainable development. The contribution of micro, small and medium sized enterprises to economic growth should be better recognised. Participatory and inclusive approaches involving all stakeholders are needed and there is a need for capacity building to ensure effective multi-stakeholder processes.

Session 6: SIDS 2014: key steps in building global partnerships for sustainable development

The final session of the conference focused on the SIDS 2014 process and the need to focus international attention on the sustainable development challenges of SIDS. The Commonwealth convened a panel of distinguished guests including: Minister of Foreign Affairs Seychelles Jean-Paul Adam,

Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation Saint Lucia Alva Baptiste; Director of UNDESA Nikhil Seth, Dr Ali Naseer Mohamed, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maldives and, CEO of the Samoa Ministry of Finance Iulai Lavea.

The panellists offered their views on the forthcoming SIDS 2014 conference. In regards to the post-2015 UN development agenda, small states were called to take full ownership for their development. This can be achieved by implementing appropriate policies within their respective economies and ensuring small states are represented in the international processes that discuss the post – 2015 UN development agenda. Moreover, small states have to build trust by creating an environment where the private investors, the civil society organisations, the philanthropist and above all the government of developed countries can have high level of trust on small states' concerns. At the end of the session, it became clear there is a need for the vulnerability index to be made a criteria for accessing concessional finance. The small state trade imbalances and ocean governance are also priorities for small states. Participants called for renewed political commitment by all countries to effectively address the special needs and vulnerabilities of SIDS, and to focus on practical and pragmatic actions in this regard.

What Participants Said

Dr Kenny D Anthony, Prime Minister, Saint Lucia



'Saint Lucia, like a state of any size, large or small, aspires for the best for its people. We believe fully that size need not matter in the intensity of intellect, of beauty, and of passion of people and countries.'

However, without the assistance and advocacy of the Commonwealth, such ideals for states such as ours may not be as easily realised. **Within the Commonwealth, small states can believe that they are truly being listened to**, and that their message is being amplified towards the larger regions and blocs of the world. And so, we small states and the SIDS must salute the Commonwealth for its hard and continuing work, as it networks for and on behalf of all small states, even those that are not its members!'

The Commonwealth @commonwealthsec · Mar 27
Why should global community care about strength of #CWSmallStates?
@uniofmalta's Prof Briguglio explains bit.ly/NZHrJU #Commonwealth

Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Foreign Affairs, St Vincent and the Grenadines



'The development discussion, and the metrics by which we measure development – and the discussions about how to develop – have not included until very recently the issues of vulnerability

and resilience. In the context of small states and small island developing states, the issue of vulnerability and resilience is critical to understanding the developmental path that we're taking and the developmental choices that we have to make.'

Professor Lino Briguglio, University of Malta



'Vulnerability really means exposure to shocks.' Generally, small states are very open in terms of trade – they have to export a lot because their market is very small and they have to import a lot because they

don't have natural resources. So they are very open. In addition, they rely on a narrow range of exports, and therefore that makes them very exposed to external shocks. By resilience, we mean their ability to withstand such shocks, or to bounce back from such shocks.'

Ayesha Constable @EshaSensei · Mar 26
Zeinab Partow of the World Bank on Debt for Nature Swaps for debt reduction in SIDS #CWSmallStates

Zeinab Partow, Senior Economist, World Bank



'Debt for Nature (DFN) swaps can form part of a strategic country approach to address heavy debt burdens, but unlikely to provide a comprehensive solution. The impact of DFN swaps on conservation

finance is far greater than the impact on debt reduction. The traditional debt restructuring has often led to significant reduction in debt service however DFN swaps do not usually involve new net resource transfers, just a redistribution of existing resources. Whilst there is a large headline figures for climate finance, the share available to small states for adaptation is far smaller. Country capacity to use conservation funds needs to be built. Swaps may begin to address debt stock issue however debt flows will continue to grow in the absence of macroeconomic reforms and fiscal adjustment.'

WB Sustainable Dev @wbsustaindev · Mar 26
Success stories & lessons in building resilience as damage from extreme weather rises: wrlid.bg/uRfrh #climate #CWSmallStates

**Jean-Paul Adam, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Seychelles**



*'The key strength of the Commonwealth has been that it has offered a **space for connection** among, for example, these small states that can be very far apart geographically. Seychelles are on the other side of*

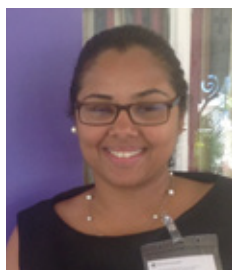
Africa in the Indian Ocean, Saint Lucia is in the Caribbean, and visiting here I can see just how similar we are. And yet we're very far apart. Without the Commonwealth, we can't share experiences very efficiently.'

Dalberg @Dalberg Tweet · Mar 27

Coastal [#cities](#) need strong [#ecosystems](#) now more than ever - raising environmental awareness can help: ow.ly/v45zl [#CWSmallStates](#)



**Rianna Gonzales, National Co-ordinator,
Caribbean Youth Environment Network,
Trinidad and Tobago**



*'I gained a lot of knowledge interacting with the various experts and delegates as well as the **opportunity to lobby for youth inclusion and participation towards sustainable development.***

It was an enriching

experience to present the work being done by young people across the Caribbean and have it being supported. An important point made throughout out the conference was that resilience is built on people and there should be more investment into building our human resources and capacity to ensure that we are able to adapt to the inevitable changes in the future.'

Ayesha Constable @EshaSensei · Mar 26

Theme - Building resilience of Small States. Resilience cannot be attained without active involvement of youth [@MOYCJA](#) [#cwsallstates](#)



**Sinama Tupou, Ministry of Internal Affairs,
Tonga**



'It was an honour to take part in this very important Conference with many representatives from SIDS all over the world. The presentations were very informative and have raised many important issues such

*as the need to develop valid and reliable statistical data and that, the resilience of a nation depends on the resilience of its people. Countries can strengthen their resilience by recognising their vulnerability, by strengthening their network and openness to new partners. However, **each country's development depends on its own will.***



CYEN @CYEN_TT · Mar 26

Minister from Dominica "we have the same issues for years we need to start doing work in the ground and stop talking so much" [#cwsallstates](#)

**Dr Ali Naseer Mohamed, Foreign Secretary,
Maldives**



'We believe that in the post-2015 development agenda is for SIDS to take full ownership of their development policies. Small states regardless of their circumstances can choose to make one of two strategic

*policies, they can either pursuit a policy of dependency or self-reliance. ...Another important factor of set policy would be **building trust**... the honesty is therefore on SIDS to initiate actions that would create environment where the private investors, the civil society organisations, the philanthropist and above all the government of developed countries to have high level of trust on small states concerns. ...if more and more small states were actively taking lead in negotiations it is more likely that outcomes will be in their favour... it is not the size that determines destiny for small states it is actually policies that determines their history.'*



Juan Casado-Asensio @CasadoAsensio · Mar 26

[#CWSmallStates](#): SIDS have heightened exposure to [#climatechange](#) impacts due to, eg, over-dependence on climate sensitive natural resources.

Iulai Lavea, CEO, Ministry of Finance, Samoa



*'Three points to emphasise on: the need to have that **vulnerability index as a criteria for accessing concessional finance...** if we, all small island states, can have access to concessional financing our*

*debt problems would be reduced... The other point is trade opportunities... this is an issue in Pacific and Caribbean countries. We have **amounting trade imbalances year after year...** perhaps this is one area that SIDS could look at and try and see how we can access some of these favourable treatments in many parts... the last point is **ocean governance**. Pacific islands depend predominately on sea resources for livelihood and we can't over emphasise the importance of that as a priority... We need to have a successful conference and our government and people of Samoa would like it too. We want to be remembered as a conference that you will find your time to be valuable spent in Samoa and discussing issues that are global. The importance and more important is having outcomes that can be implemented. It will be the honour to host you all in pacific paradise in September.'*

Key Recommendations and Next Steps

The conference clearly pointed to the importance of mobilising greater international support and appreciation for the particular challenges of small states, in order to improve their access to available donor resources and other forms of assistance.

In this regard the Commonwealth Secretariat will:

- Disseminate the information contained in the studies commissioned and presented at the conference on building resilience in small states and distil the key messages arising from the discussions during the conference to a wider audience of international interlocutors. The key messages are to be posted on the Commonwealth website and shared with member countries and our network of partners. The technical work will be published in a book to be launched at the SIDS 2014 conference in Samoa.
- Articulate the key messages to the broader international community in formal speeches made by Secretary-General Kamallesh Sharma during various upcoming processes,

Fresh thinking and new ideas are needed on how to respond to small states' inherent vulnerabilities considering their limited access to resources on favourable terms as a result of their middle-income status classification. A number of these countries are challenged to maintain fiscal stability in the face of repeat shocks leading to high debt burdens.

In this regard the Commonwealth Secretariat will:

- Build relationships and explore potential partnerships with key development partners working on building resilience.

- Intensify our engagement with key International Financial Institutions (IFIs) through consultations held periodically and during upcoming events such as IMF/World Bank meetings and forums. A roundtable discussion among key IFIs on support for small states in building resilience is planned for June 2014 in Washington. The outcomes of this discussion will be shared.
- Advance consultations on Commonwealth debt management proposals with IFIs as well as with SIDS member governments, both Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth, to create the necessary political traction. A side event on the solutions to the debt challenges of small states is planned ahead of the SIDS 2014 Conference.

What can be done to help small states build resilience?

In this regard the Commonwealth Secretariat will:

- Continue to work with the Technical Working Group (TWG) to revisit and revise the Commonwealth Secretariat/University of Malta resilience framework as well as the wider body of knowledge on resilience. The Commonwealth is well placed to support its SIDS members by advancing the work on the resilience framework to create a robust model that outlines appropriate policies for building resilience.
- Continue to highlight the capacity constraints that SIDS face in meaningfully engaging with major developed countries, and the need for development partners to help to build the capacity of SIDS to effectively participate in international decision-making processes, with strong implications for achieving their development goals.

OEMWG on Small States: Chair's Summary

Introduction

The Commonwealth Open-Ended Ministerial Working Group on Small States met in Saint Lucia on 25 March 2014. The meeting was chaired by the Hon. Minister Jean Paul Adam, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Seychelles. Participants were Ministers and senior officials representing Jamaica, Maldives, Malta, Lesotho, Samoa, Sri Lanka, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Namibia.

The meeting was opened by the Commonwealth Secretary-General who outlined the November 2013 mandate of Commonwealth Heads of Government to establish an Open-Ended Ministerial Working Group to progress practical and concrete proposals to address the priority development concerns of Commonwealth small states, including through the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014 and development of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The Chair sought a discussion on practical proposals to take forward into the wider international community. He observed that the Commonwealth provides an ideal platform for the consideration of such approaches. The challenge will be to identify a select number of practical proposals that apply universally in a transparent way, and which deal with the structural problems that small states face. A resilience index is one such approach. Other priority concerns which might be considered in this Group were debt; trade infrastructure and access issues; climate change; and ocean governance explored in a more systematic way. The Group has amongst itself Small Island Developing States, Landlocked States, other small states and a member of the European Union.

Terms of Reference

The Group agreed its terms of reference, as follows. To support small states in identifying key priorities and practical actions to progress in the context of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014 and development of the Post-2015 Development Agenda; and to support consensus building within the Commonwealth and the wider international community, including the WTO and other institutions, with a view to securing support for small states in their efforts to build resilience and sustainable development.

Modalities of Work

The Group explored future opportunities for the Group to meet face-to-face bearing their own costs of participation. Options include the forthcoming Inter-sessional in April and the Second PrepCom in June in New York for the SIDS 2014 process. The Group recognised its open-ended nature and the opportunity of including others in the discussions in future. Participants also recognised that intense preparations in the coming months for the Third International Meeting on Small Island Developing States may mean that virtual meetings and dialogues through Commonwealth Connects would be effective approaches to taking the work of the Group forward. Others also emphasised the need to maintain cohesion in the Group and its work. Members agreed that the end-date for Group's work will be September 2015.

Envisaged Outcomes

The Group will seek to identify 3 to 5 core areas to progress, guided by the advocacy points presented by the Commonwealth Secretariat,

but not limited to those. They will then use the Commonwealth's modalities for advocacy to take these forward to processes related to the SIDS 2014 and Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Substantive Areas of Consideration

The Group sought a strategic approach that conveys a clear message to the SIDS 2014 meeting; and one which recognises that there are concerns across the Commonwealth's membership. **Resilience** was seen as an effective framework for this overarching objective; and for driving efforts towards agreement of a coherent framework for the allocation of resources towards resilience building efforts.

Issues that delegates raised for consideration included the following:

- Strengthening the **institutions and capacity building** in small states. Here the Group heard about proposals of the Government of Malta for a Small States Centre of Excellence to support efforts towards sustainable development planning, disaster risk planning and sustainable development; and efforts of Sri Lanka related to capacity building. Others emphasised the need for a needs-driven approach to capacity building.
- In terms of wider **governance** concerns, issues raised by the Group included the need for effective legislative frameworks; and efforts to build institutions that reduce political vulnerability.
- Revisiting the **intellectual underpinnings of vulnerability and resilience** in the light of the experiences of small states and developments since the Commonwealth first launched this work several years ago. The Commonwealth Secretariat has commenced substantive work in this area, which forms an element of the Third Global Ministerial Meeting on Small States on 26-27 March 2014.
- **Resilience building** was seen as an important theme going in to the SIDS 2014 meeting in Samoa. It is important to be strategic and focus on a few issues, and it would be effective

to use the concept of resilience to take the key themes to the SIDS 2014 meeting – ocean resilience, trade resilience, economic resilience.

- **Mobilising finance** to reverse the impacts of climate change; unlocking development financing for small states; and taking vulnerability into account in the allocation of development assistance.

Specific Priorities for SIDS 2014 include:

- **Climate change** concerns, which can also be highlighted at the UN Summit on Climate Financing in September 2014, as well as the SIDS process. This includes the Commonwealth's efforts towards a **Climate Finance Skills Hub**. Advocacy concerns include: the lack of affordability of renewable **energy** technologies for small states in spite of their significant benefit to the economies of small states if implemented; and the payment of loans on infrastructure that has been destroyed by climate change and which has had to be built again.
- **Ocean governance frameworks**, taking a wide view of benefits and challenges on multiple levels: energy; seabed resources; zoning; and policing our seascape. Support in delimitation of boundaries and the continental shelf was an important element in the context of Commonwealth work.
- **Development financing** priorities for small states, including Commonwealth options on counter-cyclical loans and debt for climate swaps; and the extension of **trade policy and trade preferences** to small states.

The Group recognised that some key elements are already in the SIDS 2014 process, such as climate change and capacity building. This Group can add value by highlighting concrete proposals that still need to be included. The Group also took account of the appearance of text in the zero draft of the SIDS 2014 negotiating document that includes elements on debt and counter-cyclical loans drawing on Commonwealth proposals in these areas. These aspects need to be further advocated, demonstrating their full

potential and practical application. A role for the Commonwealth is to package these proposals effectively. Approaches agreed for islands would also apply to other vulnerable states.

Priorities for the Post 2015 Development Agenda

The Group considered principles for the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Some highlighted the centrality of the eradication of poverty; and an open and participatory process, including on the means of implementation.

- Social issues, such as gender and youth, need to find space in the Post 2015 Development Agenda, including elements highlighted at CHOGM in 2013 on youth issues, and goals related to gender empowerment.
- Inclusive growth; science technology and research & development; mobilisation of the private sector and its resources for development; and renewable energy need to be reflected in goals in the Post 2015 Development Framework. Elements related to these include innovative financing and capacity building supporting actions.
- Resilience could also be transformed into a goal for the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Under financing for development there is an opportunity. For example, the use of vulnerability criteria for accessing financing.
- A more action-oriented MDG 8 on the global partnership needs to be transferred into the Post-2015 Development Framework. That is, a renewed global partnership to enable the other goals to come to fruition.
- The Group emphasised that its efforts also have to be in concert with efforts by the Group of Heads of Government that are working on the Post 2015 Development Agenda in a Commonwealth context. The position of African members was highlighted at the meeting, as it could prove valuable to the work of the Group.

With respect to specific concerns for small states, the Group highlighted the following in their discussion:

- Advancing economic growth, global partnerships and the voice of developing countries were as priorities.
- The Group considered a specific target for small states, or tailored goals for small states. All countries that have ever graduated have been small states. This is an indication that while overall wealth can expand quickly, there are still parts of these societies that remain poor and vulnerable.

Strategy for Outreach

The Group examined options for outreach on the proposals that they have identified. They will seek buy-in from larger members and to build the cohesion across the Commonwealth on the elements selected for advocacy efforts. Political mobilisation of wider opinion was another aspect of the work, through settings such as the outreach with G20 members and regional organisations.

The Way Forward

The summary of this meeting will be taken forward in discussions at the Third Global Biennial Meeting on Small States. Priorities will also be taken forward by members in the inter-sessional and second PrepCom for the SIDS 2014 process in New York. The Group could consider meeting again at these preparatory meetings; and other forums such as the preparatory meeting in Abu Dhabi for the UN Summit on Climate Change. Background material on the proposals will also be circulated by the Secretariat.

In terms of substantive priorities to take forward, these would be as follows:

1. Strengthening Resilience, as an overarching framework.
2. Development Financing and Trade: including the use of vulnerability criteria for access to resources; debt; debt swaps; and trade preferences.

3. Ocean Governance Frameworks.
4. Climate Change, including capacity building efforts and energy concerns which might also be addressed in other priority areas in different ways.
5. Outreach in the context of the G20 and with regional organisations, including on strengthening the regional organisations and mechanisms for resilience.

The next meeting at a technical level will be in New York during the Second PrepCom in June 2014. Ministers would have an opportunity to meet in Samoa in September, and a subsequent meeting in September in New York. In the meanwhile the Group aims to have a teleconference meeting in July 2014 to progress the work.

Outcomes Statement of GBCSS

1. The Commonwealth convened its Third Global Biennial Conference on Small States on 26–27 March 2014. The meeting was co-hosted by the Government of Saint Lucia, in celebration of the International Year of Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) in 2014. Participants were Prime Ministers, Ministers and senior government officials from 31 countries, as well as from regional and international organisations and civil society. The meeting provided a platform to share experiences on practical policy approaches to build resilience and sustainable economic growth, which led to the identification of priority areas for future action.
2. In spite of some progress, small states continue to face significant challenges to the achievement of their sustainable development and internationally agreed development goals. Small states have made less progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals when compared to other country groupings. They struggle to withstand or bounce back from adverse shocks, which have significant impacts on growth and make it difficult to retain fiscal space and build reserves to cope with shocks. Participants recognised that despite these challenges, there are many opportunities to pursue practical solutions to build resilience in small states, as purported in the Commonwealth's five key pillars of resilience building: macro-economic stability; micro-economic market efficiency; good governance; social development and cohesion; and sound environmental management.

A Policy Framework for Building Resilience

3. Discussions emphasised the conceptual underpinnings of vulnerability and resilience in each of the five pillars, and the use of resilience profiling to drive progress towards greater resilience. Country profiling can identify resilience gaps and inform national strategies to guide change in a results-oriented way. Some small states have already made remarkable progress in designing and building strong frameworks. A number of small states have been graduated to middle income status. Yet development gains can be rapidly reversed by shocks since the costs of addressing these can represent a high proportion of GDP, even exceeding annual GDP rates.
4. Small states need a supportive global financing and trade environment to provide effective facilitation of their development efforts. Participants found that support mechanisms available to them do not always adequately address their special needs. The use of GDP alone as a development measure has proved inadequate for small states: while some small states benefit from special financing windows a more holistic approach is required. Participants agreed that a fully recognised vulnerability and resilience framework would provide such an approach and should be highlighted within the SIDS 2014 process.
5. The Conference shared practical experiences with resilience building from Saint Lucia, Seychelles, and the Indian Ocean Commission. These focused on the role of national visioning processes, systems modelling and scenario building,

as well as practical efforts to strengthen macro-economic stability and build reserves. The considerable impacts of natural disasters and the costs of recovery were highlighted. Malta provided an update on its initiative to establish a Small States Centre of Excellence to support the needs of small states, and which will serve as a platform to share skills and tools.

Solutions for Small States' Indebtedness

6. Debt reduces the capacity of small states to proactively respond to external shocks. Discussions reviewed empirical evidence of the debt challenges of small states, and innovative measures to address them. While a number of small states have undertaken debt restructuring exercises, they continue to face high and unsustainable debt burdens and their middle-income status limits their access to concessional resources. Participants agreed that a more concerted and resolute effort is needed more permanently to resolve debt problems of small states. Higher rates of growth will also be key.
7. Innovative and non-traditional measures to address high debt burdens include: the use of resilience building as a policy condition for lending by the International Financial Institutions; the inclusion of vulnerability as a criteria for access to concessional resources; the development and application of counter-cyclical loans for mitigation of growth and debt challenges; and debt for climate change adaptation and mitigation swaps. The meeting shared experience from Seychelles in its initiative to establish an ocean-based debt for climate action swap. The meeting agreed that these mechanisms can unlock valuable resources while recognising challenges in their implementation that need to be further examined.

8. Several practical actions to take forward include: sharing factual information on debt instruments on a dedicated website; compiling one-page briefs on the various instruments for review and comment; and booklets on the ways in which small states have made progress on resilience building.

A Governance Structure for Building Resilience

9. Participants recognised governance as being the whole of public and private interactions to solve societal problems and to create societal solutions. Governance plays an underpinning role in resilience but the distinctive nature of small states is often not fully considered in studies on governance to date. Challenges for small states in the area of governance include limited capacities and the underdevelopment of institutions, which is exacerbated through the significant role of informal networks. The meeting explored the link between governance and resilience; discussed options for policy-makers to strengthen their governance framework given their limited human and financial resources; and considered the role of the diaspora in governance structures in small states.
10. Participants examined different approaches to analysing governance structures in small states, and the roles and interactions of a wide range of actors. The Commonwealth's Governance Assessment Framework for national reviews drew strong interest. The meeting highlighted the importance of regional and international governance structures for resilience of small states. Efforts towards regional integration and reform of international institutions can all help build resilience in small states. Aspects to consider include strengthening the voice of small states and making global trade rules supportive of small states' development.

Environmental Resource Management and Climate Resilience

11. Exposure to environmental shocks, together with the deeply integrated nature of small states' economies, social wellbeing and the natural resource base, make environmental management an important element of resilience building in these countries. The meeting shared ideas on environmental governance indicators for resilience-building; and reviewed approaches to ocean governance to maximise the benefits accruing to small states from their extensive marine areas. A key focus is strengthening cooperation across regions, ocean ecosystems, sectors and different stakeholders. Another is to resolve the boundaries with neighbouring states. This will help clarify jurisdictions and provide a framework for the exploitation of resources, including tidal and other forms of energy. A starting point is to audit current governance systems and the value of resources.
12. While delegates recognised the challenges of creating a consensus at national level on the way forward, they emphasised the value of transparent and inclusive, consultative approaches to achieve this. Delegates also highlighted the need for ocean forecasting to predict impacts from climate change; action on land-based sources of pollution; and efforts to strengthen oceans and seas issues in the Third International Conference on SIDS process (SIDS 2014).

Policies in Support of Social Resilience Building

13. Participants explored social policy responses for resilience building and considered how social frameworks could be strengthened to enable small states to cope with shocks. Social change takes time and as such, policy responses should

be contemplated over the long rather than short or medium term. Additionally, social change requires adequate financing and investment, which is not always readily available to small states. Population trends in different small states have an important bearing on social policy and needs attention.

14. Participants recognised that social policy should not be formulated in isolation, and that social cohesion is dependent on a range of resilience factors, including governance, environmental and economic management. Participants reflected on their respective country models and agreed that social policies that effect social cohesion are both essential and desirable. While some small states have succeeded in improving their social indicators through appropriate social policies, distinctive gaps still exists in social development and cohesion, which see some states falling behind and others failing. Despite their inherent vulnerabilities, some small states have been successful precisely because of complementary social policies and strategies that they have implemented.

Widening Participation in Resilience Building

15. A distinctive feature of the meeting and its outcomes comprised the extensive sharing of knowledge, information and useful practices across a wide range of stakeholders. The process yielded analytical, research, training, institutional and policy proposals as well as helped hone Commonwealth and global advocacy priorities. In particular, the meeting shared experiences on the role of youth in resilience building, including the contribution of young people to growth, economic activity, and the challenges they experience in accessing the economy, financial system and securing employment. Key proposals included ensuring the perspectives of young people in ongoing global processes such as the SIDS 2014 conference and post 2015

development framework. The meeting welcomed the Commonwealth's innovative capacity building training programme on the environment and sustainable development and its collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning to deliver this course. Civil society shared their perspectives on the Green Economy and the need to address all three pillars of sustainable development. The contribution of micro-, small- and medium-enterprises to economic growth should be better recognised. Participatory and inclusive approaches are needed, involving all stakeholders; as well as capacity building to ensure that such processes are effective.

The Way Forward

16. The meeting reiterated the importance of having a universal framework on vulnerability and resilience, and to embed resilience building actions at the national level and share lessons of best practice and experiences. It also sought clear advocacy messages to take forward in international processes on resilience building, including in respect to debt and development financing support for small states. Innovative approaches include: the use of resilience building as a conditionality in accessing concessional resources; vulnerability as a criteria for access to concessional resources; and debt for climate action swaps.
17. Other practical proposals included: the inclusion of other small states within the agenda of the SIDS 2014 meeting to build political momentum and buy-in; strengthening the SIDS 2014 approach in a number of areas such as sustainable consumption and production, and agreement on specific programmes on natural resources management with adequate funding and technologies; and action to integrate youth as key stakeholders in the process of resilience building and market information to them to gain their engagement. The resilience building initiatives of the Commonwealth Secretariat could be coordinated with the UN process, and support Commonwealth delegations in engaging on resilience building issues as the negotiations going forward. Efforts are also needed to contribute results on vulnerability and resilience into the Sustainable Development Goals and post 2015 development agenda. A focus on resilience building as an overarching priority and framework, together with some key proposals on development financing, trade, debt, and ocean governance, would provide focus and impact in advocacy efforts. One way to achieve this could be through a communication at a high political level to highlight the outcomes of this meeting within the SIDS 2014 and other international processes.
18. All participants recognised the value of the Global Biennial Small States Conference as a forum for sharing experiences and highlighting issues requiring consensus building. Cognisant of the SIDS 2014 and post 2015 processes, participants urged efforts by all to distil and convey a few priority actions to build resilience in small states, drawing on the discussions at this meeting. Key objectives are to build political will towards strong outcomes on resilience building. The delegates warmly thanked the Government and people of Saint Lucia for co-hosting the Third Biennial Conference, and for the hospitality that was extended to them. They welcomed the offer of Seychelles to co-host the next Biennial Conference.

Annotated Agenda of GBCSS

Introduction

The 2014 Global Biennial Conference on Small States has been organised by the Economic Affairs Division of Commonwealth and is being delivered in collaboration with the Government of Saint Lucia. The theme of this year's Conference is '*Building Resilience in Small States*'.

The Biennial provides an opportunity for senior government representatives, academics and officials from regional and international organisations to discuss key development concerns of small states, share practical lessons and policy options, and consider how the concerns of small states can be highlighted in international agencies and with donors.

This paper sets out the objectives of the meeting, and guides participants through key issues and questions to be addressed in each of the sessions.

Objectives of the Meeting

The Global Biennial Conference on Small States was established to provide an international forum at which a comprehensive range of development issues for small states can be discussed. It enables policy practitioners in small states, international institutions and donor agencies to share experiences and learn from each other on how best to address the particular vulnerabilities that small states face. The meeting examines the impact and challenges that result from major global developments; and enables messages to be formulated that can be delivered on behalf of small states to Commonwealth Heads of Government; international institutions such as the World Bank, IMF and WTO including their governing bodies; and relevant global meetings such as the G7/8, G20, UN meetings such as the

2014 SIDS Conference.

The Commonwealth Secretariat convened the first Global Biennial Conference on Small States in July 2010 at Marlborough House in London. The outcomes of the meeting were welcomed and endorsed by Commonwealth Heads of Government when they met in Perth in October 2011. The inaugural meeting recognised the importance of natural resource sectors in some small states and the need to formulate natural resource policies and strategies based on small states' development needs. This matter was taken forward by Commonwealth Environment Ministers in February 2012 when they considered a five point practical action framework on ocean governance in the context of a green economy, based on valuing natural blue capital, quantifying the goods and services offered and creating new harmonised and holistic approaches to ocean governance.

The Second Global Biennial Conference took place at Marlborough House in London in September 2012. This examined practical options for inclusive growth in small states, including through policies related to tourism, regional integration, and transformation to a green economy.

Agenda Items

The agenda items for this Biennial Conference draw on the work of the Commonwealth's Technical Working Group (TWG) on building resilience in small states, which is examining the Commonwealth's resilience framework, together with the wider body of knowledge, to identify what further work needs to be undertaken to strengthen the current resilience framework.

The Biennial will therefore focus on five key pillars

of resilience building as follows:

- macro-economic stability;
- micro-economic market efficiency;
- good governance;
- social development and cohesion; and
- sound environmental management.

The Commonwealth has commissioned papers in these thematic areas to gather key policy lessons and options for consideration at this Conference and to stimulate further practical work. The papers have been provided for review by participants at: Commonwealth's Third Global Biennial Conference on Small States Work-space³. Draft reports will be presented to the Conference for comment and will be amended in the light of discussions. Sessions include presentations from others that are involved in resilience building efforts across the different pillars and there will also be opportunities to hear about relevant work taking place across the Commonwealth Secretariat and related organisations.

This year is particularly significant for small states. The International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was launched in New York in February, and the Commonwealth Secretariat is proud to convene this meeting in collaboration with the Government of Saint Lucia in honour of the International Year of SIDS. Finally, the Conference provides an opportune moment to review priorities for small states for the SIDS 2014 Conference and in the post-2015 development framework in the context of resilience building. It includes panel discussions and opportunities to highlight priorities to be taken forward.

Expected Outcomes

We envisage the Conference developing an outcome statement that will contain key messages from our smaller member states to be brought to the attention of the international community. Participants are therefore, asked to consider which elements should be included in

an outcomes statement from the Conference that will highlight recommendations and specific actions that the Conference recommends be taken by small states, the Commonwealth and the wider international community to address particular concerns of small states.

The Commonwealth Secretariat will publish and disseminate the final outcomes of the studies commissioned based on the inputs from participants, discussions at the meeting and external expert review.

The papers prepared by the Technical Working Group (TWG) will also be finalised and published as a volume of papers on resilience building in small states.

³ Participants will be invited to join this work-space after registering for the Conference.

Day One: Wednesday 26 March, 2014	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:45	Opening Session
	<p>Facilitator: Deodat Maharaj, Deputy Secretary-General, Commonwealth Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Welcome Remarks</i> HE Kamallesh Sharma, Secretary-General, Commonwealth Secretariat • <i>Welcome Remarks</i> Hon. Alva Baptiste, Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Aviation, Saint Lucia • <i>Opening Address</i> Hon Dr Kenny D Anthony, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs, Planning and Social Security, Saint Lucia
09:45 – 10:15	Break (Group Photograph)
10:15 – 12:15	Session 1: A Policy Framework for Building Resilience
	<p>In this session, delegates will explore the key requirements for building resilience and discuss the priority areas for policy intervention at the national level, and for support by development partners. They will hear a presentation on the Commonwealth's approach on resilience building, as well as a model that is being used by UNDESA for national assessments. This session is the key scene-setter for the Conference. It provides an opportunity for delegates to come to a collective understanding of terms and approaches, and explore the full range of experiences, issues and challenges with resilience building that will be explored in greater depth in the coming days.</p> <p>There will be two presentations. One by Lino Briguglio on the model of resilience building used by the Commonwealth, and a second by UNDESA which is applying resilience building profiling in SIDS. This is followed by a discussion on the key drivers of resilience building and approaches to its analysis.</p> <p>Facilitator: Hon Aaron Cook, Minister for Commerce, Industry and Environment, Nauru (tbc)</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Revised Resilience Framework for Small States</i> Professor Lino Briguglio, Member of the TWG & Consultant, The Commonwealth • <i>Resilience Profiling in Selected in SIDS</i> Nikhil Seth, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, UNDESA <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Norma Fevrier, Economist, National Development Section, Ministry of Finance, Saint Lucia • Honourable Pierre La Porte, Minister of Finance, Seychelles • Christophe Legrand, Indian Ocean Commission
12:15 – 13:30	Lunch

13:30 – 15:30	Session 2: A Closer Look at Challenges to Resilience I
	<p>Debt Challenges and Solutions for Small States</p> <p>Despite debt restructuring operations undertaken by indebted Commonwealth small states most continue to face high and unsustainable debt burdens. This implies that existing mechanisms are not sufficient to deliver the volume of relief needed to contain small states' debt issues. Moreover, as most of the major donors grapple with slow economic growth, there appears to be no appetite for debt relief. However, it is evident that resolving the escalating situation in small states requires some form of debt relief as a number of small states show non-negligible risks of debt default.</p> <p>The objective of this session is to focus on non-traditional solutions for helping small states address their high debt burdens, against a background of the need to build resilience in small states. Participants will examine innovative ways of providing small states with urgent and necessary debt relief. Debt for climate change adaptation and mitigation swaps is an initiative that marries small states indebtedness with their need for finance for climate change adaptation and mitigation given their high environmental vulnerability.</p> <p>Facilitator: <i>Honourable Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister, St. Kitts and Nevis</i></p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Some Options for Tackling Debt in Small States</i> Travis Mitchell, Economic Adviser, Commonwealth Secretariat • <i>Debt swaps: Some Consideration</i> Zeinab Partow, Senior Economist, World Bank • <i>Debt Swaps in Action: The Case of Seychelles</i> Robert Weary, Director, Nature Conservancy, and Honourable Pierre La Porte, Minister of Finance, Seychelles <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honourable Pierre La Porte, Minister of Finance, Seychelles • Jeffrey Lewis, Director of Debt Management, World Bank • Genevieve Verdier, Debt Policy Division, IMF • Ian Durant, Deputy Director, Economics and Planning, Caribbean Development Bank
15:30 – 15:45	Break
15:45 – 17:30	Session 3: A Closer Look at Challenges to Resilience II
	<p>A Governance Structure for Building Resilience</p> <p>The evidence points to effective governance as one of the key requirements for building resilience. In this context, governance is defined as the whole of public as well as private interactions taken to solve societal problems and create societal opportunities, and captures the formulation and application of principles guiding those interactions and care for institutions that enable them.</p> <p>This session explores the link between governance and resilience building, and discusses options for policy-makers in small states to strengthen their governance framework given their limited human and financial resources.</p> <p>Facilitator: <i>Hon Abdulla Jihad, Minister of Finance and Treasury, Maldives</i></p>

	<p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Developing a Governance Assessment Framework</i> Jean-Paul Fabri, Member of the TWG & Consultant, The Commonwealth • <i>Governance Capacity Resilience Model for Small Island States in the Caribbean</i> Matthew Bishop and Nelson Oppong, Consultants, The Commonwealth <p>Q & A</p>
18:30 – 20:00	<p>Commonwealth Welcome Reception and Book Launch: Transitioning to a Green Economy: Political Economy of Approaches in Small States</p>
	<p>During the evening's reception, there will be a launch of the Commonwealth Secretariat's book on Transitioning to a Green Economy. The case studies were a focus for discussion at the last Small States Biennial meeting.</p>
Day Two: Thursday 27 March, 2014	
09:00 – 11:30	<p>Session 4: A Closer Look at Challenges to Resilience III</p>
09:00-10:30	<p>This session will be run as two concurrent sessions on: (4.1) environmental resource management; and (4.2) policies in support of social resilience. Delegates are asked to choose one of these sessions, and will have indicated preferences at the time of registration to help us determine room allocations.</p> <p>4.1 Environmental Resource Management and Climate Resilience in Small States</p> <p>The aim of this session is to identify and examine priority actions in resilience building in regard to environmental resource management regimes and institutions in small states. The exposure of small states to external shocks from environmental disasters, and the deeply integrated nature of small states' economies, social wellbeing and the natural resource base, make this an important element of the resilience building framework.</p> <p>Small states are increasing seeing their future development through the effective management, development and use of their marine resources. This session will also include a specific discussion on governance structures and arrangements for ocean resources at the national and regional levels.</p> <p>Facilitator: <i>Hon. Dr. Kenneth Darroux, Minister of Environment, Dominica</i></p> <p>Presentations:</p> <p><i>The Environment and Building Resilience</i> Derrick Oderson, Consultant, The Commonwealth</p> <p><i>The Management of Ocean Resources in Small States</i> Rosemarie Cadogan, Legal Adviser, The Commonwealth</p> <p>Q & A</p> <p>4.2 Appropriate Policies in Support of Social Resilience Building in Small States</p> <p>A critical factor in resilience is the extent to which relations within a society enable an economy to recover from, or adjust to the negative impacts of external shocks, or allow the effective functioning of the economy and society in the face of frequent shocks without the hindrance of civil unrest. Social development can also indicate the extent to which effective social dialogue takes place in an economy which, in turn, would enable collaborative approaches towards the undertaking of corrective measures in the face of adverse shocks.</p>

	<p>This session will explore appropriate social policy responses for resilience building in small states and consider how to strengthen the social framework to enable small states to cope with shocks.</p> <p>Facilitator: <i>Sinama Tupou, Principal Assistant Secretary, Community Development Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs Tonga</i></p> <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Social Aspects of Resilience Building</i> Dr Godfrey St Bernard, Consultant, The Commonwealth <p>Q & A</p>
10:30 – 11:30	<p>The Way Forward: Advancing Resilience Building in Small States</p> <p>This session will focus on distilling the key next steps in advancing the work in a framework for building resilience in small states arising from the discussions during the conference.</p> <p>Facilitator: <i>Dr Cyrus Rustomjee - Director, Economic Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat</i></p>
11:30 – 12:00	Break
12:00 – 13:00	Session 5: Key Stakeholders In Development
	<p>This section will be run as two concurrent sessions, as follows:</p> <p>5.1 Building Resilience in Small States: The Role of Youth and Education (Youth Affairs Division, The Commonwealth and Commonwealth of Learning)</p> <p>The role and contribution of young people in building resilience in small states is often not included in policy discussions when examining the solutions to the challenges of small states. However, young people have a critical role, not only as beneficiaries or a target group, but as partners and leaders in the building resilience at the community and national levels. In helping to shape the policy recommendations that will guide resilience efforts in small states, as well as in leading practical sustainable development efforts, young people are investing in their own future. Being a part of these processes will ensure greater ownership, mutual co-operation and responsibility on the part of young people going forward.</p> <p>This presentation will share the some of the key benefits for involving young people in these processes and share some policy recommendations agreed by over 800 young people from 18 Caribbean Countries. The presentation will highlight the kind of future the young people would like to inherit and go further to discuss the kinds of policy actions to that will build resilience.</p> <p>Facilitator: <i>Abiel M Lekulo, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Ministry of Social Development, Lesotho</i></p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rianna Gonzales, National Coordinator, Caribbean Youth Environment Network. (A member of the Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network) and Ayesha Constable, Researcher, University of West Indies, Mona, Jamaica. • <i>Capacity Building: The Road to Resilience</i> John Lesperance, Commonwealth of Learning <p>Q & A</p>

	<p>5.2 A Civil Society View of the Priorities for the Post 2015 Agenda: Building Economic Resilience through the Green Economy (The Commonwealth Foundation).</p> <p>The concept of the green economy has gained recent currency as a formula for economic growth which is both ecologically and people friendly; thus emphasizing the complementarities which could exist between economic development and the environment. For small states, green growth should be at the centre of the post 2015 framework that will rethink Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and consider Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to enable them green their development strategies, halt environmental degradation and address their current challenges.</p> <p>This session will explore the green economy, in the context, of the post 2015 framework, as an applicable concept for helping small states build economic resilience in the context of sustainable development. In particular, the panel will explore whether the green economy offers sufficient scope for economic expansion in the small states and secondly, whether it provides scope for inclusive growth.</p> <p>Facilitator: Cletus Springer, Director, Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States (OAS)</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Green Economy as an inclusive growth strategy for building resilience</i> Loïza Rauzduel, CANARI • <i>Conceptualizing economic growth within a green economy framework</i> Gordon Bishpam, Caribbean Policy Development Centre <p>Q & A</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 -15:30	Session 6: Panel Discussion
	<p>SIDS 2014: Key Steps in Building Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development</p> <p>The purpose of this session is to examine priorities for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing Countries (Samoa, September 2014) and the post 2015 development agenda, in securing effective outcomes for small states and strengthened support for their sustainable development.</p> <p>The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) 2014 serves to focus international attention on the sustainable development challenges of SIDS and seek renewed political commitment by all countries to effectively address the special needs and vulnerabilities of SIDS; and focus on practical and pragmatic actions in this regard. It will also identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS for consideration, as appropriate, in the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda.</p> <p>Panellists will address the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are your views of the Conference and the extent to which it will achieve its stated objective? 2. What 3-5 proposals do you think should be included? 3. How can we build momentum and political will? 4. How do you think we get the IFIs involved in the process, since the financing for development framework will be important?

	<p>5. In your opinion, what are the priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS for consideration, as appropriate, in the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda?</p> <p>6. What do you think should happen post SIDS 2014?</p> <p>Facilitator: <i>Deodat Maharaj, Deputy Secretary-General, Commonwealth Secretariat</i></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nikhil Seth, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, UNDESA • Hon Alva Baptiste, Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Aviation, Saint Lucia • Hon Jean Paul Adam, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Seychelles • Dr Ali Naseer Mohamed, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maldives • Tupaimatuna Iulai Lavea, CEO, Ministry of Finance, Samoa
15:30 – 15:45	Break
15:45 – 17:00	Closing Session
	<p>Summary of Outcomes: Deodat Maharaj, Deputy Secretary-General, Commonwealth Secretariat</p> <p>Closing Remarks: Hon Alva Baptiste, Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Aviation, Saint Lucia</p> <p>Vote of Thanks: Dr Cyrus Rustomjee, Director, Economic Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat</p>
18:00 – 20:00	<p>Farewell Cocktail Reception Hosted by the Government of Saint Lucia</p>

Participants of GBCSS

Country/Organisation	Nominee	Job Title
Commonwealth Countries		
Antigua and Barbuda	Nadia Spencer-Henry	Debt Manager, Ministry of Finance
Barbados	Bertram Johnson	Ministry of Finance
Bahamas	Frank Davis	First Assistant Secretary, Head of Economic Affairs & Technical Assistance Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration
	Arthur Rolle	Ministry of the Environment and Housing
Botswana	HE Roy Blackbeard	High Commissioner to the United Kingdom
Dominica	Hon Dr Kenneth Darroux	Minister for Environment, Natural Resources, Physical Planning and Fisheries
Grenada	Simon Stiell	Senator
Guyana	Navin Chandarpal	Adviser to the President on Sustainable Development, Science and Technology
Jamaica	Everton McFarlane	Chief Economist, Economic Policy Co-ordination and Development Planning, Ministry of Finance and Planning
	Hon AJ Nicholson	Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
	Janice Miller	Under Secretary Multilateral Affairs
Lesotho	Abiel Mothibakhoro Lekulo	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
	Tebello Metsing	Principal Secretary, Foreign Affairs and International Relations
	Felleng Makeka	High Commissioner of Lesotho in London
	Itumeleng Rafutho	Director, Europe and Americas
Maldives	Dr Ali Naseer Mohamed	Foreign Secretary
	Ahmed Sareer	Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations
	Hon Abdulla Jihad	Minister of Finance and Treasury
Malta	Christine Pace	Director Global Issues, MFA
Mauritius	Dr Streevarsen Narrainen	Senior Adviser, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Namibia	Hon Peya Mushelenga	Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Country/Organisation	Nominee	Job Title
Namibia	HE Steve V Katjuuanjo	High Commissioner
	Elina Ndadi	Foreign Relations Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Berenice Dentlinger	First Secretary, High Commission of Namibia
Nauru	Hon Aaron Cook	Minister for Commerce, Industry and Environment
New Zealand	Phillip Taula	Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations
Papua New Guinea	Ambassador Lucy Bogari	Deputy Secretary (Policy), Department of Foreign Affairs
	Joseph Turia	Acting First Assistant Secretary (Policy), Department of National Planning
	Fred Sarufa	Councillor, PNG Permanent Mission to the United Nations
	Adam Maruru	Foreign Service Officer, Commonwealth Desk, Department of Foreign Affairs
Samoa	Iulai Lavea	CEO, Ministry of Finance
Seychelles	Jean Paul Adam	Minister of Foreign Affairs
	Rebecca Loustau	First Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Minister Pierre Laporte	Minister of Finance
Sri Lanka	Hon Navin Dissanayake	Minister of Public Management Reforms
	Waruna Sri Dhanapala	Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the UN in New York
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Lavern Queeley	Director of Economic Affairs and Public Sector Investment Planning (PSIP)
	Rt Hon Dr Denzil L Douglas	Prime Minister
Saint Lucia	Hon Dr Kenny D Anthony	Prime Minister
	Dr Allison Plummer	Permanent Secretary Prime Minister Office
	Hon Alva Baptiste	Minister of External Affairs International Trade and Aviation
	Mr Hubert Emmanuel	Permanent Secretary
	Dr Vaughn Lewis	Special Adviser to the Minister of External Affairs International Trade and Aviation
	Neranda Morris	Sustainable Development Officer
	Lisa Phillip	Economic Partnership Agreement Co-ordinator
	Virginie Sealeys	Caribbean Youth Environmental Network

Country/Organisation	Nominee	Job Title
Saint Lucia	Shonari Clarke	Foreign Service Officer
	Dr Reginald Darius	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance
	John Calixte	Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs and National Development
Saint Vincent & The Grenadines	Senator the Hon Camillo Gonsalves	Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Commerce and Information Technology
Swaziland	Thembisile Margaret Mkoko	Acting Principal Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs
Tonga	Sinama Tupou	Principal Assistant Secretary, Community Development Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs
Trinidad & Tobago	Peter Mitchell	Assistant Director, Socio-Economic Policy Planning
Tuvalu	Aunese Makoi Simati	Ambassador to UN Mission
Vanuatu	Moana Saipai Timakata	Senior Desk Officer of the United Nations Division with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade
British and Overseas Territories		
Anguilla	Aidan Harrigan	Permanent Secretary, Finance
British Virgin Islands/ OCTA	Ronald Smith-Berkeley	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour
Gibraltar	Hon Gilbert Licudi QC MP	Minister for Education, Telecommunications and Justice
	Ernest Gomez	Chief Secretary
Falkland Islands	Emily Hancox	Special Advisor
	Hon Ian Hansen	Deputy on the Natural Resources Portfolio
International Organisations		
CARICOM Secretariat	Garfield Barnwell	Director, Sustainable Development
	Evelyn Wayne	Director, Macroeconomic and Trade Policy Co-ordination
CDB	Ian Durant	Deputy Director
CCRIF	Elizabeth Emanuel	Corporate Communications, Technical Assistance
CLGF	Tipu Feue	Governance Manager
Commonwealth of Learning	John Lesperance	Education Specialist for the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	Simon Smith	Desk Officer, Prosperity, Links with EU and Wider World

Country/Organisation	Nominee	Job Title
Indian Ocean Commission	Raj Mohabeer	Chargé de Mission
	Christophe Legrand	Responsable du projet/Spécialiste en développement durable
International Trade Centre	Matthew Wilson	Chief Adviser
International Monetary Fund	Christopher Lane	Division Chief Strategy, Policy and Review Department
OAS	Cletus Springer	Director
Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States	Virginia Paul	Head of the OECS Trade Policy Desk
United Nations	Nikhil Seth	Director, Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Caribbean Policy Development Centre	Shantal Munto Knight	Executive Coordinator
CANARI	Loiza Rauzduel	Technical Officer
Caribbean Policy Development Centre	Gordon Bishpam	Technical Adviser to SIDS Working Group
Ole Siosiomaga Society Incorporated (OLSSI)	Fiu Mata'ese Elisara	Director
Development Indian Ocean Network	Hemsingh Hurrynag	Secretary General
SOS Malta	Claudia Taylor-East	Chief Executive
University of The West Indies	Evan Duggan	Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor of Management Information Systems
The World Bank	Janet Harris	Alternative Executive Director
	Zeinab Partow	Senior Economist
	Jeffrey Lewis	Director
Resource Persons		
University of Malta	Jean Paul Fabri	Consultant
	Professor Lino Briguglio	Professor, Economics Department, University of Malta
University of The West Indies		Dr Godfrey St Bernard
The Nature Conservancy	Robert Weary	Director
Caribbean Invest	Derrick Oderson	Consultant
Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre	Dr Mark Bynoe	Senior Environment Economist
SPREP	Kosi Latu	Deputy Director General

Country/Organisation	Nominee	Job Title
CMC	Nicole Best	Journalist
	Fernella Wedderburn	Journalist
Commonwealth Secretariat	Ayesha Constable	Consultant
	Rianna Gonzales	Consultant
	Mr Jawahar L Narayan	Consultant/ Technical Adviser, Planning
	Matthew Bishop	Consultant
	Nelson Oppong	Consultant
	David Smith	Consultant
Commonwealth Secretariat		
Commonwealth Secretariat	HE Kamalesh Sharma	Secretary-General
	Deodat Maharaj	Deputy Secretary-General
	Simon Gimson	Director
	Ram Venuprasad	Head of Secretariat Office
	Dr Cyrus Rustomjee	Director
	Janet Strachan	Adviser & Head, Small States, Environment & Economic Division
	Joan Imhoff-Nwasike	Head of Thematic Programmes Group
	Dr Denny Lewis-Bynoe	Economic Adviser
	Travis Mitchell	Economic Adviser
	Wonderful Hope Khonje	Economic Officer
	Julius Mucunguzi	Communications Officer
	Anna Halton	Research Officer
	Heather Cover-Kus	Research Officer
	Frederick Onadeko	Camera Operator/Video Editor
	Aimé Sindayigaya	Research Officer
	Rosemarie Cadogan	Legal Adviser, SASD

Commonwealth Secretariat

Marlborough House, Pall Mall
London SW1Y 5HX
United Kingdom

thecommonwealth.org



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