

# Introduction

When the Commonwealth Secretariat published the first edition of *Commonwealth Organisations* in 1977 it did so to meet the growing need for information about the extent of non-governmental activity in the Commonwealth and to promote co-operation among unofficial organisations with related interests, and between them and the official Commonwealth.

The handbook has served both purposes well and has now been completely revised and slightly expanded to meet a continuing need for up-to-date information about the many official and unofficial organisations active within, and in some cases beyond, the Commonwealth.

The information used has in almost all cases been provided by the organisations themselves and has been edited with care to avoid inaccuracies and ambiguity as far as that is possible. Inevitably, some organisations are omitted because information was not available.

The Commonwealth Secretariat is most appreciative of the help and advice received from many organisations and individuals, and of the excellent response to requests for new and revised information. It hopes that comments, additions and amendments will be offered with equal readiness.