

Foreword

This publication is the outcome of collaboration between the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. It arose as a result of a growing interest from the annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Small States Conference to discuss more in-depth issues of current concern to small jurisdictions. In the last decade, the Conference has concentrated on discussing the challenges that Small States face in overcoming their vulnerability and developing competitive economies in an increasingly liberal, global economy. The Commonwealth Secretariat has been invited to participate in these annual conferences by making presentations about its ongoing work on Small States.

Most chapters in the book examine the efforts and challenges of managing democracy and promoting economic development in small jurisdictions. The main message arising from the chapters is that although Small States remain vulnerable to a number of forces, there are nevertheless good prospects; that given good governance, effective macroeconomic policies, as well as support and recognition of their challenges from the global community, these countries can overcome these vulnerabilities. Small States also have the potential to develop viable and sustainable economies, exploiting the appropriate resources that exist in each of them. The book makes the case that for Small States to make this transition they would require effective support from the global community on a sustainable basis. The Commonwealth Secretariat has been for many years an advocate for the need for this sustained support.

I believe that the collection of papers in this book adds to that needed advocacy for Small States and will make a useful contribution to policymaking in Small States and the global community that supports them.

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