

2015 Valetta, Malta

27–29 November 2015

Commonwealth Heads of Government Leaders' Statement

Commonwealth Leaders' Statement on Climate Action

Final Communiqué

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Commonwealth Heads of Government Leaders' Statement

1. We met in Malta from 27 to 29 November 2015 for our Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). In a year of exceptional global challenges and opportunities, our summit convened under the theme 'The Commonwealth: adding global value', with the aim of addressing issues of common concern and bringing tangible benefits to our citizens.
2. We discussed peace and security, especially the fight against radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism, which are worldwide threats. We condemn terrorism and violence by extremist groups, which often target vulnerable groups and individuals. These threats should not be associated with any particular religion, race, nationality or ethnicity.
3. We agreed that such threats must be countered through strong national, regional and international action and co-operation. We renewed our commitment to implementing national strategies to counter threats and to support each other. We agreed that it is imperative to counter the use of the internet by extremist groups to radicalise and recruit fighters. We call upon all member governments to implement fully their obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2178 (2014).
4. We recognise the particular role that can be played by the Commonwealth, including through implementing the recommendations of the Commonwealth report *Civil Paths to Peace*, and we are committed to harnessing the potential of the full family of Commonwealth governments and organisations in a co-ordinated way.
5. We welcome the newly established Commonwealth Countering Violent Extremism Unit and mandate it to advance the Commonwealth's role in international efforts to counter extremism, especially through civil society networks and education.
6. 2015 has been a year of global achievements, especially with regard to sustainable development for all. Our discussion was inspired by the clear links between the values of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the values of the Commonwealth Charter, both of which affirm that human rights, the rule of law, accountable institutions at all levels and the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies are essential for sustainable development.
7. We welcomed the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These show the commitment of all world leaders to addressing the challenge of financing and the need to create an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity. We recognised the economic potential that can be unlocked by tackling discrimination and exclusion. We reaffirmed our commitment to supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and agreed to support a strong role for the Commonwealth in championing its implementation.

8. We highlighted the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. We also recognised that the development of a sustainably managed blue economy offers significant opportunities for economic growth and general development for many Commonwealth member countries.
9. Migration, if properly harnessed and managed, can deliver economic and social benefits that improve the resilience and prosperity of Commonwealth member countries. We underlined the importance of safe, orderly and regular migration and of ensuring full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of all migrants, as well as refugees and displaced persons. We agreed to enhance national and international efforts to address the causes of irregular migration. We are deeply concerned by the increase in flows of refugees, asylum seekers and irregular migrants, which entails suffering, abuse and exploitation, particularly for children and women, and unacceptable loss of life. We also acknowledge that the worsening impacts of climate change will increase climate-induced migration and note the need to formulate appropriate response mechanisms to address this. We are committed to responding decisively, guided by the principles of solidarity, partnership and shared responsibility. We noted the outcomes of the recent Valletta Summit on Migration and call on all concerned to work towards enduring solutions.
10. With our CHOGM taking place on the eve of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), climate change featured high on our agenda. We met in a special executive session to discuss climate action, recognising the leadership exercised historically by the Commonwealth on this urgent and pressing issue, and we adopted the Commonwealth Leaders' Statement on Climate Action.
11. We are conscious that 31 of our members are small states, which have their own particular strengths and opportunities, as well as vulnerabilities, in addressing today's global challenges, especially climate change. We welcome and encourage the continuing support of the Commonwealth, including advocacy and technical assistance, to support small states in building their resilience, advancing growth and prosperity, and creating a better future for their citizens.
12. In taking note of the reports of the four pre-CHOGM forums, we thank all concerned for their contribution to our summit and particularly welcome the first Women's Forum. We recognise the valuable role that civil society organisations (CSOs) can play in advancing Commonwealth values and principles.
13. Young people, who comprise 60 per cent of the Commonwealth's population, have an important role in building stable, secure and prosperous societies. We undertook to promote youth participation in national development and peace-building.
14. Corruption is a significant challenge facing the world today. We agreed to work together to strengthen international, regional and national responses to

corruption, including through enhanced transparency and collaboration among law enforcement bodies. The Commonwealth is doing important work to address corruption, and this should be strengthened in future.

15. We reaffirmed our shared and enduring commitment to the values and principles of the Commonwealth Charter. We are dedicated to achieving continued renewal of the Commonwealth as an association of governments and peoples, and a rich diversity of organisations that support them. With this in mind, we agreed to launch the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub, the Commonwealth Trade Finance Facility and the Commonwealth Small States Centre of Excellence. We are convinced that these will add value, enhancing the Commonwealth's relevance and practical impact.
16. During our summit, a number of us dedicated our attention to the fight against poliomyelitis. Since 1988, polio cases have decreased by over 99 per cent. This is a remarkable achievement, but more needs to be done to make polio the second disease in human history to be eradicated. To this end, we agreed that accelerated action and renewed financial support are needed to eradicate polio.
17. We are deeply grateful for the warm and generous hospitality extended by the President, the Prime Minister, the Government and the people of Malta.
18. We adopt herewith the annexed communiqué, which records the full breadth of matters addressed during our meeting.

Malta

29 November 2015

Commonwealth Leaders' Statement on Climate Action

1. We, the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth's 53 member countries¹ represent in our diverse national circumstances and common purpose one third of the world's population spread across all continents and oceans. Our countries include some of the largest, smallest, wealthiest, poorest and most vulnerable on the planet. We represent more than one quarter of the parties to the UNFCCC. Over half of us are least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) or both.
2. We are deeply concerned about the threat posed by climate change, which continues to grow and to put at risk the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of our member countries and citizens. Many of our most vulnerable states and communities are already facing the adverse impacts of climate change, which can roll back decades of development gains; for some, it represents an existential threat. Some are already suffering significant loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. The consequences of climate change can be a national catastrophe requiring urgent responses and adequate support.

3. We recall the historical initiative by our host, Malta, in 1988 that resulted in the UN General Assembly recognising that 'climate change is a common concern of mankind, since climate is an essential condition which sustains life on earth' and the launching of the UNFCCC. We also recall past Commonwealth leaders' deliberations and statements including the 1989 Langkawi Declaration on the Environment and the 2009 Port of Spain Climate Change Consensus: The Commonwealth Climate Change Declaration.
4. We recognise that, in our different ways and in varying proportions, our countries have all been contributing to climate change. At the same time, it is equally clear that LDCs and SIDS are bearing a disproportionate burden from the impacts of climate change. We are now mobilising global and national efforts to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2°C or 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and to achieve sustainable economic and technological transformation, both in mitigation and adaptation.
5. We recognise the scientific assessments by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, especially in its recent Fifth Assessment Report, of the nature and scale of the challenge and of the pathways to address it effectively. We also recognise the need to accelerate and intensify efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change in order to ensure sustainable and climate-resilient development.
6. In the current global effort to address climate change under the UNFCCC, Commonwealth member countries have submitted, as of 28 November 2015, 50 intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs), whose mitigation components cover 17 per cent of global emissions of greenhouse gases. We recognise that the aggregate impact of the INDCs submitted by parties to the UNFCCC is an important advance on business as usual. The collective ambition of mitigation efforts will need to be enhanced over time, with appropriate means of implementation, to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2°C or 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and to keep climate resilience within reach. To demonstrate our commitment to global leadership, we declare that each of our nationally determined contributions registered in connection with the entry into force in 2020 of the expected Paris Agreement will be at least as ambitious as the corresponding intended contribution.
7. We are committed to working towards an ambitious, equitable, inclusive, balanced, rules-based and durable outcome of the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP21) that includes a legally binding agreement in the form of a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the UNFCCC applicable to all parties, reflecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances. Such an outcome, joined and implemented by all parties, should put the global community on track towards low-emission and climate-resilient societies and economies.

8. In keeping with the theme of our meeting, ‘The Commonwealth: adding global value’, and as an essential contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we shall work together and with all other parties to achieve an outcome of COP21 that will:
- a) stimulate sustainable economic growth and facilitate technology development and transfer, sharing of knowledge and information, and capacity-building support to developing countries, notably in the energy sector, ensuring the spread of climate-friendly prosperity with energy security;
 - b) give a clear signal of the need for deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions through mid-century and beyond, informed by the latest science, recognising that this challenge can only be met by an urgent global response in accordance with UNFCCC processes;
 - c) encourage nationally determined measures aimed at:
 - i. promoting shifts to renewable, clean and low-emission energy and discouraging wasteful consumption of fossil fuels, including through appropriate incentives and phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies over the medium term, taking account of the aims of poverty eradication, and
 - ii. promoting long-term low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways;
 - d) support vulnerable states and communities in building their capacity for resilience and adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change, particularly rising sea levels, desertification and extreme weather events, recognising climate-related loss and damage as an important issue that needs to be addressed;
 - e) encourage public and private finance from traditional and innovative sources to fund national and international actions that address climate change through adaptation and mitigation;
 - f) mobilise transparent and accessible public finance from developed countries, with the option of complementary support from other countries, to help developing countries implement plans for adaptation and mitigation, taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of developing countries and communities that are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change;
 - g) ensure a robust and facilitative system for accountability and transparency for all aspects of nationally determined contributions, reflecting national circumstances and capabilities, and provide for periodic and regular reviews of collective progress with a view to increasing ambition over time; and
 - h) accord equal importance to mitigation and adaptation.

9. We underline the importance of practical and swift action to reinforce outcomes from COP21, especially for climate-vulnerable states and communities.
10. The developed Commonwealth countries reaffirm their commitment to playing their part in mobilising US\$100 billion per annum by 2020 to address the adaptation and mitigation needs of developing countries, in the context of meaningful mitigation actions, drawing on a wide variety of sources.
11. Our Commonwealth Charter describes the protection of the environment as one of our fundamental values and recognises common action and inclusiveness amongst our fundamental principles. We are, therefore, especially committed to encouraging and welcoming contributions to the required solutions by all concerned. Climate change demands a multinational and multi-stakeholder approach, including in mobilising means for implementation of global and national actions. This includes but is not limited to local, national and regional governments, regional and international organisations, the private sector, the voluntary and not-for-profit sector, professional bodies and civil society, and individual citizens.
12. We welcome the efforts already in hand by the Commonwealth to strengthen access to existing and new climate finance for small and other climate-vulnerable states, including the new initiative of a Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub, and encourage the mobilisation of resources for the Hub. We also welcome the Commonwealth Green Finance Facility initiative, which will explore options for mobilising private finance to help fund sustainable infrastructure projects across the Commonwealth. We applaud the creation of the pioneering global Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network (CYCN) and the commitment and contributions of this network and other Commonwealth partners to the realisation of our collective aspirations and to sharing responsibility by all for securing climate stability and safety to the benefit of present and future generations.
13. We express our appreciation to the special guests who have joined us at our Special Session on Climate Action, pledge our support to France as host of COP21 in delivering a successful and ambitious outcome and request that the Prime Minister of Malta, Commonwealth Chair-in-Office, deliver this message of Commonwealth ambition and determination to COP21.

Final Communiqué

1. Commonwealth Heads of Government convened in Malta from 27 to 29 November 2015 under the theme ‘The Commonwealth: adding global value’. They reaffirmed their shared and enduring commitment on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth to the values and principles of the Commonwealth Charter. In a year of exceptional global challenges and opportunities, Heads addressed issues such as climate change, sustainable development, trade and investment, migration, and countering violent extremism and radicalisation. They also deliberated on safeguarding the interests of Commonwealth small states and emphasised that the unique nature of the Commonwealth adds value in responding to contemporary global challenges.

Peace and Security

2. Heads of Government affirmed that radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism in all their forms and ramifications are serious threats to the whole world, including the Commonwealth and its peoples, undermining its values and aspirations, international peace and security, social harmony, and economic and social development. Heads condemned terrorism and abhorrent violence by extremist groups – including in many Commonwealth countries – which often target vulnerable groups, as well as women and children. They noted with deep concern the growing trend of extremism and radicalisation globally and that foreign fighters, including from Commonwealth countries, continue to join terrorist and other extremist groups. They also agreed that it is imperative to counter the use of the internet by extremist groups to radicalise and recruit.
3. Heads underlined that such threats, which should not be associated with any particular religion, race, nationality or ethnicity, must be countered through strong national, regional and international action and co-operation. This could include partnerships between governments, civil society, the business community and others. They called upon all member governments to implement in full their obligations under UNSCR 2178 (2014).
4. Heads reaffirmed the relevance of Commonwealth solutions, including recommendations in the Commonwealth report *Civil Paths to Peace*, on ways of addressing, through education and the media, the conditions conducive to grievance and alienation, with a particular focus on women and young people. Heads renewed their commitment to implementing national strategies to counter radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism, and agreed to support each other, including by developing effective counter-narratives and by sharing practical prevention and criminal justice best practices. They encouraged the implementation of the *Civil Paths to Peace* report's recommendations, and undertook to explore new options, including the creation of dedicated Commonwealth capacity, and to harness the assets and potential of the full family of Commonwealth governments and organisations in a co-ordinated way.
5. Heads recognised in this context that young people, who comprise 60 per cent of the Commonwealth's population, have an important role in building stable, secure and prosperous societies, and that Commonwealth programmes can help raise awareness of the risk of radicalisation and prevent young people from embracing violent extremism, radicalisation and terrorism in all their forms and ramifications. They undertook to promote youth participation in national development and peace-building and to encourage partnership activity with Commonwealth youth networks to help counter the appeal of violent extremism.
6. Heads acknowledged the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), and the signing and ratification of the treaty by many Commonwealth member countries. They underscored that the illicit trade in conventional weapons, such as small arms and light weapons, contributes to human rights abuses, violations of international humanitarian law and breaches of national security through its

connection with and support to the illicit drugs trade and border encroachment; leads to conflict and instability; and hinders social and economic development. Heads invited those countries that wish to become states parties to do so, and urged states parties to the treaty to implement it fully.

Human Rights and Good Governance

7. Heads of Government acknowledged that all human rights are equal, indivisible, interdependent, interrelated and universal, and urged members to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
8. Heads recognised that freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and freedom of religion or belief are cornerstones of democratic societies, and important for the enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to development, and are fundamental to achieving the SDGs. Heads reaffirmed their commitment to the realisation of the economic, social and cultural rights of all and the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living. They emphasised the need to protect individuals from all forms of violence and discrimination. Heads recognised the need to adopt legal frameworks that promote privacy rights and to ensure an open and secure internet as well as data protection in accordance with the national laws of the states concerned. They resolved to encourage the development of practical networks that facilitate the sharing of information and building of capacity in these areas.
9. Heads observed that good governance and respect for the rule of law are vital for stable and prosperous societies and for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and that they require efficient, effective and accountable public institutions that serve all citizens and provide access to justice for all. They encouraged continued efforts by member countries to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels and to enable and protect a free and vibrant civil society. In this regard, Heads noted recent Commonwealth publications of best practices on the appointment, tenure and removal from office of judges, as well as on the establishment of national human rights institutions; they likewise noted the forthcoming publication of Commonwealth best practice on the establishment of national election management bodies. Heads also noted best practices and capacity-building in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process; parliamentary oversight, including of public finance management and accountability; the independence and sustainability of judiciaries; the implementation of election observation missions; support to national election management bodies and national human rights institutions; and national anti-corruption efforts. In this context, Heads noted the establishment of the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees as a network for strengthening public financial management and accountability, these being vital in maintaining the trust of citizens and the integrity of governments and legislatures. Heads noted and recognised the work of the Commonwealth in advocating anti-corruption efforts.

Migration

10. Heads of Government observed that migration, if properly harnessed and managed, can deliver economic and social benefits that improve the resilience and prosperity of Commonwealth member countries. Heads underlined the importance of safe, orderly and regular migration and of ensuring full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants, regardless of their migration status, and of refugees and displaced persons. Heads also observed that the world is facing exceptional levels of displacement of people and that this increases and exacerbates complex humanitarian challenges. They agreed to support efforts to achieve an ambitious World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016.
11. Heads agreed to enhance national and international efforts to address the causes of irregular migration, including prevention and abatement of conflict and violent extremism and terrorism; eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable economic development; strengthening the rule of law; nurturing inclusive and pluralist political systems; combating organised crime, human trafficking and people smuggling, and modern-day slavery; and reinforcing respect for human rights. Heads stressed the importance of international co-operation and adherence to international law as applicable in regard to migration. Heads invited those states that wish to become states parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families to do so, and urged states parties to the treaty to implement it fully.
12. Heads noted the outcome documents of the Valletta Conference on Migration and called on all stakeholders to work towards a lasting solution to this global issue.

Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group

13. Heads adopted the Report of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) and noted the group's efforts to implement its strengthened mandate that was agreed by Heads in 2011. Recognising the important role played by CMAG in safeguarding the Commonwealth's fundamental political values, Heads encouraged CMAG to take further steps to implement this strengthened mandate.
14. Heads agreed that the following member governments should serve on CMAG for the next two years: the Republic of Cyprus, Guyana, India, Kenya, Namibia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Solomon Islands and Malta (ex officio as Chair-in-Office).

Sustainable Development

15. Heads welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a historic outcome that has the ability to transform the world. They recognised that implementation of this agenda would lead to the eradication of poverty in all its dimensions and ensure that no one is left behind. Heads committed to supporting its implementation by 2030. They reaffirmed their commitment

to working together to create an enabling environment to implement the 2030 Agenda in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity. In this context, they also welcomed the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted at the Third United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development, which is integral to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda.

16. Mindful of the importance given to the environment by the Commonwealth, including in its Charter, Heads welcomed the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainable Development in Africa adopted by African countries, which seeks to promote sustainable production and consumption patterns that will lead to climate-compatible sustainable development by incorporating the value of natural capital into the development agenda of countries.
17. Heads recognised that the full family of Commonwealth intergovernmental and accredited organisations is a valuable shared asset, and they encouraged special consideration to be given to the particular role that the Commonwealth and its people, through its Charter, can play in advancing the implementation of the SDGs.
18. Heads agreed that, in advancing the SDGs, the Commonwealth should provide continued assistance to member countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability by means of technical advice on institutional strengthening, debt financing, debt strategy formulation and debt restructuring. Heads also agreed that the Commonwealth should facilitate member countries' efforts to obtain adequate and predictable resources from a variety of sources, technology and capacity-building to enable developing countries to achieve the SDGs.
19. Heads underlined the importance of the G20 continuing in its discussions and decisions to take into account the development concerns of non-G20 states and expressed satisfaction with the role played by the Commonwealth to promote this, including through the Annual Commonwealth Dialogue and regular G20 outreach with the Commonwealth. Heads also expressed appreciation for the continuing support of the G20 to ensure that the needs and priorities of developing states – small and large – are taken into account, reflecting the Commonwealth's commitment to the principle of inclusiveness in global decision-making bodies. Heads stressed the importance of seeking to strengthen and broaden the Commonwealth–G20 relationship.
20. Heads highlighted the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Heads noted that integrated approaches to ocean management, in accordance with international law, in particular the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, offer the prospect of better ocean governance and the conservation and management of marine resources, habitats and biodiversity. Heads also recognised that the development of a sustainably managed blue economy offers significant opportunities for economic growth and general development for many Commonwealth member countries. Heads also welcomed the prospect of capacity-building partnership activities in support of these aims.

Small States

21. Heads of Government recognised that while some small states enjoy medium-to-high gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, giving the impression of strength, they continue to suffer disproportionately from diseconomies of size, frequent external shocks – such as the 2008 economic recession, which gravely impacted their economies and societies – and adverse events including natural disasters and environmental change, which can affect the entire population and substantially hamper sustainable development or even threaten small states' very existence. Heads recognised that the Commonwealth has always been a strong advocate for the cause of small states, by raising international awareness of their vulnerability. Heads recognised in particular the need to address the debt and financing needs of small states and called for innovation and new partnerships, and for the international community to continue actively to explore innovative measures to alleviate their vulnerabilities and challenges. Accordingly, they welcomed the work of the Commonwealth Open-Ended Ministerial Working Group on Small States, the development of a Commonwealth Resilience Framework and the establishment of the Small States Centre of Excellence in Malta.
22. Heads affirmed the work of the Commonwealth Open-Ended Ministerial Working Group on Small States on providing global advocacy and co-ordinating Commonwealth efforts on small states matters, in particular: (i) strengthening resilience as an over-arching framework; (ii) development financing and trade, including the use of vulnerability criteria for access to resources, debt, debt swaps and trade preferences; (iii) ocean governance frameworks; (iv) climate change, including capacity-building efforts and energy concerns; (v) tax co-operation and the operation of international financial centres; (vi) outreach in the context of the G20 and with regional intergovernmental organisations, including strengthening regional organisations and mechanisms for resilience; and (vii) the attainment of the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs. Heads recognised the added value that the Small States Centre of Excellence would bring to small states through the promotion of their interests and the delivery of targeted capacity-building programmes and other support. They encouraged member countries to support the mobilisation of resources for the centre.

Climate Change

23. Heads of Government met in a special executive session to discuss climate action, recognising the leadership exercised historically by Commonwealth leaders on this pressing global challenge. They agreed on the seriousness and urgency of the threat posed by climate change and the need for an ambitious agreement in Paris. They therefore adopted the Commonwealth Leaders' Statement on Climate Action, which they undertook to highlight and advance at COP21.
24. Heads welcomed the establishment of the initial phase of a Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub to help build the capacity of Commonwealth small and other climate-vulnerable states to access climate finance with regional

support, and they welcomed the hosting of the Hub in Mauritius. Heads encouraged financial support to the Hub and continuing innovation to develop other mechanisms for addressing climate finance requirements, including consideration of a possible Commonwealth 'blue bond'.

Trade

25. Heads of Government reiterated their strong commitment to rules-based, transparent, free and fair multilateral trade and investment as a foundation for economic development and growth, as reinforced by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Heads noted the lack of progress in the conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda and encouraged all possible efforts to advance the Doha Agenda and other global trade negotiations, including during the Tenth World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference in December 2015 in Kenya. Heads encouraged more member countries to ratify the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. Heads recognised the importance of creating a fair and equitable trading system. They also recognised the need for capacity-building that promotes inclusive and effective participation in the international trading system, recognising the special requirements of LDCs and small and vulnerable economies.
26. Heads welcomed the launch of the voluntary Commonwealth Trade Finance Facility, initiated in Malta to help augment trade and investment finance, particularly for small and other developing economies with limited access to trade finance. Heads also welcomed offers of investment in the facility and looked forward to its early implementation.

Youth

27. Heads recalled the Commonwealth theme for 2015, 'A young Commonwealth', and the vital role that young people will play in shaping their societies and in the fulfilment of the SDGs. Heads reiterated their commitment to empowering young people as partners and agents of change, including through investment in meaningful participation in national decision-making, support for youth-led initiatives and expansion of employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. Heads undertook to protect and strengthen the rights of young people, as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
28. Heads recognised the important leadership role of young people. They agreed to continue supporting youth-led approaches that add value across the Commonwealth and globally, and to promote, support and work in partnership with the Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC) as well as regional and national youth bodies. Heads applauded the Commonwealth Youth Development Index (CYDI) and the growing regional networks of alliances of young entrepreneurs.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

29. Heads of Government underlined that national development and prosperity cannot be fully achieved or complete unless the needs of girls and women are taken fully into account, their voices are heard at all levels of community and national planning and decision-making, and their effective participation is ensured in the political, economic and social life of society. Heads reaffirmed their conviction that gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls should be mainstreamed into development and reaffirmed their commitment to prioritising this issue in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and within the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat.
30. In that context, Heads gave special emphasis to the overarching importance of education for the social uplift and political and economic empowerment of women and girls. They also stressed the need to sensitise the international community to women's health needs, emphasising in particular that maternal, newborn and child ill health and malnutrition pose impediments to socioeconomic development. Heads agreed to continue efforts to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence, including in conflict and other emergency situations.
31. Heads welcomed the continuing efforts by member countries and Commonwealth bodies to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation as barriers to development and the full realisation of girls' and women's human rights. Heads also encouraged support for already married girls, adolescents and women who have been affected by such practices. Heads encouraged co-operation with regional and global efforts and concerted action at national level to develop and implement holistic, comprehensive and co-ordinated responses and strategies to address these issues, including strategies aimed at the eradication of poverty and at protecting girls' and women's right to education.

Public Health

32. Heads of Government recognised the importance of tackling communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including malaria. They underlined the importance of routine immunisation programmes. Heads reaffirmed their commitment towards making the complete eradication of polio a global priority. Heads called on the Commonwealth at large to support the strengthening of policies for universal health coverage in order to build strong and resilient health systems that will, in turn, enable better responses to public health threats and emergencies, as well as to address the increasing burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Heads also called for continued promotion of collaborative research into communicable and non-communicable diseases, as well as collective Commonwealth action to advocate for global health security and the reduction of all public health threats, including the global imperative of addressing antimicrobial resistance.

Country Situations

33. Heads of Government welcomed the progress in the bilateral relations with the signing of 13 co-operation agreements between Belize and Guatemala. They also welcomed the signing of a protocol to their Special Agreement that allows flexibility with regard to holding the required referendum in both countries to submit Guatemala's claims to the International Court of Justice for a final determination. Heads recognised the important role of the Organization of American States (OAS) in the efforts of both countries to maintain peace and stability between them. They reiterated the Commonwealth's full support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Belize.
34. Heads expressed their full and enduring support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. They welcomed renewed efforts and the resumption of negotiations, under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General's Good Offices Mission, for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem based on the UN Charter and UNSCRs on the Republic of Cyprus. Heads called for the implementation of relevant UNSCRs, especially UNSCRs 365(1974), 541(1983), 550 (1984) and 1251(1999). Heads reiterated their support for full respect of the human rights of all Cypriots, including their right to property, and for all missing persons to be accounted for. Heads extended their solidarity in the exercise of the sovereign rights of the Republic of Cyprus in its exclusive economic zone under international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and called for the avoidance of actions and statements that threaten stability in the Eastern Mediterranean.
35. Heads noted that the Geneva Agreement of 1966 between the parties provides a range of mechanisms for an expeditious solution to the controversy arising from Venezuela's contention of invalidity of the 1899 Arbitral Award, which definitively settled the land boundary between Guyana and Venezuela. Heads expressed their full support for the UN Secretary-General to choose a means of settlement in keeping with the provisions of the Geneva Agreement of 1966 to bring the controversy to a definitive end. Heads endorsed the outcome statement of the Commonwealth Ministerial Group on Guyana following its meeting in September 2015 and reaffirmed their unequivocal support for the maintenance and safeguarding of Guyana's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Movement of Commonwealth Citizens

36. Heads of Government recalled the importance to the people of the Commonwealth of easier movement between member countries of the Commonwealth for legitimate and temporary reasons in order to benefit from stronger economic, official and cultural co-operation. Heads noted the proposal for a Commonwealth Advantage, under which all member governments would consider further possible measures to enhance the scope for Commonwealth citizens to access each others' countries more easily and for longer than is currently possible, and the benefits therein where they would not conflict with national legislation and international obligations regulating visa policies. They noted the efforts made to

date by the working group in this regard and requested a further progress report at their next meeting.

Commonwealth Collaboration

37. Heads of Government affirmed the strong convening power of the Commonwealth and expressed their gratitude to all representatives of member governments who had met in Commonwealth ministerial meetings since the last CHOGM, including Ministers of Education, Finance, Foreign Affairs, Health, Law, Sport and Youth. Heads underlined the importance of these gatherings of Ministers for advancing shared Commonwealth values and objectives and building consensus at both national and international levels. Heads received with appreciation the outcome statements from these ministerial meetings, as annexed.
38. Heads expressed their appreciation to parliamentarians, local government representatives, senior officials, civil society and others for convening as a Commonwealth to share good practices and mobilise support for common goals, including at the Commonwealth Science Conference held in India in 2014 and the Commonwealth Local Government Conference in 2015 in Botswana. Heads further welcomed Singapore's offer to host the next Commonwealth Science Conference in 2017 and encouraged member countries to participate in the conference.
39. Heads welcomed the impact and results achieved in the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat, as reflected in the Secretary-General's biennial report and in the strategic plan. Heads agreed that the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) should continue its efforts in accordance with the strategic plan. Heads noted that the size of the CFTC had been reduced and encouraged member governments to make voluntary pledges to this flagship of Commonwealth co-operation, while also encouraging continued efforts to secure innovative and new sources of funding for Commonwealth mutual technical exchange and support.
40. Heads noted that, in this, the 50th anniversary year of the Secretariat, the governance arrangements of the organisation had not been reviewed in over a decade. They mandated the Secretary-General to convene a high-level group to review the full governance arrangements of the Secretariat to ensure that its governance is streamlined and integrated in order to improve oversight, efficiency and transparency.
41. Heads received with appreciation the report of the Commonwealth Foundation. Heads noted the consonance between the Commonwealth Foundation's mission and SDG 16, with its emphasis on peaceful and inclusive societies and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels. Heads recognised the importance of developing the capacity of civil society to engage with institutions constructively at regional level and the developmental value of creative expression as advanced through the Commonwealth Writers initiative.

Heads welcomed the Foundation's contribution to enabling the exchange of ideas between civil society and institutions through its grants programme on participatory governance for development.

42. Heads welcomed the work of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and its Learning for Development approach in enhancing access to quality education and training, leading to employment and entrepreneurship. Heads commended the COL's strategic plan for 2015–2021, which they envisaged would add value to national efforts to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs through the use of appropriate information and communication technology (ICT). Heads expressed particular appreciation for the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth and its use of innovative technologies for human resource development in small states, as well as the special initiative to prevent child marriage. In view of the importance of education, Heads requested that the COL and the other related intergovernmental organisations, as well as Commonwealth associated organisations, study the possibility of organising education forums at future CHOGMs.
43. Heads commended the rejuvenation of the Commonwealth Games movement, recognising the success of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, and encouraged the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), the Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport and the Secretariat to continue to collaborate to position the Commonwealth Games as an instrument to promote sustainable development, peace and community cohesion, respect and understanding, and the shared values of the Commonwealth, particularly amongst young people. They noted that all Commonwealth members look forward to meeting at the XXI Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, Australia, in 2018.
44. Heads welcomed the continued active participation and support of the 80 accredited Commonwealth organisations. Heads recognised that each had a valuable role in promoting Commonwealth values and principles; providing innovative thinking, advocacy and practical support for Commonwealth citizens; and raising the profile and impact of the Commonwealth as a whole. Heads noted the thoughtful submissions prepared collectively by accredited organisations, as annexed.
45. Heads underscored the need for a greater level of collaboration among accredited Commonwealth organisations, particularly between Commonwealth intergovernmental and associated organisations. They also encouraged co-operation with the UN, particularly its specialised agencies, as well as with relevant regional intergovernmental organisations, given that they have complementary capacities, so as to promote synergies and significantly contribute to enhanced outcomes within and across the Commonwealth.
46. Heads recognised the important work being advanced by the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust to promote youth development and to address preventable blindness in all Commonwealth member countries.

Commonwealth Secretary-General

47. Heads of Government were pleased to announce their selection by consensus of the Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland as the sixth Commonwealth Secretary-General for a four-year term, and they committed their governments to supporting her in further efforts to advance the Commonwealth's values and principles, as well as its institutions, as dynamic and contemporary agents of positive change for all Commonwealth citizens. Heads expressed their warm appreciation to the outgoing Secretary-General, Kamalesh Sharma. They commended his contributions to fostering a Commonwealth that is a strong and respected voice in the world; enlarging its networks, including through the Commonwealth Connects collaboration platform; and sustaining its global relevance and profile. They paid tribute to his commitment to improving the lives of all peoples of the Commonwealth.

Parallel Meetings in Malta

48. Heads of Government thanked the organisers and all participants in the four forums held on the eve of their meeting: the Youth Forum, the Women's Forum, the People's Forum and the Business Forum. Heads recognised especially the contribution made by the recently established Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC) in the success of the Business Forum. Heads underlined the importance and additional value for the Commonwealth that had been achieved through the success of the inaugural Women's Forum and agreed it should become an integral part of future CHOGMs. Heads took note of the submissions prepared as outcomes from the forums, as annexed.
49. Heads recognised that many Commonwealth organisations and individual citizens had gathered in Malta at the time of the CHOGM to contribute in a richly diverse way to advancing the Commonwealth's values, principles, goals and priorities.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta and beyond

50. Heads of Government expressed their deep gratitude and appreciation for the warm and generous hospitality extended by the President, the Prime Minister, the Government and the people of Malta.
51. Heads expressed their warm appreciation for the attendance at their meeting of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth.
52. Heads welcomed the presence at their meeting of special guests including the UN Secretary-General, the President of France and the heads and representatives of international and regional intergovernmental organisations with which the Commonwealth works in fruitful collaborative partnership. Heads expressed appreciation for the continuing presence of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at CHOGM in support of the Head of the Commonwealth and for his encouragement of the Commonwealth at large, particularly its young people.

Heads also welcomed the presence of TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.

53. Heads welcomed and accepted the offer from the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to host their next meeting in 2018. They also recalled with renewed appreciation the offer from Malaysia to host the 2020 CHOGM.

Malta

29 November 2015

Annex 1: Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting Statements

Education

19th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers

22–26 June 2015, Nassau, The Bahamas

Education in the Commonwealth: Quality Education for Equitable Development: Performance, Paths and Productivity

The Nassau Declaration

The following document is a ministerial declaration outlining the major topics and issues discussed at the 19th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM) as well as the major remedial initiatives proposed.

1. The 19th CCEM was held in Nassau, The Bahamas, from 22 to 26 June 2015. The conference was opened by the Rt Hon. Perry Christie, Prime Minister of The Bahamas. HE Kamallesh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary-General, addressed the conference at the opening ceremony. The host minister, the Hon. Jerome K Fitzgerald, Minister of Education, Science and Technology, chaired the conference.
2. In discussions, Ministers highlighted that the 19th CCEM was taking place at a historic turning point, following the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Commonwealth Secretariat, and at a crossroads in the global education agenda as part of the wider transition from MDGs to SDGs. Education for sustainable development is recognised as a priority for future planning by Ministers, as is the role of education at the heart of the process for driving the SDGs.
3. Ministers noted that the Commonwealth Ministerial Working Group had significant and valued input to the education component of the SDGs, considered within the national context of each country. Ministers endorsed the Incheon Declaration, noting that further input may be made to the process of finalising the SDGs in New York in September 2015. Ministers highlighted the Commonwealth values of equity, access and development, stressing the key role of education for sustainable development.
4. Ministers recognised the positive role that key partners bring to the CCEM, and welcomed the growing voice and engagement of youth, teachers, civil society and other stakeholders.

5. The 19th CCEM also saw the official inclusion of a specific forum for small states; Ministers celebrated this as a significant and positive step in ensuring that the voice of small states continues to be heard on the world stage, given that 31 of the 53 Commonwealth nations are small states. Likewise, the role of education for building resilience was championed by Ministers as a key factor in combating issues of vulnerability, particularly those faced by small states, such as climate change, migration, mobility and financing.
6. Ministers celebrated successes that have been achieved to date in the drive for universal primary education, but noted that achievements in relation to access leave much work to be done in the areas of equitable provision and quality. Ministers also acknowledged the wider responsibility of member countries to ensure the continued relevance of education, ensuring that it prepares the next generation of Commonwealth citizens to contribute positively to the social and economic development of their communities.
7. Commonwealth nations recognised the need for evidence-based interventions and policy; building on meaningful data was emphasised by Ministers as important in the drive to establish sustainable models of education, which enable accountability and effective systems of governance. Addressing the Post-2015 Development Goals, Ministers noted the importance of continuing to meet the needs of all learners, regardless of gender, race or religion, or other aspects of marginalisation – recognising continued challenges in relation to provision for boys and girls (both of whom continue to face issues of equitable access in various Commonwealth contexts), as well as pupils with special educational needs.
8. Ministers committed to focusing on the core purpose of education, to serve the needs of their diverse populations, furthering international drives for sustainable development and equitable, high-quality provision, while recognising the continued role of education in supporting efforts for economic growth and poverty eradication, as well as acting as a tool for socialisation.

Early Years

9. Ministers recognised the key role that early childhood education plays as the foundation for all lifelong learning, and wider social and economic outcomes, and the need for continued and appropriate investment in this stage. Ministers are also mindful of the need, by committing to the strengthening of public institutions, to retain effective, positive and accountable partnerships with the private sector and civil society as part of wider efforts to improve quality and access. Ministers committed to strengthening engagement with these parties to support the development of education systems that serve the needs of their communities.

Gender

10. Ministers will continue to build on good practice in promoting sensitive gender mainstreaming for gender equity, including reducing barriers to girls' education, and addressing specific concerns over the underachievement of either boys or girls in Commonwealth contexts in which either face specific challenges.

Technology

11. Ministers committed to making effective use of technology and innovation in ICT to ensure that education systems continue to meet the needs of quality, equity and access. The significance of online learning as a universal tool for lifelong learning was recognised by Ministers, and the key role of the COL in driving innovation in this field was recognised. To support the COL initiative achieving their strategic plan, Malaysia has committed a contribution of US\$200,000 and has also committed to support the sustainability of the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Facility (CTEF) by sponsoring RM200,000 towards its establishment and RM500,000 annually (2014–2018) towards its administration. India has offered to provide its e-learning platform, SWAYAM, to host e-courseware developed by the COL and has also volunteered to post digitised learning material from Commonwealth countries on its anticipated National e-Library, with links to the Commonwealth Education Hub. Ministers noted the continuing need for effective ICT infrastructure to facilitate learning in several member countries and committed to supporting development in order to address this requirement. Ministers welcomed the role of the COL and the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth in supporting affordable access to all learners.

The Role of Parents and Civil Society

12. Ministers acknowledged the key role of parents, and wider civil society, in education, without compromise to equity and quality. Ministers committed to strengthening engagement with these parties to support the development of education systems that serve the needs of their communities, while recognising the key role of families in shaping culture.

Role of Teachers

13. Acknowledging the central role of teachers in quality education, Ministers committed to raising the status of teaching as a profession. This will be achieved by enhancing pre-service and continuing professional development, and conditions of service, ensuring that teachers are motivated and supported in the classroom. Ministers reaffirmed the importance of effective governance of teaching to promote accountability and transparency. India has offered to set up a Malaviya Commonwealth Chair for teacher education, which will singularly focus on issues pertaining to curriculum development, pedagogy, students' assessment, pre-service and continuing professional training, and capacity development.

Youth

14. Ministers recognised the potential of learners and youth to act as agents of social change and peace-building and will continue to support policies and programmes in schools that actively engage pupils in building conflict-resolution skills, tolerance, respect and social inclusion, as a way of preventing school-based violence and extremism. They support Commonwealth action,

including in partnership with UNESCO, in keeping with the report *Civil Paths to Peace* by the Commonwealth Commission on Respect and Understanding. Ministers reaffirmed the key role that entrepreneurship education plays in promoting unique and valuable life skills, as well as career pathways. Ministers are committed to the enhancement of curriculums at all levels of education to strengthen entrepreneurship programmes and skills development. Ministers acknowledged the important role that can be played by appropriate co-operation and collaborative national student associations and committed to supporting and partnering with such bodies to ensure a student voice in education policy and fit-for-purpose education. Ministers also endorsed a name change for the CCEM Youth Forum to the Commonwealth Students Forum and committed to supporting student delegates to attend.

Spirit of Sharing/Spirit of Giving

15. Ministers celebrated the positive atmosphere of mutual lesson-learning within the Commonwealth, as exemplified by the CCEM, as well as the importance of retaining the positive momentum of the event. To this end, the development of a shared platform for the effective dissemination of ideas, pooling of resources, mutual support and sharing of good practices was recognised as a clear need by Ministers. It is the belief of Ministers that the Commonwealth Education Hub can serve this purpose. Ministers reaffirmed, in accordance with local context, their commitment to appropriate domestic financing of education, to the level of 4–6 per cent of GDP/15–20 per cent of total public expenditure, as well as the wider targets established for official development assistance (ODA), including targets of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for ODA to developing countries. Ministers will, through the strengthening of their public institutions, continue to recognise the need for appropriate and effective partnerships with the private sector and civil society to address wider financing issues, ensuring accountability and equity, quality and access are not compromised, and while recognising the importance of education as a public interest and a public good. Ministers also recognised the responsibility of Commonwealth members to support each other when in need, by sharing resources, funding and expertise, while ensuring efficiency in the use of existing resources.

Cross-Commonwealth Education Developments

16. The role of the Commonwealth in continuing to support the development of effective education initiatives was recognised by Ministers, as was the need for greater co-ordination of quality assurance in education by Commonwealth institutions, where requested by member countries, as well as the potential for shared curriculums and quality frameworks where this is something member countries wish to explore. The positive role of mobility was celebrated by Ministers, who recognised the role that a globalised economy can play in supporting the economies and education systems of member countries. Ministers also recognised the emergence of additional Commonwealth states as education destinations for Commonwealth members.

Lifelong Learning

17. Ministers committed to supporting the continued development of the continuum of lifelong learning, and recognised the key role this plays in the economic and social development of Commonwealth countries. Ministers called for continued efforts to ensure that those who have not completed school, or not had access to basic education or who wish to continue their professional development are given lifelong access to support in numeracy, literacy and skills for employment. Ministers are also committed to developing lifelong, distance, and technical vocational education and training, linked to local, regional and international labour markets.

Policy Frameworks

18. Ministers recognised that countries must not compromise on equity and quality, learning from good practice and the lessons of countries that have made significant progress in these areas. Therefore, in line with the core values of the Commonwealth Charter, the Secretariat will be developing effective policy frameworks to support efforts in this area, to be adopted by member countries that wish to do so.

Scholarships

19. Ministers called for continued and expanding support for the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, a flagship of Commonwealth co-operation, recognising the positive role of cross-border mobility, partnership-building and leadership development. Ministers are mindful of the continued importance of ensuring that scholarships are awarded to the most able but meet the needs of the most deserving.

Research Collaborations

20. Ministers called for the establishment of effective and meaningful research collaborations. To this end, India has offered to establish a Commonwealth Consortium for Education (CCfE) to carry out need-based research throughout the Commonwealth. It is anticipated that the newly launched Commonwealth Education Hub will play a role here in facilitating research collaborations, supported by efforts led by India and the new consortium. Building on the success of the Commonwealth Science Conference in Bangalore 2014, India also offered to support cross-border efforts to drive research in areas of priority for member countries.

Looking to the Future

21. Ministers looked to a fruitful, rich and collaborative future for the Commonwealth and welcomed the opportunity offered by the upcoming meeting of the executive

heads of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), focusing on university, society and employment, to be held in Accra, Ghana, in 2016. Ministers welcomed the development of Commonwealth Connects and the Commonwealth Education Hub and recognised their potential to act as transformative resources for the entire education community of the Commonwealth and applauded the vision to create one-stop non-stop shops to serve the community.

Commonwealth Action Group on Education

22. Ministers agreed to establish a Commonwealth Accelerated Development Mechanism for Education (CADME) to assist with the implementation of the SDGs in Commonwealth countries. On taking forward recommendations of the 19th CCEM, the Secretariat will assist in establishing a Commonwealth Education Ministers Action Group (CEMAG), to have regional representation, as well as that of youth, teachers, stakeholders, multilaterals and other partners, with regular online networking and meetings where appropriate, to ensure momentum and continued action on the points recorded herein. Both CEMAG and CADME will maintain networking between ministerial meetings, supporting and supplementing, and not replacing, existing international initiatives such as the framework agreed at Incheon in 2015.
23. Ministers expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Government and the people of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas for their hospitality in hosting the 19th CCEM, and to the Secretariat for the organisation of the event.
24. Ministers welcomed the offer from the Government of Fiji to host the 20th CCEM in 2018, and the Government of Kenya's interest in hosting the 21st CCEM in 2021 was acknowledged.
25. The 19th CCEM was declared closed.

Finance

Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting

13 October 2014, Washington DC, the United States of America

Statement by the Hon. Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Samoa

Commonwealth Finance Ministers met in Washington DC on 8 October 2014 on the theme of 'Financing the Post-2015 Development Agenda'. We discussed the implications of the current proposals of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) current proposals for statistical reform on the measurement of development finance and ODA; the report of the UN Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing; and priorities for engagement with the G20.

OECD-DAC Reforms

Ministers were apprised of the OECD-DAC proposals for reform on the measurement of development finance and ODA. These include a new measure of total official support for development (TOSD), reconceptualising ODA to better reflect donor effort and recipient benefit, establishing a clear and quantitative definition of concessionality and revising ODA targets to ensure that aid goes to where it is needed most.

We recognised and highlighted the continued crucial role played by ODA and concessional resources in Commonwealth developing countries. We made a strong call for the international community to meet existing ODA commitments. We highlighted that the reforms should not detract from this commitment and that there is a need to maintain support and focus on poverty eradication in the light of the possible introduction of a new measure of TOSD. We also noted that the measurement of South–South co-operation should remain distinct from that of North–South co-operation, with a recognition of the particular value of South–South co-operation in sharing country experiences and approaches. We supported further work by the Commonwealth to feed Commonwealth perspectives formally into OECD-DAC high-level deliberations and provide ongoing policy research and technical support to members as the OECD-DAC reforms proceed.

Report of the UN Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing

We welcomed a presentation by the co-chair of the UN Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing on the Committee's report, which contains a comprehensive set of high-level considerations and options. The Commonwealth has a profound interest in financing for development, given its diverse membership, which contains both providers and recipients of financing for development, and we discussed key issues and next steps towards securing a strong outcome at the forthcoming Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

We recognised that substantial further work is required to flesh out the post-2015 financing framework into concrete proposals that can be discussed and advanced by the conference next July. Ministers noted the opportunity for dialogue and peer learning as this issue is taken forward and supported plans for ongoing work by the Commonwealth Secretariat to help advance discussions in areas such as the development of a new set of development finance principles to underpin the post-2015 financing framework; strengthening system coherence and global economic governance; strengthening an international accountability framework and a monitoring and follow-up process; and fostering a concerted discourse on innovative finance for development.

A key theme of interventions throughout the meeting was innovative financing and we welcomed the Commonwealth toolkit on innovative finance. Our discussions highlighted the need to identify specific proposals that can unlock additional new financing. These might include recapitalisation of development banks; the use of

specific taxes to raise development finance; and efforts to strengthen tax collection. The specific needs of small states were highlighted, both in terms of their need for concessional financing, but also for options tailored to their needs. One approach, for example, is the mobilisation of resources through the diaspora. Another is to focus on approaches that have not yet been fully leveraged, such as revenue streams from carbon services, for example, from forest resources.

Some concerns were expressed surrounding anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing and the impact of the regulation on remittances. Ministers also recognised that countries will rely increasingly on their own resources to finance development and that efforts are needed on domestic resource mobilisation to unlock resources that can be directed towards development priorities.

Strengthening the Commonwealth and the G20

We discussed the potential of the Commonwealth to provide a forum that brings together G20 and non-G20 members to allow mutual concerns to be expressed and discussed. We noted the strong foundations that have been built to establish this relationship and that the Commonwealth–G20 relationship had delivered strong outcomes since we last met. We heard substantive priorities for the G20 and the Australian Presidency and were challenged to consider areas where Commonwealth poor, small and vulnerable countries might engage with the G20 further.

Future Finance Ministers Meetings

We reviewed options presented by the Secretariat to strengthen the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting (CFMM). These recommendations were based on insights provided by an external study and a survey amongst Ministers themselves. We agreed the following: to hold CFMM in the wings of the World Bank and IMF annual meetings (the location will be the same venue as the annual meetings); to seek to hold CFMM on the Thursday immediately before the annual meetings; to adopt a volunteer troika chairing system to start at the next CFMM; to introduce a focal point network; and to make more use of ministerial working groups, high-level ministerial missions and high-level panels to provide the opportunity for more regular ad hoc dialogue and engagement on issues. We agreed to meet again in Peru in the wings of the World Bank/IMF annual meetings in 2015.

Progress on the Debt Challenge of Small and Vulnerable Economies and the Commonwealth Small States Trade Financing Facility

We heard a report on progress with the development of a Small States Trade Finance Facility, as directed by the November 2013 Kotte Statement of the Commonwealth Heads of Government. This is undergoing a feasibility study and we look forward to further updates.

The Secretariat reported on its contribution to the UN Conference on Small Island Development States on the resilience and debt concerns of small states; influencing the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway; and presenting

options such as an innovative debt-for-climate change swap at the conference itself. The Secretariat indicated its current engagement with the World Bank on progressing core recommendations; it plans to engage with member countries on these issues during preparations for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

We endorsed a report on meetings of senior officials, who focused their discussions on the OECD-DAC reforms and innovative financing, and of central bank governors, who focused their discussions on the implementation of international financial regulation and on a risk-focused approach to anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism.

Health

Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting

18 May 2014, Geneva, Switzerland

Theme: 'Commonwealth Post-2015 Health Agenda: Strengthening Health Policies and Systems'

Commonwealth Health Ministers held their annual meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, on the eve of the 67th World Health Assembly. The theme of the meeting was 'Commonwealth post-2015 health agenda: strengthening health policies and systems'.

Ministers noted that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had significant impact in positioning health in the development agenda and in galvanising multi-stakeholder partnerships. They acknowledged the significant progress in reducing under-5 and maternal mortality, increasing immunisation coverage and increasing access to HIV and TB treatment, including availability of affordable antiretrovirals.

Ministers noted, however, that many countries may not achieve the health-related MDGs by 2015, especially MDGs 4, 5 and 6, hence the need for continued commitment to accelerating progress in achieving these goals, while learning lessons from the MDG era.

Ministers highlighted the significant economic returns of investing to improve health and noted the high cost of inadequate health investment.

Ministers discussed the concept of universal health coverage and, while noting the challenges, acknowledged the need to ensure that all citizens have equitable access to quality and affordable essential health services they need, without enduring financial hardship, in a manner that is sustainable in the long term.

Ministers agreed that the Post-2015 Development Agenda could include universal health coverage; address the unfinished business of the MDGs, cognisant of the need to accelerate progress on reducing maternal, new-born and child mortality; and incorporate a life-course approach to health, with a focus on morbidity, NCDs, strengthening health systems, equitable access to medicines and linking health to other development goals.

Ministers undertook to articulate, individually, collectively and through the Secretary-General, the need for action on the centrality of health in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, leading up to its inclusion in the UN process scheduled to start in September 2015.

Ministers appreciated the opportunity to share and exchange experiences in tackling health system strengthening, immunisation coverage and costs, nutrition and antimicrobial resistance, as well as the health-related challenges presented by climate change and the imperative of addressing these issues in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. They noted the need for continued collaboration and sharing of knowledge and expertise to support one another and the work of the World Health Organization (WHO) in this area.

Ministers noted the progress of the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust in rolling out programmes across the Commonwealth supporting many governments' efforts to reduce avoidable blindness. They looked forward to further updates on this pan-Commonwealth initiative.

Ministers welcomed the update on the cloud-based online hub on the Commonwealth Connects platform for Commonwealth health professionals, CommonHealth, particularly noting its potential for knowledge- and information-sharing across a wide spectrum of stakeholders.

Ministers expressed their appreciation for the role played by the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Health (CACH) in providing advice to the Commonwealth Secretariat. Ministers noted the suggestions presented by CACH for strengthening its role, maximising the opportunities offered by Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting and for enhancing ministerial interactions and exchanges.

Ministers agreed that 'Universal health coverage' would be an appropriate theme for the 2015 Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting and that the theme should include an emphasis on ageing and good health.

Ministers thanked the Secretary-General for his leadership of the Secretariat's strategic review process and noted the plans to start implementing the new staff structure by July 2014 and to continue effecting the strategic plan for 2013/14–2016/17.

Health

Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting

17 May 2015, Geneva, Switzerland

Theme: 'Universal Health Coverage, with an Emphasis on Ageing and Good Health'

Commonwealth Health Ministers held their 27th meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, on the eve of the 68th World Health Assembly. The theme of the meeting was 'Universal health coverage, with an emphasis on ageing and good health'.

Ministers noted the need for all countries, irrespective of income levels, to move towards universal health coverage (UHC) in order to meet these challenges, but also

to consolidate past gains. Ministers supported the inclusion of UHC as a central component of the health goal in the proposed SDGs and the importance of a life-course approach to healthcare, ensuring that all citizens have equitable access to quality and affordable essential health services, without enduring financial hardship. Ministers recognised the critical need for sustainability, including financing mechanisms for UHC.

Ministers noted the increasing rate at which populations are ageing worldwide, leading to predictions that in the next 5 years people aged over 65 will outnumber children under 5 years old. Ministers acknowledged that, while this trend was a reflection of success in MDGs and in health interventions, it also posed challenges for economic growth, social security and health systems, particularly in view of the increasing prevalence of NCDs, including mental health conditions, as the population ages.

Ministers recalled the role of the Commonwealth in bringing the issue of NCDs to global attention, culminating in the 2011 UN high-level meeting on non-communicable diseases prevention and control. Ministers looked forward to the Commonwealth's continued leadership in the recognition that the burden of NCDs cannot be adequately addressed without UHC, strong health systems and public health policies that support the delivery of UHC, including the promotion of healthy behaviours.

Ministers especially recognised the particularly harmful effects of tobacco and the importance of tobacco control measures; and 2015 marked the tenth anniversary of the coming into force of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Additionally, Ministers acknowledged the importance of alcohol control measures.

While noting the health challenges across the Commonwealth and the challenges facing member countries as they endeavour to achieve UHC, Ministers noted with interest successes and best practices in progressing towards UHC, particularly in preventive health, targeting vulnerable populations and using innovative financing mechanisms.

Learning lessons from the Ebola crisis, Ministers encouraged all members of the Commonwealth to collaborate to build strong and resilient healthcare systems and urged the Secretariat to facilitate co-ordination between countries.

Ministers welcomed the update on the Commonwealth Hub and the collaborative work with the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation and Public Health England on the global burdens of disease, particularly noting its potential for connecting health professionals across the Commonwealth and for knowledge- and information-sharing across a wide spectrum of stakeholders.

Ministers noted with appreciation the progress of the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust and its pan-Commonwealth initiative to roll out programmes across the Commonwealth to reduce avoidable blindness.

Ministers appreciated the civil society contribution to the meeting discussions and encouraged the ongoing participation of CSOs in the area of health within the Commonwealth.

Ministers expressed their appreciation for the role played by CACH. Ministers agreed to the CACH report and the chair's recommendations. Ministers agreed that statements from future meetings would be presented to the World Health Assembly by the chair of the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting.

Ministers agreed that 'Health security and access to universal health coverage' would be an appropriate theme for the 2016 Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting.

Ministers noted a suggestion of polio eradication as a topic for future consideration at CHOGM.

Ministers therefore recommend that the Heads of Government collectively:

- a) support the call for universal health coverage as one of the health goals in post-2015 SDGs;
- b) give priority to a systems-strengthening, whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach;
- c) recognise the primary role of governments in encouraging a society-wide response to the global challenge of ageing and NCDs, including mental health conditions;
- d) recognise the importance of co-operation across the Commonwealth to strengthen health systems.

Law

Meeting of Commonwealth Law Ministers and Senior Officials

5–8 May 2014, Gaborone, Botswana

1. Commonwealth Law Ministers met in Gaborone, Botswana, from 5 to 8 May 2014. The meeting was attended by Law Ministers and Attorneys-General from 28 countries. An opening ceremony was addressed by His Honour the Vice-President of the Republic of Botswana, Dr Ponatshego Kedikilwe, and by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, HE Kamallesh Sharma. In opening the business meetings, the Secretary-General acknowledged the great contribution made by Botswana not only to this meeting but to advancing the values of the Commonwealth. The meeting elected the Hon. Dikgagamatso Ndelu Seretse, Minister of Defence, Justice and Security of Botswana, as Chairperson.

Agenda

2. As a paper by the Latimer House Working Group was not presented by senior officials to Ministers, due to the fact that senior officials could not reach a consensus on the paper, it was agreed that, rather than as a separate agenda item, Ministers could raise the Commonwealth (Latimer House) Principles in their discussions throughout the agenda wherever relevant. Later, during the presentation of the report by the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association (CMJA), Ministers agreed to mandate the Commonwealth

Secretariat to prepare a paper on the implementation of the Latimer House Principles in the Commonwealth for consideration at the next Law Ministers Meeting. In preparing the paper, the Secretariat should consult widely with member countries and with the Latimer House Working Group.

Legal Work of the Commonwealth Secretariat

3. The meeting received a report on the work undertaken by the Secretariat on the rule of law since the last Law Ministers Meeting in 2011. The meeting welcomed Ms Katalaina Sapolu, who joined the Secretariat as Director of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Division in December 2013. The report mentioned the adoption of the new strategic plan for 2013/14–2016/17, which aims to focus the Secretariat's activities in order to reflect its comparative advantages and resources and to ensure more sustainable impacts. The structural changes taking place across the Secretariat, as well as their impact on the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Division, were explained to Ministers. From 1 July 2014, when the new structure becomes effective, the division will be called the Rule of Law Division. The division continued to deliver programmes of a high standard in a wide range of areas. The report was adopted.

Consolidating the Rule of Law and Human Rights in the Commonwealth

4. Ministers received papers addressing the theme chosen for their meeting, 'Consolidating the rule of law and human rights in the Commonwealth'.

Historical Overview of Human Rights in the Commonwealth

5. This paper covered selected aspects of the history, successes and challenges with regard to human rights in the Commonwealth. It underscored the increased focus given to human rights by the Commonwealth Charter, CHOGM communiqués and the new strategic plan of the Secretariat. The paper presented successes, challenges and gaps in the ratification of the nine core international human rights treaties, engagement with the UN UPR mechanism and the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles. Ministers were encouraged to utilise the services of the human rights experts and office space available at the Commonwealth Small States Office in Geneva, especially small states who would otherwise not have a presence in Geneva. They were also encouraged to engage with the Secretariat with regard to their technical assistance requirements to prepare for the UPR process and to implement accepted UPR recommendations and the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles. They expressed support for the Secretariat's work in the field of human rights and endorsed the paper.

Judicial Independence and Economic Development

6. Ministers received a paper by the former Chief Justice of Botswana, the Hon. Julian Mukwesu Nganunu, which explored the relationship between the

independence of the judiciary as being essential to upholding the rule of law and to economic development. It identified the components of judicial independence and the impact that independent and effective courts can have in ensuring an enabling environment for economic development. In that context, it emphasised the use of the judicial review mechanism and the role of the courts in ensuring equality and combating corruption. Ministers shared information about recent developments in their countries, including improved appointment procedures and the establishment of specialised commercial courts. Ministers acknowledged the importance of an independent judiciary. They also stressed the need for increased judicial accountability in order to ensure judicial integrity, competence and efficiency. Ministers requested the Secretariat to carry out further work on the link between the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary and sustainable economic development. They also supported the Secretariat's role in strengthening judicial systems and the independence, competence and integrity of the judiciary.

The Rule of Law and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

7. The meeting recalled that, at the CHOGM held in November 2013 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Commonwealth Heads of Government endorsed the intergovernmental process to be launched at the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly to develop and agree on a Post-2015 Development Agenda. Commonwealth Heads of Government also decided to constitute an open-ended high-level working group to identify shared Commonwealth perspectives and recommendations through a Commonwealth statement on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The paper presented to Ministers reviewed the global discussions around the Post-2015 Development Agenda and outlined the various facets of the rule of law under the Commonwealth Charter and how they relate to development. Ministers agreed that there is a link between the rule of law and sustainable development, which ought to be strengthened, and that the rule of law should be integrated into the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Ministers mandated the Secretariat to prepare on their behalf a paper setting out a draft contribution to the Commonwealth statement on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and to circulate it within two weeks of this meeting for their consideration and comments.

Enhancing International Civil Legal Co-operation in the Commonwealth

8. Ministers recalled their 2011 meeting, at which they requested the Secretariat to develop a proposed scheme on international civil co-operation. Further to that mandate, a paper analysing the possibility of establishing such a scheme was presented to senior officials at their meeting in September 2013. Ministers received a revised paper and decided that work should not be undertaken to develop a Commonwealth scheme, as most of the matters that might be covered under the scheme were already the subject of the existing Hague conventions on service abroad, on taking evidence abroad and on the abolition of legalisation.

Ministers agreed to the following recommendations: (a) that Commonwealth member countries that were not already parties to the Hague conventions on service abroad, on taking evidence abroad and on the abolition of legalisation be invited to consider taking steps to have possible accession to those conventions; (b) that their governments consider ensuring that their national law makes adequate provision for taking evidence in response to requests from other states (whether under the Hague Convention on Taking Evidence Abroad or in response to requests outwith that convention), including, as appropriate, the use of audio-visual technology; (c) that their governments consider ensuring that their courts have the power in appropriate cases to make interim orders in support of proceedings elsewhere; (d) that their governments consider including in their national law provisions on obtaining copies of entries and decisions, security for costs and safe conduct similar to those in the Hague Convention on International Access to Justice but applied with respect to other Commonwealth states.

Draft Model Law on Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgements in the Commonwealth

9. Ministers considered a draft model law on the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments. At their meeting in 2005, Ministers had asked the Secretariat to review the intra-Commonwealth arrangements for the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments. Since then, the Secretariat has undertaken work in pursuance of that mandate, including the drafting of a model law as requested by senior officials at their 2010 meeting. The draft model law draws on the work of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and of law reform agencies in a number of Commonwealth countries. It proposes changes to the current intra-Commonwealth arrangements and could be used by governments as a basis for reform of their legislation in this area. Ministers noted that further discussion was necessary on some provisions of the draft model law. They mandated the Secretariat to take appropriate steps to produce a final draft of the model law for consideration at the next meeting of senior officials and to consider other ways in which member countries might improve the means of recognition and enforcement of judgments of other Commonwealth member countries, including the suitability of the Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements.

Addressing Violence against Women in the Commonwealth

10. Ministers received a paper on addressing violence against women in the Commonwealth, which contained a series of detailed recommendations for their consideration, on, inter alia, the content of national legislation, the need for a national strategy for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of violence against women and relevant training for police, prosecutors and judges. Ministers shared information on the progress made in their jurisdictions in developing national legislation and establishing institutions to address the problem of

violence against women. They also highlighted the challenges experienced in enforcing some provisions of their national laws. They recognised that law reform was not sufficient in itself to address violence against women and that a holistic, multi-sectoral and comprehensive national strategy was essential. In that regard, attention must be given to the importance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, taking into account the fundamental values expressed in the Commonwealth Charter.

11. Ministers expressed their support for gender mainstreaming of the law and the need for closer co-operation between law ministries, the judiciary, national women's machineries and other agencies. They welcomed the integrated approach adopted within the Secretariat to address issues of violence against women. Ministers accepted the recommendations in the paper and mandated the Secretariat to continue to support member countries in implementing the recommendations within the context of its ongoing technical assistance and capacity-building programmes.

International Judicial Development Assistance

12. At their 2011 meeting, Ministers mandated the Secretariat to establish a clearing-house to facilitate international judicial development assistance. They received a paper that contained proposals for the establishment of the clearing-house and the framework within which it might operate. The paper emphasised that the clearing-house would contain details of judicial education programmes designed to benefit judicial officers at all levels. There would be an emphasis on the needs of small jurisdictions. The aim of the clearing-house would be to co-ordinate information on existing judicial development assistance programmes and requests for assistance from Commonwealth countries. The success of the clearing-house would depend upon governments publicising the existence of the clearing house amongst their judiciaries and their making good use of it. Ministers reiterated that such a project would be of great assistance to member countries. They agreed to approve the establishment by the Secretariat of the clearing-house on the terms proposed in the paper for a trial period of three years, after which an evaluation would be conducted.

Legislative Drafting: A Commonwealth Legislative Drafting Handbook

13. At their Edinburgh meeting in 2008, Ministers had recommended the development of legislative drafting and style manuals and guidelines on the legislation process. A draft Commonwealth legislative drafting handbook, building on regional documents produced for the African and Pacific regions, was presented to Ministers. Ministers welcomed the production of a handbook as a valuable resource in legislative drafting across the Commonwealth and as a guide in encouraging member countries to devise their own local legislative drafting manuals, guidelines or handbooks. Ministers acknowledged that the handbook was still in draft form and that consultations with relevant stakeholders, including

the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel, would be carried out. The problem of retention of legislative drafters was also highlighted. Ministers:

- a) endorsed the idea of having a Commonwealth legislative drafting handbook and mandated the Secretariat to continue with its finalisation;
- b) approved that consultations with relevant stakeholders be carried out on the handbook, that the handbook be reviewed in the light of comments received and that the revised handbook be considered by senior officials at their next meeting;
- c) resolved that local legislative drafting manuals, guidelines or handbooks reflecting their own particular local processes and in-house styles will be devised as soon as possible for use in drafting offices in their respective countries, where these do not already exist.

Modalities for Civil Society Engagement with Commonwealth Law Ministers

14. At the 2011 meeting in Sydney, Australia, Ministers received a paper that outlined proposals for civil society engagement with Law Ministers. No consensus was reached at the 2011 meeting. In 2012, senior officials reached agreement on the principles to be recommended to Ministers and a paper setting out those principles was considered by senior officials at their meeting in 2013. A revised paper, incorporating the amendments suggested by senior officials at their meeting on 5 May 2014, was presented to Ministers and adopted.
15. Ministers acknowledged that civil society could have a valuable role in an open and transparent democratic process and, as recognised in the Commonwealth (Latimer House) Principles, a role in the implementation of the Commonwealth's fundamental values. They welcomed the fact that steps were being taken to strengthen the current Commonwealth process for accrediting CSOs. Ministers noted that it was critical that CSOs were transparent as to their sources of funding and influential stakeholders.
16. Ministers agreed on modalities that would govern their own future practice in their engagement with civil society. Under these modalities, the partner organisations of the Secretariat would be able to provide input to the agendas for the Senior Officials Meeting and the Law Ministers Meeting. They could also submit substantive papers on issues to be discussed where invited and appropriate. They would continue to be accredited as observers for the duration of the relevant meeting. They would be permitted to submit a written report and would be allowed to make an oral presentation on their activities in the intervening period as a substantive part of the meeting. Accredited CSOs wishing to attend the Law Ministers Meeting in respect of a particular item would have to apply to the Secretariat for special permission to do so, giving reasons for their application. The Secretariat, in consultation with senior officials, might then invite them to attend the meeting. Accredited CSOs wishing to make written submissions to Law Ministers would similarly apply to the Secretariat,

and the Secretariat, in consultation with senior officials, might circulate those submissions. Where the Law Ministers Meeting was of the view that it would assist its deliberations, it could (a) on its own motion or (b) upon application by any person or organisation to the Secretariat and with the recommendation of senior officials allow any person or organisation to place written submissions before it and/or make a short intervention at its meeting.

International Co-operation in Criminal Matters

17. The Secretariat had, pursuant to a mandate given by Law Ministers in 2011:

- a) developed model legislation to assist member countries on domesticating, if they so wish, provisions of the revised Scheme Relating to Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters within the Commonwealth (the Harare Scheme);
- b) developed and delivered capacity-building initiatives, in particular on the interception of telecommunications and asset recovery; and
- c) formulated a five-point action plan to reinvigorate the Commonwealth Network of Contact Persons (CNCP).

The meeting took note of the Secretariat's report on the delivery of the 2011 mandate. They commended and approved the Secretariat's proposed strategy on international co-operation, with its focus on small and more vulnerable member countries. Ministers recognised the Commonwealth's long-standing record as well as its comparative advantage in this area. They expressed their appreciation for the assistance given by the Secretariat as they discussed the needs, challenges and expectations in matters of international co-operation.

18. Ministers endorsed the Commonwealth Model Legislation on Mutual Legal Assistance. It was also emphasised that the model legislation, like the Harare Scheme itself, was not mandatory and that its existence did not in itself provide a legal basis for requesting assistance. Commonwealth countries are at liberty to adopt, modify or disregard any provisions that are incompatible with the domestic policies and laws of member countries. In addition, some parts of the model legislation were specifically designated as optional, in particular the provisions relating to the interception of telecommunications and asset recovery. Ministers noted that other parts are either not included in or diverge from the Harare Scheme. These should be clearly identified in notes or guides to the model legislation. Ministers also sought clarification in the model legislation that the application of the model legislation to civil procedures should be related to an underlying criminal matter. This should be clearly identified in an explanatory note to the model legislation. Ministers also approved the dissemination of the Commonwealth manual on international co-operation in criminal matters, as well as the Secretariat's proposed programme of work and the five-point action plan on the CNCP.

Cybercrime

19. Pursuant to a mandate given at the 2011 Law Ministers Meeting, the Secretariat established a Commonwealth Working Group of Experts on Cybercrime.

Ministers received the report of the working group, which presents the findings of experts and detailed, in relation to cybercrime, its magnitude, current trends, the practical implications, the Commonwealth Cybercrime Initiative (CCI) and the way forward. It was stressed that cybercrime was a global matter and that any weak link provided opportunities for criminals. Prevention was of crucial importance. The effort to combat cybercrime required collaboration with a wide range of national, regional and international organisations, and with the private sector and civil society. This would maximise the effectiveness of technical assistance, for which there was a great need, and avoid duplication. Ministers endorsed the recommendations of the report, which included that every Commonwealth jurisdiction should:

- a) have an up-to-date and comprehensive legal framework;
- b) be encouraged to bring their laws into line with the Commonwealth Model Law on Computer and Computer-Related Crime and the revised Harare Scheme; and
- c) accede, where practicable, to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (the Budapest Convention) and/or consider becoming party to other regional or international cybercrime conventions and participating in other initiatives to ensure co-ordinated action against cybercrime.

This would be subject to the availability of funds. The meeting noted that the CCI governance structure had been strengthened. It endorsed the CCI methodology and agreed that member countries should support it and engage with it.

20. Ministers recognised that the Commonwealth was leading the way in developing mechanisms to combat cybercrime. They approved the report of the working group and the Secretariat's programme of work in tackling cybercrime.

Strategy to combat corruption and related economic and financial crimes

21. Ministers had adopted in 2005 in Accra the Commonwealth strategy against corruption at their Meeting and had re-affirmed it in 2008 in Edinburgh. The meeting welcomed a report of the work of the Secretariat in implementing the strategy. Ministers acknowledged the threat that corruption posed to democracy and expressed their concern at the role of foreign entities in corrupt practices and tax evasion. They shared information on positive developments in their countries, including the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The meeting endorsed the Secretariat's programme of continuing work to (a) develop and deliver technical assistance and capacity-building, in a sustainable manner, to member countries, in particular small and vulnerable jurisdictions, in collaboration with other international and regional organisations with similar mandates; (b) provide, on request, and in collaboration with relevant agencies, mentoring and placements to assist member countries in the implementation of best practices; and (c) conduct needs assessments as necessary

to facilitate requests for assistance. Ministers stressed that this programme should be complementary to and not duplicate programmes undertaken by other organisations.

Victims of Crime in the Criminal Justice Process

22. Ministers received a report on the work of the Secretariat in fulfilment of the mandate given by Ministers in 2011 in respect of good practice in the support and protection of victims/witnesses. Although the mandate was now complete, Ministers reported developments in their jurisdictions and agreed that the issue continued to be important. The meeting approved action by the Secretariat to continue to promote best practices in witness and victim assistance and protection measures in ongoing technical assistance and capacity-building programmes, where it is relevant and needed. Ministers accepted the recommendations in the report and invited member countries that had yet to do so to take action, within their resources, in terms of national policies and practice, legislation and capacity-building to provide assistance, support and protection to victims and witnesses.

Prosecution Disclosure Obligations

23. At their 2011 meeting, Ministers mandated the Secretariat to continue dissemination of the model legislation and guidance on prosecution disclosure obligations in facilitating capacity-building and technical assistance over the following 12–18 months. The meeting noted that prosecution disclosure practice was evolving, with fresh statutory provisions or rules of court in some countries. The application of the model legislation and guidance needed to take account of new developments and local circumstances, and issues had arisen where very large databases contained data that had to be disclosed. Ministers received a report on work undertaken by the Secretariat and noted that this mandate had been completed, but agreed that the Secretariat should continue to promote best disclosure practice through ongoing technical assistance and capacity-building programmes, where relevant and needed. The meeting invited member countries that had, as yet, not addressed this issue to draw on the model disclosure legislation and guidelines as necessary and appropriate.

The Counter-terrorism Programme

24. Ministers received a report on the work undertaken by the Secretariat in respect of counter-terrorism, which followed the Commonwealth Plan of Action on Terrorism (CPAT). The meeting accepted its recommendations that the Secretariat continue to base any counter-terrorism work on the revised CPAT and that such work be carried out only in instances where the Commonwealth had a comparative advantage and in close collaboration with relevant national, regional and international agencies. Ministers invited the Secretariat to facilitate targeted technical assistance and capacity-building in response to regional needs and requests from member countries, through the Secretariat's interconnecting rule of law and justice mandates and programmes.

International Criminal Justice and International Humanitarian Law

25. Ministers recalled the mandate given to the Secretariat at their 2011 meeting to develop and implement programmes in member countries to promote the revised Commonwealth Model Law to Implement the Rome Statute, which was adopted at that meeting. The meeting received and approved a report containing recommendations that the Secretariat continue its work in disseminating information and providing assistance upon request in this area. Ministers approved the Secretariat's proposed future work, including activities to develop the knowledge and skills of young lawyers in international criminal justice and the use of online facilities such as Commonwealth Connects to create networks.

International Child Abduction

26. Ministers received a paper updating them on the Hague conventions on child abduction and child protection, including initiatives such as the International Hague Network of Judges and the Malta Process. The Malta Process aims at addressing the differences between Islamic legal systems and other legal systems. Ministers were also presented with the accompanying report on action taken by the Secretariat. The report proposed future action by the Secretariat in collaboration with other relevant organisations in order to increase participation of Commonwealth judges in the International Hague Network of Judges and the proposed network of judges of Commonwealth and common law jurisdictions. The report also proposed that the Secretariat provide assistance upon request to countries regarding accession to the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. Ministers agreed to the recommendations and mandated the Secretariat to undertake the proposed programme of work.

Information Papers

27. The meeting received and noted three papers presented at the Meeting of Law Ministers and Attorneys-General of Small Commonwealth Jurisdictions in September 2013, namely 'Tackling backlog of criminal cases in the Commonwealth', 'Model law on public integrity and the code of conduct for public officials' and 'Sustainable law revision in small commonwealth jurisdictions'.

Reports Received

28. Ministers received and took note of a number of reports. These were reports:
- a) on the activities of the Gender Section of the Social Transformation Programmes Division of the Secretariat;
 - b) on the activities of the Human Rights Unit of the Secretariat. Ministers expressed gratitude for the assistance provided by the Human Rights Unit and shared examples of human rights institutions in place in their jurisdictions;

- c) on the activities of the Secretariat in the field of maritime boundaries, oceans governance and the extractive industries;
- d) on the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross on the promotion and implementation of international humanitarian law.

Reports from Partner Organisations

29. Ministers received and noted reports from the Secretariat's partner organisations:

- a) the Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies (CALRAs);
- b) the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association (CMJA);
- c) the Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA);
- d) the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute (CJEI);
- e) the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel (CALC);
- f) the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA).

Sport

Seventh Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting

21 July 2014, Glasgow, Scotland, the United Kingdom

The Seventh Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting (CSMM) was held in Glasgow, Scotland, the United Kingdom, on 21 July 2014. Delegations from 45 member countries attended the meeting. The meeting was opened by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, HE Kamallesh Sharma, and chaired on behalf of the United Kingdom by Ms Shona Robison MSP, Minister for the Commonwealth Games and Sport, Scottish Government.

In acknowledging the important role that sport plays in contributing to a shared identity in the Commonwealth, the meeting focused on the positive impact that sport can make across the wide development agenda shared by Commonwealth members. The meeting also considered ways to protect the integrity of sport and to ensure that its full potential can be harnessed for positive social and economic outcomes.

Sport for Development and Peace

1. Ministers recognised the valuable role of sport for development and peace (SDP), as an approach to addressing a range of challenges and delivering significant benefits, and noted that this has been repeatedly and successfully demonstrated by practitioners across the Commonwealth. Ministers noted that this work occurs in a wide diversity of cultural and demographic contexts, and contributes to various development goals, such as health, education, youth empowerment, gender equity, equality and inclusion, social cohesion, economic growth, and community- and peace-building.
2. Ministers noted the power of sport to drive and support a range of development outcomes, and therefore its importance to successful delivery of the Post-2015

Development Agenda. Ministers called for sport and the role it can play in social and economic development to be explicitly recognised in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

3. Ministers affirmed the importance of high-level policy commitments being translated into detailed policy frameworks and action plans to drive SDP activity to benefit millions of people across the Commonwealth. Ministers also agreed that national investment in sport should reflect its transformational potential across multiple policy areas.
4. Ministers commended and endorsed the work undertaken by the Commonwealth Secretariat since the Sixth CSMM to support member governments to develop national SDP policies and action plans, including three SDP publications:
 - *The Commonwealth Guide to Advancing Development through Sport* (SDP Guidelines), which were provided in final draft form at the Sixth CSMM;
 - a workbook accompaniment to the SDP Guidelines, *Implementing the Commonwealth Guide to Advancing Development through Sport: A Workbook for Analysis, Planning and Monitoring*; and
 - *Strengthening Sport for Development and Peace: National Policies and Strategies*, a good practice guide.
5. Ministers commended the governments of Barbados, Rwanda and Sri Lanka for piloting the SDP Guidelines, with support from the Secretariat, and were pleased to note the success of these projects. In particular, Ministers noted the report on the impact that sport has played in sustaining peace and supporting reconciliation in former conflict areas of Sri Lanka and the focus on improving health and preventing NCDs in Rwanda. Furthermore, Ministers noted the importance, demonstrated by the pilot projects, of using sport intentionally for development and peace, and the value of multi-sectoral collaboration.
6. Ministers committed to the development of quality national policies to promote and support sustainable SDP programmes, with clearly planned outcomes, and requested the Secretariat to extend technical support for the development of SDP national action plans to additional member countries and monitor the impact of the existing pilots. Ministers agreed that sustainable funding for this work should be a priority for member countries.
7. Ministers recognised the importance of the Secretariat working with other international organisations to ensure continued advancement of SDP approaches. In particular, they noted the MINEPS V Declaration of Berlin as a high-level policy statement for sport that complements the Commonwealth SDP Guidelines and policy work. Ministers requested the Secretariat to engage with UNESCO's follow-up process for the Berlin Declaration, to ensure alignment and complementarity of approaches and guidance given to member governments, thus ensuring the greatest benefit.
8. Ministers noted the important role that physical education and school sport play in introducing children to sport and physical activity and in developing positive

attitudes to continued participation in sport and leading healthy lives; and that increased quality and quantity of physical education and school sport can, by reaching children at a young age, support and deliver SDP outcomes.

9. Ministers welcomed the steps taken by the CGF to use the Games as an instrument for peace and development, and commended the partnership between the CGF and UNICEF. Ministers requested the CGF to build engagement with the Secretariat to ensure alignment and enhancement of SDP policy and grassroots programming in the Commonwealth.
10. Ministers noted the importance of ensuring that SDP initiatives are sustainable. Ministers agreed that potential exists for partnerships with the private sector to further SDP and requested the Secretariat to explore options. Ministers also recommended that development co-operation partners be encouraged to increase the priority and quantity of sporting interventions in development programme planning and called for wider recognition of the power of SDP.
11. Ministers agreed that potential exists to leverage expertise between Commonwealth member countries for technological transfer to enable the production of sports equipment locally and at low cost, to increase grassroots sports participation. Ministers requested the Secretariat to explore options for such an undertaking.
12. Ministers applauded the formation of the Commonwealth Youth SDP Working Group (CYSDP) and endorsed it as the Commonwealth's leading youth voice in promoting best practices towards SDP. Ministers further endorsed the CYSDP's call for mechanisms in governmental processes and sporting organisations for the inclusion of youth voices, as a major stakeholder group in sport. Finally, Ministers agreed to consider support for any young person from their country who may be selected for membership of CYSDP and to support the CYSDP to access major regional and global forums for advocacy about SDP.
13. Ministers recognised the Secretariat's enhanced commitment to supporting member governments in the area of SDP, with the creation of permanent SDP staff positions. Ministers also recognised with appreciation the contribution, by UK Sport and the Government of India, and most recently by sportscotland, of seconded staff and financial resources to the Secretariat to allow delivery of the SDP mandate. Ministers acknowledged the need to ensure adequate financial resources for the Secretariat to deliver its SDP mandate and committed to consider providing funds for this work.

Integrity in Sport

14. Ministers reiterated their belief in the importance of integrity in sport, recognising that if it is undermined then it corrodes the positive potential of sport. Ministers reaffirmed their Sixth CSMM request for the Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS) to develop a framework encapsulating a Commonwealth consensus on issues related to integrity in sport, including good governance, safeguarding of participants and addressing match-fixing.

15. Ministers emphasised that good governance underpins the integrity of sport and welcomed, as a principle of good governance, the need for shared collective responsibility by both governments and sporting organisations.
16. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that safeguards are in place to protect children and other vulnerable groups participating in sport. Ministers acknowledged that national safeguarding in sport policy instruments and systems are key to the protection of vulnerable participants and thanked CABOS for outlining some of the key features of these.
17. Ministers noted with concern the growing threat to sport from manipulation of sporting competition for purposes relating to betting (match-fixing). Ministers acknowledged that, as this is a global issue that crosses many borders, it is important for the Commonwealth to work in partnership with other organisations. Ministers noted that this is an issue of transnational crime and requires the attention of law enforcement agencies. Ministers noted recent international developments in this area, including the Declaration of Berlin, the draft Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competition and the Sorbonne-ICSS (International Centre for Sport Security) Guiding Principles for Protecting the Integrity of Sports Competitions. Ministers committed to participating in the battle against the manipulation of sporting competitions and requested CABOS to continue to collaborate with other international organisations to address this issue and provide advice to member governments.
18. Ministers recognised that the Government of Australia is a global leader in addressing the issue of match-fixing at a national level and received with appreciation Australia's provision of practical national policy templates and resources that can be adapted by individual member governments. Ministers noted that these resources have been tailored to allow for both countries where betting is legal and those where betting is illegal, and committed to consider using these resources in their own national contexts.
19. Ministers highlighted the importance of ensuring that education programmes on integrity in sport are in place to inform and protect young athletes.
20. Ministers requested that CABOS continue to work with the Secretariat, consult with member governments and relevant international partners, and to collate and share members' good practice, to finalise the framework of the Commonwealth Consensus on Integrity in Sport for the Eighth CSMM in 2016. Ministers endorsed the recommendation by CABOS that the framework should cover other crucial aspects of integrity in sport, including equality and anti-doping. Ministers agreed to commit their efforts towards building respect and understanding, so as to combat racism and all other forms of discrimination in sport.
21. Ministers commended CABOS on the work undertaken in the area of integrity in sport to date and thanked the members of CABOS for their continued efforts to provide advice and expertise to member governments and the Secretariat in this and other aspects of sport.

Commonwealth Games and Major Events

22. Ministers received presentations on efforts to create legacies from major events. Ministers congratulated the Government of the United Kingdom on the continued impact being achieved around the world by the International Inspiration programme launched to coincide with the London 2012 Olympic Games. Ministers also commended the Scottish Government on its work to ensure that the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games deliver a legacy for Scotland across a range of areas, such as business, education and sport. Ministers noted that the planning for this started several years prior to the Games and that evaluation will continue for several years after the Games have finished. Finally, Ministers were pleased to hear of the raising of awareness of the Commonwealth and its values through the Commonwealth Class initiative supported by the Secretariat.
23. Ministers received an update on the activities of the CGF, including preparations for the upcoming Commonwealth and Commonwealth Youth Games. Ministers wished Scotland success in hosting the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, Samoa and Saint Lucia success with hosting the Youth Games in 2015 and 2017 respectively, and Australia with hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2018.

Eighth CSMM and Future Olympic Year CSMMs

24. Ministers welcomed the offer by the next Commonwealth Games host, Australia, to host and chair the 2016 CSMM in the margins of the Rio Olympic Games, with the meeting to be a full-day meeting. Ministers agreed that CSMMs should remain on a two-year cycle and agreed to consider options for future Olympic years (2020 and beyond), with the understanding that meetings might be hosted separately from the Olympic host country and that this would create the opportunity for smaller members to host.

Youth: Africa Region

First Africa Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting 8–10 February 2015, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Young People Building a Stable and Sustainable Future

1. The first Africa Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (AR-CYMM) was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, on 8–10 February 2015.
2. Delegations from 15 member countries attended the AR-CYMM, of which 10 were led at ministerial level. Delegates included Youth Ministers, senior government officials and youth representatives from Commonwealth countries of the Africa region, as well as youth development stakeholders and experts.
3. The timing of the AR-CYMM, occurring just a few months before world leaders were to agree the SDGs 2015–2030 at the UN General Assembly, gave delegates the opportunity to reflect on the negotiation process for the SDGs in the context of youth development priorities for Africa.

4. In recognition of the important role of young people as partners in building a stable and sustainable future, delegates considered recommendations submitted by the Youth Leaders Forum of the AR-CYMM, particularly on gender equality, peace and security, and health and wellbeing of young people.

Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

5. Ministers shared national progress and impediments related to the key resolutions adopted at the Eighth Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM) in Papua New Guinea in 2013, aimed at ensuring strong recognition of young people in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
6. Ministers reinforced their commitment to the resolutions agreed at the Eighth CYMM in 2013, including to:
 - take steps to integrate young people in the design and implementation of national youth policies and action plans; and
 - develop and prioritise the implementation of national youth mainstreaming strategies.
7. Ministers resolved to take action to advocate for stronger recognition of young people in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. They agreed to protect existing youth-specific targets in the draft SDGs and to promote the inclusion of additional youth targets, which are crucial to member countries in the region. Specifically, Ministers agreed to advocate for the inclusion of the following targets:
 - Ensure that all young people have access to opportunities to participate effectively in peace-building and the civic life of their societies, and in decision-making and monitoring across all sectors of national development.
 - Ensure universal access to ICT and the achievement of targeted outcomes in education, healthcare, social cohesion, training and employment opportunities among the youth, through greater use of ICT.
 - Ensure young people have opportunities for sustained participation, ownership and leadership in local, regional and international mechanisms to prevent, manage and resolve conflict and maintain peace.
 - Ensure early detection and treatment of and support for mental health issues and promote universal healthcare and education on sexual health and reproductive rights among adolescents and youth.
 - Ensure equal access for young women to all employment opportunities and encourage their participation in traditionally male-dominated professions.
8. Ministers also supported the call by youth leaders for a youth monitoring mechanism for the SDGs, including the disaggregation of data and analysis using the CYDI.

Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship

9. Ministers noted the emergence of a policy guide on youth entrepreneurship, developed by the Commonwealth Secretariat in partnership with the United

Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and expressed interest in the potential for related technical assistance.

10. Ministers noted the achievements of the youth-led Commonwealth Asia Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs (CAAYE) and agreed to support the replication of the CAAYE model in the Africa region, mandated by Heads of Government in Sri Lanka in 2013, noting that such a network would help lift economic growth and youth employment in member countries. Ministers further agreed to support youth entrepreneurship by facilitating easier access to technology and finance for young people, particularly those unable to furnish collateral.
11. Ministers emphasised the need to prioritise the engagement of young people in agriculture and the importance of integrating entrepreneurship education and training in school and university curriculums.
12. Ministers endorsed the Commonwealth Youth Forum's call to aim for a reduction in youth unemployment and reiterated their commitment to the African Union rate of reduction of 2 per cent annually.
13. Ministers agreed to ensure that bids by youth-owned enterprises are given more serious consideration in government procurement processes through the establishment of mechanisms such as quotas.

Youth Participation and Civic Education

14. Ministers reflected on existing and planned mechanisms for youth participation in decision-making processes and explored enhanced approaches to youth engagement and participation, with a particular focus on peace-building. Ministers endorsed the principles outlined in the Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peace-building and committed to using the principles where relevant to guide programme design and delivery.
15. Ministers recommended that the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) should include work on building intergenerational respect, understanding and constructive collaboration.
16. Ministers resolved to support young people to take a key role in disaster relief and recovery in times of crisis and natural disaster. Ministers expressed their support for, and solidarity with, Sierra Leone and commended the remarkable work being done by young people there in the face of the Ebola crisis.
17. Ministers agreed to commit to clear, collaborative paths of action to deal with terrorism and other forces that are preventing peace, and therefore development, in Africa, in partnership with and for the sake of young people.
18. Ministers agreed that young people should be seen as an opportunity and a resource, not as a threat, and that investment in youth development is critical to meaningful, constructive, intergenerational collaboration.
19. Ministers committed to enhancing youth participation in decision-making, as well as the design, implementation and monitoring of programmes, by taking

steps to include targets for youth representation, through legitimate structures, in relevant governance and decision-making structures at national and international levels.

20. Ministers commended the work of the CYC and the commitment and expertise shown by youth delegates to the AR-CYMM. Ministers further called for greater intergenerational understanding and collaboration between youth leaders and decision-makers.
21. Ministers noted the resource constraints faced by youth-led organisations such as national youth councils and student associations and agreed to provide greater support for building their capacity through legislation, financial assistance and/or other measures. They noted that this work can and should be supported by the CYC and the Commonwealth Students Association (CSA), working in partnership with the Pan-Africa Youth Union.

Youth Policy Frameworks and Action Plans

22. Ministers agreed to strengthen the development of national youth policies that are inclusive of, and relevant to, young people's needs and capabilities and prioritise action and resources to ensure meaningful implementation.
23. Ministers noted the challenges of an increasingly complex environment of regional and global youth policy frameworks, and the expiry of the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) (2007–2015). Ministers endorsed the Commonwealth's proposal to explore harmonisation of the multiple policy frameworks and agreed to provide input to the process.
24. Ministers resolved to strengthen efforts to monitor and evaluate youth policies and to track progress in youth development with the help of regular reporting and tools such as the CYDI.

Youth Work Professionalisation

25. Ministers reinforced their commitment to youth work as an essential component of the enabling environment that underpins effective youth development. Ministers also committed to implementing the mandate by the Commonwealth Heads of Government for the professionalisation of youth work and the recognition of youth workers at national level, through mechanisms such as Commonwealth Youth Work Week and the Commonwealth Youth Worker Awards.
26. Ministers noted the importance of education and training for youth workers and agreed to facilitate and support youth work education across the Commonwealth, including engagement with the emerging CCfE for a bachelor's degree in youth development work. Ministers recommended additional engagement with ministries of education and the University Council of the African Union.
27. Ministers took note of the main challenges facing youth workers in the region and agreed to better support the contribution of youth workers.

28. Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of Cameroon for their hospitality in hosting the AR-CYMM, and the Secretariat, the CYC and the National Youth Council of Cameroon for the organisation of the event.

Youth: Caribbean Region

Caribbean Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting,

28–30 April 2015, St John's, Antigua and Barbuda

Youth Participation at the Heart of National Development

1. The Caribbean Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CR-CYMM) was held in St John's, Antigua and Barbuda, on 28–30 April 2015. The meeting was officially opened by HE Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda.
2. Delegations from eleven member countries and four overseas territories attended the CR-CYMM, of which ten were led at ministerial level. Delegates included Youth Ministers, senior government officials and youth representatives from Commonwealth countries of the Caribbean region, as well as youth development stakeholders and experts.
3. The timing of the CR-CYMM, occurring just a few months before world leaders were to agree the SDGs 2015–2030 at the UN General Assembly, gave delegates the opportunity to reflect on the negotiation process for the SDGs in the context of youth development priorities for the Caribbean.
4. In recognition of the important contribution of young people as partners in regional and national development, delegates considered recommendations submitted by the Youth Leaders Forum of the CR-CYMM, particularly on employment, entrepreneurship, professionalisation of youth work, peace-building, strengthening national youth participation structures, and developing and implementing national youth policies.

Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

5. Ministers shared national progress and impediments related to the key resolutions adopted at the Eighth CYMM in Papua New Guinea in 2013, aimed at ensuring strong recognition of young people in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
6. Ministers reinforced their commitment to the resolutions agreed at the Eighth CYMM in 2013 and resolved to take further practical action, especially in the areas of youth policy design and implementation, strengthening youth participation mechanisms, and youth employment and entrepreneurship.
7. Ministers resolved to take action to advocate for stronger recognition of young people in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. They agreed to protect the existing youth-specific targets in the draft SDGs and to promote the inclusion of additional youth targets that are crucial to member countries in the region. Specifically, Ministers agreed to advocate for the inclusion of the following targets:

- Ensure that all young people have access to opportunities to participate effectively in peace-building and the civic life of their societies, and in decision-making and monitoring across all sectors of national development.
 - Ensure universal access to ICT and the achievement of targeted outcomes in education, healthcare, social cohesion, training and employment opportunities among the youth, through greater use of ICT.
 - Ensure young people have opportunities for sustained participation, ownership and leadership in local, regional and international mechanisms to prevent, manage and resolve conflict and maintain peace.
 - Ensure early detection, treatment of and support for mental health issues and promote universal healthcare and education on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights among adolescents and youth.
 - Ensure equal access for young women to all employment opportunities and encourage their participation in traditionally male-dominated professions.
8. Ministers also supported the call by youth leaders for a youth monitoring mechanism for the SDGs, including the disaggregation of data and analysis using the CYDI.

Strengthening the Implementation of National Youth Policies

9. Ministers further reinforced their commitment to the resolutions agreed at the Eighth CYMM in Papua New Guinea in 2013 and resolved to take further practical action.
10. Ministers took note of the regional challenges and opportunities for the implementation of national youth policies. Ministers agreed to work together to strengthen national youth policy frameworks across the region, ensuring that national youth policies are inclusive of, and relevant to, young people's needs and capabilities. They also agreed to prioritise action and resources to ensure meaningful implementation.
11. Ministers noted the challenges of an increasingly complex environment of regional and global youth policy frameworks, and the expiry of the PAYE (2007–2015). Ministers endorsed the Commonwealth's proposal to explore harmonisation of the multiple policy frameworks, as part of a broader Commonwealth youth policy environment, and agreed to provide input to the process.
12. Ministers also noted the need to ensure that the regional agenda for youth development programming is cohesive and that programmatic objectives are agreed through collective engagement. They agreed to determine and execute a strategic mechanism for the further harmonisation of the youth development agendas of all international development partners operating in the Caribbean region (i.e. UN systems, the Commonwealth, the OAS, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and other recognised bodies).
13. Ministers committed to advocating for adequate resourcing and prioritisation for ministries responsible for youth development to ensure that they are able to

execute their vital mandates in alignment with best practices, approved national policy and legislative frameworks.

14. Ministers confirmed that ministries responsible for youth development should be supported by a formalised interministerial approach to implementation, to facilitate the prioritisation of youth development and allow related policy agendas to be fulfilled through collaboration and shared responsibility. Ministers also agreed to employ the full weight of their offices to co-ordinate the commitment and support of Heads of Government, Finance Ministers and other relevant ministers to prioritise and promote youth development.
15. Ministers agreed to work towards the identification and implementation of a model youth ministry/department, with an appropriate structure and adequate resourcing, to underpin successful implementation of policy and to handle the peculiar vulnerabilities of the youth populations both nationally and regionally.
16. Ministers noted that policy documents must be developed through a multi-sectoral development process to ensure that they transcend political regimes. Furthermore, policy and programmes must be cohesive and evidence-based and should be supported by mandatory monitoring and evaluative components.
17. Ministers acknowledged the importance of a mainstreaming approach to youth policy design and implementation and agreed to incorporate youth mainstreaming principles and strategies in national youth policy processes.
18. Ministers resolved to strengthen efforts to implement, monitor and evaluate youth policies, and to track progress in youth development with the help of regular reporting and tools such as the CYDI.

Youth in Peace-building

19. Ministers reflected on the issue of crime and violence in the Caribbean region and its relationship to social and economic development. Ministers endorsed the principles outlined in the Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peace-building and committed to using the principles where relevant to guide programme design and delivery in dealing with crime and violence.
20. Ministers agreed to promote clear, collaborative regional-level action to deal with crime and violence, including development of strategies to promote safety and security of young people.
21. Ministers noted best-practice examples of non-traditional methods of engaging at-risk youth and resolved to work with CSOs, development partners and stakeholders to facilitate collective action to engage young people, especially at-risk youth, in peace-building.

Youth Participation in National Development

22. Ministers reflected on mechanisms for youth participation in decision-making processes and explored strategies to enhance youth engagement and participation,

particularly in national and regional development planning and other areas of national progress.

23. Ministers committed to enhancing youth participation in decision-making, as well as in the design, implementation and monitoring of programmes, by taking steps to include targets for youth representation, through legitimate structures, in relevant governance and decision-making structures at national and international levels.
24. Ministers endorsed the establishment of the Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC) as the official representative regional youth body, commended their work to date and agreed to assist them to explore possible sources of financial support. Ministers also commended the work of the CYC and the CSA in engaging and uniting youth and student organisations in the Commonwealth.
25. Ministers noted the resource constraints faced by youth-led and youth-serving organisations, especially national youth councils and student associations, and agreed to provide greater support for building their capacity through legislation, financial assistance and/or other measures if not already being done. They agreed that this support should be provided in parallel with efforts to strengthen governance structures of such bodies and depoliticise them. They further noted that this work can and should be supported by the CYC and the CSA.
26. Ministers took note of the upcoming 19th CCEM to be held in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas on 22–26 June 2015. Ministers acknowledged the plans for the First Commonwealth Students Congress to be held as part of the conference and agreed to encourage the participation of national student leaders to attend and contribute to shaping education policy in the Commonwealth.
27. Ministers also noted the upcoming Commonwealth Youth Forum and Second CYC General Assembly as part of the CHOGM in Malta in November 2015 and agreed to encourage the participation of representative youth leaders to attend and contribute to shaping policy in the Commonwealth.

Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship

28. Ministers noted the establishment of the youth-led Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs – Caribbean and Canada (CAYE-C&C) and agreed to provide support, noting that such a network would help lift economic growth and youth employment in member countries. Ministers further agreed to continue to strengthen and support youth entrepreneurship by facilitating easier access to technology and finance for young people, particularly those unable to furnish collateral.
29. Ministers noted the emergence of a policy guide on youth entrepreneurship, developed by the Commonwealth Secretariat in partnership with UNCTAD, and committed to develop, and where necessary refine, national/regional youth entrepreneurship strategies in collaboration with the Commonwealth and other regional partners, including the CAYE-C&C.

30. Ministers emphasised the need to promote the integration of entrepreneurship education and training in school and university curriculums.
31. Ministers resolved to leverage the Commonwealth network and other development partners to ensure entrepreneurial and employment opportunities for young people in the knowledge economy and in the emerging sectors of the creative industries and sports.

Youth Work Professionalisation

32. Ministers reinforced their commitment to youth work as an essential component of the enabling environment that underpins effective youth development. Ministers also committed to implementing the mandate by the Commonwealth Heads of Government to enhance the professionalisation of youth work and the recognition of youth workers at the national level, through mechanisms such as Commonwealth Youth Work Week and the Commonwealth Youth Worker Awards.
33. Ministers noted the importance of education and training for youth workers and agreed to facilitate and support youth work education across the Commonwealth, including engagement with the emerging CCfE for a bachelor's degree in youth development work, and the possibility of the development of a post-graduate degree. They further noted that the Commonwealth Competency Standards for youth development work should act as a guide for the capacity-building of workers. Ministers also agreed that it is vital to ensure that youth development officers have a grounding in grassroots youth development work and bring a genuine understanding and passion for all young people's advancement to their work.
34. Ministers commended the contributions of the regional finalists of the Commonwealth Youth Worker Awards, in particular the challenges that they and other youth workers in the region face, and agreed to better support the contribution of youth work professionals.

Commonwealth Engagement

35. Ministers recommended for the consideration of the Secretariat the establishment of an online portal to facilitate the sharing of best practices in youth development among Commonwealth member countries in the Caribbean and beyond.
36. Ministers agreed that there is an urgent need for continued technical support from the Commonwealth after the implementation of a new operating model for the CYP. In particular, such support is required to define and build an ideal ecosystem for youth development, which would allow for the facilitation of access, opportunity and funding to youth departments, youth/civic organisations and other recognised youth networks.
37. Ministers noted the urgency of appointing a CYP regional representative for the Caribbean region and requested the Secretariat to take the necessary action

to expedite this matter. Ministers noted with appreciation the offer from the Government of Barbados to host the CYP regional representative, in addition to the offer from the Government of Guyana.

Closing

38. Youth delegates expressed their appreciation to the Youth Ministers of the Commonwealth Caribbean Region for their participatory approach and genuine partnership and noted that they looked forward to a continuance of this inclusive and mutually beneficial relationship and the implementation of the agreements made.
39. Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda for their hospitality in hosting the CR-CYMM, and the Commonwealth Secretariat, the CYC and the CRYC for the organisation of the event.

Youth: Asia Region

**Asia Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting,
28–30 July 2015, New Delhi, India**

Youth Participation at the Heart of Sustainable Development

1. The Asia Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (AsR-CYMM) was held in New Delhi, India, on 28–30 July 2015. The meeting was officially opened by the Hon. Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.
2. Delegates to the meeting expressed their sincere condolences to the Government and the people of India on the passing away of Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, former President of India.
3. All eight member countries from the Commonwealth Asia region attended the AsR-CYMM, of which five were led at ministerial level. Delegates included Youth Ministers, senior government officials and youth representatives, as well as youth development stakeholders and experts.
4. The timing of the AsR-CYMM, occurring just two months before world leaders finalise the SDGs 2015–2030 at the UN General Assembly, gave delegates the opportunity to deliberate national youth development priorities in that context.
5. In recognition of the important contribution of young people as partners in regional and national development, delegates considered recommendations submitted by the Youth Leaders Forum of the AsR-CYMM, particularly on decent employment, entrepreneurship and skills development, professionalising youth work, peace-building, strengthening national youth participation structures, and developing and implementing national youth policies.

Young People in National and Global Development Agendas

5. Ministers agreed strategies/key actions to ensure youth empowerment and development priorities are included in national and regional development frameworks, especially in the light of the new SDGs.
6. Ministers reinforced their commitment to the resolutions agreed at the Eighth CYMM in 2013 and resolved to take further practical action, especially in the areas of youth policy design and implementation, strengthening youth participation mechanisms, and youth employment and skills development and entrepreneurship.
7. Ministers agreed to champion a youth focus in their countries in programming and interventions at national and regional levels to achieve the goals of the SDG targets and indicators.
8. Ministers also supported the call by youth leaders for a youth-focused monitoring mechanism for the SDGs, including the disaggregation of data and analysis using the CYDI.
9. Ministers agreed to advocate for adequate financing for youth development at sub-national, national and regional levels.

Youth Employment, Skills Development and Entrepreneurship

10. Ministers reiterated that economic empowerment and entrepreneurship are critical for growth and as a solution to unemployment.
11. Ministers commended the progress made by the Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs – Asia (CAYE-A) and agreed to provide further support, noting that such a network helps lift economic growth and youth employment in member countries. Ministers further agreed to continue to strengthen and support youth entrepreneurship by facilitating easier access to technology and finance for young people, particularly those unable to furnish collateral, and simplifying the regulatory environment for youth.
12. Ministers noted the emergence of a policy guide on youth entrepreneurship, developed by the Commonwealth Secretariat in partnership with UNCTAD, and committed to develop, and where necessary refine, national/regional youth entrepreneurship strategies in collaboration with the Commonwealth and other regional partners, including the CAYE-A.
13. Ministers resolved to work with the Commonwealth and other development partners to ensure entrepreneurial and employment opportunities for young people in new and emerging economies.
14. Ministers agreed to strengthen skills training education relevant to the existing and future needs of labour markets, including partnerships with industry and utilisation of existing education and training infrastructures, to enhance employability of young people and economic development.
15. Ministers noted the introduction of World Youth Skills Day and its take up in member countries.

16. Ministers agreed to facilitate the formation of a virtual regional network between ministries to identify and share good practices in skills development and entrepreneurship programming, with the support of the Commonwealth.
17. Ministers noted that life skills are just as important as technical skills, in particular in the context of preparing for an unknown economic future. They also noted the importance of identifying different but equally valuable educational pathways to meet young people's diverse needs and aspirations.

Youth Participation in Governance

18. Ministers committed to enhancing youth participation in decision-making, as well as youth participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of government programmes, by taking steps to include targets for youth representation, through legitimate structures, in relevant governance and decision-making structures at national, regional and international levels.
19. Ministers agreed to establish/strengthen national youth councils (NYCs) or other national youth-led bodies in their countries, acknowledging the potential role and contribution of NYCs to sustainable development, peace and democracy. Ministers requested the Commonwealth's assistance in developing guidance on the principles and structures of successful youth council models.
20. Ministers commended the progress of the CYC and CSA in engaging and uniting youth and student organisations in the Commonwealth. They also noted the need to strengthen communication and co-ordination mechanisms between youth networks, youth ministries and the Commonwealth.
21. Ministers noted the resource constraints faced by youth-led and youth-serving organisations, especially national youth councils and student associations, and agreed to provide greater support for building their capacity through legislation, financial assistance and/or other measures.
22. Ministers recognised the importance of participation by representative youth leaders at key regional and international meetings, such as the upcoming Commonwealth Youth Forum and Second CYC General Assembly as part of the CHOGM in Malta on 21–25 November 2015, and agreed to encourage and support them to attend and contribute to shaping policy through an inclusive and transparent process.
23. Ministers commended the participating youth leaders on the relevance of their inputs to the AsR-CYMM, noting that it is critical for young people to be involved in development policies, strategies and implementation to ensure sustainability and relevance to young people.
24. Youth delegates expressed their deep appreciation for the financial and in-kind contributions from the governments of Pakistan and Sri Lanka in support of the CYC.

National Youth Policy Frameworks and Action Plans

25. Ministers shared national experiences of the processes, challenges and opportunities for the design and implementation of national youth policies and

ensuring that national youth policies are inclusive of, and relevant to, young people's needs and capabilities. Ministers commended the work presented by a number of countries on evidence-based, youth-inclusive, comprehensive processes followed for national youth policy reviews. Ministers agreed to work together to strengthen national youth policy frameworks and action plans across the region, and to prioritise action and resources to ensure meaningful implementation.

26. Ministers noted the challenges of an increasingly complex environment of regional and global youth policy frameworks, and the expiry of the PAYE (2007–2015). Ministers endorsed the Commonwealth's proposal to harmonise the multiple policy frameworks, as part of a broader Commonwealth youth policy environment, and agreed to collaborate on the process.
27. Ministers committed to advocating for adequate resourcing and prioritisation for youth development across all relevant ministries, to ensure that they are able to execute their vital mandates in alignment with best practices, approved national policy and legislative frameworks. Ministers also acknowledged the importance of having competent young people working within ministries to provide youth perspectives on policy and programme design, and to contribute to implementation.
28. Ministers agreed that policy documents must be developed through a multi-sectoral development process to ensure that they have wide relevance and ownership, and that they transcend political regimes. Furthermore, policies and programmes must be cohesive and evidence-based and should be supported by mandatory monitoring and evaluative components. Ministers agreed that data is critical to the design and monitoring of policies and programming, and that they should be validated, regularly updated and shared.
29. Ministers acknowledged the importance of a mainstreaming approach to youth policy design and implementation and agreed to incorporate youth mainstreaming principles and strategies in national youth policy processes. Ministers resolved to strengthen efforts to implement, monitor and evaluate youth policies, to track progress in youth development with the help of regular reporting and tools such as the CYDI and to aim for a review of national youth policies every five years.
30. Ministers noted the importance of recognising emerging topics in youth policies, such as the increasing agency of young people to address their own issues and the advent of social media, which has the potential to be a force for liberty and socialisation if used positively, but conversely may be a threat if used for activities such as cyberbullying.

Professionalising Youth Work

31. Ministers reinforced their commitment to youth work as an essential component of the enabling environment that underpins effective youth development. Ministers also committed to continue implementing the mandate by the

Commonwealth Heads of Government to enhance the competencies and professionalism of youth work and the recognition of youth work in youth policy and, where possible, in legislation.

32. Ministers reconfirmed the importance of education and training for youth workers and agreed to facilitate and support youth work education across the Commonwealth, including through engagement with the emerging CCfE for a bachelor's degree in youth development work, and with the 2016 Commonwealth Youth Work Conference. They further noted that the Commonwealth Competency Standards for Youth Development Work should act as a guide for the capacity-building and evaluation of youth workers.
33. Ministers agreed to collaborate on the celebration of Commonwealth Youth Work Week and encourage applications for the annual Commonwealth Youth Worker Awards.
34. Ministers commended the work of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) in India and agreed to explore the possibilities for establishing or strengthening youth development-focused institutions and think tanks in their own countries to provide an academic core for youth development research and practice.
35. Ministers discussed the issue of setting up systematic field mechanisms for the empowerment, non-formal education and care of young people and agreed to work towards the identification and implementation of good models of youth work practice, such as that outlined in the Commonwealth's Co-creating Youth Spaces model.
36. Ministers commended the contributions of the regional finalists of the Commonwealth Youth Worker Awards, in particular the challenges that they and other youth workers in the region face, and agreed to better support the contribution of youth work professionals.

Youth and Peaceful Societies

37. Ministers reflected on the promotion of peace, harmony and social cohesion as a counter to conflict and extremism and a force for social and economic development.
38. Ministers committed to taking a collective, regional approach to peace-building and resolution of conflicts and disputes, noting that young people and Youth Ministers can play a leadership role in promoting friendship, understanding and unity in the Asia region and as a global exemplar.
39. Ministers endorsed the principles outlined in the Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peace-building and committed to using the principles where relevant to guide programme design and delivery in dealing with crime and violence.
40. Ministers reiterated the importance of social values and values-based education. They also agreed to explore mechanisms for engagement between young people of diverse backgrounds, and intergenerational and intercultural dialogue and understanding.

Commonwealth Engagement

41. Ministers commended the contribution of the Commonwealth to furthering youth development policy and practice in the Asia region and agreed that there is a strong need for continued technical support after the implementation of the new operating model for the CYP.

Closing

42. Ministers requested the Secretariat to assist and follow up on the implementation of the resolutions contained in this communiqué on an annual basis.
43. Youth delegates expressed their appreciation to the Youth Ministers of the Commonwealth Asia Region for their participatory approach and genuine partnership and noted that they looked forward to the continuation of this inclusive and mutually beneficial relationship and the implementation of the agreements made.
44. Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government and the people of India for their hospitality in hosting the AsR-CYMM, and the Secretariat and the CYC for organising the event, and commended the interactive and productive format.

Youth: Pacific Region

First Pacific Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting

1–3 September 2015, Apia, Samoa

Youth as Partners in Sustainable Small Island Development

1. The first Pacific Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (PR-CYMM) was held in Apia, Samoa, on 1–3 September 2015. The meeting was officially opened by the Hon. Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Dr Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa, and chaired by the Hon. Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua, Minister for Women, Community and Social Development, Government of Samoa
2. Nine member countries and one territory from the Commonwealth Pacific region attended the PR-CYMM, of which seven were led at ministerial level. Delegates included Youth Ministers, senior government officials and youth representatives, as well as youth development stakeholders and experts.
3. The timing of the PR-CYMM, occurring just three weeks before world leaders finalise the SDGs 2015–2030 at the UN General Assembly, gave delegates the opportunity to deliberate on national youth development priorities in that context.
4. In recognition of the important contribution of young people as partners in regional and national development, delegates considered recommendations submitted by the Youth Leaders Forum of the PR-CYMM, particularly on youth employment and entrepreneurship, professionalising youth work, climate change, strengthening national youth participation structures, and developing and implementing national youth policies.

Young People in National and Global Development Agendas

5. Ministers agreed strategies/key actions to ensure that youth empowerment and development priorities are included in national and regional development frameworks, especially in the light of the new SDGs.
6. Ministers reinforced their commitment to the resolutions agreed at the Eighth CYMM in 2013 and in the UN Small Island Developing States Conference SAMOA Pathway in 2014 – which incorporates recommendations from the SIDS TALAVOU Youth Forum declaration – and resolved to take further practical action, especially in the areas of youth policy design and implementation, strengthening youth participation mechanisms, and youth employment and entrepreneurship.
7. Ministers agreed to champion a youth focus in their countries in programming and interventions at national and regional levels to achieve the goals of the Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF) and the SDG targets.
8. Ministers supported the call by youth leaders for a youth-focused, evidence-based monitoring mechanism for the PYDF and the SDGs, including the disaggregation of data, the standardising of indicators and analysis using tools such as the CYDI.
9. Ministers agreed to advocate for adequate financial and technical resources and partnerships for youth development at national, regional and international levels.

Youth Participation – Young People as Partners in National Development

10. Ministers noted the resource constraints faced by youth-led and youth-serving organisations, especially national youth councils, student associations and the Pacific Youth Council, and agreed to provide greater support for building their capacity through legislation, financial assistance and/or other measures, and to facilitate access to decision-makers.
11. Ministers agreed to provide greater support for the Pacific Youth Council and other regional youth platforms and to assist young people by exploring possible sources of technical and financial support and access to decision-makers.
12. Ministers agreed to establish/strengthen national youth councils (NYCs), acknowledging the role and contribution of NYCs to sustainable development, youth engagement and community cohesion. Ministers requested the Commonwealth's assistance in developing guidance on principles and structures of successful youth council models.
13. Ministers commended the progress of the CYC and the CSA in engaging and uniting youth and student organisations in the Commonwealth. They also noted the need to strengthen communication and co-ordination mechanisms between youth networks, youth ministries and the Commonwealth.
14. Ministers noted the upcoming Commonwealth Youth Forum and Second CYC General Assembly as part of the CHOGM in Malta on 21–25 November 2015

and agreed to encourage and support the participation of representative youth leaders to attend and contribute to shaping policy in the Commonwealth.

15. Ministers commended the participating youth leaders on the relevance of their inputs to the PR-CYMM, noting that it is critical for young people to be involved in development policies, strategies and implementation to ensure sustainability and relevance to young people.

Youth and Climate Change

16. Ministers acknowledged that young people are at the front line of climate change and already affected by its impact on their daily life, and should be included in decision-making and action on climate change issues.
17. Ministers agreed to provide greater support to ensure that young people are empowered and equipped with the necessary information and skills to act as equal partners in the global and regional response to climate change. Such support should include allocation of resources to youth-led action, integration of accessible climate change education in school curriculums and advocacy for the implementation of existing national climate change-related policies and commitments.
18. Ministers commended the report from the CYCN Expert Group Meeting (EGM), and also the South-South Youth Sub-regional Initiative on Climate Change Conference, and committed to using the recommendations where relevant in COP21 position planning and to guide policy and programme design and delivery in dealing with youth and climate change.
19. Ministers recognised that young people are climate change action champions, delivering significant initiatives, and agreed to promote and increase platforms for these initiatives to be shared across the Pacific region.
20. Ministers agreed to advocate for inclusion of young climate change experts in national negotiation teams attending key international climate change negotiations, including to COP21 in December 2015.
21. Ministers expressed support and solidarity for countries in the region currently experiencing adverse effects of climate change-related disasters and commended the role that young people are playing in post-disaster recovery and rebuilding.

Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship

22. Ministers reiterated that youth economic empowerment, entrepreneurship and innovative job creation are critical for economic growth and as a solution to unemployment. This should be delivered through an integrated mechanism, bringing together all relevant sectors and stakeholders.
23. Ministers agreed to foster a culture of youth entrepreneurship by:
 - including entrepreneurship skills curriculums in both formal and non-formal education and training institutions;

- creating national and regional networks using the Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs (CAYE) model; and
 - facilitating youth-specific segments in regional trade shows and entrepreneurship competitions.
24. Ministers noted the emergence of a policy guide on youth entrepreneurship, developed by the Commonwealth Secretariat in partnership with UNCTAD, and committed to developing, and where necessary refining, national/regional youth entrepreneurship strategies in collaboration with the Commonwealth and other regional partners.
 25. Ministers resolved to work with the Commonwealth, young people and other development partners to explore entrepreneurship, employment and training opportunities for young people in new and emerging economies, especially the blue and green economies.
 26. Ministers committed to encouraging and strengthening labour mobility schemes in the Pacific, including seasonal worker schemes in Australia and New Zealand.
 27. Ministers noted the critical importance of sound ICT infrastructure, policy and programming to expand education and employment opportunities and agreed to advocate for increased prioritisation and investment.

National Youth Policy Frameworks and Action Plans

28. Ministers noted the importance of national youth policies and shared national experiences of the challenges and opportunities of development and implementation of national youth policies. Ministers agreed to work together to strengthen national youth policy frameworks and action plans across the region, ensuring that national youth policies are inclusive of, and relevant to, young people's needs and capabilities. They also agreed to prioritise action and resources to ensure meaningful implementation.
29. Ministers noted the challenges of an increasingly complex environment of regional and global youth policy frameworks, and the expiry of the PAYE (2007–2015). Ministers endorsed the Commonwealth's work to harmonise the multiple regional and global policy frameworks, as part of a broader Commonwealth youth policy environment, and agreed to provide input to the process.
30. Ministers noted the need to ensure that the regional agenda for youth development programming is cohesive and that programmatic objectives are agreed through collective engagement. Ministers noted the progress made in the development and implementation of the PYDF, a regional effort aimed at managing a co-ordinated approach to youth-centred development in the Pacific, and agreed to provide greater support to strengthen and implement the framework.
31. Ministers committed to advocating for adequate resourcing and prioritisation for ministries responsible for youth development to ensure that they are able to execute their vital mandates, in alignment with best practices, approved national policy and legislative frameworks. Ministers also agreed to employ the full

weight of their offices to co-ordinate the commitment and support of Heads of Government, Ministers of Finance and other relevant ministers to prioritise and promote youth development

32. Ministers acknowledged the importance of a mainstreaming approach to youth policy design and implementation and agreed to incorporate youth mainstreaming principles and strategies in national youth policy processes.
33. Ministers recognised SDP as a proven strategy for the delivery of the SDGs and PYDF priority areas, and to develop skills for youth contribution and meaningful participation.
34. Ministers resolved to strengthen efforts to implement, monitor and evaluate youth policies and to track progress in youth development with the help of regular reporting and tools such as the CYDI.

Professionalising Youth Work

35. Ministers reinforced their commitment to youth work as an essential component of the enabling environment that underpins effective youth development. Ministers also committed to implementing the mandate by the Commonwealth Heads of Government to enhance the professionalisation of youth work and the recognition of youth work in youth policy and, where possible, in legislation.
36. Ministers noted the importance of education and training for youth workers and agreed to facilitate and support youth work education in the Pacific region, including through engagement with the emerging CCfE for a bachelor's degree in youth development work, and with the 2016 Commonwealth Youth Work Conference.
37. Ministers agreed to collaborate in the celebration of Commonwealth Youth Work Week and encourage applications for the annual Commonwealth Youth Worker Awards.
38. Ministers requested Commonwealth support in establishing national youth work accreditation and qualifications frameworks.

Partnerships

39. Ministers encouraged continued collaboration and strong partnerships across the region by the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Pacific Youth Council and other regional and international partner organisations to ensure strong development outcomes for young people.

Commonwealth Engagement

40. Ministers agreed that there is a strong need for continued technical support from the Commonwealth after the implementation of the new operating model for the CYP.
41. Ministers agreed to join with the other Commonwealth regions to provide annual progress reports on CYMM resolutions.

Closing

42. Youth delegates expressed their appreciation to the Youth Ministers of the Commonwealth Pacific Region for their participatory approach and genuine partnership and noted that they looked forward to the continuation of this inclusive and mutually beneficial relationship and the implementation of the agreements made.
43. Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government and the people of Samoa for their hospitality in hosting the PR-CYMM, and to the Secretariat, the CYC and Samoa National Youth Council for organising the event.

Annex 2A: Submissions from Commonwealth Associated Organisations

Committee of the Whole Meeting with Accredited Commonwealth Organisations

Submission by Commonwealth Associated Organisations

20 October 2015, Marlborough House

Commonwealth Associated Organisations: Adding Value to Commonwealth Co-operation

Submission to the 2015 CHOGM through the CHOGM Committee of the Whole (COW), London, 20 October 2015.

The Commonwealth Associated Organisations (AOs) work with other Commonwealth partners to ensure that the Commonwealth's added value can be maximised in a strategic way. The AOs look forward to more strategic engagement, particularly with the Commonwealth Secretariat, over the coming years to improve the global impact of the Commonwealth in achieving better democratic and development outcomes for its 2.2 million citizens.

AOs are committed to the fundamental principles of the Commonwealth as set out in the Commonwealth Charter and adhere to their active implementation. They support current efforts to strengthen and reform the Commonwealth and already add significant global value in their respective fields of operation on account of their distinct nature and capacities, in close co-operation with the intergovernmental Commonwealth and Commonwealth civil society.

Associated Organisations

AOs are distinguished from non-governmental CSOs by the following characteristics:

- having been constituted by Commonwealth governments with Commonwealth-wide membership/structures and governing bodies that are pan-Commonwealth in composition;
- a representative, legal organisational structure, mostly of a governmental/quasigovernmental nature, which in some AOs involves democratically elected representatives, including national ministers;

- a mandate derived from their own membership and respective governing bodies, with high-level political endorsement from CHOGM;
- a distinct sphere of activity and remit critical to Commonwealth co-operation, defined in their respective strategic/business plans and entailing a spread of activities in a range of countries and regions and at pan-Commonwealth or global level;
- the capacity to deliver on the ground a range of programmes and activities, as measured by their financial resources/budgets, staff and other relevant capacity, including through their respective secretariats and regional structures, enhanced by significant in-kind support provided by their membership;
- measurable, results-oriented management and audits with regular monitoring and evaluation of activities; and
- the ability to add global value in their respective fields of operation by leveraging their formal and informal partnerships, stakeholder networks, resources and expertise.

A Joined-up Commonwealth

Building on a consultation held with the Commonwealth Secretariat in March 2014 and its Accreditation Committee in September 2014, AOs submitted a paper to Commonwealth governments in April 2015. In this paper, AOs expressed the view that having a joined-up approach to both Commonwealth policy formulation and the practical implementation of technical and other programmes among all Commonwealth organisations, while drawing on each others' competencies and networks, will significantly increase the impact, branding and outreach of the Commonwealth in responding to member country needs. It will also strengthen the role of the Commonwealth globally, for example in defending fundamental political values and in taking forward the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In this context, AOs wish to recall the decisions of the 2011 CHOGM, notably EPG Recommendation 87, which states: 'The Commonwealth Secretariat should co-ordinate its work with associated Commonwealth institutions, at annual meetings convened by the Secretary-General, to draw on their technical and other expertise so as to avoid utilising expensive external consultants, where possible, and reduce in-house costs. The Secretariat should allocate funds for which these organisations can apply to implement programmes for which they are better suited than the Secretariat.'

AOs note the relevant subsequent decisions, including in respect of the Secretariat's strategic plan for 2013/14–2016/17, designed to take forward the 2013 CHOGM decisions, and the closer co-operation between AOs and the Secretariat, which they feel needs to be of a strategic, long-term nature, rather than restricted to specific activities. In this regard, the AOs recall the survey carried out by the Secretariat in 2012, in response to which AOs proposed specific areas of co-operation under its strategic plan. They also look forward to closer co-operation with the Commonwealth Foundation, the COL and specific Commonwealth CSOs as appropriate.

AOs are appreciative of the formal accreditation to CHOGM, involving the granting of delegation status and observer status at senior official and ministerial meetings. They value the opportunity of the dedicated exchange held between AOs and Foreign Ministers, initiated at the 2013 CHOGM at which Foreign Ministers had expressed their interest in further building on and strengthening such exchanges; AOs accordingly look forward to the exchange planned for the 2015 CHOGM. They hope this exchange, and the parallel exchanges scheduled between Ministers and the intergovernmental Commonwealth and Commonwealth civil society, will ensure that Heads of Government are fully informed about the wide and diverse range of Commonwealth activities in support of member countries. It will also assist in demonstrating the focus that AOs have on achieving concrete results and maximum efficiencies and impact through better harmonised Commonwealth activities.

AOs further welcome the opportunity that has been accorded to them by being included as part of the Secretariat delegations at key international meetings, including the 2014 Small Island Developing States Conference and the 2015 Conference on Financing for Development. They feel this has also added value, and specialised knowledge and breadth to the Commonwealth contribution at those events.

To undertake their work as operational agencies in the Commonwealth more effectively, AOs look to member governments to provide them with bilateral funding, and encourage other Commonwealth multilateral support for their respective programmes. They would further wish that formal consideration be given to extending certain practical measures to them, such as issue of work permits and related privileges to AO technical experts in the field, similar to that provided to CFTC experts.

Promoting Respect and Understanding

At a time when the global community is facing many critical challenges, the Commonwealth has a great responsibility. All AOs are committed to encouraging respect and understanding in the Commonwealth, and AOs that have specific responsibilities for democratic dialogue, such as the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), will work closely with the Secretariat, the Commonwealth Foundation, civil society and other partners in this regard. Likewise, AOs such as the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) and the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) have a role in assisting member countries to formulate public policy and educational responses. These will involve, where appropriate, policy to counteract prejudice and extremism and promote tolerance. In addition, the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA) is supporting members in their bid to develop and enhance their capacities in domestic revenue mobilisation.

Crises, such as the current global refugee and migration crisis, pose special challenges. It would be valuable to share Commonwealth experiences dealing with responses to local and national emergencies, including dealing with large influxes of refugees and migrants. The problems faced, in particular, by small states like Malta or The Bahamas, in dealing with 'boat people' and refugees deserve attention. Likewise, it

would be valuable to identify and share Commonwealth good practices in dealing with security issues, especially the threat of urban terrorism. This would merit looking in detail at security responses to recent terrorist attacks in Commonwealth cities, where a joined-up approach between central and local government and the security and emergency forces is essential.

Implementing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

A co-ordinated Commonwealth response to implement the 2030 Agenda will add global value and ensure that member countries, including small states, can effectively implement and monitor the SDGs.

AOs, with their specialised know-how and expertise, can assist and advise member countries, especially small states with limited capacity, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in particular areas. Most AOs will have specific responsibilities in taking forward some or all of the new SDGs in their individual areas of responsibility: the CLGF, which addressed the 2030 Agenda in its Gaborone Declaration: Local Government Vision 2030, will focus especially on SDG 11, relating to creating inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements; the Conference of Commonwealth Meteorologists (CCM), as well as the CLGF and the CPA, will have key roles to play in implementing SDG 13 on climate change and its impacts; CAPAM, the CLGF and the CPA will wish to look at the governance provisions of SDG 16, especially building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Indeed, good governance underpins the attainment of all the SDGs. CATA and the CTO want to advance the respective provisions of SDG 17 on finance and technology; the CTO will also have a strong interest in SDGs 4(b), 5(b) and 9(c), where ICT is expected to play a central role, as is the new UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism. Implementing other SDGs will be relevant to most AOs, for example SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 16, or SDG 8, dealing with sustainable economic growth.

The 2030 Agenda envisages that ‘governments and public institutions will also work closely on implementation with regional and local authorities, sub-regional institutions’, and that member countries are encouraged ‘to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels’. AOs, including CAPAM, the CLGF, the CTO and the CPA, will make a direct contribution to guiding and providing technical support to their members, for example by helping to obtain the necessary information and access to data; identifying and promoting best-practice institutional mechanisms, policies and structures; assisting in the creation of the necessary capacity and skills; seeking to marshal/broker financial resources; and assisting with monitoring and reporting processes.

Confronting Climate Change

SDG 13 and the forthcoming CHOGM discussions in Malta and at the COP21 in Paris provide the context for Commonwealth action on climate change. This is of

considerable interest to AOs, particularly the CCM and CLGF. Also of relevance is the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. As recognised under SDG 13, there is a key role for integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning, as well as improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning. The CCM plays a key role in this through their individual memberships of the World Meteorological Organization. All of these are areas where different AOs can play a strategic role in support of their members, especially Commonwealth small states, and in particular SIDS.

The forthcoming operationalisation of the Green Climate Fund could further be an area where interested AOs may be in position to assist their members in accessing the Fund and, on occasions, assisting with the practical implementation of specific projects to address climate change.

Development and Growth of Commonwealth Economies

Furthering economic growth, including through the blue economy, and in this context also international trade, especially among Commonwealth countries themselves, is a core task of the intergovernmental Commonwealth and of the CWEIC.

The importance of the digital economy, and its contribution to economic growth, as promoted by the CTO and others, should also be noted. For instance, through their physical distribution networks, members of the Conference of Commonwealth Postal Administrators (CCPA) are able to provide the fulfilment and delivery capabilities required by the growth of e-commerce; indeed, capacity-building in these areas within the Commonwealth was a major theme of the CCPA's most recent major conference. These activities will contribute towards SDG 8 on promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and full and productive employment and decent work for all under the 2030 Agenda.

AOs such as the CLGF also have a strong interest in supporting these endeavours in line with the Cardiff Consensus on Local Economic Development endorsed by the 2011 CHOGM and the Kampala Declaration on Developmental Local Government endorsed by the 2013 CHOGM; this work aims to encourage investment, tourism and other local economic activities through a business-friendly environment.

Commitment to Commonwealth Values

The AOs are committed to the fundamental Commonwealth values set out in the Commonwealth Charter, notably as they relate to democracy, the rule of law, human rights and good governance. Those AOs that have a direct responsibility for parliament (the CPA), local government (the CLGF) or the public sector (CAPAM and CATA) will in particular continue to focus their work and business plans on the promotion and implementation of Commonwealth values, underpinned by specific CHOGM policy mandates such as the Aberdeen Principles on Local Democracy and Good Governance.

Recommendations to CHOGM

1. Heads of Government should, in their CHOGM communiqué, recognise the Commonwealth family as a whole, entailing the intergovernmental Commonwealth, the AOs and Commonwealth civil society, as these together provide the full operational capacity of the Commonwealth; and they should request the Commonwealth Secretary-General to, in consultation with the Chairperson-in-Office, ensure a joined-up approach to Commonwealth policy-making, practice and finances in order to fully meet the objective of adding global value.
2. The current practice of separate reporting to and dialogue with Foreign Ministers at CHOGM by the intergovernmental Commonwealth, by AOs and by civil society should be further enhanced and extended to ensure that Heads of Government receive a full report of the activities of all Commonwealth organisations.
3. In accordance with the 2011 CHOGM endorsement of EPG recommendation 87 and subsequent decisions, further collective steps should be taken to ensure close collaboration, partnership and funding of all Commonwealth organisations at a strategic level, in line with their respective competencies and capacities.
4. Heads of Government should actively support the specialised agency work of Commonwealth AOs in recognition of their distinctive remit, expertise and know-how, through bilateral/multilateral funding of specific AO programmes and practical measures such as issue of work permits and related privileges to AO technical experts in the field, similar to the privileges provided to CFTC experts.

On behalf of the Commonwealth Associated Organisations:

- Gay Hamilton, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, CAPAM
- Duncan Onduru, Executive Director, CATA
- David Grevemberg, Chief Executive, CGF
- Carl Wright, Secretary-General, CLGF
- Joe Omorodion, Acting Secretary-General, CPA
- Tim Unwin, Secretary-General, CTO
- Jane Wardle, Secretariat, CCM
- David Roberts, Chairman, CCPA

Annex 2B: Submissions from Commonwealth Civil Society Organisations

Committee of the Whole Meeting with Accredited Commonwealth Organisations
Submission by Commonwealth Civil Society Organisations

20 October 2015, Marlborough House

Background

A reformed approach was adopted in 2015 to the traditional interaction between accredited Commonwealth organisations and senior representatives of member governments, which occurs on the eve of the meeting of the COW. The reforms have aimed to strengthen the relevance of the contributions made by accredited organisations before the communiqué of the CHOGM is developed through intergovernmental discussion.

Specifically, the accredited Commonwealth organisations met and decided that, rather than making individual submissions as in the past, they would develop four short thematic papers collectively, which reflect their shared views and suggestions, and which broadly reflect the priority themes that are likely to be reflected in leaders' discussions at CHOGM.

The four thematic papers are:

- 'Finding Commonwealth solutions: climate change and the blue economy';
- 'Freedom of expression in the Commonwealth: rights and responsibilities';
- 'CHOGM 2015: civil society statement on the implementation of the sustainable development goals – economic and social values'; and
- 'Civil society: adding value in the Commonwealth'.

There are 71 Commonwealth bodies in the 'civil society organisations' category that have been accredited through the Accreditation Committee of the Board of Governors of the Commonwealth Secretariat, thus recognising their value to the Commonwealth and their commitment to its values and principles as outlined in the Commonwealth Charter. A small number of representatives of these organisations will attend the meeting with senior representatives of member governments in order to introduce the thematic papers and respond to questions and comments.

Another nine organisations have been accredited by member governments through the Accreditation Committee into a separate category. These 'associated organisations' have prepared a separate document that is being circulated and will be introduced separately during the meeting.

Action

Member governments are invited to note the enclosed submissions.

Finding Commonwealth Solutions: Climate Change and the Blue Economy

'We see the blue economy concept as an opportunity to flip the oceans from a space for extraction to a space for development.'

HE Jean-Paul Adam, Minister for Finance, Trade and the Blue Economy, Seychelles (Samoa, 2014)

1. Commonwealth solutions to the challenges and opportunities of climate change should be viewed through the lens of the blue economy concept, and in the

Commonwealth context of the priority placed on support to SIDS and stated commitments. Well-articulated by the Seychelles (above), the existential threats to communities from climate change and the importance of action this year focus attention.

2. The importance of the SIDS rests both in their vulnerability to changes in climate and the oceans and in their capacity to lead and implement policy innovation in addressing these in an integrated way. The special natural resource base of the 'big ocean states' must be developed by drawing on opportunities in marine resources (mineral and fisheries) and renewable energy (on- and off-shore). A blueprint may be found in SIDS' approach to the blue economy that can be scaled up: finance mechanisms (e.g. debt for adaptation swaps), ambitious targets, data repositories, training and marine spatial planning. All these can draw on the resources and support of Commonwealth organisations.
3. The outcome must be sustainable livelihoods for communities, particularly those most dependent on natural resources. This requires that we focus on development that supports citizen engagement in decision-making and creates decent work. 'Blue capital' can provide much-needed youth employment in a sustainable and meaningful economy.
4. We have identified vital emergent qualities in the Commonwealth Association and member countries. These include the practice of 'open doors' across the Commonwealth, which helps partnership, particularly South-South or South-North.² The inclusion of culture, the 'fourth pillar' of sustainability, in the Commonwealth's remit is one of its strengths. Another is innovation in implementation of the strategic plan that includes a growing capacity for oceans and natural resources in partnership with member countries to develop the blue economy. We welcome the strengthening of partnership support for Commonwealth organisations in the Secretariat and emphasise the benefit for the Commonwealth project of creating opportunities for still greater collaboration in the sharing of knowledge and expertise.
5. We view as positive the creation of a unit within the Secretariat that combines health and education; this will encourage greater cross-sectoral analysis and work. The key nexus here is between SDG 14 (oceans), SDG 7 (energy), SDG 4 (education), SDG 13 (climate change) and SDG 12 (sustainable production and consumption) and their universal applicability. The SDGs provide a basis for the development of a modern society and economy, without losing life-enhancing cultural and natural endowments, and that can remove incentives for migration out of rural, particularly coastal, communities.
6. The means of implementation need to be considered in terms of institutions, behaviours and cultural practices. Three recent initiatives serve as indicators for a wider change in consciousness. First is the CYCN EGM (June 2015) set of recommendations, which we commend,³ second the work on blue capital⁴ and third an initiative to link cultural institutions to enhance appreciation of what gives meaning to the overall initiative.⁵

Recommendations for the Committee of the Whole

Recommendation 1: Prioritise action to ensure the provision of accessible, quality data for the implementation of the SDGs and to address serious data gaps related to SIDS:

- ensure provision of climate change and renewable energy data that are sufficient for evidence-based policy development and assessment and for evaluation of implementation of SDG 14 (oceans);
- strengthen SIDS' capacity, through regional hubs, to produce and manage data and render it accessible; and
- create a visually accessible youth vulnerability index, in the form of an online map using infographics.

Recommendation 2: Increase provision of education and training for employment in the blue economy and climate change sectors that is lifelong, but with an emphasis on young people:

- ensure all school leavers and graduates from SIDS have information and skills appropriate to deployment in the blue economy, from fitting photovoltaic panels to financing renewables and sustainable fisheries;
- ensure integration of accessible climate change education in primary and secondary school curriculums;⁶
- identify and support networks of institutions for education and training, including the participation of local stakeholders, by means of the Commonwealth Education Hub; and
- ensure that policy interventions by experts/consultants leave behind a skills legacy through engagement of local partners, particularly young experts or trainees.

Recommendation 3: Encourage citizen participation in reporting, public awareness and culture:

- recognise the importance of cultural considerations and institutions, including the work of Commonwealth specialist agencies, in raising awareness of what we are protecting and what needs developing;
- utilise 'citizen science' to raise awareness of climate change, its consequences, and the opportunities offered by adaptation and mitigation strategies to develop decent work and entrepreneurial opportunities; and
- strengthen human rights considerations and ensure active citizen participation, particularly of youth and women, and institutional transparency and accountability, in order to hold governments accountable.

Recommendation 4: Develop greater co-ordination of Commonwealth actors (e.g. in education, with UN organisations,⁷ in relevant regional bodies and individual Commonwealth citizens) to build partnerships and expertise for innovative funding and knowledge management:

- mobilise climate finance for blue economy initiatives from public and private sources, including from non-Commonwealth governments (the Mauritius

Commonwealth Climate Finance Skills Hub is commended as an initiative to develop skills in financing, research and monitoring capacity);

- create a knowledge hub for climate change and the blue economy;
- ensure that partnerships, including those of Commonwealth organisations and intergovernmental organisations, give attention to the needs of women and youth and integrate the peoples of the small island overseas territories; and
- develop a stronger Commonwealth regional identity via those regional bodies engaged with climate and marine resources that have substantial Commonwealth membership and leadership.⁸

Recommendation 5: Opportunities for young people:⁹

- promote ‘climate smart’ youth employment and entrepreneurship in the blue and green economies, including youth-led enterprises and low-carbon agriculture and fisheries development initiatives;
- build the capacity of young people to engage in developing resilience to disasters, as indicated in the Sendai Framework¹⁰ and the CYCN EGM’s recommendations; and
- enable the CYCN to present recommendations at the Malta CHOGM Special Session on Climate Change.

Commonwealth Organisations’ Commitment

For our part, we stand ready to deliver to our own strengths in support of the above recommendations and Commonwealth values and to work with all relevant stakeholders, institutions and member countries in achieving them, including where this requires enhanced reflexivity and transparency on our part. We commit to exploring and prosecuting ways of mobilising Commonwealth citizens and securing resources for our recommendations that go beyond reliance on public funding. We ask that state actors create the enabling environment and institutional framework to support our Commonwealth roles and efforts. However, the Commonwealth organisations sector has been seriously weakened by the removal of pump-priming core support, which has threatened their survival and hampers the mobilisation of voluntary efforts. We further recommend that the Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation review policies and partnership arrangements, which cannot continue to be based on our sector providing free services and expertise. Core support via meaningful and properly funded partnership and consultancy arrangements commensurate with expertise should be provided to those organisations (including young volunteers and young experts) able to demonstrate delivery of results and added value.

Freedom of Expression in the Commonwealth: Rights and Responsibilities

Introduction

Freedom of Expression is recognised by the UN as a fundamental human right. A strong, well-trained, independent and responsible media, supported by civil society, is essential to human development and democratic societies.

The Commonwealth Charter enshrines freedom of expression as one of the core values and principles of the Commonwealth and commits the people of the Commonwealth ‘to peaceful, open dialogue and the free flow of information, including through a free and responsible media.’¹¹

In upholding the commitment by Heads of State to the Commonwealth Charter, we request that the committee consider the current concerns for, and the future of, freedom of expression in the Commonwealth under the following headings:

1. The current state of media: the pace of change and potential risks
2. Commonwealth pledges to professional media workers: the law and support systems
3. Accessibility to all in a secure environment
4. Recommendations

The current state of media: the pace of change and potential risks

Regrettably, pledges by Heads of Government are often forgotten between summits. At this year’s Heads of Government meeting in Malta, we urge the Commonwealth leaders to demonstrate that they recognise the importance of their previous commitment to freedom of expression as enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter.

We urge them to support the work of drawing up guidelines for good practices to be shared with the governments of the Commonwealth, with the goal of achieving an enabling environment for all forms of media, for the benefit of all citizens of the Commonwealth.

We ask the committee to acknowledge, in keeping with the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, that freedom of expression applies not only to professional journalists but also to the wider community of those who use and disseminate information available from all sources for informed decision-making; it should also be upheld in the workings of legal systems and for civil society groups that support citizens who use modern media tools such as the internet and social media channels.

A balance needs to be found to ensure that both professional media persons and private individuals are able to provide free commentary and to exchange ideas and information with an underlying system of law and civil society that supports freedom of expression, rather than constraining it.

We request that the committee considers giving active support for the further education programmes required for the use of social media, for both youth and adults, to address the increasing risk to vulnerable citizens (particularly young people) who may be ‘groomed’ or enticed into acts of terrorism or other illegal activities through pressure exerted on social media and the internet, and noting the increased risk posed by all forms of cybercrime.

We urge COW to consider the rapid growth of social media in the Commonwealth community, and the ability of a professional, free media to inform, empower and educate for the positive good.¹²

Commonwealth pledges to professional media workers

Heads of Government have often pledged to promote freedom of expression. Thus, in their 2013 communiqué they stated:

‘Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitment to peaceful, open dialogue and the free flow of information, including through a free and responsible media, and to enhancing democratic traditions and strengthening democratic processes ... Heads noted that social media had introduced a new dimension and agreed to share best practices within the Commonwealth to respond to the resultant opportunities and challenges. They also affirmed that the same rights and responsibilities that people have offline must also be protected online, in particular freedom of expression, in accordance with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.’¹³

For good governance, transparency and accountability, central planks of the Commonwealth Charter, freedom of expression is essential. Unfortunately, in many Commonwealth countries, media workers are still threatened, arrested and killed by forces that fear exposure of crimes and malpractice. The existing legal frameworks in which freedom of expression is exercised¹⁴ may now be outdated or unsuitable for the modern environment, but remain the only laws available to many Commonwealth states.

We believe further work is necessary in this area by reviewing laws pertaining to the freedom of expression and considering appropriate reforms for the improvement of relevance to the modern-day tools available to both professional journalists and the wider public. We propose an extended joint study (subject to the availability of funding) by the undersigned groups, and in further consultation with additional civil society groups, for completion prior to the Law Ministers Meeting in 2016.

Accessibility to all in a safe environment

If the Commonwealth is to be seen as a credible international organisation taking the lead on global issues, it needs to demonstrate that it gives priority to freedom of expression as a basic human right. Threats to freedom of expression have intensified with the expansion of digital journalism and social media.¹⁵

Free speech is widely undermined through the use of anti-terrorism, blasphemy and other laws, as an expedient way to stifle dissent. As a result of this pressure, many journalists are resorting to self-censorship in order to protect their families and livelihoods, pushing the dissemination of information and dissenting opinions into underground channels. Controlled licensing of newspapers and publishers often further inhibits the ability of a free press. We believe that the proposals contained

in the Trans-Pacific Partnership¹⁶ and the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)¹⁷ negotiations for a significant increase in the power of private corporations and for limitations on the ability of national and local governments to pursue appropriate social policies pose a threat to freedom of expression, democracy, accountability and human rights.

Recommendations

1. We request that Heads of Government mandate Law Ministers to consider the preparation of model laws and to devise a set of good practices to be adopted by Commonwealth member countries for the protection of freedom of expression, in consultation with civil society stakeholders. This mandate should include the introduction of measures to protect professional journalists from unjust prosecution in respect of their legitimate professional activities.
2. We recommend the reform of existing laws that unnecessarily curb freedom of expression in the context of the relevance of such laws in a rapidly changing technical and security environment.
3. We request that additional measures (with emphasis on youth) be considered to counter the increasing problem of the risk of grooming through social media and the internet for the purpose of inciting acts of hatred, acts of terrorism and abuse; these measures should also assist civil society in combating these risks through increased education programmes.

Upholding the rule of law

4. We request that Heads of Government recognise the contribution of a free and professional media to assisting in and promoting informed decision-making through the provision to the public of fair and high-quality news and information in a professional and unbiased manner.
5. We request that Heads of Government recognise and strengthen the support provided by civil society groups dealing with legal and social issues surrounding freedom of information.

Summary

We urge Commonwealth leaders in Malta to set an example by announcing measures to strengthen and promote freedom of expression. A bold and free press and electronic media serve to bolster good governance and a healthy democracy – values shared by all Commonwealth governments and peoples. The Committee is urged to endorse and progress the commitment to freedom of expression embodied in the 2013 communiqué and to support the implementation of the recommendations contained in this paper.

We would like to thank the Secretariat for hosting this meeting and we thank the COW for its time and attention.

The Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: Commonwealth Economic and Social Values

1. We recognise the importance of the Colombo Declaration on Sustainable Development, adopted by Heads at the CHOGM in Sri Lanka in 2013, which sets out a clear agenda for delivering sustainable, inclusive and equitable development in the countries of the Commonwealth.
2. We note that this declaration specifically commits Commonwealth nations to act decisively to tackle the challenges confronting the global economy to ensure balanced, sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth; to address poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion; to develop capacity; and to strengthen partnerships. In addition, it reaffirms member nations' determination to collectively call for a strong and effective partnership for development.
3. We acknowledge the extensive engagement and debates that culminated in the comprehensive zero draft of the SDGs to which Commonwealth nations will commit at the UN General Assembly meeting in 2015, which are consistent with Commonwealth values as expressed in the Commonwealth Charter and which will inform the work of Commonwealth states for the period 2015–2030.
4. We note that the SDGs reflect an important set of goals and targets that constitute a critically important global agenda for action over the next 15 years.
5. We note the 2015 Gaborone Declaration: Local Government Vision 2030, which acknowledges the key role of local government in promoting sustained economic growth, local democracy and good governance and as a key partner at both national and international levels in delivering a sustainable future.
6. We record the approval by member countries of the UN of the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning at the UN Habitat Governing Council meeting in April 2015. The guidelines set out a clear global framework for improving policies, plans and implementation processes for more compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected cities and territories; they aim to develop a universally applicable reference framework to guide urban policy reforms and to capture universal principles from national and local experiences.
7. These guidelines could support the development of diverse planning approaches adapted to different contexts and scales and raise awareness of the urban and territorial dimensions of the development agendas of national, regional and local governments.
8. We record the responses regarding the SDGs from civil society representatives from across the Commonwealth in preparation for the drafting of this statement indicating that civil society:
 - welcomes the initiative and eagerly looks forward to governments taking the lead as rallying points;
 - sees the need for far greater awareness of the SDGs at all levels in all governments, including among the general public and decision-makers;

- requires clear policy and programme directives from national governments, being the organs of state responsible for their delivery;
- argues for the use of the SDGs to reinforce existing initiatives and innovate new measures in order to address country-specific matters;
- requires Commonwealth-level advocacy and collaboration across all spheres of government and with civil society, regarding process, policies and programmes and, where possible, to develop concrete schemes of collaboration between member countries;
- sees the necessity of capacity-building and resource allocation to all levels of government and civil society to deliver the outcomes required in only 15 years;
- argues that the SDGs cannot be delivered within 15 years other than through partnerships between spheres of government, with civil society and between nations.

Civil society calls upon Heads of Government in the Commonwealth to:

9. Lead by example in expressing their commitment to planning and implementing the SDGs over the next 15 years in partnership with other spheres of government and with civil society in all its forms, including the private sector.
10. Urgently prepare integrated strategies, policies and programmes, informed by long-term strategic vision, participatory processes and local context, for the implementation of the SDGs over the next 15 years.
11. Commit to establishing nationally specific and binding SDG goals and targets for monitoring the achievement of the SDGs.
12. Empower civil society and other spheres of government to play a full role in the delivery of the SDGs through awareness-raising, capacity-building and resource allocation, as well as through dialogue, information collection and knowledge sharing, using new technologies to enhance civil society participation.
13. Undertake legislative and regulatory reform to build a solid framework for the development planning needed to deliver a sustainable urban future.
14. Support Commonwealth-wide co-ordination through a dedicated Commonwealth SDG programme, building on the State of the Commonwealth Cities Programme adopted by Heads at their meeting in Port of Spain in 2009 and utilising the potential of research and information technology to better inform policy and manage places.

Civil Society: Adding Value in the Commonwealth

1. The undersigned group of accredited Commonwealth organisations welcomes the opportunity to make this statement to Heads of Government through the COW.

2. The modern Commonwealth is much more than a political grouping of states. In its fullest sense, it is a 'Commonwealth of the people' – the term used by the Eminent Persons Group in its report to the 2011 CHOGM, recognising that the 'wealth of the association lies in the common bonds of the people'. The presence at its heart of a healthy and active civil society is key both to a full understanding of the Commonwealth and to its success.
3. Civil society in its many guises – non-governmental organisations (NGOs), faith-based organisations, social movements, community groups, academic institutions, voluntary associations, professional societies, sporting and recreational clubs, etc. – operates from local grassroots to international level, representing a kaleidoscope of priorities, interests and concerns. Throughout the world, and particularly in the Commonwealth, civil society has played a key role alongside governments in addressing societal challenges and in driving progress.
4. The Commonwealth is strongest when its constituent parts – member countries, the intergovernmental Commonwealth institutions and CSOs – work in partnership towards common goals. As the Commonwealth grapples with the global challenges of today – in particular climate change, extremism, migration, conflict, health security, poverty, inequality and the fallout from the global economic crisis – the role of civil society is as important as ever in connecting people, forging new thinking and building resilience. A vibrant and enabled civil society is integral to building peaceful, just and economically sustainable societies.
5. Collaboration and partnership between the intergovernmental structures of the Commonwealth and civil society have long been recognised as intrinsic to its wellbeing. That is why the Commonwealth Foundation was established 50 years ago alongside the Secretariat. Today, within the broader spectrum of Commonwealth civil society, the 80-plus accredited organisations of the Commonwealth play a distinctive role, bringing to bear their specialist knowledge of Commonwealth capacities and procedures and their public commitment to strengthening the association and its values, fostering Commonwealth identity and promoting co-operation for development.

Adding Value

6. The theme of this year's CHOGM is 'Adding global value'.

The Commonwealth is undeniably a richer, fairer and more vibrant space when civil society is empowered, adding value in multiple fundamental ways:

- Agility: adapting and responding quickly to changing events.
- Commonwealth values: working alongside governments and all stakeholders to realise the common values set out in the Commonwealth Charter.
- Democracy: a champion of democracy, increasing civic interest and participation in democratic processes.
- Empowerment: unlocking and enhancing human potential.

- Expertise: bringing specialist knowledge and skills from every field to improve decision-making and shape policy.
- Good governance: a watchdog on power, holding institutions to account and demanding transparency and accountability.
- Human rights: a promoter and multiplier of rights and freedoms.
- Innovation: an engine room for ideas, generating new thinking and creative solutions to problems.
- Local reach: sounding-boards for government, improving understanding of policy impact on different groups and communities.
- Representation: giving voice to diverse and marginalised groups and broadening public debate.
- Service provision: meeting diverse needs and interests, including education, health, culture, sport, food and shelter, for mainstream society and those at its furthest reaches.
- Social cohesion: binding societies together by creating connections and understanding across social boundaries and between government and citizens.

The Commonwealth and Civil Society

7. Commonwealth leaders have repeatedly emphasised the contribution of civil society, most notably in the Commonwealth Charter. Chapter 16 recognises the important role that civil society plays in our communities and countries as partners in promoting and supporting Commonwealth values and principles, including the freedom of association and peaceful assembly, and in achieving development goals.
8. Similar sentiments are expressed in the Latimer House Principles (2003); the Aberdeen Agenda: Commonwealth Principles on Good Practice for Local Democracy and Good Governance (2005); the Trinidad and Tobago Affirmation of Commonwealth Values and Principles (2009); and the Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles (2011).
9. The Commonwealth Charter also places a specific emphasis on freedom of expression (Chapter V), and on human rights more broadly (Chapter II), as core values of the association. The freedoms of expression, association and assembly are rights central to civic activity, enabling people to mobilise for change. Most core international human rights treaties include provisions directly relevant to the protection of public freedoms, and all refer to the principle of non-discrimination.

Civil Society under Threat

10. Civil society is recognised as a powerful catalyst for progress. Where civic activity thrives, so do economies and societies. However, hard-won progress is being undermined by threats to civic space and new cultural norms that strike at

the roots of community and togetherness. Despite the broad recognition of the value of civil society by the Commonwealth, in the Commonwealth Charter and through the various statements of its leaders, the conditions for civil society are deteriorating in many parts of the world.

11. This deeply worrying trend is manifested in the introduction of laws that restrict the freedoms of assembly, association and expression, including aspects of anti-terrorism legislation; in onerous new requirements for the registration and regulation of CSOs, consuming their resources and limiting their effectiveness; in the banning of organisations or activities; in controls imposed on the receipt of funding support from Commonwealth and other overseas partners; in hostile rhetoric and other forms of harassment and intimidation; and in physical attacks on individuals and organisations, in some cases resulting in imprisonment or death.

Recommendations

1. An enabling environment for civil society

We urge you as representatives of Commonwealth governments to prioritise an enabling environment for civil society, by taking the following actions:

- establish an enabling legal and regulatory environment for CSOs that recognises their independence and right to carry out their peaceful work, within the confines of established law, without fear of harassment, reprisal, intimidation or discrimination;
- pursue policies, with appropriate legal and financial provisions, to support the creation and operation of CSOs of different kinds, using them where feasible as vehicles of delivery for public services;
- respect, protect and fulfil the rights to freedoms of association and assembly, as well as the freedom of expression, including the right to information, in accordance with Commonwealth values and international human rights standards;
- take all necessary measures to ensure that all sectors of society – including women, youth and other vulnerable groups – are able to exercise their right to impart and access information without discrimination, including through the media and ICT;
- take proactive measures to promote the effective participation of civil society, including the marginalised and discriminated, in the design and execution of development strategies;
- institute and implement measures to distribute economic and political power more widely.

2. Civil society engagement in Commonwealth official business

All ministerial and other high-level meetings of the Commonwealth, including CHOGM, should make appropriate arrangements for access of Commonwealth

accredited organisations, in recognition of their accredited status and specialist expertise. Specifically, Commonwealth accredited organisations should be:

- eligible to attend meetings (apart from closed sessions) as observers;
- given sufficient advance notice of meetings, access to (non-confidential) background papers and agendas, and relevant details for participating;
- invited to make technical contributions in the form of written or oral submissions, according to particular areas of expertise, with mechanisms to submit papers in advance via the Secretariat;
- able to participate fully in any official forums held in parallel with the main meeting, with opportunities created for any such forums to report formally to the main meeting;
- advised of meeting outcomes, particularly the decisions of CMAG, by which they are expected to abide;
- provided with appropriate arrangements for gaining access to member country delegations at CHOGM and other high-level Commonwealth meetings; and
- invited to participate in official follow-up meetings and consultations with member governments after such events – particularly CHOGM – facilitated by the Secretariat.

3. Ongoing dialogue with the Commonwealth Secretariat

The creation of a partnerships team within the Secretariat is a welcome step. Recognising the importance of regular and meaningful engagement between the Secretariat and accredited organisations, the Secretariat should:

- continue to facilitate regular meetings and consultations with accredited organisations, affording all an equal status, and making special arrangements to facilitate the engagement of those not based in London;
- publish a partnership strategy with a statement of principles for co-operation; and
- deepen its knowledge of the capacity of accredited organisations to contribute to its work, identifying and making known opportunities for them to act as consultants and executing agencies in Secretariat programmes.

Civil Society in Action

There are countless examples of civil society in action, working to improve the Commonwealth and the lives of its citizens.

Advancing Democracy

Following the elections in Sri Lanka in January, the Commonwealth Observer Group commended civil society groups for the role they played in monitoring and reporting

during the election period, acknowledging that ‘their robust and fearless work ensured that democratic processes were safeguarded’. Similarly, Commonwealth observers of the Nigerian national election in April praised civil society groups, young people and other stakeholders for ‘pressuring competing factions to refrain from violence’.

In Fiji Islands and Malawi during national elections in 2014, CSOs played a crucial role in conducting civic and voter education, particularly in the case of Fiji for the high proportion of young and first-time voters and voters living in remote areas. In Scotland, civil society groups helped to get out the vote, especially among young people, in the historic 2014 independence referendum, which recorded the highest voter turnout in a UK election in a century.

Global Governance

The ATT, which entered into force in December 2014, is in many ways a triumph of civil society activism. The original idea for a treaty and the momentum behind the hugely successful global campaign to generate support for it – from a position of almost none – was orchestrated by civil society. The result is a treaty, currently signed or ratified by 130 countries including 75 per cent of Commonwealth members, that introduces for the first time regulations and approval processes for international arms sales. It is a significant contribution to improved global governance.

The Commonwealth Latimer House Principles on the accountability of and relationship between the three branches of government in member countries, adopted by Commonwealth Heads of Government in Abuja in 2003, were the product of a partnership between three accredited Commonwealth legal NGOs, the CPA and the Secretariat. They are an important contribution to securing the fundamental political values of the Commonwealth.

Improving Development Outcomes

Civil society has played a more central role in shaping the Post-2015 Development Agenda – particularly through active participation in the open working group process and the major groups and other stakeholders dialogue – and will be crucial to the delivery of the new SDGs. As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasised recently, ‘the task of implementing and monitoring these goals is huge. It requires states to work in strong and close partnership with civil society of all stripes.’ Lack of civil society participation in the creation of the MDGs has been cited as a factor that limited public awareness and ownership of the goals, resulting in the shortfall of efforts to meet them.

Global Health

Civil society has played a crucial role in the global effort to combat polio, through fundraising and tireless advocacy. Rotary International, working in close collaboration with Commonwealth governments, put eradication of the disease on the global agenda, inspiring creation of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988. Civil society actors in many Commonwealth countries have contributed almost US\$110 million to the fight through their local Rotary clubs and have helped mobilise more than US\$2 billion in additional funding from Commonwealth governments. The

result has been a reduction in the number of polio cases from 350,000 in 1988 to just 37 as of August 2015. As a result, 13 million people are walking today who would otherwise be paralysed. Investments in polio eradication also contribute to health systems strengthening and improving routine immunisation.

Connecting People

CSOs provide trusted links to people who have limited opportunities to raise their voices. NGOs, faith groups and other civil society bodies can reach marginalised communities and enable connections to be made for support and mutual learning. In many countries, national networks of NGOs (such as the Nigeria National Network of NGOs or Voluntary Action Network India) can provide a forum for dialogue and build skills and shared understanding to enable common solutions to be found.

Heritage organisations such as museums provide unique intergenerational opportunities, reinforcing a sense of place and belonging that is essential to community engagement.

Providing Essential Services

In many countries of the Commonwealth there is a rich history of public service delivery through partnerships between governments and civil society. In many cases, associations and foundations have been engaged in delivering social care, for example elderly care or youth services, for far longer than state delivery of these services has been in place. Such associations with specialist knowledge and committed community roots are often critical for the life-changing support that is needed by vulnerable individuals.

Enhancing Decision-making

By bringing together local knowledge and trusted links in key communities, civil society can offer a useful bridge to constituencies that are affected by changes in policy. Tried and tested models of participatory democracy, such as participatory budgeting and citizens' panels, have been proven to enhance decision-making, as they draw on local expert knowledge. These approaches also enable greater transparency and trust in decision-making processes by improving the ability to allocate resources in a just and equitable manner.

Annex 2C: Profiles of the Commonwealth Accredited Organisations

Associated Organisations

Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management

CAPAM was established by Commonwealth countries to promote the practical requirements of good governance. CAPAM serves its members as a centre of excellence and endeavours to build a more responsive and dynamic public service by

providing a forum for the active exchange of innovative ideas, knowledge and practice in citizen-centred service delivery; leadership development and growth; and public service management and renewal. CAPAM represents an international network of senior government decision-makers, public service managers, global researchers and NGOs located in over 50 countries.

Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators

CATA, established in 1978 by a decision of the Commonwealth Finance Ministers, helps member countries, through conferences, training programmes, publications and knowledge-sharing, to develop effective tax administrations that promote sustainable development and good governance. Forty-seven Commonwealth countries are currently active members of CATA.

Conference of Commonwealth Postal Administrators

The CCPA was formed at the behest of Royal Mail International in 1971. The CCPA has, since its foundation, remained an informal grouping of Postal Designated Operators drawn from across the entire globe but strongly tied by Commonwealth roots.

Conference of Commonwealth Meteorologists

The CCM is both a convening and an informal network of the heads of Commonwealth national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHSs). The CCM, which was first established in 1929, gives directors the opportunity to discuss and resolve issues of mutual concern. The aim of the CCM is to enhance the benefits of meteorology to society through increased co-operation between NMHSs, governments and other organisations, including in the private sector.

Commonwealth Games Federation

The CGF is the organisation responsible for the direction and control of the Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth Games is a unique, world-class, multi-sports event that is held once every four years. It is often referred to as the 'Friendly Games'. As a means of improving society and the general wellbeing of the people of the Commonwealth, the CGF also encourages and assists education via sport development and physical recreation.

Commonwealth Education Trust

The CET is built on the premise that education is the foundation for development. Its purpose is to advance primary and secondary education across the Commonwealth, with a strong focus on teacher professional development. It encourages innovation and shares best practices from across the Commonwealth to assist teachers and young people develop the understanding and skills to contribute to the development of sustainable communities.

Commonwealth Local Government Forum

The CLGF works to promote and strengthen democratic local governments across the Commonwealth and to encourage the exchange of best practices through conferences, and events, projects and research. The CLGF works with national and local governments to support the development of democratic values and good local governance. As a Commonwealth organisation, the CLGF draws on the influential network of the Commonwealth, which provides a solid basis for its programmes and activities. As an associated organisation officially recognised by Commonwealth Heads of Government, the CLGF is well placed to influence policy development and lead on democracy and good governance at local level.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The CPA links members of national, state, provincial and territorial parliaments and legislatures across the Commonwealth. Its mission is to promote the advancement of parliamentary democracy by enhancing knowledge and understanding of democratic governance.

Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation

The CTO is the Commonwealth organisation engaged in multilateral collaboration in ICT, supporting members in integrating ICT in their development efforts. Since 1985, it has delivered to members in Europe, the Caribbean, the Americas, Africa, Asia and the Pacific region over 3,800 ICT professional training programmes to support their policy, regulatory and industry development efforts. This history as a development facilitator provides the organisation with a unique delivery capacity for Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) services. More recently, the CTO has expanded its research and consultancy services, with a particular focus on cybersecurity; regulation; broadband; ICT and youth; skills and entrepreneurship; and ICT and disability.

Civil Society Organisations

African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies

The African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies is an independent, non-profit regional human rights NGO based in Banjul, The Gambia. The African Centre promotes human rights and democracy issues in the African continent through training, advocacy, networking, action-oriented research, publications and documentation. The African Centre builds bridges between intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations, as well as between and among NGOs. It maintains networks of communications, human rights education and research, among others.

Association of Commonwealth Archivists and Record Managers

ACARM was founded in 1984 to provide a link for archival institutions, archivists and records managers across the Commonwealth. What makes this link especially

important is the common heritage of legal and administrative systems, and hence of record-keeping practices. In furtherance of its objectives, ACARM has established a network of Commonwealth professionals in its field and has used that network to develop a practical strategy for solving record-keeping problems in public administration.

Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies

The objectives of the ACLALS are to promote and co-ordinate Commonwealth literature studies, organise seminars and workshops, arrange lectures by writers and scholars, publish a newsletter about activities in the field of Commonwealth literature and hold one conference triennially. The last conference took place in August 2013 in Saint Lucia in the Caribbean, and the next edition will be held in Stellenbosch, South Africa, in July 2016.

Association of Commonwealth Universities

The ACU is the world's first and oldest international university network, established in 1913. A UK-registered charity, the ACU has over 500 member institutions in developed and developing countries across the Commonwealth. Drawing on the collective experience and expertise of our membership, the ACU seeks to address issues in international higher education through a range of projects, networks, and events. The ACU administers scholarships, provides academic research and leadership on issues in the sector, and promotes inter-university co-operation and the sharing of good practices – helping universities serve their communities now and in the future.

Association of Emerging Leaders Dialogue

The AELD is a network of leaders in business, labour, government and civil societies who are passionate about developing young leaders across the Commonwealth. Its focus is on developing, strengthening and supporting emerging leaders through in-field learning and creating opportunities for emerging leaders to gain new skill sets and build sustaining peer networks. A unique leadership learning experience, the AELD programmes bring together emerging leaders from across the Commonwealth's five regions and put them together for two weeks in communities across diverse cultures, geography and locations to meet, network and discuss issues of global significance. The AELD is spearheaded by alumni organisations in Australia, Canada, India, Malaysia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. The plan is an annual dialogue to be held each year in rotation in the Pacific, Asian, Caribbean and African regions.

BasicNeeds

BasicNeeds is an international development organisation that was founded in 2000 by Chris Underhill after an initial encounter with tortured and caged mentally ill people within a hospital compound in Africa. Mental health is hugely under-resourced and neglected as a health issue and therefore BasicNeeds works to bring about a lasting change in the lives of mentally ill people around the world.

Building Understanding through International Links for Development

BUILD is a network of national and international organisations united around a common purpose, namely to realise the potential of people to bring peace, prosperity and justice through twinning partnerships between communities across the globe. BUILD's goal is to bring these partnerships into the mainstream in the United Kingdom, to the point that no one can escape life without at some time being touched by an international, cross-cultural partnership, whether at school, higher education, through their local authority, town or village, corporate organisations, hospitals, social, arts or sports clubs, faith institutions, etc.

The Commonwealth Association

The Commonwealth Association is a staff alumni association and welcomes new members. If you are a former staff member (or CFTC expert or advisor) of the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Foundation or the COL, or a former salaried staff member of any Commonwealth association, and you want to keep in touch with the official Commonwealth and what it does, this alumni association is for you.

Commonwealth Association for Health and Disability

COMHAD is a pan-Commonwealth NGO supported by the Commonwealth Foundation, London, and is in official relations with the WHO. COMHAD is a long-standing partner of the WHO in a number of technical areas, in particular mental health, disability prevention, maternal and child health and reproductive health. It is actively involved in promoting health development, in exchange of technical expertise and in inter-country training and education in health in 53 Commonwealth countries all over the world.

Commonwealth Association for Legislative Counsel

CALC's objective is to promote co-operation in matters of professional interest among people in the Commonwealth engaged in legislative drafting or in training people in legislative drafting. CALC has members in most parts of the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Association of Architects

The CAA is a membership organisation for professional bodies representing architects in Commonwealth countries. Formed in 1965, it currently has 34 members. The association is best known for its procedures for the validation of courses in architecture, which convene international visiting boards to schools to assess courses against set criteria. This results in a list of qualifications recommended for recognition by members. Under the umbrella of the Commonwealth, the CAA subscribes to its core values, and in particular, developmental support to the smaller and younger members. The Commonwealth network is increasingly valued as a means of accelerating improvement in the world's living conditions and to ensure a sustainable future for the planet.

Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies

CALRAs assists capacity-building in law reform and encourages international co-operation in law reform. For example, we:

- organise international conferences on law reform;
- encourage and assist in the development of effective and good-quality law reform methodology;
- provide training and study courses in-country, regionally and internationally; and
- review existing law reform machinery and methods in-country.

CALRAs has no paid staff and is run by volunteers.

Commonwealth Association of Museums

CAM seeks to develop the capacity of museum workers and museums to inspire and shape people's lives. Recognising that the plurality of the Commonwealth is its strength, CAM is committed to equal opportunity for all, respect for difference and engaging diverse communities. CAM works collaboratively to foster links between museums and members of the museum profession and between museums and their diverse communities. CAM promotes a high standard of museum activity in the Commonwealth, encourages lifelong learning, assists in professional development and training, and facilitates the dissemination of knowledge and information on all professional matters.

Commonwealth Association of Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition

CAPGAN is the Commonwealth professional and scientific association of paediatricians, which aims to promote knowledge of, and training in, paediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition throughout the Commonwealth, especially amongst developing countries. CAPGAN seeks to foster collaborative research in these fields, hold regular scientific meetings and be a source of authoritative advice to both national and international agencies within the Commonwealth on the problems of paediatric gastroenterology and hepatology and in particular the problems of childhood diarrhoea and malnutrition. CAPGAN exerts a positive influence as an advocate for the welfare of children of the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Association of Planners

The Commonwealth Association of Planners seeks to focus and develop the skills of urban and regional planners across the Commonwealth to meet the challenges of urbanisation and the sustainable development of human settlements.

Commonwealth Association of Science, Technology and Mathematics Educators

CASTME links science, technology, engineering and mathematics educators across the Commonwealth. CASTME works in partnership to do research, support awards and scholarships, and run projects in Commonwealth countries.

Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy

CASLE is an association of professional institutes in Commonwealth countries covering all disciplines of surveying and land economy: land surveying (geomatics), quantity and building surveying, valuation, estate management, development, mineral and marine resources and project management. CASLE fosters the development of the profession in the Commonwealth, focusing on education and training, technology transfer, best practice and promoting dialogue between member institutions and others, including governments. CASLE is a member of the Habitat Professionals Forum, belongs to several international standard-setting bodies and is a member of Built Environment Professions in the Commonwealth (BEPIC).

Commonwealth Boxing Council

Since 1954 the Commonwealth Boxing Council in its various forms has regulated and sanctioned Commonwealth Championships.

Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network

The CBW works with women in business by connecting governments and the private sector to encourage, enable and embed women's economic empowerment. This is achieved through delivering activities, initiatives, products and services focused on trade, talent and training.

Commonwealth Consortium for Education

The CCfE has been established by a group of education-related Commonwealth NGOs to co-ordinate their efforts on behalf of Commonwealth education, to stimulate more coherence in their work and to provide a collective mechanism for interaction with ministries and official Commonwealth organisations. Initial activities have focused on making representations to Commonwealth governments regarding the place of education in future Commonwealth priorities and programmes at the time of the Coolum summit meeting in 2002.

Commonwealth Council for Education Administration and Management

The CCEAM is an organisation dedicated to fostering co-operative and collaborative exchanges internationally amongst education leadership, administration and management professionals. The CCEAM is affiliated to the CCfE, which provides a forum through which concerns of the CCEAM and its affiliated members can make representations and participate in Commonwealth activities.

Commonwealth Countries League

The CCL is a voluntary pan-Commonwealth CSO. It was founded in 1925 by a group of women from many countries which make up today's Commonwealth. The objectives are to secure equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women and to promote mutual understanding throughout the Commonwealth. The CCL is a non-party organisation and is open to men and women from all

countries. It promotes the education of girls and young women and links together women's organisations throughout the Commonwealth. In particular, it raises money for its associated charity, the Commonwealth Countries League Education Fund.

Commonwealth Dental Association

The CDA is an association of dental associations, which aims to improve dental and oral health in Commonwealth countries by raising the skills of dental professionals and increasing awareness of oral health.

Commonwealth Engineers Council

The CEC is a professional body for all engineers of the Commonwealth. Representing 45 engineering institutions in 44 countries across 5 continents, CEC is a truly global organisation whose aim is to advance the science, art and practice of engineering for the benefit of mankind.

Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council

The CWEIC was established in July 2014 with the support of the Commonwealth Secretariat and member governments. It is a not-for-profit membership organisation with a remit from Commonwealth Heads of Government to promote trade, investment and the role of the private sector across the 53 member countries. The CWEIC has a small secretariat based within the Commonwealth Secretariat offices in London.

Commonwealth Forestry Association

The CFA works in all corners of the Commonwealth and beyond to promote the wise management of trees and forests. It is also the home to the secretariat for the Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forests, which is composed of representatives of all of the forest departments from throughout the Commonwealth. The committee provides a unified voice on forestry matters to governments and international meetings and organises the Commonwealth Forestry Conference, an event that takes place every four years.

Commonwealth Geographical Bureau

The CGB is the representative body of some 300 geography departments, units, sections and faculties within universities and higher institutes of learning in the family of 53 Commonwealth countries.

Commonwealth HIV/AIDS Action Group

The CHAAG network (originally 'Para 55') was established in 2000 to promote and monitor the implementation of Paragraph 55 in the communiqué issued at the CHOGM in South Africa in 1999. Paragraph 55 called upon the Heads of Commonwealth states to give personal leadership to combating HIV/AIDS. We are a multidisciplinary group of Commonwealth associations and CSOs with an interest in promoting the Commonwealth response to HIV and AIDS.

Commonwealth Human Ecology Council

The CHEC is a UK-registered international development charity committed to pursuing sustainable solutions for the preservation and use of the planet's natural resources. Through its focus on human ecology – the relationship between ecosystems and human societies – CHEC works to create lasting improvements for local communities across the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

The CHRI is an international NGO that works for the practical realisation of human rights throughout the Commonwealth. It has been headquartered in India since 1993. The CHRI also has offices in Ghana and the United Kingdom. The CHRI advocates for better respect for protection and promotion of international human rights standards and ensuring greater adherence to Commonwealth Harare principles. Issues relating to accountability and participation in governance – access to justice and access to information – are at the heart of the CHRI's work. It also overviews the human rights situation in countries of the Commonwealth, looking especially at human rights defenders, compliance with international treaty obligations and monitoring the performance of Commonwealth members of the UN Human Rights Council.

Commonwealth Journalists Association

The CJA, a volunteer association of journalists, was set up in 1978. Its aim is to promote free, bold and honest journalism across the Commonwealth. It strives to be an organisation whose members feel engaged and supported, one that is robust in defending a free media and protecting journalists.

Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute

The CJEI is incorporated as a charity under the laws of Nova Scotia, Canada. It was established to provide support for the creation and strengthening of national judicial education bodies; to encourage regional and pan-Commonwealth networking and exchange of human and material resources; to train core judicial education faculty; to develop programme modules for the use of all Commonwealth countries; and to design judicial education programmes to support judicial reform.

Commonwealth Lawyers Association

The CLA is a pan-Commonwealth organisation that seeks to uphold the rule of law in the Commonwealth by encouraging exchange of ideas between legal professionals, academics and students, through projects and by driving improvements in legal education. It holds a number of short events throughout the year and has a biennial conference, the Commonwealth Law Conference, which regularly attracts over 1,000 delegates, including some of the finest legal professionals in the world today, to discuss issues of interest to the profession over a four-day period. In 2015, the 19th Commonwealth Law Conference was held in Glasgow on 12–16 April.

Commonwealth Legal Education Association

The CLEA fosters and promotes high standards of legal education in the Commonwealth. Founded in 1971, it is a Commonwealth-wide body with regional chapters and committees in South Asia, Southern Africa, West Africa, the Caribbean and the United Kingdom. Its goal is to make legal education socially relevant and professionally useful, through conferences, moots, newsletters, lecture series, curriculum development and activities for students.

Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association

The Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association is the only international organisation bringing together judicial officers in membership at all levels in the judiciary. It exists to advance the administration of the law by promoting the independence of the judiciary; to advance education in the law and administration of justice; to disseminate information and literature on all matters of interest concerning the legal process within the Commonwealth; and to ensure good standards within the judiciary.

Commonwealth Medical Association

The Commonwealth Medical Association was established in 1952. The association, also known as the CMA, is an NGO and its main objective is to assist and strengthen the capacities of national medical associations of countries within the Commonwealth to improve the health, wellbeing and human rights of their countries and communities, through technical advice and co-operation, networking, medical ethics, training, communication and ministerial advocacy.

Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation

The purpose of the CNMF is to contribute to the improved health of citizens of the Commonwealth by fostering access to nursing education, influencing health policy, developing nursing networks and strengthening nursing leadership.

Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work

The COSW is an organisation for citizens of the Commonwealth who are interested in promoting and supporting social work and social development. It contributes a social work perspective to Commonwealth activities. It is supported by social work associations in the Commonwealth and has formal links with the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW).

Commonwealth Pharmacists Association

The purposes of the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association are to promote and disseminate the pharmaceutical sciences throughout the Commonwealth and to improve the quality and range of services offered there by professional pharmacists.

Commonwealth Trade Union Group

Commonwealth Women's Network

The CWN brings together women- and gender-focused CSOs from around the 53 countries of the Commonwealth. The CWN mobilises greater investment in gender equality and women's empowerment. It urges governments to make national commitments to ensure women and girls reach their full potential while improving and developing their leadership skills to create gender balance in political decision-making. The CWN's agenda covers women's rights; removing stereotypical roles of women; promoting economic independence while eradicating poverty; and working for a society free of violence. Women are less visible in the media than men. Equal participation and representation of women in the media is vital for democratic discourse. The CWN regional focal points have the experience to strengthen the network's gender equality policies and ensure the advancement of the implementation of the Commonwealth Gender Plan of Action.

Commonwealth Veterinary Association

The CVA is made up of the veterinary associations or approved bodies of most Commonwealth countries. The mission of the CVA is to promote the veterinary profession within the Commonwealth by encouraging the highest professional standards of education, ethics and service in order to advance animal health, productivity and welfare so as to improve the quality of life of all its peoples.

Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir

The mission of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir is to use music as a means of international dialogue, knowing no boundaries. The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir brings together communities across the Commonwealth through music, transcending all cultural, political, social and economic boundaries. It does this through its pan-Commonwealth music activities and its unique education initiative, the Commonwealth Music Partnership, which unites all choirs, orchestras and music schools in the Commonwealth for exchanges and collaborations.

Corona Worldwide

Corona Worldwide was set up 65 years ago at the behest of the UK Government to provide information to the wives of government officials posted to the colonies as to the availability, or not, of household provisions, furniture, clothing, medical care and supplies, children's schooling, leisure activities, etc. Over the years, autonomous branches were set up in many countries and we still have 17 very active overseas branches. It is a membership organisation and a registered charity. In the United Kingdom it caters for the returnees, many of whom have lived overseas for over 30 years. Our branches are always open to visiting overseas members.

Council for Education in the Commonwealth

The Council for Education in the Commonwealth, a parliament-based NGO, was founded over 50 years ago, at the time of the first CCEM. Its purpose is to create

an informed public opinion on the salient issues concerning education and training in the Commonwealth and to identify appropriate ways in which the UK and the European Union can best contribute to their development.

Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award enables 14- to 24-year-olds to learn practical skills that are valuable to their personal and professional development. The award comprises three levels and four sections. Participants complete all four sections at each level in order to achieve their award. At gold level, participants also complete a residential project.

Forum of Federations

The Forum of Federations is an international governance organisation founded by Canada and funded by nine other partner governments – Australia, Brazil, Ethiopia, Germany, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan and Switzerland. The Forum of Federations is a learning network concerned with promoting intergovernmental learning on governance challenges in multi-level democracies. The Forum is not an advocacy organisation and does not advocate for any particular structure of government. We provide innovative solutions to challenges posed by multi-level governance in a range of devolved, decentralised or federal countries

Institute of Certified Bookkeepers

The Institute of Certified Bookkeepers is the largest bookkeeping institute in the world. It promotes and maintains the standards of bookkeeping as a profession through the establishment of relevant qualifications and the award of grades of membership that recognise academic attainment, working experience and competence.

Institute of Commonwealth Studies

The Institute of Commonwealth Studies, founded in 1949, is the only postgraduate academic institution in the United Kingdom devoted to the study of the Commonwealth. It is also home to the longest-running interdisciplinary and practice-oriented human rights MA programme in the United Kingdom.

International Council of Social Welfare

International Trade Union Confederation

The ITUC is the global voice of the world's working people. The ITUC's primary mission is the promotion and defence of workers' rights and interests through international co-operation between trade unions, global campaigning and advocacy within the major global institutions. Its main areas of activity include the following: trade union and human rights; economy, society and the workplace; equality and non-discrimination; and international solidarity.

International Federation for Human Rights

FIDH is an international NGO defending all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It acts in the legal

and political field for the creation and reinforcement of international instruments for the protection of human rights and for their implementation. FIDH is a federalist movement that acts through and for its national member and partner organisations.

Muslim Aid

Muslim Aid, a premier British Muslim relief and development agency, guided by the teachings of Islam, endeavours to tackle poverty and its causes by developing innovative and sustainable solutions that enable individuals and their communities to live with dignity and by supporting initiatives that promote economic and social justice.

NGOs beyond 2014

NGOs beyond 2014.org is a resource for all stakeholders in the Post-2015 Development Agenda who are interested in sexual and reproductive health and rights, including maternal health and young people and gender issues. It serves NGOs who are trying to ensure that these topics are strongly represented in the new SDGs. The website is run by the Commonwealth Medical Trust and is sponsored by donors such as the United Nations Population Fund and the International Planned Parenthood.

Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women and the Pacific Islands Association of Non-governmental Organisations

The Pacific Islands Association of Non-governmental Organisations (PIANGO) is a regional network of NGO focal points or co-ordinating bodies known as national liaison units based in 22 Pacific Island countries and territories. PIANGO was formally established in 1991 to assist NGOs in the Pacific to initiate action, give voice to their concerns and work collaboratively with other development actors for just and sustainable human development. PIANGO's primary role is to be a catalyst for collective action, to facilitate and support coalitions and alliances on issues of common concern and to strengthen the influence and impact of NGO efforts in the region.

Public Media Alliance

The Public Media Alliance is the largest global association of public service broadcasters. Its members are the broadcasters that communicate daily with the 2 billion citizens of the Commonwealth. It continues to support and facilitate high standards of media production and broadcasting, including the promotion of the arts, science and diversity, throughout the Commonwealth.

The Ramphal Institute

Launched in 2008, the Ramphal Institute is a not-for-profit organisation working on issues of special concern to the Commonwealth and its 53 members in the areas of social and economic policy, governance and the environment. The Institute leverages the special ties of the Commonwealth to advance and share knowledge in these fields as a means of challenging development issues with relevance to the wider world, benefiting both policy-makers and the public.

Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth

The aims of the RASC are to enable the interchange of ideas, information and views on the secure sustainable use of natural resources in the production of food, forest and fisheries, and to promote development of agriculture, forestry, aquaculture and the rural environment.

Royal Commonwealth Ex-services League

The Royal Commonwealth Ex-services League's remit is to help ex-servicemen and -women who served the Crown and are now in need. We are privileged to have HRH The Duke of Edinburgh as our Grand President. Benevolence monies are dispensed to beneficiaries through a network of ex-service organisations across the Commonwealth. Such is the demand today that, in some parts of the world, the charity is unable to provide more than 20 meals a month where it aims to provide a meal a day.

Royal Commonwealth Society

The Royal Commonwealth Society, founded in 1868, is a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world. Through youth empowerment, education and advocacy, the Royal Commonwealth Society promotes the value and the values of the Commonwealth. We champion human rights, democracy and sustainable development across the 53 member countries, which are intrinsically linked through their common history and shared values.

Royal Life Saving Society

The Royal Life Saving Society is an umbrella organisation working to reduce the numbers of people losing their life to drowning across the globe. We act in a leadership and partnership capacity, co-ordinating drowning prevention initiatives and activities with our member branches across the Commonwealth. We support our members to facilitate the development of community-based drowning prevention initiatives and promote lifesaving education programmes across Commonwealth nations. We believe that by creating links with like-minded groups and organisations we can truly make a difference in reducing the tragic number of people who lose their lives through drowning each year.

Royal Over-seas League

The Royal Over-seas League is a non-profit Commonwealth private members organisation, committed to supporting international understanding and friendship through social, music, arts and welfare activities.

SightSavers International

Sightsavers International is an organisation that changes lives in the long term. We work in more than 30 countries to eliminate avoidable blindness and support people

with visual impairments to live independently. The organisation states that 80 per cent of blindness in the world is avoidable, and SightSavers International thinks that is astoundingly unfair.

Soroptimist International

Soroptimist International is a global volunteer movement working together to transform the lives of women and girls. Its network of around 80,000 club members in 130 countries and territories works at local, national and international levels to educate, empower and enable opportunities for women and girls.

Sound Seekers

Sound Seekers is dedicated to helping deaf people, particularly children, in the poorest communities of the developing world. It works in partnership with local organisations and institutions to ensure that it delivers sustainable and cost-effective projects that advance understanding of deaf people's needs and improve their access to health services, education and social support, together with initiatives that enable people to avoid, or overcome, the effects of deafness.

Rotary International

Rotary International comprises 1.2 million neighbours, friends and community leaders who come together to create positive, lasting change in their communities and around the world. Members' differing occupations, cultures and countries give the organisation a unique perspective. Members' shared passion for service helps them to accomplish remarkable things.

The Round Table

Since its foundation in 1910, the Round Table has had a dual function. First, it is a peer-reviewed scholarly journal, *The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*, which now appears six times a year. The United Kingdom's oldest international affairs journal, it provides analysis and commentary on all aspects of international affairs and is the major source for coverage of the policy issues concerning the contemporary Commonwealth and its global role. Second, the Round Table is a forum for Commonwealth debate and advocacy. It hosts periodic dinners and other meetings, with invited speakers, and organises seminars and conferences on a regular basis. It works closely with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation and with a range of other Commonwealth organisations.

Transparency International

Transparency International's mission is to stop corruption and promote transparency, accountability and integrity at all levels and across all sectors of society. Its core values are transparency, accountability, integrity, solidarity, courage, justice and democracy. Its vision is a world in which government, politics, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption.

World Alliance for Citizen Participation

The World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS) is an international alliance of members and partners that constitutes an influential network of organisations at the local, national, regional and international levels, and spans the spectrum of civil society. CIVICUS has a vision of a global community of active, engaged citizens committed to the creation of a more just and equitable world. This is based on the belief that the health of a society is in direct proportion to the degree of balance between the state, the private sector and civil society.

World Vision International UK

World Vision is the world's largest international children's charity, working to bring real hope to millions of children in the world's hardest places.

Annex 3: Outcome Statements from CHOGM Parallel Forums

Commonwealth Women's Forum Outcome

St Julian's, Malta, 23–24 November 2015

Women's Forum: A Call for Action on Gender Equality beyond 2015

We, the participants of the First Commonwealth's Women's Forum, held in St Julian's, Malta, from 22 to 24 November 2015, applaud the Government of Malta for successfully hosting this forum, under the theme 'Women ahead: be all that you can be', which reinforced, amongst other things, the importance of women's economic, social and political empowerment and the need to 'leave no women behind, including women with disabilities and women with different choices' and the need to strengthen women's access, participation and leadership in education, health, employment, technology, political and economic decision-making and the judiciary. These aims will advance social justice and women's human rights as key contributing factors to achieve equality between women and men, a better quality of life for all and sustainable development.

Considering the mandates of the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth's commitments to gender equality, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, and other international instruments and national development commitments for the realisation of women's rights and women's empowerment, we, the participants of the Commonwealth Women's Forum, call on Commonwealth Heads of Government to recognise this outcome of the Women's Forum and call on them to:

1. Reaffirm the importance of women's leadership, equitable participation and empowerment as critical drivers for inclusive sustainable development.
2. Acknowledge the importance of the Women's Forum as a platform (i) to transform mainstream processes with an effective monitoring process to be observed by member countries and (ii) to ensure that commitments to gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment take centre stage and remain

essential dimensions of sustainable development and high on the agenda of Heads of Government.

3. Recognise that in order to achieve full gender equality all policies and initiatives should be gender-mainstreamed, gender-responsive, and budgeted, monitored and assessed accordingly.
4. Accept the Commonwealth Women's Forum as a permanent forum preceding the CHOGM and support accountability mechanisms that contribute to the decision-making of CHOGM.
5. Draw from the outcome of the Women's Forum, including key lessons, best practices and strategies to complement the analysis of the end-of-term review of the Commonwealth Plan of Action on Gender Equality 2005–2015 and to sharpen the analysis and identification of priorities for gender equality for the next 10–15 years.

Political Leadership

6. The Women's Forum noted that, in the Commonwealth, men continue to be significantly overrepresented in political institutions and leadership, and similarly in ministerial positions, public service, the diplomatic corps, the judiciary, parliaments and local governance.
7. The Women's Forum recommends that member countries identify and develop strategies to improve opportunities for women to actively participate in politics at all levels, and that civil society groups and the media advocate for the role of women in political positions as key agents for responsive government that promotes sustainability.
8. Furthermore, the Women's Forum calls on all Heads of States and Government who have not yet committed to the global leaders' call to commit to the 'He for She' campaign to do so without delay. The aim of 'He for She' is to engage men and boys as agents of change for the achievement of gender equality and women's rights.
9. Political decision-makers in democracies should reflect the societies they represent and therefore there should be an equal balance of representation between women and men so that the decisions that are made better reflect the interests of society. The Women's Forum calls for strategies to improve opportunities for women to effectively participate in political processes and for consideration of temporary measures such as quotas and/or targets for female representatives in the Commonwealth.

Corporate Leadership

10. The Women's Forum observed with concern the underrepresentation of women leaders and decision-makers in the executive and non-executive roles in corporate boards of both private and state-owned companies.

11. The Women's Forum called for strengthened systems to increase representation to a minimum of 30 per cent of decision-making roles at all levels filled by women, and for target timelines for achieving 50 per cent, including through effective measures, regulations and voluntary codes, where appropriate, for advancing women's leadership.

Leadership in the Judiciary

12. The Women's Forum highlighted the need to ensure equal pay for female and male judges across the judicial sector and across member countries.
13. The Women's Forum acknowledged the influential impact of women's judicial leadership across the Commonwealth in amending discriminatory laws and advancing the rule of law, equal justice and the rights of women and girls across Commonwealth countries. It called for strengthened measures to advance judicial diversity including terms and conditions of service that enable women's representation on the bench and progression through the ranks.

Enterprise Development

14. The Women's Forum called on the Commonwealth and Commonwealth governments to:
 - enact laws that promote a level playing field for women and men;
 - find new solutions to persistent problems/barriers preventing women from starting, running and growing their businesses. They noted that government procurement is an important dimension of international trade, making up to 10–15 per cent of the GDP of developed countries and up to 40 per cent of the economies of LDCs. Governments are therefore urged to ensure that their procurement processes are enabling and supportive of the socioeconomic advancement of women.
15. The Women's Forum reaffirmed the importance of women's enterprise development and emphasised that financial literacy be extended to all women and girls, and women's holistic empowerment as a driver of economic growth, political stability, peace, social justice and inclusive sustainable development.
16. The Women's Forum reiterated that it is critical to facilitate the process of women's economic empowerment, for which a multi-pronged approach is required. This includes macroeconomic processes, an inclusive, enabling business environment for women's employment, increased access to productive resources such as land, property and financial services, and improving women's skills and education for increased employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Access to Finance

17. The Women's Forum called for the Commonwealth to explore innovative, inclusive and accessible financing mechanisms, including public-private partnerships and collaboration with all Commonwealth partners.

18. The Women's Forum acknowledged the continuing role of private financing and government financing programmes that are mandated to support women's entrepreneurship with a target of 30 per cent, particularly for many poor women-headed households. The Women's Forum stressed the importance of greater access for women to a full range of financial services and products, and for the Commonwealth and development partners to consider ways to support women in this area.
19. The Women's Forum recognised the benefits of members of the Commonwealth sharing good practices and developing support networks. It called on governments to support the collection of gender-sensitive data and ensure that key economic and financial data are current, accurate and disaggregated by sex.
20. Progress on gender equality and women's rights is only possible with a strong and effective women's movement. It is therefore essential that women's CSOs are provided with adequate finances to carry out advocacy and support services in favour women's rights and gender equality.

Media and Technology

21. The Women's Forum highlighted measures aimed at creating and leveraging media products (digital, broadcast, print) and technology to empower women and girls in the Commonwealth through increased opportunities for education and leadership training in the fields of communication, media and technology.
22. The Women's Forum recommended active engagement with journalists, media practitioners and media houses to address stereotypes through the promotion of proactive roles for women and men in the public and domestic spheres and the use of media as a tool to break stereotypes of women and men in the media. It recommended encouraging gender-sensitive reporting by governments, international agencies, regional bodies and civil society, and supporting an enabling environment for women's innovation and enterprise.
23. The Women's Forum recommended the promotion of, and access to, technology tools so as to bridge the digital divide for women, as an enabler for communication, education and business.
24. The Women's Forum recognised the need for the women of today to act as catalysts, role models and mentors to support the women of tomorrow in the field of ICT and beyond.

Social Development

25. The Women's Forum noted that poverty and underresourced education and health systems have undermined access to quality meaningful education, basic health, employment and employability.
26. The Women's Forum acknowledged the importance of intergenerational co-operation to combat gender inequality. Young people, especially girls, must be meaningfully engaged in this process.

27. The Women's Forum recommended a multiplicity of interventions at all levels necessary to effectively address the exclusion of girls and underachievement of boys in education, combat-related health matters involving women's and girls' health, and high rates of maternal mortality.
28. The Women's Forum recognised the need to embrace a holistic set of women's and girls' concerns into future women's forums and ensure that the gender agenda of the Commonwealth advances with member countries and civil society to end all forms of discrimination including sexual orientation, gender identity and women with disabilities.
29. The Women's Forum called on the Commonwealth to renew emphasis on the purpose and outcomes of education in the context of gender equity, giving impetus to drives to encourage women to study scientific, technical, engineering and medical (STEM) subjects and, through transformative education systems, align with the goals of sustainable human development and economic empowerment.
30. Media and education are two pillars that can promote change for young women and girls, but when we combine them into media education they can be a profound game-changer. The Women's Forum recommended that media education and gender equity training be built into curriculums and syllabuses across all the Commonwealth countries, beginning in kindergarten (from age 4) right up to tertiary education.
31. The Women's Forum called for special attention to be paid to SIDS, as set out in the outcome of the 2015 Small Island Developing States Conference, the SAMOA Pathway, to ensure that gender is mainstreamed into disaster and climate change policies.

Gender-based Violence

32. The Women's Forum underscored the need to address the wide spectrum and the root causes of power and control of sexual and gender-based violence (such as sexual and cyber-harassment, stalking, rape, prostitution, trafficking, pornography, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, and forced and early marriage), as it continues to undermine the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its victims, yet it remains shrouded in a culture of silence. It noted the increasingly rife social taboos and endemic cultural practices that allow child marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting, sexual violence and the transmission of diseases to women and girls in the Commonwealth.
33. The Women's Forum called for:
 - relevant strategies that will help policy-makers shape and design programmes to support victims, legally deal with perpetrators and eliminate harmful cultural practices that have a negative impact on women and girls in the Commonwealth;
 - education of males to value females and their contribution to poverty eradication and sustainable livelihoods; and
 - implementation of laws and policies with respect to women's health and safety.

34. The Women's Forum noted that the prevalence of child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) retards development in the Commonwealth and the consequences of CEFM for the rights of women and girls and particularly their health, education, agency and right to be free from violence. It urged member countries to continue to raise awareness of gender-based violence, to highlight the support available to survivors and to focus on the issue of holding perpetrators accountable.
35. The Women's Forum welcomed continuing efforts by member countries and Commonwealth bodies to prevent and eliminate gender-based violence, which includes CEFM, and encouraged these efforts to be further strengthened particularly working with national and regional human rights institutions, traditional leaders and survivors of CEFM through the Champions Against Child Marriage Platform (CHAMP).

Conclusion and Way Forward

36. The Women's Forum called for the Commonwealth to establish an independent technical working group on gender equality and women's empowerment in alignment with the targets for the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to report progress to subsequent CHOGMs.

The Women's Forum requests the Commonwealth Heads of Government to endorse the outcome of the Women's Forum.

24 November 2015

Commonwealth Youth Forum Declaration

Tenth Commonwealth Youth Forum, Malta, 21–25 November 2015

Declaration by the Young People of the Commonwealth

'Young people can and must play a vital role at the centre of sustainable and inclusive development. Investing in young people today is the foundation for a prosperous and equitable tomorrow. Therefore, it is critical to harness the creativity, leadership and social capital of young people, towards the progress and resilience of Commonwealth countries, and a more democratic and prosperous Commonwealth.'

*Commonwealth Heads of Government,
November 2013*

Preamble

1. This declaration and supporting action plan (Annex I) express current policy recommendations of Commonwealth young people regarding the social, political, economic and environmental agendas. These recommendations have been gathered through regional, Commonwealth and global youth leaders' forums, and were finalised at the Tenth Commonwealth Youth Forum. They represent a common framework to inform and inspire youth-led development at national, regional and Commonwealth levels.

2. We, the young people of the Commonwealth, convened in Malta from 21 to 25 November 2015 for the Tenth Commonwealth Youth Forum, recommit to the values and principles enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter and the CYC Constitution. In this year, when the Commonwealth family is focused on the role and contribution of young people through the Commonwealth theme, 'A young Commonwealth', we support the declaration of Heads enshrined in Article XIII of the Commonwealth Charter, which recognises the critical role of young people in the future success of the Commonwealth.¹⁸
3. As youth leaders, we pledge our continued support as partners and stakeholders in the economic, environmental, social and political development of our countries and the Commonwealth as defined in the Global Goals for Sustainable Development that define our generation.

By this Youth Declaration:

4. We commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) and call on governments and stakeholders to implement and monitor the priorities therein. We also recall the Commonwealth's PAYE and call on Heads to recommit to the 13 policy priorities included in the plan.
5. We recall and commit to the African Youth Charter, the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan, and the PYDF, in addition to the policy recommendations put forward by the young people participating in the 2015 regional CYMMs.
6. We acknowledge the role and contribution of national youth councils/bodies, national student organisations, youth organisations and youth networks in building safe, stable, secure and productive societies. We also recognise the continued support of youth workers, ministries/departments of youth and other stakeholders in youth development.
7. We therefore call on governments, CSOs, NGOs, international donor partners and other stakeholders active in member countries to partner with the CYC to support the policy recommendations outlined below.

I) ECONOMIC AGENDA

8. We, the young people of the Commonwealth, recognise that youth unemployment is one of the greatest challenges facing member countries. Unemployment is detrimental at any age; for young people, however, long-term unemployment has particularly significant implications. Underemployment, unfair working conditions and involuntary work can be attributed to a lack of self-worth, social exclusion and vulnerability. Employed and entrepreneurial young people are making an enormous contribution to economic growth across the Commonwealth. Therefore, we note the importance of expanding access to entrepreneurial training, technical training, vocational training and technology, in order to improve labour market outcomes for youth, promote youth entrepreneurship and promote decent employment.

The young people of the Commonwealth therefore call on:

9. National governments to prioritise employment opportunities and inclusive labour policies for young people by adopting a national youth employment action plan, working together with the private sector, and allocating budget to its implementation. The plan must be evidence-based, developed in partnership with young people, and recognise the interrelated roles of education, employment and training in preventing the marginalisation of young people and building economies.¹⁹
10. All member countries to facilitate the creation of decent job opportunities for young people, particularly for those living with disabilities, displaced persons, youth of various ethnic backgrounds and from indigenous communities, young migrant workers, LGBTQI+ youth, other minority groups and homeless young people.²⁰
11. All member countries to support youth entrepreneurship by facilitating easier access to technology and start-up finance for young people, particularly those unable to furnish collateral.²¹
12. International organisations, national youth councils, donors and the private sector to foster a culture of youth entrepreneurship by advocating for youth entrepreneurship skills to be included in the education curriculums and the creation of national and regional networks for youth entrepreneurs.²²
13. The CYC, national youth councils and youth ministries to encourage the use of ICT in education and the establishment of inter- and intra-regional youth innovation and technology centres, as a means of disseminating knowledge, skills development, innovation and connectivity, thereby enhancing infrastructure in these areas.²³
14. All member countries to develop policies to ensure universal access to ICT and the achievement of targeted outcomes in education, healthcare, social cohesion, training and employment opportunities among the youth, through greater use of ICT.²⁴

II) ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA

15. We, the young people of the Commonwealth, are concerned about the social and environmental consequences of economic and development strategies that do not take into consideration environmental sustainability. Furthermore, we recognise that climate change continues to be a major challenge for all member countries, particularly for climate-vulnerable developing countries. As such, we emphasise the importance of expanding access to efficient, secure and sustainable energy sources and mitigating climate change, in accordance with national priorities.

The young people of the Commonwealth call on:

16. Commonwealth leaders to commit at COP21 to achieving a 100 per cent renewable energy future with sustainable energy access for all. We recommend

that parties at the UNFCCC take strides to acknowledge, in a legally binding agreement, that the long-term goal of phasing out fossil fuels and transitioning to 100 per cent renewable energy by 2050 is essential and urgently needed. We also recommend putting young people at the centre of promoting the use of renewable energy within communities all around the world, building their capacities to do so.²⁵

17. National youth councils, youth leaders and youth-led organisations to advocate for the implementation or enforcement of national legislation, action plans and policies relating to climate change.²⁶
18. The new Commonwealth Climate Finance Skills Hub, which is to be endorsed by Heads at the 2015 CHOGM, to include within its structure youth desks both at the headquarters and at the regional nodes level, as well as a youth representative to be part of the Hub's governing body.²⁷
19. Member countries and relevant institutions to provide support to young entrepreneurs for the creation of youth-led climate-smart agriculture and low-carbon social enterprises that align expertise, skills, innovation and competence with the movement towards low-carbon, green economies through agricultural transformation, climate change mitigation, and adaptation and development.²⁸
20. All member countries to formulate and implement national policies, which enable sustainable ocean governance and better use of the blue economy to address youth unemployment and job creation.²⁹
21. International organisations and treaty bodies, and international financial institutions at the global and regional levels, to support developing countries, at their request, in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, with youths' support.³⁰
22. All member countries to enable young people to take a key role in disaster relief and recovery in times of crisis and natural disaster with sufficient resourcing.³¹ We ask member countries to support youth to create awareness on the changes needed at the grassroots level in relation to climate change and disaster management.³²

III) SOCIAL AGENDA

23. We, the young people of the Commonwealth, recognise that there are challenges with regard to access and quality of education by all groups of young people across the Commonwealth. While young people are key stakeholders in education, they are not always consulted when policies that directly affect them are being formulated, implemented or evaluated. In addition, many young people are not acquiring the relevant skills they need for the changing labour market of the future, and transitions from education to full-time work are becoming more challenging. Furthermore, national youth policies need to respond to the challenges facing young people, including access to support

services and information relating to sexual and reproductive health, mental health and NCDs.

The young people of the Commonwealth call on:

24. All member countries to extend access to free universal early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary education of the highest quality for young people, based on the principles of equality and non-discrimination and ensuring equal and equitable access to education at all levels.³³ In particular, we ask states to prioritise gender-responsive policies and implement programmes to promote the right of young girls to have a chance at accessing quality education, and to create and/or enforce anti-discrimination legislation and enhance education policies, curriculums and systems to include students with special learning needs and disabilities.³⁴
25. All member countries to increase the recognition and availability of non-formal education and vocational education, including volunteer schemes and ICT apprenticeships, as an effective means of empowerment and skills transfer.³⁵
26. All member countries to promote healthy lifestyles and take steps towards a sustainable framework for health financing, to make adolescent- and youth-friendly services that are accessible and affordable, and ensure the quality of universal health coverage, including but not limited to maternal health, communicable diseases including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, polio and malaria, NCDs, mental health conditions, injuries, and drug and substance abuse, including alcohol abuse.³⁶
27. Youth leaders, youth-led organisations and NGOs to advocate for early detection, treatment of and support for mental health issues and promote universal healthcare and education on sexual health and reproductive rights among adolescents and youth.³⁷
28. All member countries to develop strategies, investment and best practices to enhance youth work; promote full labour rights of youth workers; and ensure minimum professional standards of youth work.³⁸
29. All member countries to support youth work education across the Commonwealth, promote the formalisation of youth work as a profession, and include youth development work as a priority area for scholarships and remuneration.³⁹

IV) POLITICAL AGENDA

30. We, the young people of the Commonwealth, believe it is important for member countries to place young people at the centre of sustainable development, given the increasingly large global youth demographic. We note that member countries should take into account young people's needs, aspirations, challenges and ability to contribute. In particular, special efforts should be made to ensure that the voices of marginalised young people are taken into account. Especially as young people work to build a peaceful world, it is important to note that reconciliation and cultural understanding are critical components of the pathway to social cohesion.

The young people of the Commonwealth therefore call on:

31. National governments and local authorities to facilitate an enabling environment in which youth actors are recognised and provided with adequate support to implement activities in order to prevent violence and violent extremism. This space must be inclusive of youth from different social, political, economic, ethnic and religious backgrounds.⁴⁰
32. National governments, local authorities and researchers to ensure that contextual research is conducted in collaboration with young people and youth organisations to identify the drivers and enablers of violence and extremism in order to design effective responses at local, national and international levels.⁴¹
33. International organisations, national governments, donors and the private sector to support youth-led and youth peace-building organisations as partners in youth employment and entrepreneurship programmes, as those organisations are uniquely placed to engage marginalised young people and to promote social cohesion.⁴²
34. International agencies, national governments and local authorities to establish mechanisms to meaningfully involve youth in current and future peace and reconciliation processes, including formal peace negotiations from the local level to global level. These mechanisms need to ensure that youth are engaged as equal partners and promote youth leadership.⁴³
35. Member countries to address the urgent need to recognise the existence of young people's human rights, through introducing programmes and policies that provide social protections to reduce the vulnerability of all young people, especially young people from marginalised backgrounds.⁴⁴
36. International agencies, national governments and local authorities to implement internationally agreed commitments and policies to promote and protect the rights of girls, prevent gender-based violence and end impunity for crimes such as child, early and forced marriage, sexual and domestic violence, femicide and female genital mutilation.⁴⁵

Conclusion

37. The delegates of the Tenth Commonwealth Youth Forum thank the Government of Malta for hosting the Forum and the Second CYC General Assembly and look forward to the Government's continued support in promoting youth participation and engagement in the Commonwealth.
38. We welcome and encourage ongoing partnership and collaboration between the CYC, the Commonwealth Secretariat, member countries and Commonwealth civil society in moving forward towards an inclusive and sustainable future for young people.
39. Towards a more renewed, inclusive and prosperous Commonwealth, we call on governments, the NGOs, agencies, donor partners, the private sector and

CSOs to partner with us to ensure that the policy priorities outlined above are implemented.

Annex I: Supporting Action Plan

This supporting action plan expresses the practical recommendations of Commonwealth young people regarding the social, political, economic and environmental agendas.

These recommendations were proposed and finalised at the Tenth Commonwealth Youth Forum. They support the policy declaration and contribute to a common framework to inform and inspire youth-led development at national, regional and Commonwealth levels.

I) ECONOMIC AGENDA

- That this assembly adopt an ICT programme, allocating resources for entrepreneurship and development across the Commonwealth.
- That this assembly adopt an e-sensitisation online platform to tackle stigmatisation of persons with disabilities in employment.
- That this assembly adopt the establishment of a youth employment policy across the Commonwealth and a People's Bank.
- That this assembly adopt the creation of a Young Entrepreneur's Fund.
- That this assembly adopt the establishment of a Commonwealth-wide vocational qualification for youth entrepreneurship skills.
- That this assembly adopt the creation of a programme to ensure access to accurate information and a safe, effective contraception method of choice, which can improve the chance of survival and health outcomes, across the Commonwealth.

II) ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA

- That this assembly develop, implement and advocate for the strengthening of the Youth Leading on DRR: Now! programme over the next two years.
- That this assembly establish the Project Prepare campaign to provide training and toolkits to partner schools.
- That this assembly adopt a two-year social enterprise programme to increase the number of young people involved in youth-led low-carbon and climate-smart agriculture projects.
- That this assembly establish an organisation focused on affairs related to the marine environment, relying on funding and networking.
- That this assembly initiate the Eco-Warriors programme, with assistance from the CYC and national youth councils.

- That the CYC and national youth councils work with governments to redirect fuel subsidies towards developing renewable energy efforts and innovation involving young people.
- That this assembly adopt the creation of an advocacy campaign to showcase youth action towards climate change.

III) SOCIAL AGENDA

- That this assembly call for the CYC and national youth councils to advocate for quality education at all levels and at all demographics.
- That the CYC facilitate an increase in the number of young people in the Commonwealth who have access to non-formal education.
- That this assembly advocate for an increase in the number of youth positions in health policy decision-making and call on Heads of Commonwealth Governments to fund preventive medical measures, such as polio eradication, for underserved and vulnerable youths in the Commonwealth over the next two years.
- That this assembly create an online Commonwealth-wide social network and mobile app to share best practices and curriculums for mental health issues and health-related self-report.
- That the CYC ensure all member countries create accessible youth policies that are implemented by 2017.
- That all member countries support youth work education across the Commonwealth, promote the formalisation of youth work as a profession and include youth development work as a priority area for scholarships and remuneration.

IV) POLITICAL AGENDA

- That this assembly establish the Commonwealth Youth Peace Fund (CYPF) to further the work of youth-led and youth-focused organisations working to prevent violent extremism.
- That this assembly promote youth-led research by creating and strengthening relationships between youth and national, regional and international research institutions.
- That this assembly advocate for the creation of legislated youth positions in government institutions, organisations and sectors at all levels, so as to ensure youth engagement in informal and formal peace and reconciliation processes.
- That this assembly call upon the private sector to provide skills training and resources to ensure the availability of employment opportunities for youth, to reduce youth susceptibility to violent extremism.

- That this assembly lobby national governments to implement, enforce and strengthen laws related to sexual and gender-based violence, by creating public awareness and thereby encouraging sustained public pressure.
- That this assembly initiate the Commonwealth Human Rights Expo, with the assistance of the CYC and the national youth councils, over the next two years.

Report of the Commonwealth Business Forum 2015

24–26 November, Malta

Statement by Lord Marland of Odstock

Chairman, Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council, to be presented at the Meeting of Foreign Ministers, 26 November 2015

Honourable Ministers, Excellencies

Please accept my sincere apologies that neither I nor any of my team has been able to join you this afternoon. The Business Forum is still in full swing and we are preparing to receive HRH The Prince of Wales, who will be delivering the concluding address at the Forum.

We are extremely grateful to all the Heads of Government, Ministers and their representatives who have participated in the Business Forum over the last three days. It has been a magnificent occasion and I hope that those who have been able to join us have gone away with the sense of the dynamism, purpose and hunger to do business that I believe has characterised the event.

The Business Forum is a unique event, attended by 1,200 business leaders and addressed by 15 Heads of Government and more than 180 chairs and CEOs of global companies.

This was the first Business Forum to be organised by the CWEIC, and I would particularly like to thank those governments who have become founding strategic partners of our organisations. We hope others will see the value in following suit.

We will be issuing an interim communiqué later today and preparing a full report in the coming weeks.

It is clear that the private sector continues to see value in the Commonwealth network and we believe that a focus on trade and investment is crucial for the future of the organisation. We welcome the findings of the Commonwealth Secretariat's publication *The Commonwealth in the Unfolding Global Trade Landscape* and in particular its recommendations on promoting intra-Commonwealth trade and investment.

In addition to the excellent discussions about how the Commonwealth can add value in our six priority areas of financial services, technology, infrastructure, healthcare, tourism and sustainability, we have launched a number of new initiatives that will be central to our ongoing work:

- the Commonwealth Green Finance Facility – to help fund sustainable infrastructure projects across the Commonwealth, with a focus on island countries;

- Commonwealth First, a programme to encourage SMEs to leverage the Commonwealth network when starting their international journey;
- the Commonwealth Trade Initiative, an online platform to connect businesses across the Commonwealth and facilitate greater intra-Commonwealth trade and investment;
- the Commonwealth Healthcare Business Group, which will bring together complementary public, private and third sector expertise to help facilitate the Secretariat and Commonwealth governments in improving health provision and outcomes;
- the Global Goals Commonwealth Sustainable Business Challenge: the challenge aims to encourage all companies across the Commonwealth and beyond to consider how they can engage with the SDGs and how they build them into their strategy and the way they do business.

I wish you well in your deliberations at this important time for the future of the Commonwealth.

Finally, I would like to record my sincere thanks to the Prime Minister of Malta, the Government of Malta and the CHOGM 2015 Taskforce for the wonderful arrangements they have made for us and all their support over the last two years.

Lord Marland of Odstock
Chairman

Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council

Report of the Commonwealth People's Forum: Malta Declaration on Governance for Resilience 25 November 2015

Introduction

1. This Malta Declaration on Governance for Resilience has been developed as an outcome of the Commonwealth People's Forum 2015 (CPF 2015), held on 23–26 November 2015, in Malta. CPF 2015 brought together more than 350 civil society participants. The declaration reflects the outcome of discussions by civil society participants over three days, focused on the theme 'What makes societies resilient?' Covering 19 sessions focused on policies, perspectives and case studies, and open sessions, many new insights have emerged and previously unheard voices expressed on how resilient societies are built. Delegates have arrived at a number of achievable, practical and targeted recommendations for actions to be taken by Commonwealth Heads of Government, Commonwealth member countries, Commonwealth bodies and civil society itself.
2. The diversity of CSOs across the Commonwealth offers invaluable opportunities to rethink hegemonic and oppressive structures that hinder societal resilience, offering the opportunity for people across the Commonwealth to work together

towards more equitable societies. Inspired by the principles of equal partnerships, intergovernmental organisations, national governments, communities, civil society and the private sector are encouraged to open dialogue about policies that help communities and societies to flourish and strengthen their resilience. While acknowledging externally imposed development pathways that have failed, countries need to face the economic, social, environmental and financial threats that often exacerbate violent conflict and political unrest. Marginalised and unheard voices need to become part of the dialogue, which respects the diversity of all people in all of their diversity, for the construction of truly resilient societies that address problems at their root cause.

3. In the Commonwealth, large ocean nations, LDCs, indigenous peoples, small states and SIDS are on the front line of climate change impacts and economic and environmental shocks and therefore need to be at the front line of the dialogue that genuinely seeks pathways that offer the possibilities for people, communities and their cultures to flourish.

Building Resilient Societies

4. The Commonwealth has a long history of initiating, leading and informing global analytical and policy discourse on vulnerability and resilience-building. In an increasingly turbulent world, the perpetual character of crisis and vulnerability brings into sharp focus the utility of resilience as a policy response, especially in cases where mainstream notions of resilience perpetuate vulnerability.
5. Resilience as a notion should be understood as a complex, multifaceted construct that must be shaped by unheard voices and narratives, responding to all forms of vulnerability and upholding the rights of all people in all their diversity.
6. While dominant and hegemonic interpretations and narratives of resilience present it as the capacity to respond to shocks and vulnerability, a more compelling narrative is to consider resilience as life – an inherent capacity in all living organisms to adapt to contextual changes without collapsing, and to advance to the next stage of life with the capacity to self-organise and repair the root causes of vulnerability.
7. Indigenous peoples and other marginalised groups emphasise the role of culture in building resilience, the importance of intergenerational connectedness, the supremacy of collective benefit rather than individual benefit, and the need to sustain a close affinity to the earth, its gifts and resources. These narratives recognise the detrimental effects of colonisation and promote decolonisation as an integral part of building resilient societies.
8. We recognise that current governance systems perpetuate vulnerability, thus leaving many voices in the margins and unheard. We call for a new programme of Commonwealth analysis, research and inquiry to uncover, examine, celebrate and share unheard critical voices on resilience-building across Commonwealth member countries.

9. New approaches and new systems of governance are needed to make societies resilient. Governance systems that promote participatory, inclusive, responsive, transparent, accountable and gender-sensitive governance systems support efforts to build resilient societies.

Resilience and Transformation

10. Mainstream notions of resilience-building that are limited to strengthening the ability of individuals and societies to cope are inadequate as approaches for achieving substantive transformation, as they transfer the burden of resilience to the poor. In reality, most societal vulnerabilities arise from external factors that people have little capacity to control, including a neoliberal economic system that reproduces these vulnerabilities. Small states are particularly vulnerable due to size, limited local markets and trade dependence, proneness to disasters and a lack of natural resources.
11. Building more resilient communities requires that communities acquire the power to withstand the challenges they face and to demand the kind of governance system that allows them to build a resilient system. Change in the current power dynamics is needed to build resilience with active, not superficial, community engagement and participation in decision-making processes, where people are part of developing solutions to address fundamental problems. We call for the development of a governance matrix within the Commonwealth that will bring together social, economic and political factors that build resilience.
12. In pursuing transformation, special recognition must go to groups that have had sustained long-term exposure to vulnerability, such as women and HIV affected and infected communities, who can serve as reference points for societies seeking to become more resilient.

Measuring Progress and Development Impact

13. Progress and development impact can be measured in ways other than relying on GDP and growth, which have been critiqued for a long time as sole measures of progress. These critiques highlight the fact that GDP grows by externalising responsibility, which is problematic, as it removes agency; such measures shift attention away from the traditional economy, and they create an extractive logic, while a cyclical logic in which societies do extract but also give back to nature and humans is more creative and resilient.
14. Progress is increasingly measured using new measurement tools that incorporate measures of wellbeing, more strongly emphasise rights and exclude economic growth as a criterion. New measurement tools include the Happy Planet Index, the Health per Acre approach and Gross National Happiness (GNH), which is a holistic, human-centred index with four pillars: good governance, sustainable socio-economic development, cultural preservation and environmental conservation.
15. Several steps are needed to promote resilience-building when developing new measures of progress. Education is required to build resilience, as biodiversity – and knowledge of it – is being lost through the generations. Intergenerational efforts

through education are needed to preserve it. A stronger role can be played by civil society to foster the sharing of good practices, and new tools and methods are needed to improve awareness of and to promote new measurement methods and indexes.

Indigenous Wisdom: Building Resilience through Indigenous Knowledge

16. Indigenous peoples are survivors of historical colonisation, genocide and more recent forms of structural violence, reproduced in contemporary societies and the global political economy.
17. For indigenous peoples, resilience translates into the survival of cultural and linguistic identities, preservation of indigenous knowledge and ownership of their territories and resources. The cosmology of indigenous peoples recognises obligations to past and future generations, as well as deep spiritual attachment to their lands, territories and resources. Indigenous peoples celebrate economic, social and cultural relationships based on equity and shared prosperity.
18. Indigenous peoples reject values that promote excessive consumerism and individualistic, competitive values. Indigenous peoples strongly resist the abuse of ecosystems, commodification of genetic resources and violence arising from forced privatisation and assimilation.
19. We call on all Commonwealth member countries to:
 - a) fully recognise indigenous peoples in their regions, including respect for the representatives and leaders determined by the indigenous peoples;
 - b) consider means for indigenous peoples, as first peoples with the right of self-determination, to be appropriately represented in the Commonwealth and to participate and be integrally included in all processes in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 - c) harmonise national legislation with the rights of indigenous peoples, as established in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, by 2017;
 - d) recognise and, in the process, safeguard the intellectual property and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, enabling sui generis systems for protection if favoured by indigenous peoples;
 - e) increase opportunities for information-sharing, encouraging representatives of indigenous peoples to share the work they are doing to adapt to and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation; and
 - f) encourage parliamentarians who are members of indigenous communities to meet together and promote information and awareness within the Commonwealth.

Building Resilience through Sustainable Energy

20. Across the Commonwealth, there is a growing need to ensure sustainable access to sources and use of energy to build resilient societies, particularly for the

poor and people in remote areas, through inclusive and participatory decision-making processes. Civil society has a central and diverse role to play in designing, developing, implementing and monitoring sustainable energy policy, including through advocacy and education.

21. Two cases studies, from Fiji Islands and Cameroon, on the destruction of mangroves illustrate this, but also highlight emerging challenges in replicating and scaling up best practices when these occur. Both case studies highlight the key role of consultation, participation and local ownership in building resilience through sustainable energy. However, both also illustrate challenges, including sustainability, accountability and replicability.

Planning for Resilient Urbanisation

22. Urbanisation is a leading global trend with long-term impacts. We welcome SDG 11, which calls for cities and human settlements that are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, and for processes that enhance people's participation. Many Commonwealth cities are home to extreme deprivation and environmental degradation. Globally, 1 billion people live in slums, with nearly 70 per cent of the world's capital cities located near water. This, together with climate change and risks posed by flooding, represents an enormous and growing risk for cities and urban development. Population growth rates, ageing populations, growing urban unemployment, changes in patterns of human settlement, food security, transport and access to infrastructure are all significant issues of relevance in planning for resilient urbanisation.
23. Achieving resilient urbanisation and planning for sustainable human settlements requires inclusive people's participation. An ultimate goal in planning for resilient urbanisation is to work with governments and communities to ensure that informed decisions are made in a democratic process. Resilient urban planning necessitates working across a range of technical professions; helping governments look at and understand risk; and helping communities by understanding their needs during planning.
24. Planning for resilience is not a neutral technocratic process, but an inclusive one, bringing all stakeholders to the table. New relationship structures need to be built to allow for partnerships between local government, women, youth, communities and the private sector. Also, national/local government co-ordination needs to be strengthened. Consensus and buy-in can help local governments to leverage national government and private funding for continued services and to avoid misappropriation of public spaces and resources. Good practices such as the example of the floating school platform project in Nigeria illustrate the opportunities to plan for resilient urbanisation, highlighting innovation and the use of adaptive technology.

Climate Resilience in Small States

25. Climate change is the most defining challenge to building resilient societies in small states, which are acutely vulnerable despite contributing minimally to

change. They have high levels of exposure to natural disasters and reliance on natural resources.

26. The ability to build resilience and achieve transformation will hinge significantly on a successful outcome at the forthcoming COP21. Current economic models do not permit a realistic shift towards a low-carbon economy. This is especially due to the lack of a proper and functioning 'polluter pays' principle. However, most small states still heavily rely on fossil fuels for their production and consumption patterns, with active subsidies in place that signal no imminent intentions of reducing this dependency.
27. Climate change is blocking many pathways to resilience, including bringing uncertainty to water access and increased food insecurity. In turn, this fuels regional conflicts, further plunging affected communities into vulnerability. Furthermore, affected communities are largely excluded from policy processes and negotiations, which tend to be elitist.
28. Women and young people are profoundly affected by climate change and face specific vulnerabilities. Therefore, it is important to increase awareness at local level about the harmful impacts of climate change. At the same time, climate change can also represent an opportunity to transform production and consumption systems, where, for instance, the shift towards low-carbon economies can offer more sustainable employment opportunities for youth.
29. Many actions can be taken to build resilience to climate change, including investing more in renewable energies, reducing subsidies on fossil fuels and creating funds to match those environmentally harmful subsidies, to be used for sustainable and greener employment opportunities for young people.

LGBTI and Resilient Societies: Resilience Is Security for All People in All of Their Diversity

30. Criminalisation, violence, discrimination and exclusion faced by LGBTI people hinders the resilience of societies. Inclusive societies are stronger, more innovative and therefore more resilient. Commonwealth civil society must forge stronger links across sectoral interests: LGBTI, unions, disability, women and faith movements, indigenous people and ageing populations. People in all of their diversity embody multiple identities, face intersecting oppressions and suffer from the same structural and institutional threats to civil society space.
31. A number of Commonwealth governments require encouragement to engage with LGBTI civil societies in their own countries. There is a role for sharing good national policy to inform intergovernmental and cross-governmental dialogue to protect the lives of people who experience violence on the grounds of their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.
32. The Commonwealth has a role in assisting the transition of knowledge from national to intergovernmental level and between states, and to facilitate a dialogue to safeguard lives that respects the cross-cutting nature of LGBTI issues as they intersect with gender, race, faith, ethnicity, disability and age.

33. We call on Commonwealth leaders to follow the example of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, the OAS and the UN Human Rights Council, and condemn violence on any and all grounds, and we call on Commonwealth governments to effectively build on the work of the CPF 2015 to ensure that this work remains active in the Commonwealth agenda. Furthermore, Commonwealth leaders and institutions must make concrete efforts to prevent acts of violence and harassment committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Migration and Resilience

34. Migration is a key element of resilient societies. It increases diversity, innovation and social capital. But it is linked with a globalised economic system that reinforces the lack of redistribution of wealth and resources. Migration has become dehumanising in both policy and media discourses and needs to be recovered and embraced as an expression of humanity. We should not forget that migration is also a gendered process. Migration expresses new forms of racialised discourse reflected in the way in which states construct the notion of illegality.
35. Building systems that enable resilient societies necessitates moving from seeing migration as a problem to seeing it as a reality that we need to adapt to and build policy that captures the complexity of the reality while responding to multiple systems of oppression. There is a need for transparent and accountable institutions which explain the rationale of public policies on migration; migrant voices need to be part of that dialogue with the aim of creating rights-based policies.
36. Governance institutions need to open doors for civil society to have a real say in public policies. Unheard voices, including migrant voices, and those of policy-makers defending and protecting the lives of vulnerable people and the rights of migrants need be heard. Civil society needs to be more involved in challenging narratives and discourses that affect migrant rights and freedoms.
37. We call on Commonwealth leaders and institutions to advance policy initiatives and dialogue on the complexity of migration and its links to efforts in building resilient societies.

Transformative Education for Sustainable Development

38. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development endorses the call for transformative education in SDG 4. Commonwealth civil society has actively contributed to the development of the new SDG on transformative education. It provided perspectives and inputs to Commonwealth Education Ministers as well as a recent policy dialogue during the People's Forum 2015. Commonwealth civil society will continue to make a case for transformative learning and leverage the comparative opportunities the Commonwealth offers, including the advantage to self-organise and build capacity for greater advocacy on issues, including a more enabling environment for transformative education.

39. Commonwealth civil society asks Commonwealth small states governments in general and education ministries in particular to consider five policy needs for a transformed future, and a number of recommendations for adaptation and implementation at the Commonwealth regional and national levels. These will be presented to the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers at CHOGM. Policy needs include a reconceptualisation of education and lifelong learning for sustainable development, not limited to employment and economy; providing spaces for present education structures and basic literacy to incorporate critical literacy and experiential learning; policies that promote timely responsiveness to the needs and demands of a host of marginalised populations; policies that are informed by and draw inspiration from examples of better practices that are mindful of context; and, finally, policies that support schools to have ownership within the established curriculum frameworks and are facilitated to make decisions responding to their specific challenges.
40. Recommendations include a broad and balanced curriculum that innovatively incorporates sustainable development concepts, greater commitment to research funding, harnessing more efficient partnerships within the Commonwealth family and more effective linking of universities to communities.

Women, Agency and Gender-responsive Governance

41. Women represent 51 per cent of the population worldwide and are still considered a minority group because they continue to be the minority voice. There is no country in the world whose representative body fully reflects the percentage of women in its population.
42. Governance failures contribute to causing and exacerbating the vulnerability of women, which increases when policies are not implemented. A multi-level governance structure only offers advantage to women's agency when there is agreement at national level to protect, promote and reinforce women's rights through service provision.
43. Governance systems can address the challenge of inclusion only when they effectively tackle exclusion, stigma and discrimination in the design of public policies, thus enhancing women's choices, and through a process of education of both empowered boys and girls where socialisation processes are questioned and challenged.

Cultural Responses to Conflict

44. In respect of the interaction of culture and conflict, it is recognised that culture can be deployed alternately as a framework of oppression or resistance, an argument for retaining patriarchal structures or a language of self-determination.
45. In this regard, varying forms of good practice are acknowledged, allowing forms of resistance, agency and reflection through arts and cultural practices. The potential of culture to give voice to memory and commemorate the uncommemorated is recognised. It is noted that culture might play such a

transformative role within as well as across communities in conflict. The importance of maintaining women at the heart of responses to conflict is affirmed, as is the desire to privilege intrinsic solutions to conflict over external negotiation, where it is culturally alienating.

46. While maintaining these principles, it is noted that competing forms of resilience remain in play, and that the resilience of division persists alongside the resilience of resistance and the hope of transformation.

Equity and Resilience: Access to Resources for All

47. Unequal access to resources promotes vulnerability. There is a need to decolonise the theme of equity and resilience, to clarify definitions and to question whether equal access to resources and services is possible in a context of a neoliberal model that consistently promotes inequality.
48. Achieving equity and building resilience requires structural access to services and resources, listening to and understanding strengths and strategies at the local level, retaining flexibility in approach, creating safe and open space for critical questioning, providing access to social protection to be able to manage risks, effectively redistributing resources to deal with disparities and generating decent work for all in a growing informal economy.
49. Education, micro-finance opportunities and access to community transport, gainful employment and nutritious food can promote equity and resilience. Other contributors include sex education and information, better systems for social service provision, and investment in and access to community-based services and resources that incorporate local solutions, which need not be costly or complex.

Small States: Colourful Economies

50. Multi-stakeholder and multi-level approaches with the engagement of those working at grassroots level are key to build resilient societies. Successful networks and a strong civil society can bring about policy changes required for strengthening resilience. Three case studies of blue and green development in Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific were presented. One case study highlighted a participatory programme in the Philippines, where fishers learned how to run and manage seaweed farms. Other case studies presented focused on participatory governance, where networks of governmental and non-governmental entities engaged for the protection of natural resources and to scale up resilience.
51. Participatory governance was presented as a best practice. Empowering local communities to engage and participate in policy dialogue allowed for the increase of political awareness and greater ownership of the process. Governments that engage with communities can truly bring about positive change, thereby promoting societies' resilience. All the case studies underpinned the importance of civil society networks and their role in the transition towards achieving green and blue economies, which involves establishing agendas that give direction for action, implementation and performance.

Going Glocal

52. In order for global policy to be effective, it needs to be rooted in the lived experience of communities at a local, national or regional context. Consequently, input to global policy needs to be informed and respectful of the diverse voices from the ground, and precipitates the need for a loop with and understanding of how the national informs the global and the global informs the national. The local informs the global through the lived experiences and aspirations of those communities and the relationships they enjoy with their lands, and those voices need to continue to be heard. This same voice needs to also influence policy-making and agendas, by creating the appropriate platforms for citizens and non-citizens alike to influence national and regional frameworks and global policies.
53. The implementation of global policies is successful when meaningful participatory governance takes place, although in practice there needs to be an increase in consultation with people at grassroots levels. Consequently, there is the need to adopt more bottom-up and needs-led approaches. In most countries, this is lacking. However, national players are required to be involved in global agendas for an effective translation of global policies to national ones. The dissemination of information, particularly about the recent SDGs, is crucial and a multi-stakeholder approach needs to be adopted for this dissemination among those who will be affected by global policy decisions.
54. Glocalisation is challenged by several factors, including that some powerful states have more influence than others on the global agenda, and that capital has become internationalised. Countries lacking capacity inherit the consequences of their geopolitical positions, which limit their influence. Civil society needs to utilise the glocal lens for its analysis and advocacy, while working for the promotion of the dignity of all people in all of their diversity, and must call for accountability in policies and for frameworks and agendas to be pursued deeply.

Responses to Food Challenges

55. Food security emerged as a major cross-cutting theme across the discussions held at the People's Forum. It poses a major question to humanity: do we have enough to feed the world, and who controls which process? A number of stakeholders with competing or opposing interests are responsible for the production and distribution of food. Politicians, policy-makers, scientists, farmers, co-operatives, advocacy groups and others need to uphold participatory governance practices in relation to the discussion about food security and sovereignty. Inclusiveness, equitable access to resources, nutritious and fair food, and accountability are key elements for achieving sustainable food security. Food producers presented and discussed models of natural ecosystem-based practices that are not exploitative and that care for the earth and for people as a way forward. It also involves resource adaptation – space, water, soil and community collaboration – to produce and access nutritious and fair food. Food producers call for food sovereignty, as it prioritises local food systems and enhances natural resources

rather than destroying them. While a number of factors erode resilience, community engagement with local farmers can address these threats. It is key for food producers to be part of policy-based dialogues and decision-making processes. Food literacy can be another way forward to ensure access to fair food.

56. Creating incentives for young farmers is one way governments can scale up resilience while supporting agro-ecological methods. Facilitating options for sharing knowledge and practices is another way to support farmers across the Commonwealth.

Building Resilient Health Systems for an Ageing Population

57. The Commonwealth reflects the realities of countries whose populations are either mostly children and youth, or ageing. Civil society highlighted the stark contrast of inequalities within the Commonwealth when viewed through the lens of health, where some people suffer from obesity while others have no access to food, where children's growth is stunted because of lack of nutrition while others get sick because of overeating. These inequalities need to be spoken about simultaneously because they are also reproduced into health systems' structures or the lack of them. Health is a cross-cutting issue requiring the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, particularly when responding to the challenge of ageing populations. Health is also deeply intersectional and resilient health systems bring this to the forefront by involving diverse community representatives in policy discussions to design better health systems – which are at the basis of resilient societies.
58. When health systems are in place, accessibility and affordability are binding constraints for most people and in many cases governance systems hinder their ability to adapt and respond, rendering them weak and unable to provide adequate care. They are also not immune to globalisation processes. By contrast, resilient societies invest in just health systems that are able to proactively respond to the needs of the communities they serve and are able to plan for the future, preventing and controlling disease when this is possible. Inter-regional and international partnerships enhance the process for scaling up resilient health systems. Participatory governance and inclusion of communities in the planning, design and decision-making process for service delivery enhance resilient health systems.
59. Resilience is also about fostering a culture of respect for children and the ageing, for the youth and those who are marginalised. Participatory processes open spaces for unheard voices, and new knowledge, bring these to the centre of dialogue and improve the efficiency of health systems and their capacity to deliver. Population ageing opens possibilities for both new forms of exploitation and, alternatively, the harnessing of wisdom. Resilient health systems provide the tools to identify the most appropriate policy path.

Commonwealth People's Forum, Malta

25 November 2015

Heads of Delegation

(*indicates a Head of State or Head of Government)

Antigua and Barbuda	The Hon. Gaston Browne*, Prime Minister
Australia	The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull*, Prime Minister
The Bahamas	The Rt Hon. Perry Gladstone Christie*, Prime Minister
Bangladesh	HE Mr A H Mahmood Ali, Foreign Minister
Barbados	The Hon. Freundel Stuart*, Prime Minister
Belize	The Hon. Wilfred Elrington, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade
Botswana	HE Seretse Khama Ian Khama*, President
Brunei Darussalam	His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Mateen, Representative of the Head of Government
Cameroon	The Hon. Philemon Yang, Prime Minister
Canada	The Rt Hon. Justin Trudeau*, Prime Minister
Republic of Cyprus	HE Nicos Anastasiades*, President
Dominica	HE Charles Angelo Savarin, Head of State
Fiji Islands	The Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama*, Prime Minister
Ghana	HE John Dramani Mahama*, President
Grenada	Dr the Rt Hon. Keith Mitchell*, Prime Minister
Guyana	HE David Granger*, President
India	Smt Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs
Jamaica	Senator the Hon. Arnold J Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
Kenya	HE Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta*, President
Kiribati	HE Aote Tong*, President
Lesotho	The Rt Hon. Pakalitha Mosisili*, Prime Minister
Malawi	HE Prof Peter Mutharika*, President
Malaysia	The Hon. Dato' Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister
Maldives	Dr Ali Naseer Mohamed, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Malta	The Hon. Dr Joseph Muscat*, Prime Minister
Mauritius	The Rt Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth*, President
Mozambique	HE Filipe Nyusi*, President
Namibia	HE Hage Geingob*, President
Nauru	The Hon. Baron Waqa*, Prime Minister
New Zealand	The Rt Hon. John Key*, Prime Minister
Nigeria	HE Muhammadu Buhari*, President
Pakistan	The Hon. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif*, Prime Minister
Papua New Guinea	The Hon. Rimbink Pato, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Rwanda	The Rt Hon. Anastase Murekezi, Head of State
Samoa	The Hon. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielelegaoi*, Prime Minister
Seychelles	HE Sir James Mancham, Representative of the Head of government
Sierra Leone	HE Victor Foh, Vice-President
Singapore	The Hon. Tharman Shanmugaratnum, Deputy Prime Minister
Solomon Islands	The Hon. Manasseh Maelanga, Deputy Prime Minister

South Africa	The Hon. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of International Relations and Co-operation
Sri Lanka	HE Maithreepala Sirisena*, President
Saint Lucia	The Hon. Dr Kenny D. Anthony*, Prime Minister
St Kitts and Nevis	The Hon. Dr Timothy Harris*, Prime Minister
St Vincent and the Grenadines	The Hon. Clifton Burgin, Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment
Swaziland	The Hon. Dr Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini*, Prime Minister
Tonga	The Hon. Semisi Taelangi Fakahau, Minister of Agriculture Food, Forestry and Fisheries
Trinidad and Tobago	The Hon. Dr Keith Rowley*, Prime Minister
Tuvalu	The Hon. Enele Sosene Sopoaga*, Prime Minister
Uganda	HE Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi, Vice-President
United Kingdom	The Rt Hon. David Cameron*, Prime Minister
United Republic of Tanzania	Amb James Msekala, Ambassador to Malta
Vanuatu	The Rt Hon. Christopher Emelee, Deputy Prime Minister
Zambia	HE Mr Muyebe Chikwonde, High Commissioner to the United Kingdom
Commonwealth Secretariat	HE Mr Kamallesh Sharma, Secretary-General

Notes

- 1 There were reservations expressed on parts of paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 by one country.
- 2 Compare, for example, the partnership launched at the SIDS Samoa conference: 'Learning from the sharp end of environmental uncertainty in SIDS: the sharp end partnership', <http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&nr=2705&menu=1507>.
- 3 CYCN Expert Group Meeting on Climate Change, June 2015, http://www.yourcommonwealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Commonwealth-Youth-EGM_Recomdation.pdf.
- 4 B Milligan, et al., forthcoming (2015), *The Blue Capital Report: Costs and Benefits of Investment in Marine and Coastal Natural Assets – Collaborative Options for Realising the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.
- 5 Exhibition, Fish, Fishing and Fishing-dependent Communities, CAM/CHEC/Sharp End Partnership: project under development.
- 6 As recommended in the communiqué of the First Pacific Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting, 1–3 September 2015, Apia, Samoa, Youth as Partners in Sustainable Small Island Development, paragraph 17.
- 7 COL Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth, ACU, Commonwealth Secretariat Health and Education, Commonwealth Education Hub; relevant Commonwealth organisations and CSOs (CEC, CCfE, CHEC, CAM), as evidenced at the 19th CCEM; UNESCO (UNEVOC (International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training), UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization), Intangible Cultural Heritage), the EU (European Development Fund (EDF), ACP-EU).
- 8 Consider, for example, CARICOM, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism University of the West Indies, the Pacific Islands Forum, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the University of the South Pacific, the Indian Ocean Commission and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.
- 9 Here, as elsewhere in the paper, we acknowledge our debt to the CYCN report.
- 10 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.
- 11 <http://thecommonwealth.org/our-charter>
- 12 Examples to inform and disseminate real-time information: Nigerian Elections, <https://twitter.com/search?q=Nigeria%20Elections&src=typd>

- 13 CHOGM 2013, Final Communiqué, http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/events/documents/CHOGM%202013%20Communiqué_0.pdf
- 14 For example: *Scandalising the Court – Dooharika v The Director of Public Prosecutions*, <https://www.jcpc.uk/cases/docs/jcpc-2012-0058-judgment.pdf>; human rights lawyer Karpal Singh [deceased] prosecuted under the Sedition Act, <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/karpal-found-guilty-of-sedition>.
- 15 For example, four bloggers were recently killed for espousing secularism, while lawyers who defend their clients accused under laws related to free speech are regularly threatened or killed in the course of their work.
- 16 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trans-PacificPartnership>
- 17 <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/ttip/>
- 18 Commonwealth Charter, Article 13, 'Importance of Young People in the Commonwealth'.
- 19 Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security (2015); Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security.
- 20 Colombo Declaration on Youth (2014); World Conference on Youth.
- 21 Youth Declaration and Plan of Action for Youth Development in the Caribbean Region and Canada (2015); Caribbean Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting.
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