

The Commonwealth at the Summit: Volume 4

Communiqués of Commonwealth
Heads of Government Meetings 2007–2015

Commonwealth Secretariat



The Commonwealth

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Commonwealth Secretariat

Commonwealth Secretariat
Marlborough House
Pall Mall
London SW1Y 5HX
United Kingdom

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Foreword

This publication records the authentic and authoritative voice of the Commonwealth collectively, as expressed by Commonwealth Heads of Government on behalf of the people – who make up our worldwide family, and for whose benefit our member countries confer and act together. It brings together documents from the previous five biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGMs), from 2007 to 2015, which tell an uplifting story, a narrative expressing the continuing evolution of a shared global vision of the Commonwealth. This development of ideas and thinking – both conceptual and practical – is made possible by the special sense of trust and shared purpose that is created by Commonwealth friendship and goodwill, and its bonds of affinity and kinship.

The Commonwealth at the Summit: Volume 4 continues a series reaching as far back as 1944, and brings up to date an impressive and inspiring record of solidarity in international cooperation, building on the unique diversity of the Commonwealth. It charts the many ways in which pioneering Commonwealth thought and practical intent add global value.

The collective advocacy and engagement of the Commonwealth was driven significantly by the Marlborough House Declaration of June 2008, an occasion on which a mini-summit of Heads was called for that purpose by the Secretary-General. The decisions of that gathering were endorsed when all our Heads met in New York later that year. Principles were laid down that would animate engagement by the Commonwealth in pursuing global goals with leading institutions and bodies. The evidence of this raised level of engagement in setting the global agenda on building resilience, notably in the areas of debt, trade and climate change, is reflected in subsequent documents in this compilation. The creation of the Trade Finance Facility for small states has been a significant and innovative initiative in Malta. The challenges and prospects of small states in diverse areas remain a continuing and special concern for our Heads. The creation of the Small State Centre of Excellence in Malta is a landmark decision.

This volume shows the consolidation of the Commonwealth as a values-based organisation through the Affirmation of Commonwealth Values and Principles at Port of Spain in 2009 and the watershed decision to adopt the Commonwealth Charter at Perth in 2011. It records progress on Millennium Development Goals, expressed in the words of Commonwealth leaders, leading up to the new phase of multilateral cooperation with the advent of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015.

We were the first to collectively raise our voice on the need for international climate action to combat global warming – in the Langkawi Declaration in 1989 – and on the special vulnerabilities of small states, and this engagement is continued in the chronicles of the 2007 Lake Victoria Commonwealth Climate Change Action Plan and the 2009 Port of Spain Commonwealth Climate Change Declaration. These statements have fed into international dialogues, particularly the 2009 Conference

of Parties in Copenhagen and, most recently – through the Leaders Statement on Climate Action made in Malta on the eve of the Paris conference – the Conference of Parties in Paris in December 2015 and its crucial decisions. We remain acutely conscious that climate change is growing as a threat to the very sustainability of some Commonwealth countries. Leaders have approved important practical measures in debt-for-nature swaps and capacity-building with regard to accessing finance to support this through the Climate Change Finance Access Hub.

The world has seen radical and extremist ideologies and unemployment rise, and young people have felt the full brunt of these shifting trends. Commonwealth leaders recognise that the future stability and prosperity of their societies are contingent on young people being positive, contributing and empowered agents of transformation in their communities. This has been particularly reinforced in the 2009 Declaration on Young People, ‘Investing in Young People’, and the 2013 Magampura Declaration, ‘Young People at the Centre of Sustainable Development’. Ensuring young people are supported and included in decision-making and national processes will be key to addressing our global challenges.

The role of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group has also been strengthened over successive Commonwealth summits, advancing the Commonwealth’s political values through the Heads’ endorsement of eight core goals to be safeguarded in the Commonwealth. Quiet yet persistent diplomacy is our enduring hallmark. We have strengthened our role in election management, separation of powers, the integrity of institutions, safeguarding rule of law and human rights, and fostering legitimate democratic space for opposition.

The Commonwealth Summit has changed over time too, condensing from a week-long meeting to two days, retaining at its core the interactive Retreat of Heads. From now on, we will see shorter, more focused communiqués and more interactive new forums as part of CHOGMs. We have the welcome addition of a Women’s Forum to those dedicated to business, young people and civil society. Peoples’ voices and ideas are now heard more at Commonwealth summits.

These communiqués and documents are a reflection of the world’s priorities, and they are more than that: they show that the Commonwealth’s work continues to be a global force for good. Being present at the birth of many of these documents and serving our Commonwealth Heads of Government has been a rare privilege and, as a worker in this vineyard, I am proud of the fruits of the direction given by them.

Kamalesh Sharma
Commonwealth Secretary-General (2008–2016)

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CHOGM Official Photographs

2007 CHOGM Leaders Photograph



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2008 CHOGM Leaders Photograph



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2009 CHOGM Leaders Photograph



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2011 CHOGM Leaders Photograph



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2013 CHOGM Leaders Photograph



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2015 CHOGM Leaders Photograph



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Row 1: HE Maithreepala Sirisena, The Hon. Dr Joseph Muscat, HM Queen Elizabeth II, HE Mr Kamalesh Sharma

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific group of countries
ACU	Association of Commonwealth Universities
AFT	Aid for Trade
AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
AO	Associated Organisation
AR-CYMM	Africa Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting
AsR-CYMM	Asia Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting
ATT	Arms Trade Treaty
CAAYE	Commonwealth Asia Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs
CABOS	Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport
CACH	Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Health
CADME	Commonwealth Accelerated Development Mechanism for Education
CALC	Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel
CALRAs	Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies
CAM	Commonwealth Association of Museums
CAPAM	Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CATA	Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators
CAYE-A	Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs – Asia
CAYE-C&C	Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs – Caribbean and Canada
CBC	Commonwealth Business Council
CBD	UN Convention on Biological Diversity
CCEM	Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers
CCfE	Commonwealth Consortium for Education
CCI	Commonwealth Cybercrime Initiative
CCM	Conference of Commonwealth Meteorologists
CCPA	Conference of Commonwealth Postal Administrators
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEFM	Child, early and forced marriage
CEMAG	Commonwealth Education Ministers Action Group
CET	Commonwealth Education Trust
CFMM	Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting
CFTC	Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation
CGF	Commonwealth Games Federation
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CJEI	Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute
CLA	Commonwealth Lawyers Association
CLEA	Commonwealth Legal Education Association
CLGF	Commonwealth Local Government Forum
CMAG	Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (on the Harare Declaration)

CMG	Commonwealth Media Group
CMJA	Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association
CNCP	Commonwealth Network of Contact Persons
COL	Commonwealth of Learning
ComSec	Commonwealth Secretariat
COP11	11th Conference of the Parties to the CBD
COP19/ CMP9	2013 United Nations Climate Change Conference
COP21	21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC
COW	Committee of the Whole
CPA	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
CPAT	Commonwealth Plan of Action on Terrorism
CPF 2015	Commonwealth People's Forum 2015
CR-CYMM	Caribbean Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting
CRYC	Caribbean Regional Youth Council
CSA	Commonwealth Students Association
CSFP	Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan
CSMM	Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting
CSO	Civil society organisation
CSR	corporate social responsibility
CTO	Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation
CWEIC	Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council
CYC	Commonwealth Youth Council
CYCI	Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative
CYCN	Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network Expert Group Meeting
CYDI	Commonwealth Youth Development Index
CYMM	Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting
CYP	Commonwealth Youth Programme
CYSDP	Commonwealth Youth SDP Working Group
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EPG	Eminent Persons Group
FAO	UN Food and Agriculture Organization
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FTI	Education for All Fast Track Initiative
G8	Group of Eight industrialised countries
G20	Group of Twenty industrialised countries
GDP	gross domestic product
GNP	gross national product
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HLRG	High-level Review Group
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICT	information and communication technology
IFC	international financial centre
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INDC	intended nationally determined contribution
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
LDC	least developed country
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MDRI	Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative
NCD	non-communicable disease
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NMHS	national meteorological and hydrological service

NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
OAS	Organization of American States
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Development Assistance Committee
PAYE	Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment
PR-CYMM	Pacific Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting
PYDF	Pacific Youth Development Framework
Rio+20	UN Conference on Sustainable Development 2012
SAMOA	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway
Pathway	
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SDP	sport for development and peace
SIDS	small island developing states
SME	small and medium-sized enterprise
STEM	scientific, technical and medical
STI	science, technology and innovation
TB	tuberculosis
TOSD	total official support for development
TTIP	Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership
UHC	universal health coverage
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint UN Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNCAC	UN Convention against Corruption
UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSCR	UN Security Council Resolution
UPE	universal primary education
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
WAMM	Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

2007 Kampala, Uganda

23–25 November 2007

**Kampala Declaration on Transforming Societies to Achieve Political,
Economic and Human Development**

The Kampala Communiqué

Munyonyo Statement on Respect and Understanding

Lake Victoria Commonwealth Climate Change Action Plan

Heads of Delegation

Kampala Declaration on Transforming Societies to Achieve Political, Economic and Human Development

1. We, the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth, recall that our Declaration of Commonwealth Principles unequivocally decries the wide disparities in wealth between different sections of humanity and reaffirms the Commonwealth's commitment to raise standards and achieve a more equitable international society free of poverty, ignorance and disease.
2. Those principles have been further elaborated and strengthened over the years to underline that development rests on the foundations of democratic governance, the rule of law, respect for human rights, gender equality, and peace and security. The Commonwealth has also pledged to continue to pursue a stable international economic framework within which growth can be achieved, together with sound economic management at national level that recognises the central role of the market economy.
3. We note that the membership of the Commonwealth comprises countries at different levels of political, economic and human development, and that historical factors and circumstances have been a significant contributory factor. We also recognise that many of our members are endowed with natural advantages upon which they have the potential to achieve positive economic and social transformation, while many members also have natural handicaps that constrain such transformation.
4. The experience of newly industrialised members of the Commonwealth shows the way forward for developing countries and demonstrates that qualitative economic transformation occurs where the following conditions exist:
 - Economies are open and their natural competitiveness is enabled.
 - The rule of law prevails.
 - A rules-based and fair multilateral trading system exists and is respected by all.
 - National development strategies with a long-term perspective following consultation with all stakeholders including women and youth.
 - Investment based on confidence and certainty that improves productivity.
 - Cost-efficient and effective growth of the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors of economies that is promoted in a comprehensive and coherent fashion, including addition of value to primary products and reductions in transaction and other business costs.
 - Modernisation and renewal of national infrastructure, including through partnerships between the public and private sectors.
 - Policies which nurture a strong private sector.
 - Efficient and effective public services that are delivered on the premise of providing services to all.

- Modernisation and innovation policies in the areas of science and technology.
 - Education and technical training are accorded high priority in public expenditure, with the objective of speeding up the transition from rural-based to skilled, middle-class-based, industrialised and diversified societies.
 - Public health systems are strengthened to address, in particular, infectious illnesses, as well as non-communicable and lifestyle diseases, and create healthy and productive societies.
5. We must allow all our member countries to benefit from these foundations of economic transformation. We therefore attach importance and priority to efforts aimed at sharing experiences and best practices, as well as technology and assistance, between Commonwealth countries.
 6. We recognise that human and political transformation cannot be successful or enduring unless people themselves have a strong sense of ownership of the institutions put in place to govern and support their lives and welfare. Nor will human transformation occur sustainably unless people have a growing sense of achievement, benefit and self-worth.
 7. We note that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are designed to achieve the most significant fundamental transformation of humanity and are largely linked to poverty reduction, health, education and gender-equality targets. We also note with satisfaction the achievement of a number of MDGs by some member countries. We, however, express our deep concern that many Commonwealth countries are falling behind the MDG targets at this halfway point to the 2015 end year. Goals related to maternal and child deaths, HIV/AIDS and elimination of gender disparities require urgent action in many countries.
 8. We reaffirm our commitment to intensify our efforts to meet the MDGs and their associated targets, and to help one another to do so. We note in particular the recognition that countries in Africa are proving that large-scale progress in achieving the MDGs is possible under conditions of adequate financing, much of which should flow from a strengthened global partnership for development.
 9. We recall the MDG committing all nations to develop a global partnership for development and acknowledge the developed countries that have increased resources for development by 30 per cent since Monterrey. Despite this, however, we note with concern the overall decline in official development assistance (ODA) in 2006. We call on the international community as a whole, and in particular the donor community, to honour pledges and make concrete efforts to meet commitments made with regard to financing for development.
 10. We urge the United Nations Secretary-General to convene a meeting in 2008 that brings together Heads of Government with leaders from the private sector, and other interested parties, to review progress and to consider ways to assist those lagging behind to accelerate the action that is needed to attain the MDGs.

11. We recognise that strongly development-oriented outcomes to the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations as well as the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of countries would make the most significant contributions to the attainment of the MDGs.
12. We also recognise that neither economic nor human development is possible in a sustainable way without democracy and good governance. We therefore affirm the importance of leadership that embraces the Commonwealth's fundamental values and that is tolerant and encouraging of innovation, creativity and diversity.
13. We recognise that the challenge of transformation requires international collaboration and co-operation. The Commonwealth's common values and norms place us in a strong position of comparative advantage to learn and benefit from each other. We commit ourselves to explore ways in which each of us can share and strengthen our relations with each other in order to support transformation for us all. We call on the Commonwealth Secretariat to assist in developing an action plan to facilitate transformation in member countries.

25 November 2007

The Kampala Communiqué

1. Commonwealth Heads of Government met in Uganda from 23 to 25 November 2007. Of the 48 countries that attended the meeting, 36 were represented by their Heads of State or Government.
2. The opening ceremony of the meeting included an address by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth.
3. Heads of Government conveyed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Uganda for the warm hospitality extended to them and for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting. They also congratulated President Museveni for his leadership in chairing the meeting.

Fundamental Political Values

4. Heads of Government reiterated their commitment to the Commonwealth's fundamental political values of tolerance; respect; international peace and security; democracy; good governance; human rights; gender equality; rule of law; the independence of the judiciary; a balance of power between the executive, legislature and judiciary as recognised in the Commonwealth (Latimer House) Principles; freedom of expression; a political culture that promotes transparency and accountability; and sustainable development.
5. They also reaffirmed that the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity is a fundamental Commonwealth value and reiterated their commitment to work together to

ensure that the responsibility to protect is carried out by the international community, in accordance with the UN Charter.

6. Heads of Government reiterated their full support for the good offices role of the Secretary-General in conflict prevention and resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction and development. They also expressed their continuing commitment to the Commonwealth Secretariat's work to strengthen democratic institutions, processes and culture including through election observation, provision of technical assistance and training, and other activities upon the request of the countries concerned. Heads of Government acknowledged the value of the Commonwealth's strategic partnerships with other international and regional organisations and encouraged the Secretariat to further develop these links so as to enhance co-operation in areas of common interest.
7. Heads of Government welcomed the Secretariat's collaboration with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) and other relevant organisations to promote best democratic practice. They commended the CPA for providing assistance to Commonwealth parliaments for capacity-building and promoting awareness about the respective roles of the government and opposition in democracies, and took note of the outcomes of the CPA's 2007 New Delhi Conference. They reaffirmed their support for the Aberdeen Principles on Good Practice for Local Democracy and Good Governance and encouraged member countries to implement the Auckland Accord: Delivering Development through Local Leadership. They urged the CLGF to continue its work in strengthening the role of local government in Commonwealth societies.

Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group on the Harare Declaration (CMAG)

8. Heads of Government endorsed the report of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) covering the group's deliberations in the period since the Malta Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November 2005. They commended CMAG's work, which has contributed significantly to the promotion of the Commonwealth's fundamental political values in member countries.
9. Heads of Government took note of CMAG's suspension of Fiji Islands from the Councils of the Commonwealth on 8 December 2006 following the military takeover of Fiji's democratically elected government. They reiterated CMAG's call for the restoration of constitutional rule and democratic government as soon as possible and not later than the March 2009 deadline which the military government has committed itself to. They welcomed the dialogue which had been opened with the interim government and the engagement by the Chairperson of CMAG and the Secretary-General with Fiji.
10. Heads of Government took note of CMAG's suspension of Pakistan from the Councils of the Commonwealth on 22 November 2007 following the Government of Pakistan's failure to implement a series of measures requested by CMAG in response to the imposition of a state of emergency and the abrogation of the

constitution by President Musharraf on 3 November 2007. They expressed their serious disappointment that President Musharraf had failed to implement the decision of Heads at their last CHOGM in Malta that the offices of Head of State and Chief of Army Staff be separated at the end of the presidential term in 2007. They acknowledged his announced intention to separate the roles in the future and called on him to do so as soon as possible. While welcoming the announcement of the elections on 8 January 2008, they stressed the need for the government to move rapidly to create the conditions that would allow the elections to be free, fair and credible. They endorsed the decision by CMAG to review progress following the conduct of the scheduled elections in January 2008 and called on the Government of Pakistan to respond positively to the Commonwealth's desire to remain engaged and support the return of democratic government and the rule of law in Pakistan.

11. Heads of Government reconstituted the membership of CMAG for the next biennium as follows: Ghana, Malaysia, Namibia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom and Uganda (as Chairperson-in-Office).

Belize

12. Heads of Government noted the recent developments in the ongoing efforts of Belize to seek a just, peaceful and definitive resolution to Guatemala's territorial claim, under the Agreement on a Framework for Negotiations and Confidence-building Measures between Belize and Guatemala signed by the two parties and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS) on 7 September 2005 and, in particular, the recommendation of the Secretary-General of the OAS, José Miguel Insulza, on 19 November 2007 that Belize and Guatemala should submit the issue to the International Court of Justice.
13. Heads of Government expressed their satisfaction that the process of the relocation of the Guatemalan settlement of Santa Rosa from Belizean to Guatemalan territory is under way and will be completed shortly.
14. Heads of Government reiterated their firm support for the territorial integrity, security and sovereignty of Belize.
15. Heads of Government mandated the Secretary-General to convene the Ministerial Committee on Belize whenever necessary.

Republic of Cyprus

16. Reaffirming their previous communiqués on the Republic of Cyprus, Heads of Government expressed their support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. They expressed their support for a lasting, just and functional settlement based on the principles of the UN Charter, the relevant UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs) and the principles of the Commonwealth.
17. Heads of Government called for the implementation of UNSCRs on the Republic of Cyprus, in particular UNSCRs 365 (1974), 541 (1983), 550 (1984),

1250 (1999) and all subsequent resolutions. They reiterated their support for respect for the human rights of all Cypriots, including the right to property, for the implementation of the relevant decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and for the accounting for all missing persons.

18. Heads of Government further agreed on the importance of supporting the efforts of the UN Secretary-General to bring about a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem in line with the relevant UNSCRs.
19. Heads of Government welcomed the principles and decisions enshrined in the 8 July 2006 Agreement and stressed the need to start the process as described in UN Under-Secretary-General Gambari's letter of 15 November 2006, without delay and without preconditions, in order to prepare the ground for fully fledged negotiations, leading to a comprehensive and durable settlement.

Guyana

20. Heads of Government noted that the Commonwealth Ministerial Group on Guyana, which was established in 1999 to monitor developments in respect of the existing controversy between Guyana and Venezuela, met recently in September 2007. They expressed satisfaction at the cordiality which had characterised relations between Guyana and Venezuela in recent years and recognised the instrumental role of dialogue at the highest levels in facilitating the commitment to a peaceful settlement of the controversy under the aegis of the UN Good Offices Process and to enhanced co-operation at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. Heads, however, took note of the incursions by Venezuelan military personnel and aircraft into Guyana's territory and airspace on 15 November 2007 and reiterated the need for the controversy to be resolved by peaceful means.
21. Heads of Government reaffirmed their unequivocal support for the maintenance of Guyana's territorial integrity and sovereignty, including its unrestricted right to development of the entirety of its territory for the benefit of its people. Heads of Government mandated the Secretary-General to continue to convene meetings of the Ministerial Group on Guyana whenever necessary.

Promoting Respect and Understanding

22. Heads of Government noted the report of the Commission on Respect and Understanding chaired by Professor Amartya Sen and adopted the Munyonyo Statement on Respect and Understanding.

Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

23. Heads of Government acknowledged the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction and in this regard reaffirmed their commitments towards the attainment of general and complete disarmament, including nuclear disarmament. They also reaffirmed their commitment to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. They reiterated that these objectives should be achieved in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

Small Arms and Light Weapons

24. Heads of Government expressed their deep concern over the illicit manufacture, illegal trade and uncontrolled availability of small arms and light weapons, including man-portable air defence systems and their ammunition. They also highlighted the nexus between the proliferation of such weapons and terrorism, increased drug trafficking, other criminality and armed violence. Heads of Government also reaffirmed their concern at the threat this posed to national, regional and global peace and security, by prolonging conflicts and hindering development.
25. Heads of Government expressed their support for the UN Firearms Protocol and encouraged all member countries to become parties to the protocol. They also expressed their support for the 2001 UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and action to identify and trace illicit small arms and light weapons. They also expressed support for the ongoing Secretariat assistance to member countries in dealing with the issue of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

Arms Trade Treaty

26. Heads of Government noted the ongoing discussions towards a comprehensive Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in respect of all conventional weapons.

Cluster Munitions

27. Heads of Government recognised the danger which cluster munitions can pose to civilians and welcomed efforts to negotiate a proposal to address humanitarian concerns arising from their use.

Landmines

28. Heads of Government recalled the progress made by states party to the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction in addressing the global anti-personnel landmines problem through the Comprehensive Framework for Mine Action provided by the convention. They urged all countries which are in a position to do so to accede to the convention and fully implement their respective obligations. They recognised the importance of the continuation of the international community's assistance for affected countries aimed at achieving the goals established by the Ottawa Convention beyond 2009.

International Co-operation in Criminal Matters

29. Heads of Government acknowledged that it is critical that states have the ability and capability to co-operate with each other, and with relevant international organisations, in action on criminal matters and against drug trafficking. They therefore urged all member countries to support the full implementation of those

UN conventions that address international co-operation in criminal matters. They further encouraged the Secretariat to continue to provide technical assistance and targeted capacity-building activities in consultation with member countries.

Combating Corruption and the Tracing and Recovery of Assets of Illicit Origin

30. Recognising that extortion, bribery and corruption undermine good governance, respect for human rights and economic development, Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitment to combat systemic corruption at both national and international levels. Heads of Government urged member countries which had not already done so to consider becoming parties to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). They acknowledged the ongoing activities of the Secretariat designed to build institutional capacity and awareness in member countries to assist them with its implementation and enforcement. They encouraged member countries to consider implementing the recommendations of the 2005 Commonwealth Expert Working Group on the Recovery and Repatriation of Assets of Illicit Origin. They also recognised the resolutions of the First Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC, which address asset recovery and international co-operation and affirm those twin pillars among the principal objectives of the convention.

Human Trafficking

31. Heads of Government expressed their abhorrence at increasing levels of human trafficking, which deprives people of their human dignity. Heads of Government urged member countries to put in place a framework to prevent human trafficking, protect and support victims of human trafficking and prosecute human traffickers. Such a framework would include all necessary criminal measures and investigative and international co-operation tools to combat human trafficking. Heads of Government also affirmed the principle of solidarity and burden-sharing with regard to assistance of refugees and their host communities.
32. Heads of Government urged member countries to comply with all obligations arising under international law and to consider becoming party to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto, in particular the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Heads of Government also expressed concern about the difficulties faced by millions of refugees in protracted situations and their particular vulnerability to situations of human trafficking, and emphasised the need to redouble international efforts and co-operation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realise durable solutions for them.

Terrorism

33. Heads of Government reaffirmed their strong condemnation of terrorist acts in all their forms and manifestations and recognised that terrorism continues to

present a serious challenge to international peace and security. They emphasised that targeting and deliberate killing of civilians through acts of terrorism cannot be justified or legitimised by any cause or grievance. Heads of Government stressed the continuing need for comprehensive efforts, at local, national, regional and international levels, to counter terrorism, which also take into account the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. In this context, they commended the various initiatives to promote dialogue, respect and understanding among civilisations. Heads of Government highlighted the need to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism during the 62nd Session of the UN General Assembly.

34. Heads of Government recalled the Commonwealth Plan of Action on Terrorism (CPAT) adopted in Abuja in 2003 following the meeting of the Commonwealth Committee on Terrorism (CCT). In this context, Heads of Government welcomed the offer made by Sri Lanka to host a ministerial meeting next year of all member countries on the issue.
35. Heads of Government reiterated their call for all states to accede to and implement the UN counter-terrorism conventions and protocols and relevant UNSCRs, to prevent the use of their territories for the support, incitement or commission of terrorist acts. They emphasised, in particular, the need to implement the necessary legal framework for the suppression of terrorist financing. They commended the capacity-building work of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Counter-terrorism Committee of the Security Council and other relevant UN bodies, in assisting member countries and regional bodies to implement their international obligations.
36. Heads of Government highlighted the need to protect the rights of victims of terrorism while emphasising that any measures taken to counter terrorism must comply with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law. They reaffirmed that the promotion and protection of human rights for all and the rule of law should be an integral part of the approach to countering terrorism.

Human Rights

37. Heads of Government expressed their appreciation for the Secretariat's work in advancing human rights in the Commonwealth and for its support to the work of national and regional mechanisms in protecting and promoting human rights. In this context, they confirmed their commitment to support further the various initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat in raising awareness and respect for human rights in member countries and assisting them to meet their human rights obligations. They recognised the facilitating role that the Secretariat could play in strengthening dialogue on and raising awareness of human rights in member countries, and through the UN Human Rights Council.
38. Heads of Government recalled that 2007 marked the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade and commended activities undertaken

in observance of the bicentenary. They also noted that 2008 will mark the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They reaffirmed their commitment to promote respect for and protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms in the Commonwealth without distinction of any kind. They urged all countries to consider acceding to all the major international human rights instruments, especially the twin 1966 covenants (the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) which, along with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, form the International Bill of Human Rights. They also called for the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

39. Heads of Government welcomed the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 13 December 2006 and encouraged all Commonwealth countries to consider ratifying and implementing the convention without undue delay.
40. Heads of Government agreed that the Commonwealth should increase its efforts to promote respect for human rights through public awareness and training for police, the judiciary, prison officers and security forces across the Commonwealth.

The International Criminal Court and International Criminal Tribunals

41. Heads of Government stressed the importance of ending impunity for the perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, and took positive note in that context of the work of the international criminal tribunals. Heads of Government called on states to consider further contributions to the valuable work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Heads of Government of those member countries that have ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court emphasised their support for the Court and urged those states that have not yet done so to accede to the Rome Statute at the earliest opportunity.

Digital Divide

42. Heads of Government expressed their appreciation for the work of the Steering Committee of the Commonwealth Action Programme for the Digital Divide (Commonwealth Connects) and endorsed the recommendations in the Committee's 2007 report to the Secretary-General. They also welcomed the Secretariat's work in assisting member countries to address the persisting digital divide and the challenges of using information and communication technology (ICT) for national development. They commended India, Malta, Mozambique, and Trinidad and Tobago for their support to the programme and urged member countries to promote and support continuing initiatives for sharing ICT knowledge and experience of the Commonwealth, including through transfer of technology. They expressed appreciation for the successful convening of the International e-Partnership Summit in New Delhi in March 2007, co-ordinated

for Commonwealth Connects by the Commonwealth Business Council (CBC), and the launch of the 'Hole in the Wall' pilot project in Kampala in November 2007. Heads of Government noted the need to ensure that the Commonwealth Connects programme is closely co-ordinated with other efforts in this field by organisations such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), as well as region-specific donors, so as to enhance effectiveness.

43. Heads of Government commended the work of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) and its contribution to assisting member countries to bridge the digital divide. They also commended the CTO's Programme for Development and Training around the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation

44. Heads of Government noted that capacity-building is a fundamental component of sustainable development and aid effectiveness, and a key element in achieving the MDGs especially for small states and least developed countries (LDCs). They commended the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) for recognising the critical importance of country ownership and leadership in its programmes and noted the importance of aligning CFTC programming with national plans.
45. Heads of Government welcomed the augmentation by many member governments of their respective CFTC contributions by 6 per cent per annum in real terms for each of the five years following the Malta CHOGM. They urged other member countries to do likewise. They also welcomed the continued efforts by individual member countries to extend technical assistance to others, including South-South co-operation, within and outside the framework of the CFTC.

Trade

46. Heads of Government reiterated their commitment to an urgent and successful conclusion to the Doha Development Agenda negotiations. The negotiations remain at a critical stage and are vital for the global economy and development, including the attainment of the MDGs. Heads expressed their commitment to constructive and meaningful engagement and called on all World Trade Organization (WTO) members to demonstrate goodwill and flexibility.
47. Heads of Government recognised the fundamental contribution of international trade to global prosperity, sustainable development and to the elimination of poverty. They acknowledged the core role of the WTO and emphasised the need to give priority to fuller participation of all Commonwealth members in multilateral trade, as well as the critical importance of all countries obtaining a fair and equitable share of the gains of trade. Heads reaffirmed their commitment to:
 - the fundamental principles and rules of the multilateral trading system;
 - the well-sequenced and appropriately paced liberalisation of international trade;

- the goals of development and equity through greater responsiveness of the international trading system to the concerns and interests of developing countries;
 - the strengthening of coherence between development and trade policies for the enhancement of market access, trade and technological transfer; and
 - the fuller integration in the global trading regime of low income states, particularly LDCs and small and vulnerable economies, taking into account their specific development challenges, including those resulting from the erosion of their long-standing trade preferences, for which both trade and non-trade solutions are needed at the multilateral level.
48. Heads of Government noted that a strongly development-oriented outcome would involve elimination of export subsidies and substantial reduction in domestic support; reduction, where appropriate, in tariffs and other trade-distorting measures; provision of special and differential treatment for developing countries, especially LDCs; and strengthening of supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure through Aid for Trade and other mechanisms. They recognised that in developing countries agriculture is closely intertwined with food security, livelihoods and development, and that the Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) negotiations should provide sufficient flexibility for the developing countries to implement their development strategies, whilst the Services negotiations should open up areas of interest to developing countries.
49. Heads called upon developed countries that have not already done so and developing countries in a position to do so to implement their 2005 WTO Hong Kong ministerial commitments on providing predictable duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis on products from LDCs.
50. Heads of Government encouraged Commonwealth members in a position to do so to extend Aid for Trade support to Commonwealth developing countries and called for the honouring of commitments by development partners made at G8 summits and elsewhere and for an increase in support for Aid for Trade initiatives such as the Enhanced Integrated Framework.
51. Heads of Government acknowledged the contribution that regional trading arrangements can make to the gradual and beneficial integration of developing countries into the multilateral trading system. They called upon the European Union and the ACP group of states to put in place EPAs that constitute effective tools for poverty eradication and sustainable development and contribute to the achievement of the MDGs. They urged that EPAs take due account of capacity constraints, the need for adequate accompanying measures to be provided on a predictable basis to meet, inter alia, adjustment costs and other potential vulnerabilities, and the safeguarding of policy flexibility. They considered the European Commission's unilateral denunciation of the Sugar Protocol very regrettable and urged that the new trading arrangements enhance and improve effective market access to deliver long-term economic benefits to ACP sugar exporters. Heads of Government called for improved delivery of transitional assistance to make the necessary adjustments.

World Economic Situation

52. Heads of Government welcomed the continued global expansion of output and the improved growth performance of some developing countries in recent years. However, they noted that a significant number of developing countries, including many small states, have not been part of this trend and called for measures to address the special vulnerabilities of these economies. They also noted the risk factors that could affect future growth performance: the sub-prime crisis and the resulting reduction in available credit; high and increasing oil prices; the prospect of increasing food prices; global macroeconomic imbalances; lack of progress in multilateral trade negotiations and increasing protectionism; and demographic changes in developed countries. They also highlighted the complex relationship between environmental factors and economic growth. Heads called for individual and collective efforts to address these risk factors.
53. Heads of Government acknowledged the need to strengthen the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting and, in this regard, stressed the importance of continuing efforts to reform the international financial architecture, including the Bretton Woods institutions.

Reform of International Institutions

54. Heads of Government expressed concern that the current architecture of international institutions, which was largely designed in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War, does not reflect the challenges in the world of the twenty-first century. This undermines the legitimacy, effectiveness and credibility of the whole international system. Heads of Government requested the Secretary-General to establish a small representative group of their number that would build on the considerable work that has already been done to undertake advocacy and lobbying in support of wide-ranging reforms. In doing so, the group would take particular cognisance of the special needs of LDCs and small states. This group would report back to the next CHOGM in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009.

Debt Relief

55. Heads of Government welcomed the progress made in implementing debt relief under both the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). They, however, expressed concern that many countries are still faced with large and unsustainable debt burdens. They stressed the need for donors to honour their commitments to compensate the international financial institutions for their share of MDRI relief on an ongoing basis so that their financial capacity is protected and their ability to assist low-income countries is not impaired. They also reiterated the need to sufficiently address the debt problems of middle-income countries, taking into account their debt sustainability and financial gaps.

Investment

56. Heads of Government noted the valuable role of productive investment in contributing to economic growth and the eradication of poverty. They recognised that improvements in the business environment and overall regulatory framework which reduce investor costs are crucial to promoting private investment. They also called for an increased focus on developing domestic financial markets and providing opportunities for domestic investors. Heads of Government encouraged the use of home country incentives to promote investment in LDCs, small states and other developing countries. Heads recognised that improving access to financial services for the poor and vulnerable is an essential element in the fight against poverty and called for continued efforts to integrate them into the formal financial system. They recognised in this regard the importance of micro-finance and micro-credit in providing access to capital and inclusive financial services for people living in poverty. They also called for innovative and market-friendly interventions that mobilise ODA to share investment risks.

Strengthening Financial Systems

57. Heads of Government commended the Secretariat for its continued role in facilitating the dialogue between the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Commonwealth countries on the issues of a global level playing field and of transparency and information exchange in tax matters and called for constructive engagement on the outstanding issues.

Climate Change

58. Heads of Government adopted the Lake Victoria Commonwealth Climate Change Action Plan.

Challenges Facing Small States

59. Heads of Government reaffirmed the enduring and new challenges facing small states as set out in the 2005 Gozo Statement on Vulnerable Small States. They expressed concern at the recent increase in frequency and intensity of natural disasters and their often devastating social, economic and environmental impact, particularly on small island developing states (SIDS). Heads of Government encouraged small states to continue to implement outward-oriented development strategies that would assist them to overcome their vulnerabilities. Heads welcomed the recent advocacy work of the Secretariat on behalf of small states in the areas of debt, youth unemployment, improving the quality of international assistance, building resilience mechanisms to offset economic vulnerabilities, and diversification into new economic activities. Heads of Government further welcomed the newly formed Small States Network for Economic Development, set up under the auspices of the Government of Malta and the World Bank, and expressed the hope that the network would be an effective tool in fostering sustainable economic development in small states. Heads agreed that the

Secretariat should explore the possibility of establishing a Commonwealth Small States Office in Geneva, modelled on the office in New York.

60. Heads of Government stressed the need for small states to build their economic resilience by making appropriate interventions in four areas: macroeconomic strategy; microeconomic market efficiency; good governance; and social cohesion. They recognised that an important element in development strategies for small states is the operation of the labour market. They urged small states to implement measures on both the demand and supply sides of the labour market to address youth unemployment and the migration of the highly skilled. Heads urged the international community to provide all possible support to assist small states in the pursuit of their development strategies, and in particular to SIDS in line with their commitments under the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

Education

61. Heads of Government reaffirmed the fundamental role played by education in facilitating social and economic transformation. They commended the efforts made by Commonwealth countries in seeking to achieve the MDGs of universal primary education (UPE) and the elimination of inequity in education, particularly gender inequity. They affirmed the need to prioritise support to member countries at risk of not achieving the education MDGs. Heads of Government supported the invitation of Education Ministers to increase public spending on education at all levels to facilitate achievement of the MDGs and develop effective school curriculums to complement the implementation of UPE.
62. Heads of Government committed to redoubling their efforts to deliver education for all, with a particular focus on enrolling the 30 million primary-school-aged children out of school across the Commonwealth; eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education; and strengthening education systems in countries affected by conflict. Donor countries committed to significantly increase aid for education, including through the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI), which provides a framework for supporting education planning and donor harmonisation in developing countries. They noted that several Commonwealth countries were already working on credible long-term education plans, some of them already endorsed by the FTI. They aimed to have at least 20 such plans prepared by the end of 2008.
63. Heads of Government also undertook to place a renewed emphasis on education quality at all levels and on the measurement and improvement of learning. They undertook to examine how to make demonstrable progress on vital literacy and numeracy outcomes for primary-aged children.
64. Heads of Government committed to increase the flow between countries of training, IT resources, knowledge exchange, innovation and partnerships,

including programming for youth and adults, and to further supporting Commonwealth institutions adding value in these fields. Heads welcomed the expansion of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) and the commitment by Education Ministers to expand further the number of awards available in the lead-up to the 50th anniversary of the CSFP in 2009. They noted the proposal for a new facility to encourage scholarships to be hosted in a greater range of Commonwealth countries.

65. Heads of Government undertook to work to harness the expertise of the private sector and non-governmental and civil society organisations (CSOs) to complement state provision, particularly in training and skills development as key drivers of growth and development.
66. Heads of Government welcomed the offer by the Government of Malaysia to host the 17th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in Kuala Lumpur in June 2009, and agreed to explore the strengthening of online tertiary education and access for youth to such education, for consideration at that meeting.

Health and HIV/AIDS

67. Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitment to the attainment of the health-related MDGs, especially improving maternal and child health and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases. They acknowledged the need to invest in services and prevention tools, including vaccines and microbicides, to contribute towards the goal of universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. They urged implementation of the political declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted at the 2006 UN General Assembly High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS.
68. Heads of Government recognised that the crisis in human resources available to the health sector is a major challenge to achieving the MDGs; acknowledged the role of the Commonwealth Code of Practice for the International Recruitment of Health Workers; supported the health systems strengthening approach of the International Health Partnership; and urged the Secretariat to continue supporting primary healthcare systems.
69. Heads of Government noted the rising burden of chronic diseases on health systems and welcomed the Action Plan on Non-communicable Diseases adopted by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in their 2007 Port of Spain Declaration. They also acknowledged the need for accessible, affordable, appropriate medicines and action to combat counterfeit drugs.

Gender

70. Heads of Government reaffirmed that gender equality and women's empowerment, including greater progress in their economic empowerment, are fundamental for the advancement of human rights and the achievement of MDGs, development, democracy and peace. They welcomed the priority given by Women's Affairs Ministers, at their Eighth Meeting in Kampala in June 2007

to financing gender equality and endorsed their call for implementation of international, regional and national commitments to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. Heads of Government also endorsed their call for the effective monitoring and tracking of resources for gender equality and women's empowerment through gender-responsive budgeting and other gender analysis tools, and through strengthening aid effectiveness to improve accountability and the impact on gender equality. They also supported the call made by Finance Ministers in Guyana in October 2007 to specifically incorporate a focus on gender equality in the aid effectiveness agenda during the Third High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in September 2008.

71. Heads of Government stressed the need to allocate adequate resources to strengthen national women's machineries and public sector and CSOs; increase access for women to markets, property rights, credit and productive resources; and improve women's participation, leadership and representation in decision-making at all levels including in peace, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction processes. Heads of Government condemned the continuing high levels of violations of the rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations. In this context, they also called for the full and consistent implementation by all states of UNSCR 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. They welcomed the agreement at the Eighth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting to establish a Commonwealth Working Group on Gender, Peace and Security. In particular, Heads of Government requested the Secretariat to continue assisting member countries to implement the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005–2015.

Youth

72. Heads of Government reaffirmed their strong commitment to the young people of the Commonwealth and their priorities and needs. They stressed the important role that young people can continue to play in strengthening and supporting the Commonwealth's fundamental values and called in particular for further efforts to include young people in democratic institutions, such as bodies of elected representatives, and in democratic processes, such as election observation. Heads also noted the contribution of young people to Commonwealth efforts to achieve the MDGs and requested that options be explored for drawing Commonwealth young people in practical ways into efforts to support the recommendations of the *Civil Paths to Peace* report as well as the work of the Alliance of Civilisations.
73. Heads of Government endorsed the Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) adopted by the Sixth Youth Ministers Meeting, and took note with appreciation of the Communiqué of the Sixth Commonwealth Youth Forum, held in Entebbe in November 2007. Heads noted the importance of developing national youth policies and also of including young people in all possible aspects of national planning and budgeting.
74. Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitment to the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) as a long-standing and unique instrument for promoting

youth empowerment and development. They endorsed efforts to strengthen the CYP's four regional centres to become centres of excellence, and, in this regard, they appreciated India's support to develop the CYP Asia Centre as a focal point for co-operation and learning in the field of youth and local governance.

75. Heads of Government noted with concern the severe shortfall in funding for the CYP, which is seriously constraining its capacity to deliver its current mandates or fresh initiatives in support of Commonwealth youth priorities and needs. They therefore agreed that countries should not only live up to their financial commitments to the budget to the CYP, but that a new assessed-contributions formula be developed for the CYP, while also allowing for additional voluntary contributions. The new financial arrangements should take effect from 2008/09.

Commonwealth Functional Co-operation

76. Heads of Government took note of the various aspects of Commonwealth functional co-operation presented to the Committee of the Whole (COW). They requested the Secretary-General to bring to the notice of Heads of Government any proposed mandates arising from ministerial meetings that have significant implications for the Secretariat's work programme and resources. Heads of Government also acknowledged in particular the contribution of the Commonwealth intergovernmental agencies and Commonwealth organisations which reported to the COW and to Foreign Ministers.

Civil Society

77. Heads of Government welcomed progress involving civil society in all aspects of the Commonwealth's work. They noted that a number of ministerial meetings now included provision for dialogue with civil society and called for this to be extended where possible.
78. Heads of Government took note of the outcome of the Commonwealth People's Forum and agreed with civil society that political, economic and human transformation should recognise and respect the right to freedom of association and assembly, as well as freedom of expression and the media, and access to information, and requires the active participation of all social groups in making decisions that shape their destiny in accordance with international and domestic law. They noted civil society concerns that poverty, climate change, HIV and AIDS, and rapid urbanisation, as well as risk of failure to meet the MDGs by 2015, pose serious threats to transformation.
79. Heads of Government acknowledged that the Commonwealth's vision of development and democracy cannot be achieved without realising people's full potential, requiring significant investments in good governance, social capital – including gender equality and empowerment – youth opportunity and decent work, along with support for innovation in ICT, science and technology. Heads urged civil society to support partnerships and linking for progress in health

systems, education for all and sustaining the environmental resource base. They also recognised the role of civil society in achieving Commonwealth objectives, including democracy, good governance, development and respect for cultural diversity.

Commonwealth Foundation

80. Heads of Government received the report of the Commonwealth Foundation and commended its work on culture, governance and democracy, and sustainable development. They recognised the work of the Foundation in providing leadership on the Commonwealth's engagement with civil society at ministerial meetings and through regular consultations. They welcomed Antigua and Barbuda and South Africa into the membership of the Foundation.
81. Heads of Government noted the challenges identified by the Foundation in building partnerships for transformation between government and civil society, including the need for regulatory environments at the national level that encourage and enable the participation of all stakeholders in processes of democracy and development as well as improved opportunity and capacity of non-state actors to demonstrate their accountability.
82. Heads of Government expressed support for the Foundation in strengthening the 'People's Commonwealth' through programmes and grants and facilitating dialogue between governments and civil society. They also encouraged the Foundation to continue to increase the impact of its work through its partnerships and networks and by increasing membership and voluntary contributions.

Commonwealth of Learning

83. Heads of Government expressed satisfaction with the achievements of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) in the 20 years since its creation by the 1987 Vancouver CHOGM. They commended COL's focus on the development agenda in its 2006–2009 plan, Learning for Development, and progress in implementing the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth, in which 29 countries are participating. Heads of Government requested COL to support member countries in enhancing access to quality higher education, encouraging member governments to enhance their contributions, as appropriate, to the budget of COL to enable it to carry out these programmes.

Commonwealth Business Council

84. Heads of Government commended the CBC's work to increase trade and investment in partnership with governments and the private sector over the past ten years, since its establishment by Heads of Government in 1997. They welcomed the contribution of the CBC to the growth of Commonwealth trade and investment in that period through a number of initiatives. They also welcomed the dialogue with the private sector through the Commonwealth Business Forum and requested the CBC to carry forward its work in collaboration with governments.

Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management

85. Heads of Government took note of the activities of the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM) in co-operative networking and its partnership activities in facilitating application of technology management for development.

Commonwealth Institute/Commonwealth Education Trust

86. Heads of Government noted with satisfaction that the capital released from the Commonwealth Institute property had been secured in a successor charitable trust fund, the Commonwealth Education Trust (CET), the income from which will be used to advance education in the Commonwealth. They stressed the importance of maintaining the liaison, facilitated through the Secretariat, between the education-oriented Commonwealth bodies, including the COL, the Commonwealth Foundation and the CET.

Commonwealth Membership

87. Heads of Government reviewed the recommendations of the Committee on Commonwealth Membership and agreed on the following core criteria for membership:

- (a) An applicant country should, as a general rule, have had a historic constitutional association with an existing Commonwealth member, save in exceptional circumstances.
- (b) In exceptional circumstances, applications should be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- (c) An applicant country should accept and comply with Commonwealth fundamental values, principles and priorities as set out in the 1971 Declaration of Commonwealth Principles and contained in other, subsequent, declarations.
- (d) An applicant country must demonstrate commitment to democracy and democratic processes, including free and fair elections and representative legislatures; the rule of law and independence of the judiciary; good governance, including a well-trained public service and transparent public accounts; and protection of human rights, freedom of expression and equality of opportunity.
- (e) An applicant country should accept Commonwealth norms and conventions, such as the use of the English language as the medium of inter-Commonwealth relations, and acknowledge Queen Elizabeth II as the Head of the Commonwealth.
- (f) New members should be encouraged to join the Commonwealth Foundation, to promote vigorous civil society and business organisations within their

countries and to foster participatory democracy through regular civil society consultations.

88. Heads of Government also agreed that, where an existing member changes its formal constitutional status, it should not have to reapply for Commonwealth membership provided that it continues to meet all the criteria for membership.
89. Heads of Government endorsed the other recommendations of the Committee on Commonwealth Membership, including a four-step process for considering applications for membership; new members being required to augment the existing budget of the Secretariat; and countries in accumulated arrears being renamed 'members in arrears.' They also agreed with the Committee's recommendations on overseas territories, special guests and strategic partnerships.

Submissions to CHOGM

90. Heads of Government noted the submissions of the COL, the Commonwealth Foundation, the CBC and civil society representatives, which reported to Foreign Ministers. They also received submissions from the Commonwealth Youth Forum, People's Forum and Business Forum, and other Commonwealth CSOs which met in Uganda on the eve of CHOGM. Heads of Government noted that some of the issues raised in these submissions had been covered in their communiqué. They requested the Secretary-General to take their recommendations into account, where possible, while implementing CHOGM mandates.

Commonwealth Secretariat Governance

91. Heads of Government confirmed that the terms and conditions of service of the Secretary-General should be in accordance with the recommendations made to them in 2005 and 2007. Heads decided that a troika of leaders – being the past, present and future chairs-in-office – should continue to review the terms and conditions of service of the Secretary-General every four years at least.
92. Heads of Government recalled that, at their meeting in Coolum in 2002, they had adopted the report of the Commonwealth High-level Review Group, which included a direction to the Secretary-General to streamline and simplify the Commonwealth Secretariat's structure, along the lines proposed in the Draper and Change Management Reports of 2001 and 2000 respectively. They also recalled that flexibility in recruitment and staffing was seen as an important element of such changes, including a mix of contract arrangements for staff, as well as providing the Secretary-General with the managerial authority to make staffing decisions as he or she determines the work and service delivery priorities of the Secretariat. Heads reaffirmed the importance they attached to these earlier decisions in order to achieve greater cost-effectiveness and a more productive synergy between programmes in the Secretariat.
93. Heads of Government acknowledged that the scale of assessments for the Secretariat budget had not been revised since 1989 and agreed that regular reviews

and adjustments to the scale should occur in future on a five-yearly basis. They agreed that the scale should continue to be based on the principles of capacity to pay, equitable burden sharing, and shared ownership and responsibility for the Secretariat. Heads decided to have a revised scale implemented with effect from the 2008/09 financial year, and with the changes phased in over a three-year period.

Commonwealth Secretary-General

94. Heads of Government unanimously selected HE Mr Kamalesh Sharma to succeed the Rt Hon. Don McKinnon as Commonwealth Secretary-General, for a four-year term beginning on 1 April 2008. They paid warm tribute and deep appreciation to the Rt Hon. Don McKinnon for his dedicated and exceptional service to the Commonwealth over the eight years of his tenure in office. They believed that his contribution to the strengthening of the Commonwealth and its fundamental values would be long remembered.

Next Meeting

95. Heads of Government reaffirmed their decision to meet in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009 at the invitation of the government of that country.
96. They also took note of the offer from the President of Sri Lanka for the 2011 CHOGM to be held in that country.

25 November 2007

Munyonyo Statement on Respect and Understanding

1. The Commonwealth is a global organisation and embraces many of the world's great civilisations and cultures. It is a body well-placed to affirm the fundamental truth that diversity is one of humanity's greatest strengths. Heads of Government recognised their special responsibility, as leaders, to seek the most effective means to address intolerance, fanaticism, violence and terrorism.
2. They commended the work of the Commission on Respect and Understanding and welcomed and endorsed its report *Civil Paths to Peace*, which provides a thoughtful and considered analysis of issues relevant to building tolerance and understanding of diversity among and within distinct societies, cultures and communities.
3. Accepting diversity, respecting the dignity of all human beings, and understanding the richness of our multiple identities have always been fundamental to the Commonwealth's principles and approach, and will also contribute to resisting the cultivation of a culture of violence.
4. Heads of Government endorsed the report's seven recommendations and the Secretary-General's call to develop concrete steps to give practical effect to the report, taking into account the particular needs and situations of Commonwealth

countries. In addition, they called for the exchange of best practices and experiences of Commonwealth members.

5. They directed that future Commonwealth action to promote respect and understanding should build on and extend existing Commonwealth programmes, at both national and international levels. In this context, they identified activities in relation to young people, women, education and the media as the priority fields of action. These programmes should also engage partners from civil society and other sectors.
6. They recognised the potential for this Commonwealth work to be complementary to activities undertaken under the UN's Alliance of Civilisations programme.
7. Heads of Government decided that progress on this work should be reviewed by Commonwealth Foreign Ministers at their next meeting in September 2008.

25 November 2007

Lake Victoria Commonwealth Climate Change Action Plan

1. We, the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth, are gravely concerned about the threat that climate change represents to human security and economic wellbeing.
2. We reaffirm our continued commitment to the 1989 Langkawi Declaration on Environment, when Commonwealth Heads of Government first defined our collective concern, concluding that:
 - Serious deterioration of the environment is a threat to the wellbeing of current and future generations.
 - Delay in halting environmental degradation will result in permanent and irreversible damage.
 - Threats to the environment need to be viewed and addressed in a balanced perspective, mindful of the needs to eradicate poverty, provide sustainable development and enhance quality of life for all.
 - Most environmental problems transcend national boundaries and therefore require solutions that are mutually reinforcing at global, regional, national and community levels.
 - Solutions to today's environmental challenges also require active participation by all.
3. We are conscious that climate change is a direct threat to the very survival of some Commonwealth countries, notably small island states. We are also conscious of the threat to low-lying coastal regions. Climate change can undermine our continuing efforts to achieve the MDGs. We recognise that the cost of inaction on mitigation and adaptation is far greater than the cost of early action.

4. We believe that the diversity of the Commonwealth places our association in a unique position to support the pursuit of ambitious solutions, particularly through our unqualified support for work through the UNFCCC to reach an agreement on collective, comprehensive and global action.
5. Our Commonwealth diversity also underscores the importance of common but differentiated responsibilities; recognition of the respective capabilities of states, especially the constraints faced by least developed and developing countries; and the importance of developed countries taking the lead. Burden sharing should be equitable, should not perpetuate poverty and should be compatible with accelerated development.
6. We call for increased financial flows for adaptation and their improved effectiveness. We urge additional incentives for developing countries, in particular through flexibility mechanisms, for commitments to enhanced mitigation action. Carbon trading will be important in this regard.
7. We recognise the need to overcome technical, economic and policy barriers to facilitate the development, diffusion and deployment of affordable low- and zero-emission technologies and renewable energy. We also recognise the need for energy efficiency and conservation.
8. We firmly believe that no strategy or actions to deal with climate change should have the effect of depriving developing countries of the possibility of sustainable economic development. On the contrary, measures to tackle the impacts of climate change should support the positive economic and social transformation of societies. In particular, the easing of population pressure on agricultural land and the successful development of secondary and tertiary sectors in economies requires the provision of clean energy.
9. We believe that development itself is an important tool in addressing climate change, since a well educated and healthy society, with a diverse economy, is best placed to be flexible and to generate the necessary resources to invest in cleaner technologies and systems, and to fund adaptation measures.
10. Effective action will only be possible with the willing support of the Commonwealth population as a whole, including women and young people. We invite the family of Commonwealth organisations to play a full part in promoting a better understanding of climate change and its impacts, and in addressing adaptation and mitigation challenges.
11. Accordingly, we are resolved, individually and collectively, to pursue active participation through the UNFCCC, caucusing together and leveraging from our shared vision and diversity to the fullest extent possible. These negotiations should be inclusive in nature and should work towards outcomes that are ambitious, comprehensive and equitable, have respect for different national circumstances and provide for flexibility in addressing climate change. Our shared goal should be to achieve a comprehensive post-2012 global agreement that

strengthens, broadens and deepens current arrangements and leads to reduced emissions of global greenhouse gases. This should include a long-term aspirational global goal for emissions reduction to which all countries would contribute.

12. We are also resolved, individually and collectively, to pursue the following actions, which should also inform our positions at Bali:
 - (i) **Pursuit of initiatives to strengthen the quality and participation levels at international negotiations on climate change**, such as assisting Commonwealth developing countries with their national negotiating capacity.
 - (ii) **Promotion of Commonwealth work, drawing on our networks of professional associations and other resources, to strengthen consideration of the human and economic aspects of climate change.**
 - (iii) **Support for improved land use management, including conservation and sustainable use of forest resources.** This should comprise market-based mechanisms and compensatory measures for the preservation of standing forests; provisions for reforestation and afforestation; and measures to combat illegal logging and other causes of deforestation. In this regard, the Commonwealth's commitment to the Iwokrama Rainforest Programme is renewed and efforts should continue to be pursued to widen international knowledge and support of it.
 - (iv) **Work to study and make recommendations on issues related to the sustainability of fresh agricultural produce in respect of transported exports**, particularly from developing countries, with a view to securing more sound information on carbon footprints related to the export of fresh produce.
 - (v) **Renewed efforts to support natural disaster management in member countries.** This should include further consideration of insurance proposals for small island states, including those of the Commonwealth Disaster Management Agency, while the Commonwealth Secretariat should continue its work to strengthen natural disaster management in member countries in conjunction with other international efforts.
 - (vi) **The provision of technical assistance and other support, particularly to LDCs and vulnerable small states, to assess the implications of climate change** and the benefits of building adaptation into all aspects of national planning and budgeting, wherever feasible and practical.
13. We are resolved that Commonwealth governments and the Secretariat will play their full part to implement our shared goals and envisaged actions, working in strategic partnership and conjunction with other international institutions, raising awareness, facilitating access and sharing best practices. Our governments will contribute additional technical and financial support according to our means.

Heads of Delegation

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

Antigua and Barbuda	The Hon. Winston Baldwin Spencer*, Prime Minister
Australia	HE Mr Richard Alston, Prime Minister's Special Envoy
The Bahamas	The Rt Hon. Hubert Alexander Ingraham*, Prime Minister
Bangladesh	HE Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Adviser for Foreign Affairs to the Non-Party Caretaker Government
Barbados	The Hon. Dame Billie Miller, Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Belize	The Hon. Said Wilbert Musa*, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, National Development and Public Service
Botswana	HE Mr Festus Gontebanye Mogae*, President
Brunei Darussalam	HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Special Envoy of HM Sultan of Brunei Darussalam
Cameroon	The Hon. Ephraim Inoni, Prime Minister
Canada	The Rt Hon. Stephen Harper*, Prime Minister
Republic of Cyprus	HE Mr Tassos Papadopoulos*, President
Dominica	The Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit*, Prime Minister
The Gambia	HE Mrs Isatou Njie-Saidy, Vice-President
Ghana	HE Mr John Agyekum Kufuor*, President
Grenada	The Rt Hon. Dr Keith Claudius Mitchell*, Prime Minister
Guyana	HE Mr Bharrat Jagdeo*, President
India	The Hon. Dr Manmohan Singh*, Prime Minister
Jamaica	The Hon. Orette Bruce Golding*, Prime Minister
Kenya	HE Mr Mwai Kibaki*, President
Kiribati	HE Mr Anote Tong*, President
Lesotho	The Rt Hon. Bethuel Pakalitha Mosisili*, Prime Minister
Malawi	HE Dr Bingu wa Mutharika*, President
Malaysia	The Hon. Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi*, Prime Minister
Maldives	The Hon. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Malta	The Hon. Dr Lawrence Gonzi*, Prime Minister
Mauritius	The Hon. Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam*, Prime Minister
Mozambique	HE Mr Armando Emilio Guebuza*, President
Namibia	HE Mr Hifikepunye Pohamba*, President
New Zealand	The Rt Hon. Helen Clark*, Prime Minister
Nigeria	HE Mr Umaru Musa Yar'Adua*, President
Papua New Guinea	The Rt Hon. Sir Michael Somare*, Prime Minister
St Kitts and Nevis	The Hon. Dr Denzil Llewellyn Douglas*, Prime Minister
St Vincent and the Grenadines	The Hon. Sir Louis H Straker, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Trade
Samoa	The Hon. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sialele Malielegai*, Prime Minister
Seychelles	HE Mr James Alix Michel*, President
Sierra Leone	HE Mr Ernest Bai Koroma*, President
Singapore	The Hon. Wong Kan Seng, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs
Solomon Islands	HE Mr Joseph Ma'ahanua, Ambassador to the European Union
South Africa	HE Mr Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki*, President

Sri Lanka	HE Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa*, President
Swaziland	The Hon. Absalom Themba Dlamini*, Prime Minister
Tonga	The Hon. Dr Feleti Sevele*, Prime Minister
Trinidad and Tobago	The Hon. Patrick Manning*, Prime Minister
Tuvalu	HE Sir Filoimea Telito, Governor-General of Tuvalu
Uganda	HE Mr Yoweri Kaguta Museveni*, President
United Kingdom	The Rt Hon. Gordon Brown*, Prime Minister
United Republic of Tanzania	HE Mr Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete*, President
Zambia	HE Mr Rupiah Banda, Vice-President
Commonwealth Secretariat	The Rt Hon Don McKinnon, Secretary-General

2008 London, United Kingdom

9–10 June 2008

Marlborough House Statement on Reform of International Institutions

Heads of Delegation

Marlborough House Statement on Reform of International Institutions

1. Commonwealth Heads of Government, representing one third of humanity and more than one quarter of the world's sovereign governments, collectively expressed the concern of our 53 member countries at Kampala in November 2007 that the current architecture of international institutions no longer responds adequately to the challenges of the twenty-first century.
2. Since then, the world has witnessed continued financial turbulence and record levels of prices for food and fuel. These challenges have further illustrated the fundamental weaknesses of a number of today's international organisations that are charged with promoting economic stability and sustainable development. Such institutions do not have adequate capacity, governance structures or in-built responsiveness either to anticipate or to address global needs in a timely fashion. In some cases, such as energy and the environment, there is an absence of institutions with the mandate to deal globally with these issues of global public policy.
3. We have therefore met as a representative group of Commonwealth leaders¹ to identify underlying principles and the actions that should be taken, as a global priority, to achieve reform of international institutions and lead to new institutions where necessary.
4. We recognise that sovereign states must have the capacity and freedom to determine national goals and implement national policies and strategies. Equally, we recognise that many national goals cannot be achieved without international collaboration and support.
5. Global crises require truly global and universal responses. The inadequacy of the current responses calls into question whether incremental and ad hoc approaches to reform will create a new generation of international institutions fit for today's world.
6. The institutions that were established in the mid-twentieth century enjoyed strong political agreement at the time on the ends to be achieved by them and the means of doing so, underpinned by a commitment to multilateralism. That commitment is now at risk. The majority of independent sovereign states today are politically subordinate and inadequately represented in these institutions. It is unacceptable, and indeed weakens these institutions, that the greater part of the world community of states participates and benefits less than fully in them.
7. Well-designed international institutions have a fundamental role to support all countries to meet their economic, political, humanitarian and security challenges. Through collective co-operation, embodied in international institutions, the global community will foster the conditions for a fully inclusive and equitable global society. The commitment of the world's major powers to multilateralism and its underlying values remains central to any successful settlement on a new architecture of international institutions in this century.

8. As members of the Commonwealth, we recognise the strength of multilateral co-operation founded on consensus amongst countries with diverse backgrounds, interests and cultures. We believe that reform and construction of new international institutions should be built on the following guiding principles:
- Institutions must enjoy the legitimacy not only of their member countries but also of the wider international community in order to command confidence and commitment.
 - It is essential that all countries have equal voice and fair representation.
 - A voice for all countries is only valuable if it is listened to and is reflected in decision-making. It is essential that institutions are responsive, with the interests of all members, especially the smallest and poorest, being taken into account.
 - The activities and governance of institutions must be flexible, responding to new challenges, national priorities and the specific circumstances of member countries, and changing global realities.
 - Institutions must have clear responsibilities and the conduct of their business must be transparent and accountable to the entire membership and the wider public.
 - It is essential that they be effective and capable of addressing today's global challenges.
9. We are committed to reform that creates an effective multilateral system and that supports a more democratic global society with greater equity and fairness. The new generation of international organisations should reflect a new co-operative spirit.
10. We welcome the reform processes and debates under way in many international institutions. The United Nations has a unique role and legitimacy, and we acknowledge the reforms that are occurring to strengthen the coherence of the UN system and the efficacy of its development and humanitarian activities in particular. It is imperative that the UN's 'Delivering as One' initiative is further implemented with urgency. It is also vital that the UN continues to develop a global framework of rules and collective action in an inclusive and democratic way.

We intend to accelerate UN reforms and their effective implementation, as a matter of urgency, through lobbying and advocacy in the UN itself as well as other international forums.

11. We also acknowledge the discussions and welcome actions taken to date to reform the International Monetary Fund. However, these and proposed reforms of other international financial institutions, including the World Bank, must now be addressed further, with greater ambition. These institutions as well as their policies and instruments should be redefined so that they serve the needs of all members and the broader global community.

We intend to pursue the redefining of the purposes and governance of the Bretton Woods institutions, including working towards a Commonwealth consensus and wider international support for an international conference to achieve these goals.

12. The effective management of the global environment is one of the most pressing international priorities of our generation. The impacts of environmental degradation are most starkly felt in the smallest, poorest and most environmentally vulnerable countries. A new system of environmental governance must be fully integrated with development priorities and concerns, and be responsive to the needs of these countries. In addition, a financing mechanism needs to be developed that underpins the linkage between development and the environment, and notably supports investment in long-term sources of energy and environmental efficiency.
13. A comprehensive system of international governance is essential and collaboration is necessary to meet current and projected environmental challenges. Commonwealth leaders have already acknowledged that the Commonwealth is uniquely placed to play a leading role, in the light of its diversity and unqualified support for work through the UNFCCC. It is imperative that we collaborate now to build high levels of Commonwealth consensus on positions in the UNFCCC negotiations, in order to achieve early results and the strongest possible foundation on which to build the requisite global governance structure. Commonwealth positions should be built around our shared view that the outcomes of the UNFCCC negotiations should address all aspects of the environment, including climate change, energy balance and the impact on global human development within the context of sustainable development.

We intend to pursue the possibility of an international conference to achieve improved global environmental governance, including the possibility of a new international organisation or reform of existing arrangements, again working on the basis of a Commonwealth consensus and wider international support.

14. The Commonwealth is committed to advancing a programme of reform of international institutions. The existing crises in finance, food and fuel demand no less. We acknowledge that high-quality reform will not be achieved unless all those with a stake in future global governance have their voices heard. We are conscious that the conferences that we propose to pursue will require careful preparation and wide consultation to achieve the essential universal acceptability.
15. The Commonwealth will work closely with the institutions concerned. To that end, we will work with the wider Commonwealth community, including at an extraordinary meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government on 24 September 2008. We have given guidance to the Commonwealth Secretary-General to develop an Action Plan on Reform of International Institutions. We will use the full extent of Commonwealth networks, including our civil society and professional associations.

We intend, individually and collectively, to carry forward our reform agenda to relevant international forums. We will seek to enlarge the breadth of international commitment to our Commonwealth reform agenda and call on others to join us in this endeavour.

*Marlborough House
10 June 2008*

Heads of Delegation

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

Ghana	The Hon. Alhaji Aliu Mahama, Vice President
Guyana	HE Mr Bharrat Jagdeo*, President
Malaysia	The Hon. Dato Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Razak, Deputy Prime Minister
Maldives	HE Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom*, President
Mauritius	The Hon. Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam*, Prime Minister
Sri Lanka	HE Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa*, President
Tonga	The Hon. Dr Feleti Sevele*, Prime Minister
Trinidad and Tobago	The Hon. Patrick Manning*, Prime Minister
Uganda	HE Mr Yoweri Museveni*, President
United Kingdom	The Rt Hon. Gordon Brown*, Prime Minister
United Republic of Tanzania	HE Mr Jakaya Kikwete*, President

Note

- 1 President Bharrat Jagdeo (Guyana), Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam (Mauritius), President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom (Maldives), President Mahinda Rajapaksa (Sri Lanka), Prime Minister Feleti Sevele (Tonga), Prime Minister Patrick Manning (Trinidad and Tobago), President Yoweri Museveni (Uganda), Prime Minister Gordon Brown (United Kingdom), President Jakaya Kikwete (United Republic of Tanzania), Vice President Alhaji Aliu Mahama (Ghana), Deputy Prime Minister Najib bin Tun Razak (Malaysia).

2008 New York, United States of America

24 September 2008

Heads of Delegation

Heads of Delegation

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

Antigua and Barbuda	Ms Janil Greenaway, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations
Australia	The Hon. Kevin Rudd*, Prime Minister
The Bahamas	The Hon. T Brent Symonette, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Bangladesh	HE Dr Iftekhair Ahmed Chowdhury, Adviser for Foreign Affairs
Barbados	The Hon. David J Thompson*, Prime Minister
Belize	The Hon. Wilfred Pelrington, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
Botswana	The Hon. Baledzi Gaolathe, Minister of Finance and Development Planning
Brunei Darussalam	HRH Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office
Cameroon	The Hon. Henri Eyebe Ayissi, Minister of External Relations
Canada	HE Mr John McNee, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations
Republic of Cyprus	HE Mr Demetris Christofias*, President
Dominica	The Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit*, Prime Minister
The Gambia	The Hon. Dr Omar Alieu Touray, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
Ghana	HE Mr John Agyekum Kufuor*, President
Grenada	The Hon. Tillman Thomas*, Prime Minister
Guyana	HE Mr Bharrat Jagdeo*, President
India	HE Mr Chidambaram, Minister of Finance
Jamaica	The Hon. Bruce Golding*, Prime Minister
Kenya	HE The Hon. Mwai Kibaki*, President
Kiribati	HE Mr Anote Tong*, President
Lesotho	The Hon. Kenneth Mohlaba Tsekoa, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations
Malawi	The Hon. Joyce Banda, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Malaysia	The Hon. Dr Rais Yatim, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Maldives	HE Dr Mohamed Asim, High Commissioner of Maldives to the United Kingdom
Malta	The Hon. Dr Lawrence Gonzi*, Prime Minister
Mauritius	HE Mr Somduth Soborun, Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations
Mozambique	HE Professor Dr Paulo Ivo Garrido, Minister of Health
Namibia	HE Mr Hifikepunye Pohamba*, President
New Zealand	The Hon. Phil Goff, Minister for Trade, Disarmament and Arms Control
Nigeria	The Hon. Ojo Maduekwe, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Papua New Guinea	The Hon. Dr Puka Temu. CMG, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Mining, Lands and Physical Planning
Saint Lucia	The Hon. Stephenson King*, Prime Minister
St Kitts and Nevis	The Hon. Dr Denzil L Douglas*, Prime Minister
St Vincent and the Grenadines	The Hon. Dr Ralph E Gonsalves*, Prime Minister

Samoa	The Hon. Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi*, Prime Minister
Seychelles	HE Mr Ronald Jumeau, Permanent Representative of Seychelles to the United Nations
Sierra Leone	HE Mr Ernest Bai Koroma*, President
Singapore	The Hon. George Yeo, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Solomon Islands	Ms Helen Beele, Counsellor, Solomon Islands Permanent Mission to the United Nations
South Africa	The Hon. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Sri Lanka	HE Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa*, President
Swaziland	His Majesty King Mswati III, Head of State
Tonga	The Hon. Dr Feleti Vaka'uta Sevele*, Prime Minister
Trinidad and Tobago	The Hon. Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Uganda	HE Mr Yoweri Kaguta Museveni*, President
United Kingdom	The Rt Hon. David Miliband, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
United Republic of Tanzania	HE Mr Jakaya M Kikwete*, President
Zambia	The Hon. Bradford Machila, Minister of Lands
Commonwealth Secretariat	HE Mr Kamallesh Sharma, Secretary-General

2009 Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

27–29 November 2009

Trinidad and Tobago Affirmation of Commonwealth Values and Principles

Port of Spain Climate Change Consensus: The Commonwealth Climate Change Declaration

The Declaration of Port of Spain: Partnering for a More Equitable and Sustainable Future

A Declaration on Young People: Investing in Young People

Statement on Commonwealth Action to Combat Non-communicable Diseases

Port of Spain Communiqué

Heads of Delegation

Trinidad and Tobago Affirmation of Commonwealth Values and Principles

1. We, the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth, meeting in Port of Spain in this the 60th anniversary year of the modern Commonwealth, take pride in our collective achievements over the past six decades and, as we look to the future, reaffirm our strong and abiding commitment to the Commonwealth's fundamental values and principles.
2. We reaffirm that the special strength of the Commonwealth lies in the diversity of its membership, bound together not only by shared history and tradition but also by an ethos of respect for all states and peoples, of shared values and principles, and of concern for the vulnerable.
3. We reaffirm our belief in the Commonwealth as a voluntary association of sovereign independent states whose pursuit of common principles continues to influence international society to the benefit of all. We are resolved to make the Commonwealth an even stronger and more effective international organisation as we look ahead to the rest of the twenty-first century.
4. We recall earlier statements through which the Commonwealth's values and principles have been defined and strengthened over the years, including the Singapore Declaration, the Harare Declaration, the Millbrook Action Programme, the Latimer House Principles and the Aberdeen Principles.

Our Values and Principles

5. We solemnly reiterate our commitment to the Commonwealth's core values:
 - International peace and security: believing firmly that international peace and security, economic growth and development and the rule of law are essential to the progress and prosperity of all; and expressing our commitment to an effective multilateral system based on inclusiveness, equity and international law as the best foundation for achieving consensus and progress on major global challenges.
 - Democracy: reaffirming our belief in the inalienable right of the individual to participate by means of free and democratic political processes in shaping the society in which they live; underlining that not only governments but all political parties and civil society also have responsibilities in upholding and promoting democratic culture and practices as well as accountability to the public in this regard; and recognising that parliaments and representative local government and other forms of local governance are essential elements in the exercise of democratic governance.
 - Human rights: reaffirming our commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and human rights covenants and instruments; and recalling our belief that equality and respect for protection and promotion of civil,

political, economic, social and cultural rights for all without discrimination on any grounds, including the right to development, are foundations of peaceful, just and stable societies, and that these rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and cannot be implemented selectively.

- Tolerance, respect and understanding: recognising that tolerance, respect and understanding strengthen democracy and development; recognising also that respect for the dignity of all human beings is critical to promoting peace and prosperity.
 - Separation of powers: recognising the importance of maintaining the integrity of the roles of the executive, legislature and judiciary.
 - Rule of law: reiterating that each country's legislature, executive and judiciary are the guarantors of the rule of law and emphasising that access to justice and an independent judiciary are fundamental to the rule of law, enhanced by effective, transparent, ethical and accountable governance.
 - Freedom of expression: emphasising that peaceful, open dialogue and the free flow of information, including through a free, vibrant and professional media, enhance democratic traditions and strengthen democratic processes.
 - Development: stressing the importance of economic and social transformation to, inter alia, eliminate poverty and meet the basic needs of the vast majority of the people of the world; seeking the removal of wide disparities and unequal living standards, guided by the Millennium Development Goals; reiterating that economic and social progress enhances the sustainability of democracy.
 - Gender equality: reaffirming gender equality and empowerment as an essential component of human development and basic human rights, and acknowledging the advancement of women's rights as a critical precondition for effective and sustainable development.
 - Access to health and education: reaffirming our commitment to health and education for all citizens, both as human rights and as instruments for poverty alleviation and sustainable development.
 - Good governance: reiterating our commitment to promote the rule of law, ensure transparency and accountability and root out, both at national and international levels, systemic and systematic corruption.
 - Civil society: acknowledging the important role that civil society plays in our communities and nations as partners in promoting and supporting Commonwealth values and the interests of the people.
6. We reiterate our commitment to the core principles of consensus and common action, mutual respect, inclusiveness, transparency, accountability, legitimacy and responsiveness.

Working Together to Strengthen Our Values and Principles: Looking to the Future

7. We reaffirm our full support for the good offices role of the Secretary-General in supporting adherence to Commonwealth principles; in conflict prevention and resolution; and as an instrument to protect and promote the Commonwealth's fundamental values.
8. We recognise the vital role of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) as the custodian of the Commonwealth's fundamental political values. We call on CMAG to explore ways in which it could more effectively deal with the full range of serious or persistent violations of these values by member countries and to pronounce upon them as appropriate.
9. We also express our continuing support for the Commonwealth Secretariat's work on strengthening democratic institutions, processes and culture. In this context, we welcome the Secretariat's collaboration with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) and other relevant organisations to promote best practices and democratic culture.
10. We underscore the importance of coherence in order to protect the Commonwealth's image and credibility. We urge all Commonwealth organisations to subscribe and adhere to Commonwealth values and principles in every possible way, including by acting in conformity with the letter and spirit of the decisions of CMAG.
11. Acknowledging the key role of elections in furthering and entrenching democratic processes and accountability, and affirming our commitment to the Secretariat's work in strengthening democratic institutions, processes and culture through election observation, we endorse the proposed Commonwealth Network of National Election Management Bodies, which would facilitate experience-sharing and serve to create support mechanisms, promote good practices and facilitate opportunities for peer support across the Commonwealth, thus enhancing member countries' capacity to hold credible elections which enjoy the confidence of the people. Through this network, we envisage the Commonwealth advancing the norm of the highest electoral standards.
12. We welcome forward-looking, contemporary and innovative initiatives that generate and strengthen creative networking and partnerships within the Commonwealth community and that underpin adherence to the Commonwealth's fundamental values and principles, mindful especially of the theme of the 2009 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), 'Partnering for a more equitable and sustainable future'. In that regard, we endorse the proposed Commonwealth Partnership Platform Portal, and encourage support for it.
13. We note the need to strengthen Commonwealth processes, institutional frameworks and capacities for delivering collective action and global public

goods as highlighted by the Report of the High-level Group in 2001/02 and the 'Commonwealth Conversation.' We call for the creation of an Eminent Persons Group (EPG) to undertake an examination of options for reform in order to bring the Commonwealth's many institutions into a stronger and more effective framework of co-operation and partnership. We are committed to securing a greater level of co-ordination and collaboration between all Commonwealth contributors and stakeholders, particularly including governments, civil society, business the diversity of Commonwealth professional and other associations that bring together our citizens, academia and others.

14. We call for the Commonwealth Secretary-General to consolidate and further strengthen ongoing efforts to improve the Secretariat's governance, its responsiveness to changing priorities and needs, and its ability to enhance the public profile of the organisation. We commit ourselves to supporting the Secretariat in this endeavour. We also underline the importance we attach to intensifying the Secretariat's commitment to strategic partnerships with other international organisations and partners in order to promote the Commonwealth's values and principles.
15. We call for the EPG to examine, inter alia, the format, frequency and content of ministerial meetings in order to ensure that these continue to support the Commonwealth's values and principles, and provide the greatest possible addition of value and cost-effectiveness. We affirm that such meetings should also continue to have mandates that are focused; time-bound; affordable; of the highest possible relevance at national level and in international exchanges; and delivered.
16. By these and other practical measures, we believe that the Commonwealth will build a stronger and more resilient and progressive family of nations founded on enduring values and principles. By such measures, we also believe that the Commonwealth will remain relevant to its times and people in future.

29 November 2009

Port of Spain Climate Change Consensus: The Commonwealth Climate Change Declaration

The Challenge of Our Time

1. Climate change is the predominant global challenge. We convened a Special Session on Climate Change in Port of Spain to discuss our profound concern about the undisputed threat that climate change poses to the security, prosperity, economic and social development of our people. For many, it is deepening poverty and affecting the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. For some of us, it is an existential threat.
2. We reaffirm our commitment to the Lake Victoria Commonwealth Climate Change Action Plan and its further implementation, in particular by contributing

to the efforts of member countries in transforming their economies and strengthening the capacity and voice of vulnerable groups.

3. We recognise the unprecedented opportunity of our meeting just ahead of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Copenhagen. We approach Copenhagen with ambition, optimism and determination. We welcome the attendance of leaders at the Copenhagen conference. The needs of the most vulnerable must be addressed. Their voice must be heard and capacity to engage strengthened. Many of us from small island states, low-lying coastal states and least developed countries (LDCs) face the greatest challenges, yet have contributed least to the problem of climate change.
4. In keeping with the spirit of the theme of CHOGM 2009, 'Partnering for a more equitable and sustainable future', we warmly welcomed the UN Secretary-General, the Prime Minister of Denmark and the President of France.
5. We represent a third of the world's population in all continents and oceans, and more than a quarter of the parties to the UNFCCC. We have the global reach and diversity to help forge the inclusive global solutions needed to combat climate change.
6. Science, and our own experience, tells us that we only have a few short years to address this threat. The average global temperature has risen because of the increase in carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions. The latest scientific evidence indicates that in order to avoid dangerous climate change that is likely to have catastrophic impacts we must find solutions using all available avenues. We must act now.
7. We believe an internationally legally binding agreement is essential. We pledge our continued support to the leaders-driven process guided by the Danish Prime Minister and his efforts to deliver a comprehensive, substantial and operationally binding agreement in Copenhagen leading towards a full legally binding outcome no later than 2010. In Copenhagen we commit to focus our efforts on achieving the strongest possible outcome.

Copenhagen and Beyond

8. A global climate change solution is central to the survival of peoples, the promotion of development and facilitation of a global transition to a low-emission development path. The agreement in Copenhagen must address the urgent needs of developing countries by providing financing, support for adaptation, technology transfer, capacity-building, approaches and incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and for afforestation and sustainable management of forests.
9. In addition, we will strive to significantly increase technological and technology support to developing countries to facilitate the deployment and diffusion of

clean technologies through a range of mechanisms. We will work to facilitate and enable the transition to low-emission economies, climate resilience and, in particular, support, including through capacity-building, for increasing the climate resilience of vulnerable economies. We will also aim to develop cleaner, more affordable and renewable energy sources. We must explore global mechanisms through which those identified technologies can be disseminated as rapidly as possible.

10. Ensuring the viability of states should underpin a shared vision for long-term co-operative action and a long-term global goal for emission reductions. In building towards an international agreement, all countries will need to play their part, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
11. We need an ambitious mitigation outcome at Copenhagen to reduce the risks of dangerous climate change without compromising the legitimate development aspirations of developing countries. We stress our common conviction that urgent and substantial action to reduce global emissions is needed and have a range of views as to whether average global temperature increase should be constrained to below 1.5°C or to no more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels. We also recognise the need for an early peaking year for global emissions. Developed countries should continue to lead on cutting their emissions, and developing countries, in line with their national circumstances, should also take action to achieve a substantial deviation from business-as-usual emissions including with financial and technical support, and also supported by technology and capacity-building.
12. Progress towards predictable and adequate finance for adaptation and mitigation measures must be achieved in any new multilateral approach. Public and private financial resources for developing countries will need to be scaled up urgently and substantially by 2020. We recognise that adaptation finance in particular should be targeted towards the poorest and most vulnerable countries. The provision of finance should be additional to existing official development assistance (ODA) commitments. In this respect, we acknowledge the potential role of the private sector and carbon markets.
13. In addition, we recognise the need for an early start to the provision for financial resources. Fast-start funding, constituting grant funding, should provide substantial support for adaptation, REDD plus¹ and clean technology. We welcomed the initiative to establish, as part of a comprehensive agreement, a Copenhagen Launch Fund starting in 2010 and building to a level of resources of US\$10 billion annually by 2012. Fast-start funding for adaptation should be focused on the most vulnerable countries. We also welcomed a proposal to provide immediate, fast-disbursing assistance with a dedicated stream for small island states and associated low-lying coastal states of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) of at least 10 per cent of the fund. We also recognise the need for further, specified and comparable funding streams, to assist the poorest and most vulnerable countries to cope with and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. We recognise that funding will be scaled up beyond 2012.

14. We agree that an equitable governance structure to manage the financial and technological support must be put in place. We agree that a future governance structure should provide for states to monitor and comply with arrangements entered under a new Copenhagen agreement.

28 November 2009

The Declaration of Port of Spain: Partnering for a More Equitable and Sustainable Future

1. We, the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth, meeting in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 27 to 29 November 2009, affirm the key role of partnerships in forging a more sustainable and equitable future for all people.
2. Our meeting takes place at a time when the world faces an unprecedented combination of social, economic and environmental challenges. These include a profound and debilitating global economic and financial crisis, volatility in key commodity prices, and the alarming impacts of climate change, which threaten the safety and livelihoods of millions. We also note with grave concern that many of the world's poorest communities are most vulnerable to these challenges.
3. We recognise that challenges of this magnitude cannot be resolved by any one country alone, and that effectively addressing them will require international co-operation, sustained commitment and collective action. This calls for the strengthening of multilateral co-operation, based on mutual respect, openness and partnership. We therefore commit ourselves to deepening the Commonwealth's existing networks of co-operation and call for a fresh impetus to foster new and more effective political and economic partnerships. We will also capitalise on the Commonwealth's unique abilities to advocate for partnerships with other members of the international community and to promote, within each country, partnerships among the different levels of government, civil society, youth and the private sector.
4. This renewed emphasis on Commonwealth partnerships and collaboration should focus on areas which offer clear practical opportunities to improve lives, build more resilient communities and strengthen the bonds and ties between nations.

Protecting the poorest and most vulnerable

5. At our meeting in Kampala in 2007, we recognised that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are designed to achieve the most fundamental transformation of humanity, including in the areas of poverty reduction, health, education and gender equality. While significant progress is being made in many countries, we remain deeply concerned that many Commonwealth countries are falling behind the MDG targets.
6. Noting that the global economic and financial crisis has profoundly affected both developed and developing countries and that the process of recovery is still slow

and uncertain in many countries, we will collaborate to find ways to provide immediate help to the poorest and most vulnerable and to develop responses to protect the people that are most at risk, particularly those in poor developing countries.

7. We therefore commit ourselves to the strengthening and creation of partnerships and networks to increase development effectiveness, emphasising high-impact initiatives with clearly measurable outcomes. To this end, we pledge to take measures to improve the quality of the data used to inform policies in key areas such as health, poverty and education, strengthen the linkages between research and policy-making, and mainstream issues of gender and gender equality into policies and programmes. We will share our ideas and best practices, and deliver practical support through Commonwealth networks, including a new Commonwealth Partnership Platform Portal. We urge a stronger role for the Commonwealth Secretariat in assisting developing country members to access and utilise the resources available to cope with the economic crisis. We will also strive to implement the recommendations of the High-level Report on Democracy and Pro-Poor Growth as well as those of the Report of the Commission on Growth and Development.

Debt

8. At our meeting in Kampala in 2007 we expressed concern that many countries were still weighed down by large and unsustainable debt burdens, and we reiterated the need to address the debt problems of middle-income countries, given the increasing share of government revenue taken by debt servicing and the implications for social spending.
9. In this regard, we commend the World Bank Debt Management initiative, which was developed in partnership with the Secretariat, and which was designed to help the governments of low-income and highly indebted middle-income countries to manage their national debts. We call on the international financial institutions to provide new and enhanced funding windows for concessionary financing for middle-income countries with serious debt burdens.
10. In keeping with the calls made by Finance Ministers at the Commonwealth Ministerial Debt Sustainability Forum, we also call on donor countries to honour their bilateral commitments with respect to the promised aid levels and cancellation of debt.

Economic governance

11. We will restore business confidence, the basis for investment and growth, by promoting the implementation of sound macroeconomic policies, including open, competitive markets with efficient and transparent regulation, good governance, and prudent and accountable management of public and private funds.
12. We also give our full support to the process of reform of international financial institutions and call for the urgent and comprehensive implementation of

reform that responds to the needs of all countries. We should also seek to create mechanisms within established institutions that can assist small and vulnerable states.

Science, technology and innovation

13. We recognise that many Commonwealth countries already collaborate on innovation, particularly in key areas such as information and communication technology (ICT). We believe that there must now be a far stronger emphasis on science, technology and innovation (STI) as key drivers of the type of economic transformation, employment generation and growth that will be required to emerge from the present economic crisis, attain our development objectives and realise our collective vision of sustainable development.
14. We therefore commit to promote increased investment in STI, as well as the rapid dissemination of technologies and ideas. In this regard, we request the Secretariat to identify, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Business Council (CBC), mechanisms for financing research to advance the development and adoption of new technologies and to assist member countries to access the environmental development funds managed by the World Bank and the UN.
15. In addition, we will encourage new public–private sector partnerships, foster the expansion of the small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sector and promote new knowledge-based and creative industries.

Strengthening synergy and co-ordination

16. As we seek to strengthen the CHOGM process, we recognise that a more co-ordinated, integrated and coherent approach to implementation of the decisions reached at CHOGMs is needed, alongside strategies to ensure the sustainability of collective Commonwealth planning and action.
17. We will therefore take all necessary steps to increase co-ordination among Commonwealth institutions and to ensure that Commonwealth ministerial meetings are more integrated with the CHOGM process. We will also strongly encourage co-operation and co-ordination among Commonwealth institutions, international financial institutions, regional development banks and other international bodies.

The global role of the Commonwealth

18. The Commonwealth is a platform for its membership to communicate, share ideas and co-ordinate action across large geographical and cultural distances. It can therefore generate and sustain effective international action on global challenges. As a result of its diversity and representativeness, the Commonwealth can strengthen old partnerships and forge new ones in order to play a leadership role in the international arena for the promotion of a more equitable and sustainable future for all, and particularly to work as an advocate for small and

vulnerable states. Together, we pledge to act as a catalyst for positive change in the international community in these challenging times.

29 November 2009

A Declaration on Young People: Investing in Young People

We, the Commonwealth Heads of Government, welcome the emphasis on young people in this, the 60th year since the foundation of the modern Commonwealth, with its theme of ‘thecommonwealth@60 – serving a new generation’. We acknowledge with gratitude the role and active contributions of young people in promoting development, peace and democracy, and in protecting and promoting other Commonwealth values such as tolerance and understanding, including respect for other cultures. We recognise that the future successes of the Commonwealth rest with the continued commitments and contributions in these ways of our young people.

We appreciate the views and outcomes of young people that have been conveyed to us from the Commonwealth Youth Forum. We note young people’s calls to be involved as agents of peace-building, and as agents for awareness of – and response to – climate change. We also hear young people’s call to be facilitated as drivers of economic development, as young entrepreneurs.

We note the principles of youth development endorsed by Commonwealth Youth Ministers and affirm our own support for the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment.

We endorse coherence in the national, regional and global dimensions of advancing supportive policies towards youth. We also recognise the benefits of engaging youth at all levels of policy dialogue and curriculum development.

In this respect, we reaffirm our support for promoting ‘youth mainstreaming’, and recognise in particular the benefits of sharing best practices and knowledge of mainstreaming, to assist ministries and stakeholders in building comprehensive and coherent youth-related policies for national needs.

We endorse the project by the Commonwealth Secretariat to develop a comprehensive and replenished resource bank on youth affairs, consisting of data, best practices and thinking in this field, as a reference tool for the development of ambitious and coherent national policies by member countries.

We commend the Secretariat on its work to date in supporting the establishment of national youth plans and national youth councils in member countries.

We note with concern that unemployment affects young people more than any other social group. We acknowledge the work of the pilot Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative (CYCI), and encourage initiatives to expand the scheme and to support comprehensive skills development for youth in partnership with civil society and business.

We seek to enhance the CYCI by turning it into an integrated and holistic enterprise development programme, which is built around comprehensive and mutually reinforcing skills development, funding and mentorship. We pledge to support the new initiative, which should engage a considerably wider range of funders and partners, including our own ministries of youth, international finance institutions, regional organisations, banks and businesses. We welcome initial and generous donations that have been made by Asian and African banks to support further growth in this area.

We also appeal for voluntary contributions for special youth initiatives including the Commonwealth Young Professionals Programme and the network of centres of excellence based in the four Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) regional centres.

We recommend that greater partnerships with national and international actors, including intergenerational alliances, be engendered towards the fulfilment of the youth development vision of the Commonwealth.

We recognise the opportunities for young people provided by the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP), celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2009. We express our appreciation for initial commitments of £1.6 million to date made towards the CSFP Anniversary Endowment Fund and anticipate the fund receiving further political and financial support.

29 November 2009

Statement on Commonwealth Action to Combat Non-communicable Diseases

1. We, the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth, representing one third of the world's population, affirm our commitment to addressing the burgeoning incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and to increasing the ability of our countries to respond to this emerging health crisis.
2. We recognise that NCDs presently account for over half of all deaths worldwide and that they significantly reduce life expectancy, quality of life and productivity. They place growing pressures on our health systems and our economies, thereby posing a serious threat to sustainable development.
3. We further note that poverty and NCDs are linked and that it is the poorest people who are most vulnerable to the impacts of these diseases. In many instances, the costs associated with treating NCDs and related complications can push entire households into poverty, severely limiting family members' prospects for the future, especially those of women and girls, on whose shoulders traditionally rests the burden of caring for the sick.
4. Noting the Action Plan on Non-communicable Diseases adopted by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) during their 2007 Summit on Non-communicable Diseases, we will work towards reducing the incidence of NCDs by fostering multi-sectoral policies and community-based initiatives to discourage tobacco use and unhealthy diets and to promote physical activity.

5. We will also work to fully integrate NCD prevention and control into our national health systems. In this regard, we will strengthen primary care to address the needs of people who are already facing NCDs and support the universal access of essential medicines for people living with NCDs.
6. We firmly believe that the incidence and burden of NCDs can be reduced through comprehensive and integrated preventive and control strategies at the individual, family, community, national and regional levels and through collaborative programmes, partnerships and policies supported by governments, the private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and our other social, regional and international partners. We therefore call for global engagement of the private sector, civil society and governments in efforts to combat these diseases.
7. Aware that surveillance is key to effectively combating NCDs, we commit to support initiatives to include the monitoring of NCDs and their risk factors in existing national health information systems.
8. Noting that international co-operation is critical in addressing the phenomenon of NCDs, we call for their inclusion in global discussions on development, such as those which will occur within the framework of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) 2010 Co-ordination Segment. We similarly declare our support for the call to integrate indicators to monitor the magnitude, trend and socioeconomic impact of NCDs into the core MDG monitoring and evaluation system during the MDG Review Summit in 2010.
9. We further call for a summit on NCDs to be held in September 2011, under the auspices of the UN General Assembly, in order to develop strategic responses to these diseases and their repercussions.

29 November 2009

Port of Spain Communiqué

1. Commonwealth Heads of Government met in Trinidad and Tobago from 27 to 29 November 2009. Of the 49 countries that attended the meeting, 34 were represented by their Heads of State or Government.
2. The opening ceremony of the meeting included an address by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth.
3. Heads of Government conveyed their sincere appreciation to the Government and the people of Trinidad and Tobago for the warm hospitality extended to them and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting. They also congratulated Prime Minister Manning for his able stewardship of the meeting.

Fundamental Values and Principles: The Modern Commonwealth

4. In the 60th anniversary of the modern Commonwealth, Heads of Government adopted the Trinidad and Tobago Affirmation of Commonwealth Values and Principles.

Membership – Rwanda

5. Heads of Government considered the application of the Republic of Rwanda for membership of the Commonwealth, in accordance with the criteria and procedures agreed at their last meeting in 2007. They warmly welcomed Rwanda into the Commonwealth family as its 54th member.

Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group

6. Heads of Government endorsed the report of CMAG, covering the group's deliberations in the period since the last CHOGM in Kampala in November 2007. They commended CMAG's work, which has contributed significantly to the protection and promotion of the Commonwealth's fundamental political values in member countries.
7. Heads welcomed the reinstatement of Pakistan in the Councils of the Commonwealth following the conduct of credible elections in the country in February 2008 and the assumption of office by an elected, civilian government in April 2008.
8. Heads expressed deep concern at the further deterioration of the situation in Fiji Islands with regard to its adherence to fundamental Commonwealth values, including the abrogation of the constitution in April 2009, ongoing restrictions on human rights including freedom of speech and assembly, and the interim government's decision to further delay elections until 2014. They noted that these actions had led to the full suspension of Fiji from the Commonwealth on 1 September 2009.
9. Heads fully endorsed CMAG's calls for the Interim Government of Fiji to commit itself to a credible, inclusive and time-bound political dialogue towards the restoration of constitutional civilian democracy without further delay, and for the protection of fundamental human rights, including the immediate rescission of the Public Emergency Regulation. They reaffirmed their willingness to remain engaged with Fiji in support of any good faith efforts toward this end, in accordance with fundamental Commonwealth principles.
10. Heads noted the decision by the Commonwealth Games Federation to exclude Fiji from participation in the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, as a consequence of Fiji's suspension from Commonwealth membership. In this context, Heads observed that Commonwealth sporting events represent a significant public demonstration of the unity of the Commonwealth as a family of members with a shared commitment to fundamental values. They affirmed that sporting ties under the Commonwealth name are inseparable from the values of the association and endorsed the position consistently taken by CMAG that those countries under full suspension from the Commonwealth should, *inter alia*, be ineligible to participate in Commonwealth sporting events.
11. Heads agreed that consideration be given to strengthening the role of CMAG, in order to enable the group to deal with the full range of serious or persistent violations of the Harare Principles. They also noted the decision of CMAG to

constitute a working group of its own member countries to look into how its work may be further refined and elaborated to make it more effective, in consultation with other member countries, and make proposals on this matter to the wider membership. They agreed that this examination should be confined to matters within CMAG's existing mandate and that any proposals for going beyond that mandate should be referred to Heads.

12. Heads reconstituted the membership of CMAG for the next biennium as follows: Australia, Bangladesh, Ghana, Jamaica, Maldives, Namibia, New Zealand, Vanuatu and Trinidad and Tobago (as Chair-in-Office.)

Belize

13. Heads of Government noted recent developments in the ongoing efforts of Belize to seek a just, peaceful and definitive resolution to Guatemala's territorial claims. They welcomed the signing of the Special Agreement between Belize and Guatemala on 8 December 2008, which provides for submission of the case to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) upon approval by the citizens of both countries in simultaneous referendums. Heads expressed a high level of confidence that the dispute could be resolved through the judicial procedure of the ICJ and urged the support and financial assistance of the international community for this process.
14. Heads further expressed satisfaction with the ongoing confidence-building measures supported by the Organization of American States, which had contributed immensely to stability in the adjacent border areas of Belize and Guatemala. Heads reiterated their firm support for the territorial integrity, security and sovereignty of Belize and mandated the Secretary-General to continue to convene the Commonwealth Ministerial Committee on Belize whenever necessary.

Republic of Cyprus

15. Reaffirming their previous communiqués on the Republic of Cyprus, Heads of Government expressed their support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. They expressed their support for a lasting, just and functional settlement based on the principles of the UN Charter, the relevant UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs) and the principles of the Commonwealth.
16. Heads called for the implementation of UNSCRs on the Republic of Cyprus, in particular UNSCRs 365 (1974), 541 (1983), 550 (1984), 1250 (1999) and all subsequent resolutions. They reiterated their support for respect for the human rights of all Cypriots, including the right to property, for the implementation of the relevant decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and of the European Court of Justice, and for the accounting for all missing persons.
17. Heads further agreed on the importance of supporting the efforts of the two leaders under the UN Secretary-General's Good Offices Mission to bring about a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem in line with the relevant UNSCRs. They welcomed the ongoing Cypriot-owned process of the fully fledged

negotiations initiated in September 2008, aimed at reaching an agreed solution on the basis of a bizonal, bicomunal federation with a single sovereignty, a single international personality, a single citizenship and political equality, as described in the relevant UNSCRs.

Guyana

18. Heads of Government received an update on Guyana–Venezuela relations and welcomed the efforts being made by both states to develop their bilateral relations in spite of the controversy that emerged from the Venezuelan contention that the Arbitral Award of 1899, that established the boundary between Guyana and Venezuela, is null and void.
19. Heads noted that the two countries had jointly proposed a candidate to the UN Secretary-General to be appointed as his special representative to assist him as good officer in the search for a means of settlement of the controversy. They underscored the importance of this appointment to the resuscitation of the Good Offices Process of the UN Secretary-General.
20. Heads expressed satisfaction with the role being played by the Commonwealth Ministerial Group on Guyana, which was established in 1999 to monitor developments in respect of the controversy. Heads agreed that the ministerial group should continue its work and mandated the Secretary-General to convene meetings of the group whenever necessary. Heads reaffirmed their unequivocal support for the maintenance of Guyana's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Zimbabwe

21. Heads of Government welcomed the Global Political Agreement on power-sharing in Zimbabwe and expressed the hope that this would be implemented faithfully and effectively. They looked forward to the conditions being created for the return of Zimbabwe to the Commonwealth.

Disarmament and Arms Control

22. Heads of Government once again acknowledged the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, and reaffirmed their commitment towards ridding the world of these weapons. Recognising that the ultimate objective is general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, Heads reaffirmed their commitment to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which should be achieved in accordance with the UN Charter. Heads noted that the May 2010 Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) provides states that are parties to the NPT with the opportunity to renew their commitment to strengthen the non-proliferation regime. Heads reaffirmed the rights of states to nuclear energy for peaceful uses in conformity with their international obligations.

23. Heads noted the ongoing efforts towards the negotiation of a comprehensive Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in respect of conventional weapons and the proposed ATT conference to be held in 2012. They called for the finalisation of a robust and comprehensive ATT based on consensus.
24. Heads recognised the danger posed to civilians by the indiscriminate use of cluster munitions and noted the significant contribution made by concerned states and civil society to addressing the humanitarian impact of these munitions.

Small Arms and Light Weapons

25. Heads of Government expressed their deep concern over the illicit manufacture, illegal trade and uncontrolled availability of small arms and light weapons, including man-portable air defence systems and their ammunition. They also acknowledged the resultant threat posed to peace, security, stability and development, and emphasised the importance of continued assistance to member countries in this area. They reaffirmed their support for the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Heads furthermore called for concerted efforts at national, regional and international levels to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of such weapons.

Terrorism

26. Heads of Government reaffirmed their unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as criminal and unjustifiable. They recognised that terrorism threatens the territorial integrity and security of states and continues to present a serious challenge to international peace and security. They reiterated that acts of terrorism cannot be justified or legitimised by any cause or grievance whatsoever.
27. Heads stressed the continuing need for comprehensive efforts at all national and international levels to counter terrorism, including efforts to build respect and understanding among peoples. They urged member countries to exchange information, including financial information on the movement of terrorist funds, and co-operate more effectively in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of terrorist acts through existing or new regional mechanisms, as appropriate.
28. Heads emphasised the need to conclude negotiations on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism on a priority basis, preferably during the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly.
29. Heads called upon all member countries to accede to the UN counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, and to effectively implement these as well as the UN Global Counter-terrorism Strategy and relevant SCRs and to prevent the use of their territories for the support, incitement or commission of terrorist acts in other states. They particularly stressed the need for member countries

to implement the necessary legal framework for the suppression of terrorist financing, taking into account the provisions of the International Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism (1999) and UNSCR 1373 (2001), with a view to interdicting the direct and indirect flow of funds to terrorist groups, including through charitable organisations.

30. Heads welcomed the convening, in September 2009, of a Ministerial Meeting on Terrorism, which endorsed the updated Commonwealth Plan of Action on Terrorism and sought to identify new areas of co-operation among member countries to meet new challenges posed by terrorism. They expressed the hope that continued implementation of the plan would facilitate an even more effective Commonwealth contribution to the UN-led global effort on counter-terrorism.

Combating Piracy

31. Heads of Government expressed their deep concern about the threat posed by piracy and armed robbery against ships. In this context, they noted the work of the International Maritime Organization in facilitating the Djibouti Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. Heads commended the work of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) and urged the group to carry forward its work in co-ordinating efforts to combat piracy. They encouraged member countries to continue to co-operate to the fullest possible extent, and in a manner consistent with international law, in the combating of piracy and armed robbery against ships.

Combating Corruption and the Tracing and Recovery of Assets of Illicit Origin

32. Recognising that corruption in its various forms undermines good governance, public security, respect for human rights and economic development, Heads of Government urged member countries which had not already done so to consider becoming parties to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and to implement its provisions, including those addressing asset recovery, to help them combat systemic corruption at both national and international levels.
33. Heads acknowledged the ongoing activities of the Secretariat to build institutional capacity and awareness in member countries to assist them with the implementation and enforcement of UNCAC. They also encouraged member countries to consider implementing the recommendations of the 2005 Commonwealth Expert Working Group on the Recovery and Repatriation of Assets of Illicit Origin.

Migration

34. Heads of Government acknowledged that migration has historically contributed to the development and the flourishing of the human prospect. They expressed concern about protection gaps in countries of origin, transit and destination, and

called for the strengthening of existing global mechanisms to effectively address the protection of migrants. In this context, they also affirmed the importance of enhanced co-operation among states, and other relevant actors, in managing mixed migratory flows and addressing protection needs.

Human Trafficking and People Smuggling

35. Heads of Government, in noting the 2009 UN Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, reaffirmed their condemnation of the increasing levels of human trafficking, including trafficking for sexual and other forms of exploitation, which debases and deprives people of their human rights and dignity. They called for concerted efforts to deal with this challenge.
36. Heads again urged member countries to put in place the necessary legal and administrative framework to prevent human trafficking, protect and support victims of such trafficking and prosecute the traffickers. They also affirmed the principle of solidarity and burden-sharing with regard to identification, assistance and protection of victims of trafficking.
37. Heads affirmed their strongest support for combating people smuggling. Heads acknowledged that people smuggling, like all forms of transnational crime, continues to present a threat to the integrity of regional border security processes and procedures, and undermines the ability of states to manage migration. They also expressed their concern that transnational criminal organisations continue to profit from people smuggling, with disregard for the safety or human rights of those being smuggled.
38. Heads urged member countries to increase efforts to combat people smuggling, including by enhancing regional co-operation, building capacity and implementing national legislation to criminalise this activity. They acknowledged the important role of regional consultative processes in addressing the challenge of people smuggling.
39. Heads urged member countries to comply with all obligations arising under international law and to consider becoming parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

Human Rights

40. Heads of Government urged all member countries to consider acceding to and implementing all major international human rights instruments, especially the twin 1966 covenants (the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), which, along with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, form the International Bill of Human Rights.

41. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Heads called for the enactment and domestic implementation of CEDAW. Heads expressed their commitment to eliminating violence against women. They also welcomed the adoption of UNSCR 1888 on sexual violence in armed conflict, and UNSCRs 1325 and 1889 on women and peace and security. Heads stressed the need for improved women's participation, leadership and representation in decision-making at all levels, including in peace processes, conflict prevention and resolution, and in post-conflict peace-building.
42. Heads recalled that 2009 marked the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which has been ratified by all Commonwealth member countries. They reaffirmed their commitment to uphold the rights of children and encouraged all member countries to accede to the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
43. Heads called for the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). They noted with satisfaction the recent increase in ratifications by member countries of a range of international instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. They also noted the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
44. Heads recognised the work of the Secretariat in advancing and mainstreaming human rights in the Commonwealth and its support for the work of national and regional mechanisms in protecting and promoting human rights, in particular its intensive engagement with small states. They reaffirmed their support for the initiatives by the Secretariat to assist member countries, at their request, to improve their adherence to international and regional human rights instruments and in the processes of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council. Heads further acknowledged the Secretariat's programmes to promote human rights education and awareness through training programmes for targeted groups such as police, other uniformed services, magistrates and government officers.
45. Recognising and underlining the centrality of human rights to the fundamental values of the Commonwealth, Heads called for greater co-operation among national human rights institutions in order to enable these institutions to promote human rights more effectively.

World Economic Situation

46. Heads of Government acknowledged the ongoing turbulence in the global economy that has resulted, inter alia, in a global economic recession, contraction in global trade and reduced levels of foreign direct investment. They recognised the devastating impact that this has had across the Commonwealth, with economic growth in nearly all Commonwealth countries below potential levels. Heads noted that for many Commonwealth citizens living standards have

declined, and progress towards achieving the MDGs in the developing countries, especially LDCs and small island developing states (SIDS), has been reversed. In that context, Heads welcomed the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth agreed at the G20 Pittsburgh Summit in September 2009. They supported the G20's call for advice on promoting development and poverty reduction as part of the rebalancing of global growth and committed to working closely with international institutions, including the World Bank, to that end.

47. Heads expressed their support for the commitment to avoid protectionism and to strengthen financial supervision and regulation. They emphasised the importance of renewing the contract between financial institutions and the society they serve, and the need to ensure the sector bears the full cost of the risks associated with their activities. They also welcomed commitments to accelerate International Monetary Fund (IMF) voice and governance reform, to review the capital needs of the multilateral development banks by mid-2010 and to adopt a more appropriate and dynamic formula to determine shareholder and voting power realignments at the World Bank and the IMF. They encouraged the IMF to consider the full range of options in their review.
48. Heads welcomed the steps taken by many countries to mitigate the impact of the economic crisis, and the fragile signs of growth in the global economy. They expressed concern, however, that the social and economic impact of the crisis would continue to affect a vast majority of developing countries, particularly the smallest and most economically vulnerable members of the Commonwealth, including LDCs and SIDS.
49. Heads nevertheless recognised that members in many regions, including in Africa, had demonstrated encouraging and significant resilience, reflecting the presence of stronger macroeconomic and other policy frameworks. To further strengthen resilience, they urged enhanced international and national efforts to support electrification and other infrastructure development.
50. Heads also highlighted the fact that measures need to be taken to address the plight of the many middle-income countries which are highly susceptible to external shocks but do not have access to concessionary loans and grants. Heads therefore welcomed the Secretariat's work to address the economic challenges facing these economically vulnerable member countries and urged that urgent measures be taken to provide support for them, especially in accessing adequate financing. They also welcomed the UN's Global Impact and Vulnerability Alert System (GIVAS), which highlighted that the global economic crisis is only now starting to affect hundreds of millions of people around the globe; that the near poor, who have just climbed out of poverty, are sliding back into it; and that, with pressure on social sector budgets, existing social protection programmes may prove insufficient.
51. Heads recognised the negative impact of the current economic crisis on families and communities everywhere. They expressed concern at the often disproportionate impact on women, noting that more women are in paid work

than ever before, making an essential contribution to family income. However, it is often women that are the first to lose their jobs, especially since many are considered to be secondary earners. Heads believed that enabling girls and women to develop and use their skills and realise their full potential, both during this economic crisis and in its aftermath, is of critical importance. They therefore stressed that, where women and girls are disproportionately impacted by the crisis, their needs should be specifically addressed in any measures to address the economic crisis and support families.

52. Heads stressed the importance of ensuring a holistic and comprehensive approach to the global economic recovery process and highlighted the need for increased economic and social policy co-operation to support stable, sustainable and inclusive global economic growth and poverty reduction in Commonwealth countries. They noted that a number of long-term economic challenges, including food and energy security, climate change and urbanisation, require urgent, enhanced and additional international co-operation. They stressed the importance of action to tackle these challenges at national and regional levels, and particularly through strong and inclusive multilateral processes.
53. Heads recognised the need for accelerated progress to meet the MDGs by 2015 and called for 2010 to represent a breakthrough on progress. They welcomed the UN summit on the MDGs in 2010 as a critical opportunity to set out a global plan for delivering the MDGs. They looked forward to an international assessment of what is needed to achieve the MDGs as a basis for this plan. Recognising the importance of high-level attendance at the summit, they called on other world leaders to consider attending. They recognised that current global efforts to achieve the MDGs were inadequate and a renewed multilateral co-operative response to boost the capacities of the vast majority of its members was vital in this respect. They underlined the need for co-operation in achieving progress in implementing all aspects of the Monterrey Consensus, as well as the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development of December 2008. In particular, they called on countries to meet their commitments to existing timetables for the increase of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and to ensure that the level of ODA was adequate to meet the development challenges in the developing countries and LDCs in the Commonwealth, and to strengthen the implementation of the measures needed to make aid more effective, as set out in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness endorsed in March 2005 and the Accra Agenda for Action adopted in September 2008.
54. Heads noted the potential of the Commonwealth as a forum for engagement and consensus-building, and asked the Secretary-General to explore ways in which this potential could be further realised on issues where the Commonwealth has institutional advantage. They also urged the Secretary-General to work with Commonwealth members to develop options for strengthening the relationship between Commonwealth members and the G20, as well as with other relevant multilateral forums.

55. In this context, the five Commonwealth members of the G20 recognised the special responsibility they bear in transmitting to the wider group the perspectives and priority concerns of the Commonwealth.

Reform of International Institutions

56. Heads of Government welcomed the Marlborough House Statement on the Reform of International Institutions, agreed by the representative group of Commonwealth leaders established by the Secretary-General, as a basis to support reform of international institutions. They agreed that the statement contains useful principles for such reform and that the Commonwealth should lead by example by striving to achieve the highest standards possible in each of the areas set out under the said principles. They also reiterated their intention to accelerate UN reforms and their effective implementation, as a matter of urgency, through lobbying and advocacy in the UN itself as well as in other international forums. Heads noted the conclusion of the representative group that the Commonwealth should act as a network for supporting members in discussions of inclusive reform, facilitating exchange of information and providing a forum for a dialogue on reform issues, particularly those of concern to small and other vulnerable developing states. They called on the Secretariat to provide assistance in this area consistent with its mandate at the request of the membership.
57. Heads noted that current global challenges had reinforced the importance of stronger and more effective multilateral institutions. They reaffirmed their commitment to continued efforts to push for increased inclusivity, accountability and modernisation of the institutions. They stressed the importance of Commonwealth members working to ensure that all the processes of reform in international institutions are comprehensive and inclusive. Heads reiterated their call to strengthen the voice and representation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, taking into account prevailing conditions in these countries. They noted the recent widening of the membership of the international bodies concerned with supporting international financial stability and stressed the need for a continuing process of constructive engagement between these bodies and all developing countries. Heads welcomed the decisions of the G20, in particular its support to strengthen the voice and representation of developing countries at the IMF and World Bank. They noted the increased role developing countries will play in international bodies.
58. Heads supported current efforts to reform international environmental governance arrangements. They proposed an approach that would be based on the principles of transparency, equal voice and fair representation, legitimacy, responsiveness, flexibility, accountability and effectiveness. Such reform should cover all elements of the international system that relate to environmentally sustainable development; integrate environmental and development priorities; and be practically and speedily responsive to the priority needs of small states and LDCs.

Trade

59. Heads of Government expressed their commitment to active and continued participation in multilateral trade negotiations. They recognised that a development-oriented, ambitious and balanced conclusion to the Doha Round can contribute to global economic recovery and combating protectionism, as well as the fuller and more beneficial participation of all countries in global trade, thereby making a fundamental contribution to prosperity, sustainable development and the elimination of poverty. Heads of Government therefore called for a successful and development-centred conclusion to the Doha Round in 2010 and urged all parties to demonstrate the flexibility and political will required to make such an outcome possible.
60. Heads expressed their commitment to supporting developing countries to expand their economies through trade. This could be achieved through improving market access for developing countries by supporting their effective participation and integration into regional and global trade agreements, or through improving the international competitiveness of developing countries' economies. In this context, Heads considered there was especially a need to focus on addressing the non-tariff measures that impact adversely on the exports of developing countries. A balanced approach using bilateral, regional and multilateral channels was recommended.
61. Heads acknowledged the contribution to economic growth and development of increased trade between developing countries. While noting that this does not replace trade between developed and developing countries, they were of the view that trade between developing countries has assumed greater significance and will be even more important in the emerging global economy, marked by significant changes in patterns of demand and consumption as a consequence of rebalancing. Heads expressed support for regional economic integration initiatives which are consistent and which promote the interests of developing countries as partners in regional trade agreements, as well as the interests of members adversely affected by the erosion of existing preferences or trade diversion.
62. Heads emphasised the importance of sustained and predictable Aid for Trade (AfT) in strengthening the capacity of developing country members, in particular small and vulnerable economies, to become more competitive and better able to capture opportunities created by more open regional and global markets. They welcomed the delivery of AfT commitments to 2010 and called for sustained delivery of increased AfT, post-2010, in line with national development plan priorities of recipient countries. They also acknowledged the benefits AfT can offer small and vulnerable economies in adjusting to liberalisation commitments and the implementation of trade agreements, thereby ensuring market access, especially for LDCs, in line with the special and differential treatment provisions of the WTO regime. They further emphasised the importance of mainstreaming AfT in national and regional poverty reduction strategies.

Investment

63. Heads of Government noted the valuable role of investment in contributing to economic growth, the eradication of poverty and the expansion of economic space for their citizens. While strongly supportive of the role of external investment in development and urging expanding inflows to developing members, they also called for urgent economic reforms to improve the prevailing investment and business climate and to mobilise domestic investment. Heads emphasised the need to have clear, transparent and rule-based investment regimes. They also encouraged the use of home country incentives to promote investment in LDCs, small states and other developing countries. They emphasised the need for comprehensive skills development in promoting the environment for investment.
64. Heads recognised the importance of access to finance and called for the development of domestic financial markets with specific emphasis on micro-finance and micro-credit in support of poverty alleviation and economic democratisation programmes, particularly for marginalised groups, including women. They also called for innovative and market-friendly interventions that mobilise ODA to share investment risks.
65. Heads recognised the importance of encouraging and requiring multinational enterprises to respect applicable laws and international standards of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in their operations. Heads further expressed support and encouragement for the investment community to develop and promote CSR standards, tools and best practices.

International Financial Centres

66. Heads of Government considered the issue of international financial centres (IFCs). They noted concerns about the operation of some IFCs. They also noted the role hosting IFCs can play in many Commonwealth countries' economic development, especially small states. In this context, they discussed recent initiatives, such as the G20-supported Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) listing. They agreed on the need for enhanced transparency of IFCs and co-operation between countries in the sharing of tax information in accordance with the internationally agreed standard. Recognising the different capacities of, and constraints on, countries with IFCs, Heads called for consideration of less resource-intensive means for negotiating and concluding tax information exchange agreements to allow the targeted threshold of 12 information exchange agreements to be met quickly and encouraged options for multilateral agreements to increase the transparency of IFCs.
67. Heads took note both of the concerns of a number of countries in ensuring a level playing field in pursuing these initiatives and progress that had been made over the last year in this regard. They recognised the need to make progress on these issues based on consensus. They also noted the outcomes of the latest Global Forum Meeting, especially the commitment to integrating developing countries

further in the forum's work, including within the newly established Global Forum peer review process.

Climate Change

68. Heads of Government adopted the Port of Spain Climate Change Consensus: The Commonwealth Climate Change Declaration.
69. They reaffirmed their commitment to the Lake Victoria Commonwealth Climate Change Action Plan, welcoming progress in its implementation.
70. Recognising that member countries are entering a more intense phase of work at national level to prepare their economies and societies for climate change, Heads called for continued implementation of all six elements of the plan by the Secretariat and other Commonwealth organisations, and urged particular emphasis on:
 - Supporting small states and LDCs in advancing their own strategies and policy frameworks on adaptation and towards carbon-neutral and climate-resilient economies. In this regard, they asked the Commonwealth Secretary-General to develop his good offices for the environment, exploring the potential for a partnership between the Commonwealth, the World Bank and others, to provide specific programmes of support to vulnerable countries.
 - Continuing to support the effective participation of small and vulnerable member countries in international negotiations on climate change issues; working with young people, parliamentarians and others to support a broad engagement in setting and implementing policy frameworks related to climate change; and further promoting reform of international environmental governance arrangements to ensure greater participation and opportunity for all states and other relevant actors.

Sustainable Development

71. Heads of Government recalled the 1989 Langkawi Declaration and underlined the critical importance of integrated and sustainable approaches to development. They recognised that the challenges of the twenty-first century are deeply interconnected and that sustainable development requires institutions whose mandates and operations are responsive to this fact and to the needs of small, poor and highly vulnerable developing countries.
72. Heads emphasised the importance of promoting sustainable development with regard to environment infrastructure, entrepreneurship development and human resource development. They called for mobilisation of additional funds, technical assistance and collaboration. In this context, they reaffirmed their call for increased and comprehensive support for AfT activities.
73. Reflecting the Commonwealth's long-standing commitment to the sustainable development of small states, Heads of Government sought an effective review process of the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Programme

of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 2010 under the auspices of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, leading to strengthened implementation of sustainable development in small states and addressing new and emerging development concerns. They saw a role for the Commonwealth in supporting small states during the review and in addressing its findings through practical programmes.

74. Heads recognised that rapid urbanisation was posing a significant challenge in many Commonwealth countries, and that new and inclusive approaches to urban planning and management were central to achieving the MDGs. They acknowledged that leadership and a deeper understanding of the trends were required at all levels, together with the provision of effective financing for local infrastructure and services, to improve human security and achieve the Commonwealth goal of demonstrated progress towards adequate shelter for all with secure tenure and access to essential services in every community by 2015. They welcomed continued Commonwealth efforts to address these challenges.

Energy Security

75. Heads of Government noted that access to energy was essential to sustainable development. They voiced their concern that, with fossil fuels being a finite resource and the urgent threats of climate change, ensuring safe, reliable and affordable energy for the people of the Commonwealth was a fundamental challenge. Heads reaffirmed the right of each country to the development and use of its own energy resources and committed to work together with a view to increasing energy efficiency and diversifying energy resources while minimising environmental impacts.
76. Heads endorsed the need to develop energy partnerships based on co-operation and market principles. In this regard, they encouraged participation in existing initiatives that foster investment and innovation in the development of diverse renewable energy sources and energy efficiency and promote cleaner energy through research and development, capacity-building and the transfer of knowledge on environmentally efficient and sustainable technologies.
77. Heads also expressed their support for ongoing international initiatives such as the Joint Oil Data Initiative to improve transparency and reliability in the energy sector. They further recognised the importance of collaboration with the private sector to foster the sustainable development of natural resources, energy efficiency and conservation, as well as to develop best practices for CSR.

Food Security

78. Heads of Government expressed their deep concern about the threats that climate change, lack of access to fresh water resources, dumping of toxic waste and volatile commodity and energy prices pose to world food security. Recognising that poverty remains the fundamental cause of food insecurity, they called for increased investment in sustainable agriculture, rural development

and natural resource management, including innovative practices, and stressed the importance of a coherent, multi-dimensional approach to sustainable agricultural development and food security. Further, they recognised the need to increase food production, particularly in countries most affected by hunger, alongside measures to improve access to food and provide safety nets and social protection, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable.

79. Heads also agreed to strive to ensure that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies and supporting infrastructure, including irrigation, were conducive to fostering food security for all through a fair and market-oriented world trade system. They endorsed the LAquila Joint Statement on Global Food Security and the development of a global partnership for agriculture and food security. They also noted the Declaration of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) World Summit on Food Security, which took place in Rome on 16–18 November 2009. They agreed to take forward urgent actions to meet the declaration's objectives, to achieve the MDG targets on hunger by 2015, to reverse the decline in funding for food security and to tackle the challenge that climate change poses to food security.
80. Heads acknowledged that the sustainable harvesting of the world's fish stocks supports food security and can have long-term economic benefits. They expressed concern that the unsustainable exploitation of the world's fish stocks posed a threat to food security and could lead to long-term economic losses of depleted stocks. They also expressed concern at the plunder caused by illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, in violation of, inter alia, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. They recognised that many developing states were particularly vulnerable to illegal fishing by foreign fleets. They agreed that urgent action was needed to strengthen fisheries and marine management in member countries' waters, particularly in the case of the more vulnerable member countries.

Challenges Facing Small States and Middle-income Countries

81. Heads of Government reaffirmed the challenges facing small states as set out in the 2005 Gozo Statement on Vulnerable Small States. They noted with concern that the global financial and economic crisis is having significant negative effects on small states in trade, aid, tourism and remittances and that the crisis has exacerbated the challenges already faced by these countries by deepening unemployment and creating budgetary pressure in crucial social sectors.
82. Heads noted that the disproportionate impact of the global economic crisis on small states underscored the importance of a conducive external environment to their development. They encouraged these countries to continue to implement outward-oriented development strategies that would assist them to overcome their vulnerabilities and diversify the structures of their economies. They also called for a holistic and integrated approach to development for small states. Heads commended the work done by the Small States Network for Economic Development.

83. Heads welcomed the advocacy and policy development work of the Secretariat on behalf of small states. They urged the Secretariat to continue work in all the areas that would assist small states in their endeavour to implement crisis-resilient growth and development strategies. They agreed to make further efforts to better utilise the resources and capacities across the Commonwealth's membership to support efforts to strengthen economic and social development in small member countries. They welcomed the work of the Secretariat through its Joint Office for Commonwealth Small States in New York and looked forward to further progress towards establishing a similar joint office in Geneva. They requested the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of the Geneva office being established as a co-operative venture with La Francophonie.
84. Heads urged the international community to provide support to small states in the pursuit of their development strategies and, in particular the provision of comprehensive development assistance programmes and the use of regional mechanisms to address development challenges. They also called for continued international assistance to small states in meeting the MDGs and commitments under the Mauritius Strategy.
85. Heads expressed concern at the growing debt burden of Commonwealth small states. In the context of the acute pressures on small and middle-income states in respect of their debt burdens, liquidity and access to finance, Heads supported efforts to develop innovative solutions in areas of constraint, as recommended by Commonwealth Finance Ministers. They recognised that viable solutions would need to be adequately financed and urged that international financial institutions allocate more substantial resources for analytical and advisory services, capacity-building and technical assistance for small states, to meet the developmental challenges arising from the global economic and financial crisis.
86. Heads recognised that several Commonwealth countries are classified as middle-income countries and still face significant challenges in their efforts to meet the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. In that regard, they underlined the importance of international support that is aligned with national priorities, to address the development needs of middle-income countries, especially lower-middle-income countries. In view of the challenges faced by middle-income countries, especially those that are small, vulnerable and highly indebted lower-middle-income countries, Heads welcomed the work of the Commonwealth Ministerial Debt Sustainability Forum and in particular the recent launch in June 2009 by the World Bank, in partnership with the Commonwealth and other organisations, of the Debt Management Facility to help highly indebted low-income and other developing countries. They urged continued action in this regard.
87. Heads extended sincere condolences to those affected by the recent natural disasters in the Asia-Pacific region, especially to those affected by the earthquake and subsequent tsunamis in Samoa and Tonga. They noted that SIDS are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters and reaffirmed their

commitment to supporting disaster risk reduction efforts in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action and the Mauritius Strategy.

Education

88. Heads of Government noted with concern the effect of the global economic downturn on social sectors such as education, particularly in developing countries and small states, acknowledging that education provides a fundamental tool for self-improvement and national development and is a basic human right. They reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the MDGs of reaching universal primary education and gender parity by 2015 and agreed to prioritise reaching some 27 million Commonwealth children who are currently out of school, as well as those not completing primary education. They stressed the need to embrace an integrated and holistic vision of education systems, as encapsulated in the theme of the 17th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM), Malaysia June 2009, 'Education in the Commonwealth: towards and beyond global goals and targets'. Also pursuant to the 17th CCEM, they acknowledged the vital role that education can play in conflict prevention and resolution, and requested the Secretariat to explore options to strengthen its education work programme on respect and understanding.
89. Heads called on all Commonwealth countries to commit further resources to basic education, including by actively supporting the replenishment of the Education for All Fast Track Initiative. They supported the aims of the '1 Goal: Education for All' campaign to use the FIFA World Cup to raise awareness of education and to mobilise additional finance.
90. Heads noted that the expansion and quality of primary, secondary and higher education are integrally linked to the number and quality of teachers. Primary education provides the foundation for higher-level skills and knowledge, while secondary and higher education are critical for developing innovative solutions to national challenges, for enhancing equity in the delivery of education and for socioeconomic development. Heads noted the need for all children to have equity of access to quality education, regardless of geographical location, resources, gender, ethnicity and ability, in order to equip them to interact effectively in the global community. They urged the advancement of quality basic education in developing countries and small states in particular, and noted the desirability of improving access for students of such states, who face cost constraints, to higher education institutions in Commonwealth countries.
91. Heads attached particular importance to the work and potential of the Commonwealth of Learning (CoL), advocated additional intergovernmental support to advance its projects and encouraged the creation of strategic partnerships by the CoL.
92. Heads recognised the progress made in the expansion of the CSFP and expressed their appreciation for the initial commitments of approximately £1.6 million made towards the CSFP Endowment Fund in response to the 50th Anniversary

Appeal. Heads welcomed the pledges already made and encouraged all member governments to consider making contributions to the fund.

Health

93. Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitment to attaining the health-related MDGs and the need to closely monitor progress towards achieving these goals. They noted with concern the lack of progress towards achieving the goal for maternal and reproductive health, which is the most off-track, and the need for continued efforts in relation to HIV and AIDS. They agreed that access to quality, affordable health services is fundamental to reaching the MDGs. They committed to achieve universal coverage of health services, free at the point of use, particularly for women and children. They agreed to invest in free health services to ensure that the poorest people, especially women and children, can access trained health workers with the right skills, in the right place, at the right time, and with the right infrastructure, equipment and drugs. Recognising the huge diversity in health needs across the Commonwealth, they agreed on a Commonwealth Health Compact, through which they:

- called on donor countries to deliver existing commitments for financing in health and identify ways to increase international resources;
- welcomed the steps taken by low-income countries towards universal access to health services, and making them free at the point of use, and urged further concerted action;
- support the role of civil society to advocate for, support and contribute to universal coverage of basic healthcare.

94. Heads adopted the Statement on Commonwealth Action to Combat Non-communicable Diseases.

95. Heads noted with concern the impact of the global economic crisis on progress towards achieving the health-related MDGs in Commonwealth countries, including universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care. Heads firmly supported the need to strengthen health systems in Commonwealth countries, considering a primary healthcare approach. Noting that international co-operation is critical in addressing the phenomenon of NCDs, Heads called for the consideration of a summit on NCDs to be held in September 2011, under the auspices of the UN General Assembly, in order to develop strategic responses to these diseases and their repercussions. They also supported initiatives to include the monitoring of NCDs in existing national health information systems and emphasised the need for NCD indicators to be included in the monitoring of the MDGs. They endorsed efforts to address the health workforce crisis and to expand the use of e-health technologies. They noted the continued challenges countries face in providing access to affordable medicines and supported the exploration of options for increasing access to appropriate, low-cost medicines.

96. Heads reiterated that a rights-based approach to health is fundamental to the achievement of human development goals. They acknowledged the need to

explore and remove obstacles to accessing health as a means of achieving better health for all. They noted the importance of evidence-based research for the programming, planning and policy development of quality health services and encouraged the sharing of knowledge among senior health practitioners in member countries.

Gender

97. Acknowledging the centrality of gender equality and empowerment to achieving all MDGs, Heads of Government committed themselves to accelerated implementation of the various international and regional instruments and agreements on gender equality and women's rights. Heads called for allocation of adequate and visible resources as well as other measures to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.
98. Heads recognised the facilitating role of the Secretariat in enhancing policy dialogue, increasing advocacy and modelling of good practices on key gender issues affecting member countries. Heads reiterated their commitment to the implementation of the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005–2015. They endorsed the need for effective monitoring and evaluation of progress in the implementation of the plan of action, called for strengthened accountability mechanisms to be put in place, noting that gender mainstreaming is the collective responsibility and business of all, and welcomed its mid-term review.
99. Heads noted that gender-responsive budgeting can be an effective tool to promote effective economic and social governance in an equitable and sustainable growth and development strategy. They welcomed the commitment of their Finance Ministers to engage with Women's Affairs Ministers in the context of the Ninth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting in June 2010 on the gender-related aspects of the global economic crisis, to ensure that the gender dimensions of the global economic crisis are recognised and incorporated into measures to respond to the downturn.
100. Heads commended the establishment of a single UN agency for women in the context of system-wide coherence in addressing gender equality concerns and women's rights, and urged swift implementation of measures to that end. Heads also stressed the need to strengthen mechanisms for gender mainstreaming, including enhancing the capacity of national women's machineries.

Youth

101. Heads of Government welcomed the emphasis on young people in this, the 60th year of the modern Commonwealth, with its theme of 'thecommonwealth@ 60 – serving a new generation'. They recognised the role and active contributions of young people in promoting development, peace and democracy, and acknowledged that the future successes of the Commonwealth rest with young people. Heads adopted A Declaration on Young People: Investing in Young People.

102. They also noted the challenges of developing and implementing the new assessed scale of contributions for the CYP and, mindful of the importance of the CYP in underpinning the Commonwealth's commitment to future generations, agreed that the new scale should be finalised as a priority and implemented with effect from the 2010/11 financial year.
103. Heads welcomed the inaugural Youth Olympic Games, to be held in Singapore from 14 to 26 August 2010. They supported its aim of inspiring youth around the world to embrace, embody and express the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect through an integrated sport, culture and education programme.

Bridging the Digital Divide

104. Heads of Government recognised the important role that ICT can play in economic and social transformation. They expressed their appreciation for the work of the Steering Committee of Commonwealth Connects, and welcomed its 2009 report to CHOGM. They endorsed the strategy of focus on promoting strategic partnerships, building ICT capacity and helping member countries to access new resources.
105. Heads recognised the role of the Commonwealth Connects programme as a catalyst for the initiation of partnerships to promote the use of ICT for development and reiterated their support for the continued role of the programme in helping make ICT available for citizens, businesses and governments throughout the Commonwealth. They encouraged increased partnering and sharing of expertise from ICT-advanced member countries, as well as further contributions to the Commonwealth Connects Special Fund.

Commonwealth Secretariat

106. Heads of Government continued to stress the importance for the Commonwealth Secretariat of incorporating results-based management and outcome-based reporting into its governance structure. Heads also emphasised the need to continue to implement the recommendations of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) review in 2008 and focus on its comparative strengths. They also noted the good progress achieved in restoring the CFTC to its earlier value, undertook to complete five years of increased pledges as agreed at the 2005 CHOGM in Malta, and agreed that member governments should thereafter at least maintain the real value of their contributions to the CFTC.
107. Heads adopted the proposal on a revised scale of assessed contributions for the Secretariat budget, to be implemented with effect from the 2009/10 financial year, with the changes phased in over a three-year period. They noted that in future the scale should be reviewed and adjusted on a five-yearly basis.
108. Heads welcomed the continued efforts by the Secretary-General to promote the development of strategic partnerships, which they saw as a valuable means primarily of extending the global reach and impact of Commonwealth values

and principles, as well as offering potential for securing additional support and resources for the Secretariat's work.

109. Heads reaffirmed the importance they attached to the continued strengthening of the governance of the Secretariat and welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to improve its effectiveness and efficiency within its areas of priority and focus, including improved reporting of results, as agreed by member governments in the strategic plan. Heads agreed that the troika of the past, present and future chairs-in-office should be informed on selected matters at the initiative of the Secretary-General.

Commonwealth Functional Co-operation

110. Heads of Government took note of the various aspects of Commonwealth functional co-operation presented to the Committee of the Whole (COW). They requested the Secretary-General to continue to bring to the notice of Heads of Government any proposed mandates arising from ministerial meetings that have significant implications for the Secretariat's work programme and resources. Heads acknowledged in particular the contribution of the accredited Commonwealth intergovernmental agencies and Commonwealth organisations which reported to the COW and to Foreign Ministers.

Commonwealth Cultural Festival

111. Heads of Government received a proposal from the Government of Pakistan for the holding of a biennial Commonwealth Cultural Festival. They requested the Commonwealth Foundation to conduct a feasibility study in this regard.

Civil Society

112. Heads of Government affirmed the centrality of civil society, including professional networks, in supporting the values and principles of the Commonwealth. They recognised the importance of a vibrant and active civil society as a key partner in delivering a sustainable and equitable future for all and valued the contribution that civil society continues to make through its engagement with Commonwealth intergovernmental institutions and processes. They noted the statement from the Commonwealth People's Forum and its assessment of the interconnected challenges facing Commonwealth citizens and the particular impacts on women and young people.

Commonwealth Foundation

113. Heads of Government received the Report of the Commonwealth Foundation and its four-year strategic plan 2008–2012, *Civil Society – a Force for Transformation*. They valued the unique role of the Foundation in working with governments and civil society to forge partnerships. They welcomed the commitment of the Foundation to expand its grants programme and the consequent 25 per cent increase in support allocated to civil society over the period 2006–2008.

They recognised the value of dialogue between civil society and governments, both nationally and in Commonwealth processes, and the contribution made by the Foundation in providing civil society a voice at ministerial meetings, notably at the 17th CCEM. They noted the additional resources secured by the Foundation in support of its mission and commended its initiatives on culture and development, sustainable economic recovery, and fisheries and food security. They welcomed Maldives into the membership of the Foundation.

Commonwealth of Learning

114. Heads of Government received with appreciation the Report of the CoL and its three-year plan 2009–2012, *Learning for Development*. They expressed satisfaction that the number of countries making voluntary contributions to its budget had increased to 41, and encouraged other member governments to also consider doing so. They expressed particular appreciation for the work of the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth, and – with its first period of funding drawing to a close – encouraged the Secretariat to assist the CoL in securing new funding to continue and expand the programme in terms of capacity-building in the use of ICT in education and the development and delivery of courses.

Commonwealth Business Council

115. Heads of Government commended the CBC for its work in building private–public partnerships for trade and investment in Commonwealth countries and its establishment of initiatives on business action against corruption and business engagement to support the achievement of the MDGs. They also welcomed the dialogue with the private sector through the Commonwealth Business Forum and requested the CBC to carry forward its work in collaboration with governments the public and private sectors.

Commonwealth Local Government Forum

116. Heads of Government noted the continuing work of the CLGF to promote effective and transparent local governance and democracy in member countries, including capacity-building in this regard. In this context, they welcomed the outcome of the CLGF's 2009 conference, the Freeport Declaration on Improving Local Government: The Commonwealth Vision, as well as the CLGF's programme in the Caribbean and other regions of the Commonwealth.

Future Meetings

117. Heads of Government accepted the offer from the Prime Minister of Australia to host the 2011 CHOGM. They also accepted the offers of the President of Sri Lanka and the Prime Minister of Mauritius to host the 2013 and 2015 CHOGMs respectively.

Heads of Delegation

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

Antigua and Barbuda	The Hon. Winston Baldwin Spencer*, Prime Minister
Australia	The Hon. Kevin Rudd*, Prime Minister
The Bahamas	The Rt Hon. Hubert Alexander Ingraham*, Prime Minister
Bangladesh	The Hon. Sheikh Hasina*, Prime Minister
Barbados	The Hon. David Thompson*, President
Belize	The Hon. Dean Oliver Barrow*, Prime Minister
Botswana	The Hon. Phandu Tombola Chaha Skelemani, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation
Brunei Darussalam	HRH Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah Crown Prince and Senior Minister, and Personal Representative of HM The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam
Cameroon	The Hon. Philemon Yang, Prime Minister
Canada	The Rt Hon. Stephen Harper*, Prime Minister
Republic of Cyprus	HE Mr Demetris Christofias*, President
The Gambia	The Hon. Ousman Jammeh, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ghana	HE Professor John Evans Atta Mills*, President
Grenada	The Hon. Tillman Thomas*, Prime Minister
Guyana	HE Mr Bharrat Jagdeo*, President
India	The Hon. Dr Manmohan Singh*, Prime Minister
Jamaica	The Hon. O Bruce Golding*, Prime Minister
Kenya	HE Mr Mwai Kibaki*, President
Kiribati	The Hon. Tessie Eria Lamboume, Minister and Special Envoy of the President
Lesotho	The Hon. Lesao Lehohla, Deputy Prime Minister
Malawi	HE Mr Francis Moto, High Commissioner to the United Kingdom
Malaysia	The Hon. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak*, Prime Minister
Maldives	HE Mr Mohamed Nasheed*, President
Malta	The Hon. Dr Lawrence Gonzi*, Prime Minister
Mauritius	The Hon. Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam*, Prime Minister
Mozambique	The Hon. Oldemiro Julio, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Namibia	HE Dr Kaire Mbuende, Permanent Representative to the UN
New Zealand	The Hon. John Key*, Prime Minister
Nigeria	The Hon. Chief Ojo Maduekwe, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Pakistan	The Hon. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Quereshi, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Papua New Guinea	The Rt Hon. Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare*, Prime Minister
Saint Lucia	The Hon. Stephenson King*, Prime Minister
St Kitts and Nevis	The Hon. Dr Denzil Llewellyn Douglas*, Prime Minister
St Vincent and the Grenadines	The Hon. Dr Ralph E Gonsalves*, Prime Minister
Samoa	The Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi*, Prime Minister
Seychelles	HE Mr Joseph Belmont, Vice-President
Sierra Leone	HE Mr Samuel Sam-Sumana, Vice-President
Singapore	The Hon. Lee Hsien Loong*, Prime Minister
South Africa	HE Mr Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma*, President
Sri Lanka	The Hon. Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, Prime Minister

Swaziland	The Hon. Dr Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini*, Prime Minister
Tonga	The Hon. Dr Feleti V Sevele*, Prime Minister
Trinidad and Tobago	The Hon. Patrick Manning*, Prime Minister
Tuvalu	The Hon. Willy Telavi, Minister of Home Affairs
Uganda	HE Mr Yoweri Kaguta Museveni*, President
United Kingdom	The Rt Hon. Gordon Brown*, Prime Minister
United Republic of Tanzania	HE Mr Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete*, President
Vanuatu	The Hon. Edward Nipake Natapei*, Prime Minister
Zambia	HE Mr George Kunda, Vice-President
Commonwealth Secretariat	HE Mr Kamalesh Sharma, Secretary-General

Note

- 1 Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

2011 Perth, Australia

28–30 October 2011

Perth Communiqué

Strengthening the Role of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group

Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles

**Agreement by Heads of Government Regarding the Eminent Persons Group
Proposals: A Commonwealth of the People – Time for Urgent Reform**

Heads of Delegation

Perth Communiqué

Commonwealth Heads of Government met in Perth, Australia, from 28 to 30 October 2011, under the theme ‘Building national resilience, building global resilience’. Reflecting on the unique nature of the Commonwealth, a voluntary association which brings together 54¹ developing and developed nations from 6 continents, Heads reaffirmed their commitment to the values and principles of the Commonwealth and agreed to a series of actions to maintain the Commonwealth’s relevance, to ensure its effectiveness in responding to contemporary global challenges and to build resilient societies and economies. Given the significant challenges facing the global economy, Heads emphasised the importance of the international community working co-operatively to secure a sustainable global recovery. Heads highlighted the importance of a strong response to these challenges to provide the necessary confidence to global markets.

Heads welcomed the report of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG), *A Commonwealth of the People: Time for Urgent Reform*, and thanked members of the EPG for their outstanding work. They agreed that the report provided a strong basis to revitalise the Commonwealth and its institutions and ensure its continued relevance to member countries and their people – today and in the future.

To this end, Heads agreed to the following.

1. Heads agreed to reform of the Commonwealth to ensure that it is a more effective institution, responsive to members’ needs and capable of tackling the significant global challenges of the twenty-first century. This includes:
 - a) the reform of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG);
 - b) consideration of the EPG recommendations on reform;
 - c) strengthening the management and delivery of Commonwealth programmes, including through regular review of their efficiency, effectiveness and results, against measurable indicators;
 - d) to this end, focusing delivery of practical assistance to members through greater prioritisation and alignment of programmes to members’ priorities on the basis of Commonwealth comparative advantage and, where necessary, retiring programmes that do not meet these criteria; and
 - e) undertaking associated reform of the Commonwealth Secretariat and ensuring the adequacy of resources and their appropriate use to enable it to deliver on its agreed mandates.
2. Heads agreed to actively promote, uphold, preserve and defend the fundamental values, principles and aspirations of the Commonwealth. Heads agreed to do this by:
 - a) agreeing to the recommendations of CMAG to strengthen the role of CMAG, in order to enable the group to deal with the full range of serious or persistent violations of Commonwealth values.

- b) resolving that the composition of CMAG for the next biennium should be as follows: Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Jamaica, Maldives, Sierra Leone, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Vanuatu.
- c) agreeing that there should be a Charter of the Commonwealth, as proposed by the EPG, embodying the principles contained in previous declarations, drawn together in a single, consolidated document that is not legally binding.
- d) agreeing to a text for the Charter in 2012, following a process of national consultations, consideration by a task force of Ministers drawn from all geographical groupings of the Commonwealth, and a full meeting of Foreign Ministers in New York in September.
- e) tasking the Secretary-General and CMAG to further evaluate relevant options relating to the EPG's proposal for a Commissioner for Democracy, the Rule of Law and Human Rights and to report back to Foreign Ministers at their September meeting in New York.
- f) noting that the EPG's recommendations relating to CMAG were consistent with the CMAG reforms adopted by Heads at this meeting.
- g) responding to the remaining EPG recommendations as follows:
 - i. adopting without reservation 30 recommendations;
 - ii. adopting, subject to consideration of financial implications, 12 further recommendations;
 - iii. asking the task force of Ministers (paragraph 2(d) above) to provide more detailed advice on 43 other recommendations to Foreign Ministers at their September meeting in New York, as a basis for a further decision by Heads; and
 - iv. deeming 11 recommendations inappropriate for adoption.
- h) strengthening the newly established Commonwealth Network of Election Management Bodies, as well as election monitoring, and supporting capacity-building for professional election administrators.
- i) urging the interim government of Fiji Islands to restore democracy without further delay, to respect human rights and to uphold the rule of law, and reaffirming that the Commonwealth should continue to remain engaged with Fiji and support efforts towards that end.
- j) urging members to consider becoming parties to all major international human rights instruments; to implement fully the rights and freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, as well as those human rights treaties to which they are a party; to uphold these rights and freedoms; to share best practice and lessons learned, including from the United Nations Universal Periodic Review process; and to continue to support the work of national human rights institutions.
- k) promoting tolerance, respect, understanding and religious freedom, which, inter alia, are essential to the development of free and democratic societies.

3. Heads committed to revitalising the Commonwealth's development priorities to ensure it effectively articulates and meets the development needs of member countries today and in the future. To this end Heads:
 - a) agreed the Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles.
 - b) reflected on the multiple development challenges confronting small states in the global economy as a result of their inherent vulnerabilities, and agreed that this is having an adverse impact on their sustainable development and growth prospects. In this context Heads:
 - i. welcomed and endorsed the outcomes of the first Global Biennial Conference of Small States held in 2010.
 - ii. endorsed the outcomes of the Commonwealth and Developing Small States Meeting, which stressed, in relation to Commonwealth and developing small states, least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), the importance of taking urgent action on climate change and sustainable development, particularly through the G20, the UN climate change conference in Durban, and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20); the need to work towards legally binding outcomes under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) capable of avoiding dangerous climate change; the need for enhanced action on adaptation and transparent and accessible climate finance to support developing small states; the need for practical outcomes at Rio+20 on the blue economy to ensure the sustainable management of our oceans as the basis for livelihoods, food security and economic development; and the need for Commonwealth G20 members to reflect these concerns and perspectives at the upcoming G20 summit.
 - iii. agreed that vulnerability to climate change is widespread and particularly affects small states. The Commonwealth has an important role to play in advancing the climate change priorities of Commonwealth small and vulnerable states as well as fostering mutual collaboration among Commonwealth countries in order to address such priorities.
 - iv. agreed to assist small and climate-vulnerable states develop their capacity to respond in a timely and effective way to disasters and to build their national disaster response capabilities.
 - v. welcomed the establishment of the Commonwealth Office for Small States in Geneva and urged further support for it.
 - vi. considered the substantive work that the Commonwealth has done on the issue of small states, including on SIDS, and called for this expertise to be shared with other international institutions, such as the UN, which are involved in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and the Barbados Programme of Action.

- c) recalled the Port of Spain Climate Change Consensus and noted the undisputed threat that climate change poses to the security, prosperity and economic and social development of the people, as well as the impact it has in terms of deepening poverty and affecting the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and reaffirmed their commitment to work towards a shared vision for long-term co-operative action to achieve the objective of the UNFCCC, addressing mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building in a balanced, integrated and comprehensive manner; in this context Heads:
- i. committed to advocate for these actions at the UNFCCC conference in Durban and beyond, for legally binding outcomes;
 - ii. committed to work together to build climate resilience and to facilitate the efficient mobilisation of funding for urgent and effective mitigation, adaptation and capacity-building, prioritising the most vulnerable developing countries, including SIDS, and recognised the importance of markets in maximising global emission reductions at the least possible cost, and the promotion of technology transfer to these countries;
 - iii. recognised the existential impact of climate change on coastal and island communities and emphasised the great importance of building national resilience to ameliorate local climate change-induced population displacement, as well as the imperative to reach strong and effective solutions to reduce global emissions and enhance multilateral, regional and bilateral co-operation on adaptation; and
 - iv. committed to practical action in line with the Lake Victoria Commonwealth Climate Change Action Plan, including efforts to facilitate immediate access to climate change finance and technology transfer, especially for mitigation and adaptation.
- d) agreed to focus on practical and ambitious outcomes at Rio+20 in June 2012 to address the challenges facing this and future generations, including with a view to expediting implementation of the outcomes of the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; in this regard Heads:
- i. committed to advocate urgent action at Rio+20 to assist developing states to build resilience through sustainable development, in particular by taking steps to transition towards green growth trajectories and to strengthen institutional frameworks for achieving this transition. Rio+20 should deliver an outcome which allows progress to be measured in a meaningful way. The value of natural resources should be given due consideration in economic decision-making.
 - ii. agreed to explore options for sharing best practices on resource management and promote initiatives to provide access to monitoring, research, education and training, and technical and policy expertise.

- iii. welcomed the briefing they received on the emerging conclusions of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability.
 - iv. recognised the need to preserve the policy space of countries to frame their own national strategies to prioritise according to their national circumstances.
 - v. supported and upheld the role and place of local government, in partnership with the private sector, for promoting strategies for localism, sustainable development and economic growth, and supported the implementation of the Cardiff Consensus for Local Economic Development in the Commonwealth.
 - vi. recognised the valuable role clean and renewable energy will play in a sustainable future and the importance of promoting the implementation of green technology.
 - vii. recognised the importance of energy security through improved efficiency measures and the promotion of clean and affordable energy, including renewable energy.
 - viii. recognised also the need for sustainable management of oceans for livelihoods, food security and economic development.
 - ix. emphasised that poverty eradication and the provision of universal access to energy for all remain important priorities and that the green economy is a pathway to achieve these objectives on the basis of the Rio Principles of Sustainable Development.
- e) agreed to promote more effective natural resource management through greater transparency and better governance, and, taking account of the values of natural capital in decision-making, build on the Commonwealth's long-standing practical contributions to member governments in this area. To that end, they:
- i. agreed to build capacity in and share best practice on resource management, and welcomed members' initiatives to provide access to research, education and training, and technical and policy expertise;
 - ii. welcomed the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative principles and encouraged Commonwealth countries to consider supporting or implementing them; and
 - iii. committed to combating the illegal exploitation of natural resources, including through supporting the Lusaka Declaration of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region.
- f) agreed to promote inclusive education and to accelerate efforts to achieve quality universal primary education, in line with the MDGs and Education for All goals. They further agreed to:

- i. help children attain basic levels of literacy and numeracy by strengthening international mechanisms and co-operation, including through new technologies;
 - ii. create opportunities for skills development and quality secondary and higher education; and
 - iii. call for a successful completion of the first replenishment of the Global Partnership for Education in Copenhagen in November 2011.
- g) committed to universal access to healthcare and services to improve maternal and reproductive health; to supporting access to safe, affordable and quality medicines; to support for all Commonwealth people by accelerating the implementation of international conventions; and eradicating disease by improving domestic health strategies and immunisation systems. Heads agreed to do this by:
- i. accelerating action and financial support to eradicate polio, including by improving routine immunisation systems;
 - ii. accelerating implementation of the Political Declaration of the UN High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases and the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control;
 - iii. committing to accelerating action to implement the objectives outlined in the 2011 UN Political Declaration on AIDS;
 - iv. recognising that malaria is one of the leading causes of death and a major obstacle to the achievement of sustainable development and poverty alleviation, agreeing to work proactively with key stakeholders and partners towards accelerated implementation of strategies to reduce malarial morbidity and mortality in member countries;
 - v. addressing malnutrition, measles, acute respiratory infections and diarrhoea as leading causes of death for children under five, as well as prevalent diseases such as tuberculosis and rotavirus, including through proven international mechanisms such as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI).
- h) committed to maximise the economic and social benefits of migration to improve the resilience and prosperity of Commonwealth members, whilst addressing the challenges posed by irregular migration, which undermines legal migration policies. They:
- i. called for stronger international co-operation to manage migration effectively in countries of origin, transit and destination, in order to bolster migration's positive effects and to enhance safety nets for migrants;
 - ii. called for co-operation in the fight against irregular migration, including in particular the readmission of own nationals staying irregularly in

- other states, in accordance with bilateral agreements and international obligations;
- iii. in this context, articulated the link between migration and development, affirming the importance of adopting migration strategies that would reduce the cost of migration and create incentives for diaspora communities to invest their financial resources and expertise in the development of their countries of origin; and
 - iv. noted and encouraged participation in the Global Forum on Migration and Development, which Mauritius will host in 2012.
- i) agreed to work together, provide financial support to, and make the policy and institutional changes needed to accelerate achieving the MDGs; and:
 - i. directed the Secretariat to assist members in having their priorities reflected at the special event to be organised by the President of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly to take stock of efforts made towards achieving the MDGs.
 - j) called for renewed international commitment to the principles of aid effectiveness to achieve the MDGs by 2015, more imperative than ever in the current challenging global economic and financial environment and, in this regard, noted with appreciation the Commonwealth Statement on Accelerating Development with More Effective Aid and expressed their desire to achieve a successful outcome at the Fourth High-level Forum in Busan.
 - k) welcomed the launch of the Commonwealth Connects portal as a contemporary platform for networking, building partnerships and strengthening the Commonwealth's values and effectiveness, and encouraged its use.
 - l) reiterated their support for the Commonwealth Connects programme, which is encouraging greater effort from member countries to harness the benefits provided by technology, through promoting strategic partnerships, building information and communication technology (ICT) capacity and sharing ICT expertise. They encouraged member countries to contribute to the Commonwealth Connects Special Fund and requested the Secretariat's continued support for the programme.
4. Heads agreed to work together and with global partners to secure the global economic recovery and ensure a stronger, more sustainable and balanced global economic system that will benefit all Commonwealth countries:
- a) committing to avoid trade protectionism and advocating the importance of an open, transparent and rules-based multilateral trading system as a driver of global growth and to support development, and in this context:
 - i. congratulated the 13 Commonwealth countries that have agreed to formal negotiations to create an African Free Trade Area, covering 26 countries from the Cape to Cairo, by 2014.

- b) committing also to support regional economic integration, enhancing market access and building the capacity of LDCs, landlocked developing states, and other small and vulnerable economies, including SIDS, to participate in and benefit from the global trading and economic system, and to further encourage pan-Commonwealth trade.
- c) reaffirming their commitment to pursuing development-oriented and ambitious results in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Development Round, but noting with grave concern the impasse in current negotiations and calling upon WTO members to make substantive progress at the Eighth WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2011 for an early conclusion of the Doha Round. They:
 - i. reaffirmed the role of the WTO in making rules which keep pace with demands generated by global economic shifts, help police protectionist measures and contribute to a sustainable global economic recovery;
 - ii. urged the international community to accelerate efforts to enhance market access for LDCs, landlocked developing states and SIDS at the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference;
 - iii. urged support for an anti-protectionist pledge at the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference;
 - iv. considered innovative approaches to drive forward trade liberalisation and to strengthen the multilateral rules-based trading system; and
 - v. further reaffirmed the importance of sustained and predictable Aid for Trade (AfT) in strengthening the capacity of developing country members, in particular small and vulnerable economies, to become more competitive and better able to capture opportunities created by more open regional and global markets. To this end, Heads called for continued support for AfT and improved disbursement procedures at the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference.
- d) urging the G20 to take the necessary steps to address current economic instability and to take concrete steps to put open trade, jobs, social protection and economic development at the heart of the recovery. This will provide the necessary confidence to global markets and ensure a more stable global economic environment. In support of this, Heads:
 - i. committed to take all necessary steps to support the global economic recovery;
 - ii. supported ongoing high-level political engagement with the G20 Chair and, in this context, welcomed the interaction of the Secretaries-General of the Commonwealth and La Francophonie with the Chair of the G20, as initiated in 2010;
 - iii. agreed that Commonwealth G20 members would undertake to convey Commonwealth members' perspectives and priority concerns to the G20 Summit in Cannes, France; and

- iv. agreed to launch an annual officials-level Commonwealth meeting on the G20 development agenda, building on the Commonwealth's current contributions to the G20 Development Working Group.
 - e) agreeing to reduce the cost of remittance transfers by removing barriers to remitting and encouraging greater competition in the transfer market by endorsing the World Bank's General Principles for International Remittance Services.
 - i. In line with this, Heads committed to implement practical measures at the national level to reduce the cost of remittances.
5. Heads committed to improving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Commonwealth:
 - a) supporting national programmes to this effect, including initiatives to eliminate gender-based violence, intensifying efforts to promote women's decision-making roles at all levels and continuing to improve advocacy for women's leadership and the empowerment of women as leaders.
 - b) implementing international instruments and agreements on women's rights, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005–2015, the Joint Statement on Advancing Women's Political Participation² and UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) 1325, 1888 and 1889.³
 - c) applauding the work of the Secretariat in promoting the significance of the 2011 Commonwealth Day Theme 'Women as agents of change' and the centrality of gender equality and the empowerment of women to achieving the MDGs.
 - d) directing the Secretariat to institutionalise the principles of gender mainstreaming, as enshrined in the Commonwealth Plan of Action; to provide recommendations to Heads, through the Tenth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting (WAMM), on steps that need to be taken to mainstream gender equality across all Commonwealth work; and to make real progress on implementation of the Plan of Action.
 - e) supporting the call made by Ministers at the Ninth WAMM held in Bridgetown, Barbados, in June 2010 for a more effective response from all actors in the global community to the disproportionately negative impact of the current international and national economic crises on women.
 - f) giving due consideration to the domestic legislation of member countries; the Commonwealth may address the issue of early and forced marriage, and consider actions to support the rights of women and children and to share its best practices to promote the implementation of measures to tackle early and forced marriage.

6. Heads committed to providing a greater voice and a more effective role for youth in the Commonwealth, who represent over 50 per cent of the Commonwealth population. To this end, Heads committed to:
 - a) directing the Commonwealth Secretariat to undertake an assessment of the Commonwealth's progress on the Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment, to be submitted with recommendations to Heads, through the Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting in 2012, on steps that need to be taken to improve youth engagement and empowerment;
 - b) enhancing communication with youth, collecting and sharing good practices, and ensuring that the voice of youth is represented in Commonwealth actions at national and international levels; and
 - c) recognising the important role of government, the private sector and technical and vocational training institutions in addressing youth unemployment, and the vital importance of sport in assisting young people to stay healthy, contribute to society and develop into leaders of their communities.
7. Heads agreed to maintain their commitment to a stable and secure national and international environment as a foundation for sustainable growth and resilience for Commonwealth countries and the broader international community. Heads committed to improving international security by:
 - a) unequivocally preventing the use of their territories for the support, incitement to violence or commission of terrorist acts, implementing the necessary legal framework for the suppression of terrorist financing, and preventing the raising and use of funds by terrorists, terrorist front organisations and transnational terrorist organisations;
 - b) accelerating efforts to conclude negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism;
 - c) accelerating efforts to combat piracy in a manner consistent with international law and to strengthen maritime security, including through enhancing the capacity of coastal states;
 - d) urging the international community to recognise that the menace of piracy in the Indian Ocean cannot be effectively tackled in the absence of political stability and security in Somalia, urging concerted efforts towards strengthening the Transitional Federal Government and other state institutions, including the security sector, encouraging the international community to mobilise additional funding for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), as appropriate, and encouraging global support in combating piracy and terrorism, including through enhanced maritime security;
 - e) encouraging states to continue supporting the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia in its co-ordination of international counter-piracy efforts;

- f) combating proliferation and trafficking of illicit small arms and light weapons;
 - g) embracing moderation as an important value to overcome all forms of extremism, as called for by the Global Movement of the Moderates;
 - h) encouraging participation in the 2012 Diplomatic Conference to negotiate on the basis of consensus an effective Arms Trade Treaty which is of broad universal acceptance;
 - i) improving legislation and capacity in tackling cybercrime and other cyberspace security threats, including through the Commonwealth Internet Governance Forum's Cybercrime Initiative;
 - j) affirming support for the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and its Seventh Review Conference in December 2011; and
 - k) continuing to tackle the root causes of conflict, including through the promotion of democracy, development and strong legitimate institutions.
8. Heads agreed to combat people smuggling and human trafficking by clamping down on illicit criminal organisations and bringing the perpetrators of these crimes to justice, while protecting and supporting the victims of trafficking. Heads committed to:
- a) fight people smuggling as part of their broader efforts to maintain border integrity and manage migration, including through enhancing border security and regional co-operation;
 - b) put in place the necessary legal and administrative framework to address the challenge of human trafficking, affirming their commitment to the principle of solidarity and co-operation between states with regard to the identification, assistance and protection of victims of trafficking; and
 - c) comply with all obligations arising under international law, and urged all countries to become parties to and implement, the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.
9. Heads agreed to promote the future of the Commonwealth through the strong and important voice of its people, by:
- a) welcoming the contribution made by intergovernmental, associated and other Commonwealth organisations, including the Commonwealth Foundation, the Commonwealth of Learning, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Commonwealth Business Council (CBC), the Commonwealth Local Government Forum and the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management;

- b) urging Commonwealth organisations and civil society to enhance Commonwealth networks and partnerships with a view to achieving the fundamental values and aspirations of the Commonwealth;
 - c) relaunching the Commonwealth Foundation in 2012, while retaining its fundamental intergovernmental nature and maintaining its accountability to member countries, with a revised mandate and memorandum of understanding so that it can more effectively deliver the objectives of strengthening and mobilising civil society in support of Commonwealth principles and priorities; and
 - d) welcoming the outcomes of the Commonwealth People's Forum, Business Forum and Youth Forum.
10. Heads agreed to reaffirm previous Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) communiqués on the Republic of Cyprus and express full support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus and the efforts of the leaders of the two communities, under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General's Good Offices Mission, to bring about a comprehensive Cyprus settlement, based on the UN Charter and the relevant UNSCRs for a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty, a single international personality and a single citizenship, in a bicomunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as described in the relevant UNSCRs. Heads called for the implementation of UNSCRs, in particular 365 (1974), 541 (1983), 550 (1984), and 1251 (1999), and reiterated their support for the full respect of the human rights of all Cypriots and for the accounting for all missing persons. They also extended their full support and solidarity to the Republic of Cyprus in the exercise of its sovereign rights under international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, to explore and exploit the natural resources in its exclusive economic zone.
11. Heads noted recent developments in the ongoing efforts of Belize to seek a just, peaceful and definitive resolution to Guatemala's territorial claims. Heads noted that, due to the electoral campaigns scheduled in both Belize and Guatemala in the coming months, it was envisaged that the earliest date for the referendums required to submit the matter to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) would be in late 2013. Heads expressed a high level of confidence that the dispute could be resolved through the judicial procedure of the ICJ and urged the support and financial assistance of the international community for this process. Heads further expressed satisfaction with the ongoing confidence-building measures supported by the Organization of American States, which had contributed immensely to stability in the adjacent border areas of Belize and Guatemala. They noted with concern the environmental problems being faced by Belize in its national parks along its adjacent areas with Guatemala due to the increasing encroachments by Guatemalan citizens for illegal logging. Heads reiterated their firm support for the territorial integrity, security and sovereignty of Belize and mandated the Secretary-General to continue to convene the Commonwealth Ministerial Committee on Belize whenever necessary.

12. Having received a report on Guyana–Venezuela relations, Heads expressed their satisfaction that the relations between the two countries continued to grow and deepen. Heads noted that the Foreign Ministers of Guyana and Venezuela had met recently in Trinidad and Tobago to address the concerns of the Government of Venezuela over Guyana’s submission of a claim to an extended continental shelf to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. Heads expressed the view that the current climate in the relations between Guyana and Venezuela was conducive to the realisation of the mandate of the UN Good Offices Process. Heads reaffirmed their unequivocal support for the maintenance and safeguarding of Guyana’s territorial integrity and sovereignty.
13. Heads welcomed the interest shown by the Government of South Sudan in joining the Commonwealth and to request the Secretariat to pursue the established procedures in this regard.
14. Heads looked forward to the conditions being created for the return of Zimbabwe to the Commonwealth and continued to encourage the parties to implement the Global Political Agreement faithfully and effectively.
15. Heads congratulated the Head of the Commonwealth on her Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Heads welcomed proposed Commonwealth initiatives to mark this historic occasion, in particular the establishment of a Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, which would be funded by private donations and voluntary contributions from governments. This will support charitable projects and organisations across the Commonwealth, focusing on areas such as tackling curable diseases, the promotion of all forms of education and culture, and other Commonwealth priorities.
16. Heads reappointed Mr Kamallesh Sharma as Commonwealth Secretary-General for a further four-year term commencing April 2012.
17. Finally, Heads reaffirmed their decisions to meet next in Sri Lanka in 2013 and thereafter in Mauritius in 2015, as well as to welcome the offer by Malaysia to host the 2019 CHOGM.

30 October 2011

Strengthening the Role of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group

At the Trinidad and Tobago CHOGM in 2009, Heads of Government agreed that consideration be given to strengthening the role of CMAG, in order to enable the group to deal with the full range of serious or persistent violations of the Harare Principles. They also noted the decision of CMAG to constitute a working group of its own member countries to look into how its work may be further refined and elaborated to make it more effective, in consultation with other member countries, and to make proposals on this matter to the wider membership. They agreed that this examination should be confined to matters within CMAG’s existing mandate and that any proposals for going beyond that mandate should be referred to Heads.

Background

1. The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group was established by Heads of Government in 1995 as part of the Millbrook Action Programme. It was set up as a mechanism to deal with serious or persistent violations of the principles set out in the 1991 Harare Declaration (the Harare Principles).
2. The group, which is convened by the Secretary-General, originally comprised the Foreign Ministers of eight countries, with the discretion to invite the participation, on an ad hoc basis, of the Foreign Minister of any other member country that could add value to CMAG's consideration of a particular situation. At the Coolum CHOGM in 2002, Heads agreed that the Foreign Minister of the country of the Chairperson-in-Office should also be an ex officio member of CMAG. Since then, CMAG has comprised the Foreign Ministers of nine member countries.
3. CMAG members normally serve two terms of two years each, but Heads decided at Coolum that a member 'could be retained for a third term if this was deemed desirable to preserve continuity, institutional knowledge, or to provide linkages with international organisations'. The composition of CMAG is reviewed every two years, at CHOGM. Heads of Government ensure regional balance, continuity and institutional memory by staggering the rotation of CMAG members.
4. CMAG was tasked with assessing the nature of an infringement of the Commonwealth's fundamental political values, as enshrined in the Harare Principles, and recommending measures for collective Commonwealth action aimed at the speedy restoration of democracy and constitutional rule. In the Millbrook Action Programme, Heads of Government agreed on a series of measures that CMAG should take in response to serious or persistent violation of the Harare Principles.
5. The first attempt to expand and clarify CMAG's mandate was an initiative in 1997 by the then Secretary-General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, to compile a set of 'triggers' for action by CMAG. This proposal advocated the formal consideration by CMAG of a country situation when any of the following three criteria were applicable: (a) the postponement of national elections beyond the constitutional life of a government without following prescribed constitutional procedures; (b) the systematic banning or impeding by a government of the legitimate political activities of opposition parties, groups, individuals and the media; or (c) systematic and widespread violation of the fundamental human rights of a country's citizens through the abrogation of the rule of law or the independence of the judiciary. These proposals were first submitted by Chief Anyaoku to CMAG itself, which initially could not come to agreement on them. He then made soundings with some Heads of Government at the 1997 Edinburgh CHOGM, but the proposal was not pursued on that occasion.
6. In 1999, CMAG endorsed the then Secretary-General's proposals and they were thereafter considered by Heads of Government at the Durban CHOGM.

However, some Heads of Government felt that amending the mandate of CMAG at that early stage in its existence was premature and that reform could be contemplated once the body had been tested further in actual practice.

7. In 2000, following a review of its own role, CMAG submitted a paper entitled *Realising Millbrook* to the High-level Review Group (HLRG), a group of Heads of Government tasked with reviewing the role of the Commonwealth in the twenty-first century. In this document, CMAG made a number of recommendations on how to respond to situations involving 'serious or persistent violations', whether involving the unconstitutional overthrow of a legitimate government or otherwise. For the first time, CMAG also sought to establish a distinction between 'suspension from the Councils of the Commonwealth' and 'full suspension'.
8. Having considered *Realising Millbrook*, the HLRG concluded that the existing procedure set out in the Millbrook Action Programme to deal with an unconstitutional overthrow of a democratically elected government was sufficient and did not require further elaboration.
9. However, in relation to circumstances where a country is perceived to be in 'serious or persistent violation' of the Harare Principles other than an unconstitutional overthrow of a democratically elected government, the HLRG agreed on a six-step approach. This was endorsed by Heads of Government at the Coolum CHOGM in 2002 and has come to be known as the 'six-step Coolum procedure'; it is the currently valid procedure for dealing with such situations.
10. The 2009 CHOGM mandate set out at the beginning of this paper has arisen against this backdrop.

Relevant Considerations

11. In considering the 2009 mandate from Heads of Government, CMAG noted the widely shared view that in the past it had been too reactive, and not sufficiently proactive, in addressing serious or persistent violations of Commonwealth fundamental values. This view reflects the belief that CMAG has dealt decisively with situations where constitutionally elected governments had been overthrown, but that it had not always been able to address situations where Commonwealth values and principles were being seriously or persistently violated without governments actually being overthrown.
12. CMAG noted the prevalent perception of the group as a punitive body. It acknowledged that member governments perceived a stigma associated with being placed on its agenda and that this made it difficult for CMAG to engage with members constructively.
13. In considering its mandate, CMAG was conscious of the Commonwealth being a values-based organisation and of the onerous responsibility placed upon the group as a custodian of the Commonwealth's fundamental values and principles. It also noted the pioneering role that the group had played in this context, having enhanced the Commonwealth's profile on the international stage. CMAG was therefore fully mindful of the importance of its reputation and credibility being preserved.

14. CMAG recalled that at its inception the group's mandate had been explicitly tied to the protection of the Commonwealth's fundamental political values as enshrined in the Harare Declaration. It noted, however, that the Commonwealth had added important principles to those contained in the Harare Declaration, such as the Latimer House Principles,⁴ and that the 2009 Affirmation of Commonwealth Values and Principles – adopted by Heads of Government to mark the 60th anniversary of the modern Commonwealth – reflected the most recent and comprehensive statement of the association's core beliefs. CMAG was therefore of the view that hereafter it would be appropriate for CMAG to act as a custodian of the political values set out in the 2009 Affirmation.
15. The group considered the aforementioned six-step procedure agreed at Coolum to be difficult to realise in practice and not sufficiently time-bound.
16. In reviewing the Coolum procedure, the group agreed that:
 - CMAG needs to strike the right balance between its role as a body that can recommend and apply sanctions when serious derogations take place and one that can play a supportive and constructive role to prevent such derogations from occurring in the first place.
 - Early, regular and sustained engagement⁴ with the relevant member country is necessary to develop a more constructive and positive approach to specific situations of concern.
 - CMAG's existing procedures to address the unconstitutional overthrow of a democratically elected government, while effective, have actually evolved in practice since they were agreed in 1995 and therefore merit refinement.
 - The group needs to be more proactive in its approach to country situations that could be deemed to constitute serious or persistent violations of Commonwealth fundamental political values other than an unconstitutional overthrow of a government.
 - The current six-step Coolum procedure should be reviewed to make CMAG more responsive to situations that merit its attention, to enable CMAG to be more proactive at an earlier stage, and to protect the credibility and reputation of CMAG and the wider Commonwealth.
 - The link between the Good Offices of the Secretary-General and the work of CMAG could be strengthened to provide greater complementarity between these roles.⁵ In this context, the authority of CMAG ought to be reinforced and further recognised.
 - There should be closer consultation between the Chair of CMAG and the Secretary-General on country situations of concern as required, be it to address structural deficiencies in democratic institutions or actual violations of Commonwealth values.
 - Consultation with relevant regional and/or other international organisations may be desirable in some situations in addressing a situation of concern and in supporting adherence to the Commonwealth's core values.

- Submissions from relevant accredited Commonwealth organisations would be a valuable resource in supplementing the information available to CMAG in its consideration of country situations and would be welcomed.
- Given the sensitive role it discharges, CMAG's actions need to be based on the most reliable and objective evidence about a country situation, including the state of democracy, rule of law and human rights.

Recommendations

17. CMAG recommends to Heads of Government that the group should hereafter act as a custodian of the political values set out in the 2009 Affirmation. It further recommends the following approach to enhance its effectiveness set out below.

A: In the case of serious or persistent violations of Commonwealth fundamental political values that do not involve an unconstitutional overthrow of a democratically elected government

18. The current procedure for addressing serious or persistent violations of Commonwealth values, other than the unconstitutional overthrow of a democratically elected government, should be revised as follows:
- i. The Secretary-General should, in the first instance, take cognisance of a situation of concern, be it a significant structural deficiency in a democratic institution or a serious or persistent violation of Commonwealth values, and raise it with the member country in question, affording it an opportunity to respond and offering his or her Good Offices to redress the situation.
 - ii. The Secretary-General's Good Offices engagement with the government concerned could include (a) the appointment of an envoy, (b) the offer of advice and technical assistance in relevant areas to help redress the issues of concern and (c) consultation with relevant regional leaders, with regional and other international organisations as well as other relevant Commonwealth bodies.
 - iii. The Secretary-General will consult the Chair of CMAG on relevant country situations, as required, including where his or her Good Offices engagements are active. The Secretary-General would, of course, also retain the ability to brief and consult the Commonwealth Chairperson-in-Office on matters under consideration and seek his or her intervention as appropriate.
 - iv. In the spirit of the principles expressed in paragraphs 11 and 16, any member country may draw to the attention of the Secretary-General a situation of concern in a fellow member country that is perceived to be a significant violation of Commonwealth fundamental political values, offering supporting evidence.
 - v. If the Secretary-General recognises that a situation is indeed a matter that may constitute a serious or persistent violation of Commonwealth values, he or she will undertake an assessment of the situation in question, using relevant

evidentiary sources, and accordingly bring it to the attention of CMAG, also citing, subject to his or her discretion, the sources of information that have led him or her to conclude that it constitutes a 'serious or persistent violation'. In coming to this judgement, the Secretary-General will take into account such circumstances in the member country in question that include but are not limited to the following:

- the unilateral abrogation of a democratic constitution or serious threats to constitutional rule;
- the suspension or prevention of the lawful functioning of parliament or other key democratic institutions;
- the postponement of national elections without constitutional or other reasonable justification;
- the systematic denial of political space, such as through detention of political leaders or restriction of freedom of association, assembly or expression.

If, within a maximum of two months of an offer of engagement and of targeted assistance for institutional support and capacity-building being made by the Secretary-General, the member government in question fails to respond appropriately and the perception of serious or persistent violation of fundamental political values continues, the Secretary-General would consult with the Chair of CMAG on the way forward.

- vi. In reaching a judgement and advising CMAG, the Secretary-General could also reflect on the following circumstances:
- a national electoral process that is seriously flawed;
 - the abrogation of the rule of law or undermining of the independence of the judiciary;
 - the systematic violation of human rights of the population, or of any communities or groups, by the member government concerned; and
 - significant restrictions on the media or civil society that prevent them from playing their legitimate role.

The Secretary-General would have the discretion to allow a longer response period in such cases, where structural or other considerations in the relevant country in question would so warrant.

- vii. If, following consultation and further attempts at engagement with the member government by the Secretary-General, with the encouragement and support of the Chair of CMAG, the response and progress remain inadequate, the Secretary-General shall brief CMAG on that country situation at its next regular meeting under the agenda item 'Other matters of interest'. This would allow CMAG Ministers to consider the matter without it being reflected in their concluding statement in the first instance. The member government

concerned will be informed in advance of this course of action and invited to submit its views to CMAG.

- viii. Since CMAG sets its own agenda, it will be free to discuss any matters raised by CMAG members under 'Other matters of interest' or as formal agenda items.
- ix. If no regular CMAG meeting is scheduled to take place within a reasonable timeframe to enable such an oral briefing to members, the Secretary-General shall communicate in writing with CMAG members.
- x. If, after a further maximum of two months from CMAG being briefed on the situation, in the judgement of the Secretary-General and the Chair of CMAG, all efforts at engagement have been exhausted and there continues to be no progress by the relevant member country in addressing the issues of concern, the situation shall be brought onto the formal agenda of CMAG for appropriate consideration.
- xi. In its consideration of a situation of concern, CMAG will use its discretion in making use of reliable evidentiary sources, both governmental and non-governmental. Any formal assessment of whether serious or persistent violations of fundamental Commonwealth values and principles have taken place will be made by Ministers exercising their political judgement and taking into account the full range of evidence available to them. They will have full recourse to the range of measures cited in scenario B below.
- xii. In circumstances where the violation of Commonwealth values is, in the Secretary-General's opinion, particularly serious and requires an urgent response, or poses a significant imminent threat to citizens, or where there is an imperative for CMAG to act immediately to ensure it is in step with developments and international reactions, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chair of CMAG, should call an extraordinary meeting of CMAG as soon as possible to brief members on the situation and allow appropriate consideration by members.

B: In the case of an unconstitutional overthrow of a democratically elected government

- 19. Measures to address the unconstitutional overthrow of a democratically elected government are already set out in the Millbrook Action Programme. These should continue to guide CMAG, but should be refined as follows to take into account the working practice that has developed over time in response to such situations:
 - i. Immediate public expression by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth's collective disapproval of such a serious violation of its fundamental political values.
 - ii. The Secretary-General should make early contact with the de facto government, followed by the offer of Good Offices and appropriate technical assistance to facilitate an early restoration of democracy.
 - iii. Consultations with member countries, as well as regional, Commonwealth and other international organisations, including encouragement of *démarches*

by such parties where appropriate – to express disapproval, to offer help and to support early restoration of democracy.

- iv. CMAG to meet within four weeks of an unconstitutional overthrow and, pending restoration of democracy, to suspend the member country concerned from the Councils of the Commonwealth. This would entail the exclusion of the government concerned from all Commonwealth intergovernmental meetings and events, including ministerial meetings and CHOGM, as well as a halt to new Commonwealth technical assistance other than that directed towards the restoration of democracy.
- v. CMAG to stipulate a timeframe of up to a maximum of two years for the concerned member country to hold credible elections.
- vi. Consideration of a CMAG ministerial delegation or emissary to the country if such a mission is deemed desirable, taking into account other international initiatives in play.
- vii. If acceptable progress is not made by the government concerned within the timeframe set out in (v) above, CMAG will fully suspend the country from membership of the Commonwealth. Full suspension would entail, in addition to the measures set out in (iv) above, the removal of all emblematic representation of the country concerned from the Commonwealth Secretariat, at Commonwealth meetings and at all other official Commonwealth events; and the exclusion of the country from all pan-Commonwealth events, including sport and cultural activities.
- viii. All Commonwealth organisations would be expected to act in conformity with the letter and spirit of decisions by CMAG, as already called for in the 2009 Affirmation.
- ix. Consideration by all member countries of appropriate further bilateral and multilateral measures. These could include limitation of government-to-government contacts, people-to-people measures and trade restrictions.
- x. In circumstances of continuing serious breaches of the Commonwealth's fundamental political values following full suspension, CMAG may consider recommending to Heads of Government that the member country concerned be expelled from the Commonwealth.
- xi. CMAG will continue its engagement with those members who have been suspended or expelled, with a view to redressing the situation and facilitating the reinstatement of the countries concerned.

C: Operational issues

20. In both scenarios A and B above, the following procedures will apply:

- i. CMAG will hold two regular meetings each year, one in London in the first half of the year and the other in New York, in the wings of the UN General Assembly Session in September/October. It will also continue to meet on the eve of CHOGM to finalise its report to Heads of Government.

- ii. Extraordinary meetings of CMAG will continue to take place as necessitated by events.
 - iii. In urgent situations, CMAG should endeavour to meet within a maximum of four weeks from a meeting being proposed by the Secretary-General. In such circumstances, if neither the Chair nor the Vice-Chair is available to preside, the Chair should provide delegated authority to another minister to preside, in order to allow the meeting to go ahead within the aforementioned timeframe.
 - iv. Should the Chair of CMAG demit ministerial office during his or her term as Chair, CMAG shall elect a new Chair.
 - v. CMAG is a high-level ministerial mechanism, established by leaders to enable political-level scrutiny of sensitive issues and situations. Senior officials may, however, be directed by Ministers to meet from time to time on an ad hoc basis, to make recommendations to the latter if required.
 - vi. For each CMAG meeting that a member country is on the formal CMAG agenda, the said member shall be afforded the opportunity to present its case to CMAG, in writing or orally.
 - vii. The Secretary-General, at his or her discretion and in consultation with the Chair of CMAG when desirable, may determine the utility and timing of issuing (a) public statement(s) of concern about a specific country situation.
 - viii. Whenever CMAG takes a decision with regard to the status of a member country, the Secretary-General shall inform the heads of relevant regional, Commonwealth and international organisations as appropriate, as well as the governments of selected non-Commonwealth countries if deemed desirable, of such a decision and its implications. This would be with a view to ensuring coherent action by the international community and avoidance of mixed messages to the member country concerned.
21. CMAG hopes that the above refinements to its existing mandate and operating procedures can offer greater clarity to its role and enhance its effectiveness in promoting and protecting the Commonwealth's fundamental political values.

Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles

1. Food insecurity is one of the most pressing and difficult global challenges of our time. This is a profound concern for the Commonwealth – half of the world's one billion hungry live in our nations. The global food crises of 2007 and 2008 and the ongoing volatility and uncertainty of world food markets underscore the need for sustained international engagement with the issue. The distressing humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa, most particularly in Somalia, and the drought, famine and famine-like situations occurring in other most vulnerable countries in the developing world highlight the difficulties we face.
2. Population growth will have a major impact on global demand for food. Additional factors, including scarce land and water resources, the diversion of fertile land, the

reduction in crop species and use of crops for non-food purposes, urbanisation, distorted markets, and climate change, are intensifying pressures on supply. The world's poor and most vulnerable suffer most from food insecurity.

3. Commonwealth countries reaffirm the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.
4. Commonwealth member countries affirm the important role that women, youth, farming and fishing communities, civil society and the private sector play in sustainable development and the need for their effective involvement in driving climate-smart agriculture and the food security agenda.
5. The Commonwealth is uniquely placed to support global food security efforts through Commonwealth countries' membership in all major global and regional forums that are engaged on this issue. Commonwealth countries therefore commit to use their membership of these forums to advocate the Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles to achieve outcomes that are relevant and meaningful to members. Commonwealth members further commit to use the Perth Declaration principles as a guide to support domestic efforts to build food security.
6. The Perth Declaration principles reflect our shared approach to addressing the challenge of food insecurity and are focused on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable, particularly women and children.
7. The Perth Declaration principles on food security call for:
 - a) co-ordinated and timely regional and global emergency relief efforts to deal with immediate crises;
 - b) undertaking decisive and timely measures to prevent crises occurring, mitigate their impact when they do and build resilience;
 - c) delivering practical measures over the medium term to make agriculture, including irrigated agriculture, and fisheries more productive and sustainable;
 - d) strengthening support to government-led programmes and initiatives based on the spirit of effective partnerships;
 - e) development of country-led medium- to long-term strategies and programmes to improve food security and ensure alignment of donor support to implementation of country priorities;
 - f) scaling up nutritional interventions, including those that target mothers and young children, and incorporating nutrition considerations into broad food security initiatives;
 - g) enhancing research and development over the longer term to build a sustainable agricultural sector, including through the promotion and sharing of best agricultural practices, in order to feed and nourish the people of the world;
 - h) strengthening fisheries and marine resource management in member countries' waters to ensure sustainability of these resources for national and

- global food security, including through addressing illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing;
- i) improving international market access for food producers, including smallholders and women, through trade liberalisation measures such as the elimination of tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, and avoidance of restrictions on food exports;
 - j) addressing the impediments that are inhibiting economic opportunities for these important producers, including lack of affordable financing, local value-added and adequate infrastructure;
 - k) collaboration between international organisations, donor countries and national governments to address production, storage, waste reduction, elimination of post-harvest losses, transportation and marketing challenges; this collaboration could include more effective ways of meeting infrastructure financing gaps that engage the private sector; and
 - l) improving the institutional framework for global food security efforts, including by supporting reform of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
8. Commonwealth countries recognise that Africa has the potential not only to achieve food security but to become a significant net food exporter. Leaders commit to supporting efforts and initiatives such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), designed to realise the long-term potential of Africa as a food producer and exporter.
 9. To support African agricultural production, Commonwealth countries have committed to direct action through major investments in agricultural productivity.
 10. Commonwealth countries recognise the critical role played by national and international agricultural research in promoting and sharing agricultural technologies for enhanced crop yields, and undertake to deepen their co-operation.
 11. Commonwealth countries also underline their critical role in managing and safeguarding a large proportion of the world's fish stocks.
 12. In advocating the Perth Declaration principles, Commonwealth countries acknowledge the central role played by the UN in global food security governance and commit to show leadership in the UN by supporting food and nutrition security initiatives.
 13. Committed to using the collective Commonwealth voice to influence global action, Commonwealth members urge the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 to commit to an ambitious programme of action to drive increased investment to boost sustainable global agricultural and fisheries productivity.
 14. The Commonwealth, through its five G20 members, further commits to advocate for strong outcomes on food security at the G20 Cannes Summit, including to

increase investment in appropriate agricultural technologies and sustainable productivity, to address market volatility and other market-distorting factors, and for food security, including fisheries, to be accorded a high priority within the forward G20 development agenda.

15. Recognising the ongoing critical food security needs, the Commonwealth welcomes the substantial contributions made by Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia in fulfilment of their LAquila Food Security Initiative commitments and calls on countries that have not yet fulfilled their food security commitments to do so.
16. Commonwealth countries will continue to prioritise food security and will assess progress towards implementation of these principles on food security at the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2013.

29 October 2011

Agreement by Heads of Government Regarding the Eminent Persons Group Proposals: A Commonwealth of the People – Time for Urgent Reform

Decisions by Heads of Government regarding the proposals of the Eminent Persons Group

In welcoming the report of the EPG, and thanking its members for their outstanding work, Heads of Government:

1. agreed that there should be a Charter of the Commonwealth, as proposed by the EPG, embodying the principles contained in previous declarations, drawn together in a single, consolidated document that is not legally binding;
2. tasked the Secretary-General and the CMAG to further evaluate relevant options relating to the EPG's proposal for the Commissioner for Democracy, the Rule of Law and Human Rights, and to report back to Foreign Ministers at their September 2012 meeting in New York;
3. noted that the EPG's recommendations relating to CMAG were consistent with the CMAG reforms adopted at this CHOGM; the EPG's recommendations related to CMAG or the rule of law (2–10) were therefore superseded by the agreement on CMAG's own reform plan;
4. adopted without reservation a further 30 recommendations;
5. adopted, subject to consideration of financial implications, 12 further recommendations;
6. asked a task force of Ministers to provide more detailed advice on 43 other recommendations to Foreign Ministers at their September 2012 meeting in New York, as a basis for a further decision by Heads; and
7. deemed, for a variety of reasons, 11 of the recommendations inappropriate for adoption.

Against this background, below is a list of the adopted recommendations, and those which are subject to further consideration and advice.

The following 30 proposals were adopted without reservation.

Recommendation no. (page no.)

17. (p.52) The Secretariat should continue actively to explore, with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance and other relevant institutions, ways in which the Commonwealth could co-operate with them in training programmes for Commonwealth countries.
18. (p.55) The core values of the 2009 Affirmation of Commonwealth Values and Principles (which updates and expands on the earlier 1971 Singapore Declaration and 1991 Harare Declaration and the 2003 Commonwealth [Latimer House] Principles on the Three Branches of Government) should be deemed to be 'core Commonwealth priorities' about which the Secretary-General shall speak out publicly as appropriate.
20. (p.63) The Secretary-General should develop a clear strategy, marked by identified priorities, to maximise the Commonwealth's contribution to the achievement of the development goals of its member states. Such enhanced development work, informed by Commonwealth values and aspirations, by Commonwealth positions, and with guidance from member governments, should include: (i) advocacy and consensus building on pertinent issues as required; (ii) networking between all member governments for co-operation; and (iii) provision of assistance for institutional development.
29. (p.73) The Secretariat should develop an overall strategy for capacity development in small states – including, but not limited to, training of personnel – that is appropriate to the needs and constraints of small states.
31. (p.75) Heads of Government should take a collective interest in the debt challenges facing developing Commonwealth states and small states in particular. In this context, they should instruct the Secretariat to continue to advise member countries on how to avoid unsustainable and risky debt by putting in place adequate legislation and institutional structures for the prudent management of their debts. This should include periodic analysis of the long-term cost and risk of borrowings and the development of appropriate debt management policies to ensure that debt levels remain sustainable at all times.
33. (p.76) The five Commonwealth members of the G20 should advocate for the Commonwealth's perspectives and policy proposals on debt, and press for discussions on this issue in the G20's policy-making bodies such as the High-Level Development Working Group. The Secretary-General should also seek to advance these issues through high-level engagement with successive G20 Chairs.
34. (p.76) Member states should take advantage of the Secretariat's debt management software and the Secretary-General should be proactive in informing member states, as appropriate, of the availability and utility of software.

39. (p.86) The Commonwealth's work in respect of climate change should place a special focus on small island developing states,⁶ particularly advocacy in the international community to provide them with financing for adaptation and mitigation.
40. (p.86) All Commonwealth governments should keep the dangers of climate change alive in the international community through regular statements by Ministers in all the relevant multilateral and international organisations.
41. (p.87) Heads of Government and Ministers should regularly brief the media in their own countries and in other capitals to which they travel on the specific challenges of climate change with which their countries and the global community are confronted.
44. (p.89) Heads of Government should endorse the Commonwealth Cultural Festival proposed to take place in London in 2012 to coincide with the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the Head of the Commonwealth.
46. (p.89) Heads of Government should mandate Ministers responsible for culture and sport to explore adding to their national and regional cultural, sports and music festivals a specific Commonwealth dimension including by inviting the participation of cultural groups from other Commonwealth countries.
47. (p.90) Heads of Government should welcome the creation of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and express the hope that this venture will become the first of many initiatives that celebrate the variety and excellence of art and culture in all their forms throughout the Commonwealth.
50. (p.94) The Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) should be encouraged to develop a constitution that will help to form an independent and youth-led Commonwealth Youth Council that becomes the recognised voice of youth in the Commonwealth. This Council could significantly strengthen and widen the current pan-Commonwealth Youth Caucus and represent a wide cross-section of youth in the Commonwealth.
54. (p.97) All Commonwealth organisations should review their governance arrangements, including employment policies, oversight boards/committees and work programmes to ensure that women are included as decision-makers, and also take women's concerns and needs into account in a manner that would advance their status.
55. (p.97) The Secretariat should be authorised to strengthen its advocacy of women's issues and to make greater efforts to highlight the specific needs of women in its work related to the challenges of development, trade and investment, debt and climate change.
57. (p.101) The Secretary-General should ensure that HIV/AIDS is prominent in the agendas of all relevant Commonwealth meetings including those of Law Ministers, Health Ministers, Ministers for Women's Affairs and Youth Ministers to determine and prioritise ongoing measures that Commonwealth governments could implement at the national level as well as such advocacy and mobilisation efforts that could be undertaken internationally.

66. (p.110) *Duration*: It is not practical for CHOGM to be any longer than its current duration. While we acknowledge the considerable number of demands by those gathering in events at the margins to have access to leaders, the essence of successful CHOGMs lies in continuing to ensure the maximum amount of time possible for Heads of Government to meet privately for frank and full discussion.
73. (p.116) Ministers should continue to consider the relative usefulness of stand-alone Commonwealth meetings as against meetings coinciding with larger international conferences. If meetings are held alongside other international events, Ministers should commit themselves to attending them fully. The duration and programme of such sessions should reflect the special Commonwealth dimensions and produce an action-oriented set of initiatives.
74. (p.116) Meetings of Education Ministers and Law Ministers and Attorneys-General should continue to be stand-alone events.
82. (p.124) The Secretariat and the Foundation should continue to explore the alignment and sharing, where appropriate, of corporate functions, so as to ensure consistency in working practices, as well as to reduce costs and duplication.
87. (p.132) 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.
88. (p.132) The Commonwealth Business Council should review its governance to make its membership and its work inclusive of businesses in all Commonwealth countries. It should mount programmes specifically for investment from developed Commonwealth countries into developing Commonwealth states. It should also organise seminars and conferences to utilise the knowledge, expertise and venture capital of economically successful developing countries in other developing member states that are lagging behind.
90. (p.132) Commonwealth governments should continue to support the 'Commonwealth Connects' portal as a cornerstone of twenty-first-century networking and partnership, and to support expansion of professional 'communities of practice' such as CommonLII [the Commonwealth Legal Information Institute].
95. (p.145) Member governments of the Commonwealth should demonstrate a higher public commitment to the Commonwealth, for instance through investment and support for Commonwealth Day events in member states; references to the Commonwealth's values and aspirations in public addresses including in statements to the UN General Assembly and other international and regional bodies; and references to shared Commonwealth bonds during bilateral visits and other engagements.

98. (p.145) The Secretary-General should be encouraged to consult the Commonwealth Media Group (CMG) about an immediate programme of practical co-operation between the Secretariat and CMG to help distribute the Commonwealth's messages to its constituent publics.
102. (p.149) Every effort should be made by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and the countries that host the Commonwealth Games to enhance the attractiveness of the Games and to preserve their integrity and reputation.
103. (p.149) Heads of Government should request the CGF to include in its mandate the use and presentation of the Games as an instrument for peace and development.
105. (p.149) National sports federations should also be requested to commit themselves to establishing and strengthening linkages between sport, development and peace.
106. (p.149) The Secretariat should be authorised to play a co-ordinating role through policy analysis, training and development, data collection, monitoring and evaluation, to help Commonwealth member states develop 'Sport for Peace and Development' initiatives.

The following 12 proposals were adopted subject to consideration of financial implications.

Recommendation no. (page no.)

21. (p.63) The Secretary-General should reform the Secretariat's structures and systems in order to deliver this enhanced vision of the Commonwealth's contribution to development as well as relevantly strengthening its role as a central knowledge and co-ordination hub (a Network of Networks). The Secretary-General should report to the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors on a regular basis on progress in achieving this reform.
27. (p.73) The Secretary-General should establish High-Level Advocacy Missions to engage in dialogue with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Bank to make progress on specified issues such as a review of the criteria used by international financial institutions to determine the economic well being and entitlements of a country. Such criteria should take account, additionally, of factors such as a country's level of indebtedness; its fiscal capacity to finance development programmes; and the higher costs it pays for trade because of its remoteness.
28. (p.73) The Secretariat's Office in Geneva for Small States should be staffed by technically experienced and entrepreneurial officers with knowledge of the WTO and its negotiating bodies, to provide technical assistance to small states in: (a) negotiating their positions within the negotiating bodies of the WTO; (b) all aspects of trade facilitation; and (c) safeguarding their special interests in the development of the proposed Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), which may involve serious dangers for many Commonwealth countries.

30. (p.73) Heads of Government should re-establish annual meetings of the Ministerial Group on Small States with a mandate to give enhanced political focus and guidance on small states' priorities.
32. (p.76) The Secretary-General should establish a mechanism so that progress on the debt issue, including responses from international financial institutions, could be tracked and considered by annual meetings of Ministers of Finance and CHOGMs.
35. (p.76) The Secretary-General should include in the Secretariat's spending plans, for approval by the Board of Governors, the strengthening of its support to member states in their debt management through advocacy, policy advice and technical assistance.
42. (p.87) Commonwealth governments should renew their commitment to the Iwokrama Rainforest programme by mandating the establishment of machinery to provide it with core funding, and to make use of the knowledge and research outcomes gained from its research. The Secretariat should be authorised to set up a funding mechanism including through seeking partners for the Iwokrama programme from among Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries as well as private sector groups and foundations that have an interest in climate change, conservation and sustainable use of forests.
52. (p.95) All Commonwealth member governments should establish national mechanisms, such as national youth councils, so that the views of young people can be taken into account in all possible aspects of national policy development.
58. (p.101) The Secretary-General should be authorised to work with United Nations bodies, such as the Joint UN Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), the World Health Organization and UNDP, to develop joint programmes with private sector organisations, including the pharmaceutical industry and philanthropic organisations inside and outside the Commonwealth that could have an impact on preventing and treating HIV/AIDS.
59. (p.101) The Secretary-General should be authorised to mount a high-level mission to relevant UN bodies to advocate a review of any criteria that may unfairly disqualify vulnerable developing countries in the Commonwealth from gaining access to the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS on the basis of their per capita income.
63. (p.107) The Secretary-General should be mandated to prepare, by 31 March 2012, a draft plan on which the Secretariat's work and its future development would be focused. The plan should be submitted to the Board of Governors of the Secretariat by May 2012 for its assessment and recommendations, with the aim that the Secretary-General should implement it from 1 January 2013. The next Secretariat strategic plan, currently under consideration, is to be completed by 30 June 2012. This plan should be merged into the process outlined above so that the Secretariat Strategic Plan for the ensuing four years is only finalised after the recommendations of the intergovernmental discussions can be fully taken into account.
94. (p.139) Heads of Government should consider the expansion of currently available scholarships and fellowships by the provision of additional opportunities in the

form of Jubilee awards available after 2012. Additionally, the range and types of scholarships should be widened to encourage entrepreneurship, innovation and business studies.

The following 43 proposals were referred to a task force of Ministers for more detailed advice.

Recommendation no. (page no.)

11. (p.50) The Commonwealth should broaden its election observation mandate beyond the existing period (which is now ordinarily two weeks prior to the date on which the elections are held). The Secretariat should provide Commonwealth Democracy Observer Teams that arrive in some strength, optimally two months in advance of a planned election day (where this is possible), or where the election is called suddenly, as close as possible to the date on which the election is called to meet electoral officials, political parties and civil society to ensure, through promotion and engagement, an open and democratic electoral process leading up to, including, and following, election day.
12. (p.50) Observer Teams should report publicly at regular intervals leading up to, during, and after voting day on relevant issues, particularly the freedom of political parties, legitimacy and fairness of election financing rules; freedom of the media in reporting on the electoral process; the integrity of electoral lists; and the efforts by all parties to avoid violence and intimidation.
13. (p.51) To ensure that there is sufficient and effective capacity to carry out these observation functions, the Secretariat should: (i) in the lead-up to elections identified as potentially problematic, establish and maintain at least three deployment-ready Observer Teams made up of individuals with relevant political and administrative experience, composed of a regionally representative group and staffed by both the Secretariat and competent electoral officials from Commonwealth countries; and (ii) review on a regular basis the availability of such teams as a ready-to-deploy facility.
14. (p.51) Where an adverse report is made by a Commonwealth Observer Group concerning a significant aspect of a general election, a report should be made by the Secretary-General to CMAG immediately and a joint course of action adopted. The Secretariat should systematically follow up the implementation of the recommendations made by the Commonwealth Observer Groups so that observed deficiencies can be rectified well in time for the next electoral cycle, and be provided the necessary resources for this purpose. Member governments, for their part, should demonstrate their commitment and willingness to address deficiencies identified by Commonwealth Observer Groups in timely fashion before an ensuing election.
15. (p.51) The remit of the Commonwealth Democracy Observer Missions should be expanded to include an assessment of the adequacy of institutional and operational arrangements for post-election political transition and to advise the Secretary-General on actions that may be required to improve such arrangements and to ensure that political transitions respect the results of elections.

16. (p.51) One or more Commonwealth governments, preferably of developing member states, should consider establishing an Academy for Democracy and Electoral Training for governments, election commissions, and civil society organisations on a fee-for-service basis. If established, the Academy should work co-operatively with the Commonwealth Network of Election Management Bodies established by the Secretariat.
19. (p.55) Aside from the deployment of 'good offices', the Secretary-General should be explicitly mandated, when serious or persistent violations appear in his judgement to be either imminent or actually occurring, to: (i) indicate concern publicly to the extent appropriate; (ii) where necessary, refer any matter urgently to CMAG or to the proposed Commissioner for Democracy, the Rule of Law and Human Rights for advice; and (iii) take such other action as he (the Secretary-General) considers appropriate.
22. (p.63) Heads of Government should authorise an enlarged capacity within the Secretariat to provide technical assistance through the placement of technical experts in areas where they are needed by developing member countries. Increased financial resources for this enhanced Commonwealth contribution to development are an inescapable obligation if the declared Commonwealth commitment to development is to be taken seriously.
23. (p.64) Heads of Government should give direction and priority at the national level in the implementation of CHOGM mandates to make available increased resources to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) to provide expert help to carry out the development tasks required by developing member countries and to train national personnel on the job.
24. (p.66) Commonwealth countries should collectively monitor the ramifications of migration and development in the international community, and the Secretariat should foster partnerships with organisations such as The Ramphal Centre to undertake studies that would inform collective Commonwealth decision-making.
25. (p.69) Commonwealth governments should collectively: (i) accelerate as a matter of urgency UN reforms and their effective implementation, through lobbying and advocacy in the UN itself, as well as other international forums; and (ii) further address reforms of the IMF and the World Bank so that they serve the needs of all members and the broader global community.
26. (p.69) Commonwealth governments should strengthen their advocacy by involving in a systemic way the full gamut of Commonwealth networks, including civil society and professional associations.
36. (p.80) A meeting of Commonwealth Trade Ministers, supported by an Expert Group, should be convened to: (i) try to reach a consensus that would inform the current Doha Round of negotiations at the WTO (if it is still in place by the time Heads of Government see this report), with the objective of trying to bring the Round to a successful conclusion; and (ii) consider reform of the WTO in the post-Doha Round, to identify how in the future the shortcomings of the Doha Round process could be avoided and how the needs of capacity-constrained economies could be better advanced within the WTO. If the Round

has collapsed, Heads of Government might consider the establishment of a Commonwealth Expert Group to consider and recommend the possible future of the post-Doha trading system to bring greater clarity to discussions in the international monetary sphere and to explore how a new effort in international trade and investment might be launched that includes the perspectives of the G20 countries as well as a range of developing nations, including small states.

37. (p.86) The Secretary-General's mandate should be renewed to: (i) explore the potential for partnerships between the Commonwealth, the World Bank and others to provide specific programmes of support to vulnerable economies; and (ii) convene an Expert Group to provide a study to advance the Lake Victoria Climate Change Action Plan, including which programmes are a priority, how they could be structured, and how they could be financed and implemented. Such a study should be started immediately after the CHOGM in Perth and completed as soon as possible thereafter.
38. (p.86) Additional financial resources should be provided for the study by the Expert Group. The report of the Expert Group should be widely publicised and made available to all UN bodies, international financial institutions and regional organisations.
43. (p.87) The Secretariat should establish a working relationship with organisations concerned with disasters occurring in Commonwealth countries and should maintain a roster of professionals upon whom it could call to provide: (i) a rapid response to a member state that requests the help of experienced personnel after a disaster; and (ii) training and guidance in disaster preparation and mitigation. Additionally, the Secretariat should develop with governments an automatic standard for the entry of experts and equipment into affected countries.
45. (p.89) The Commonwealth Foundation should consult with the Commonwealth Games Federation and others, including the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA), on the feasibility of organising a Commonwealth Cultural Festival at the time of every Commonwealth Games. Such a festival should be broadcast throughout the Commonwealth, and funded by private sponsorship and contributions, commercial activities and, where appropriate, contributions from governments.
48. (p.94) Heads of Government should agree to the creation of a Commonwealth Youth Corps (CYC), organised by the Commonwealth Foundation and managed by a board made up of existing and appropriate Commonwealth organisations experienced in the movement of young people, to provide the opportunity for thousands of Commonwealth young people to learn about each other's cultures and aspirations while contributing to education, mentoring, development, democracy education and sport skills development.
49. (p.94) Consideration should be given to mandating the Secretary-General to explore the creation of a Commonwealth Youth Development Fund (CYDF) to which youth across the Commonwealth could apply for funding to deliver innovative, entrepreneurial solutions to youth employment challenges in

their communities. Such a Fund could be administered by a consortium of regional development banks with funding sourced from international financial institutions, the private sector and governments.

51. (p.94) The CYP, in association with the Commonwealth Secretariat, should develop a pan-Commonwealth programme building on the youth enterprise scheme that currently exists in some Commonwealth countries, through which banks are being encouraged to accept their responsibility to create special facilities for young people.
53. (p.95) The Secretary-General should be authorised to establish a Youth Implementation Index for the purpose of measuring actions relating to the implementation of the country's national youth policies.
56. (p.97) At the national level, all Commonwealth governments should ensure that: (i) the specific needs of women are addressed in all aspects of law, public policy and allocation of public resources; (ii) women are not discriminated against in law or practice and that remedies for discrimination are provided; (iii) machinery is established to encourage and promote the active participation of women at all levels of decision-making; and (iv) social victimisation, leading to crimes against women and tolerance of harmful traditional practices and economic disempowerment, is brought to an end by the force of law and well-targeted administration. The Secretary-General should monitor and report on these reforms to CHOGMs.
60. (p.102) Heads of Government should take steps to encourage the repeal of discriminatory laws that impede the effective response of Commonwealth countries to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and commit to programmes of education that would help a process of repeal of such laws.
61. (p.102) Heads of Government should consider the implications of the global laws regarding intellectual property protection (patents) for Commonwealth countries that face the HIV/AIDS epidemic. They should ensure protection of the flexibilities provided in the Trade and Intellectual Property Service Agreements (TRIPS) of the WTO in the context of new obligations that are imposed, or may be proposed, by bilateral free trade agreements and by the current negotiations of the ACTA.
62. (p.107) Heads of Government should consider authorising the Secretary-General to examine the existing work programmes of the Secretariat using the following criteria to recommend to governments, through the Board of Governors, areas that could be retired: (i) work that enjoys no specific Commonwealth advantage; (ii) work where the size of the Commonwealth Secretariat's resources, compared to those of other organisations involved in the same field, such as the UN, World Bank, regional development banks and major bilateral donors, is too small to make a significant impact; and (iii) work that overall has demonstrated no significant impact. Further, the operations of the Secretariat should be reviewed by the Secretary-General to improve the integration, cohesion and efficiency of its divisions and their capacity to deliver the mandates set by members.

64. (p.108) The Secretary-General should be mandated to consult with member governments on the desirability of establishing a legal personality for the Commonwealth as an intergovernmental organisation, so that its members may have greater ownership of the organisation, including appropriate rights and responsibilities towards it.
65. (p.108) In agreeing that remuneration and terms and conditions of service must be competitive with the United Nations family of organisations and other comparable institutions, Heads of Government should mandate the Secretary-General to develop a proposal, for consultation with the Board of Governors, to make the necessary changes.
67. (p.110) *Communiqués*: Communiqués issued by CHOGM have been too lengthy, and sometimes impenetrable to the media and the public. We suggest that the CHOGM Communiqué should be replaced altogether with a Chair's Summary, determined by the Chair of the particular CHOGM, with assistance from the Secretariat and following a consultative process with participating Heads of Government. This document should be significantly shorter and should more accurately reflect the subjects actually discussed by the Heads of Government.
68. (p.110) *Mandates to the Secretariat*: Mandates for the Secretariat, which arise from meetings of the Committee of the Whole, and which have been accepted by governments prior to CHOGM, should be tabled for approval by Heads at CHOGM and issued separately from the Chair's Summary of the actual discussion and decisions made during the Meeting.
69. (p.110) *Theme*: Having a CHOGM 'theme' can sometimes help to guide discussions and facilitate submissions from Commonwealth bodies and civil society organisations. However, it can also limit Heads from taking advantage of opportunities themselves to 'set the global agenda' and/or to respond to recent or upcoming events. The CHOGM theme also runs the risk of reflecting the interest of one country rather than the collective concerns of Commonwealth leaders even if there is consultation with all leaders before it is settled. Moreover, each such 'theme' tends to create new mandates and work programmes for the Secretariat where the necessary resources for implementation may not exist. We believe that Heads should discuss contemporary issues, and carve out a Commonwealth position where possible. Therefore, we suggest the idea of a special theme should be dropped altogether unless truly exceptional circumstances warrant it.
70. (p.111) *Access and engagement*: We are aware that there are ambiguities in the pre-CHOGM process surrounding civil society engagement. Many of those with whom we consulted suggested that the level and degree of access to Heads for civil society should be enhanced, and that such access should be more democratic, ensuring that all stakeholders are represented. We are conscious of the need to balance access and engagement with the ultimate value of Heads meeting to talk amongst themselves in a very limited timeframe. With this in mind, we propose a strengthened engagement between civil society organisations (CSOs) and Foreign Ministers at a pre-CHOGM meeting in the year in between CHOGMs, with a report of the engagement presented to Heads for action.

71. (p.111) *Presence of non-Commonwealth leaders*: The attendance at CHOGM 2009 in Trinidad and Tobago of President Sarkozy of France, Prime Minister Rasmussen of Denmark and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon raised the profile of the Commonwealth and CHOGM. This occurred because of the then imminence of the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change. However, while we consider it useful for CHOGM to be seen to be having such high-level interface with other global processes, it should be ventured only in exceptional circumstances where global circumstances clearly warrant it. It is important that CHOGM focus on Commonwealth matters, the constructive role that the Commonwealth can play in agreed international issues and specific Commonwealth problems and opportunities.
72. (p.112) *Media*: It is essential that each CHOGM should have a considered plan that informs the media regularly of the progress of discussions and provides full disclosure of the outcomes of the conferences and their relevance to the people of the Commonwealth and the wider global community. The structure of the CHOGM needs to be conscious of the requirements of the media in a world of instant communication and a 24-hour news cycle. Therefore, we recommend that there should be thrice daily media briefings by representative Heads of Government drawn from across the Commonwealth and a final full-length media Conference attended by the Chair of the Meeting, the Secretary-General and at least two other Heads of Government.
81. (p.124) The Secretariat and the Foundation should strengthen collaboration in the interest of promoting shared values, and specific Commonwealth mandates, including those contained in this report.
83. (p.124) Member governments, facilitated by the Secretariat, should strengthen the current system of accreditation, which should have at the centre of its criteria whether or not an organisation, in its everyday activities, is living up to the values of the Commonwealth. This will ensure that there is recognised and demonstrable value in being accredited to the Commonwealth as well as setting out the associated expectations and responsibilities that apply by virtue of the privilege of that accreditation.
85. (p.131) Commonwealth governments should create a 'Commonwealth' page on their official websites including a list and contact details for all Commonwealth accredited organisations, and membership of Commonwealth professional networks and civil society organisations should be promoted through relevant Ministries and national umbrella organisations.
86. (p.131) The Commonwealth Foundation should be given an explicit mandate to mobilise Commonwealth civil society around global issues. This would be another expression of the Foundation's existing mandate to be a focal point for drawing together the strands of Secretariat-accredited Commonwealth CSOs including non-governmental bodies and professional associations.
89. (p.132) The Secretary-General should refocus the work of the Civil Society Liaison Unit, whose task would be to develop better linkages and functional co-operation between Commonwealth agencies in the field so as to unify and integrate their work more effectively with the Secretariat's programmes.

92. (p.139) Heads of Government should mandate the Secretariat to continue to develop strategic relationships within the UN system and with: (i) other intergovernmental organisations; (ii) private sector and philanthropic organisations within and outside the Commonwealth; and (iii) development agencies of Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth governments.
93. (p.139) The Secretary-General should be mandated to: (i) proactively promote the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP); and (ii) appoint one staff member with special responsibilities to carry out a co-ordinating role for Commonwealth countries that contribute awards to the CSFP.
99. (p.146) The Secretary-General should be mandated to invite appropriate organisations throughout the Commonwealth to offer themselves for selection to carry out a full review and overhaul of the Secretariat's information processes that will result in a more effective, open and timely communication strategy and the establishment of machinery to implement it.
100. (p.146) The Secretary-General should be authorised to convert the four Commonwealth Youth Centres into Commonwealth Regional Centres to provide information and research material on the Commonwealth to media, educational institutions and the general public in addition to its current activities related to youth.
101. (p.147) Heads of Government should authorise the Secretary-General to create an Expert Group to report to the next CHOGM on ways in which entry to Commonwealth countries by Commonwealth citizens on business or holiday might be gradually improved either across the Commonwealth or through bilateral arrangements between Commonwealth countries.

The following 11 proposals were deemed inappropriate for adoption.

Recommendation no. (page no.)

75. (p.116) Ministerial meetings should be made more attractive and interactive by doing away altogether with set statements (where possible), and by encouraging group discussions, candid exchanges and facilities for discussions, where appropriate, by Ministers without their officials.
76. (p.116) Each ministerial meeting should reduce the mandates to a small number of priorities, enabling the Secretariat to pursue a realistic and coherent programme of work, rather than a number of sometimes marginal small-scale interventions.
77. (p.116) Ministerial meetings should provide space for unstructured dialogue with representatives of civil society on matters of particular relevance and urgency, but should also receive, through the Secretariat, written submissions from CSOs for consideration and action.
78. (p.116) Ministers should meet in between scheduled meetings, in exceptional situations, to pursue priority or urgent agenda items.

79. (p.120) The arrangement of a Chairperson-in-Office (CiO) and a Troika of Heads should be abolished. The pre-existing system should be reinstated under which the Secretary-General is the Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth, unambiguously responsible for gauging consensus from Heads of Government, acting as the organisation's public voice and interlocutor, and accountable to member governments. However, the Secretary-General should be able to call on Commonwealth Heads of Government, as appropriate and convenient, including the host of the last CHOGM, to perform functions and make statements on behalf of the Commonwealth at the United Nations and at regional and multilateral organisations in which Commonwealth countries are represented.
80. (p.123) The Secretary-General should continue to have primary responsibility for managing the interface between civil society and governments, and the Commonwealth Foundation should bolster its efforts in grant-making to, and capacity-building of, civil society based on an early review of productive outcomes.
84. (p.131) To spread the face of the Commonwealth across all regions, governments should offer incentives for existing and new Commonwealth civil society organisations to locate themselves in their countries. Such incentives could include start-up grants to cover cost of office space and a small number of staff and/or project funds.
91. (p.134) Foreign Ministers should hold dedicated and pre-planned meetings with representatives of CSOs and professional organisations in the years between CHOGMs to agree on recommendations for joint programmes and projects which would be submitted to the next CHOGM for endorsement and implementation.
96. (p.145) Heads of Government should designate a Minister of State responsible for Commonwealth Affairs. This would not only accord a higher profile to the Commonwealth, it would also act as a catalyst for promoting knowledge and understanding of the association.
97. (p.145) The Secretary-General should be authorised to seek international expertise to help enhance the profile of the Commonwealth. Should this recommendation be pursued, clear terms of reference should be established, the financial outlay assessed, and a clear client relationship created that would be tied to performance.
104. (p.149) The Commonwealth Secretariat and the CGF should be asked to build better linkages between themselves in order to provide more opportunities for young people around sports for development and peace. Additionally, the CGF should be asked to pay the Secretariat a modest royalty for the use of the Commonwealth 'brand' to help finance sports for peace and development in developing Commonwealth countries.

Heads of Delegation

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

Antigua and Barbuda	The Hon. Winston Baldwin Spencer*, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs
Australia	The Hon. Julia Gillard, Prime Minister
The Bahamas	The Hon. T Brent Symonette, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Bangladesh	The Hon. Sheikh Hasina*, Prime Minister
Barbados	The Hon. Freundel Stuart*, Prime Minister
Belize	The Hon. Wilfred Elrington, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
Botswana	HE Lt-Gen. Seretse Khama Ian Khama*, President
Brunei Darussalam	HM Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah*, Head of Government
Cameroon	The Hon. Philemon Yang, Prime Minister
Canada	The Rt Hon. Stephen Harper*, Prime Minister
Republic of Cyprus	The Hon. Dr Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Gambia	HE Dr Ajaratou Isatou N'jie Saïdy, Vice-President
Ghana	HE Mr John Dramani Mahama, Vice-President
Grenada	The Hon. Tillman Thomas*, Prime Minister
Guyana	The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Minister of Foreign Affairs
India	HE Shri M Hamid Ansari, Vice-President
Kenya	HE Mr Mwai Kibaki*, President
Kiribati	The Hon. Taomati Iuta, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs
Lesotho	The Rt Hon. Bethuel Pakalitha Mosisili*, Prime Minister
Malawi	HE Ngwazi Professor Bingu wa Mutharika*, President
Malaysia	The Hon. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak*, Prime Minister
Maldives	HE Mr Mohamed Nasheed*, President
Malta	The Hon. Dr Tonio Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mauritius	The Hon. Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam*, Prime Minister
Mozambique	HE Mr Armando Guebuza*, President
Namibia	HE Mr Hifikepunye Pohamba*, President
Nauru	HE Mr Marcus Stephen*, President
New Zealand	The Rt Hon. Murray McCully, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Nigeria	HE Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan*, President
Pakistan	The Hon. Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani*, Prime Minister
Papua New Guinea	The Hon. Peter O'Neill*, Prime Minister
Rwanda	HE Mr Paul Kagame*, President
Saint Lucia	HE Dr June Soomer, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to CARICOM, OECS and Diaspora Affairs
St Kitts and Nevis	The Hon. Dr Denzil Douglas*, Prime Minister
St Vincent and the Grenadines	HE Dr Cenio Lewis, High Commissioner to the United Kingdom
Samoa	The Hon. Tuilaepa Lufesolai Sailele Malielegaoi*, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Seychelles	HE Mr James Alix Michel*, President

Sierra Leone	HE Mr Ernest Bai Koroma*, President
Singapore	The Hon. Lee Hsien Loong*, Prime Minister
Solomon Islands	The Hon. Peter Shanel Agovaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
South Africa	HE Mr Jacob Zuma*, President
Sri Lanka	HE Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa*, President
Swaziland	The Hon. Dr Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini*, Prime Minister
Tonga	The Hon. Lord Tu'ivakano*, Prime Minister
Trinidad and Tobago	The Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar*, Prime Minister
Tuvalu	The Hon. Willy Telavi*, Prime Minister
Uganda	HE Mr Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi, Vice-President
United Kingdom	The Rt Hon. David Cameron*, Prime Minister
United Republic of Tanzania	HE Mr Jakaya Kikwete*, President
Vanuatu	The Hon. Sato Kilman*, Prime Minister
Zambia	The Hon. Dr Guy L Scott, Vice-President
Commonwealth Secretariat	HE Mr Kamallesh Sharma, Secretary-General

Notes

- 1 One member, Fiji Islands, is currently suspended.
- 2 From the high-level event 'Women's Political Participation: Making Gender Equality in Politics a Reality', held during the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York.
- 3 UNSCRs 1325, 1888 and 1889 are all entitled 'Women and Peace and Security'.
- 4 Commonwealth (Latimer House) Principles on the Accountability of and the Relationship between the Three Branches of Government, as endorsed by the Abuja CHOGM in 2003.
- 5 It is relevant to recall that the Report of the Meeting of Commonwealth Special Envoys in November 2006 reaffirmed 'the need to retain the clear distinction between the Secretary-General's Good Offices engagements and the work of CMAG'. The Special Envoys felt that 'this distinction provided some assurance to countries, where engagements were encouraged, that acceptance of Commonwealth assistance and Good Offices would not inextricably lead to attention and potential censure through CMAG'.
- 6 It was agreed that the focus should be expanded to include climate change-vulnerable developing states.

2013 Colombo, Sri Lanka

15–17 November 2013

Colombo Communiqué

Colombo Declaration on Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Development

Kotte Statement on International Trade and Investment

**Young People at the Centre of Sustainable and Inclusive Development:
The Magampura Declaration of Commitment to Young People**

Heads of Delegation

Colombo Communiqué

1. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 15 to 17 November 2013, on the theme 'Growth with equity: inclusive development'. Of the 50 countries that attended the meeting, 27 were represented by their Heads of State or Government.
2. Heads of Government conveyed their sincere appreciation to the Government and the people of Sri Lanka for their warm hospitality, and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting. They also congratulated President Mahinda Rajapaksa for his able stewardship of the meeting.
3. A highlight of the opening ceremony was an address by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, who represented the Head of the Commonwealth.
4. Heads acknowledged the progress made since their last meeting, in Perth in 2011, in implementing a large number of recommendations made by the Eminent Persons Group (EPG), notably the adoption of a Commonwealth Charter, as well as the agreement on a new strategic plan for the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Core Values of the Commonwealth

5. Heads of Government welcomed the adoption of the historic Commonwealth Charter in December 2012 and its signature by the Head of the Commonwealth on Commonwealth Day in March 2013. They reiterated their commitment to respect, protect and promote the core values set out in the Commonwealth Charter.
6. In that context, they noted that the people of the Commonwealth, through the Commonwealth Charter, had emphasised the importance of democracy; human rights; international peace and security; tolerance, respect and understanding; freedom of expression; separation of powers; rule of law; good governance; sustainable development; protecting the environment; access to health, education, food and shelter; gender equality; young people; the needs of small and vulnerable states; and the role of civil society. Heads emphasised that these values were interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

Development

7. Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable development and to ensuring the promotion of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future. They acknowledged that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. In this context, Heads welcomed and expressed support for all ongoing work mandated in the Rio+20 outcome document: the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, particularly to provide leadership, guidance and recommendations at the global level for sustainable development; the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development

Financing; the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals; as well as the process to develop options for a technology facilitation mechanism.

8. Heads committed to ensuring an integrated and holistic approach to sustainable development. Heads reaffirmed all the Rio principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. They acknowledged the importance of the intergovernmental process for elaboration of a set of sustainable development goals that could integrate with the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
9. Heads of Government adopted the Colombo Declaration on Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Development.
10. Heads welcomed the substantial progress made as well as challenges faced both globally and within the Commonwealth towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They noted the findings of the 2013 United Nations MDGs progress report, which states that some of the MDGs have already been met and that more targets are within reach by the 2015 target date, but expresses concern that some targets remain off track both globally and within the Commonwealth. Heads agreed that previous undertakings and commitments by member countries at the Millennium Summit should continue to be pursued actively, particularly on Goal 8, related to global partnerships, and that the successful achievement of the MDGs by 2015 should remain a primary global development priority. During discussions, Heads reaffirmed their determination collectively to call for a strong and effective partnership for development. In this context, Heads endorsed the conclusions of the meetings of Commonwealth Ministers for Education, Health and Women's Affairs. Heads urged the international community to accelerate efforts and mobilise all necessary resources, building on existing momentum, to reach as many goals as possible by 2015.
11. Heads recalled the Millennium Declaration and the outcome of the UN General Assembly special event towards achieving the MDGs. Heads reaffirmed their commitment to the Millennium Declaration, the outcome document of Rio+20, the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and the outcomes of all major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields. Heads will continue to be guided by the values and principles enshrined in these texts. Heads reaffirmed all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof.
12. In this context, Heads affirmed that the Post-2015 Development Agenda should reinforce the international community's commitment to poverty eradication and sustainable development. They endorsed the intergovernmental process to be launched at the beginning of the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly to develop and agree on a Post-2015 Development Agenda, with poverty eradication as its central imperative. Heads looked forward to a successful outcome of an open and inclusive intergovernmental process, taking into account existing

and emerging challenges. Heads emphasised the importance of the means of implementation for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including development financing. Recalling their 2009 commitment, Heads called on developed countries to fulfil urgently the official development assistance commitments they have made individually and collectively.

13. Heads welcomed the report of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the Report of the UN Secretary-General entitled *A Life of Dignity for All: Accelerating Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and Advancing the United Nations Development Agenda Beyond 2015*, the UN Development Group consultations, the UN Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network. They noted these contributions as inputs into the intergovernmental process on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
14. Heads acknowledged the inputs received for the Post-2015 Development Agenda from the Commonwealth Ministers of Education, Environment, Youth, Health, Women's Affairs and Finance; accredited Commonwealth organisations; and civil society. In particular, they noted the recommendations from Commonwealth Youth Ministers on the empowerment and participation of young people and welcomed the call from the Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers to governments to prioritise women's and girls' economic empowerment in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
15. Heads agreed that the new development agenda should strive to leave no one behind and emphasised the need for the Post-2015 Development Agenda to reflect the Commonwealth's values, as set out in the Commonwealth Charter.
16. Heads reflected on the comparative strengths and circumstances of the Commonwealth and how its relevance to member countries could be further enhanced. They considered, in particular, how the Commonwealth could provide leadership, guidance and practical support for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including by identifying factors impeding wellbeing, and economic progress and the ability to meet the MDGs. They committed to work constructively to help deliver an ambitious and balanced global agreement in 2015. Heads remained committed to supporting the intergovernmental process and decided to engage collectively and help shape the Post-2015 Development Agenda by constituting an open-ended high-level working group of Heads of Government to identify, through a Commonwealth statement on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, shared Commonwealth perspectives and recommendations advancing these through individual member governments in the intergovernmental consultations at the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly.
17. Heads recognised that climate change continues to be a major challenge for all countries, particularly for climate-vulnerable developing countries, posing a grave threat to some countries. They highlighted that, at the international level, this challenge should be addressed on the basis of the principles and provisions of the

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and in accordance with, inter alia, equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. In this context, they underscored the necessity for timely conclusion of the negotiations on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action to result in a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the UNFCCC, applicable to all parties, to be adopted by 2015. In that context, Heads called for progress to be made at the 19th Convention of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Warsaw, Poland.

18. Heads welcomed the report of the Commonwealth Expert Group on Climate Finance.¹ They agreed to progress consideration of the group's recommendations, including through consultations with existing climate finance mechanisms, in order to explore the potential for simplified access arrangements for small island developing states (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs).
19. Heads called for efforts to disseminate the findings of the report among members of the UNFCCC and relevant institutions, with a view to ensuring broad engagement of climate financing mechanisms in the Commonwealth's efforts to progress improved access to existing climate funds by SIDS and LDCs.
20. Heads welcomed the offer by the Government of Mauritius to host a Commonwealth Climate Finance Skills Hub and requested the Commonwealth Secretary-General to work with member countries to progress a full proposal for the hub for their consideration at the next CHOGM in 2015.
21. Heads recognised the importance attached to both the operationalisation and the capitalisation of the Green Climate Fund. Heads looked forward to progress at the 2013 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP19/CMP9). Heads agreed to continue to take steps to help build national capacities for improved access to and use of climate financing, and to ensure the transparency of these flows.

Biological Diversity

22. Heads of Government reiterated their commitment to the achievement of the three objectives of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). They noted and welcomed the decisions taken during the 11th Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP11), which took place in India in October 2012.

Sustainable Land Management

23. Heads of Government recognised the importance of addressing land degradation and desertification. They welcomed the decisions of the COP11, which took place in Windhoek, Namibia, in September 2013. They recalled the Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want*, which outlines global aspirations and strategic priorities, including addressing the multiple challenges and threats related to natural and environmental risks, particularly droughts, hurricanes and floods, to ensure food security and improve livelihoods for vulnerable communities. Heads of Government welcomed further discussion on the

consideration of desertification, land degradation and drought in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Heads also recognised the importance of multilateral co-operation, sustained commitment and collective action, in particular by the prevention of illicit dumping of toxic and hazardous waste, as well as the prevention and mitigation of soil erosion and desertification.

Governance and Management of Oceans

24. Heads of Government emphasised the importance of the world's oceans and seas as the basis for a broad range of critical economic and social activities, particularly for developing countries and SIDS. It was reiterated that many Commonwealth countries have sovereign rights and exercise jurisdiction, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, over areas of ocean space and resources, and that the sustainable management of these areas provides significant opportunities for economic growth. In that context, Heads further welcomed the Perth Principles of the Indian Ocean Rim Association.
25. Heads reaffirmed the importance of integrated approaches to ocean governance, in accordance with international law, including the protection, promotion and development of marine natural resources and all marine sectors. Heads also recognised the potential for creation of sustainable employment for the benefit of the citizens of member countries from an ocean-based economy, including through sustainable fisheries and the exploration and development of petroleum and mineral reserves, renewable energy, shipping and tourism.

Wildlife Resources

26. Heads of Government noted that the demand driving the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, and the poaching of endangered species which feeds this trade, had reached unprecedented levels, particularly of elephants and rhinos from parts of Africa. Recognising that this threatened ecological security and livelihoods of communities, Heads looked forward to the forthcoming meeting being convened by Botswana on elephants, and to a successful outcome from the London High-level Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in February 2014. Heads committed themselves to taking the urgent and decisive action that is needed to tackle the illegal wildlife trade, improving law enforcement, reducing demand for illegally sourced products and supporting the development of sustainable livelihoods to help poverty alleviation in affected communities. Heads noted the positive role being played by conservancies in generating incomes for communities while utilising wildlife resources sustainably.

Iwokrama Rainforest Programme

27. Heads of Government noted that deforestation continued to account for approximately 20 per cent of the global emissions of greenhouse gases. In this regard, they acknowledged that the Iwokrama Rainforest Programme continues to play a valuable role in the Commonwealth's endeavours to promote research

on the impact of climate change and in the development of models for sustainable forest management in transition to low-carbon development.

28. Heads therefore noted that efforts to develop sustainable financing had fallen short of expectations and called on Commonwealth governments and the Secretariat to intensify efforts to find a long-term solution, including through potential collaboration with non-Commonwealth countries, as well as international organisations and private foundations, in line with recommendations of the 2011 report of the EPG.

International Trade and Investment

29. Heads of Government adopted the Kotte Statement on International Trade and Investment.

G20

30. Heads of Government welcomed progress being made in strengthening relations between the G20 and Commonwealth members, including the establishment of the Annual Commonwealth Dialogue and regular G20 outreach with the Commonwealth.
31. Heads renewed with appreciation the recognition by the five Commonwealth G20 members of their special responsibility to convey the perspectives and priority concerns of the Commonwealth to the wider G20 membership, and conversely to keep fellow Commonwealth members abreast of the G20 agenda. Heads requested Commonwealth Finance Ministers to develop proposals for adoption at the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting in 2014 which can further deepen the Commonwealth's engagement with the G20. Heads also acknowledged the work being done by the Commonwealth members of the Global Governance Group (3G) in encouraging the G20 to engage the wider UN membership. They welcomed Australia's forthcoming assumption of the G20 Presidency and noted that this offers an important opportunity to reflect Commonwealth priorities in advancing global development policy challenges.
32. Heads welcomed the initiative of the G20 Development Working Group to conduct its first accountability exercise and noted the detailed contributions made by Commonwealth developing country members.

Political Values

Democracy

33. Heads of Government noted the fundamental and abiding requirement for all Commonwealth citizens to be able to participate in democratic processes and to hold their governments to account, in order to shape the communities in which they live. Heads affirmed their conviction that it is the role not only of governments but also of political parties and civil society to promote and uphold democratic culture and practices.

34. They recognised the role which local government in particular can play in enhancing the exercise of democratic governance and in the defining and delivery of essential services, as well as in promoting economic development. Heads endorsed the 2013 Kampala Declaration on Developmental Local Government, together with the accompanying Munyonyo Statement on Local Government's Role in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, as well as the declaration of 2014 as the Year of Developmental Local Government.

Rule of Law

35. Heads of Government reaffirmed their belief in the rule of law as an essential element for the protection of the people of the Commonwealth and as an assurance of accountable government. They also reaffirmed their support for an independent, impartial, honest and competent judiciary, recognising that an independent, effective and competent legal system, prioritising timely administration of justice, is integral to upholding the rule of law, engendering public confidence and dispensing justice. They also reiterated their support for the Commonwealth Latimer House Principles and noted the importance of the separation of powers and maintaining the integrity of the roles of the legislature, executive and judiciary.

Human Rights

36. Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitment, as set out in the Commonwealth Charter, to equality and respect for the protection and promotion of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development for all. They urged members to accelerate efforts towards the ratification of all major international human rights instruments to strengthen the implementation of rights and freedoms as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and to support the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions and/or regional mechanisms where suitable, in compliance with the Paris Principles.
37. Recognising that the right to development is an integral part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, Heads acknowledged that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level.
38. Heads welcomed Resolution 67/155 of 20 December 2012, by which the UN General Assembly decided to proclaim the International Decade for People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice and Development. They hoped that this development would significantly enhance the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the rights of people of African descent in the diaspora, including restoration of their human dignity and their integration as full citizens in the societies in which they live for overall attainment of national identity and social cohesion. Heads noted with appreciation the decision of the UN General

Assembly on the convening of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, scheduled for 22–23 September 2014 in New York.

39. Heads noted the 20th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, including the outcome of the Vienna+20 process, which agreed to develop action-oriented recommendations on how to strengthen further the international human rights system, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism. Consequently, Heads remained committed to assisting countries in build capacity to work with the UPR and implement the accepted recommendations, with the assistance of the Secretariat, as appropriate. They noted the work being done by the Secretariat in this regard, particularly with small states, and encouraged these efforts to continue.

Freedom of Expression

40. 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 recalled that the Commonwealth Commission on Respect and Understanding had highlighted the importance of the role of the media in contributing to advancing peace and development. They also recognised the media's role in fostering dialogue among citizens as key to strengthening democracy, social harmony and inclusion. 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.
41. In this context, Heads requested the Commonwealth Secretary-General to review the Commonwealth Media Development Fund in order to examine how it can be renewed in its purpose to build the capacity of a free and responsible media. The exercise of these rights carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary for respect of the rights or reputation of others, protection of national security or public order, or of public health or morals.

Freedom of Religion or Belief

42. Heads of Government noted that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief. Heads urged states to step up their efforts to protect and promote freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief. Heads also noted the responsibility of states to protect vulnerable persons from religious fanaticism. Heads stressed the importance of a continued and strengthened dialogue, including among individuals of and within different religions and

beliefs, and with broader participation, including of women, to promote greater tolerance, respect and mutual understanding.

Women and the Girl Child

43. Heads of Government agreed that the Commonwealth will continue to address the issue of child, early and forced marriage, giving due consideration to the domestic legislation of member countries and relevant international law. In this context, Heads noted the recent Commonwealth Roundtable on Early and Forced Marriage and mandated the Secretariat, within the scope of its strategic plan, to continue with this area of work, including the sharing of best practices, challenges achievements, and to address implementation gaps to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage.

Corruption

44. Heads of Government called for concerted and accelerated efforts to eliminate all forms of corruption, both at national and international levels, including by acceding to and implementing the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Heads called for an end to impunity in this context. Heads supported Commonwealth action on corruption, in particular the co-operation of member countries in identifying, tracing, freezing and returning illegally acquired funds and assets to their countries of origin, in accordance with UNCAC.

Audit Institutions

45. Heads of Government recognised the contribution that strong, properly resourced and independent supreme audit institutions play in improving transparency, accountability and value for money to ensure that public funds are appropriately spent.

Public Accounts Committees

46. Heads of Government further reaffirmed that strong and independent parliamentary oversight plays an important role in preserving the trust of citizens in the integrity of government, through public accounts committees that are effective, independent and transparent.

Natural Resource Management

47. Recalling their commitment in the 2011 Perth Communiqué to promote more effective natural resource management through greater transparency and better governance, Heads of Government committed to support work towards a common global standard for transparency in the natural resources extractive sector. While respecting sovereign rights and based on national priorities, Heads agreed to build capacity in and share best practices on resource management, to provide access to research, education and training, and technical and policy expertise. They welcomed existing partnerships between

Commonwealth members and called for the extension of such collaboration. They noted the new Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Standard and encouraged Commonwealth countries to consider supporting or implementing it. They further welcomed international action to introduce reporting rules for extractive companies to report their payments to governments and encouraged Commonwealth countries to consider adopting such rules, including inter-company lending. Heads encouraged that mining should benefit local communities.

Tax Policy

48. Heads of Government noted the importance of payment of taxes and collection of revenue. They recognised the need for agreed approaches and enhanced international co-operation on international tax policy and requested the Secretariat to consider how these objectives could be advanced.

Transparency of Money Transfers

49. Heads of Government expressed their commitment to fight money laundering and financing for terrorism and encouraged all countries to tackle the risks raised by the opacity of legal persons and arrangements. They agreed, in this context, to take measures to meet the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards, with a view to ensuring that there is no selective approach to those standards.
50. Heads emphasised the need for concerted efforts aimed at ensuring safe, secure, cost-effective and accessible channels for legitimate money-transfer operations worldwide so as to ensure that this critical lifeline to developing countries is not compromised. They further noted the need for an appropriate national regulatory regime, where required, to support this objective.

Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group

51. Heads of Government recalled the importance they attached to the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) as the custodian of the Commonwealth's fundamental political values. Heads adopted the report of the group, which outlined its deliberations in the period since their last meeting in 2011. They encouraged CMAG to continue to work to implement the strengthened mandate given to it by Heads in 2011 to protect and promote the Commonwealth's fundamental political values.
52. Heads agreed that the following countries will serve on CMAG for the next two years: the Republic of Cyprus, Guyana, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka (ex officio as Chair-in-Office) and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Small States

53. Heads of Government welcomed the report on the Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting on Small States, held in Colombo on 12 November 2013. They noted with concern that small states, including SIDS, were disproportionately impacted

by the global economic crisis and have been slow to recover. Some small states are now struggling to meet the MDGs, and several are experiencing various developmental challenges, including high debt burdens which pose a severe threat to their growth. Recognising that small states confront unique structural challenges and inherent vulnerabilities, Heads encouraged further interaction between small states to address common issues and share best practices, including within the framework of ongoing development co-operation with traditional partners. They welcomed work by the Secretariat to further advance and deepen its small states resilience framework and its practical application. Heads also agreed to the establishment of an open-ended ministerial group to progress practical and concrete proposals to address the priority development concerns of Commonwealth small states, including through the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014 and development of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

54. Heads welcomed Malta's offer to establish a Small States Centre of Excellence that will impart targeted capacity-building programmes and interventions in the areas of both democracy and development.

Small States' Debts

55. Heads of Government welcomed the report of the Commonwealth high-level mission on the debt and financing challenges of small states. They emphasised the need to continue advancing global awareness of unsustainable small states' debts and the accompanying financing challenges they confront, building on the mission's recent work. They endorsed the recommendations of the mission's report, underlining the importance of continued collaboration within the international community to address these debt and financing challenges and to build small states' resilience, as well as continued engagement on innovative solutions such as the mission's proposals for debt reduction and the inclusion of a vulnerability criterion in debt alleviation interventions and allocation procedures of international financial institutions. Heads reaffirmed their support for the Secretariat's current debt management and recording work.

2014 Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

56. Heads of Government called on the international community to work towards practical, tangible outcomes from the 2014 Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa, building on its theme as agreed by SIDS, 'The sustainable development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships', to ensure progress on sustainable development priorities, and to ensure that the Post-2015 Development Agenda effectively addresses and adequately responds to the needs and specific concerns of small states.
57. They urged that special efforts be made by member countries to deliver practical assistance towards the efficient and sustainable use of marine resources, as well as in other areas, including energy and tourism. They called upon states offering such assistance to adopt strategies to enhance the use, management and

sustainability of such resources, bearing in mind the critical linkages with food and livelihood security, in particular for developing states. Heads noted with satisfaction that the Secretariat's strategic plan included continued advocacy to the international financial institutions to address small states' challenges and to identify creative solutions.

Middle-income Countries

58. Heads of Government recognised that middle-income countries comprise a wide range of diverse states, which contribute to international economic stability while still facing specific challenges and needs in the context of the contemporary global environment. Heads acknowledged the need to identify development challenges particular to middle-income countries and to assist in overcoming these. They emphasised the imperative need for middle-income countries to have a greater voice in the global decision-making process, particularly in global financial institutions, including through intensified international co-operation among middle-income countries.

Global Threats and Challenges

Terrorism

59. Heads of Government reaffirmed their unequivocal condemnation of terrorism and extremism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. They stressed their unwavering commitment to combating terrorism, including international networks on money laundering and financing. They rejected the payment of ransom as a source of terrorist funding. They emphasised the need for continued solidarity and strengthened resolve to counter terrorism both within and between countries and recognised that new vigour needs to be injected in the negotiations to agree a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.
60. Heads called for a comprehensive approach to working with UN and regional mechanisms aimed at tackling terrorism, including by acceding to the full range of conventions and protocols and accelerating the implementation of the UN Global Counter-terrorism Strategy and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs), all of which are consistent with the Commonwealth Plan of Action on Terrorism.
61. Recalling the Commonwealth Commission on Respect and Understanding, Heads called for continued efforts to address circumstances which contribute to radicalisation, extremism and the growth of terrorism.
62. Endorsing the efforts of the Global Movement of Moderates, Heads reaffirmed the importance of moderation as an all-encompassing approach to tackle global challenges and threats to international peace and security.

Piracy

63. Heads of Government expressed their deep concern at the incidence of piracy and armed robbery at sea and acknowledged the continued threat to international

navigation, maritime security, trade and socioeconomic development. They urged member countries and the international community to continue to co-operate to the fullest possible extent to combat maritime crime in accordance with their national laws and in a manner consistent with international law. In this regard, Heads called for concerted efforts by member countries to strengthen their counter-piracy capacities and co-operation by sharing knowledge, strategies, resources and best practices through ad hoc, informal or formal arrangements.

Cyberspace

64. Heads of Government reaffirmed the importance of addressing the increasing threat of cybercrime, which poses a major obstacle to socioeconomic growth, peace and stability. They encouraged collaboration by member countries with relevant international organisations and agencies to develop appropriate programmes of technical assistance in order to enhance capacity in resource-constrained settings. Heads noted the Commonwealth Cybercrime Initiative and the recent endorsement of its methodology by senior officials of Commonwealth Law Ministries in September 2013 and called for the provision of assistance to developing countries on their cybercrime issues.

Small Arms and Light Weapons Trade

65. Heads of Government acknowledged adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in April 2013, aimed at regulating international trade in conventional arms, and its opening for signature in June 2013. They underscored the grave impact of small arms and light weapons proliferation and the use of conventional arms by terrorists, including in Africa, and the need to curb such proliferation of illicit trade as a matter of priority. They called for the full and effective implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects and in this regard welcomed the adoption of UNSCR 2117 on illicit arms trafficking in September 2013. They acknowledged the accession to the ATT by a number of countries and called on others to consider doing so. They urged member countries to continue to support the UN's efforts to combat and eradicate the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons and ammunitions and munitions used by such weapons.

Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict

66. Heads of Government denounced the dehumanising and cowardly use of sexual violence in armed conflict and as a weapon of war. Heads noted that, in addition to the long-term physical and psychological trauma suffered by survivors, it undermines the social and economic wellbeing, development, peace and stability of communities and countries. In this context, they noted the 24 September 2013 United Kingdom-sponsored Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict. They requested the Commonwealth Secretary-General to support conflict-affected states in strengthening their capacity to prevent and respond to sexual violence in armed conflict and to ensure that all relevant programmes in the fields of international peace and security, rule of law, gender

equality, human rights and the role of civil society address these issues and take into full consideration the needs and rights of women and children, within the parameters of the Secretariat's strategic plan.

67. Heads agreed to encourage, support and protect the efforts of civil society organisations, including women's groups and human rights defenders, to improve the monitoring and documentation of cases of sexual violence in armed conflict without fear of reprisal and empower victims to access justice. Building on the Tenth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting (WAMM) communiqué, they also called for women's full participation in all political, governance and security structures, as well as decision-making processes, including peace-building and prevention and accountability efforts, and to ensure that such processes also take into full consideration the needs and rights of women and children.

Youth

68. Heads of Government adopted the Magampura Declaration of Commitment to Young People.

Gender

69. Heads of Government reaffirmed their conviction that gender equality and the empowerment of women are at the core of human development. They endorsed the Communiqué of the Tenth WAMM, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in June 2013, and welcomed the call for the prioritisation of gender equality and women's empowerment in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, as well as the work of the Secretariat. They supported a twin-track approach to ensure that gender equality is both considered as a stand-alone goal as well as mainstreamed across all goals and sectors. Heads underscored the importance of women's economic empowerment and leadership as well as the urgent need for policy attention on violence against women.
70. While underlining the importance of encouraging economic growth, Heads noted that economic growth alone does not automatically lead to progress in human and sustainable development or narrow inequalities, especially gender inequalities. They reaffirmed the importance of supporting women's leadership, including in enterprise and urged the Secretariat, as agreed in its strategic plan, to accelerate implementation of the CHOGM 2011 recommendation on gender mainstreaming within the Secretariat and across all its Commonwealth work and efforts to promote a holistic empowerment of women as a driver of economic growth, gender equality and inclusive sustainable development. They called for innovative, inclusive and accessible financing mechanisms as well as capacity-building to advance women's entrepreneurship.

Education

71. Heads of Government noted the outcomes of the Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in Mauritius in 2012 and welcomed their efforts to engage

in discussion on education in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and in the identification of early childhood education and development as a priority for the Commonwealth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. They called on member countries to ensure that each child is able to complete a full cycle of good-quality education, which includes technical and vocational education, regardless of circumstance. Heads noted that persons most vulnerable to poverty are those with low levels of education. Education is notably a key catalyst for achieving national development and, as such, contributes to efforts aimed at addressing, inter alia, climate change; food security; and peace, security and stability. Heads noted the continuing challenge of underachievement and high drop-out rates in education systems and called for stronger efforts to be made to address the issue.

72. Heads noted that the most important driver of exclusion from education is poverty. It remains the case that the biggest factors affecting an individual's educational achievement and income potential are the education levels and income of their parents. Fifty-seven million primary school-aged children are currently out of school, and the majority of these come from poor backgrounds. Breaking this cycle is key. Education is the catalyst for human development, creating the conditions for progress in health and gender equity, and it plays a key role in helping to tackle some of the world's other pressing challenges.

Health

73. Heads of Government reiterated the importance of having healthy people in order to ensure sustainable development. Heads welcomed and endorsed the outcomes of the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting held in Geneva in May 2013, which focused on the issue of mental health, building on work undertaken in recent years on non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Recognising that progress on many of the MDGs remains to be achieved and recalling their commitment to maternal and child health in the 2011 CHOGM communiqué, Heads further urged members to consider health, especially of children and women, as well as nutritional, sexual and reproductive health, in government policies and in discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Heads also called for enhanced efforts to promote and support actions towards the sharing and exchange of experiences and best practices.
74. Heads emphasised the importance of access to affordable medicine, including generic medicine, as a critical element in the efforts for universal health coverage. Confronted by poverty alleviation and the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, Heads noted with concern the difficulties faced by developing countries to access essential medicines and medical equipment in the international market. In this context, Heads committed to working together to promote greater engagement in the health sector and encouraged enhanced collaboration among member countries in research, development, manufacturing and distribution of quality and affordable pharmaceutical products in the Commonwealth. They further recognised the need for the UN and its related agencies to facilitate access to affordable, safe and effective medicine.

75. Heads agreed on the need to improve collaboration on pressing global public health issues relating to infection prevention and control issues, which are the cause of many avoidable illnesses and premature deaths, including work to ensure more appropriate use of antibiotics.

Social Development

76. Heads of Government recognised that, despite huge investments, people's access to health and education – particularly access to resources and services, ensuring inclusive social development with equitable outcomes – has been difficult to achieve. They noted that current economic models that encourage investments in the social sectors are inadequate to improve quality of life and life satisfaction, as they often do not consider the social determinants of sustainable development. They agreed that there is a need for a transformation in existing investment trends in the social sector so that persistent inequalities could be addressed and unmet education and health needs fully realised.

Fiji Islands

77. Heads of Government reiterated the Commonwealth's unwavering solidarity with the people of Fiji Islands, and their expectation of Fiji's reinstatement as a full member of the Commonwealth family, through the restoration of constitutional civilian democracy, the rule of law and human rights, in accordance with Commonwealth fundamental political values, as enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter. They noted the promulgation of the new Constitution of Fiji as a step towards the restoration of democracy and the holding of national elections in 2014. They welcomed the Secretariat's provision of technical advice and support to the electoral preparations, including the offer of election observers. Heads urged that an independent national election commission be established rapidly to oversee the conduct of credible and inclusive elections on a level playing field. They requested the Commonwealth Secretary-General and CMAG to remain engaged with a view to restoring full adherence to Commonwealth values.

Republic of Cyprus

78. Reaffirming previous CHOGM communiqués, Heads of Government expressed full support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. They agreed to support the efforts for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem, under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General, based on the UN Charter and the relevant UNSCRs, for a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty, single international personality and a single citizenship in a bicomunal, bizonal federation with political equality as described in the relevant UNSCRs.
79. Heads called for the implementation of the UNSCRs on Cyprus, in particular 365 (1974), 541 (1983), 550 (1984) and 1251 (1999), and reiterated their support

for the full respect of the human rights of all Cypriots, including their right to property; for the implementation of the relevant decisions of the European Court of Justice; and for the accounting for all missing persons. They also extended their full support and solidarity to the Republic of Cyprus in the exercise of its sovereign rights under international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, to explore and exploit the natural resources in its exclusive economic zone and called for the avoidance of actions and statements that threaten stability in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Belize

80. Heads of Government expressed disappointment that the simultaneous referendums scheduled for 6 October 2013 were not held due to Guatemala's decision to postpone. Heads emphasised the importance of preserving the 2008 Special Agreement between Belize and Guatemala, which commits both parties to holding simultaneous referendums on submitting Guatemala's Territorial, Insular and Maritime Claim to the International Court of Justice. Heads urged both parties to agree on a new date for the simultaneous referendums to take place within the shortest possible time.
81. Heads called on the international community to continue to support the process under the auspices of the Organization of American States, engage with the parties to augment confidence-building measures, and assist in their efforts to reach a final settlement. Heads noted with concern the environmental degradation faced by Belize as a result of cross-border extraction of natural resources, including through illegal logging and mining. Heads reiterated their firm support for the territorial integrity, security and sovereignty of Belize and requested the Commonwealth Secretary-General to continue to convene the Commonwealth Ministerial Committee on Belize as required.

Guyana

82. Heads of Government received an update on Guyana–Venezuela relations and expressed their satisfaction with the efforts of the two countries to further strengthen their relationship. They however noted with concern the recent action by a Venezuelan Navy vessel – an action which was immediately endorsed by the Government of Venezuela – in forcibly detaining a research vessel that had been operating with the permission of Guyana within the exclusive economic zone of Guyana.
83. Heads noted the positions of Guyana and Venezuela that the two countries would continue to proceed to settle their differences through dialogue and co-operation. They therefore welcomed the decision of the respective Foreign Ministers to explore mechanisms, within the context of international law, to address the issue of maritime delimitation between the two states. Heads of Government reaffirmed their unequivocal support for the maintenance and preservation of Guyana's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Gambia

84. Heads of Government noted with regret the recent decision of The Gambia to withdraw from Commonwealth membership. They looked forward to the country's eventual return and encouraged engagement with The Gambia towards that end.

Commonwealth Collaboration

Movement of Commonwealth Citizens

85. Heads of Government recognised the importance to the people of the Commonwealth of their being able to move more easily between Commonwealth countries and noted the report commissioned by the Commonwealth Secretary-General aimed at promoting easier cross-border movement of Commonwealth citizens on bona fide travel. Heads requested that a working group of officials be created by the Commonwealth Secretary-General to consider the report's recommendations in the lead-up to the 2015 CHOGM and to provide detailed proposals, including any other regimes that better facilitate free movement of Commonwealth citizens.

Migration

86. Heads of Government recognised that migration is an important component of the development process. Heads, recognising the economic and social benefits of migration for countries of origin as well as destination, emphasised the need for effective international co-operation to address international and intra-Commonwealth migration, opportunities and challenges, in countries of origin, transit and destination, with a view to maximising benefits for all migrants. They called for co-operation to combat irregular migration and trafficking in persons in accordance with bilateral agreements and international obligations. Heads, recalling the link between migration and development, welcomed the outcome of the Second UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in New York from 3 to 4 October 2013. Heads noted that it is important to consider migration issues in their contributions to the preparatory process that will establish the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

ComPartnership

87. Heads of Government welcomed the ComPartnership initiative, a contemporary platform to unlock the potential for bilateral technical co-operation and the creation of collaboration between Commonwealth member countries. They noted that this would be sought through the creation of an online resource database to be hosted on the Secretariat's web-based platform Commonwealth Connects.

Commonwealth Plan for Broadband Inclusion

88. Heads of Government welcomed the initiative of the Secretariat, the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation, and the International Telecommunication Union to work together in a multi-stakeholder partnership

to support the development of national broadband policies and strategies in those Commonwealth countries where they are yet to be developed. They noted that this would help bridge the broadband divide and ensure accessible and affordable access to broadband, as the foundation for a contemporary digital economy, thereby enabling all Commonwealth citizens to benefit from the opportunities that broadband access affords for economic growth and human wellbeing in the interconnected global economy and to take advantage of the potential of the Commonwealth Connects web platform. They also noted the importance of enhanced international co-operation to support implementation of national policies and strategies to promote universal digital access.

Commonwealth Games

89. Heads of Government looked forward to the 20th Commonwealth Games to be held in Glasgow in 2014.

Diamond Jubilee Trust

90. Heads of Government noted with satisfaction the breadth of support from across the Commonwealth afforded to the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, established to mark 60 years of dedication and service by the Head of the Commonwealth. They welcomed the Trust's planned focus on youth leadership and on avoidable blindness across the Commonwealth, in programmes to be delivered over the next five years designed to achieve a substantial impact and sustainable legacy. They encouraged the Trust to work in partnership with the Vision 2020 alliance with the aim of making a decisive contribution to the objective of global elimination of avoidable blindness by 2020, and the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) and the Commonwealth Youth Council to advance the Youth Leadership Programme.

Centenary of the First World War

91. Heads of Government noted that 2014 would mark the centenary of the start of the First World War. They recognised that the centenary is an opportunity to remember history, the enormous contribution and ultimate sacrifices made during the war, and to focus on the lessons of the past and the imperative of peace.

Commonwealth Organisations

Commonwealth Secretariat

92. Heads of Government received the Commonwealth Secretary-General's Biennial Report with appreciation. They recalled that they had requested the Secretary-General at their last Meeting in 2011 to introduce an ambitious programme of reform, noted with appreciation the implementation of the recommendations of the EPG, and looked forward to the early completion of this process. They encouraged the necessary and significant reform of the Commonwealth

Secretariat and noted the progress made by the Secretariat. They welcomed, within this context, the adoption of the strategic plan and a focused work plan within a results-based framework. They called on the Secretariat to continue to make progress in implementing institutional reforms and modernising the organisation for greater efficiency, effectiveness and development results – as well as accountability and transparency – and to be reflective of the aspirations of member countries. They also noted the continued growth of the Commonwealth Connects web platform for contemporary networking among Commonwealth communities of practice, as well as the work in hand to create online health and education hubs for collaboration and networking as a part of the Secretariat's broader approved work programme to advance social development.

Commonwealth of Learning

93. Heads of Government congratulated the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) on its 25th anniversary and noted the COL's ongoing support to member countries in enhancing access to formal and non-formal education and training through the use of appropriate technologies. They commended the COL for evolving to remain relevant to the needs of member countries; for its enhanced focus on outcomes and impact; and on delivering value for money. They appreciated the COL's Learning for Development approach, which can effectively address development issues such as poverty, inequity, food security and health. They expressed particular appreciation for the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth, in which all 31 small states are active members. Heads encouraged the COL to develop further innovations in educational technologies and models for replication by other countries and stakeholders.

Commonwealth Foundation

94. Heads of Government received with appreciation the report of the Commonwealth Foundation and its four-year strategic plan 2012–2016. They commended the relaunch of the Foundation in 2012 and noted the organisation's focus on enabling citizens to engage with the institutions that shape people's lives. They affirmed dialogue between civil society and governments as an intrinsic feature of the Commonwealth. They welcomed the Foundation's contribution to the Post-2015 Development Agenda and its support to civil society a voice at Commonwealth ministerial meetings, notably the 18th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers and the Tenth WAMM, as well as the development of the Commonwealth Writers initiative. They noted the Foundation's results-based approach to programming and grant-making and called on the Foundation to ensure that its grants are rationalised and targeted to have maximum impact. They welcomed Bangladesh to membership of the Foundation.

Other Commonwealth Organisations

95. Heads of Government warmly welcomed the many and diverse inputs and support for the Commonwealth association at large, and for its shared values, principles and goals, provided by accredited Commonwealth organisations.

They expressed their particular appreciation for the reports and contributions of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Commonwealth Business Council and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum.

96. Heads recalled the importance which they had earlier expressed in the Affirmation of Commonwealth Values and Principles and which they continued to attach to common action by Commonwealth organisations that contributed to collective support and promotion of Commonwealth values, principles and goals.
97. Heads welcomed the outcomes of the Commonwealth People's Forum, Business Forum and Youth Forum.

Future Meetings

98. Heads of Government welcomed and accepted the offer of the Prime Minister of Malta to host their next meeting in 2015. They also welcomed the offers of Vanuatu and Malaysia to host the 2017 and 2019 CHOGMs respectively.

17 November 2013

Colombo Declaration on Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Development

- 1 We, the Commonwealth Heads of Government, recognise that accelerating growth has become central to policy efforts globally. However, we note that rising inequality at both international and national levels has implications for poverty reduction and future growth potential of member countries. Countries grappling with natural and man-made disasters and other pressing global challenges are the worst affected. This situation has led to the economic marginalisation of societies, within and among countries. Therefore, we agree that achieving growth with equity and inclusivity must be one of the main policy priorities for the Commonwealth, in keeping with the Commonwealth Charter adopted in December 2012.
2. We express our deep concern about the adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crises on development prospects, particularly in developing states. We emphasise the need to act decisively to tackle the challenges confronting the global economy to ensure balanced, sustainable, inclusive and equitable global growth with full and productive employment. We affirm the importance of reforms of the international trade, monetary and financial institutions in order to ensure fair representation for developing countries.
3. We recognise that improving access to productive employment is a critical element to achieve equitable growth and requires enhancing employability of the workforce and creating productive employment opportunities. Improvements in employability are largely linked to access to quality education, skills development, better healthcare and equitable access to resources. We agree to make concerted

efforts to create productive employment with equitable access to all, to achieve inclusive growth.

4. We reaffirm the right to development for all individuals and commit ourselves to eliminate disparities and focus on making growth more inclusive for all, including for vulnerable groups, women, youth and the differently abled.
5. We recognise the importance of meaningful social protection for all in achieving inclusive development and also as an important tool in addressing poverty, inequality, vulnerability and social exclusion. Given the varying degrees of vulnerability to crises, particularly among the developing states, we underline the need for having proactive national initiatives on social protection, based on relevant international agreements.
6. Member countries of the Commonwealth are home to a diverse array of natural resources, which have been preserved and sustainably utilised over centuries for their benefit. We recognise the sovereign right of nations to manage their own natural resource base, according to national needs and priorities, in a sustainable manner, enabling their further growth and development.
7. We note the findings of the 2013 UN MDGs progress report, which states that some of the MDGs have already been met and that more targets are within reach by the 2015 target date. However, we are concerned that certain targets remain off track both globally and within the Commonwealth. We therefore call for an urgent implementation of all commitments undertaken, individually and collectively, in particular on Goal 8, related to global partnerships. We reaffirm our determination to collectively call for a strong and effective partnership for development, while emphasising that the successful achievement of the MDGs by 2015 should remain a global priority.
8. We therefore pledge to engage collectively and help shape the Post-2015 Development Agenda by constituting an open-ended high-level working group of Heads to identify, through a Commonwealth statement on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, our shared Commonwealth perspectives and recommendations. We will advance these shared perspectives through individual member governments in the intergovernmental consultations at the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly.
9. We welcome the report of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the report of the UN Secretary-General entitled *A Life of Dignity for All – Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals and Advancing the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015*, the UN Development Group consultations, the UN Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network. We note their contents as inputs into the intergovernmental process on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
10. As we seek to further strengthen the global partnership, we are aware of the wealth of knowledge, expertise and experience available within the Commonwealth which remains underutilised. We therefore commit to actively

explore the unrealised potential for collaboration and partnerships within the Commonwealth. We also recognise it as a useful step to facilitate the efforts of individual member countries towards equitable distribution of benefits and to achieve better living standards and prosperity for all.

11. In the context of a rapidly changing global environment, achieving growth with equity and promoting sustainable development will require intensified efforts at both the national and international levels. At national level, this could be achieved through strengthened public administration and institutions and reinforcing accountability; developing the necessary institutional capacity, knowledge and skill levels, particularly among young people; promoting the smoother functioning and increasing openness of markets; and strengthening the private sector and expanding infrastructure to foster long-term growth, including by making full use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) as an investment tool to achieve sustainable development. At international level, we acknowledge the importance of strengthened financial, technical and institutional efforts to support national efforts in addressing vulnerability and building resilience and the need for new international approaches that respond to the rapidly changing global environment in which sustainable development policies are being pursued. We recognise the special role the Commonwealth can play in exchanging experiences and lessons learned.
12. In furthering partnership-building, we also recognise the useful contribution that tools such as Commonwealth Connects can bring to member countries and encourage its full use to enhance connectivity among the people of the Commonwealth.
13. We express our commitment to work towards developing supportive global policies to address poverty, food security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, inequalities in trade, predictable and adequate finances, investments, knowledge and technology transfers, as well as in increasing voices in the global economic, trade and financial order to achieve growth with equity.
14. We recall the Millennium Declaration and the outcome of the UN General Assembly special event on the MDGs. We reaffirm our commitment to the Millennium Declaration, the outcome document of Rio+20, the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, and the outcomes of all major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields. We will continue to be guided by the values and principles enshrined in these texts. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in Principle 7 thereof.
15. We are of the firm view that our chosen national paths forward to realise sustainable, inclusive and equitable development in our societies can be reinforced and further advanced through concerted initiatives in the economic sphere. To this end, we request the Commonwealth Secretariat to convene and inform discussions at forthcoming Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meetings, drawing on inputs from members and expert development practitioners, on the

key economic and other factors affecting Commonwealth member countries' ability to meet development goals, including the Post-2015 Development Agenda, once defined. This work should consider other areas of potential for economic co-operation within the Commonwealth. Progress will be reviewed at the next CHOGM in 2015.

17 November 2013

Kotte Statement on International Trade and Investment

1. We, the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth, representing fifty-two nations across six continents with one third of the world's population, met in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 15–17 November 2013.
2. We note that the Commonwealth accounts for one fifth of global trade and is home to a population of over two billion, the majority of which live in developing and least developed member countries. We further note with deep concern that widespread unemployment and economic hardship has created growing social unrest in many parts of the world.
3. We recognise the fundamental contribution of multilateral rules-based trade, international investment and intra-Commonwealth trade and investment flows to economic prosperity, poverty alleviation and employment generation, and emphasise the importance of reinvigorated worldwide and intra-Commonwealth trade and investment flows in boosting and sustaining global economic recovery.
4. We reaffirm our commitment to a rules-based, transparent, free and fair multilateral trading system that enhances our trade liberalisation and developmental objectives, while taking into account the special requirements of small and vulnerable economies and LDCs. In particular, we underline the urgency, need for flexibility and importance of securing a successful and balanced outcome at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in December 2013, to provide renewed confidence in the multilateral trading system and the much needed impetus for post-Bali negotiations to conclude the Doha Round in the near future.
5. We recognise the importance of a credible and balanced Bali outcome, including duty-free and quota-free access for LDCs to markets in developed countries, as well as progress on agriculture and trade facilitation. We further call for the removal of trade distorting subsidies and the removal of non-tariff barriers and call for mechanisms designed to provide assistance to the promotion of investment flows and enhanced trade development within the Commonwealth.
6. We further recognise the importance of investments in productive sectors in driving economic growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation, and reiterate our commitment to working together in promoting greater intra-Commonwealth investment flows and enhanced private sector engagements
7. We reiterate our support for regional trading arrangements that complement and support the multilateral trading system. In this connection, we encourage ongoing

regional integration efforts involving member countries of the Commonwealth, as unity of markets breeds strength and enhances global competitiveness. We reaffirm the importance of increased, sustained, co-ordinated and predictable Aid for Trade and investment support and its effective utilisation. We further note the significance of trade and investment finance and urge all concerned to ensure sustained, regular and uninterrupted flows of trade finance to support export and investment promotion, particularly in expanding intra-Commonwealth trade and investment flows.

8. We recognise the potential for growth in intra-Commonwealth trade and investment as well as the importance of promoting practical measures to overcome constraints to such growth. To that end, we request the Commonwealth Secretary-General to advance further analysis, as a matter of priority, to assess the need for and viability of a Commonwealth trade and investment finance facility, for those small and developing Commonwealth states without access to such resources at present, and to prepare a proposal in this regard.
9. We also welcome an offer from the Government of Malta to initiate a pilot mechanism among interested members to help augment trade and investment finance, particularly for small and vulnerable developing countries.
10. We reaffirm the value of intra-Commonwealth trade and investment in services in addressing unemployment and poverty and promoting sustainable livelihoods and development. We emphasise the need for decent employment opportunities as an integral part of an enhanced intra-Commonwealth trade in services.

17 November 2013

Young People at the Centre of Sustainable and Inclusive Development: The Magampura Declaration of Commitment to Young People

1. We, the Commonwealth Heads of Government, recognise the vital role that young people can and must play at the centre of sustainable and inclusive development. Investing in young people today is the foundation for a prosperous and equitable tomorrow. We commit unequivocally to investing in young people and placing them at the centre of sustainable and inclusive development, thus harnessing their creativity, leadership and social capital towards the progress and resilience of Commonwealth countries, and a more democratic and prosperous Commonwealth.
2. We therefore aim to realise the transformational potential of young people by ensuring that our countries' national policies, plans and programming have a clear priority in favour of youth, with goals which focus on young people's concerns and aspirations, and which enable them to contribute meaningfully to national development.
3. We acknowledge that many young people face grave challenges and uncertainties, including unemployment and underemployment; lack of access to quality

education; sexual violence in armed conflict and violence, especially against young women; the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS; concerns over systemic corruption, poor governance and human rights violations; limited access to technology; environmental degradation and climate change; inequity; and marginalisation and discrimination.

4. We also recognise that, with over 60 per cent of its population aged under 30, the Commonwealth is well placed to reap a demographic dividend, and that investment in young people is an essential element for national development strategies.
5. The Post-2015 Development Agenda is crucial to young people, who will be its heirs, custodians and champions. We acknowledge the call of Commonwealth Youth Ministers and youth leaders for a specific, stand-alone goal on youth empowerment and participation, and youth-specific indicators on all relevant goals. We also acknowledge the recommendations from Commonwealth Education Ministers on education targets for the post-2015 framework.
6. We welcome the recently launched Commonwealth Youth Development Index, and its capacity to identify needs, measure progress achieved and assist Commonwealth states in shaping sustainable evidence-based youth development policies. We support national and international efforts to improve collection of youth-specific data to ensure a clear picture of young people's development.
7. We acknowledge the importance of youth voice and youth-led development initiatives promote young people's key role at the centre of sustainable and inclusive development. Accordingly, we welcome the establishment of the Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC). We recognise the CYC's autonomous, youth-led status, and the value of its role as a recognised representative body within and beyond the Commonwealth. We appreciate the generous offers made to ensure that the CYC is resourced over the next two years to establish strong foundations, and to take forward its youth-led development agenda. In this context, we express our deepest appreciation for and welcome the Government of Sri Lanka's offer to host the Secretariat of the CYC. We look forward to strong partnerships between the CYC, member governments, youth and relevant Commonwealth institutions. We receive with appreciation the recommendations of the inaugural CYC Executive representing the Ninth Commonwealth Youth Forum. We also welcome the hosting of the World Conference on Youth by the Government of Sri Lanka in May 2014; the conference will be particularly focused on the participation and involvement of young people in achieving internationally agreed development goals.
8. We reaffirm the importance of job creation and youth enterprise for inclusive economic growth, which is vital to national prosperity and social cohesion, and commit to enhancing and investing in relevant policies, regulations and programming. We urge business leaders to prioritise opportunities for young people, and support efforts to address skills training to fit industry needs, especially through technical and vocational education and training (TVET). We

commend the Commonwealth Asia Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs (CAAYE), and encourage replication of the model to build young entrepreneurs' networks in all regions of the Commonwealth. We welcome the Government of Sri Lanka's proposal to the UN to declare an International Skills Day to promote and recognise youth skills development.

9. We recognise the critical importance to young people of access to new technologies and information, including connectivity through social media and ICT curriculums in schools, to effectively communicate and mobilise paid employment opportunities, engage in development initiatives and build higher expectations of themselves and their communities. We note that ICT can be an effective instrument for rural and small state empowerment, making isolated communities a meaningful stakeholder in the global community.
10. We recognise the significance of healthy young people to national development and note with concern the disproportionately high rates of HIV/AIDS and NCDs in many Commonwealth countries. We recognise the value of increasing investments in healthcare for young people, including enhancement of health education, prioritising the areas of HIV/AIDS, NCDs and sexual and reproductive health.
11. We are deeply concerned at the vulnerability of our young people to involvement in crime and to the illicit use of narcotic drugs. We resolve to take concerted action to protect them from such dangers and harness their energies in constructive ways.
12. We acknowledge the important contribution that sport and physical activity can make to improving wellbeing and healthy lifestyles, and as a tool for development and peace, promoting education, equality, inclusion and social cohesion. We welcome the efforts by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Games Federation to advance sport for development and peace. We look forward to the 20th Commonwealth Games, to be held in Glasgow in 2014, and urge stakeholders to intensify efforts to use the Games as an instrument for development and peace.
13. We underscore the importance of a focus on vulnerable groups of young people, particularly the differently abled and those who live below the poverty line, in disaster-prone environments or conflict and post-conflict situations. We also reiterate the Commonwealth's commitment to promoting mutual respect and understanding, and recognise the leadership potential of young people of different religions and ethnicities in building peaceful and inclusive societies.
14. We commend the significant contribution made to youth development and empowerment by professional youth development workers across all sectors. We acknowledge the Commonwealth Secretariat's ongoing commitment to youth work education and professionalisation, and the strong commitment demonstrated by the Government of South Africa in hosting the inaugural Commonwealth Conference on Youth Work, Education and Training earlier this year.

15. We also, on its 40th anniversary, reaffirm our commitment to the CYP as a long-standing and unique instrument for promoting youth empowerment and development in the Commonwealth. We note the renewal strategy to position the CYP for contemporary and effective programming into the future and to deliver thought leadership that contributes unique ideas to Commonwealth and global youth development. We recognise that funding constraints are limiting the CYP's capacity to deliver such initiatives in support of Commonwealth youth priorities and needs. We reiterate our earlier decision that a new assessed-contributions formula should be developed, which should now be finalised promptly in order to increase and consolidate sustainable support for the CYP, and that countries should honour their financial commitments. We also reaffirm our commitment to other pan-Commonwealth youth development initiatives, including the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan and other youth exchange programmes.
16. We recognise the valuable role of civil society, especially youth-focused and youth-led organisations and networks, and the contribution of the private sector for youth development. We therefore call for increased coherence, cross-sector partnerships and collective action for the development, empowerment and inclusion of young people.

15 November 2013

Heads of Delegation

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

Antigua and Barbuda	HE Dr Carl Roberts, High Commissioner to the United Kingdom
Australia	The Hon. Tony Abbott*, Prime Minister
The Bahamas	The Rt Hon. Perry Christie*, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Bangladesh	The Hon. Sheikh Hasina*, Prime Minister
Barbados	Senator the Hon. Maxine McClean, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
Belize	The Hon. Wilfred Elrington, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Botswana	The Hon. Ontefetse Kenneth Matambo, Minister of Finance and Development Planning
Brunei Darussalam	His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah*, Head of Government
Cameroon	HE Mr Joseph Dion Ngute, Minister in Charge of Commonwealth Affairs
Canada	The Hon. Deepak Obhrai, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Cyprus	HE Mr Nikos Anastasiades*, President
Dominica	HE Ms Francine Baron, High Commissioner to the United Kingdom
Ghana	HE Mr Kwesi Bekoe Amissah-Arthur, Vice-President
Guyana	HE Mr Donald Rabindranauth Ramotar*, President
India	The Hon. Salman Khurshid, Minister of External Affairs

Jamaica	Senator the Hon. Arnold J Nicholson QC, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
Kenya	The Hon. Ambassador Amina Mohamed, Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary
Kiribati	Mr Teken Tokataake, Chairman, Public Service Commission
Lesotho	The Rt Hon. Motsoahae Thabane*, Prime Minister
Malawi	HE Mr Khumbo Kachali, Vice-President
Malaysia	The Hon. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak*, Prime Minister
Malta	The Hon. Dr Joseph Muscat*, Prime Minister
Mauritius	The Hon. Dr Arvin Boolell, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mozambique	The Hon. Oldemiro Julio Marques Baloi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation
Namibia	HE Mr Hifikepunye Pohamba*, President
Nauru	HE Mr Baron Waqa*, President
New Zealand	The Rt Hon. John Key*, Prime Minister
Nigeria	HE Mr Architect Namadi Sambo, Vice-President
Pakistan	The Hon. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif*, Prime Minister
Papua New Guinea	The Hon. Leo Dion QPM, Deputy Prime Minister
Rwanda	HE Mr Paul Kagame*, President
Saint Lucia	The Hon. Alva Baptiste, Minister of Foreign Affairs
St Kitts and Nevis	The Rt Hon. Dr Denzil Douglas*, Prime Minister
St Vincent and the Grenadines	HE Mr Cenio Lewis, High Commissioner to the United Kingdom
Samoa	The Hon. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi*, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Seychelles	HE Mr James Alix Michel*, President
Sierra Leone	The Hon. Dr Samura Kamara, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation
Singapore	The Hon. Lee Hsien Loong*, Prime Minister
Solomon Islands	The Hon. Gordon Darcy Lilo*, Prime Minister
South Africa	HE Mr Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma*, President
Sri Lanka	HE Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa*, President
Swaziland	The Hon. Dr Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini*, Prime Minister
Tonga	The Hon. Siale 'Ataongo Kaho, Lord Tu'ivakano*, Prime Minister
Trinidad and Tobago	The Hon. Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Tuvalu	HE Sir Iakoba T Italeli GCMG*, Governor-General
Uganda	HE Mr Edward Ssekandi, Vice-President
United Kingdom	The Rt Hon. David Cameron*, Prime Minister
United Republic of Tanzania	HE Dr Jakaya Kikwete*, President
Vanuatu	The Hon. Moana Carcasses Kalosil*, Prime Minister
Zambia	HE Dr Guy L Scott, Vice-President
Commonwealth Secretariat	HE Mr Kamallesh Sharma, Secretary-General

Note

- 1 Australia and Canada had reservations about the language of paragraphs 18, 19, 20 and 21 and indicated that they could not support a Green Climate Fund at this time.

2015 Valetta, Malta

27–29 November 2015

Commonwealth Heads of Government Leaders' Statement

Commonwealth Leaders' Statement on Climate Action

Final Communiqué

Annex 1: Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting Statements

Annex 2A: Submissions from Commonwealth Associated Organisations

Annex 2B: Submissions from Commonwealth Civil Society Organisations

Annex 2C: Profiles of the Commonwealth Accredited Organisations

Annex 3: Outcome Statements from CHOGM Parallel Forums

Heads of Delegation

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, Kamallesh 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 CHOOGMs. 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 CHOOGM 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 CHOOGM 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. Dikgakangamatso 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

NGOsbeyond2014.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 Malielegaoi*, 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 Muyeba 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%20Electgions&src=typd>

- 13 CHOGM 2013, Final Communiqué, http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/events/documents/CHOGM%202013%20Communique_0.pdf
- 14 For example: *Scandalising the Court – Dooharika v The Director of Public Prosecutions*, <https://www.jpc.uk/cases/docs/jpc-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.
- 22 Pacific Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting Communiqué (2015).
- 23 Colombo Declaration on Youth (2014); World Conference on Youth.
- 24 Youth Declaration and Plan of Action for Youth Development in the Caribbean Region and Canada (2015); Caribbean Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting.
- 25 Commonwealth Youth Expert Group Meeting on Climate Change Policy (2015), Recommendations and Voluntary Commitments.
- 26 Pacific Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting Communiqué (2015).
- 27 Commonwealth Youth Expert Group Meeting on Climate Change Policy (2015), Recommendations and Voluntary Commitments.
- 28 Commonwealth Youth Expert Group Meeting on Climate Change Policy (2015), Recommendations and Voluntary Commitments.
- 29 Commonwealth Youth Expert Group Meeting on Climate Change Policy (2015), Recommendations and Voluntary Commitments.
- 30 Commonwealth Youth Expert Group Meeting on Climate Change Policy (2015), Recommendations and Voluntary Commitments.
- 31 First Africa Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting Communiqué (2015).
- 32 Pacific Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting Communiqué (2015).
- 33 Colombo Declaration on Youth (2014); World Conference on Youth.
- 34 19th CCEM Youth Forum Communiqué (2015), CSA.
- 35 Colombo Declaration on Youth (2014); World Conference on Youth.
- 36 Colombo Declaration on Youth (2014); World Conference on Youth.
- 37 First Africa Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting Communiqué (2015).
- 38 Pacific Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting Communiqué (2015).
- 39 Youth Declaration and Plan of Action for Youth Development in the Caribbean Region and Canada (2015); Caribbean Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting.
- 40 Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security (2015); Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security.
- 41 Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security (2015); Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security.
- 42 Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security (2015); Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security.
- 43 Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security (2015); Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security.
- 44 Colombo Declaration on Youth (2014); World Conference on Youth.
- 45 Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security (2015); Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security.

Annexes

Annex 1: CHOGM Parallel Forums

Commonwealth Business Forum 1997–2015

Year	CHOGM	Commonwealth Business Forum	Theme	Organiser
1997	Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 24–27 October	Commonwealth Business Forum, Hotel Inter-Continental, London, 22–23 October 1997	Trade, investment and development: the road to Commonwealth prosperity	Commonwealth Business Council
1999	Durban, South Africa, 11–20 November	Commonwealth Business Forum, Johannesburg, South Africa, 9–11 November 1999	Making globalisation work: economic advance with social development	Commonwealth Business Council
2002	Coolom, Australia, 6–9 October	Commonwealth Business Forum*, Melbourne, 3–5 October, 2001	The twenty-first century: new economy, new challenges, new opportunities	Commonwealth Business Council
2003	Abuja, Nigeria, 5–8 December	Commonwealth Business Forum, Abuja, Nigeria, 2–4 December 2003	Promoting women's businesses: key to sustainable development	Commonwealth Business Council
2005	Valletta, Malta, 25–27 November	Commonwealth Business Forum, Malta, 22–24 November 2005	The Commonwealth, Europe and the Mediterranean: window on business opportunities	Commonwealth Business Council
2007	Kampala, Uganda, 23–25 November	Commonwealth Business Forum, Kampala, Uganda, 20–22 November 2007	The untapped potential: building partnership with East Africa, the Commonwealth and the global economy	Commonwealth Business Council
2009	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 27–29 November	Commonwealth Business Forum, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 23–26 November 2009	Partnering for a more equitable and sustainable future: the Commonwealth and the Americas	Commonwealth Business Council
2011	Perth, Australia, 28–30 October	Commonwealth Business Forum, Perth, Australia, 25–27 October 2011	Participating for global growth: the Commonwealth, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Rim	Commonwealth Business Council
2013	Colombo, Sri Lanka, 10–17 November	Commonwealth Business Forum, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 12–14 November 2013	Partnering for wealth creation and social development: the Commonwealth, the Indian Ocean, the Pacific and SAARC	Commonwealth Business Council
2015	Malta, 27–29 November	Commonwealth Business Forum, St Julian's, Malta, 24–26 November 2015	Adding global value: creating a more prosperous Commonwealth	Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council

*CHOGM was originally scheduled for 6–9 October 2001, Brisbane. Following the events of 9/11 in New York, CHOGM was rescheduled to Coolom, Australia, 6–9 October 2002. The original location and date for the Business Forum were Melbourne, 3–5 October 2001.

Commonwealth Non-governmental Organisations and Civil Society Interaction 1991–2015

Year	CHOGM	Event	Theme	Organiser
1991	Harare, Zimbabwe, 16–21 October	First Commonwealth NGO Forum, Harare, Zimbabwe, 19–23 August 1991	On environmentally sustainable development and collaboration in the Commonwealth	Commonwealth Foundation in collaboration with the Forum Task Force and Zimbabwe Commonwealth Liaison Units
1995	Auckland, New Zealand, 10–13 November	Second Commonwealth NGO Forum, Wellington, New Zealand, 18–23 June 1995	Paths out of poverty: the role of NGOs	Commonwealth Foundation in collaboration with the Forum Task Force and Association of Non-government Organisations of Aotearoa (ANTOA)
1997	Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 24–27 October	First Commonwealth People's Centre, Edinburgh, 21–26 October 1997		Royal Commonwealth Society in collaboration with the British Council, Scottish Arts Council, Visiting Arts and Scotland Africa '97
1999	Durban, South Africa, 11–20 November	Third Commonwealth NGO Forum, Durban, South Africa, 6–8 November 1999, and Commonwealth People's Centre, Durban, South Africa, 10–15 November 1999	The people's future: citizens and governance in the new millennium	Commonwealth Foundation in collaboration with South Africa NGO Coalition (SANGOCO)
2002	Cooloom, Australia, 6–9 October	Commonwealth People's Festival, Brisbane, Australia, 2–8 October 2001*	Connecting communities	Commonwealth Foundation in collaboration with the Brisbane Commonwealth People's Festival Steering Committee
2003	Abuja, Nigeria, 5–8 December	Commonwealth People's Forum, Abuja, Nigeria, 1–7 December 2003	Citizens and governance	Commonwealth Foundation in collaboration with the Commonwealth People's Forum Steering Committee and the Nigerian Ministry of Culture and Tourism

(Continued)

Year	CHOGM	Event	Theme	Organiser
2005	Valletta, Malta, 25–27 November	Commonwealth People's Forum, Valletta, Malta, 21–25 November 2005	Networking Commonwealth people	Commonwealth Foundation in collaboration with the Commonwealth People's Forum Steering Committee in Malta and the Civil Society Advisory Committee
2007	Kampala, Uganda, 23–25 November	Commonwealth People's Forum, Kampala, Uganda, 18–22 November 2007	Realising people's potential	The Commonwealth Foundation in collaboration with the Commonwealth People's Forum Steering Committee, the Ugandan Steering Committee and the British Council
2009	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 27–29 November	Commonwealth People's Forum, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 22–26 November 2009	Partnering for a more equitable and sustainable future	The Commonwealth Foundation in collaboration with the Commonwealth People's Forum Steering Committee and the Trinidad and Tobago National Civil Society Steering Committee
2011	Perth, Australia, 28–30 October	Commonwealth People's Forum, Perth, Australia, 25–27 October 2011	Driving change for a dynamic Commonwealth	The Commonwealth Foundation in collaboration with the Commonwealth People's Forum Steering Committee and the Government of Western Australia
2013	Colombo, Sri Lanka, 10–17 November	Commonwealth People's Forum, Hikkaduwa, Sri Lanka, 10–14 November 2013	Equitable growth and inclusive development: beyond 2015	The Commonwealth Foundation in collaboration with the Commonwealth People's Forum Steering Committee, Sevalanka Foundation, Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement and Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities
2015	Malta, 27–29 November	Commonwealth People's Forum, St Julian's, Malta, 23–26 November 2015	What makes societies resilient?	The Commonwealth Foundation in collaboration with the Commonwealth People's Forum Steering Committee

*CHOGM was originally scheduled for 6–9 October 2001, Brisbane. Following the events of 9/11 in New York, CHOGM was rescheduled to Coolom, Australia, 6–9 October 2002. However, the Youth Forum and the People's Forum went ahead as scheduled.

Commonwealth Human Rights Forum 2003–05

Year	CHOGM	Commonwealth Human Rights Forum	Theme	Organiser
2003	Abuja, Nigeria, 5–8 December	Commonwealth Human Rights Forum, Abuja, Nigeria, 3–4 December 2003	Human rights: our common wealth	The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, the Legal Resources Consortium and the Nigerian Human Rights Commission, supported by the Canadian International Development Agency, the Commonwealth Foundation and the British Council
2005	Valletta, Malta, 25–27 November	Commonwealth Human Rights Forum, Valetta, Malta, 20–21 November 2005*	Networking for human rights in the Commonwealth	The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative and Amnesty International Malta Group. The Forum would not have been possible without financial support from the Commonwealth Foundation and the British Council

*After 2007, Commonwealth human rights groups met under the umbrella of the Commonwealth People’s Forum.

Commonwealth Women’s Forum 2015

Year	CHOGM	Forum	Theme	Organiser
2015	Malta, 27–29 November	First Commonwealth Women’s Forum, St Julian’s, Malta, 22 –24 November 2015	Women ahead: be all that you can be	Commonwealth Secretariat

Commonwealth Youth Forum 1997–2015

Year	CHOGM	Commonwealth Youth Forum	Theme	Organiser
1997	Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 24–27 October	First Commonwealth Youth Forum, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 20–25 October 1997	Enabling young people to identify their agenda for the Commonwealth of the 21st century	Scottish Community Education Council, Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council and Commonwealth Youth Programme
1999	Durban, South Africa, 11–20 November	Second Commonwealth Youth Forum, Durban, South Africa, 2–9 November 1999	Youth challenges in the new millennium	The South African Youth Council in association with the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council and the Commonwealth Youth Programme
2002	Coolum, Australia, 6–9 October	Third Commonwealth Youth Forum, Gold Coast, Australia, 30 September to 8 October 2001*	The role of young people in the 21st century	Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Australia, in association with the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council and the Commonwealth Youth Forum
2003	Abuja, Nigeria, 5–8 December	Fourth Commonwealth Youth Forum, Abuja, Nigeria, 25 November to 3 December 2003	Youth, democracy, good governance and human rights: young people as agents for social and economic development	Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Youth Development Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth Development and the National Youth Council of Nigeria, in association with the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council and the Commonwealth Youth Programme
2005	Valletta, Malta, 25–27 November	Fifth Commonwealth Youth Forum, Gawra, Malta, 16–23 November 2005	Networking for development	Ministry of Education, Employment and Youth and the National Youth Council of Malta, in association with the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council and the Commonwealth Youth Programme

Year	CHOGM	Commonwealth Youth Forum	Theme	Organiser
2007	Kampala, Uganda, 23–25 November	Sixth Commonwealth Youth Forum, Entebbe, Uganda, 14–21 November 2007	Young people development: breaking barriers, unleashing potential	National Youth Council of Uganda, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development of Uganda, Commonwealth Youth Programme and the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council
2009	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 27–29 November	Seventh Commonwealth Youth Forum, Vanguard Holdings Limited, Tobago, 21–23 November 2009; (continued). Caribbean Princess Cruise Ship, Trinidad 23–27 November 2009.	Invest in youth, sustain the world	The Trinidad and Tobago Government in association with the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council and the Commonwealth Youth Programme
2011	Perth, Australia, 28–30 October	Eighth Commonwealth Youth Forum, Fremantle, Australia, 23–27 October 2011	Our Commonwealth, our future	The Australian Government in association with the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council and the Commonwealth Youth Programme
2013	Colombo, Sri Lanka, 10–17 November	Ninth Commonwealth Youth Forum, Hambanthota, Sri Lanka, 10–14 November 2013	Inclusive development: stronger together	The Sri Lankan Government in association with the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council and the Commonwealth Youth Programme
2015	Malta, 27–29 November	Tenth Commonwealth Youth Forum, St Paul's Bay, Malta, 21–25 November 2015	Adding global value ... #WhatNext?	The Malta Government in association with the Commonwealth Youth Council and Commonwealth Youth Programme

*CHOGM was originally scheduled for 6–9 October 2001, Brisbane. Following the events of 9/11 in New York, CHOGM was rescheduled to Coolom, Australia, 6–9 October 2002. However, the Youth Forum and the People's Forum went ahead as scheduled.

Annex 2: Retreats for Prime Ministers' Meetings and Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings 1973–2015

Year	CHOGM	Retreat
1973	Ottawa, Canada, 2–10 August	Mont-Tremblant
1975	Kingston, Jamaica, 29 April–6 May	Hanover
1977	London, United Kingdom, 8–15 June	Gleneagles
1979	Lusaka, Zambia, 1–7 August	Livingstone
1981	Melbourne, Australia, 30 September–7 October	Canberra
1983	New Delhi, India, 23–29 November	Goa
1985	Nassau, The Bahamas, 16–22 October	Lyford Cay
1987	Vancouver, Canada, 13–17 October	Lake Okanagan
1989	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18–24 October	Langkawi
1991	Harare, Zimbabwe, 16–21 October	Victoria Falls
1993	Limassol, Cyprus, 21–25 October	Paphos
1995	Auckland, New Zealand, 10–13 November	Queenstown
1997	Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 24–27 October	St Andrews
1999	Durban, South Africa, 11–20 November	George
2002	Coolum, Australia, 6–9 October	Coolum
2003	Abuja, Nigeria, 5–8 December	Aso Rock, Abuja
2005	Valletta, Malta, 25–27 November	Golden Bay
2007	Kampala, Uganda, 23–25 November	Munyonyo, Kampala
2009	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 27–29 November	Port of Spain
2011	Perth, Australia, 28–30 October	Kings Park, Perth
2013	Colombo, Sri Lanka, 10–17 November	Waters Edge, Colombo
2015	Malta, 27–29 November	Fort St Angelo

Annex 3: Commonwealth Heads of Government Themes 1997–2015

1997	Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 24–27 October	Promoting shared prosperity
1999	Durban, South Africa, 11–20 November	Globalisation and people-centred development
2002	Coolum, Australia, 6–9 October	The Commonwealth in the twenty-first century: continuity and renewal
2003	Abuja, Nigeria, 5–8 December	Development and democracy: partnership for peace and prosperity
2005	Valletta, Malta, 25–27 November	Networking the Commonwealth for development
2007	Kampala, Uganda, 23–25 November	Transforming societies to achieve political, economic and human development
2009	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 27–29 November	Partnering for a more equitable and sustainable future
2011	Perth, Australia, 28–30 October	Building national resilience, building global resilience
2013	Colombo, Sri Lanka, 10–17 November	Growth with equity: inclusive development
2015	Malta, 27–29 November	Adding global value

Annex 4: Commonwealth Chair-in-Office 1999–2015

Term start	Term end	Chair-in-Office	Country	CHOGM year
12 November 1999	2 March 2002	HE Mr Thabo Mbeki*, President	South Africa	1999
2 March 2002	5 December 2003	The Hon. John Howard*, Prime Minister	Australia	2002
5 December 2003	25 November 2005	HE Chief Olusengun Obasanjo*, President	Nigeria	2003
25 November 2005	23 November 2007	The Hon. Dr Lawrence Gonzi*, Prime Minister	Malta	2005
23 November 2007	27 November 2009	HE Mr Yoweri Kaguta Museveni*, President	Uganda	2007
27 November 2009	26 May 2010	The Hon. Patrick Manning*, Prime Minister	Trinidad and Tobago	2009
26 May 2010	28 October 2011	The Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister	Trinidad and Tobago	
28 October 2011	27 June 2013	The Hon. Julia Gillard*, Prime Minister	Australia	2011
27 June 2013	18 September 2013	The Hon. Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister	Australia	
18 September 2013	15 November 2013	The Hon. Tony Abbot, Prime Minister	Australia	
15 November 2013	9 January 2015	HE Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa*, President	Sri Lanka	2013
9 January 2015	27 November 2015	HE Mr Maithripala Sirisena, President	Sri Lanka	
27 November 2015	<i>Incumbent</i>	The Hon. Dr Joseph Muscat*, Prime Minister	Malta	2015

* Indicates Chair-in-Office during CHOGM.

Annex 5: Commonwealth Day Themes 1980–2015

Since 1977, Commonwealth Day has been observed by all member countries on the second Monday in March.

Year	Date	Theme
2015	9 March	A young Commonwealth
2014	10 March	Team Commonwealth
2013	11 March	Opportunity through enterprise
2012	12 March	Connecting cultures
2011	14 March	Women as agents of change
2010	8 March	Science, technology and society
2009	9 March	Commonwealth @ 60: serving a new generation
2008	10 March	The environment, our future
2007	12 March	Respecting difference, promoting understanding
2006	13 March	Health and vitality: the Commonwealth challenge
2005	14 March	Education: creating opportunity, realising potential
2004	8 March	Building a Commonwealth of freedom
2003	10 March	Partners in development: working together to create a better future for all
2002	11 March	Celebrating diversity
2001	12 March	A new generation
2000	13 March	The communications challenge: sharing knowledge
1999	8 March	Music
1998	9 March	Sport brings us together
1997	10 March	Our worldwide web: talking to one another
1996	11 March	Our working partnership
1995	13 March	Our global neighbourhood: working together for tolerance and understanding
1994	14 March	Sport makes good friends
1993	8 March	The Commonwealth and human values
1992	9 March	Partnership for the future
1991	11 March	Science in our communities
1990	12 March	Planet management: working together
1989	13 March	Women in the Commonwealth
1988	14 March	The future of the Commonwealth*
1987	9 March	Landscapes
1986	10 March	Commonwealth food crops
1985	11 March	Youth working together
1984	12 March	Special issue Commonwealth stamps [§]
1983	14 March	Sports of the Commonwealth
1982	8 March	Flags of the Commonwealth
1981	9 March	Musical instruments of the Commonwealth
1980	10 March	A world to share
1979	12 March	⊥
1978	13 March	⊥
1977	14 March	⊥

*This was a youth theme.

§A set of special stamps was issued by all members on Commonwealth Day 1983.

⊥No theme is recorded in the report of the Commonwealth Secretary-General.

Annex 6: Member Countries of the Commonwealth 2007–15

Country	Joined Commonwealth	Country	Joined Commonwealth
Antigua and Barbuda	1981	Namibia	1990
Australia	1949*	Nauru	1968
The Bahamas	1973	New Zealand	1949*
Bangladesh	1972	Nigeria	1960
Barbados	1966	Pakistan	1949* [‡]
Belize	1981	Papua New Guinea	1975
Botswana	1966	Rwanda	2009
Brunei Darussalam	1984	Saint Lucia	1979
Cameroon	1995	St Kitts and Nevis	1983
Canada	1949*	St Vincent and the Grenadines	1979
Cyprus	1961	Samoa	1970
Dominica	1978	Seychelles	1976
Fiji Islands	1970 [#]	Sierra Leone	1961
The Gambia	1965 [§]	Singapore	1965
Ghana	1957	Solomon Islands	1978
Grenada	1974	South Africa	1949* [%]
Guyana	1966	Sri Lanka	1949*
India	1949*	Swaziland	1968
Jamaica	1962	Tonga	1970
Kenya	1963	Trinidad and Tobago	1962
Kiribati	1979	Tuvalu	1978
Lesotho	1966	Uganda	1962
Malawi	1964	United Kingdom	1949*
Malaysia	1957	United Republic of Tanzania	1961
Maldives	1982	Vanuatu	1980
Malta	1964	Zambia	1964
Mauritius	1968		
Mozambique	1995		

*Date of the London Declaration, for convenience regarded as the beginning of the modern Commonwealth.

[#]Fiji Islands originally joined the Commonwealth in 1970 and left in 1987. It was readmitted in 1997. Fiji's military regime was suspended from the councils of the Commonwealth in December 2006, then fully suspended from membership of the Commonwealth in 2009. Following restoration of a democratically elected government, it was readmitted in 2014.

[§]The Gambia left the Commonwealth in 2013.

[‡]Pakistan originally became a member in 1949. It left the Commonwealth in 1972 and was readmitted in 1989.

[%]South Africa originally became a member in 1949. It left the Commonwealth in 1961 and was readmitted in 1994.

