

Committee of the Whole

Meeting with Accredited Commonwealth Organisations

Submission by Commonwealth Civil Society Organisations
20 March 2018, Marlborough House



The Commonwealth

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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 Committee of the Whole. Specifically, the accredited Commonwealth organisations met and decided that, rather than making individual submissions as in the past, they would develop thematic papers collectively, which reflect their shared views and suggestions. The reforms aimed to strengthen the relevance of the contributions made by accredited organisations before the Communiqué of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) is developed through intergovernmental discussion.

The accredited Commonwealth organisations have developed five 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 the CHOGM.

The five thematic papers are:

- A Fairer Future
- A More Prosperous Future
- A More Secure Future
- A More Sustainable Future
- Partnerships in the Commonwealth

There are 75 Commonwealth bodies in the 'Civil Society Organisations' category which 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. At the meeting with senior representatives of member governments, a small number of representatives from these organisations will 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 which is being circulated and which will be introduced separately during the meeting.

Action

Member governments are invited to Note the enclosed submissions.

Preamble

Our ambition in this set of papers is to provide practical proposals for Commonwealth development rooted in cooperation with Commonwealth Organisations (COs) in the context of an Association uniquely placed to play a leading role in the implementation of the *universally applicable* Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Key Commonwealth initiatives originate from the creativity and diversity of COs. COs maintain relations with civil society when a country leaves or is suspended from the Commonwealth, facilitating re-entry. COs are also repositories of the institutional memory of the official Commonwealth, particularly in the context of reform and restructuring. At the 2015 Committee of the Whole (COW), COs committed to a reflexive analysis and mapping of their activities and contribution that is reflected in these papers with many examples of successes. The Partnerships paper highlights successful partnership initiatives and outlines ways that partnerships can be strengthened across the Commonwealth to enhance development and ensure that COs retain their ‘Commonwealth’ brand.

The achievements of the Commonwealth Heads of Government at the Malta CHOGM, agreeing to support the Paris Agreement and the SDGs, and following through in Paris and New York, renders the Commonwealth uniquely placed as a network of states and societies to develop modes of economic and social development that enhance wellbeing while respecting planetary boundaries¹. The themes for CHOGM are welcome and are interlinked. A fairer society will need to address growing inequalities and good governance (or, losses to taxpayers through corruption), as well as economic and social inclusion of marginalised or excluded groups. These are the essential foundations for a more prosperous society which will need to encompass livelihoods, inclusion of youth in a positive future, and the relation of GDP to indicators of wellbeing (e.g., health, education, culture, and environment) as well as commitments to decent work in a green, and a blue, economy. Security is also essential for a prosperous and sustainable society because it means ensuring the safety of all groups in society, working to achieve SDG8.7, the causes of violent extremism, violence against women and girls, monitoring and policing modern slavery, illegal fishing, as well as personal security: health and social care, environmental quality, shelter and hygiene, and care for refugee populations in post-conflict states and in their new homes. Sustainability will address these issues, with a particular focus on planetary boundaries in relation to climate change, land and ocean resources, and urban governance in the face of rapid urban growth, and environmental or refugee migration, as well as ‘building back better’ after disasters.

The COs, representative of civil society, are a resource for the Commonwealth, part of the glue that holds a values-based association together. This paper recommends that the Commonwealth revisit the structure of support for COs, institutionally in relation to the Secretariat and the Foundation; operationally, in terms of resources for joint initiatives and collaborative funding proposals; and politically, in enhanced participation at Ministerial meetings.

¹ See <https://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol14/iss2/art32/> and for discussion <http://www.nature.com/news/specials/planetaryboundaries/index.html>

The universality criterion of the SDGs means all Commonwealth countries are headed in the same, upwardly convergent, direction. This means we should focus on transferable policies, South-South partnerships and lessons from the South in coping, as well as being open to new policy challenges such as Universal Health Coverage and Universal Basic Incomes and more devolved, inclusive and integrated forms of multi-level governance. Commonwealth countries that innovate successfully will have lessons to share. This could provide the Commonwealth with renewed morale and momentum.

Recommendations

The papers make a case for recommendations to Heads of Government and to the Secretariat, and include commitments by COs. The following set of recommendations, while far from exhaustive, addresses the need to:

- resource COs and the Partnerships Office in order to release the potential of COs to collaborate in support of delivery of the Strategic Plan
- support and commit resources to current Secretariat initiatives: **The Blue Charter; the Office of Civil and Criminal Justice Reform, the Curriculum Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals** (as endorsed in the Nadi Declaration from 20 CCEM, February 2018); the **Commonwealth Initiative for Digital Health**
- follow the Incheon Declaration and **allocate at least 4-6% of Gross Domestic Product and/or at least 14-30% of total public expenditure to education**
- develop **capacity for information and data gathering** to inform better evidence-based policy making and support countries' implementation and monitoring SDG National Action Plans, including youth development as addressed in the Global Youth Development Index and Report²
- develop capacity for **gathering and publishing information**, especially in respect of implementation of the SDGs, including building on examples of empowering local people to act as sources of information about their own lives and environments
- promote **partnerships and knowledge sharing at different levels of governance to accelerate learning for sustainability**, including leveraging technology so that knowledge is accessible by those who need it, when and where they need it most
- **Create information-sharing platforms** and fora, and **invest funds to support parliamentarians, government, civil society and business to meet** in order to share good practice and build partnerships to support member countries to achieve SDG8.7 (eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, and human trafficking and end child labour)
- use **gender impact assessments** to aid gender mainstreaming and explain gender-differentiated impacts of trade policy, and reactivate the Commonwealth Public Procurement Network (CPPN), and consider supplier diversity in procurement decisions
- **simplify tax systems** so that the underpinning state finance is seen to be transparent and more efficient

² <http://cmydiprod.uksouth.cloudapp.azure.com/sites/default/files/2016-10/2016%20Global%20Youth%20Development%20Index%20and%20Report.pdf>

- **adopt and apply open contracting, transparency and supplier diversity provisions** with accountability to the public throughout public project lifecycles and establish public beneficial ownership registers to ensure that proceeds of trafficking, crime and corruption are not laundered in Commonwealth jurisdictions
- **legislate mandatory requirements for human rights due diligence by all companies** that apply along their supply chains as laid out in the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights
- **eliminate arbitrary detentions, extra-judicial executions and torture**
- support dialogue with Commonwealth Organisations and others **to ensure safeguards for freedom of expression** and the protection of those defending human rights,
- introduce a more transparent process for **election monitoring and voter registration** including representatives from COs,
- support the initiative undertaken by a group of COs with the participation of other legal and civil society experts, to put forward a set of **Commonwealth principles on the role of the media** in good governance, which acknowledges growing threats to the safety of journalists
- **strengthen legal frameworks and tackle sexist laws that hamper women's opportunities**, including for example laws that hinder women's ability to work or to set up and operate a business, or that give husbands immunity from prosecution for marital rape
- **repeal laws that criminalise consensual same sex relations between adults and introduce strong anti-discrimination legislation that protect all citizens** and enables them to give of their best to society for the good of all citizens,
- **encourage mechanisms to ease travel between Commonwealth countries** to facilitate greater business ties and inclusive and productive tourism growth, whilst maintaining robust security controls
- **focus on urbanisation** and work within the Action Framework of the New Urban Agenda to **develop appropriate Urban Policies at national and local level** supported by integrated development planning and sustainable urban design while striking a balance between policy led, market led, and community led development, to include 'building back better' after disasters.

Several recommendations address the need for data to support policy implementation and monitoring, particularly for the SDGs, which will require development of competences for the SDGs as addressed in the Curriculum Framework, as well as a process for coordinating knowledge resources to the benefit of the Commonwealth, as recommended in the Nadi Declaration from 20CCEM.

We further recommend that the Secretariat:

- **highlight examples where countries have effectively required businesses to uphold business and human rights principles**, including those leading to quality decent jobs, especially for women and youth.

- **promote social dialogue** as a mechanism for quality jobs and developing social enterprises
- **provide annual reviews of COs' contribution** to Commonwealth policy
- enter dialogue with COs to **develop a harmonised protocol for engagement with Ministerial Meetings**, including access to the meeting of ministers themselves

We, as COs, commit to:

- **continuing reflexive analysis of our work** as committed to at the 2015 COW
- **mapping our work against the Sustainable Development Goals to highlight the potential for collaboration** with governments, businesses and civil society organisations
- **constitute or review thematic groupings of COs from this mapping**, for example in health, education, human settlements, law and human rights, to support partnerships in delivery of the SDGs
- **engage in multi-disciplinary working both within and across the thematic groupings of COs** that represent a substantial resource for the Commonwealth.

We look forward to engaging with the outcomes of the Secretariat's parallel process of youth engagement, and look forward to contributing to realisation of the above recommendations.

A Fairer Future

The foundation stones of the 2018 CHOGM are shared Commonwealth commitments to the Commonwealth Charter (2013), the Paris Agreement (2015) and the Sustainable Development Goals (2015). These all recognise the importance of fairness; both within and between countries. Fairness between countries is recognised in the universality principle which commits Commonwealth developed countries to a development path that converges with that of Commonwealth developing countries. These commitments imply recognition of the importance of fairness and equity (including equality before the law) in achieving the Commonwealth's shared goals and the behaviour changes needed for them, for example in proposed 'fair carbon' and global per capita carbon budgets. However, the evidence suggests that, in general, the world is becoming *more* unequal and less fair, both within and between countries.

Democracy plays an essential part in promoting fairness, enabling people to participate in choosing who governs them. Successful democracies tend to respect fairness, value creativity and reward innovation. Without determined policies to nurture equality of opportunity, which fosters creativity, societies are likely to experience resentment and conflict which inhibits sustainable development. We therefore welcome the focus on taking action to promote fairness, to encourage equality of opportunity, to foster democracy and to recognise the obligations of governments to their citizens as essential for prosperity and security.

Recommendations for Commonwealth Heads of Government:

- a) **Welcome and resource the Commonwealth Secretary-General's initiative in establishing the Office of Civil and Criminal Justice Reform** to provide support to member states in the establishment, updating and renewal of national legal instruments, taking into account the need to promote Commonwealth democratic values, equality of opportunity and respect for fairness, human rights and the rule of law. We further encourage the Secretary-General to work with governments, law reform agencies,³ and civil society to help reform or repeal laws which perpetuate the unfair treatment of indigenous people, women, children, those with disabilities, and older people and which discriminate against people on grounds of ethnicity or sexual orientation and gender identity; and to develop good practice in establishing robust and effective laws in all Commonwealth countries, keeping these up-to-date and accessible by all.
 - *There are already many examples of civil society and governments working together to reform legislation, providing positive comparators for all countries,⁴*
- b) Explore options for **overseeing the practical implementation of the principles of the Commonwealth Charter** and related instruments by governments, including respect

³ Such as the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel and the Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies.

⁴ See examples in www.calras.org/pub/Main/LawReform/Changing%20The%20Law.pdf?t=1517155860. See Royal Commonwealth Society (2016) <https://thercs.org/assets/Research-/A-Commonwealth-Toolkit-for-Policy-Progress-on-LGBT-Rights.pdf>

for the fundamental freedoms of assembly and association, such as by the creation of an inter-governmental **peer review mechanism** including the active participation of COs, building on existing mutual support mechanisms such as the Commonwealth Accelerated Development Mechanism for Education (CADME) and Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG).

- *United Nations (UN) structures for monitoring the implementation of UN Charters and Declarations, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, could offer models of possible approaches that could be adapted for use within the Commonwealth.*
- c) Support dialogue with Commonwealth Organisations and others **to ensure safeguards for freedom of expression** (including effective oversight mechanisms) and the protection of those defending human rights, including lawyers and journalists, acknowledging the scale of the current threats to freedom of expression and personal safety.
- d) Support dialogue with COs,⁵ and others to develop **Commonwealth principles on the role of the media** in good governance, acknowledging threats to the safety of journalists.
- *A group of six Commonwealth Organisations is already working closely with the Commonwealth Secretariat and others to explore the potential for adopting such principles, drawing on existing Commonwealth commitments and international standards, which will be subject to wider consultation in due course.*
- e) Introduce a more transparent process for **election monitoring and voter registration** including representatives from COs.
- f) Develop capacity for **gathering and publishing information**, especially in respect of implementation of the SDGs, including building on examples of empowering local people to act as sources of information about their own lives and environments.
- *See for example research by CommonAge on ageing and the Commonwealth Youth Development Index developed with young people.*
- g) Continue support for the **Leave No One Behind** commitment, raising awareness about implementation of the **SDGs**, in particular addressing the specific needs of women and girls, older people, widows, indigenous peoples, young carers⁶, people with disabilities and those who face prejudice, discrimination and violence.
- *CIVICUS is among COs working with some national governments and other civil society organisations to ‘drive global momentum to make sure this happens’. Many COs are in partnerships supporting the same objective.⁷ Young carer*

⁵ Including Commonwealth Journalists Association, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Commonwealth Lawyers Association, the Commonwealth Legal Education Association and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (UK) with interest from the Commonwealth Trade Union Group and others.

⁶ Young carers are young people under 18 who shoulder adult caring responsibilities for family members including sick or disabled parents and grandparents and younger siblings.

⁷ See www.leaveonebehind.global

festivals have been held in East Africa,⁸ giving a voice to young people and developing cross-national social work professional networks. The Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development is a partnership between the Commonwealth, national government and indigenous people⁹.

- h) Reduce violence within the family**, end child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and strengthen education for girls and young women, ensuring that all young people are safe in school regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- *The Commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN) brings together local groups working to protect and promote international human rights standards for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. ‘Breaking the Silence’ (Human Dignity Trust, a member of TCEN) highlights the vulnerability of lesbian girls and women in many countries. The Commonwealth Health and Education Hubs have hosted civil society discussions on FGM.*
- i) Strengthen legal frameworks and tackle sexist laws that hamper women’s opportunities.** Across the Commonwealth, 89% of countries have at least one law that hinders women’s ability to work or to set up and operate a business. 35% of Commonwealth countries give husbands immunity from prosecution for marital rape. 43% have at least one restriction on women’s employment. Women cannot confer citizenship on their non-national spouses in 37% of Commonwealth countries. Almost half place legal restrictions on the jobs non-pregnant and non-nursing women can do.
- j) Welcome evidence of the reduction in the use of the death penalty in Commonwealth countries and commit to the elimination of arbitrary detentions, extra-judicial executions and torture.**
- k) Become influential actors in the process of working to ensure the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of gender-responsive climate change and climate finance policies.** As a result of pre-existing structural inequality and gender-based discrimination, women as a group, relative to men as a group, have different possibilities for responding to and recovering from frequent and intensive periods of droughts, floods and hurricanes. The Green Climate Fund, with commitments totaling US\$10.2 billion, is the first fund of its kind to have gender sensitisation as one of its core operational principles from its inception.

⁸ Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work in partnership with national social work associations, Commonwealth Youth Programme, United Kingdom (UK) government, UK Children’s Society, and others.

⁹ See www.iwokrama.org

A More Prosperous Future

Multilateral trade and investment and in particular, intra Commonwealth trade, is vital to delivering prosperity. Whilst the Commonwealth is a community of values rather than an economic bloc, it does have a key economic role to play. Experience shows though that it is the practice of Commonwealth values that is at the heart of successful economies; if ending poverty is the aim then growth alone is not enough.

Working together, in the spirit of Commonwealth values, we must promote trade and investment that creates what the UN's International Labour Organisation (ILO) has defined as decent work,¹⁰ and green jobs,¹¹ so that prosperity can be shared fairly across Commonwealth countries, in line with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators of sustainable prosperity increasingly include measures of wellbeing: health, education, quality of life, environment and human rights that go 'beyond GDP.'

Thus, the Commonwealth's value lies in fostering partnerships and the enabling conditions between members, the Secretariat and civil society so those values are reflected within trade and investment activities and impacts. This means, meeting the demand for hundreds of millions of jobs through easing 'doing business' for small and medium sized traders and social entrepreneurs supplying domestic and global markets. It also means respecting the fundamental human rights of all working women and men and their families' chances to prosper through work.

Therefore, the Commonwealth should take a step forwards, building on the direction of the Cotonou Agreement to incentivise and strengthen domestic business growth within low carbon, green and blue economies, through creating decent work and green jobs, protecting and strengthening human rights and public services and preserving government sovereignty - so that, without distinction, no one is left behind, including elders.

How can the Commonwealth work in partnership to create prosperity?

In partnership with civil society, an inclusive and collaborative Commonwealth family can boldly and collectively catalyse an upwards convergence to prosperity based on equity, sharing what works, admitting what doesn't and better channelling investment and balancing private and public investment. We endorse the Commonwealth Priorities for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2017-2020 and Beyond. COs can support the attainment of such aims and already:

1. Gain agreements for women's empowerment e.g. with UN Development Business (UNDB) to make tenders available to women-owned businesses
2. Encourage small and medium enterprises (SMEs), especially for women-owned businesses, to trade and invest across the Commonwealth e.g. supporting SMEs to become 'Export Champions'

¹⁰ See <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/decent-work/lang--en/index.htm>

¹¹ See <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/lang--en/index.htm>

3. Trade unions amongst other things establish good industrial relations practices, labour laws and democracy in fragile and post-conflict countries; develop women leaders, provide workplace solutions to HIV/AIDs, enable vulnerable workers into secure work and trade deals.¹²

Recommendations for Commonwealth Heads of Government

- a) One additional meaningful year of education increases an individual's lifelong earnings by up to 10% and raises average annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth by 0.37%¹³. Future workforces' skills need to match demand and investment so that development of high quality job sectors is a realistic possibility. Therefore Governments should commit to following the Incheon Declaration and allocate at least 4-6% of Gross Domestic Product and/or at least 15-30%¹⁴ of total public expenditure to education and plan to meet employability needs through education.
- b) Create a 'gender and youth just' industrial strategy that invests in science and innovation and proactively promotes labour markets based on Decent Work.
- c) Industrial, trade and active labour market policies should be underpinned by consultative women and youth impact assessments. Based upon this, budget allocations should ensure women and youth have access to quality jobs as well as training opportunities such as apprenticeships. For entrepreneurs, capacity building programmes linked to 'soft loans' or grants should be provided to enable women and youth competitiveness.
- d) Support investment in e-commerce infrastructure that for example aids small state value chains opportunities, particularly for women and youth. For example, strengthen national statistical and data collection agencies to ensure they deploy accessible Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems that help produce 'rich' data which has the specificity and accuracy to help stakeholders to make informed decisions and track the effectiveness of decisions and interventions deployed.
- e) Promote women-owned enterprises and collectives by establishing and tracking government-wide women participation targets in procurement and encourage suppliers to do the same.
- f) Legislate for crowdfunding mechanisms from the diaspora and other local and foreign investors to enable entrepreneurs to access smaller amounts of finance and other resources.
- g) Encourage mechanisms to ease travel between Commonwealth countries to facilitate greater business ties and productive tourism growth, whilst maintaining robust security controls.
- h) Simplify tax systems so that the underpinning state finance is seen to be transparent and more efficient. Adopt and apply Open Contracting, transparency and supplier diversity provisions with accountability to the public throughout public project lifecycles - particularly in health, education and infrastructure. Up to 20 - 24% of

¹² 1. Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network 2. Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council 3. Commonwealth Trade Union Group

¹³ See <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0019/001902/190214e.pdf>

¹⁴ See <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0019/001902/190214e.pdf>

public contracts' value may be lost to corruption and 10-30% of investment in publicly funded construction projects is lost.¹⁵

- i) Trade and investment agreements should protect countries' policy space to adopt their own paths to development, including preferential trade access and capacity support for small and developing countries. Commonwealth countries should transparently negotiate trade and investment agreements that create decent work and green jobs, with the full involvement of civil society. Once adopted, agreements should guarantee mechanisms for 'social partners' and other civil society engagement and ensure adequate protections for public services, human rights and the environment.
- j) Legislate mandatory requirements for human rights due diligence by all companies, that apply along their supply chains as per the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights.¹⁶
- k) Commit to create societies that remove discrimination against marginalised minorities which prevents them playing their full part in economies, so that no one is left behind. The economic cost of stigma and exclusion of LGBT people in India equals around 0.1 to 1.7% loss to GDP.¹⁷

For the Commonwealth Secretariat

- l) Highlight examples where countries have effectively required businesses to uphold business and human rights principles, including those leading to quality decent work for women and youth.
- m) Promote social dialogue as a mechanism for decent work and developing social enterprises.

¹⁴ See <http://www.constructiontransparency.org/documentdownload.axd?documentresourceid=8>

¹⁶ See http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf

¹⁷ See <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/527261468035379692/The-economic-cost-of-stigma-and-the-exclusion-of-LGBT-people-a-case-study-of-India>

A More Secure Future

The Summit is an opportunity to set the foundations for a more secure future for the Commonwealth's 2.3 billion citizens. This paper does not seek to provide an overview of all security challenges facing the Commonwealth. Rather, it deals with the most obvious areas where the Commonwealth's unique advantages can be utilized to realise a more secure future. These are in taking steps to achieve SDG8.7¹⁸, the abolition of vindictive colonial legislation, taking action promoting transparency, and, promoting health security.

These are areas where the Commonwealth faces great challenges:

- Commonwealth citizens are affected by forced labour, human trafficking, forced marriage, slavery, debt bondage, and extreme forms of child exploitation. Exploitation occurs in households, the private economy, the blue economy, the commercial sex industry, and under state-imposed forced labour. The sectors where exploitation occurs are highly gendered;
- For 9 out of every 10 Commonwealth citizens adult consensual same-sex conduct is a criminal offence. This creates a situation where violence becomes legitimized: by the state, by the public, and in the home. It leaves people insecure and unable to contribute to society. Where governments are open to change, a lack of access to essential resources like technical expertise poses a major obstacle; similarly, civil society organisations often lack the resources to effectively participate in the policymaking process and contribute to transformational change;
- Lack of transparency in the defence and security sector renders governments unable to protect citizens; it reduces efficiency, and the amounts that can be committed to protect citizens. Furthermore, secrecy in the financial system permits the corrupt and criminal to transfer money without trail and leads to impunity for perpetrators;
- Threats to health security include communicable diseases, particularly pandemic outbreaks such as Ebola and Zika, as well as anti-microbial resistance (AMR), which has a significantly higher incidence in LMIC. All 53 Commonwealth members signed the 2015 WHO Global Action Plan on AMR. Only 44% of Commonwealth members have an action plan to counter AMR, while 27% have an action plan under development, and 29% have no plan. It is estimated that up to 50% of medicines in some parts of the globe are substandard, including antimicrobials, which further contributes to this issue;
- Challenges around the security of medicine supply chains have led to estimates that in some parts of the globe up to 50% of medicines, including anti-microbials are substandard, with over half a million people predicted to be dying each year because of fake malaria and tuberculosis medicines alone. The Commonwealth Pharmacists

¹⁸ 'Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms'

Association (CPA) has partnered with the Fight the Fakes campaign to raise awareness of the impact of substandard medicines across the Commonwealth; and

- Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing destroys livelihoods and social cohesion and threatens food security in coastal communities, especially in LMICs, and costs an estimated \$83 billion per annum globally.¹⁹

However, we note there are some positive signs of Commonwealth action:

- The majority of countries have criminalized human trafficking in line with international standards, and the United Kingdom has adopted comprehensive Modern Slavery legislation, including supply chains. Some countries such as Cyprus have provided training and support to police, prosecutors and the judiciary in order to implement legislation. Furthermore, countries including Fiji have taken steps to increase awareness among officials, businesses, and the public around the abuses covered by SDG8.7;
- Three countries have decriminalized adult consensual same sex activity since CHOGM 2015, and The Commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN) - a network of 45 member organisations covering every region of the Commonwealth - was officially accredited to the Commonwealth Secretariat in 2017;
- The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) has done excellent work supporting Public Accounts Committees, and the UK, Nigeria, and Ghana have committed to establish a register of the beneficial owners of all domestically registered companies which will greatly increase transparency and accountability;
- The Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA) has partnered with the global Fight the Fakes campaign to help raise awareness of the impact of substandard medicines across the Commonwealth;
- There will be an event at CHOGM 2018 to launch the Commonwealth Institute for Digital Health (CWIDH), which has emerged from the work of the Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA), by Heads of Government: key initiatives include digital solutions for Pandemic and Natural Disaster Resilience and Response in Small Island Developing States as well as Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) Resilience and Response;
- The Commonwealth has committed to supporting the Blue Economy initiative proposed at previous CHOGMS by COs and SIDS, a key part of which is the monitoring, surveillance and prevention of IUU fishing; and,
- The Commonwealth Association of Museums has supported the National Museums of Malawi in their groundbreaking programming to reduce HIV/AIDS and malaria through cultural education. Through sustained CAM training over more than a decade, the National Museum has become the #1 HIV/AIDS testing station in the country and HIV/AIDS rates have dropped significantly as a result. They've now adopted a similar approach to addressing malaria.

¹⁹ World Bank. 2017. The Sunken Billions Revisited : Progress and Challenges in Global Marine Fisheries. Environment and Development;. Washington, DC: World Bank. © World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/24056>
License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.

Recommendations to Commonwealth Heads of Government

- a) Take immediate action to develop, strengthen and implement national strategies and legislation to prevent and respond to human trafficking and exploitation in line with SDG 8.7;
- b) Intensify efforts to prevent and address gender-based violence and its root causes, with a view to eliminating the demand for forced labour, forced marriage, trafficking and all forms of exploitation, especially of women and girls;
- c) Create information-sharing platforms and fora, and invest funds to support parliamentarians, government, civil society and business to meet in order to share good practice and build partnerships to support member countries to achieve SDG8.7;
- d) Repeal laws that criminalise consensual same sex relations between adults and introduce strong anti-discrimination legislation that protects all citizens and enables them to give of their best to society for the good of all citizens;
- e) Provide support to increase transparency in institutions and support public financial management reforms and enhanced public procurement transparency, and establish public beneficial ownership registers to ensure that the proceeds of trafficking, crime and corruption are not laundered in Commonwealth jurisdictions;
- f) Help all countries of the Commonwealth to develop surveillance capacities and implement their AMR action plans;
- g) Engage with, support and develop capacity of the CWIDH to develop solutions for surveillance of and response to global health security issues, including pandemics and AMR and monitoring of substandard medicines; and
- h) Engage in Commonwealth and international initiatives to control IUU Fishing through vessel monitoring and real-time reporting of transgressions, to support policing of IUU fishing and to help develop domestic capacity to enhance capacity to produce data on unreported and unregulated fishing, including for small scale fisheries (SSFs), to support fisheries policy.

A More Sustainable Future

Recent extreme weather events in the Caribbean and elsewhere have provided a shocking reminder of the pressing need to work together to reduce vulnerability and achieve a more resilient and sustainable Commonwealth, protecting the planet, ending poverty and ensuring prosperity for all.

The challenges facing the people of the Commonwealth are varied and broad ranging and include climate change, civil conflict, youth unemployment, gender issues, poverty and population growth. Working in the spirit of the values and principles enshrined in its Charter, and underpinned by a shared commitment, the Commonwealth provides a unique forum for advancing sustainable development.

When Commonwealth Heads last met in Malta in 2015 they welcomed the ‘2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ and committed to working together to support capacity building to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2015, the Commonwealth Peoples Forum published its ‘Malta Declaration on Governance for Resilience’, which made a number of specific recommendations in support of the SDGs, and in 2017 the Commonwealth Secretary-General presented proposals to the UN for the creation of a ‘Blue Charter’ of principles for sustainable ocean development. Much has already been done but more needs to be achieved.

Many parts of the Commonwealth, especially small island developing states (SIDS), are particularly vulnerable to a range of risks which threaten their ability to achieve a sustainable future unless proactively addressed. Whether it is our coastal and marine environments, our rapidly expanding cities or our food producing capacity there is a pressing need for greater collaboration between the nations of the Commonwealth together with a need for new and innovative approaches to help ensure a more resilient future.

Recommendations for Commonwealth Governments

- **Reduce emissions, develop resilience strategies and commit to building back better:** Many parts of the Commonwealth, particularly SIDS, are facing increasing dangers such as adverse weather events linked to climate change and other natural hazards, which are having significant social, economic and environmental impact. Commonwealth countries must accelerate efforts to reduce their emissions, particularly those associated with energy, transport and buildings, while simultaneously reducing waste and promoting the development and application of sustainable technologies including renewable energy systems.
- To mitigate risks such as the effects of climate change, **resilience strategies need to be developed at national, regional and local level** together with adaptation strategies which will enable communities to prepare for, cope with and recover more quickly from crises. There is also a pressing need to safeguard food systems to achieve

food security for the whole of the Commonwealth's growing population. In the event of a crisis, greater effort must be made to 'build back better' to reduce the impact of subsequent events thereby minimise recurring losses.

- **Endorse the Blue Charter initiative:** Oceans together with coastal and marine resources support the blue economy and play an essential role in community well-being and social cohesion, economic and cultural development. Effective management of the marine environment is critical for the many millions of Commonwealth citizens who live in coastal locations or in small island states that are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts and rely heavily on the blue economy for their livelihoods and food security.
- **Focus on urbanisation:** Much remains to be done if the opportunities for capturing the social, economic and environmental benefits from the growth of cities are to be realised and risks avoided. UN Habitat estimates that cities today occupy only 2% of the total land area yet are responsible for 70% of global GDP, 60% of global energy consumption, 70% of greenhouse gas emissions and 70% of global waste. Many Commonwealth cities are now growing at an unprecedented rate and have become magnets for large scale rural to urban migration. Working within the Action Framework of the New Urban Agenda, Commonwealth countries should be encouraged to develop appropriate Urban Policies at national and local level supported by integrated development planning and sustainable urban design while striking a balance between policy led, market led, and community led development.
- **Accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage:** In order to provide affordable healthcare for all, develop national strategies recognising the need for investment in the workforce delivering health and social services, noting the decisions of the Commonwealth Health Ministers in May 2017 and projections by WHO and the World Bank identifying the need for 18 million additional health workers. Focus on the mental health needs of young people and capitalise on existing initiatives such as the progress which has already been made in combatting diseases such as HIV, malaria, tuberculosis and the global eradication of polio ensuring that the significant contribution of polio-related assets, human resources and infrastructure is transitioned effectively for global health security and the strengthening of national immunization and health systems, which could help prevent or reduce the impact of other infectious diseases outbreaks.
- **Improve information and data gathering to inform better evidence-based policy making:** Successful implementation of the SDGs across the Commonwealth requires a sound evidence base from which to develop appropriate policy and create effective implementation mechanisms. The Commonwealth Secretariat should encourage and help facilitate improved data gathering and accessible storage to facilitate analysis and monitoring of policy performance, and support should be given to help countries develop SDG National Action Plans.
- **Encourage more effective public/private sector cooperation to create capacity and drive innovation:** Achieving a more sustainable future is a shared responsibility

requiring more effective collaboration between the public and private sectors. By developing appropriate fiscal measures, funding mechanisms and efficient procurement practices, the private sector can be incentivised to help deliver innovative responses to local needs supported by a well-trained workforce working in healthy environments with appropriate employment practices.

- **Promote partnerships and knowledge sharing to accelerate learning:** Many groups of Commonwealth nations face similar challenges for example because of their geography, location, size or patterns of growth. The Commonwealth provides an opportunity for members to share their experience and expertise to accelerate towards a more sustainable future. Partnerships can be created at many different levels; eg national level partnerships such as the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and city level partnerships such as the Sustainable Cities Network established in 2015 by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum. Research and knowledge sharing should be promoted more effectively within the Commonwealth, leveraging technology together with the unique nature of the Commonwealth so that knowledge is accessible by those who need it, when and where they need it most.
- **Implement the Commonwealth Secretariat’s Curriculum Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals,** developed in partnership with Commonwealth organisations across Commonwealth institutions and national education frameworks. This embodies means of developing the values, understanding, skills and competences required for implementation of the SDGs at all stages of learning and across the formal, informal and non-formal sectors.
- **Build capacity by promoting education, training and skills development:** Achieving a more sustainable Commonwealth requires effective education, training and skills development at all levels to meet the needs of the ‘green’ and ‘blue’ economies together with a just society. As the Commonwealth moves towards a low carbon future and as technology continues to evolve there is a need to develop new skills and a trained workforce adaptable to the changing working environment, ensuring ‘Just Transition’ so that no-one, particularly those currently in polluting industries, is left behind. Capacity issues and skills gaps in key sectors threaten sustainable development and need to be urgently addressed, particularly in local government, health and the built environment professions where shortages have already been identified.
- **Strengthen leadership and governance to help create the future we need:** Sustainable development relies on governments at national, regional and local levels to provide effective leadership together with the necessary institutional, legal and policy frameworks. National governments must also empower and engage with local government, city leaders and communities, including youth leaders. Governance at all levels needs to be transparent and accountable to encourage public confidence, supporting inclusive approaches regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and wealth. Effective governance demonstrates respect for human rights and the rule of law, showing leadership in tackling corruption and managing vested interests.

Partnerships: Using Partnership and Collaboration to Unlock the Commonwealth's Potential

Based on submissions in 2015 to the Commonwealth Accreditation Committee, Commonwealth accredited organisations represent over 1,700 institutional members, almost 41 million individual or branch members and a combined budget of almost £55 million. Considering that there are gaps in the data, all three of these numbers are likely to be serious underestimates. Their membership of sector professionals and civil society networks represents a ready-made resource of expertise available through partnership and collaboration to Commonwealth governments, institutions and organisations.

Commonwealth Commitments to Partnership and Collaboration

In the introduction to the Commonwealth Charter, all member states welcome *'the valuable contribution of the network of the many intergovernmental, parliamentary, professional and civil society bodies which support the Commonwealth and which subscribe and adhere to its values and principles'*. Chapter 16 of this Charter says *'We recognise 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.'* The role of partnerships in achieving development is explicitly recognised in the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 17 commits states to *'Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development'*. The ISO 44001:2017 *Collaborative business relationship management systems* represents a gold standard of good practice which several Commonwealth countries were instrumental in agreeing.

Value of Partnerships and Challenges for Realising them in the Commonwealth

Effective partnership is a key tool for achieving development and policy goals. Partnerships and collaboration allow a sharing of resources, the harnessing of new expertise, the representation of the public, marginalised groups and stakeholders, and unlock innovation from across the Commonwealth. These will only be realisable if local, national and international organisations work together and if governments collaborate with non-governmental organisations and with the business and philanthropic communities. COs can be the bridge between civil society, professional expertise and governments.

Productive partnerships depend on mutual trust. To generate that trust, governments must tackle the challenges facing civil society development including: the deliberate

shrinking of civil society space; lack of a protective legal framework, for example for whistle-blowers; threats to freedom of assembly, association, information and expression; as well as discrimination and prejudice (for example based on gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnicity, disability, religion).

New communication technologies offer valuable opportunities for enhanced connectivity but cannot easily generate the inter-personal chemistry which is important in creating trust between partners. High financial costs and increasing visa restrictions, particularly imposed by developed countries against developing countries, make face-to-face connections between international partners increasingly problematic, which impacts pan-Commonwealth inputs to Ministerial gatherings.

Commonwealth Organisations with their membership networks, professional expertise and their knowledge, skills, and experience, could, with modest investments, leverage more resources to make significant impact in different areas, as these papers demonstrate.

Partnerships among Commonwealth-branded organisations have already contributed to national development and the promotion of Commonwealth values. Such successes could be replicated and expanded by improving coordination and communication; expanding the scope of partnerships beyond the Secretariat's strategic objectives; empowering and connecting non-London based organisations and increasing trust between us as civil society and governments.

Good Examples of Partnership and Collaboration

The Mental Health Legislation Reform project brought together Commonwealth health expertise²⁰ and national governments to improve mental health legislation in Botswana and the Seychelles. The project assessed the existing legislation against the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability and made recommendations for amendment or the drafting of new legislation which were accepted by government with positive outcomes for people with mental health issues, their carers, and mental health professionals.

Several Commonwealth organisations collaborated in the development of the Commonwealth Latimer House Principles on the separation of powers in government. Now, similar groupings of legal, media and human rights professionals²¹ are working to develop a set of agreed principles on media and governance for Commonwealth countries.

The Commonwealth Curriculum Framework for Enabling the SDGs was developed in response to recommendations from the 19th Council of Commonwealth Education Ministers in The Bahamas, in which COs were actively involved. Partners from Commonwealth universities helped develop the Framework which will be further developed in partnership with organisations involved in education across the Commonwealth.

²⁰ Funded by the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation and the Commonwealth Foundation and assisted by the Indian Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy.

²¹ The Commonwealth Journalists Association, Commonwealth Lawyers Association, Commonwealth Legal Education Association, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative.

The organisations co-located with the Secretariat in the Commonwealth hub have undertaken joint projects to support young people. Partners²² have worked to increase knowledge of the use of sport for peace and development among athletes at the Commonwealth Youth Games. Accredited and Associated Organisations²³ (AOs) also came together with the Secretariat to deliver a Commonwealth Local Young Leaders Forum which has secured a commitment from Commonwealth Local Government Ministries and Associations to bring young people into local decision making.

The Commonwealth Association of Museums' Human Remains Management project is addressing the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), developing policy and guidelines for the management and repatriation of ancestral remains in museum collections in southern Africa, in collaboration with the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the Iziko Museums of South Africa, the Museums Association of Namibia and the University of Botswana/Botswana National Museum.²⁴

The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) is a unique network of forest conservation initiatives, which involves all 53 countries of the Commonwealth and is supported by the RCS, the Commonwealth Forestry Association and Cool Earth, an NGO that works to engage indigenous and local peoples in protecting the rainforest (<https://queenscommonwealthcanopy.org>). The QCC presents a rare opportunity to unite the whole Commonwealth family and save one of the world's most important natural habitats - forests.

Recommendations for Commonwealth Heads of Government

- a) Resource COs and the Partnerships Office in the Secretariat to facilitate collaboration and help support the Secretariat in delivering the Strategic Plan.
- b) The Commonwealth Secretariat in association with the Accreditation Committee to publish the annual achievements of COs as evidence of the impact of the whole of the Commonwealth family.
- c) Commonwealth Ministerial meetings to expand the use of policy dialogues between government and civil society as championed in the Commonwealth Peoples' Forum.
- d) Explore the potential of supporting the co-location of organisations in Commonwealth hubs outside of the UK to increase collaboration and profile across the globe.

Commitments by Commonwealth Organisations

- e) COs commit to mapping their work against the Sustainable Development Goals to highlight the potential for collaboration with governments, businesses and civil society organisations.
- f) COs commit to working together across silos in interdisciplinary partnerships to address jointly identified challenges.

²² The Commonwealth Games, UNICEF, Commonwealth Secretariat and the Royal Commonwealth Society.

²³ The Royal Commonwealth Society, Commonwealth Local Government Forum and Commonwealth Youth Council worked with the Secretariat.

²⁴ This project was refused funding from the Commonwealth Foundation and has been funded by ICOM, CAM, the Department of Canadian Heritage, and our partners.

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Annex 1: Profiles of the Commonwealth Accredited Organisations

Associated Organisations

Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM)

The 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 non-governmental organisations located in over 50 countries.

Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA)

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

Conference of Commonwealth Postal Administrators (CCPA)

The Conference of Commonwealth Postal Administrators (CCPA) was formed at the behest of Royal Mail International (RMI) in 1971. CCPA is an association of the Commonwealth's Post Offices and its primary aim is to enhance the quality, the range and the accessibility of Postal Services within the Commonwealth through the free sharing, amongst its membership, of expertise and industry best practice.

Conference of Commonwealth Meteorologists (CCM)

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 (Reference 564 The Commonwealth Yearbook 2013) through increased co-operation between NMHSs, governments and other organisations including the private sector.

Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)

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 which is held once every four years. It is often referred to as the 'Friendly Games'. As a means of improving society and the general well-being of the people of the Commonwealth, the CGF also encourages and assists education via sport development and physical recreation.

Commonwealth Education Trust (CET)

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 practice 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 (CLGF)

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

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) links Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from over 180 national, state, provincial and territorial Parliaments and Legislatures across the Commonwealth through its network. One of the oldest Commonwealth organisations, the CPA was founded in 1911. Its mission is to promote the advancement of parliamentary democracy by enhancing knowledge and understanding of democratic governance, youth engagement in democracy, gender equality and equal representation. The CPA helps to identify benchmarks of good governance and to implement the enduring values of the Commonwealth. The CPA is an international community of Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures working together to deepen the Commonwealth's commitment to the highest standards of democratic governance. The CPA publishes *The Parliamentarian*, the Journal of Commonwealth Parliaments.

Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO)

The CTO is the oldest and largest Commonwealth organisation engaged in multilateral collaboration in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), and uses its experience and expertise to support its members in integrating ICTs to deliver effective development interventions that enrich, empower, and emancipate people within the Commonwealth and beyond. In recent years, the CTO has built a strong reputation in delivering three main types of activity: research and consultancy; capacity development and training; and events and conferences.

Civil Society Organisations

African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)

The African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS) 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 Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), 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)

The Association of Commonwealth Archivists and Records 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 (ACLALS)

The objectives of ACLALS are to promote and coordinate Commonwealth Literature Studies, organize 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 Stellenbosch, South Africa, in July 2016, and the next edition will be held in Auckland, New Zealand, in July 2019.

Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)

The Association of Commonwealth Universities (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 cooperation and the sharing of good practice - helping universities serve their communities, now and into the future.

Association of Emerging Leaders' Dialogue (AELD)

The Association of Emerging Leaders Dialogue (AELD) is a network of leaders in Business, Labour, Government and Civil Societies who are passionate about developing young leaders across the Commonwealth. AELD's programmes provide a unique approach to leadership development by pairing emerging leaders from different countries and regions across all economic sectors, for an in-field study tour experience. This dynamic process builds relationships, challenges paradigms, confronts different perspectives and values, forges common ground and strengthens the participants' ability to collaborate, integrate and think critically in their role as leaders. Focusing on "outcome", AELD's programmes

challenge future leaders to “gather, consider and transform” their capabilities to reach their leadership potential. Over 5,000 alumni, located in countries throughout the Commonwealth, have participated in these programmes.

Association of International Accountants (AIA)

The Association of International Accountants (AIA) is a global body for professional accountants. AIA aims to create world class accountants; through offering high-standard, relevant and innovative qualifications, and providing first-class, tailored and pertinent services for its members around the world. In the UK, AIA is recognised in the Companies Act 2006 as a Recognised Qualifying Body (RQB) for statutory auditors, as a Prescribed Body under the Companies (Auditing and Accounting) Act 2003 in the Republic of Ireland and has supervisory status for its members under the UK Money Laundering Regulations 2007. AIA works in the public interest, ensuring that its members are appropriately regulated for the work that they carry out. AIA provides a voice for its members in the profession and in wider business and finance issues, utilising a number of mediums and forums, to ensure that its members are represented. AIA works with regulators, governments, members and students on a range of issues in the world of accountancy and finance and is instrumental in shaping the future of the accountancy profession.

BasicNeeds

BasicNeeds is an international development organisation working to improve the lives of people with mental illness and epilepsy. BasicNeeds 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 lasting change in the lives of mentally ill people around the world by working in partnership with local organisations and people with mental illness.

Building Understanding through International Links for Development (BUILD)

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 UK 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, hospital, social, arts or sports clubs, faith institutions etc.

CommonAge

The Commonwealth Association for the Ageing - CommonAge - was founded in 2013 in order to promote the interests of older people across the Commonwealth, and to promote the agenda of an all age friendly Commonwealth. A Commonwealth that brings together all generations, tackles ageism and ensures that older people in all countries are able to live healthy and fulfilling lives in their senior years and where their dignity, their human rights and their capacity to contribute to civil society is recognised and valued.

Commonwealth Association for Health and Disability (COMHAD)

The Commonwealth Association for Health And Disability is a Pan-Commonwealth NGO supported by the Commonwealth Foundation, London and is in Official Relations with WHO. COMHAD is a long standing partner of 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, exchange of technical expertise and inter-country training and education in health in 53 Commonwealth countries all over the world.

Commonwealth Association for Legislative Counsel (CALC)

The Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel (CALC)'s object is to promote cooperation 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 almost all Commonwealth countries. CALC is a source of advice on Commonwealth legislative projects and can assist those looking to fill drafting positions or to find a drafter for a particular project.

Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA)

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 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)

The Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies (CALRAs) was formed to encourage, facilitate and take forward cooperative initiatives in law reform. CALRAs assists capacity-building in law reform, and encourages international cooperation in law reform. CALRAs

- * organises international conferences on law reform;
- * encourages and assists the development of effective and good quality law reform methodology;
- * provides training/study courses in-country, regionally and internationally; and
- * reviews existing law reform machinery and methods in-country.

Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM)

The Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM) is an international NGO based in Canada and dedicated to supporting museums and museum workers throughout the 53 countries of the Commonwealth. Since 1974, CAM has focused on contemporary issues in postcolonial societies, such as sustainable development, human rights, social justice, health and education, poverty alleviation. CAM's programs include a triennial general assembly, regional workshops, a distance learning certificate program in Basic Museum Studies, and an international internship program. CAM publishes a bimonthly newsletter, the CAM Bulletin, as well as occasional publications. In addition to being affiliated with

the Commonwealth, CAM is also affiliated with the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

Commonwealth Association of Paediatrics Gastroenterology and Nutrition (CAPGAN)

CAPGAN is the Commonwealth professional and scientific association of paediatricians which aims to promote the 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 advocates for the welfare of children of the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP)

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 Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC)

CAPAC is designed to support the work of Commonwealth Public Accounts Committees in promoting good governance, implementing the declaration on these committees contained in the communiqué of the November 2013 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting: '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.'

Commonwealth Association of Science, Technology and Mathematics Educators (CASTME)

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)

The Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy (CASLE) was formed in 1969 as a federation of independent professional societies representing all disciplines of surveying and land economy in Commonwealth countries. The professional societies represented cover the disciplines of surveying and mapping, land economy, and quantity surveying and cost-control. CASLE achieves these objectives through conferences and seminars, lecture tours, publications, manpower studies and direct advice to governments, universities, other educational bodies and its own member societies.

Commonwealth Boxing Council (CBC)

Since 1954, the Commonwealth Boxing Council has been responsible for the regulation and sanction of Commonwealth Championships in professional boxing. Membership is made up of the various regulatory and/or national Championship sanctioning organisations for professional boxing in those Commonwealth countries where professional boxing takes

place to any substantial degree, each of whom appoints a Director to sit on the CBC Board. Many, if not most of our Champions go on to challenge for World Titles and throughout our history some of the greatest World Champions of the sport have firstly been Commonwealth (previous to 1972, 'Empire') Champions.

Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network (CBWN)

The Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network (CBWN) 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 (CCE)

The Commonwealth Consortium for Education has been established by a group of education-related Commonwealth NGOs, to coordinate 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 (CCEAM)

The CCEAM is an organisation dedicated to fostering cooperative and collaborative exchanges internationally amongst education leadership, administration and management professionals. The CCEAM is affiliated to the Commonwealth Consortium for Education (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 (CCL)

The Commonwealth Countries League is a voluntary Pan-Commonwealth civil society organisation. 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 non-party and is open to men and women from all countries. It promotes the education of girls and young women and links together women's organizations throughout the Commonwealth. In particular, it raises money for its associated charity, the Commonwealth Countries League Education Fund.

Commonwealth Dental Association (CDA)

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 the awareness of oral health.

Commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN)

Founded in 2013, The Commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN) was established to catalyse the meaningful change needed to end discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity/expression or sex characteristics. The network provides a sustainable platform for LGBTI activists and civil society organisations across the Commonwealth to

share expertise, gather evidence, carry out joint advocacy and participate in Commonwealth policy processes.

Commonwealth Engineers Council (CEC)

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

Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC)

The Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (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 Fashion Council (CFC)

The Commonwealth Fashion Council (CFC) is a not for profit organisation uniting over 20 national fashion councils and weeks from across the Commonwealth Fashion Industries (CFI's). We deliver programmes in collaboration with our council members. Programmes focus on adding value to fashion industries through advocating development, education, trade, youth and gender empowerment.

Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA)

The Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA) works in all corners of the Commonwealth and beyond to promote the wise management of trees and forests. The CFA is also the home to the secretariat for the Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forests, which is comprised 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 which takes place every four years.

Commonwealth Geographical Bureau (CGB)

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

Commonwealth Girls Education Fund (CGEF)

The Commonwealth Girls Education Fund (CGEF) is a UK registered charity (no.1048908). Since 1967 the CGEF has been sponsoring capable girls in 40 Commonwealth countries where without financial assistance they would be unlikely or unable to continue their secondary schooling. When a girl stays in school life improves not only for her but also for many others in her family and community. Girls who complete secondary education are more likely to have smaller and healthier families, earn higher wages and have lower risks of disease. They will also ensure their own children and others in their communities are educated. Educate A Girl. Empower A Woman. Inspire A Community. Change Live.

Commonwealth HIV/AIDS Action Group (CHAAG)

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 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in South Africa in 1999. Paragraph 55 called upon the Heads of Commonwealth states to give personal leadership to combating HIV/AIDS. CHAAG is a multidisciplinary group of Commonwealth Associations and Civil Society Organisations with an interest in promoting the Commonwealth response to HIV and AIDS.

Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC)

The Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (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 (CHRI)

CHRI is an international NGO that works for the practical realisation of human rights throughout the Commonwealth. It is headquartered in India, with offices in Ghana and the UK. CHRI advocates for better respect for, protection and promotion of international human rights standards and ensuring greater adherence to Commonwealth Harare principles and Commonwealth Charter. Its main programmatic work is around SDG8.7, and issues relating to accountability and participation in governance - access to justice and access to information. 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 United Nations Human Rights Council.

Commonwealth Journalists' Association (CJA)

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. The CJA wants to be an organisation whose members feel engaged and supported, one which is robust in defending a free media and protecting journalists.

Commonwealth Judicial Education Association (CJEI)

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 (CLA)

CLA is a pan-Commonwealth organisation which 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. The 21st Commonwealth Law Conference will be held in Livingstone, Zambia from 14-18 April, 2018.

Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA)

The Commonwealth Legal Education Association (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 UK. Our 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 (CMJA)

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, and 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 (CMA)

The Commonwealth Medical Association was established in 1952. The Association, also known as the CMA, is a non-governmental organization and its main objective is to assist and strengthen the capacities of national medical associations (NMAs) of countries within the Commonwealth to improve the health, well-being and human rights of their countries and communities. (Technical advice and co-operation, networking, medical ethics, training, communications, Ministerial advocacy).

Commonwealth Medical Trust (COMMAT)

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

Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation (CNMF)

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 (COSW)

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 Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA) advances health, promotes wellbeing and improves education for the benefit of the people of the Commonwealth. We support the development of safe and effective systems of medicines management, healthier lifestyles, and the reduction of health inequalities. We achieve this through building strong collaborative networks, partnering with member organizations to improve the quality of pharmacy practice and creating platforms for the dissemination of knowledge about pharmaceutical sciences and professional practice.

Commonwealth Trade Union Group (CTUG) / International Confederation of Trade Unions

The International Trade Union Confederation (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 cooperation 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.

Commonwealth Resounds

Commonwealth Resounds promotes music and musicians across the Commonwealth through collaborative events worldwide with a particular focus on young people and the developing world. Thousands of their musicians have been involved in their life-changing projects and gala performances.

Commonwealth Women's Network (CWN)

The Commonwealth Women's Network (CWN) brings together women and gender focused civil society organisations from around the Commonwealth. CWN mobilises greater investment in gender equality and women's empowerment. It works to ensure women and girls reach their full potential develop their leadership skills to create gender balance in all decision-making spheres. CWN's agenda covers women's rights, removes stereotypical roles of women, promotes economic independence to eradicate poverty and works for a society free of violence among other issues.

Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA)

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) is made up of the Commonwealth Veterinary Associations or approved bodies of the most Commonwealth Countries. The Mission of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association 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 & Choir is to use music as a means of international dialogue, knowing no boundaries. The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra & 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 is an organisation for people, principally but not exclusively women, who are living or have lived overseas, or who have an interest in those who have done so. This is perhaps because they may be going abroad to work or study. There is much to be gained from Corona Worldwide's fellowship. Its members provide advice, guidance and friendship to anyone about to go overseas to live or work for the first time in any particular country.

Council for Education in the Commonwealth (CEC)

The Council for Education in the Commonwealth (CEC), a parliament based NGO, was founded over 50 years ago, at the time of the first Commonwealth Education Ministers' Conference. 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 Britain and the European Union can best contribute to their development.

Forum of Federations

The Forum of Federations is an international governance organization 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 organization and doesn't advocate for any particular structure of government. We provide innovative solutions to challenges posed by multi-level governance in a range of devolved, decentralized or federal countries.

Institute of Certified Management Accountants

Institute of Certified Management Accountants (ICMA) is an Australian-based specialist professional body in the areas of management accounting and business analysis. Its objectives are to provide a professional organisation for management accountants and business analysts, and to encourage, disseminate and promote the specialisations in Australian organisations. The Institute offers a number of education programs that have received accreditation from many Australian and overseas universities. For the industry and employer perspective, the Management Accounting 2020 program offers industry-based certification for best practice in decision information and control systems.

Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICS)

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 on Social Welfare (ICSW)

The International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) is a non-governmental organisation focused on advocacy, knowledge-building and technical assistance projects in various

areas of social development carried out at the country level and internationally. Establishing common ground on issues of international significance, and acting with partners ICSW represents national and local organisations in more than 70 countries throughout the world working through its nine regional networks.

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

FIDH (International Federation for Human Rights) is an international human rights NGO federating 184 organisations from 112 countries, including some 20 in the Commonwealth. Since 1922, FIDH has been defending all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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.

Pacific Island Association for NGOs (PIANGO)

The Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) is a regional network of NGO focal points or coordinating bodies known as National Liaison Units (NLUs) 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.

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.

Rotary International

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, community leaders, and problem-solvers who come together to create positive, lasting change in our communities and around the world. Our differing occupations, cultures, and countries give us a unique perspective. Our shared passion for service helps us accomplish the remarkable.

Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth (RASC)

RASC plays a pivotal role in the promotion of agriculture across the Commonwealth. The RASC's mission is 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

Our remit is to help ex-Service men & women who served The Crown and are now in need. We are privileged to have HRH The Prince Philip 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 Life-Saving Society (RLSS)

Founded in 1891, the Royal Life Saving Society is the Commonwealth drowning prevention organisation. RLSS is a family of lifesaving organisations, active in 27 Commonwealth countries with a common heritage of drowning prevention activities including delivery of water safety education, water rescue and resuscitation training. The Society provides expertise in the development of community-based drowning prevention strategies, the design of lifesaving education programmes and the establishment of aquatic safety standards. RLSS is a registered charity incorporated by Royal Charter with HM the Queen as Patron.

Royal Overseas League (ROSL)

The Royal Over-Seas League (ROSL) 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 is an international organisation that changes lives for the long term. Sightsavers works in more than 30 countries to eliminate avoidable blindness and support people with visual impairments to live independently. We do what we do because 80 per cent of blindness in the world is avoidable, and we think that's astoundingly unfair.

Soroptimist International

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

Sound Seekers

Sound Seekers (The Commonwealth Society for the Deaf) delivers practical solutions to support people with hearing loss realise their rights by enabling access to healthcare and education, in some of the poorest communities in the developing world. We do this by partnering with major hospitals and health service providers to improve the prevention, identification and management of hearing loss and with schools to improve the quality of education for children with hearing loss. We work with local communities and wider stakeholders to raise awareness on hearing loss and advocate for equal opportunities for people with hearing loss. We currently have projects in Cameroon, Malawi, Sierra Leone, The Gambia and Zambia.

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, Commonwealth Foundation, Commonwealth of Learning, or former salaried staff 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.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award ('the Award') enables 14-24-year-olds to learn practical skills that are valuable to their personal and professional development. The Award is comprised of 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.

The Institute of Certified Bookkeepers (ICB)

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.

The Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS)

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 states which are intrinsically linked through their common history and shared values.

The Round Table

Founded in 1910, The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs has a dual function. First, it is a peer-reviewed scholarly journal, published six times a year. The UK's oldest international affairs journal, The Round Table 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. Secondly, The Round Table is a forum for Commonwealth debate and advocacy. It hosts periodic dinner and other meetings, with invited speakers, and organises seminar and conferences on a regular basis. It works closely with the Commonwealth Secretariat and Foundation and with a range of other Commonwealth organisations.

Transparency International

Transparency International is the global movement against corruption. With more than 100 national chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, we work with partners in government, business and civil society to put effective measures in place to tackle corruption.

World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS)

World Alliance for Citizen Participation is an international alliance of members and partners which 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 societies exists in direct proportion to the degree of balance between the state, the private sector and civil society.

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