

## **Background documents for review of the COs' process of preparing the submission to the COW.**

### **1. Contributions to general discussion**

My original suggestion was that we describe the process of our engagement:

- group discussions,
- drafting,
- the meeting at Cabinet Office with Commonwealth Summit Unit in December
- the meeting at ComSec with Katalaina Sapolu in January

Going forward, we need to think about:

- Our plans for the UK Chair in Office term
- How to engage with Rwanda early
- How to ensure continuity of youth engagement with COs and at IFCO
- Formalising the governance of (I)FCO
- Revitalising the core group

Aims for the 23 April meeting:

This meeting is planned to reflect on the process of COs' engagement with the drafting of the CHOGM Communiqué.

There are several dimensions to this.

1. What impact did we have, and how did this differ across our five papers and the four CHOGM themes?
2. How might we have communicated better (e.g. circulating regular minutes of our meetings)? Regarding improving inclusivity, suggestions are welcome, including volunteering to give time and resources to the process. How might we better engage with Youth groups?
3. Given the two-year period ahead prior to the planned Rwanda CHOGM, what should the timetable be for organising to prepare our input?
4. How do we engage with High Commissions/governments and Ministerial meetings *en route* to Rwanda? (This implies a prior decision on the relative priority of engagement with the ministerials and the full CHOGM, not of course mutually exclusive.)
5. What have the outcomes been? Have we achieved desired wording in the Communiqué or merely served to legitimise a 'participatory process'? (Are there are major differences across thematic subject areas, and also between the responses of ComSec and HMG.)
6. What can we find out about the ongoing High Level Review, and how can we feed into it?
7. The conduct of the Foreign Ministers' meetings at CHOGM invites the question of who was invited from COs to address the Foreign Ministers, by whom, and how.
8. As discussed with regard to our meeting with the Commonwealth Summit Unit on 20 December, now is the time to consider how to engage with UK Government over the two-year Chair in Office period. (For example, we know from the UK Senior Official, Richard Oppenheim, that major elements of the Partnerships paper would have HMG support, which we should discuss.) We can only touch

on this in the time we have, but should think about the agenda for IFCO and for the next two, or four, years.

9. We need also to address the question of resourcing the IFCO. (In the run-up to CHOGM, ComSec provided assistance from Jamie Wiles and we were allowed to use the Main Conference Room for meetings. However, we still have no information on Jamie's job description, including time allocated to COs, or even continuity of her contract, which ends at the end of April if not prolonged.) IFCO has no resources of its own, except for voluntary contributions.

10. Our conduct of the drafting process. Here, we need to consider the balance of activity between the IFCO (or, the IFCO Convenor) and ComSec, in terms of scheduling and accommodating meetings, taking and distributing minutes, etc., as well as issues of confidentiality, i.e. when we need to discuss issues in private. We also need to consider how to involve experienced editors/drafters to integrate and refine the final version, as well as agreement on the need for summary recommendations or an executive summary.

11. The above means we should discuss the revitalisation of the IFCO Working Group (remit, composition) so that there is a core, active group to take things forward.

*Personal note.*

From my own experience, I agree that we have made steps forward in involvement of the whole IFCO compared with the preparations for the 2015 CHOGM, in response to COs' criticism that they were too little involved last time, and did not see drafts with time to respond.

However, the group process varied across themes in degree of inclusion, number of meetings held to discuss pre-circulated drafts, use of what in effect constitutes a 'veto right' over the process or part of a document, and, apparently, readiness of Leads to read drafts circulated to all, to avoid overlap between papers. (This means Leads being able to guarantee in advance, in principle, that they would have the time for this.) Also, it would be worth considering how to engage Leads for the papers, and whether there needs to be a process of invitation to all and submission of supportive statements, for decision at an IFCO meeting, by potential Leads. Obviously, this is another potential increase in inclusivity with resource implications.

This will include considering whether we need prior agreement among Leads that they will have or make time available for preparing for, and attending meetings (whether virtually or face-to-face, as well as possible alternates or deputies if Leads have to drop out for any reason.

There are other issues: one Lead or two, per paper; how to consult with COs in the drafting process; whether to wait for the CHOGM agenda (best to start in advance). It is probably too soon to second-guess Rwanda's (or, East Africa's) likely priorities, but it would be good to have the support of an Africa or a Rwanda expert in considering this.

*ComSec feedback:*

Katalaina agreed to consider joining us for a meeting after CHOGM, but 23 April was too early. Abhik Sen, Head of Partnerships and Innovation at ComSec, and Jamie Wiles joined us from 3pm. Richard Bourne also joined us from 3pm.

We have now seen relevant outcome documents, the Communiqué:

[http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/inline/CHOGM\\_2018\\_Communique.pdf](http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/inline/CHOGM_2018_Communique.pdf),

the leaders' statement:

<http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/inline/LeadersStatement.pdf>,

the Commonwealth Blue Charter declaration:

[http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/inline/CommonwealthBlueCharter\\_0.pdf](http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/inline/CommonwealthBlueCharter_0.pdf),

the Declaration on the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda for Trade and Investment:

[http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/inline/DeclarationontheCommonwealthConnectivityAgendaforTradeandInvestment\\_0.pdf](http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/inline/DeclarationontheCommonwealthConnectivityAgendaforTradeandInvestment_0.pdf) and

the Revised Commonwealth Guidelines for the Conduct of Election Observation in Member Countries:

[http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/inline/CommonwealthGuidelinesfortheConductofElectionObservationinMemberCountries\\_1.pdf](http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/inline/CommonwealthGuidelinesfortheConductofElectionObservationinMemberCountries_1.pdf), we have the basis for a preliminary discussion of our

impact on the outputs.

**I would be grateful if someone could send me the links to the Forum reports.**

*Addendum:*

Some early comments by colleagues:

David Jones:

“Here are my first reflections.

I think that we delivered a significant and demanding process and achieved a significant outcome - but we had under-estimated what was involved and the time it would take! We should not underestimate the degree of common purpose that we realised and should not let it drift away.

It seems that feedback from some High Commissioners was that the greater unity and sense of shared purpose did come across strongly and made an impression.

I am not sure that there could be any greater governance structures which could facilitate the process among COs, but we should at least explore how COs felt involved (or not) and whether we did as much as possible to be inclusive whilst also focussed! A few of the bigger COs who had not played a visible role did contribute towards the end in a helpful way. Have we shifted the culture of joint working among COs? Is there an appetite for closer working together? How do we test that?

I regretted that the 'youth' element came in quite late in the day and did prove problematic for young people and ourselves. We negotiated the pitfalls successfully, it seems, but we could easily have annoyed and alienated the young people by asking them to endorse material already worked up without them! We need to have an inclusive approach to working with young people if we do the same in future, which I am sure should be our goal.

I agree that it would be more convincing if our priorities emerged from ongoing work rather than a brief consultation. However that demands a commitment to ongoing partnership working which is challenging and time consuming for all. Can we achieve that? What are the consequences if we do not.

I would like to thank Nicholas and all involved for their/our forbearance with each other, good natured co-operation and constructive approach. It felt like a committed and hard-working group, under some adversity, despite the fact that we had never worked together before! I reflect

positively on that experience and would be willing to repeat it!

Thanks especially to Nicholas for driving the process on at each stage.

I hope this is helpful and finds some resonance with others.”

Clive Harridge:

“... I would like us to consider the potential for COW to be part of a more strategic role for IFCO. A few thoughts on this below.

We should see COW as just one part of a much wider and strategic approach for civil society to influence policy in the CW, and achieving what civil society wants to achieve. We should not see COW as the once and for all opportunity with everything dependant on the one meeting and how the presentations go. It would be good if IFCO could agree a number of priority areas which we wish to promote over say a 2-3 year period of which one promotion opportunity would [be] COW and subsequent CHOGM. We could develop a strategy for the priority areas, commission an evidence base, consult widely and agree priority actions etc etc. If this was progressed by IFCO orgs working collaboratively together and with others as appropriate it would have greater strength and influence including at COW – and ultimately we would be much more likely to achieve what we are seeking. If we start this process now – we have 2 years to progress before the next CHOGM.

Is anyone else thinking along these lines?”

Nicholas Watts comments:

I would like to thank David for his kind remarks and generally positive view, and Clive for echoing our own, prior discussions among Leads. The Partnerships paper (e.g. mapping and grouping COs), consideration of the substantive value of CHOGM in comparison with other Ministerials (and, of the differential impact of Ministerial communiqués on CHOGM). Clive underlines the importance of moving quickly, and having a considered agenda prior to the next IFCO.

From Peter Oborn: “For what it’s worth herewith my key takeaways to date:

- 1 We should start the process earlier
  - 2 We should attempt to identify a handful of key issues on which we can focus
  - 3 We should engage with governments on these key issues earlier
  - 4 Despite the slight discomfort at this year’s event, we should not shy away from dealing with difficult issues or with issues which member states do not agree, but we should find a way of addressing such issues more effectively than we did this year.
  - 5 We should be sure to read ALL of the papers to be presented before they are presented. *[This would require timely prior completion and circulation. It should also apply to draft chapters! NW]*
  - 6 We need to establish with ComSec exactly what the status of our recommendations are? Are they simply for noting or do they require action.
  - 7 There is a balance to be struck between putting forward a diverse group of speakers rather than the authors of the papers
  - 8 We need to emphasise the level of consultation that has been undertaken and the degree of support we have for each issue so that this can be understood by the Senior Officials.
- I’m sure others will have additional comments to make and suggest we try and capture these as soon as we are able.”

## **PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF CHOGM PROCESS**

**Please find below the documentation so far for our analysis of the CHOGM process.** We clearly need to decide on format (narrative, traffic light, or a matrix that identifies our recommendations set against the CHOGM Communiqué, including also other documents such as the Blue Charter.) Or, colleagues may agree that we should send the documentation out early next week in the format we have, given the time constraints, and that each lead might prepare a commentary on his/her paper and its impact. Any thoughts/comments welcome (with the possible exception of the Prosperity section, which needs shortening).

### **1. FAIRNESS**

**Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting  
Communiqué “Towards a Common Future”  
Initial Comparative Analysis with Submission of Commonwealth Organisations  
Fairer Future**

This paper is a first attempt to compare the CHOGM Communiqué with the submission of Commonwealth Organisations on Fairer Future.

#### **Introduction**

Reaffirmed Commonwealth Charter (2013), the Paris Agreement (2015) and the Sustainable Development Goals (2015).

Accepted link between fairness, equity and democracy and development including equity before the law

Endorsed national and global human rights instruments,

Effective, accountable and inclusive national institutions essential for development

Mainstreaming youth involvement

#### **Recommendations**

a) Welcome and resource the Commonwealth Secretary-General’s initiative in establishing the Office of Civil and Criminal Justice Reform - ENDORSED

b) Overseeing the practical implementation of the principles of the Commonwealth Charter – DIDN’T ENDORSE PEER REVIEW BUT DID ENDORSE CMAG

c) **freedom of expression – Role of the media – NO MENTION**

d) **Commonwealth principles on the role of the media in good governance, acknowledging threats to the safety of journalists – NO MENTION**

e) Election monitoring – revised guidelines approved

- f) Develop capacity for gathering and publishing information – not specific but recognised need for ICT for all – gender and equity
- g) Continue support for the Leave No One Behind commitment - ENDORSED - Leave no one behind endorsed - references to gender equality and equal rights, Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Address stigma against disability and mental health – encourage UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities,
- h) Reduce violence within the family – references to gender based violence, FGM, early marriage, No specific reference to LGBTQI rights but can be implied,
- i) Strengthen legal frameworks and tackle sexist laws that hamper women’s opportunities  
ENDORSED
- j) **commit to the elimination of death penalty, arbitrary detentions, extra-judicial executions and torture – NO MENTION**
- 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 –  
SIGNIFICANT MENTIONS UNDER SUSTAINABLE

Welcome reference to Migration – recognised value of migration and need to respond to refugees and ensure safe return

David N Jones

24 April 2018 (first draft)

## 2. PROSPERITY

### IFCO Commentary on the Prosperity section of the Communiqué

Taken overall, our ‘Prosperity’ paper is the paper that has had least resonance in the Communiqué. There is a marked contrast between our emphasis on Commonwealth values, decent work and green jobs in a context of indicators of prosperity that go ‘beyond GDP’. Our emphasis on easing ‘doing business’ and facilitating opportunities for SMEs is partially reflected, but the emphasis in the Communiqué is very much on a neoliberal multilateral trading system, albeit with welcome reference to enhanced integration of small and poor states into that system, but without reference to low carbon, green and blue economies in the context of strengthening human rights and public services and, especially, ‘preserving government sovereignty’. [This may have been interpreted as favouring protectionism rather than the ‘development state’.]

This said, we need also to consider the Annex ‘Declaration on the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda for Trade and Investment’.

#### *Multilateral Trading System* (Communiqué para 16)

We would welcome strengthening the Small States Office in Geneva, although this was not one of our ‘asks’. Otherwise an argument for a traditional neoliberal economic growth agenda.

#### *Intra-Commonwealth Trade and Investment* (para 17)

The main emphasis is on growing intra-Commonwealth trade, with the Secretariat mandated to develop an Action Plan for capacity-building and ‘hard and soft connectivity’, facilitating business-to-

business contacts. There is no reference to partnership with civil society, or balancing private and public investment

#### *Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth* (paras 18, 19)

Addressing 'systemic barriers to women's full and equal participation' and promoting 'women's economic empowerment', are consistent with our recommendations for gender-just policies, but with stronger emphasis on trade.

The emphasis on youth employment, skills development and better data is welcome and consistent with our recommendations, but does not address the 'decent work' agenda. Also, reference to 'access to reliable and affordable energy' does not mention renewables (but see paras. 30,31), but does include 'large scale public and private investments'.

#### *Small and Vulnerable States* (paras 20-23)

Known vulnerabilities of small states are rehearsed, with an emphasis on the need for 'effective debt management' and the challenge of unsustainable debt.

The series of recommendations from SIDS meetings are listed from Barbados (1994) to S.A.M.O.A. (2014), and endorsed.

Further support is encouraged for the Commonwealth Small States Centre of Excellence and the Commonwealth Small States Trade Financing Facility, but no financial commitments are made. Heads also recognised the impact of de-risking on small states' access to financial markets and services, calling for multi-level engagement to combat de-risking.

#### **Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda for Trade and Investment (Annex 3 of Communiqué)**

The text of the Connectivity paper is somewhat closer to our recommendations, recognising 'international trade and investment as an engine for generating *inclusive and participative* economic growth and a means to deliver the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [emphasis added]*. Commitments are made, though, in the context of 'free trade in a transparent, inclusive, fair, and open rules-based multilateral trading system.' It refers, as does the Communiqué, to the importance of integrating small states, as well as sharing best practices. When the 2030 Agenda and the promotion of the blue and green economy are mentioned, this is only in the context of underlining the vital role of the private sector. Connectivity is presented in five guises: physical, digital, regulatory, business-to-business and supply-side connectivity. Welcome mention of 'micro, small and medium enterprises' is limited to export diversification opportunities and improving the regulatory environment. Inclusive and sustainable trade will be mainstreamed as a cross-cutting issue, and participation of women and youth will be encouraged, including opportunities for women to trade internationally, and an undertaking is given to 'invest in programmes to tackle youth unemployment'.

However, in neither the Communiqué nor the Connectivity Agenda is the role of trade unions recognised. The recommendation to commit to the Incheon Declaration in support of education is ignored, as is investment in science and innovation and proactive promotion of labour markets based on decent work. The recommendations for consultative women and youth impact assessments as well as 'soft loans' are disregarded. The need for better data is only mentioned in the context of improved youth employment opportunities (para. 19), rather than to help decision-making and evaluation of programmes across the piece. Women participation targets in procurements are similarly omitted. Our thinking on crowdfunding for diaspora and other investors to provide small funding and resources and mechanisms to ease intra-Commonwealth travel is similarly disregarded, as is simplification of tax systems in an effort to minimise corruption. Our specific recommendation to 'protect countries' policy space' and for 'trade and investment agreements that create decent work and green jobs, with the full involvement of civil society' that 'guarantee mechanisms for 'social partners' and secure protections for public services, human rights

and the environment fall on deaf ears, as does the proposed adoption of UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights [CHECK] recommendations for 'human rights due diligence by all companies that apply along their supply chains' or ours to commit to societies that remove discrimination against marginalised minorities.

Summary:

The Prosperity recommendations in the Communiqué, even when addressing green and blue economy and youth employment, do so from a distinctly neoliberal economic perspective, to a large extent disregarding the potential contribution of social partners, civil society and diaspora communities, anti-corruption initiatives. The lack of commitment to the Incheon Declaration is compounded by disappointment at the lack of any mention of education in the Prosperity section, the absence of education as an underlying enabler throughout the Communiqué (especially given the host government's vocal support for education throughout CHOGM) and the lack of specificity in the section of the Communiqué focused on education (para 34) which is worryingly vague.

There is no apparent enthusiasm for an economic development agenda that looks at new ways of doing things in the light of Commonwealth values, the SDGs, or the inclusion of social partners and civil society actors.

Nicholas Watts 30 April 2018

### Initial Comparative Analysis of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018 Communiqué with Submission of IFCO

#### A Prosperous Future

	IFCO Recommendation	Coverage in the 2018 CHOGM Communiqué
A	Governments should commit to following <b>the Incheon Declaration</b> and allocate at least 4-6% of Gross Domestic Product and/or at least 15-30% <sup>14</sup> of total public expenditure to education and plan to meet employability needs through education.	<p>No specific mention of the Incheon Declaration though specific Mention was made to the commitment of 12 years of quality education</p> <p>Paragraph 34 of CHOGM2018 Communiqué: <i>“Heads encouraged the implementation of specific actions to provide the opportunity for at least 12 years of quality education and learning for girls and boys by 2030, by investing in skilled motivated and supportive teachers, educational facilities, and focusing on education reforms. Guided by the principle to leave no one behind, they agreed to support marginalised groups, especially disadvantaged girls, children with disabilities, and those who have dropped out of school to progress through secondary education and training through appropriate policies, advocacy and strategic partnerships.”</i></p> <p>Relevant notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment was given by UK government of £212 million in overseas aid to support girls in the commonwealth and to support mechanisms which can ensure that young people have access to 12 years of quality education.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific recommendation on commitment of GDP allocation for education was not made. This recommendation could have also referenced and built upon the <a href="#">20CCEM</a> (Feb 2018, Fiji) commitment by Education Ministers, who in their declaration “recalled their commitment to invest the globally agreed [...] and called on Heads to take specific action to provide at least 12 years of quality education (Declaration points 15 and 16).</li> </ul>
B	<p>Create a ‘<b>gender and youth just</b>’ industrial strategy that invests in <b>science and innovation</b> and proactively promotes labour markets based on <b>Decent Work</b>.</p>	<p>Paragraph 19. of CHOGM 2018 Communiqué speaks to the need to invest in various aspects of job creation, innovation, entrepreneurship and the relevant skill building specifically for young people, no specific commitment was made. The Youth Forum also emphasised this IFCO recommendation.</p> <p><i>“Heads stressed the importance of <b>creating meaningful employment opportunities</b> for the Commonwealth’s growing youth populations. They agreed on the need to <b>invest in a systems approach</b> to support young people, including through <b>skills building, entrepreneurship, apprenticeships</b>, and the need for <b>better data</b> to target interventions effectively. Heads recognised the role of industrialisation as a key driver of economic development, innovation and job creation. Heads emphasised that improved access to reliable and affordable energy will create an enabling investment environment for successful industrialisation. <b>Heads called for large scale public and private investments and better coordinated strategies by international financial institutions in sectors that underpin growth and increase employment, especially for young people.</b>”</i></p> <p>Relevant Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This point did not specifically reference women/young women.</li> <li>• On innovation, but not on decent work, a commitment was made by Ministers of Finance to pursue the prospects of a Commonwealth partnership to promote innovation and technological change through focusing on improving the enabling environment for this. Again, this focus is on accessibility of opportunities though not specific to gender/youth.</li> </ul>
C	<p>Industrial, trade and active labour market policies should be underpinned by <b>consultative women and youth impact assessments</b>. Based upon this, budget allocations should ensure women and youth have <b>access to quality jobs</b> as well as <b>training opportunities</b> such as apprenticeships. For entrepreneurs, capacity building programmes linked to ‘<b>soft loans</b>’ or</p>	<p>Paragraph 19 of the CHOGM Communiqué as mentioned in B above speaks to youth access for these opportunities.</p> <p>Commitment was made for enhanced environment for women and youth involvement in trade through the <i>Declaration on Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda for Trade and Investment (DCCATI)</i> and a commitment to an</p>

	<p><b>grants</b> should be provided to enable women and youth competitiveness.</p>	<p>inclusive and sustainable trade approach which encourages the participation of women and youth was made:</p> <p><i>“taking a gender responsive approach to the development of trade policy, increasing opportunities for women to trade internationally, and breaking down gender barriers in all sectors. We undertake to invest in programmes that tackle youth unemployment and give young people access to meaningful opportunities”</i></p> <p>Relevant Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UK Government “She Trades” fund commitment, while not speaking to formal women/youth impact assessments, speaks to access to funding for women in business in countries where there are still gender barriers. Commonwealth countries will be given access to a £7 million fund to help female entrepreneurs “overcome barriers” that stop them getting businesses off the ground.</li> <li>• No other mention by the collective Heads was made in the Communiqué with respect to access to finance or access to <b>quality jobs/decent work</b>, or youth/gender inclusive budgeting though these are accommodated within the Youth Mainstreaming Framework adopted at the CYMM in Uganda and here endorsed by the heads in Paragraph 5.</li> </ul>
D	<p>Support investment in <b>e-commerce infrastructure</b> <i>that for example aids small state value chains opportunities, particularly for women and youth.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>This IFCO Recommendation was focused on investment in e-commerce infrastructure. No commitment to investment was explicitly made.</p> <p>Equitable access to small-state value chains opportunity, access to ICT and its role in evidence-informed decision-making were phrased as examples in this IFCO recommendation.</p> <p>Paragraph 7 of the CHOGM2018 Communiqué addresses access to ICT and the important function it plays in the equity agenda: <i>Heads highlighted the seminal role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and Science, Technology and Innovation in supporting good governance, promoting inclusion and sustainable development, and reducing the digital divide. They encouraged member countries to prioritise access to ICT for all in their national development plans, including through a gender and equity lens and agreed to share innovations in this area, including through the recently launched Commonwealth Innovation Hub.</i></p> <p><i>Supply side connectivity</i> focus in the Declaration on CCATI speaks to support for global value chains linkages. This, supported by the <i>Digital connectivity</i> commitment which speaks to expanding the ICT capabilities specifically focused</p>

		on national needs, economies and frameworks will support e-commerce infrastructure.
E	Promote women-owned enterprises and collectives by establishing and tracking <b>government-wide women participation targets</b> in procurement and encourage suppliers to do the same.	<p>No specific mention was made on establishing or tracking participation <b>targets</b> though commitments were made on prioritising the involvement of women in business (See B and C above).</p> <p>Also, Paragraph 18 of the CHOGM2018 Communiqué speaks to a commitment to gender-responsive approach to associated policies and inclusive participation:</p> <p><i>“To promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, Heads resolved to address systemic barriers to women’s full and equal participation in the economy by taking a gender-responsive approach to the development of trade policy, and to promote women’s economic empowerment. They encouraged Commonwealth and partner organisations to work towards an increase in the number and enhancement of the success rate of women-owned businesses, break down gender barriers in all sectors, and increase opportunities for women to trade internationally.”</i></p>
F	<b>Legislate for crowdfunding mechanisms</b> from the diaspora and other local and foreign investors to enable entrepreneurs to <b>access</b> smaller amounts of finance and other resources.	<p>No mention in CHOGM 2018 Communiqué.</p> <p>Relevant note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mention of harnessing the diaspora through savings and investments was made at the Senior Finance Officials meeting 2016 in the wings of Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting at the IMF HQ, DC and similarly noted in the Chair’s (MoF India’s) Meeting Summary.</li> <li>• Commitment to a framework that could support this is already underway.</li> <li>• The following is taken from the SOM Discussion note for the 2017CFMM:</li> </ul> <p><i>“The Commonwealth Secretariat has initiated a Diaspora Finance Work Programme, focussed on increasing diaspora capital transfers to support economic development in home countries. The initial phase involves research, analysis and scoping to better understand diaspora investment potential.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commonwealth Business Forum’s Interim Communiqué mentioned one of 4 projects as:</li> </ul> <p><i>“In collaboration with Inclusive Ventures Group, we have initiated a Commonwealth Fund for Social Impact from Technology and Innovation, which will finance young entrepreneurs to use innovative technology to create impact directly linked to SDG targets. This will be led by Mohamed Amersi.”</i></p>
G	Encourage <b>mechanisms to ease travel</b> between Commonwealth countries to facilitate greater business ties and productive tourism	<p>Not Mentioned</p> <p>The only commitment remotely related to travel was on Migration and a human rights-based support for refugees.</p>

	growth, whilst maintaining robust security controls	
h	<b>Simplify tax systems</b> so that the underpinning state finance is seen to be transparent and more efficient. Adopt and apply <b>Open Contracting, transparency and supplier diversity provisions</b> with accountability to the public throughout public project lifecycles – particularly in health, education and infrastructure.	Though this was not directly agreed to at CHOGM, the 2017 CFMM included discussions on a potential tax policy network through which something like this could be raised and supported.
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 <b>transparently negotiate trade and investment agreements</b> 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.	<p>Trade and investment agreements which are transparent and protect countries’ policies and development needs was provided for within <a href="#">Paragraph 16</a> of the CHOGM communiqué</p> <p><i>“They reaffirmed their commitment to <b>free trade in a transparent, inclusive, fair, and open rules-based multilateral trading system</b>, which takes into account the <b>special requirements of least developed countries and small and vulnerable economies</b>. They reiterated their support for finding solutions to the remaining Doha Development Round issues.”</i></p> <p>Heads did not commit to support to small and developing countries but called on the international community to support this in <a href="#">Paragraph 20</a> of the CHOGM communiqué:</p> <p><i>“Heads recognised that concerted action is required to address the unique challenges and vulnerabilities of small and vulnerable states to ensure their full participation in and contribution to a more prosperous future. [...] To this end, they called on the international community to support measures, including effective debt management and transparency, which help to alleviate these vulnerabilities and challenges.”</i></p> <p>and also called for wide support to global financial inclusion of small states in <a href="#">Paragraph 23</a> of CHOGM 2018 communiqué:</p> <p><i>“Heads further noted with concern that the practice of “de-risking” threatens to exclude small and other vulnerable states from accessing global financial markets and regulated financial services and may constrain their ability to trade internationally. They called for sustained international, regional and national efforts to identify effective solutions to combat “de-risking”, and to preserve the financial inclusion of small and other vulnerable states in the global economy.”</i></p> <p>Additionally, embedded within the <i>Declaration on Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda for Trade and Investment (DCCATI)</i> specifically within one of the listed principles, there was focus on trade needs of small and vulnerable economies and least developed countries as well as an emphasis on building on already existing initiatives.</p>

		<p>Regulatory Connectivity to support trade and investment is mentioned as one of the key DCCATI areas where member countries need to further dialogue.</p> <p>In both the Communiqué and DCCATI there is mention on the role of private sector in delivering on the 2030 agenda but no mention of civil society or other social partners.</p> <p>Relevant Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commonwealth Small States Trade Facility which was one of the key inclusions within the prosperity agenda and endorsed by the Heads at CHOGM 2018 was also presented to and endorsed by Finance Ministers at the CFMM in 2016.</li> <li>• UK Government announcements included a Commonwealth Standards Network. BSI, the UK National Standards Body, in partnership with the Department for International Trade and Department for International Development launched the Commonwealth Standards Network (CSN) where the UK Government will provide funding over the next two years for the new initiative, which has been launched to tackle non-tariff barriers and promote stronger trade amongst all Commonwealth states. The CSN is a platform for Commonwealth countries to exchange ideas, share best practice and impart knowledge. Its key aim will be to facilitate trade and foster innovation across the Commonwealth through the increased use of international standards.</li> </ul>
j	<p>Legislate <b>mandatory requirements for human rights due diligence by all companies</b>, that apply along their supply chains as per the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights.</p>	<p>The only general mention on national human rights good practice was in <u>Paragraph 12</u> of communiqué, where:</p> <p><i>“Heads encouraged the strengthening of National Human Rights Institutions in line with the Paris Principles. They reiterated the continued importance of sharing human rights best practice and expertise across the Commonwealth. They agreed to support National Human Rights Institutions and the Universal Periodic Review process, as well as to strengthen the Commonwealth Small States Office in Geneva.”</i></p>
k	<p>Commit to create societies that remove <b>discrimination against marginalised minorities</b> which prevents them playing their full part in economies, so that no one is left behind.</p>	<p>Inclusivity within the CHOGM communiqué consistently only referred to or implied youth and women without much clear consideration for other marginalised groups. In the conversation around “no one left behind” as espoused within the 2030 agenda, many nations will continue to find it difficult to take actionable equitable steps for development for all if these marginalised groups are not specifically identified.</p>

Also, to be clear - this table is complementary to the language you [NW] already sent as this aptly summarises the overall comparison.

Tiffany Daniels 2 May 2018

### 3. SECURITY

Analysis of impact of 'More Secure Commonwealth element of IFCO paper:

- 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;

The Summit Communiqué includes a specific reference to SDG 8.7. As part of member countries' objective to achieve SDG 8, Heads called for 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 in all its forms by 2025, including the unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers. Member countries were encouraged to endorse the "Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking" presented at the 72nd Meeting of the UN General Assembly. They encouraged ratification and implementation of relevant outstanding international agreements, and to develop appropriate national strategies in this regard. They further agreed to take action to end child sexual exploitation online including through joining relevant international bodies and initiatives.

Additionally, there were specific funding pledges related to SDG 8.7:

- The UK announced a £5.5 billion aid package to support Commonwealth countries to end child labour and human trafficking. The funds would be split 50% toward eliminating the worst forms of child labour and 50% to be spend in strengthening legal frameworks to prevent and end human trafficking.
- India announced the launch of a US\$50 Million Commonwealth window to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund. The funds aim to catalyze the achievement of SDGs in developing countries of the Commonwealth. Grenada, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu are the first three development partners engaged under this newly created Commonwealth window.

- 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;

Gender-based violence and gender equality were another defining issue during CHOGM 2018. The Communique contains 2 paragraphs the specifically address this:

Heads committed to ratifying and implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), through legislation, policies and programmes that mainstream and promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in social, economic and political life (p.3).

Heads are encouraged by continuing action by member countries and Commonwealth bodies to prevent and eliminate sexual and gender-based violence; child, early and forced marriage; and female genital mutilation as barriers to the development and the full realisation of girls' and women's human

rights and to sustainable growth and development. Heads also encouraged support for already married girls, adolescents and women who have been affected by such practices.

Heads encouraged the implementation of specific actions to provide the opportunity for at least 12 years of quality education and learning for girls and boys by 2030, by investing in skilled motivated and supportive teachers, educational facilities, and focusing on education reforms. Guided by the principle to leave no one behind, they agreed to support marginalised groups, especially disadvantaged girls, children with disabilities, and those who have dropped out of school to progress through secondary education and training through appropriate policies, advocacy and strategic partnerships.

To promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, Heads resolved to address systemic barriers to women's full and equal participation in the economy by taking a gender-responsive approach to the development of trade policy, and to promote women's economic empowerment. They encouraged Commonwealth and partner organisations to work towards an increase in the number and enhancement of the success rate of women-owned businesses, break down gender barriers in all sectors, and increase opportunities for women to trade internationally.

While the language in the paragraphs is expansive and many Heads of Government and Government officials spoke of these issues as priority issues during CHOGM, there are only two specific commitment made: to ratify and implement CEDAW and to take a gender-responsive approach to trade policy. CEDAW – while the most important Gender-related international law instrument, does not cover all the gender-related aspects connected to SDG 8.7. In addition, there were not specific announcements on coordinated Commonwealth-wide action to ensure all Member States do in fact ratify and implement CEDAW and enact gender-responsive trade policy and without this, progress will depend on the individual priorities and domestic contexts of each Commonwealth Country.

- 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;

The communique features many mentions of the importance of sharing information and best practice, collaboration and partnership across the Commonwealth to ensure sustainable development and human rights across all Commonwealth Countries. Specifically:

- the launch of the Commonwealth Innovation Hub; an online platform that will serve as a database, information and best practice repository and a programmes, policy and enterprise incubator.
  - the creation and work of the Commonwealth Office of Civil and Criminal Justice Reform (OCCJR) and its role in providing support to member countries in the creation of effective national laws.
  - The Communiqué which reiterated the continued importance of sharing human rights best practice and expertise across the Commonwealth. They agreed to support National Human Rights Institutions and the Universal Periodic Review process, as well as to strengthen the Commonwealth Small States Office in Geneva.
- 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;

This did not feature in the Communiqué, however there was open discussion on the issue at the COW for the first time; the UK Prime Minister expressed regret for colonial legislation which was being used to discriminate against people today; and, a £5.6m fund was announced to support *‘building [a] fairer, more equal and more inclusive Commonwealth societies and on securing the rights of all Commonwealth citizens, regardless of gender, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity and expression.’ One of the fund’s aims is to ‘Provide a range of legal and policy research tools and technical legal assistance and expertise to Commonwealth governments seeking to reform discriminatory laws, combat violence against women and girls, eliminate hate crimes and increase access to justice.’*

- e) 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;

This issue was not addressed directly in the commitment fo ‘Sustainable Development of Oceans’ (paras 28, 29), but is implied in the Commonwealth Blue Charter itself. The omission of specific reference to small-scale fishers (SSFs) in the Blue Charter document is striking, but we did not explicitly recommend this. The problem is that the Blue Charter is framed in very broad terms, with implementation delegated to states in a context of multi-level governance, with no explicit reference to any extra funds committed, so the detail is not apparent and will only emerge in the Action Plans.

So, we welcome the Blue Charter but note that it is framed in general terms, so that its final content is hard to predict. We would emphasise the critical importance of small-scale fishers’ livelihoods, and the need to resource states’ efforts to monitor and police illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and help develop their capacities to produce data needed for the monitoring of commitments under SDG 14.

**David White 24 April 2018**

## SUSTAINABILITY

### Analysis of the CHOGM 2018 Communiqué “Towards a Common Future” in relation to COs’ COW Submission chapter “A More Sustainable Future”.

#### DRAFT

The table below identifies the key recommendations from the “A more Sustainable Future” chapter and identifies relevant sections in the CHOGM communiqué. As can be seen most of the recommendations were covered in the Communiqué to some degree.

Recommendations in “A More Sustainable Future”	Coverage in 2018 CHOGM Communiqué
Overall	Overall discussion by Heads considered how CW can contribute to a more sustainable future (para 1).
Reduce Emissions to help tackle climate change (CC).	Recognised need for urgent action to mitigate CC. Renewed commitments under Paris Agreement. Heads encouraged ratification and implementation of Kigali Agreement, and Doha Amendment (para 24). Paris agreement work programme to be completed at COP24. Support for global approaches to address greenhouse emissions for aviation and shipping (para

	25). Agreed need for mechanisms to promote climate policy implementation at all levels. Recognised importance of CW Climate Finance Access Hub.
Develop resilience strategies at national, regional and local levels to help mitigate climate change risks	Communiqué calls for improved financing to boost resilience (para 26) and makes reference to need for disaster preparedness for reducing impacts of natural disasters e.g. reaffirmed commitment to Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. (para 27). Heads praised resilience efforts of Caribbean nations and encouraged “ <i>urgent and concrete action and global support initiatives in finding mechanisms for building resilience, adaptation and mitigation</i> ” (para 51). There was no specific reference to ‘resilience strategies’ per se, but the intent of such approaches is broadly covered in the text especially in relation to small islands.
Commit to ‘building back better’	There was not specific reference to ‘building back better’ although the intent of this is covered broadly in text on resilience, CC and natural disasters.
Endorse the Blue Charter	Heads recognised pressures on oceans (para 28) and adopted the CW Blue Charter (para’s 29 and 30).
Focus on Urbanisation	Communiqué recognises role of ‘ <i>industrialisation as a key driver of economic development, innovation and job creation</i> ’ (para 19). Called for ‘ <i>large scale public and private investments and better coordinated strategies by financial institutions in sectors that underpin growth and increase employment</i> ’ (para 19). There is no specific reference to role of cities or process of urbanisation.
Accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage	Heads agreed to this (para 32). Much coverage of Health issues in para’s 32 – 33.
Improve information and data gathering to inform evidence based policy making	Heads recognized role of ICT in supporting good governance and SD (para 7). Identified need for better data to support skills, apprenticeships and entrepreneurships (para 19).
Promote partnerships and knowledge sharing to accelerate learning	There was reference to partnerships – in relation to governance (para 13), clean energy provision (para 31) and education (para 34).
Implement Cw Curriculum Framework for the SDGs.	No specific reference to this.
Build capacity by promoting education, training and skills development	Support for skills development and apprenticeships to support economic growth (para 19). Support for primary / secondary education - 12 years of quality education (para34), but scant reference to training (para 24) and no specific reference to skills development.
Strengthen leadership and governance.	Reference to history of Cw promoting good governance (para 2). Para’s 8-14 focus on ‘Strengthening Democratic Institutions’. Heads agreed to adopt CMAG report in advancing political values (para 9). Recognised adopted ‘Revised Cw Guidelines on Election Observation in Member Countries’ (para 11). Reaffirmed commitment to Latimer House Principles and Toolkit (para 13).

Clive Harridge 29 April 2018