



# Realising People's Potential

## 2007 Commonwealth People's Forum



Commonwealth  
Foundation

KAMPALA,  
UGANDA  
18-22  
NOVEMBER  
2007

# SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS



Commonwealth  
Foundation

The Commonwealth  
People's Forum 2007  
*Realising People's Potential*

Kampala, Uganda  
18-22 November 2007

Summary of Proceedings

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## Commonwealth Foundation

The Commonwealth Foundation is an intergovernmental organisation, resourced by and reporting to Commonwealth governments, and guided by Commonwealth values and priorities.

The Foundation's mandate is to strengthen civil society in the achievement of Commonwealth priorities - democracy and good governance, respect for human rights and gender equality, poverty eradication and sustainable, people-centred development, and to promote arts and culture.

The Commonwealth Foundation was established by Heads of Governments in 1965. Membership of the Foundation is open to all members of the Commonwealth and currently stands at 46 governments. Associate Membership, which is open to associated states or overseas territories of member governments, has been granted to Gibraltar. 2005 saw celebrations for the Foundation's 40th Anniversary. The Foundation is headquartered in Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London, and has no other offices. Regular liaison and cooperation between the Secretariat and the Foundation is in place.

The Foundation continues to serve the broad purposes for which it was established as written in the Memorandum of Understanding:

"The purposes and areas of interest of the Foundation will be the administration of funds for increasing interchanges between Commonwealth organisations of the skilled or learned professions or skilled auxiliary occupations in order to maintain and improve standards of knowledge, attainment and conduct; and between non-governmental organisations of a voluntary rather than a strictly professional character throughout the Commonwealth. The Foundation's areas of interest will also extend to include culture, information and the media, rural development, social welfare and the handicapped, and the role of women.

"Within this broad framework, the functions of the Foundation will:

- To support attendance at conferences, seminars, symposia, workshops, short courses and other such activities
- To assist professional and other non-governmental bodies at the national, regional and Commonwealth level;
- To facilitate advisory, exchange and study visits and training attachments;
- To stimulate the flow of information between professional and other non-governmental bodies;
- To stimulate and support any other activities which fall within the Foundation's areas of interest by any other means that may be thought fit by the Board."

The Vision of the Commonwealth Foundation is: "Commonwealth civil society contributing to national and international goals for democracy, sustainable development and cultural diversity for the benefit of all people."

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF) 2007, meeting under the theme Realising People's Potential, took place from 18-22 November 2007 in Kampala, Uganda. The CPF provided Ugandan and pan-Commonwealth civil society an opportunity to discuss issues affecting their work and their countries, and feed their concerns to their governments during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), being held in Kampala from 23-25 November 2007.

The Commonwealth People's Forum takes place every two years immediately before the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. The Commonwealth People's Forum has become the pre-eminent gathering for Commonwealth people interested in bringing about change. It is the Commonwealth civil society summit, bringing together a cross section of civil society organisations, professional associations and cultural groups. It is an opportunity to connect to the Commonwealth and its values of human rights, democracy and sustainable development. The Forum is organised by the Commonwealth Foundation, in collaboration with a multi-sectoral steering committee comprising members from the host country and international representatives. It gives civil society organisations (CSOs) a chance to network and dialogue with governments. Since the first Forum held in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1997, the Forum has evolved and the range of activities that take place has expanded. Subsequent events have been held in Durban, South Africa (1999); Brisbane, Australia (2001); Abuja, Nigeria (2003); and Valletta, Malta (2005).

The objectives of CPF are to: raise the visibility of civil society organisations in the Commonwealth; create partnerships in the quest for development and democracy; strengthen links between Commonwealth civil society organisations; create opportunities for dialogue between civil society and government ministers on priority issues in the Commonwealth; and provide opportunities for that dialogue to be raised and addressed at the CHOGM.

Over 1200 delegates from Uganda, together with 300 international delegates, representing 600 organisations from 59 countries, attended the CPF. From Monday to Tuesday 19-20 November, CPF participants met in 20 workshops cluster under the six CPF sub-themes: economic development; governance, participation and human rights; culture, creativity and identity; environment and natural resources; education for transformation; and health at home and at work. The 2007 CPF also included the 'People's Space', nine 'Learning Journeys', and a daily CPF newsletter GEM News.

On Wednesday 21 November, the Chair of the Civil Society Advisory Committee, Joan Grant-Cummings made a statement on behalf of the CPF to a meeting with Commonwealth Foreign Ministers, and on Saturday 24 November, a roundtable between civil society and Foreign Ministers was held.

The main outcomes of CPF 2007 were the Kampala Civil Society Statement, and a summary of the key outcomes of the 20 thematic workshops held during the CPF.

**KAMPALA CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT TO THE  
2007 COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING  
21 November 2007**

- 1 *We, the representatives of civil society organisations from across the Commonwealth, meeting in Kampala, Uganda, from 18-22 November 2007 present the *Kampala Civil Society Statement* to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Commonwealth Member States, and Commonwealth Institutions, which has emerged from consultations with civil society and the Commonwealth People's Forum 2007: *Realising People's Potential*.*
- 2 *We, the Peoples of the Commonwealth commit to work with governments and the Commonwealth to fulfil the development agenda outlined in the *Kampala Civil Society Statement* and to respond constructively and energetically to invitations to form partnerships to bring about social transformation in the Commonwealth.*
- 3 *Welcoming the theme of the 2007 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) on *Transforming Commonwealth Societies to Achieve Political, Economic and Human Development*.*
- 4 *Stressing that transformation is about fundamental change: it is about asking hard questions on how we govern ourselves and organise our societies; it is about being willing to tackle and reform structures that create imbalances in power and unequal access to socio-economic opportunities. Efforts towards societal transformation can be eroded if the interconnected issues that determine political, economic and human development are not addressed adequately. Transformation requires the active participation and commitment of all members of society.*
- 5 *Reaffirming and recommitting to the CHOGM 2002 endorsement of "a Commonwealth known, owned and valued by its peoples, responsive to their evolving needs, and invigorated by a more focused and productive partnership between governments and civil society<sup>1</sup>."*
- 6 *Reiterating the views expressed by Commonwealth civil society organisations in the Communiqué adopted at the third Commonwealth People's Centre held in Durban, South Africa, in 1999, who stated that "a joint enterprise between elected governments, their citizens and their organisations is urgently required to meet global development needs. Governance further entails, especially, the State sharing with civil society the responsibility for policy making and implementation, and all partners being accountable to their constituencies, to each other and to the society as a whole."*
- 7 *Stressing the importance of exchanges, partnerships and links across the Commonwealth, between civil society bodies, communities and professional institutions, for the purpose of sharing experiences and learning from one another, thereby strengthening governance, contributing to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and building peace, prosperity and well-being.*
- 8 *Noting that in order to effect social development political leaders need to strengthen and expand partnerships with civil society in the policy-making process. Civil society leaders are rising to the challenge of developing exemplary professionalism, good governance and leadership in representing the views of citizens across the Commonwealth and*

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<sup>1</sup> Report by the Commonwealth High Level Review Group to Commonwealth Heads of Government. Adopted by Heads of Government, Coolumb, Australia, 3 March 2002.

beyond. An enabling policy framework needs to be put in place and resources identified so that political and civil society leaders can work more closely and consistently together to improve the lives of Commonwealth citizens. In undertaking this role, the leadership and professional development of civil society should be enhanced.

- 9 *Reaffirming* and *underscoring* the importance of the Commonwealth's stated commitment to internationally-agreed human rights, including the right to: life, liberty and security of person; health, education and an adequate standard of living; freedom from discrimination; freedom of expression, association and participation; rule of law; and an international and social order in which these rights can be met.
- 10 *Congratulating* the Commission on Respect and Understanding and *endorsing* their report '*Civil Paths to Peace*'.
- 11 *Reiterating* the views expressed by Commonwealth civil society organisations in Abuja, Nigeria, 2003, who called for "a just and secure world, based on: respect for the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights; sustainable development based on recognition of human rights and the integrity of the environment on which human beings depend for the realisation of their rights; and the principles of transparency, accountability, inclusive governance and multilateralism."
- 12 *Recognising* the twentieth anniversary of the publication of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, entitled *Our Common Future*, which popularised the concept of sustainable development, as development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."
- 13 *Reaffirming* the importance of sustainable development, in particular its emphasis on equity and justice, between and within generations, and the responsibility to act accordingly.
- 14 *Recognising* the essential role of civil society organisations, not only in the delivery of programmes, but also in their design, monitoring and evaluation.

## **MONITORING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

- 15 *Noting with deep concern* that at the midpoint between the adoption of the Millennium Declaration and the 2015 end-date for arresting poverty and underdevelopment, the Commonwealth Secretary-General reports that: 27 million people in the Commonwealth carry the HIV/AIDS virus; 70 million of the world's unschooled children are in the Commonwealth; 800 million Commonwealth citizens live on less than a dollar a day; over 327 million people, or almost one in six Commonwealth citizens, live in slums; and that of the estimated 300,000 maternal deaths in the Commonwealth each year, most could have been avoided by relatively inexpensive health care<sup>2</sup>;
- 16 *We call* on Commonwealth Member States to:
  - a. *reinvigorate* action towards meeting the MDGs, including through the establishment of interim targets for those Member States that have not already done so; and

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<sup>2</sup> Commonwealth Secretariat 2007: Report of the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Transforming Lives-Changing Societies

- b. *publish* a biennial stock-taking of progress towards attaining the MDGs for all Commonwealth Member States.

## **HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

- 17 *Reaffirming* support for the Coolum CHOGM commitment to “work to eliminate poverty, to promote people-centred and sustainable development and thus progressively to remove the wide disparities in living standards among us.”
- 18 *Recognising* that 2007 is a historic year since, for the first time, there will be more people in cities than in rural areas. This transition and the daily 65,000 increase in the population of Commonwealth urban areas, together with the urbanisation of poverty and the threats from climate change add urgency to the commitment given at Coolum. There can be no sustainable development without sustainable urbanisation.
- 19 *Congratulating* the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements for its recognition that the Commonwealth is well placed to take action on the Habitat Agenda and sustainable development, and for its continued support for the Commonwealth goal of “demonstrated progress towards adequate shelter for all with secure tenure and access to essential services in every community by 2015.”
- 20 We *call* on Commonwealth Member States, and the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements to produce a ‘State of the Commonwealth’s Cities’ report for the next CHOGM, which would assess opportunities and threats of urban growth in relation to poverty alleviation, sustainable and people-centred development and reducing disparities in living conditions, and would recommend inter-governmental actions.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

- 21 *Welcoming* the recognition and identification by Member States that addressing climate change is a key issue for CHOGM 2007;
- 22 *Underscoring* the importance of industrialised countries in fulfilling their legal obligations as signatories of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to reduce their domestic emissions, and to provide financial and technological support for developing countries to shift quickly to a low-carbon development path, and to meet the basic human needs of their populations;
- 23 *Expressing continued concern* with the refusal of any Commonwealth Member State to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and to adopt emissions-reduction targets;
- 24 *Stressing* that the dangers of climate change are clearer now than ever before, and decisions to be made at the upcoming UN Climate Change Summit to be held from 3-14 December 2007 in Bali, Indonesia, and subsequent related processes will be crucial in deciding the fate of millions of people, including many in developing countries and small states who will be among those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change;
- 25 *Noting the urgency* in creating a solid foundation at the Bali Summit to culminate in an equitable and effective agreement on the climate change regime beyond 2012;
- 26 *Highlighting* that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change<sup>3</sup> and Stern Review<sup>4</sup> have provided strong evidence that Member States are already being affected by the

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<sup>3</sup> IPCC Fourth Assessment Report 2007. Report of IPCC Working Group I-“The Physical Science Basis”



impacts of climate change, and have warned of far-reaching impacts on people, economies, the environment and international relations;

- 27 *Recognising* that action to address climate change must also contribute to removal of the wide disparities in living standards among us, and lead to transformation through creating new economic opportunities, more sustainable arrangements for land use and transport, and adequate shelter for all;
- 28 *Stressing* that failure to address climate change will have far-reaching ramifications, even threatening the survival of small island states, particularly in the Pacific, Caribbean and Indian Ocean States;
- 29 Underscoring that urgent action on climate change is essential to the realisation of the MDGs and addressing climate change requires concerted effort from all levels of government in partnership with civil society that plan and implement adaptation, disaster preparedness and mitigation strategies;
- 30 We *call* on Commonwealth Member States to:
  - a. *ratify* and *implement* their legal obligations as contained in the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol;
  - b. *commit* to negotiate a Road Map at the UN Climate Summit in Bali for a fair, effective, flexible and inclusive post-2012 climate regime by no later than 2009;
  - c. *endorse* the following as key elements of a post-2012 regime; namely
    - i. decisive quantified emission reduction targets for all developed countries under the Kyoto Protocol, including monitoring of compliance;
    - ii. incentives for enhanced mitigation action by developing countries including through enhanced carbon trading;
    - iii. technology development, diffusion and commercialisation; and
    - iv. securing the scale of resources required to address climate change.
  - d. *establish* a High-Level Commonwealth Commission, with civil society participation, to examine the challenges of climate change and to identify strategies, for *inter alia*:
    - i. addressing the impacts of climate change on Commonwealth Small States;
    - ii. disaster risk reduction strategies and support;
    - iii. employment transition to a more sustainable economy; and
    - iv. local-level climate change strategies.
  - e. *establish* measures and finance to support developing countries in adapting to the impacts of climate change, in particular through a Commonwealth Climate Change Adaptation Fund to facilitate adaptation measures and technologies accessible by all sectors, with special attention to the needs of the poor.

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<sup>4</sup> Stern Review. 2007. Report on the Economics of Climate Change

## FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

- 31 *Noting* that financing for development remains a fundamental challenge to the achievement of transformation. Aid commitments made at the G-8 Gleneagles Summit in 2005 have not been fully implemented. The MDGs are themselves only partial responses to fundamental needs, yet to achieve them by 2015 we must take a fundamentally different approach to financing development;
- 32 *Noting* slow progress by three of the four major Commonwealth donor countries to achieve the target of 0.7% GNP<sup>5</sup>;
- 33 *Stressing* that policies that encourage developing countries to keep investment at home, to mobilise domestic as well as international resources and to receive quality, predictable and sustainable overseas development assistance (ODA), are urgently required;
- 34 *Stressing* the significant opportunities provided in 2008 to enhance resources for development, notably the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held in Accra, Ghana, and the United Nations (UN) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus to be held in Doha, Qatar;
- 35 *Considering* that the above (UN Doha Conference Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus process and Conference) will fail unless it deals with the use of development funds to meet the international agreed development goals, including those outlined in the Millennium Declaration, with equity and sustainability in societies and communities;
- 36 *Noting* that the work of the Leading Group on Solidarity Levies to Fund Development needs to avoid simply adding funds to existing inadequate channels, and should pioneer delivery of additional, predictable and sustainable resources in ways which are transparent and open to the advice and evaluation of civil society;
- 37 We call on Commonwealth Member States to:
- a. *assert* the commitment of all industrialised countries to meet the UN aid target of 0.7% GNP and to review and monitor progress towards that target every two years<sup>6</sup>;
  - b. *increase* collaboration between Commonwealth agencies, governments and civil society partners to secure additional resources for development during the Monterrey follow-up in Doha in 2008;
  - c. *collaborate* to develop and mobilise innovative sources of finance, including through airline levies, development of currency transaction taxes, and carbon taxes;
  - d. *form* a joint Commonwealth/Civil Society Working Group to explore and develop recommendations for innovative responses to resource needs related to the Accra and Doha conferences and strategies for their achievement;
  - e. *support* developing country Member States in reducing donor dependence and domestic mobilisation of resources ('starting inside'), and implementing

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<sup>5</sup> United Nations.1970: International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, UN General Assembly Resolution 2626 (XXV), October 24, paragraph. 43

<sup>6</sup> United Nations.1970: International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, UN General Assembly Resolution 2626 (XXV), October 24, paragraph. 43

measures to retain resources at home and recapture resources that have taken flight to other countries;

- f. *mandate* the establishment of a regular Commonwealth monitoring report, that examines and makes public the flows of funds from 'South' to 'North', including banking of funds from executive corruption, making clear both the source and the destination;
- g. *make* a clear commitment regarding the transparency and accessibility of records of all public funds, receipts and expenditures;
- h. *ensure* priority to the development of domestic initiatives, investment and entrepreneurs, and *reject* international agreements which privilege foreign direct and/or portfolio investment; and
- i. *develop* programmes of access to credit, facilitation of licensing and other measures which will encourage the development of domestic entrepreneurs and domestic markets.

38 We call on the Commonwealth Foundation to encourage the creation, at the national level, in interested Commonwealth Member States, of civil society monitoring tools which trace the use of public funds.

### **ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

39 *Recognising* that scientific knowledge and technological innovation, and their application through professional skills, are central to transformation, including efforts to combat climate change, achieve sustainable development and eliminate poverty;

40 *Recognising* that increasing energy costs will have differential impacts that will disadvantage countries, remote and rural regions and settlements, and markets where transport costs are already high;

41 *Urging* caution at the over-optimistic prognosis regarding the application of clean coal, and carbon capture and sequestration technologies as solutions to climate change;

42 *Expressing* concern that investments by developing countries in renewable energy technologies remain secondary and are hindered by investments in new nuclear technologies;

43 We *call* on Commonwealth Member States to:

- a. *invest* in science and technology and professional skills to support the transformation of energy supplies in Commonwealth Member States to an ecologically sound model focused on renewables and energy efficiency, and to deliver more energy-efficient forms of urbanisation;
- b. *develop* creative financing and investment arrangements for decentralised renewable technology;
- c. *implement* measures to promote energy efficiency;
- d. *apply* ecological, sustainability and food security criteria in the development of biofuels and in the type of biofuel to be utilised;
- e. *give support* to affordable energy for rural populations in order for them to avoid environmental destruction through the use of fuelwood;
- f. *ensure that* every energy project, small or large, incorporates gender mainstreaming with a budget designed to build in gender equality;
- g. *achieve* distributional justice and equity of access in all energy developments;

- h. *renew support* for education, particularly instruction in, and, practical use of renewable energy, especially using locally available sources, such as waste;
- i. *integrate* oil and alternative energy policies into natural disaster risk reduction, as well as town and country planning to mitigate urbanisation challenges; and
- j. *prioritise* the use of increasingly scarce oil resources for the most critical needs of their society and for future generations.

## **MARINE, COASTAL AND FRESHWATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

- 44 *Underscoring* the importance of ensuring the sustainable utilisation of marine, coastal and freshwater resources;
- 45 *Believing that* because the impacts of over-fishing and environmental change will be devastating to populations dependent on fisheries for food and livelihood security, effective fisheries management in Commonwealth Member States is essential to deliver economic and social benefits;
- 46 We *call* on Commonwealth Member States and Commonwealth Institutions to:
- a. *implement* the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation target for developing integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans , and stress the need to increase support to, and monitor and evaluate the implementation of, partnerships in this regard;
  - b. *support* the engagement of educational and research institutions, as well as professional associations and other civil society organisations, in efforts to develop and implement integrated natural resource management plans and programmes in coastal zones through participatory planning;
  - c. *recognise* the global decline in fish stocks and that fisheries are fundamental to the economies of many Commonwealth Member States, in particular Small States, and take urgent steps to put both marine and inland fisheries on a sustainable footing; and
  - d. *establish*, where appropriate, international coordinating authorities for the management of international shallow sea, lake and river basins.

## **EDUCATION**

- 47 *Noting* that education is a fundamental human right and key to social transformation, poverty alleviation, as well as justice and equity, particularly gender equity, which are among the Commonwealth values.
- 48 *Acknowledging* that progress in education depends on cooperation across sectors and partnerships between civil society, governments and inter-governmental organisations, particularly in addressing the key issues of gender equity and cultural diversity;
- 49 *Underscoring* the importance of addressing access to, and quality of, education in countries affected by conflict;
- 50 We *call* on Commonwealth Member States to:
- a. *endorse* and *implement* the recommendations contained in the Message from Commonwealth Education Ministers at their Conference held from 11-14 December 2006 in Cape Town, South Africa;

- b. *recognise* the role that education must play in securing attainment of all the MDGs;
- c. *reaffirm* their commitment to achieving the MDGs for education with their focus on access, primary school completion and gender equity while placing these within the more inclusive Education for All (EFA) framework, approved at Dakar in 2000;
- d. *respond* to the call by Commonwealth Education Ministers to adopt a holistic approach to education development, acknowledging the part that education institutions beyond the primary level can play both in supporting EFA and also carrying forward the wider socio-economic transformation agenda. Such an approach requires increased investment in affordable education and training provision through secondary, technical, vocational, and other tertiary-level institutions, as well as in literacy and non-formal education programmes;
- e. *exploit* the role that new technologies, including information and communications technology, as well as open learning can play in extending education opportunity, improving its quality and developing skills;
- f. *adopt* more proactive measures to address inclusion of the socially, economically and culturally marginalised;
- g. *request* Commonwealth Ministers of Education to report on ways in which education systems can contribute to creating a culture of peace, tolerance, mutual respect and other key Commonwealth values;
- h. *increase* support for educational and cultural interchange in the Commonwealth for the purposes of exchanging development-relevant experience and promoting understanding, including school and college linking and scholarship programmes;
- i. *use, strengthen and develop* the extensive infrastructure for Commonwealth education co-operation; and
- j. *use* the fiftieth anniversary, in 2009, of the first Commonwealth Education Conference to review the experience of Commonwealth educational cooperation in the last half century.

## HEALTH

- 51 *Noting with concern* the lack of progress towards meeting the health-related MDGs;
- 52 *Regretting* that without a radical renewal of commitment, at the MDG mid-point, many countries will fail to meet the 2015 and interim targets especially as slum growth is increasing the numbers of vulnerable people. Looking beyond the MDGs, there is need for a greater emphasis on health promotion in relation to the prevention of chronic disease conditions and the provision of palliative care;
- 53 *Underscoring* that maternal mortality rates remain unacceptably high in the rapidly growing urban slums notably in parts of sub-Saharan Africa and Asia;
- 54 *Acknowledging* that although child mortality has declined globally, the pace of progress has been uneven and this underscores the need for improvements to basic healthcare services;
- 55 *Noting* that conflict always increases the incidence of disease, injury and death, while obstructing the enhancement of health systems and diverting essential resources away from health provision;

- 56 *Recognising* that in order to achieve the MDGs the Commonwealth requires an additional two million health workers;
- 57 *Underscoring* the importance of Commonwealth Member States becoming self-sufficient in their health workforces in order to deal with the chronic drain of trained personnel from poor to rich countries inside and outside the Commonwealth family;
- 58 *Highlighting* that the current operation of trade, investment and intellectual property agreements present considerable challenges to achieving the right to health and increasing the costs of providing treatment considerably;
- 59 *Noting* that meeting the MDGs will not be possible without dramatically increased investment unhindered by policies and conditionalities that restrict investment in health, personnel and education such as those that have in the past been imposed by the International Monetary Fund;
- 60 We *call* on Commonwealth Member States to:
- a. *commit and* strengthen health systems that are progressively financed, inclusive and equitable;
  - b. *commit that* public primary health care be designed with “health for all” as its fundamental objective, providing access to care according to need;
  - c. *increase* emphasis on access to reproductive health services including better access to antenatal and post-natal care;
  - d. *support* the World Health Organization’s ‘treat, train and retain’ initiative; and
  - e. *fully implement* the Commonwealth Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Workers<sup>7</sup>; and
  - f. *improve* the disposal and destruction of medical waste to avoid contamination.

#### **HIV and AIDS**

- 61 *Noting* with concern that the 53 Member States, within which 30% of the world’s population live, also carry a disproportionate 60% of the global burden of HIV and AIDS;
- 62 *Concerned* that despite the international priority accorded to HIV and AIDS, the rights and needs of children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS are still at the bottom of the global HIV and AIDS agenda;
- 63 We *call* on Commonwealth Member States to:
- a. *implement* the international commitment to universal access to treatment by 2010;
  - b. *support and intensify* efforts to develop an HIV and AIDS vaccine;
  - c. *scale up* resources to ensure access to anti-retroviral drugs and testing facilities;
  - d. *ensure* the availability of adequate funds for HIV and AIDS prevention education and other related interventions including research on new prevention technologies (microbicides and vaccines).
  - e.  *earmark* an appropriate level of total HIV and AIDS funding for children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS and *implement* National Plans of Action;

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<sup>7</sup> Adopted by Commonwealth Ministers of Health in 2003

- f. *adopt* and *follow* the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Code of Conduct on HIV and AIDS by 2013;
- g. *adopt* legislation to protect HIV-positive people from discrimination; and
- h. *expand* the ABC (Abstinence, Be Faithful, and Condoms) strategy to SAVE (Safer practices, Access to treatment and nutrition, Voluntary counselling and testing and Empowerment) approach which is more inclusive and comprehensive.

## **DISABILITY**

- 64 *Emphasising* the importance of mainstreaming and recognising disability as an integral part of relevant strategies for sustainable development;
- 65 We *call* on Commonwealth Member States to *ratify* and *implement* the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability and its Optional Protocol, and adopt disability inclusive policies.<sup>8</sup>

## **WATER AND SANITATION**

- 66 *Noting* that in many Commonwealth Member States, there is a lack of integrated planning in both urban and rural areas, and sanitation laws and policies are weak and not enforced. Furthermore, climate change is having significant impact on access to potable water;
- 67 *Expressing concern* that if the current global trends continue neither the water nor that sanitation target is likely to be met by 2015;
- 68 We *call* on Commonwealth Member States to *recommit* efforts and resources to meet the agreed MDG water and sanitation targets, as a key intervention to support the 2008 United Nations International Year of Sanitation (IYS) and the UN Action Plan for the IYS.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

- 69 *Highlighting* that science, technology, and innovation are among the most powerful tools for meeting the internationally agreed development goals, and that such tools can make productive resources—natural resources, human resources, and physical capital—more potent contributors to the transformation of societies;
- 70 We *call* on Commonwealth Member States to:
- a. *renew* and *strengthen* their commitment to Commonwealth co-operation and partnership through establishing a science and technology innovation unit at the Commonwealth Secretariat, charged with the task, among others, of harnessing appropriate knowledge and experiences based on science, technology and innovation for addressing emerging developmental challenges and of establishing a Commonwealth science knowledge and technology innovation network to facilitate dialogue between policy-makers and innovation support practitioners; and
  - b. *assist* the least developed Member States to attain the essential pre-requisite level of 1% of gross domestic product to research and development in science and technology expenditure on science and technology innovation, to

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<sup>8</sup> Memorandum to CHOGM; Commonwealth Disabled People's Conference, 4-7 November, 2007, Uganda, Kampala

successfully address and attain the MDGs, particularly with respect to poverty reduction and also to address the challenges of environmental sustainability including climate change.

## **TRADE NEGOTIATIONS**

- 71 *Expressing concern* regarding current negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), in particular negative tactics and threatening behaviour by developed countries that are undermining the possibilities of fair negotiations, true partnership and sustainable transformation;
- 72 *Urging* that trade negotiations be carried forward on a principled, participatory and transparent basis with clear priority on sustainable development imperatives, especially poverty reduction and equity, job creation and decent work, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, while addressing the negative effects of past neo-liberal policies. Negotiations should take the time necessary to meet these concerns;
- 73 *We call* on Commonwealth Member States to:
- a. *ensure* access and transparency for all stakeholders, including parliamentarians and civil society, in all trade, investment and intellectual property negotiations at multilateral, regional and bilateral levels;
  - b. *ensure* that EPAs do not undermine the financial resources of developing country governments, i.e. if liberalisation threatens revenues, clear and sustainable alternative sources should be specified and committed before ratification;
  - c. *ensure* that EPAs embody a commitment to the priority of human rights, particularly the right to health, i.e. no provisions should prioritise the privileges of intellectual property over the right to health and access to essential medicines;
  - d. *ensure* that EPAs have clear provisions for comprehensive monitoring within benchmarks based on development objectives with sustained participation of civil society and other stakeholders; and
  - e. *establish* a monitoring body to analyse the effects of the WTO on Commonwealth countries and develop a strategy to mitigate negative economic and employment impacts.

## **COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL ACTION GROUP**

- 74 *Expressing* the view that transformation initiatives and policies must be underpinned by observance and adherence to fundamental human rights;
- 75 *We call* on Commonwealth Member States to:
- a. *review* the mandate of Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) regarding the inclusion of all serious and/or persistent human rights violations;
  - b. *develop* better mechanisms to ensure institutional memory within the CMAG;
  - c. *develop* clear indicators to decide when a country benefiting from the Commonwealth Secretary-General's good offices should be put on the agenda of the CMAG;
  - d. *formalise* systems for the engagement and participation of CSOs, including a human rights component;



- e. *ensure* that the composition of CMAG is independently reviewed to strengthen its independence from political interests or alliances; and
- f. *ensure* that reports highlighting negative practices, such as human rights abuses and violations in Commonwealth Member States are automatically placed on the CMAG agenda for consideration, and that a strong link is forged between the reports and action taken.

## **GOOD GOVERNANCE**

76 *Noting* with deep concern shrinking of the operational space of civil society, especially in the context of the international efforts to counter terrorism;

77 *We call* on Commonwealth Member States to:

- a. *strengthen* peoples' access to decision making processes by increased dialogue, collaboration and participation of civil society at all levels of the decision making process;
- b. *institutionalise* the participation of women in decision making in the first instance by achieving targets set out in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality<sup>9</sup>;
- c. *enact and implement* freedom of information legislation with an emphasis on accessibility in all Member States;
- d. *ensure* that Commonwealth Member States guarantee the rights of civil society;
- e. *invest in, and support* professional ethics, codes and leadership training and development, thereby enhancing the overall capacity of governments and civil society organisations to deliver critical services for development, and to enhance transparency and reduce the extent to which corruption can undermine sustainable and equitable urban development.
- f. *provide* protection for civil society actors through the establishment of a Commonwealth mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders, including the principles in the UN Declaration for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders;
- g. *establish and ensure* the independence of National Human Rights Institutions in strict conformity with the Paris Principles; and
- h. *guarantee* a relevant and independent role for civil society, by providing adequate funding allocated from the annual budget with accountability measures. *We call* for the establishment of a Task Force to draw up guidelines for adoption at the next CHOGM to enable an appropriate approach throughout the Commonwealth.

## **GENDER**

78 *Underscoring* that the empowerment of women is key to transformation, CHOGM should move from rhetoric to reality, by focusing attention on improving gender equality within Commonwealth Member States and adhering to agreed commitments in international declarations and conventions;

79 *Noting* that gender equality is not only crucial in itself, but is a fundamental human right and a question of social justice;

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<sup>9</sup> Adopted by Commonwealth Ministers Responsible for Women's/Gender Affairs, 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting (7WAMM), 30 May–2 June 2004, Fiji Islands

80 *Stressing* that gender equality is essential for growth and poverty reduction, and that it is key to reaching the MDGs and as such needs to be recognised as a goal in its own right;

81 *Affirming* that equal rights (political, civil, economic, social and cultural) for women and men, girls and boys needs to be demonstrated through: equal access to and control over resources for women and men; and equal opportunities to achieve political and economic influence for women and men;

82 We *call* on Commonwealth Member States to:

- a. *put* in place measures that commit responsible ministries to implementation of the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005–2015<sup>10</sup>. The Commonwealth must work together to ensure closer collaboration between governments and gender-focused civil society organisations and institutions to ensure concerted support to elimination of gender inequalities and poverty eradication. Together they should address the gaps and persistent obstacles and challenges faced in the implementation of the Commonwealth Plan of Action.
- b. *support* initiatives that increase financing for gender equality work, through gender-responsive budgeting. In addition, the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness presents an opportunity for Commonwealth Member States to demonstrate support for increased funding gender equality work;
- c. *institutionalise* the participation of women in decision making in the first instance by achieving 30% target set out in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005-2015<sup>11</sup>;
- d. *ensure* concerted action, and commit resources to address gender-based violence and prevent the trafficking and abuse of women and children;
- e. *enact* and *implement* legislation against gender-based violence, promoting victim protection and awareness-raising through the media, as well as education and training;
- f. *urge* those countries that are not parties to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women to ratify the Convention;
- g. *conduct* a gender disaggregated base-line study of gender equality in all Commonwealth Member States, using a standardised set of indicators, that is regularly updated;
- h. *encourage* Commonwealth Member States to initiate programmes in conflict and post conflict countries in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1325;
- i. *build* capacity of government institutions for gender budgeting and capacity for organisations to access funding for gender budgeting;
- j. *review* labour and employment laws and opportunities for women, and address women's ownership and use of land and property rights; and
- k. *mainstream* gender equality in all policies, strategies and actions, and financial measures which directly support women's empowerment.

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<sup>10</sup> Adopted by Commonwealth Ministers Responsible for Women's/Gender Affairs, 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting (7WAMM), 30 May–2 June 2004, Fiji Islands

<sup>11</sup> Adopted by Commonwealth Ministers Responsible for Women's/Gender Affairs, 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting (7WAMM), 30 May–2 June 2004, Fiji Islands

83 We call on Commonwealth Governments, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation to facilitate the strengthening and development of the Commonwealth Women's Network, as a mechanism for the promotion of gender equality.

### **DECENT WORK**

84 *Recognising* that among the most essential human rights are the rights of workers;

85 *Noting* that the Decent Work Agenda has been recognised by the United Nations as central to poverty alleviation and should be placed at the core of social and economic policy;

86 We *call* on Commonwealth Member States to:

- a. *mandate* the Commonwealth Secretariat to monitor progress towards the universal ratification by all Commonwealth Member States of ILO Convention 144;
- b. *decide* that all Commonwealth Member States will consult their tripartite constituents formally in the process of preparation of Commonwealth meetings and ensure a Commonwealth-wide Tripartite Consultation by the time of the CHOGM in 2009;
- c. *decide* that Commonwealth Labour Ministers will hold an Annual Forum, to be organised on a tripartite basis;
- d. *establish* a target for all Commonwealth Member States to ratify all eight core labour standards within the next six years, to undertake biennial reviews of progress towards that objective, and to publish the results of their reviews; and
- e. *establish* a fund for capacity enhancement activities by trade unions, covering inter alia workers in informal work and export processing zones and linked to ILO assistance and technological cooperation.

### **CHILDREN**

87 *Noting* the critical challenges facing children in the Commonwealth;

88 We *call* on Commonwealth Member States to:

- a. *put in place* a Commonwealth Plan of Action for Children to provide a framework to ensure 'safe-places and enabling environment for children at all levels';
- b. *explore* mechanisms to ensure that the voice of children is heard at future Commonwealth meetings.

### **HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION AND COMPLIANCE**

89 *Stressing* that the transformation of society is not possible without assured and effective access to justice, including an independent judiciary and democratic policing, such as policing that is representative, responsive and accountable;

90 *Expressing* outrage at the position taken by the three Commonwealth Member States who voted against adoption of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

- 91 *Recognising* that human rights, democracy, good governance and the rule of law remain of central importance to the Commonwealth, as set out in the Harare Declaration, and that an enabling environment is required, at both the national level and Commonwealth level, in order to achieve full civil society participation within the Commonwealth;
- 92 *Expressing* concern about the increase in cases of disappearance, occurrence of internal displacement, and the killing of innocent persons, as Commonwealth governments continue to fail to live up to their human rights commitments and, in not doing so, fail to transform societies for the realisation of people's potential;
- 93 *Noting* with grave concern the tendency in Commonwealth countries to restrict civil society space, democratic rights, freedom of expression, particularly the media and the right to dissent and the targeting of Human Rights Defenders accompanied by extreme impunity by State actors all of which are reducing the commitment of Commonwealth States to the promotion, protection, and realising of human rights in the Association;
- 94 *Noting* that an increasing number of countries have promulgated repressive legislation and taken administrative steps under the pretext of counter-terrorism measures in breach of established Human Rights instruments;
- 95 *Recognising* the need, given the current global climate of counter terrorism and resultant increase in police powers, for the development of standards and monitoring of Commonwealth police practices;
- 96 *Affirming* that a pan-Commonwealth approach is the most efficient and effective way to assist member states improve the quality of their policing, and ensure effective democracy and development;
- 97 We *call* on Commonwealth Member States to:
- a. *ratify* and *implement* international human rights treaties; instructing the Commonwealth Secretariat to monitor and report progress. All legislation, especially anti-terror laws, must abide by international human rights standards;
  - b. *fully implement* their pledges and commitments to the promotion and protection of human rights at the UN Human Rights Council;
  - c. *respect* human rights in any legislation or other national security measures in the name of countering terrorism;
  - d. *respect* the moratorium on the Death Penalty voted by the UN Third Committee and proactively work towards the total abolition of the death penalty;
  - e. *include* issues concerning minority rights, such as the rights of indigenous peoples, gay and lesbian people, people with disabilities, and refugees on the Commonwealth agenda;
  - f. *constitute* a Commonwealth Expert Group on Policing to promote better policing in the Commonwealth and further call upon Commonwealth members to review and recast police laws and anti-terrorism law affecting policing to reflect the same;
  - g. *strengthen* National Human Rights Institutions through increased funding, timely response to their recommendations, and establishment of mechanisms of engagement with governments and stakeholders;
  - h. *provide* adequate support, including funding, for the Human Rights Unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat;

- i. *facilitate* the participation of the Commonwealth National Human Rights Institutions Forum in the Commonwealth processes;
- j. *work* closely with National Human Rights Institutions in the promotion and protection of economic and social rights, and take measures for the domestic application of international law regarding those rights; and
- k. *create* the position of Commonwealth Commissioner on the Rights to Development in the Commonwealth Secretariat<sup>12</sup>.

## **MIGRATION**

- 98 *Noting* that many Commonwealth Member States face development challenges related to the management of migratory flows and their impacts on development;
- 99 Expressing concern over the uneven impact of globalisation and of climate change on international migration and on migration management and development in Commonwealth Member States;
- 100 Recognising that the number of migrants is rising, that this trend is likely to persist in the foreseeable future, and that the management of migration has now become a critical challenge for Commonwealth Member States;
- 101 Deploring the practice by a Commonwealth Member State of placing asylum seekers in camps on the Pacific Islands- the so-called Pacific Solution- with little support for, or attention to, their well-being;
- 102 *We call* on Commonwealth Member States to:
- a. *develop* a comprehensive and balanced approach to migration taking into account migration realities and trends as well as linkages between migration and other key economic, social, political and humanitarian issues;
  - b. *address* the root causes of migration, such as conflicts, poverty, poor governance, under-development, lack of opportunities, climate change and environmental degradation;
  - c. *cooperate* on issues of the integration of migrants and the protection of their rights, and to facilitate access to adequate shelter with security of tenure; and
  - d. *ratify* and *implement* international instruments such as the United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Family Members (1990)<sup>13</sup> and all other relevant instruments.

## **UGANDA**

- 103 *Believing* that the people of northern Uganda are relying on the 2007 CHOGM to support the successful implementation of the ceasefire and the possible peace agreement negotiations between the government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army rebel group – the Juba Talks;
- 104 *We call* on Commonwealth Member States, CHOGM 2007, and all the principal parties involved, to support the peace process, including post-conflict reconstruction and peace building once an agreement is reached.

## **ZIMBABWE**

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<sup>12</sup> Recommendations of the Workshop on National mechanisms for the Protection of Human Rights, Violations and Abuse in the Commonwealth, Hotel Africana, Kampala Uganda, 20 November 2007

<sup>13</sup> UN General Assembly.1990. Resolution A/RES/45/158, adopted 18 December 1990

105 We call on Commonwealth Member States and CHOGM 2007 to:

- a. *show* the same concern and support for the people of Zimbabwe in present circumstances and extend to them for an agreed period any rights, privileges and statuses enjoyed by virtue of Commonwealth citizenship;
- b. *engage* with the people of Zimbabwe and commit resources to planning and development for the future; and
- c. *take action* in terms of Article B.3 (viii) of the Millbrook Plan of Action to protect and promote the fundamental political values of the Commonwealth as agreed in the Harare Declaration.

#### **FIJI**

106 We call on Commonwealth Member States to:

- a. *recommend* that CMAG remain seized with the situation in Fiji and engage with all political parties to ensure early elections and the restoration of the independence of the judiciary and fundamental freedoms; and
- b. *continue* to urge the military regime to end human rights abuses and take all possible steps to return to democratic governance by February 2009.

#### **PAKISTAN**

107 *Noting* the serious violations of the Harare Principles in Pakistan, given the ongoing nature of such violations and the recent escalation;

108 We call on Commonwealth Member States to:

- a. *mandate* the Commonwealth Secretary-General to engage with Pakistan for the urgent restoration of the Constitution, lifting the emergency, the restoration of an independent judiciary and the separation of the two offices held by the President; and
- b. *suspend* Pakistan from the Councils of the Commonwealth, in the event of failure to implement the above.

#### **MEDIA FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE COMMONWEALTH**

109 *Believing* that the character of the media influences the character of a country's democracy;

110 *Understanding* that a free and plural media underpins people's participation in development, and that a free and plural media is a vital prerequisite for the achievement of the MDGs, successful action against climate change and other actions outlined in this Statement;

111 *Underscoring* that a free flow of information underpins democratic, social and economic development;

112 *Stressing* journalists and media professionals should be free of threats of harassment, imprisonment and death;

113 We call on Commonwealth Member States to:

- a. *enact* and *enforce* access to information and freedom of information legislation, and remove other barriers that constrain media freedom;
- b. *understand* and *support* the role of media in development, including capacity building;
- c. *encourage* the transformation of state broadcasters into independent public interest broadcasters;
- d. *encourage* the commissioning of diverse and independent programming;
- e. *support* licensing of community radio and cultural and indigenous media;
- f. *organise* a conference on the role of media in relation to democracy and development in the Commonwealth; and
- g. *urge* the formation of a unit within the Commonwealth Secretariat responsible for managing and resourcing unified media and communication planning, including a global network to share information across the Commonwealth.

### **CULTURE AND DIVERSITY**

114 *Noting* that the Commonwealth Heads of Government, at their 2005 Meeting in Malta, affirmed the importance of promoting tolerance, respect, enlightened moderation and friendship among people of different races, faiths and cultures;

115 *Noting* that culture in the Commonwealth is a driving force for people-centred development;

116 We call on Commonwealth Member States to:

- a. *recognise* and *promote* awareness that cultural diversity within and between Member States is a fundamental pillar of the Commonwealth, alongside development and democracy;
- b. *create* an enabling environment to foster unity in diversity; ensure respectful dialogue between people with different identities and values within communities, regions, nation states and the Commonwealth; and address issues of conflict, social exclusion and marginalisation;
- c. *recognise* and *support* the increasing role of the creative industries, cultural heritage, and other forms of cultural creativity in contributing to economic development, while protecting creators' rights of ownership to enable local communities to realise their potential;
- d. *raise* the status and budgets of member government Ministries and Commonwealth bodies with a brief for gender, youth, culture and diversity, while ensuring that their programmes and actions are integrated into the work of all other departments;
- e. *support* greater Commonwealth-level networking between culture ministers and senior officials, including civil society and the private sector; and
- f. *ratify* the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and meaningfully involve and support civil society in its implementation at national, regional and international levels, notably in the development and application of cultural policies and strategies.

## RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING

- 117 *Recognising* the commitment made in the 2005 CHOGM Communiqué, affirming the importance of promoting tolerance, respect, enlightened moderation and friendship among people of different races, faiths and cultures;
- 118 *Recognising* that practical actions at grassroots level will promote inclusion and social cohesion, bring people together and connect those who hold different identities;
- 119 We *call* on Commonwealth Member States to:
- a. *commit* to implement the recommendations contained in the two reports, 'Civil Paths to Peace' and 'Engaging with Faith;'
  - b. *encourage* collaboration between people with different identities, within and across communities, regions, nation states and the Commonwealth, to promote understanding and address issues of poverty, conflict and marginalisation;
  - c. *promote* greater adoption and popularisation of the concept of multiple identities and recognise the right of people to embrace and choose among these different identities; and
  - d. *support* a programme of intercultural and inter-intra and cross-faith exchange to build understanding and cooperation for joint work on development and governance objectives; and
  - e. *support* the development of international community linking partnerships that build peace prosperity and well-being for all Commonwealth citizens.



## COMMONWEALTH PEOPLE'S FORUM TIMELINE: 1997-2009

1997	Commonwealth People's Centre 1997 in Edinburgh, Scotland
1999	Commonwealth People's Centre 1999 held from 10-15 November 1999, in Durban, South Africa,
2001	Commonwealth People's Festival 2001 held in Brisbane, Australia
2003	Commonwealth People's Forum 2003 held in Abuja, Nigeria
2005	Commonwealth People's Forum 2005, held in Valetta, Malta from 21-25 November 2007.
2007	Commonwealth People's Forum 2007, held in Kampala, Uganda
2009	Commonwealth People's Forum 2009, to be held in Trinidad and Tobago

## COMMONWEALTH PEOPLE'S FORUM 2007 TIMELINE

May- August 2007	Ten civil society consultations took place with at least one consultation held in each of the five Commonwealth regions: Asia (India); Africa (Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Uganda); the Americas (Canada, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago); Europe (Malta); and the Pacific (New Zealand).
8-10 June	Partners Forum in advance of the eighth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting, Kampala, Uganda
13 June	Civil society government dialogue at the eighth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting, Kampala, Uganda Kampala Uganda
18-20 July	Civil Society consultation on the Special Theme for the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting, Georgetown, Guyana
5 October	Civil society preparatory meeting for the Committee of the Whole, London, UK
8 October	Civil society statement delivered to the Commonwealth Committee of the Whole meeting, London, UK
15-17 October	Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting, breakfast meeting with civil society, Georgetown, Guyana
18 November	CPF Opening Ceremony
19 November	Opening Plenary Thematic workshops address the key CPF themes Launch of the Friends of the Commonwealth
20 November	Thematic workshops address the key CPF themes
21 November	Feedback plenary session Learning Journeys
22 November	Closing Plenary Closing Ceremony Civil Society Statement delivered to Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting
24 November	Civil society roundtable with Commonwealth Foreign Ministers

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMONWEALTH PEOPLE'S FORUM

### OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony of the Commonwealth People's Forum was held on Sunday, 18 November 2007. The Ceremony was facilitated by Warren Nyamugasira, Chair of the 2007 Commonwealth People's Forum Steering Committee, and included statements by: Dr. Mark Collins, Director of the Commonwealth Foundation; Right Honourable Don McKinnon, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth; and H. E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of Uganda and incoming Chairman in Office of the Commonwealth. The opening ceremony also included several cultural performances, namely: Rock Music, Rock Art- a sculpture, music, film, and photography production showcasing Ugandan history and creativity; a performance by the Acholi Cultural Foundation of 'Bwola', one of Uganda's oldest dances, normally performed when a new Chief is being enthroned or when a very important person pays a visit; and two performances by Commonwealth Resounds.

In his opening remarks Dr. Mark Collins, Director of the Commonwealth Foundation, speaking on behalf of Professor Guido de Marco, Chairman of the Commonwealth Foundation, welcomed participants to the 2007 Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF). He said that the Commonwealth is unique among multilateral organisations as it has a separate intergovernmental body, the Commonwealth Foundation, established specifically to support and strengthen civil society's work in the Commonwealth. He highlighted that the Commonwealth's commitment to civil society is nowhere more evident than at the CPF which is the biggest civil society event on the Commonwealth calendar. Underscoring the objectives of the CPF, he stressed the importance of learning from each other, and influencing the outcomes of the CHOGM to ensure that they reflect the views of Commonwealth citizens. On the CPF theme '*Realising People's Potential*', he said development cannot succeed unless it is fuelled by a well-educated workforce, healthy and well-nourished families, and institutions that ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law. Regarding the issue of how the CPF influences the official CHOGM outcomes, he said the CPF is a place for swapping ideas and views, a place to influence and to be influenced. It's a place to open our minds to new ideas, a place for creativity and partnership.

In his opening address the Rt Hon Don McKinnon, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, said CPF 2007 marked the tenth year of the People's Forum, and welcomed the boldness and vision of the Forum. Noting that the programme addressed issues ranging from environment, trade, education, health and culture, he said the CPF was 'painting a large canvas.' He underscored the need to celebrate civil society at large and welcomed civil society as a direct and authentic voice of the people and a vehicle for conveying their most real, most immediate and most local interests. He said there was a need to celebrate civil society's capacity to protest, cajole, criticise and hold accountable, lend support to government initiatives, and take part in them and to be objective and apolitical. He urged civil society to find a balance and to be responsible, informed and accountable in doing so. Secretary-General McKinnon welcomed civil society's involvement in the strategic work of the Commonwealth, in particular its intergovernmental work. He stressed the importance of the CPF in squaring up to the massive challenges within the Commonwealth, such as poverty, disease and discrimination. He said these are challenges to both civil society and governments, because they affect us all, and we are all part of the solution. He underscored that a truly transformed society is one which is understood and supported by all of its citizens and which benefits them individually and collectively. Transformation, he said, is above all about people and it is about democracy and governance, and stressed that a lively civil society is a fundamental part of a transformed society.

In closing, Secretary-General McKinnon said that over the past two decades the rise of civil society as a social and political force in individual countries and transnationally has been a huge part of the spread of democracy. In fact, he said, civil society has been part of its inspiration, and that voluntary action by individual citizens is part of democracy in action and long may it continue. Yours is the loudhailer directed at government, what you say here in the CPF matters hugely to the outcomes of CHOGM, he said.

Warren Nyamugasira, Chair of the 2007 Commonwealth People's Forum Steering Committee said the CHOGM theme '*Transforming Commonwealth Societies to achieve Political, Economic and Human Development*' - is apt and exciting because transforming societies is at the heart of what civil society stands for. He urged participants' to all CHOGM-related events, such as the Business, Youth and People's Forums to focus on identifying the keys to unlock people's potential. Noting the phenomenal intellectual power and creative energies assembled in Kampala for the CPF he called on participants to use their 'weapons of mass poverty destruction' to open up new opportunities for the millions of people still trapped in sub-human conditions. He further urged participants not to squander the opportunity to put this enormous resource to work for the less developed members of the Commonwealth. In conclusion, Nyamugasira proposed that in future CHOGMs, the Heads of State and Governments make time to engage with, and hear directly from, the CPF and other Forums in order to enrich the official Communiqué.

He thanked the President and Government of the Republic of Uganda for their support in making the CPF a success. He then called on Honourable Ruhakana Rugunda, Uganda's Minister of Internal Affairs, to invite the President of the Republic of Uganda to address the delegates and officially open the 2007 Commonwealth People's Forum.

His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic Uganda and Incoming Chairman in Office of the Commonwealth, welcomed participants to Uganda, and officially declared the CPF open. He noted that many NGOs are humanitarian groups, which champion causes aimed at ameliorating human suffering, work for the interests of the sick, disabled, orphaned, impoverished, displaced, and exiled. Among the other causes supported by NGOs are advocacy causes for marginalised groups: women, children, and the elderly. Other NGOs, he noted, deal with environmental issues, such as forest protection, protecting the wetlands, wildlife conservation, and protecting the water-bodies. He stressed, that they strive to raise consciousness about the damage man is doing to these resources, and noted that these are all worthy causes and interventions.

Reflecting on his 42 years in public affairs, H.E President Museveni said he had worked on a parallel channel focusing on political and economic interventions to influence structural changes and cure inadequacies that cause injustice. He said "we the revolutionaries need you the philanthropists to save life and limb." However, he noted that it would be a strategic mistake to imagine that societies can be sustainable run on philanthropy alone. In order to redeem man from want irreversibly, he urged a social – economic metamorphosis. He said the transformation of society and economy will enable job creation including the production of goods and services for domestic consumption and export, and the generation of tax revenues so that the state can provide public goods. Stressing the importance of a holistic vision, he cautioned against the revolutionary and the philanthropist working at cross-purposes and creating unnecessary contradictions.

Regarding the threats to the environment in Africa, President Museveni highlighted three key threats, namely: subsistence agriculture that converts more and more land for agriculture in order to compensate for low productivity, and inheritance practices leading to land fragmentation; and the use of biomass for fuel wood. He stressed that environmentalists

must support industrialisation to assist people to move away from an over-reliance on agriculture towards the enhanced use of industries and services. He said this requires massive support for electrification.

He noted that environmental damage, including the production of greenhouse gases, from industrialisation in Western Europe, North America and recently, in China and India has been driven by greed. On the other hand, he said, in Africa, environmental damage is often out of necessity and not greed; people without energy, out of desperation, destroy the environment through the use of fuel-wood. He said the People's Forum should address the twin threats to the environment: greed for profits in developed countries and under-development in the Third World, and stressed that the revolutionary and the philanthropist need to work together.

## **OPENING PLENARY**

The opening plenary took place on Monday, 19 November, and included statements from Honourable Matia Kasaija, Uganda's Minister of State for Internal Affairs, and Terry Waite, CBE. The session was chaired by Dr. Mark Collins

In his address, Honourable Matia Kasaija, Uganda's Minister of State for Internal Affairs addressed the role of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in supporting civil society, in particular non-governmental organisations, to fulfil their mandates. He said civil society covers a wide area of actors, such as trade unions, farmers, professional organisations, charity organisations, community-based organisations, as well as non-governmental organisations. He said, CSOs therefore embrace many walks of life, but are basically defined as voluntary, self-generating, autonomous from the state, and established through a legal arrangement, often based on asset of shared values. Under Act 29 of Uganda's Constitution, every citizen has the freedom of conscience, expression, movement, religion, assembly, and association, he said. The Constitution also provides for freedom of accessions, which, he said includes the freedom to form or join associations, or trade unions, including political and/or civic organisations. He underscored that, therefore the existence of NGOs and other associations is guaranteed under the Constitution, and is provided for under the law.

Minister Kasaija said that civil society plays a very important role in national development. Regarding the CPF theme *Realising People's Potential*, he emphasised the importance of the role of NGOs in awakening the giant among the communities and the general population at large. He further welcomed the role played by NGOs in sensitising or awakening communities to tackle poverty. In conclusion, Minister Kasaija stressed that NGOs serve a complementary role to that of government in trying to develop this country, and that the Ministry will continue to facilitate the role of civil society and ensure the dialogue between NGOs and the Minister is open, and contributed to awakening the giant in each and every Uganda so that economic and social development can be met.

Terry Waite, CBE, said the CPF was an important and decisive conference, not only for the participants, but also for the entire Commonwealth. He paid tribute to the late Janani Luwum, former Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, who stood for truth and justice and who paid the price for that with his life, a shining beacon for one who stood for what is just and true in this world. He said the CPF must face some difficult questions. He said that we are here today as part of the Commonwealth, we have a wealth of culture, traditions, and therefore we are rich, but we also share a common poverty and in today's world this is a disgrace. It is a disgrace that more 800 million people live on less than US\$ 1 a day, he stressed.

Highlighting the importance of directing civil society efforts towards wealth creation, he said the wealth that comes from people working together enables good governance. He further stressed the necessity of wealth creation at the local level and urged participants to be innovative and to develop measures to support the transformation of poor communities and enable them to become 'agents of their own development.' In conclusion, Waite said a common spirit and a greater understanding of human compassion should form the basis of 'our Commonwealth.' He urged members of the Commonwealth to understanding 'our common problems', draw on 'our common wealth', and 'invent common solutions.'

## **SUMMARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH PEOPLE'S FORUM WORKSHOPS**

From Monday to Tuesday 19-20 November, CPF participants met in 20 workshops cluster under the six CPF sub-themes: economic development; governance, participation and human rights; culture, creativity and identity; environment and natural resources; education for transformation; and health at home and at work.

### **ACHIEVING THE GOALS IN EDUCATION: ACCESS FOR DISADVANTAGED GROUPS**

This workshop was organized by the Forum for Education NGOs in Ugandan, Africa Network Campaign on Education for All, and the Commonwealth Secretariat. The workshop set out to discuss and make practical recommendations to CHOGM on ways and means of achieving the Education for All (EFA) goals and MDG-targets in education and ensure access for the disadvantaged. The workshop identified disadvantaged groups as children with disabilities, nomadic communities, out of school/not enrolled, people pushed out by socio-cultural and economic factors, orphans, girls, people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS, geographically isolated communities, child workers, and former child soldiers. Workshop participants noted and re-emphasised that education is a fundamental human right and key to social transformation, poverty alleviation, justice and equity and particularly gender Justice, which are among the core Commonwealth values. The workshop called on Commonwealth Member States to: provide leadership in realising all the EFA goals; address earners and educators needs; and remove social, cultural, financial and other obstacles. Participants all urged Member States to develop innovative mechanisms to mobilise additional resources by enhancing budgetary allocation and Official Development Assistance to fill the financing gaps. Participants further urged Commonwealth Member States to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and particularly implement Article 24 providing for an inclusive education system for children with disabilities

### **CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERS EFFECTING TRANSFORMATION**

This workshop was organised by the British Council, Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations, Interaction Leadership Association Uganda, and Pan African Organisation for Sustainable Development. The workshop explored leadership within civil society with special emphasis on accountability and leveraging partnerships among civil CSOs and with government, development partners and communities. Several resource persons made presentations on sharing leadership experiences, overcoming challenges and developing innovative solutions in support of transformation in some Commonwealth Member States. In order to sustain efforts towards greater social accountability, workshop participants underscored the need for stronger partnerships among CSOs, and between CSOs, governments and other development actors. Participants noted that accountability at all levels is central to good governance, and the development and welfare of communities across the Commonwealth. They further noted that investment in leadership capacities at the individual, organisational and national levels is required. Participants highlighted ongoing efforts in knowledge management, setting of standards of practice, self-regulation, mentoring of CSO leaders and boards and building of coalitions and alliances to ensure social accountability. Stressing that government and civil society partnership were vital to

transform Commonwealth societies, participants also recommended that Heads of State and Governments invest resources in the professional development of civil society leaders to improve accountability and effectiveness.

### **COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM: LIVING UP TO COMMONWEALTH COMMITMENTS**

This workshop was organised by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit, and Association of Commonwealth Amnesty International Sections. Workshop participants discussed pressing issues of human rights concern, including: the rights of marginalised and vulnerable communities; threats to civil society across the Commonwealth; counter-terrorism measures that violate human rights standards; and the need for measures to ensure effective and accountable policing. Particular countries of concern included Pakistan, Fiji, The Gambia and the host country, Uganda, as well as former Member States, such as Zimbabwe. Recommendations included the immediate suspension of Pakistan from the Councils of the Commonwealth, investigation into The Gambia, and Commonwealth engagement with the people of Zimbabwe. Participants also discussed Commonwealth processes and the need to ensure genuine civil society participation, including introducing a formal mechanism for civil society engagement with the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group. In addition, the role of Commonwealth Member States in the United Nations was discussed, with the need for member states to fully implement their pledges and commitments to the promotion and protection of human rights at the UN Human Rights Council, including full participation in the Universal Periodic review.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FOR CLIMATE SECURITY**

This workshop was organised by the British Council, Futerra Sustainability Communications, and Advocate Coalition for Development and Environment Uganda. Workshop participants focused on collecting stories around climate change communications based on common human experiences that reinforce the collaborative and mutually beneficial aspects of the Commonwealth. Participants decided to establish an informal Commonwealth Media Network on Climate Change, through which ideas, expertise and new creative approaches can be shared and disseminated. Workshop participants highlighted the role of effective and appropriate communications in tackling climate change. Case studies, presented at the workshop, illustrated that positive outcomes can be achieved through creative and consistent messaging. Participants agreed that in order to deliver effective communications, it is essential to understand the needs of the target audience, identify available communications channels, and develop effective messages. Participants also stressed the importance of measuring and analysing message's to ensure successes are replicated and lessons learnt.

### **CULTURE IN DEVELOPMENT: A MUST FOR SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE TRANSFORMATION**

This workshop was organised by the Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda and Commonwealth Foundation. Noting that culture is a driving force for people-centred development, participants affirmed that culture should be one of the fundamental pillars of Commonwealth programmes and projects, alongside those relating to development and democracy. Participants identified the need for all Commonwealth Member States to ratify the UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and meaningfully involve and support civil society in its implementation at national, regional and international levels, particularly in the development and application of cultural policies and strategies. Participants also recommended that Commonwealth bodies support civil society to follow up, move forward,

and identify practical ways to make ratification and effective implementation happen before the next CPF in 2009 in Trinidad and Tobago.

### **EDUCATION FOR TRANSFORMATION: JOINED UP POLICIES TO DEVELOP COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION**

This workshop was organised by the Commonwealth Consortium for Education and City of Manukau Education Trust (COMET). Workshop participants endorsed the recommendations of the Ministers of Education at the 2006 Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers<sup>14</sup> on the need for a holistic 'quality education for the good of all,' and the interconnections between education, health, HIV and AIDS, security, employment and other aspects of human welfare. Participants stressed the need for due attention to secondary and tertiary levels of education, especially scientific, technical and vocational education. Participants noted that efforts to achieve the MDG goals of universal primary education and gender parity should be placed within the wider framework of the Education for All goals agreed in Dakar in 2000. These include a concern for equity, the quality of education, inclusive education early childhood education, adult education, literacy, and skills development. Participants stated that successful implementation of education policies depends on partnerships and noted that civil society is a strong partner of government, and should be supported in carrying out its role. Workshop participants urged CHOGM to use the 50th anniversary of the first Commonwealth Education Conference to identify opportunities for collaboration. In the context of the report of the Commonwealth Commission on Respect and Understanding Report 'Civil Paths to Peace,' participants urged Ministers of Education to report ways education systems could contribute to a culture of peace, mutual respect and other key Commonwealth values at CHOGM 2009.

### **ENERGY, WATER AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS**

This workshop was organised by the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council's of Uganda and Nigeria, Community Based Impact Assessment Network for Eastern Africa, and Prolinnova. Workshop participants recognised the importance of integrated energy policies emphasising the increased use of renewable energy sources at both the macro and micro levels, for example, both large and micro-hydroelectric schemes. Participants noted that while biofuels offer an alternative to fossil fuels, their present use is inefficient, and stressed that the loss of land from production to grow crops for biofuel must be avoided. Participants urged the prioritisation of providing clean, safe cooking fuels and reliable light to rural communities and highlighted the need to encourage affordable rural electrification to improve equity in society, and the ability of children to study at night. Participants noted that locally generated biogas from waste and electricity from solar and wind power is feasible and that the use of waste for biogas can be achieved through practical education at schools and community one-stop centres. Participants also recommended that ecologically sound water resource development required integrated river basin management (IRBM) with watershed land use planning that avoids contamination of supplies. They stressed that water from surface rivers, underground aquifers and direct rainfall should be captured, at both large and local scales, in order to rapidly increase the numbers of poor people enjoying safe water. Participants further stressed that both gender mainstreaming, and distributional equity, should be built into all energy and water projects.

### **ENHANCING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN GOOD GOVERNANCE AMONG COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES**

This workshop was organised by Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations, Danish Association for International Cooperation- MS Uganda, Network of Ugandan Researchers and Research Users, Uganda Advocacy Consortium, and

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<sup>14</sup> Cape Town Communiqué, adopted at the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers; internet: <http://www.16ccem.com/about/FINAL-Communique-16CCEM-14Dec.pdf>

Individuals. The workshop aimed at following up issues of local governance, local democracy and international human rights issues and included role-plays, case studies, presentations and interactive discussions. The objective of the workshop was to: stimulate debate and awareness on governance, participation and human rights in the Commonwealth Member States; facilitate greater citizen and civil society involvement in the processes and practices of decision-making under local governance; and generate relevant information for submission to the Commonwealth Heads of State Government. The workshop developed and adopted a civil society petition demanding that a standard minimum percentage of Commonwealth Member States annual budgets be directly remitted as support to qualifying CSOs playing critical roles in society. This would guarantee a relevant and independent role of the civil society sector. The workshop also called on civil society to embrace genuine participation in order to realise people's potential through civic education and creating space as opposed to manipulation. Participants also called on civil society to work jointly and proactively to influence government and donor policies.

### **FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT**

This workshop was organised by the Civil Society Advisory Committee, African Forum and Network on Debt and Development, Tanzania Coalition on Debt and Development, Caritas Uganda, Mozambique Debt Group, and North-South Institute. Workshop participants identified the need to reduce donor dependence while increasing available resources as a key objective. They also stressed the objective of increasing domestic mobilisation of resources ("starting inside" in Ugandan terms) measures such as capital controls and progressive tax policies to retain resources are essential, as are measures to recapture resources which have taken flight through payments on odious debt, tax evasion, intra-corporate transfer pricing and corruption. Workshop participants urged the Commonwealth to monitor and make transparent these international flows and called on Commonwealth donor governments to set short-term targets to reach 0.7% GNI for ODA, focused on poverty eradication. Participants stressed that additional, predictable and sustainable resources are required to meet the MDGs, assure prevention, universal access to treatment for HIV and AIDS and other deadly diseases and assure mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Participants urged Commonwealth Member States to join the Leading Group on Solidarity Levies and the airline levy for drug purchase, and develop and apply a currency transaction tax and carbon tax to assure adequate scale of resources for development. Workshop participants identified three events where Commonwealth Member States and civil society can play a constructive role, namely: the climate change meeting in Bali (December, 2007), the High Level Meeting on aid effectiveness in Accra (September, 2007) and the UN Review Conference on Financing for Development in Doha (November-December, 2007). Participants also recommended the formation of a joint Commonwealth and civil society working group to develop and pursue innovative proposals on resources directed to both the Accra and Doha event.

### **HIV PREVENTION EDUCATION AS A TOOL FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION**

This workshop was organised by the Commonwealth Foundation and the Community Health and Information Network in partnership with The Royal African Society and Commonwealth Secretariat. The aim of the workshop was to highlight and promote multisectoral initiatives within the Commonwealth towards facilitating innovative HIV prevention education, by strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations for prevention education, as well as advocating for policies that support HIV prevention education. Participants expressed concern that out of the 4 million people living with HIV and AIDS in the Commonwealth, 75% do not have access to treatment. Workshop participants recommended that governments should commit more resources to provide affordable anti-retrovirals (ARVs) and treatment to those living with HIV and AIDS. Participants also called for more funds to be committed to research in new prevention technologies (microbicides and vaccines) to ensure that



prevention and treatment strategies are simultaneously carried out. Governments were also requested to reduce the high level of corruption which erodes the meagre resources allocated towards HIV and AIDS interventions. It was recommended that governments should introduce sex education in the curriculum and the HIV/AIDS programs target the children, youths, women and people with disabilities as key vulnerable groups.

### **KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION**

This workshop was organised by Uganda National Council of Science and Technology, Imperial College, London, Studies Forum International and the Association of Commonwealth Universities. The objective of the workshop was to foster deliberations on harnessing knowledge and innovation for economic transformation, with particular reference to scientific knowledge and technological innovation, especially through Commonwealth partnerships, with a view to identifying strategic areas of knowledge and innovation for transforming economies and societies towards sustainable political, economic and social development.

### **NATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ABUSE IN THE COMMONWEALTH**

This workshop was organised by the Uganda Human Rights Commission, Interights, Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS, Action on Disability and Development, and National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda. The workshop discussed how to strengthen the role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) for the protection of human rights, particularly economic and social rights in the Commonwealth. Participants felt strongly that the challenge of justiceability and enforcement of economic and social rights at the national level stemmed from the lack of commitment on the part of governments to domesticate the provisions of international human rights instruments that provide for economic and social rights which they have ratified, particularly the UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The workshop further noted the critical need for human rights education and awareness creation, particularly given the significance of economic and social rights for the full enjoyment of all rights and the indivisibility and interrelatedness of human rights. The workshop also noted that government commitment to enhancing and promoting non-discrimination and equality is the key to realisation of the rights of persons with disabilities. Participants made several recommendations on how to strengthen NHRIs, and enhance the role CSOs and other actors in the protection of economic and social rights.

### **PRIORITISE HEALTH - REALISE POTENTIAL**

This workshop was organised by the Commonwealth Dental, Medical, Nurses and Pharmaceutical Associations, and Basic Needs Trust. The workshop addressed five key health issues: human resources; maternal and child health; lifestyle diseases; safe health practices; and mental health and development. The purpose of the workshop was to identify issues and develop strategies around the five key health issues to present to CHOGM in order to improve the health of Commonwealth peoples. Participants noted that governments need to develop and implement improved strategies for the ethical recruitment, education, training and retention of health workers in order to attain self-sufficiency in their health workforces. They further noted that governments need to provide adequate resources to upgrade maternal and child health care programmes and services in order to achieve MDG-4 (reducing child mortality) and MDG-5 (reducing maternal mortality) by 2015. Participants urged government to strengthen their health systems in order to combat non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer and promote healthy lifestyles. Participants further urged governments, together with civil society and other agencies, to make concerted efforts to achieve the MDGs related to health and other international health targets. They argued that failure to meet the MDGs will have serious

effects on political, economic and human development and the realisation of people's potential.

### **REALISING PEOPLE'S POTENTIAL THROUGH URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

This workshop was organised by the Built Environment Professions in the Commonwealth. Discussions at the workshop recognised that rapid urbanisation is a major economic, environmental and social challenge that needs to be addressed by the Commonwealth. It is inextricably linked to the problems of climate change, hazard mitigation and the urbanisation of poverty. Participants noted that getting urbanisation right is fundamental to most MDGs. Urban growth will create massive economic opportunity in the next generation. If planned and managed properly, it can help lift people out of poverty. The workshop welcomed the importance attached in the UN-HABITAT Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan to 'Urban planning, management and governance,' and 'Leadership for new approaches to urban planning and development' in the ComHabitat Strategic Plan, as endorsed by the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements in 2007. The workshop called on CHOGM to recognise that rapid urbanisation, climate change and the urbanisation of poverty requires Commonwealth action if the MDGs, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development objectives and economic transformation are to be achieved. Participants also called on CHOGM to: produce a State of the Commonwealth's Cities report for the next CHOGM, which would assess opportunities and threats of urban growth and recommend inter-governmental actions; and work with the Commonwealth associations and ComHabitat to identify quantitative and qualitative capacity shortfalls, and explore ways in which the Commonwealth of Learning and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation might address the needs.

### **REALISING POTENTIAL THROUGH COMMON HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

This workshop was organised by BUILD, Infectious Diseases Institute Kampala, African Palliative Care Association, and Uganda Joint Christian Council. The workshop explored the benefits of community links across the Commonwealth. Building on the commitment by Commonwealth Education Ministers to encourage school partnerships, the workshop focussed on the importance of health care and faith partnerships. Presentations were made on school links and research into the impact that these partnerships are having on teachers and learners in UK, Africa and Asia. Links between environmental health and health care institutions in Uganda and UK and collaboration between faith-based institutions and NGOs were highlighted by speakers. The workshop agreed that community based partnerships are of crucial importance in terms of learning, personal and professional development, in contributing to the MDGs and to social cohesion and peace. Participants recognised that the quality of partnerships was of great importance and agreed that partnership be based on mutual respect and learning. Participants further called on CHOGM to support community partnerships across the Commonwealth.

### **REALISING POTENTIAL THROUGH RESPECT FOR WORKER'S RIGHTS**

This workshop was organised by the International Trade Union Confederation and Commonwealth Trade Union Group. Workshop participants reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of universal human and trade union rights and called on the Commonwealth to keep up the pressure on Zimbabwe and support civil society until the government brings fundamental improvements in the human rights situation, respects fully all core labour standards, and cease harassment against trade unions. As a prerequisite to democracy and good governance, the participants called on the Commonwealth Secretariat to monitor progress towards the universal ratification by all Commonwealth Member States of the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Convention 144 and initiate tripartite Consultation by the time of CHOGM 2009. Participants expressed serious concern at the limited progress towards meeting the MDGs and emphasised that the key to progress is investing in people,

and their access to justice, labour protection, education, health care, and to clean water. Participants concluded that although 'decent work' has been recognised by the UN as key to poverty alleviation and as an indicator for the achievement of the MDGs, CHOGM should establish a fund for capacity enhancement activities by trade unions, covering inter alia workers in informal work and export processing zones and linked to ILO assistance and technological cooperation.

### **REALISING WOMEN'S POTENTIAL IN TRANSFORMING COMMONWEALTH SOCIETIES THROUGH FINANCING GENDER EQUALITY WORK**

This workshop was organised by the Commonwealth Women's Network. The workshop discussed civil society actions in the run-up to the third High Level Review of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in Accra, Ghana in 2008 and stressed the importance of working towards targets for the international financing for development instruments for any development agenda. Participants also discussed the role and contribution of women to social transformation in the Commonwealth and suggest the way forward in promoting women's rights as an integral part of actions taken towards poverty alleviation, democracy and development. Participants emphasised the need for engendered policy making processes in resource allocation for economic and human development spheres of the Commonwealth and stressed the centrality of financing gender, in particular the promotion of women's rights to achieve the MDGs. Workshop participants agreed to call on CHOGM to develop a gender disaggregated baseline study of gender equality in all Member States using a standardised set of indicators that is regularly updated. Participants also underscored the need for the Commonwealth to build the capacity of government institutions for gender budgeting and to commit finances for the implementation of the Commonwealth Action Plan for gender Equality 2005-2015. Participants further urged CHOGM to: ensure compliance with international agreements and conventions through enshrining them into national laws; develop a Commonwealth Plan of Action for Children along the lines of the UN convention on the rights of children; review labour and employment laws and opportunities for women; address women's ownership and use of land and property rights; and develop a Commonwealth Plan of Action for women in post conflict reconstruction.

### **THE ROLE OF MEDIA IN DEVELOPMENT IN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES**

This workshop was organised by Television Trust for the Environment and the Royal Commonwealth Society. Presentations included practical demonstrations through film, radio and the internet of the role media played in communicating development. Key discussions stemmed for the acceptance that the character of the media influences the character of a country's democracy. Participants argued that a free and plural media underpins people's participation in development. It was also recognised that such a media is a vital prerequisite for the achievement of the MDGs successful action against climate change and other cross-cutting development actions. The workshop called on Member States to enact and enforce access to information and freedom of information legislation, and remove other barriers that constrain media freedom. Discussions also encouraged the transformation of state broadcasters into independent public interest broadcasters capable of supporting and commissioning diverse and independent programming. Participants felt that the Commonwealth needed to have a more substantive consultation, conference and report on the role of media, and democracy and development.

### **TRADE MODELS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS**

This workshop was organised by the Ethical Fashion Forum. This workshop looked at three main themes around the creation of sustainable livelihoods through values led models for trade- including product and market, people, and environment. The workshop included an introduction to the opportunities and challenges associated with sustainable business and trade practices through inspiring case studies based in Commonwealth countries, drawn

from fashion and other product sectors. Through its three themes the workshop examined issues of design, culture, market access and emerging markets, people, skills and innovation, and the environmental impact of business practices and trade. Participatory techniques were used to encourage dialogue, information exchange and collaboration around the three workshop themes.

### **TRANSFORMING SOCIETY: COMMONWEALTH PERSPECTIVES ON THE NEXUS BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY AND BUSINESS**

This workshop was organised by Makerere University Business School. Participants acknowledged that business and civil society serve the same people and yet, hardly ever work together. Civil society, under the Commonwealth has a productive, collaborative culture that communicates more and can achieve a lot more if they work together bringing their various strengths to the negotiating table. Although civil society and business's have traditionally been at loggerheads worldwide, business schools in the Commonwealth can and need to take advantage of the interactive nature of the Commonwealth as a social organ to set a new standard for dialogue between capital and civil society. This would impact the curriculum so that it creates more interaction between civil society and corporate interests for the transformation of developing countries and especially in the reduction of poverty. Business schools should be left to operate with minimal or no interference from government and encouraged to act as entrepreneurial bodies and as they develop commerce and business education which is their mandate. The business schools should spearhead a change of attitude and restructure their course content with the stakeholders, to ensure adequate percentages of academic and practical skills and continuously compare and update their curricula and other engagements, to ensure quality standards.

### **PLENARY**

A plenary session was held on Wednesday 21 November to hear feedback from the CPF workshops and to discuss the linkages between the six CPF themes. Participants met in a plenary to hear remarks from Vijay Krishnarayan, Deputy Director of the Commonwealth Foundation, and from Felix Dodds, Executive Director of Stakeholder Forum regarding reflections on the workshops and the CPF Statement process. Participants then broke into six thematic groups to discuss and agree on key messages emanating from the workshops. Following breakaway discussions, the plenary reconvened to hear further feedback for the workshop discussions, an overview of the Commonwealth Youth forum and to hear closing remarks from Vijay Krishnarayan.

### **CLOSING PLENARY**

The CPF closing plenary, chaired by Dr. Mark Collins, included a presentation and discussion on the *Kampala Civil Society Statement*.

Joan Grant-Cummings, Chair of the Commonwealth Foundation's Civil Society Advisory Committee (CSAC) introduced the *Kampala Civil Society Statement* and provided an overview of the main issues and recommendations to emerge from the CPF. She said the Kampala Statement would serve as a baseline document for Commonwealth civil society work over the next two years leading towards CHOGM 2009 in Trinidad and Tobago. She underscored that the Statement was a 'living document' and highlighted that the Statement respects and reaffirms the contributions made by previous CPF's. In the discussion, CPF participants commented on the Kampala Statement. Participants highlighted the need for future CPF's to focus on the role of families and communities rather than merely on institutions and called for a focus on the professional development and leadership within civil society. Participants also underscored the need to focus on the implementation of commitments and recommendations presented in the Kampala Statement and the need to

specify implementation responsibility. Participants further stressed the importance of dealing with disability as a cross-cutting issue and the need for a focus on the interlinkages between the issues presented in the Statement.

Following the discussion, John Foster, CSAC Vice-Chair presented the CSAC report, and highlighted a number of 'firsts' during the last CSAC term, namely the:

- first CPF planned by CSAC in cooperation with local civil society ( Malta, 2005), close collaboration with Ugandan civil society in planning for CPF 2007;
- initiating and convening civil society consultation ( national/regional) preparatory to the CPF's in 2005 and 2007;
- first informal breakfast with Commonwealth Finance Ministers, chaired by the Prime Minister of Barbados in 2005. Followed by similar events in Sri Lanka ( 2006) and Guyana ( 2007);
- first civil society dialogue with Foreign Ministers, Malta 2005 and second roundtable dialogue in Kampala 2007;
- first address to a CPF by a Head of State, Malta 2005;
- collaboration with the Foundation, research and content, civil society contribution to the UN five-year review of the Millennium Summit which resulted in the publication ' Breaking with Business and Usual', and the 2007 publication 'Transforming Commonwealth Societies, Civil Society Perspectives';
- collaboration with the Foundation in the ongoing process with HIPC ministers on debt relief and follow-up; and
- first ever CPF daily newspaper, 'GEM news' in Kampala 2007.

## **CLOSING CEREMONY**

The CPF closing ceremony was chaired by Warren Nyamugasira, and included an address by H.E Glenda Morean, High Commissioner to the UK for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Several cultural performances were also held, including: a dance by the Acholo Cultural Foundation; three short films by the Maisha Film Lab, and youth choirs from the Alpha and Omega School, the African Children's Choir, and the African Outreach Academy.

Her Excellency Glenda Morean congratulated civil society for the successful staging of the CPF and stressed that civil society has a major role to play in the work of the Commonwealth. She underscored the need for meaningful partnerships between civil society, and governments, and called for a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the CPF recommendations to be developed. She said that building partnerships was integral to advancing the development agenda, and highlighted the importance of gender empowerment. Following her remarks, Chair Nyamugasira presented her with a copy of the Kampala Civil Society Statement.

Dr. Mark Collins presented a vote of thanks, including to the Host Government, Commonwealth Secretariat, CSAC members, staff and volunteers of the Commonwealth Foundation and Commonwealth People's Forum.

Chair Nyamugasira then closed the CPF 2007.

## **SUMMARY OF THE INTERACTION, PEOPLE'S SPACE, LEARNING JOURNEYS AND FRIENDS LAUNCH**

### **INTERACTION WORKSHOP**

Organised by the British Council, the InterAction Leadership Programme took place from 18-19 November 2007. InterAction is a transformational leadership programme that, for the past three years, has been working with dynamic and innovative individuals who want to make a positive difference in their organisation, at their work place and in their communities across Africa and the UK. The programme is a unique approach to leadership and enables participants to engage with the challenges that their countries face by learning from what has worked and is working in Africa and other parts of the world. InterAction is designed to help participants reflect on challenges and opportunities. It will provide participants with different methods and approaches to enable them to make even more of a difference and to effect change not only at the Forum but also in their circles of influence.

### **PEOPLE'S SPACE**

An exciting initiative at the 2007 CPF was the People's Space, located adjacent to the main CPF venue. The People's Space, opened on Monday 19 November, and was an open, interactive area and a hive of activity. Cultural performances, mini-workshops, films for conversations, multi-media and for the first time ever at a CPF, the building of a People's Wall of Greatness, will be central to the People's Space. The People's Space provided a bold, exciting and inclusive experience for CPF participants to interact with Ugandans from different walks of life. There were 16 spaces, from literature and education to health and economic development, as well as a Speaker's Corner, where individuals could speak about their views on any issue including governance, cultural exchanges and the Commonwealth. A Wall of Greatness, where attendants could write inspiring messages, was erected near the entrance and will be made into a monument after the CHOGM. The official opening of People's Space was attended by Uganda's Vice President Prof. Gilbert Bukenya, who walked around all the spaces and laid a brick on The Wall of Greatness. Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon also visited the space on the following day with his wife and son, after which twenty Prime Minister's spouses visited. Each day, the space opened at 12pm and closed after midnight. The numbers of people who attended the forum increased daily, from 500 on the first day to 3000 on the third day and 5000 on the fourth day. Local artists from Jamaica, Ghana and Trinidad and Tobago were also performing throughout the week.

The People's Space also attracted participants from other CHOGM events including government officials, the Youth Forum, and Business Forum. Events held at the People's Space included: upcoming music, dance and drama groups, artists and sculptors; civil society organisations – local, regional and international; private sector with special focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); young entrepreneurs; and anybody with something to say. Key components of the People's Space included:

- The Commonwealth Boulevard: Opportunity for people to contribute to the strength and diversity of the Commonwealth through the CPF themes;
- Multi-media Exchanges: Activities to enable people of the Commonwealth be part of the proceedings through virtual mediums –Internet Booths, SMS and blogging;
- Film Exchanges: Opportunities for mixed media to stimulate transformational conversations on themes of the CPF;
- Cultural exchanges: A taste of the “uncommon” aspects of Commonwealth culture - talented artists whose artistic expression is non traditional to their countries - something celebratory;
- The Word Exchange: A literature and book writer's space;

- Welcome to Uganda: An opportunity for the host country – Uganda to share its diverse culture and heritage with the rest of the Commonwealth's people; and
- People's Wall of Greatness: To affirmatively disrupt and change how people think about their countries and the Commonwealth.

## **LEARNING JOURNEYS**

Learning Journeys provided opportunities for CPF participants to share experiences with colleagues from Ugandan civil society. Participants on Learning Journeys travelled to projects within a 35km radius of Kampala, for an opportunity for learning and exchanging experiences between people of the Commonwealth on shared issues and challenges they face. Learning Journeys took place on Wednesday 21 November.

**Mildmay Centre:** The Mildmay Centre opened in 1998 and is part of an international network of centres for HIV and AIDS. The Centre is a large and busy place, providing care to patients, training a cross section of people in caring for people with HIV and AIDS, and offering a degree course in Health Systems Approach to HIV and AIDS Care and Management in conjunction with the University of Manchester in the UK. It also conducts training courses using mobile training teams and has four clinics in rural areas.

**Agali Amawu Farmers Development Association:** A chance to visit this unique and innovative farming community in the Wakiso District where farmers have developed a new type of fertiliser which considerably increases crop yields. These communities are now able to live and make a living off the land thanks to this award winning fertiliser.

**Innovations at Makerere University Committee (I@MAK):** An opportunity to discover the many community based improvements developed by this group. The projects focus on tackling a wide range of sustainable development issues through groundbreaking and affordable innovations such as eliminating disease by developing a hand-washing system. Other projects include water heating systems and affordable sanitary pads for schoolgirls.

**Community Health and Information Network (CHAIN):** This project aims to improve the economic and social well being of people who have been left vulnerable by the ravages of HIV and AIDS. There is an overwhelming number of orphans and grandparent led households within a community and these households have no dependable income. CHAIN looks to address the needs of these people by providing education, counselling and contributing towards sustainable livelihoods.

**Mental Health Uganda:** Mental Health Uganda provides shelter and support for those living with mental illness. The organisation also works to eliminate the social stigmas that are associated with mental illness and to empower those with mental illness to contribute to their communities. Mental Health Uganda is a groundbreaking organisation in a society where mental illness is not fully understood.

**Aga Khan Foundation: Madrasa Resource Centre:** The Madrasa Preschool Programme's philosophy is to promote a community based early childhood education and development programme for children who have little access to education. The initiative empowers community members to identify the resources needed for a pre-school and then guide those members on how to build it. The programme is geared towards education predominantly in Muslim communities.

**Market Vendors AIDS Project:** An innovative project by market vendors to address issues relating to HIV and AIDS awareness, prevention, care and support. The project operates in three vibrant markets in Kampala. The biggest, St Balikuddembe Market, has 45,000

vendors, 70% of whom are women. Project activities include sensitisation, counselling, HIV and AIDS testing and treatment.

**Uganda Youth Development Link:** A progressive learning journey in three parts. This organisation's overarching aim is to give a vocational education to those youths who most need it. The first step in this project's journey is for young people between the ages of ten and 24 to have access to a safe drop-in centre which is monitored by social workers. There are also outposts of these centres which are deliberately based in slum areas in order to recognise young people who are at risk. Social workers then refer those in need to the Masoli Vocational Retreat Centre which also acts as a temporary shelter. This will conclude the journey.

**Natural Products Research:** The Natural Chemical Treatment Research Laboratory (NCTRL) is a research unit under the Ministry of Health in the Uganda Government and has been in place since 1962. Since then the institution has expanded into a serious research centre in herbal medicine. It also supplies information to the Ministry of Health, by assisting with formulating relevant policies in areas such as HIV and AIDS, malaria and sickle cells.

### **LAUNCH OF THE FRIENDS OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

The Friends of the Commonwealth was launched by Terry Waite, CBE, on Monday 19 November. 'Friends' is an initiative which aims to provide a platform for individuals to support the good work going on around the Commonwealth. This support will take the form of mobilising networks, sharing experiences as well as providing an outlet for Commonwealth citizens to voice opinions and ask questions. Over time the initiative aims to build a thriving group of Friends from around the Commonwealth, drawn together by a wish to learn, share and achieve more. Friends will work in partnership with many Commonwealth organisations and Associations.



## ANNEXES

### STATEMENT TO FOREIGN MINISTERS

On Wednesday 21 November, the Chair of the Civil Society Advisory Committee, Joan Grant-Cummings, made a statement on behalf of the CPF to a meeting with Commonwealth Foreign Ministers.

Honourable Sam Kutesa, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Uganda  
Secretary General, Deputy Secretary Generals  
Ministers and other Representatives  
Ladies and Gentlemen, Good evening.

1. First, I would like to thank the Government and the people of Uganda for the excellent arrangements for the Commonwealth Peoples Forum. We are truly appreciative of and grateful for the warm hospitality.
2. On behalf of civil society we would also like to thank you all for once again creating a space within your busy schedule, to receive our report as part of this on-going process of constructive engagement between Commonwealth civil society and our governments.
3. Recalling our successful interactions in Malta, and the joint civil society – government committee for the 8WAMM, civil society sees this as tangible evidence of your continued willingness to listen to and take into account our contributions in your deliberations. We hope this will result in a commitment to and implementation of the recommendations.
4. We the representatives of civil society from across the Commonwealth have been meeting in Kampala over the past three days. The results of our deliberations are recorded in our statement to the 2007 CHOGM which has been given to you. (“Realising People’s Potential – the Kampala Civil society statement to CHOGM 2007”)
5. In it we reaffirm and recommit to the CHOGM 2002 endorsement of “a Commonwealth known, owned and valued by its peoples, responsive to their evolving needs , and invigorated by a more focused and productive partnership between government and civil society”.
6. We welcome the theme of the 2007 CHOGM on “Transforming Commonwealth Societies to achieve Political, Economic and Human Development”. We believe that the theme speaks to some of the essential elements of how people will realize their full potential.
7. We stress that transformation is about fundamental change. It is about asking hard questions on how we govern ourselves and organize our societies. Transformation is about how we rebalance power and redistribute resources, so that people can realize their full potential.
8. We are convinced that a society based on equality, stable and democratic governance, sustainable development and a more equitable access to socio-economic opportunities is not only possible but also achievable.
9. We are deeply concerned that midway between the adoption of the Millennium Declaration and the 2015 end date for arresting poverty and underdevelopment, the Commonwealth Secretary General reports that 27 million people in the Commonwealth carry the HIV virus; 70 million Commonwealth children remain unschooled; about 800 million live

on less than a \$1 a day; over 327 million live in slums; and an estimated annual number of 300,000 maternal deaths take place that could have been prevented in most cases.

10. This document you have been presented with is a product of the deliberations of 9 pans –Commonwealth national and regional consultations, 6 consultations in Uganda, consultations at the Committee of the Whole (COW); as well as the 21 workshops at the CPF. This is a **living document** which will serve as the basis of our engagement with government and other development partners as we advance our work as Commonwealth civil society on the road to Trinidad and Tobago.

We would like to draw your attention to key areas in the document.

### **11. Climate Change**

On Climate Change, we wish to highlight the fact that there is strong evidence that member states are already experiencing the effects on their people, the environment and their economies. We stress that a failure to deal with it will have far reaching ramifications especially for small states in Africa and small island states in the Caribbean, the Pacific and the Indian Ocean.

12. If you turn to paragraph 30 you will note that we call on Commonwealth member states to act decisively on climate change, including making a commitment to negotiate a Road Map at the UN Climate Summit in Bali, for a fair, effective, flexible and inclusive post 2012 climate regime, no later than 2009.

### **12. Financing for Development**

Financing for development, remains a fundamental challenge to the achievement of transformation. Aid commitments made at Gleneagles in 2005 have not been fully implemented. To achieve even the basic goals of the MDGs, we must take a fundamentally different approach. Paragraph 37 calls on Commonwealth member states and CHOGM to assert the commitments of all industrialized countries to meet the UN aid target of 0.7% GDP and to review and monitor progress towards that target every 2 years. Further we call for a joint Commonwealth Civil Society Working Group to explore and develop recommendations for innovative responses to resource needs related to the Accra and the Doha conferences and strategies for their achievement.

### **13. Education**

Paragraph 50 calls for Commonwealth member states to endorse and implement the recommendations from the Commonwealth Education Ministers conference in Cape Town, in 2006. We see education as integral to the attainment of all the MDGS.

### **14. HIV and AIDS**

Paragraph 61 notes that although the Commonwealth is home to 30% of the world's population, we carry a disproportionate 60% of the global burden of HIV and AIDS. We call on Commonwealth governments to implement the international commitment to universal access to treatment by 2010, among other actions. Further, we wish to underscore that legislation to criminalize HIV positive people must stop and that a more comprehensive and inclusive strategy and approach be taken.

### **15. Water and Sanitation**

Noting that next year is the United Nations International Year of Sanitation (IYS), in paragraph 67, we call on member states to recommit efforts and resources to meet the agreed water and sanitation targets as a key intervention.

## **Trade**

16. Paragraph 71 expresses our concern regarding current negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). In particular we wish to mention the negative tactics and threatening behaviour by developed countries that undermine the possibilities of fair negotiations, true partnerships and sustainable transformation.

## **17. Good Governance**

Paragraph 76 notes with deep concern the shrinking of the operational space of civil society especially in the context of the international efforts to counter terrorism.

18. Further, we call on Commonwealth governments to institutionalize the participation of women in decision making by achieving the targets set out in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality.

## **19. Gender**

Paragraph 7e underscores that the empowerment of women is key to transformation. CHOGM should move from rhetoric to reality by focusing attention on improving gender equality within Commonwealth States and adhering to agreed commitments in international declarations and conventions.

## **Human Rights**

20. With regard to human rights we wish to bring your attention to paragraphs 89 and 90. We want to stress that the transformation of society is not possible without the assured and effective access to justice, including an independent judiciary and democratic policing, such as policing that is representative, responsive and accountable.

Further, we express our outrage at the position taken by three Commonwealth member states who voted against adoption of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

21. In conclusion, we the representatives of civil society wish to reiterate the importance of this exchange and others such as the Foreign Ministers Roundtable as essential points long the transformation process and agenda. We the peoples of the Commonwealth, commit ourselves as members of civil society to work with governments and commonwealth institutions to carry out the transformation agenda, to respond constructively and energetically to invitations to form partnerships to bring about social transformation.

We believe this is a critical component in realizing peoples' potential.

We thank you for your attention.

## **COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION CIVIL SOCIETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Commonwealth Foundation is advised by a Civil Society Advisory Committee (CSAC) comprised of 16 civil society members from around the Commonwealth. CSAC nominees are members of the Foundation Board of Governors and Executive Committee and they contribute to the strategic plan, provide advice, support and programme implementation assistance to staff, including representation at key ministerial and multilateral forums and assist with evaluation. They contribute to the overall profile and impact of the work of the Foundation.

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