

the
Commonwealth
Yearbook



2015

**Commissioned and researched by Rupert Jones-Parry
and Andrew Robertson**

Edited by Kate Bystrova

Published for the Commonwealth Secretariat
by Nexus Strategic Partnerships

The Commonwealth Yearbook 2015

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UK

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Preface

This edition of *The Commonwealth Yearbook* celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Commonwealth Secretariat. A new section, 'The Commonwealth in history', has been added to chart the evolution of the association and includes a pictorial timeline of major events since the Secretariat's inception. This chapter also contains a collection of personal 'Commonwealth reminiscences' from members of staff who worked in senior positions at the Secretariat during its first five decades.

The content of this new *Commonwealth Yearbook* looks at global developments and the process of change within the organisation itself as well as providing up-to-date information, including on this year's Commonwealth theme, 'A Young Commonwealth'.

A substantial amount of new material has been included in this edition. The 'Commonwealth in Action' section of the 2015 *Yearbook* looks at the work of the Commonwealth and its core partners during 2014 and into 2015. In addition to this, a

number of essays from a diverse range of contributors highlight areas of interest to the Commonwealth, such as gender equality, participatory governance and education.

Profiles of the Commonwealth's 53 member countries and their overseas territories and associated states have been researched and compiled using a broad range of national and international sources. The profiles are also published online and constantly updated on the websites of the Commonwealth Secretariat and Nexus Strategic Partnerships. The directory of Commonwealth organisations has been compiled and updated from information supplied by the organisations themselves.

This edition also includes comprehensive information on the 2014 Commonwealth Essay Competition, highlighting the creative talent of the Commonwealth's young people, and on Commonwealth-related publications. Also included is pictorial coverage of last year's Commonwealth Games, which took place in Glasgow, UK.

Sources

The primary sources of the data in the country profiles, and in the statistical and other tables, are international agencies, especially the World Bank (economic data) and the various agencies of the United Nations.

Definitions and acronyms

Definitions of principal socio-economic indicators in the country profiles and the statistical tables are given in 'Definitions, acronyms and abbreviations' in the 'Reference' section.

Commissioned, researched and compiled by Andrew Robertson and Rupert Jones-Parry; edited by Kate Bystrova; with country profiles prepared by Richard Green, Jade Fell, Katie Silvester, Sara Starkey and Johannes Ruckstuhl

July 2015

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Graham Campbell / CC BY-SA 2.0

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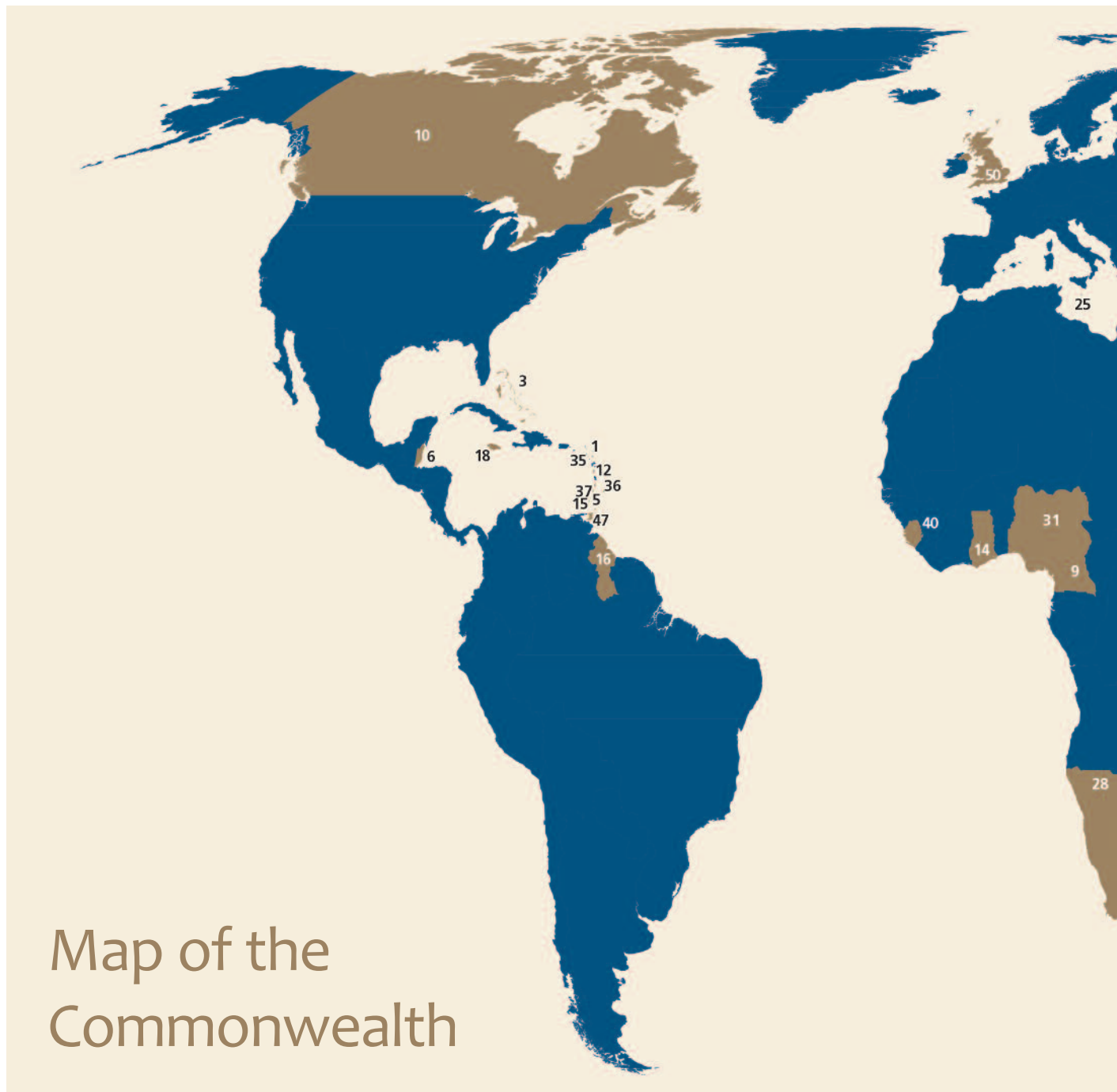
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Map of the Commonwealth

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Antigua and Barbuda | 11 Republic of Cyprus | 21 Lesotho |
| 2 Australia | 12 Dominica | 22 Malawi |
| 3 The Bahamas | 13 Fiji | 23 Malaysia |
| 4 Bangladesh | 14 Ghana | 24 Maldives |
| 5 Barbados | 15 Grenada | 25 Malta |
| 6 Belize | 16 Guyana | 26 Mauritius |
| 7 Botswana | 17 India | 27 Mozambique |
| 8 Brunei Darussalam | 18 Jamaica | 28 Namibia |
| 9 Cameroon | 19 Kenya | 29 Nauru |
| 10 Canada | 20 Kiribati | 30 New Zealand |



- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 31 Nigeria | 40 Sierra Leone | 49 Uganda |
| 32 Pakistan | 41 Singapore | 50 United Kingdom |
| 33 Papua New Guinea | 42 Solomon Islands | 51 United Republic of Tanzania |
| 34 Rwanda | 43 South Africa | 52 Vanuatu |
| 35 St Kitts and Nevis | 44 Sri Lanka | 53 Zambia |
| 36 Saint Lucia | 45 Swaziland | |
| 37 St Vincent and the Grenadines | 46 Tonga | |
| 38 Samoa | 47 Trinidad and Tobago | |
| 39 Seychelles | 48 Tuvalu | |



The Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation

Promoting Namibia's national interests internationally

The Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation (formerly Ministry of Foreign Affairs), was established at Namibia's independence in 1990.

The Ministry is entrusted with the primary function of formulating, promoting and executing Namibia's foreign policy and the conduct of Namibia's international relations.

Article 96 of the Constitution stipulates five general guidelines which underpin the Government's commitment to actively promote friendly and beneficial relations and co-operation with other nations, and also to foster, in concert with them, the maintenance of the rule of law, peace, security, social justice and economic welfare.

Key guidelines

- Adopt and maintain a policy of non-alignment
- Promote international cooperation, peace and security
- Create and maintain just and mutually beneficial relations among nations
- Foster respect for international law and treaty obligations
- Encourage the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means

In line with the above, the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation is, therefore, the administrative machinery responsible for the management of foreign policy of the Republic of Namibia. Its activities and functions are geared towards the formulation, co-ordination and smooth functioning of the policies of Namibia in so far as they involve relations, bilateral and multilateral, with other countries and international organisations.

To cater to all aspects of national, regional and international interest, the Ministry is divided into the following divisions/directorates/departments:

Department of Bilateral Affairs (DBA)

The Department is headed by a Deputy Permanent Secretary and deals with Namibia's relations at the bilateral level, be they political, security, economic, social or cultural.

It has four directorates:

- Directorate for Africa and the Middle East
- Directorate for the Americas and the Caribbean
- Directorate for Asia and the Pacific Rim
- Directorate for Europe

Each directorate has been divided into divisions and sub-divisions to which desk officers for specific countries are allocated.

Department of Multilateral Affairs (DMA)

Headed by an Under-Secretary, DMA comprises the Directorate of International and Regional Co-ordination, and the Directorate of Treaties and Agreements.

The Department works to assert Namibia's position and interests on a regional, continental and global level, and manages the country's participation in major regional and multilateral organisations.

As a member state of SADC, Namibia has been active in working for the peace and security of the region. Recently, during 2013 to 2014 Namibia was the Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. At the African Union, in April 2014, Namibia assumed a regional seat on the African Union Peace and Security Council, a position the country will hold until April 2016.

Department of Protocol Affairs (DPA)

The Department is headed by the Chief of Protocol and consists of three divisions, each headed by a Deputy Director.

Department of Administration

The Directorate is headed by a Director and is responsible for the sub-divisions of Finance, IT, General Service, Personnel, and Auxiliary Services. These provide essential administrative services to the Ministry's staff in Windhoek and at overseas posts.

Below: Namibia and Turkey have signed three MoUs to cement ties between the two countries in August 2014 in Windhoek. The two countries were represented by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, Ambassador Selma Ashipala-Musavyi (right) and the Deputy Under Secretary for Africa in the Turkish Government, Mr Ali Kemal Ayadin





Hon. Marco Hausiku, former Deputy Prime Minister, receiving the Queen's Baton from former Athletics Namibia President and MP Agnes Tjingarero during the torch's relay journey in preparation of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games



Hon. Marco Hausiku, former Deputy Minister and High Commissioner of South Africa to Namibia H.E. Ms Yvette Lillian Mavivi Myakayaka-Maznini (both seated) with some of the resident High Commissioners of Commonwealth member countries accredited to Namibia and officials from the Namibian Foreign Affairs Ministry during the 2014 Commonwealth Day celebrations

Namibian Diplomatic Missions

To extend its operations in the international arena, the Ministry has either established Diplomatic Missions or appointed Consuls General and Honorary Consuls abroad. Currently Namibia has 30 Namibian diplomatic missions abroad, two Consuls General and 44 Honorary Consulates.

Strategic Plan 2013-2017

The Strategic Plan was launched in November 2014 and projects the activities to be carried out by the Ministry within the next five years.

NAFA launched

The 7th Namibian Heads of Diplomatic Mission's Conference which was held in Swakopmund in 2014 under the theme 'Enhancing Economic Diplomacy in Pursuance of Namibia's Foreign Policy', resulted in the formation of the Namibian Association of Former Ambassadors (NAFA). The purpose of establishing NAFA is to help retain the experience and expertise of those who have served as Heads of Missions.



Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation at the launch of the Five-year Strategic Plan

www.mfa.gov.na ■ www.namibiahc.org.uk



H.E. Dr Hage G. Geingob,
President of the Republic of Namibia
Office of the President
State House, 1 Engelbrecht Street, Auasblick
Tel: +264 61 270 7427



Hon. Dr Nickey Iyambo,
Vice-President and Minister of Veterans Affairs and Marginalised Communities
Office of the Vice-President
Old State House, Robert Mugabe Avenue
Tel: +264 61 296 3021



Hon. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila,
Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia
Office of the Prime Minister
Robert Mugabe Avenue
Tel: +264 61 287 2002
Fax: +264 61 249 546



Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation
4th Floor, West Wing, Government Offices, Robert Mugabe Avenue
Tel: +264 61 282 2146
Fax: +264 61 238 528



Hon. Immanuel Ngatjizeko,
Minister of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development
Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and Sme Development
Block B, Brendan Simbwaye Square, Goethe Street
Tel: +264 61 283 7334
Fax: +264 61 220 148



Hon. Pohamba Shifeta,
Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Philip Troskie Building,
Dr Kenneth Kaunda Street
Tel: +264 61 284 2335
Fax: +264 61 232 057



Former President H.E. Hifikepunye Pohamba, with UN Secretary-General H.E. Ban Ki-moon at the official opening of the UN House in Namibia in July 2014



Why Namibia?

Top quality exports

Sweeping scenery

Modern infrastructure

Competitive economy

Abundant resources

Hospitable people

Abundant wildlife

Gateway to SADC

Land of contrasts



Investment opportunities

Agriculture

Despite its arid and semi-arid climate, Namibia produces a variety of crops ranging from cereals and fruit to horticulture. Increased production of horticulture produce indicates that massive opportunities still exist within the sector.

Livestock farming

Cattle, sheep, goats and pigs account for about 76 per cent of livestock production of which 70 per cent is from commercial areas and six per cent from communal areas.

Opportunities for investors

- Processing of meat and meat products
- Manufacturing of milk products
- Processing of fruit and vegetables



Tourism

Ranked fourth in the top ten countries in Africa, Namibia is a unique destination that offers vast open spaces, abundant biodiversity and wildlife, rich cultural diversities and valuable traditional knowledge. The world's oldest desert, highest dunes and largest cheetah population as well as the oldest plant and the second largest canyon count among Namibia's tourist gems.

Namibia's commitment to conservation remains the backbone of the tourism industry giving tourists an unforgettable experience while allowing local communities and nature to benefit from it.



Opportunities for investors

Direct investment or joint ventures with entrepreneurs in Namibia include:

- Business tourism centres
- Medical tourism
- Cultural tourism
- Cruise ships
- Conference facilities
- Sport and adventure tourism



Logistics

An effective transport infrastructure is the backbone of a vibrant economy and Namibia's favourable geographical position on the south-western coast of the African continent puts it in good stead to be the transport and logistics hub in southern Africa.

Namibia has well-established road infrastructure and is linked by road to Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa through various regional corridors.

The port of Walvis Bay has a key competitive advantage, with its proximity to transatlantic markets. Despite being smaller than regional ports, the harbour benefits from higher efficiency, shorter waiting times and additional facilities such as a dry dock for oil and gas rig repairs. Namibia's port expansion agenda gives investors opportunities to participate directly in infrastructural development and management or invest in related support services.

Invest in Namport's expansion drive

- Full truckloads and consolidation services
- Specialised packaging and cargo handling
- Break bulk services
- Warehousing and distribution
- Cold storage facilities
- Freight forwarding

Manufacturing

The sector plays a strategic role in economic development and presents greater opportunities for sustained growth, employment and poverty reduction.

While the size of the domestic market is small, the regional SADC markets have a consumer base of over 300 million. The Namibian government has signed various preferential free trade agreements. While there are a number of manufacturing activities that already take place in the country, there is still significant room for expansion.

Opportunities for investors

- Steel manufacturing and metal fabrication
- Automotive parts
- Fodder and pet food production
- Fertiliser production
- Production of chemicals
- Manufacturing of leather, wool and textiles



Namibia Investment Centre

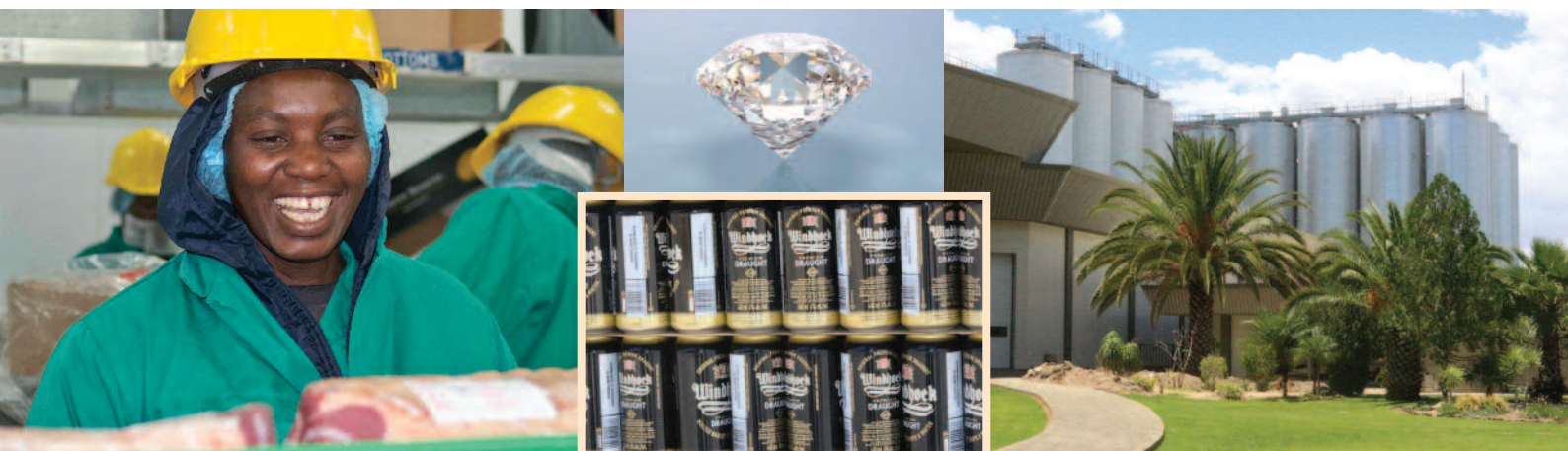
The first port of call for local and foreign investment

The Namibia Investment Centre (NIC) is a department within the Ministry of Trade and Industry with the main responsibility to create an enabling environment for increased domestic and foreign direct investment to achieve sustainable economic growth and employment.

Services

- Provides information on incentives, investment opportunities and Namibia's regulatory regime
- Offers investor services when establishing businesses in Namibia e.g. work permits and business visas
- Assists with the search and identification of land/premises
- Minimises bureaucratic obstacles
- Conducts research on investment climate trends, sector studies, etc.
- Promotes and facilitates joint venture arrangements and encourages domestic participation in investment activities locally and abroad
- Issues certificates and status investment
- Offers attractive investment incentives
- Facilitates inward and outward business missions
- Provides aftercare services to existing investors

www.investnamibia@mti.gov.na



Advancing Commonwealth values in 2015

Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma



Every year is notable for the Commonwealth family in a variety of ways: for innovation and collective achievement, and for significant mileposts reached by member states along our shared journey of democracy, development and respect for diversity.

The year 2015 already stands out with particular distinction in terms of the initiatives across a broad range of areas to advance Commonwealth values and on trade, debt, climate change, support for small states, youth, women, creating digital platforms, technical support among member states and partnerships, as well as in global advocacy, including with G20 and the Financing for Development process. It is the year in which the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting – CHOGM – returns to Malta for the second time in a decade; and we celebrate half a century of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

This publication marks both those global and Commonwealth landmarks, and draws together many other rich examples of Commonwealth collaboration and mutual support.

The Secretariat's golden jubilee, or 'ComSec@50' to use its contemporary tag, reminds us of the immense contribution

made by generations of our staff in serving with distinction the governments and people of our member countries. When it was set up in 1965 the Secretariat was conceived as an impartial, independent, intergovernmental 'central clearing house' for the Commonwealth. By this momentous step, the aspiration that our unique global community of nations should work together in free association for the common good was given shape and reality. Since its inception, the Secretariat has walked with its eyes on the horizon, innovative thinking in mind, practical toolkits in hand, and a determination to make a positive difference. It continues to do so.

In 2015 such vision and collaboration to serve the Commonwealth's great goals are perhaps even more greatly needed with a larger membership and pressing global challenges. Through partnership and mutual trust, we are able to sustain and advance yet further the principles around which the Commonwealth unites, and the values we share and seek to uphold as reflected in the Commonwealth Charter. As our 2015 theme 'A Young Commonwealth' indicates, we are a dynamic family of countries dedicated to serving our burgeoning young nation builders. Containing

the diversity of the world and increasingly connected, the Commonwealth brings fresh thought and contribution to the world.

This is seen in the way we are redefining our convening power through continuous digital links. Our Electoral Network, Education Hub, Health Exchange, Climate Finance Skills Hub and Commonwealth Connects are all designed to provide dedicated online platforms for professionals and other stakeholders to be connected. These hubs offer libraries and serve as sources of knowledge, make it possible that peer wisdom and best practice can be shared and applied, and create spaces for collaboration where those involved can work together in real time – around the clock and around the world – to develop partnerships and advance Commonwealth global wisdom and products.

The theme chosen for CHOGM 2015 is 'Adding Global Value'. This celebrates the distinctive Commonwealth potential and the way in which we are able to influence and effect change in relation to global issues of vital importance to the citizens of all our member states, large and small, and to the world. We are able to do what we can because of what we are: a template for the wider world.

Our aspiration and our motivation is to include all – including women, the young, and the weak and marginalised – so that through equitable opportunity, fairness and justice, and institutions that truly serve all equally, they are able to enjoy lives of mutual respect, dignity and wellbeing.

This *Yearbook* shows the breadth and scope of the many faces of the Commonwealth – Heads of Government and Ministers, the Secretariat, the Commonwealth Foundation, the Commonwealth of Learning, and many other organisations and professional associations. There are accounts of what is being delivered for youth, sport for development, gender, small states, trade and development – and other areas of vital interest. It is a remarkable collection, which gives uplifting insights into some of the distinctive ways in which the Commonwealth is making a difference in the lives of our citizens and adding global value.

May 2015