



DEBATE PACK

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Future of the Commonwealth

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Debate initiated by Richard Graham MP

Compiled by:
Nigel Walker

Subject specialist:
Ben Smith

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Background

CHOGM

The Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) will take place in London on 16-20 April 2018. According to the [Commonwealth Secretariat](#):

The summit's theme is: 'Towards a common future' and is focused on building on the strengths of the Commonwealth to ensure this unique organisation is responsive to global challenges and delivers a more prosperous, secure, sustainable and fair future for all its citizens, particularly its young people.

There will be four fora during the CHOGM week: the Women's Forum and one each for youth, civil society and business.

Trade

As argument about the UK's trade future rage on, the Commonwealth has increasingly come into focus. Brexit supporters often argue that the UK could strike free trade deals with the 52 other members of the Commonwealth, which together account for over two billion people.

[Research from 2010](#) suggests that Commonwealth countries trade more with each other than with third countries and the Malta Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) conference endorsed the idea of pursuing Commonwealth free trade agreements, something that the UK would be able to participate in after leaving the EU. The Commonwealth [talks of](#) a 'Commonwealth Advantage' :

with its shared values, regulatory systems and language - has the potential to increase intra-Commonwealth trade by 20% and can reduce the cost of doing business between member countries by up to 19%.

Critics of Brexit [tend to stress](#) the importance of EU trade relative to Commonwealth trade; in 2015, some 44% of total UK exports of goods and services went to the EU, while 9.5% went to the Commonwealth. Secondly, many Commonwealth member states already have preferential access to UK and other EU markets via the [Cotonou Agreement](#), advantages they may lose after UK withdrawal.

Next head of the Commonwealth

At present the Queen is Head of the Commonwealth. There is no automatic mechanism to appoint a successor, so discreet discussions are taking place about what happens when the present Monarch dies. Although Prince Charles will become head of state in 15 of the 53 member states on the death of his mother is thought to be the most likely candidate for the position, it is not a foregone conclusion; some delegates would like to elect a new head. A summit for Commonwealth officials was held in London in February 2018 and its findings will feature in the Heads of Government meeting in April. Heads of Government could:

- decide that the British Head of State is automatically the Head of the Commonwealth
- install Prince Charles as a one-off decision
- or set up a new mechanism for selection immediately.

2. Press Articles

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.

[The Commonwealth won't replace the EU, but it can offer real support](#)

Daily Telegraph
Lloyd Dorfman
13 March 2018

[2018 Must Be The Year The Entire Commonwealth Recognises LGBT+ Rights](#)

Huffington Post
Peter Tatchell
13 March 2018

[Commonwealth could discuss succession at meeting and snub Charles for role](#)

Daily Express
Rebecca Perring
12 March 2018

[Commonwealth has key role to play in the bright future for Britain](#)

Sunday Express
Boris Johnson MP
11 March 2018

[Queen pledges to continue to 'grow' the Commonwealth in 'scope and stature' for future generations](#)

Daily Telegraph
Nicola Harley
10 March 2018

[Empire strikes back: why former colonies don't need Britain after Brexit](#)

Guardian
Salil Tripathi
9 March 2018

Commonwealth countries must ensure that each child has 12 years of quality education

Daily Telegraph
Nick Gibb MP
22 February 2018

Does the UK's post-Brexit research future lie in Commonwealth collaborations?

Times Higher Education
Simon Baker
15 February 2018

Why the dream of Empire 2.0 is still 'cobblers'

Guardian
Julianne Schultz
11 February 2018

3. Press Releases

[Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting London 2018: The Ambition](#)

The Commonwealth website

In the run-up to the meeting at the end of the week, leaders' discussions will be informed and enriched by a variety of events. These will centre on the forums for 'people', 'business', 'women' and 'youth'.

The week will also see the UK succeed Malta as 'Chair-In-Office' of the Commonwealth until 2020.

The summit's theme is: 'Towards a common future' and is focused on building on the strengths of the Commonwealth to ensure this unique organisation is responsive to global challenges and delivers a more prosperous, secure, sustainable and fair future for all its citizens, particularly its young people.

The future of the Commonwealth depends on its one billion young people and the summit's priorities will have a strong youth focus.

The summit will aim to build links between countries to offer young people access to knowledge and skills; and give them a voice on key issues such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Across the Commonwealth, member states face common challenges: weak global trade and investment flows; new cross-border security threats; the effects of climate change on small and other vulnerable states; threats to our shared values of democracy, good governance and inclusivity as set out in the Commonwealth Charter.

The Commonwealth's various constituencies – be it the Commonwealth Secretariat, its members or its myriad of organisations and networks – mean it is uniquely placed to respond to these challenges.

At the summit, leaders will come together to focus on delivering:

A more sustainable future

Without urgent action to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience, the impacts of climate change could push an additional 100 million people across the world into poverty by 2030. This is particularly relevant for the Commonwealth as 39 of our 53 members are small or other vulnerable states. Each year across the Commonwealth, natural disasters affect 28 million people and cause economic losses of almost \$8bn.

The Commonwealth is well placed to take action, underlining our on-going commitment to tackling climate change, protecting the environment and increasing the resilience of our members.

A fairer future

The Commonwealth has a proud history of taking action to promote and protect democratic principles. The Commonwealth Charter sets out a shared vision of democracy, good governance, human rights and the rule of law to which we all subscribe. By upholding and promoting those principles we can ensure a fairer future for all members of the Commonwealth, and provide the essential basis for sustainable development.

A more secure future

The unprecedented security threats we face are a shared 21st century issue. Challenges of terrorism, serious organised crime, cyber crime, violent extremism and human trafficking ignore borders and can only be addressed by increased multilateral action and cooperation. Commonwealth member states are ideally placed to partner, aid and learn from each other in tackling these threats.

A more prosperous future

The Commonwealth contains a diverse group of countries, including many of the largest and smallest economies in the world. It is home to half of the globe's top emerging cities and, with a combined population of 2.4 billion people, nearly a third of the global population.

By working together, we can promote trade and investment as a means to drive economic growth, create jobs, and ensure the prosperity of our citizens.

[A message from The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, ahead of Commonwealth Day 2018](#)

**Royal Family website
10 March 2018**

We all have reason to give thanks for the numerous ways in which our lives are enriched when we learn from others.

Through exchanging ideas, and seeing life from other perspectives, we grow in understanding and work more collaboratively towards a common future.

There is a very special value in the insights we gain through the Commonwealth connection; shared inheritances help us overcome difference so that diversity is a cause for celebration rather than division.

We shall see this in action at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting which takes place in the United Kingdom next month, bringing together young people, business and civil society from across the Commonwealth.

These gatherings are themselves fine examples of how consensus and commitment can help to create a future that is fairer, more secure, more prosperous and sustainable.

Having enjoyed the warm hospitality of so many Commonwealth countries over the years, I look forward to the pleasure of welcoming the leaders of our family of 53 nations to my homes in London and Windsor.

Sport also contributes to building peace and development. The excitement and positive potential of friendly rivalry will be on display next month as we enjoy the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, Australia.

Contributing to the success of the Games, alongside athletes and officials, will be thousands of volunteers.

Voluntary effort, by people working as individuals, in groups or through larger associations, is so often what shapes the Commonwealth and all our communities.

By pledging to serve the common good in new ways, we can ensure that the Commonwealth continues to grow in scope and stature, to have an even greater impact on people's lives, today, and for future generations.

[PM to call for revitalised Commonwealth at reception ahead of 2018 Heads of Government Meeting](#)

10 Downing St

19 September 2017

The Prime Minister will co-host a reception for Commonwealth leaders tonight in the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York where she will set out the need for a wholesale revitalisation of the Commonwealth if it is to thrive and serve its 2.4 billion citizens into the 21st century.

She will also launch the theme for the [2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting](#) – Towards a Common Future – and set out the four main goals for the summit, due to be held in the UK next spring:

- **prosperity:**
boosting intra-Commonwealth trade and investment
- **security:**
increasing cooperation across security challenges including global terrorism, organised crime and cyber attacks
- **fairness:**
promoting democracy, fundamental freedoms and good governance across the Commonwealth
- **sustainability:**
building the resilience of small and vulnerable states to deal with the effects of climate change and other global crises

The biggest meeting of Heads of Government the UK has ever hosted, the summit will take place in iconic venues in London and Windsor including Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace and Windsor Castle from [16-20 April 2018](#). It will bring together up to 52 Commonwealth leaders, up to 52 Foreign Ministers and thousands of people from across business and civil society, representing the Commonwealth's vibrant and diverse global network.

Also speaking at the reception will be co-host Prime Minister Muscat of Malta as the current Commonwealth chair, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, and youth representatives drawn from across the Commonwealth who will help to deliver the Commonwealth Youth Forum at next year's summit.

In her speech, the Prime Minister will outline the need for the Commonwealth to have a clearer purpose, and be better able to address the global challenges we face. With 60% of its population under 30, she will also talk about the need for the Commonwealth to respond to the concerns and priorities of its young people.

Speaking ahead of the reception, the Prime Minister said:

As the world changes, so must the Commonwealth if it is to rise to the new challenges that the 21st century presents. It is the responsibility of all members to ensure we are working together towards a common future that will meet the needs of all our peoples, particularly our youth. I look forward to this unique organisation coming together at next year's Heads of Government Meeting to pursue an ambitious agenda for a more prosperous, secure, fair and sustainable future for everyone.

[PM speech at Commonwealth leaders reception](#)
Foreign and Commonwealth Office / 10 Downing St
19 September 2017

[speech]

Thank you very much to Angelique and to Leon for showing us what fantastic wealth we have in the people in the Commonwealth. And we'll be hearing more of that next year at [CHOGM](#) (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting). But thank you very much to all of you and I'm very grateful to all our speakers this evening. But can I first of all say that I know that our thoughts are with those affected by the recent hurricanes in the Caribbean, including our colleagues from Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda, who for this reason have not been able to join us in New York this week.

And we also keep in our thoughts all those affected by the devastating flooding in South Asia and in Sierra Leone. But this has been a wonderful opportunity this evening, to gather our Commonwealth family together and reflect on some of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. And as we look forward to that Heads of Government

meeting, which will be taking place in London and Windsor next year, we have an ambitious phase of work ahead of us. Because, as you have heard from the other speakers, together we have the chance to build a reformed and revitalised Commonwealth. That will not be the work of a single summit, it can only be built over time and by sustained effort, close partnership and positive collaboration.

The Commonwealth is indeed an organisation with deep roots and profound strengths. Over seven decades, it's helped newly independent countries develop their national institutions, make economic progress and share common experiences. Today it champions the interests of small island states, helps nations to deepen and strengthen their democracies, and enables us to work together in partnership through a common language, shared history and closely related legal systems. But we know that to remain relevant to the aspiration of its citizens in a changing world, the Commonwealth needs to change too. We face new and unprecedented joint challenges: how to make the compelling case for free trade as the best way to promote higher living standards around the world, and so create a more prosperous commonwealth; how to mitigate the effects of climate change, especially as it affects small island states, and so create a more sustainable Commonwealth; how to address new security challenges, like cyber terrorism, and online extremism, and so create a more secure Commonwealth; and how to protect and promote the values we all share and so create a fairer, freer and more tolerant Commonwealth. And we all have a responsibility, working together as partners to ensure that the Commonwealth has the institutional strength to face these challenges effectively.

Now here this week at UNGA, we've heard UN General Secretary Guterres set out the wholesale institutional reform of the United Nations, which he is leading to maintain its relevance and effectiveness for the future. Commonwealth Secretary General, you are also leading a vital reform programme, and you deserve our support in delivering it. We in the Commonwealth need an agile and responsive secretariat, which focuses its efforts where it can best add value. All member states must ensure that the secretariat has a sustainable footing to equip it for the future. But meaningful reform cannot just be a question for government and the secretariat alone.

What makes the Commonwealth unique is not having member states and a secretariat. Human networks, people-to-people links are what define the Commonwealth. We need to recognise and nurture them. And they can reach far beyond the limits of the institution. As Angelique and Leon have reminded us, for the Commonwealth to have a future as vibrant as its proud past, it must remain relevant to its youngest citizens. Speak to the challenges they face and answer their ambitions for a better life. And that is why we will put young people at the heart of our [Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting](#) in London and Windsor next year.

The message of that summit towards a common future encapsulates our ambitions for the event. So I hope that we can come together as a Commonwealth family and seize the opportunity to drive forward the necessary reforms. The prize, if we succeed in this collaborative effort will be a rejuvenated Commonwealth, better able to answer the

aspirations of its citizens, especially its young citizens. Malta started this important process in Valletta. The UK is determined to help carry forward that agenda for the long term. Thank you.

The Commonwealth remains extremely relevant

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

15 March 2017

[speech]

Vice Chancellor, Members of the Faculty, Students and other guests here present, I am honoured to be here today to talk to you about the Commonwealth and its role in the world today. I am particularly pleased to be able to do it this week – Commonwealth week - the week we celebrate the Commonwealth across the world.

This week I have been discussing with Nigerians – Ministers, journalists and my own team – what the Commonwealth means today, and for them. I have been harvesting these opinions from those I have met – in person and online – and I have been struck by the sheer variety of responses I have received. Some have told me when they think of the Commonwealth, they think of the Commonwealth Games and sport. Others have said they think of Her Majesty the Queen who is the head of the Commonwealth. And some have been frank in saying that for them the Commonwealth belongs to the past, and has no relevance for them.

I found that view challenging and I disagree with that view. I think the Commonwealth remains extremely relevant today, for all its members, and that means for the UK and Nigeria both. So I want to talk to you about how I see the Commonwealth, and the relevance I think it has today and for the future.

I will start by reminding us all of what the Commonwealth is. There are 52 countries that are members of the Commonwealth today. They come from six continents, and make up a population of nearly 2.4 billion people. That means roughly one third of the world's population lives in a country that is a member of the Commonwealth. And those countries make up one quarter of the world's land mass. Most striking for me, as I look at this audience here today which includes many students, is that 1 billion of those 2.4 billion people are children or young adults under the age of 25 years old. That is a lot of young people and a huge amount of human potential.

As a trading bloc, the combined gross national income of all Commonwealth states is 10.7 trillion US dollars. Trade between the UK and Nigeria in 2016 was 2.5 billion US dollars. Global trade between Commonwealth states as a whole is estimated today to be over 680 billion US dollars. But by the year 2020, we expect that to have grown to be 1 trillion US dollars. Those numbers are huge and show you the scale of what is happening within the Commonwealth today in terms of trade, investment and the jobs that are created out of that trade and investment.

There is more I could say about the diversity of the Commonwealth. For example it includes some of the largest countries in the world, including India, but also some of the smallest like Malta or small island states in the south Pacific. Clearly there is a strong connection between Commonwealth states and the UK and its past. But not all countries in the Commonwealth were former British colonies. Some of the Commonwealth's newest members, like Rwanda and Mozambique have a very limited connection to British history. The fact that those countries were keen to join the Commonwealth family says something about what the Commonwealth offers today and how the Commonwealth is seen today.

So let's move on to what the Commonwealth does offer today. I think the first thing the Commonwealth offers is a community of shared values. Not just any country can join the Commonwealth. There are core principles you must agree with and sign up to. These were set out in the Commonwealth Charter in 2012. And they are clear that countries have to pass a test to be a member and must uphold those principles to remain a member. And part of that test is evidence of democracy or as the test puts it "democratic processes" in the country in question.

Now it would be wrong to pretend that every country in the Commonwealth enjoys exactly the same experience of democracy as each other. Some countries in the Commonwealth, including Nigeria if I might say this, still have a relatively recent history of democracy. Some people – in the UK even – can forget that the return of democracy in 1999 to Nigeria is less than 20 years ago.

But what is also true is that all countries in the Commonwealth are committed to that democratic journey. And that binds them together, and in turn says something about their commitment to free speech, the exchange of ideas and their belief in the importance of open societies.

Since 1967, the Commonwealth has sent 140 election observation missions to around 40 countries across the world. The Commonwealth Electoral Network, established in 2010, spreads best practice between Commonwealth states on how electoral management bodies – electoral commissions – should operate. So shared values and a commitment to democracy are at the heart of what the Commonwealth is today.

Building on these common shared values, I think the second thing the Commonwealth offers is a commitment to peace and stability. The theme of this year's Commonwealth week is "A Peace-Building Commonwealth". When we talk about peace-building, some people assume that we are thinking of the fight against terrorism or military co-operation. Many Commonwealth countries are co-operating in that way. The UK for example is working with the Nigerian military, and security services, to build capacity, share information and counter these kinds of direct threats. Boko Haram is a threat that has to be countered in this way.

But there are many other ways in which Commonwealth countries are co-operating to build peace. During the Apartheid era in South Africa for example, the Commonwealth was a key voice both speaking out against injustice in South Africa and trying to help bring a resolution to

the crisis by bringing people together to talk, think and support one another.

Today, the Commonwealth is a key voice pushing for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. These are the goals which all members of the United Nations are committed to and which the former Nigerian Environment Minister – and now Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations Amina Mohammed, a good friend of mine – is ensuring will be implemented.

Commonwealth leaders – including His Excellency President Buhari - when they all met at the last Summit in Malta in 2015 championed as a group the need for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. And one of their reasons their voice was so important was exactly because of the broad range of countries – both small and large, from all corners of the globe – that they represented.

In particular when we think of a Peace Building Commonwealth we are thinking of implementation of Sustainable Development Goal number sixteen which focuses on peace and development. That Sustainable Development Goal is clear on the golden thread that runs between the need for good governance, transparency and the rule of law. And how those concepts in turn underpin security, stability and growth. Mutual respect is at the heart of this, with every member of the Commonwealth helping each other to achieve and realise the potential so clearly on offer there.

Her Majesty the Queen put this still more clearly in her recent message to the Commonwealth on Commonwealth Day. She said: “The cornerstones on which peace is founded are, quite simply, respect and understanding for one another. Working together, we build peace by defending the dignity of every individual and community.”

The UK’s commitment to the Commonwealth is not just to a Commonwealth of words but also of actions. We believe Commonwealth states have a duty to support one another and build the capacity of one another. The UK is the largest financial contributor to the Commonwealth institutions and programmes, spending over 55 million pounds in the period 2015 to 2016. Through the UK’s Department for International Development programmes, we also spent 2.11 billion pounds in 38 Commonwealth countries in 2015, helping to support the development of their economies, build capacity and support the people of those countries as Commonwealth friends.

At the last Commonwealth Heads of State and Government meeting in 2015, the Prime Minister announced that an additional 30 million pounds of overseas development assistance was available from the UK government for Commonwealth initiatives. In Nigeria alone, in the period 2016 – 2017, the UK spent around 303 million UK pounds on development assistance, helping the poorest in Nigeria, supporting improvements in governance in Nigeria and helping Nigerians grow their own economy so that there are more jobs for young people here in Nigeria.

In addition, the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission, which the UK funds, awards over 900 scholarships and fellowships for postgraduate study and professional development to Commonwealth citizens each year. Separately, in Nigeria alone last year the UK awarded 53 Chevening scholarships for Nigerians to go to the UK to undertake Masters degree programmes. I hope that some of the undergraduates here today might consider applying for these schemes in the future, and become part of two of the most prestigious academic networks in the world. This is the example of the kind of practical, tangible, vibrant Commonwealth we the UK want to see.

The UK will host the meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Commonwealth in 2018. And as part of the build up to that Summit, we want to hear from the people of the Commonwealth as to what they want from this extraordinary network. We want the Summit to set an ambitious and dynamic agenda for the modern age, tackling the issues the people of the Commonwealth want to see addressed. We want Nigerians of all ages to play a part in that conversation, fully benefiting from the network that the Commonwealth offers and shaping the Commonwealth's future.

So I encourage you this week – Commonwealth week – to think about not just what the Commonwealth meant to you in the past but what it could mean to you for the future, and what you want the Commonwealth to become. Engage in that discussion, feed those thoughts and ideas into the Nigerian government and directly to other Commonwealth members, using social media and taking advantage of the many resources and institutions the Commonwealth has to offer.

You and I together are some of those 2.4 billion people who make up the Commonwealth today. So together let's shape its future and make it a Commonwealth that builds peace and prosperity for all its members both here in Nigeria and across the world.

[PM: Summit will set out future for a vibrant and diverse Commonwealth](#)

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office / 10 Downing St
13 March 2017**

The [2018 Commonwealth Summit](#) will set out the future for a vibrant and diverse Commonwealth, the Prime Minister said today, as the UK joins nations around the world to mark Commonwealth Day.

Leaders from more than 50 countries are expected to attend next year's summit, which will take place during the week of 16 April 2018 in London and Windsor. For the first time, Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle will be among the summit venues.

Today, the Prime Minister will meet Prime Minister Muscat of Malta, the current Commonwealth Chair, to discuss our shared commitment to the Commonwealth and preparations for next year's summit. She will also join the annual Commonwealth Day service at Westminster Abbey, which will be attended by Her Majesty the Queen.

Speaking on Commonwealth Day, the Prime Minister said:

As we prepare to host the Commonwealth Summit in London next April, we are reminded today of the unique and proud global relationships that we have forged with the diverse and vibrant alliance of Commonwealth nations.

The UK has a longstanding and firm commitment to the Commonwealth and to the values it upholds, of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

And in hosting the Commonwealth Summit next year, the UK is committed to working with all members not only to reaffirm these shared values, but also to re-energise and revitalise the Commonwealth to cement its relevance to this and future generations.

As we look to create a truly global Britain, the deep partnerships that we share through a 21st century Commonwealth can help us strengthen the prosperity and security of our own citizens, and those of our many friends and allies across the world.

The Prime Minister and Cabinet will oversee preparations to ensure the Commonwealth Summit is a truly cross-government effort, including through a new dedicated Inter-Ministerial Group co-chaired by the Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Home Secretary Amber Rudd.

A central team has also been established in the Cabinet Office to deliver the summit, working closely with the Commonwealth Secretariat and member states.

The dedicated unit will report directly to the Prime Minister, who has appointed Tim Hitchens as its CEO. Tim Hitchens was previously British Ambassador to Japan, and has served as Africa Director and Europe Director in the Foreign Office, and also as Assistant Private Secretary to The Queen.

The Commonwealth is made up of 52 members spanning 6 continents with a combined population of around 2.4 billion people, almost half of whom are under 25. The network includes established economies such as Australia, Canada and New Zealand, as well as emerging markets like India, Malaysia, and South Africa, with trade between Commonwealth countries projected to be worth \$1 trillion by 2020.

The summit in April 2018 will see the UK take over as chair of the Commonwealth until 2020.

4. PQs

[Commonwealth: Brexit](#)

21 Dec 2017 | HL4221

Asked by: Baroness Northover

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they will take at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting to reassure developing Commonwealth countries about measures taken to reduce the impact of Brexit on them.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

| Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Government will remain as committed after EU exit as now, supporting developing countries in reducing poverty through trade and investment. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting is an opportunity to demonstrate this. We continue to work closely with the Commonwealth Secretariat and partners to develop an agenda that will help reduce barriers to trade and create stable business environments that promote intra-Commonwealth trade and investment.

While the formal agenda remains for discussion and negotiation between member states, the UK hopes the Commonwealth can become a champion for an inclusive, free and open multilateral trading system that harnesses trade and investment as an engine for development.

[Commonwealth Summit 2018](#)

13 Dec 2017 | 787 cc1547-9

Asked by: Lord Chidgey

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the interests of broadening Commonwealth influence, they propose to provide observer or similar status to non-Commonwealth member countries to attend the 2018 Commonwealth Summit in London.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

| Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

My Lords, only sovereign states can become members of the Commonwealth and attend Heads of Government Meetings. Establishing a form of observer or associate status is not within the gift of the UK Government alone; it would need to be agreed by all 52 Commonwealth members. We therefore cannot provide observer or associate status to non-Commonwealth countries to attend the summit.

Asked by: Lord Chidgey

I thank the Minister for that interesting reply. The 14 British Overseas Territories, the Crown dependencies, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales are all members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, supporting good governance, democracy and the rule of law. First, the CPA is of course an international organisation, so why do none of those countries appear to be represented at the forthcoming parliamentary forum and the London Commonwealth summit?

Secondly, noble Lords will know how frequently politicians around the world, with or without historic links to the UK, express interest in membership of the Commonwealth. While that is not in the UK's gift, as the Minister quite rightly says, what action are the Government taking to identify and develop those interests in Commonwealth membership to our mutual and long-term benefit?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

If I may take the noble Lord's questions in reverse, I agree with him on his second question. We need to identify new members; he will be aware that the Gambia has applied and is currently going through the process of rejoining the Commonwealth. We hope that will happen in the early part of the new year, in time for the summit. Representation of the overseas territories and the devolved Administrations very much forms part of the UK Government's thinking. We are their voice and we are engaging directly with the devolved Administrations; further to that, as the Minister responsible for the Commonwealth, I will visit the different parts of the United Kingdom in this respect. We are also talking directly to the overseas territories to see how we can engage more effectively with them, and perhaps involve them in some of the other events around the Commonwealth summit, such as the four fora which will take place during Commonwealth week.

Asked by: Lord Howell of Guildford

My Lords, I wonder whether this is quite the right approach. The Minister will appreciate that at least six countries are interested in having associate status with the Commonwealth. He is absolutely right that it is not in Britain's gift alone to deliver that but, on the other hand, we are the host of a vast summit. The Question rightly asks whether we could invite countries as observers. Is it not in our interest to develop the point that the Commonwealth is a vast transmission engine of potential soft power by this country? Should we not invite as many guests as possible to observe and be involved in some aspects, if not with full membership, of the Commonwealth summit?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

I agree with my noble friend's sentiments. On soft power, I am sure he saw a survey last week showing that Britain retains its top position on the global stage in soft power. On the Commonwealth specifically, I am talking to the Secretary-General, the Commonwealth Secretariat and other member states to pick up some of the very points that my noble friend raised. We will see how we can engage more effectively with countries which are indicating their desire to join the Commonwealth family at some future time.

Asked by: Lord Collins of Highbury

My Lords, the Minister mentioned the civil society fora. I welcome the Government's initiative on this and their thematic approach. One thing that concerns me is ensuring that we get full attendance of civil society players. Many of them, particularly LGBT communities, live and work in very hostile environments. What steps are the Government taking to ensure that the civil society fora are attended by everybody possible and that hostile Governments do not put a stop on them attending?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

The noble Lord raises an important issue. He will know that my right honourable friend the Prime Minister and I have had conversations about the importance of ensuring the representation of civil society groups, including those from across the Commonwealth which very vocally, and often with great courage in dire domestic circumstances, represent important issues of LGBT rights. We are clear, and I am sure the sentiment is shared by all noble Lords, that LGBT rights are human rights and that those voices need to be heard. We are working with the Commonwealth Secretariat to ensure that right is preserved and discussed at the Commonwealth summit.

Asked by: Baroness Hayman

My Lords, the Minister kindly met me and representatives of Malaria No More to discuss the proposal for a global malaria summit during CHOGM next year. Given his earlier comments about involving people in the fora, does he agree that such a global summit would be an excellent opportunity to engage with other countries and to show Commonwealth leadership on an issue of world-wide concern?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

The noble Baroness will know that I totally agree with her sentiments. Indeed, we have had a very constructive meeting with Malaria No More. We are working through the practicalities and ensuring that our intent, which is to focus on key issues such as fighting malaria, is reflected in the wider Commonwealth. The noble Baroness will understand that I cannot give a firm commitment that it has been agreed because we are waiting for responses from all 52 member states to the secretariat on the final agenda for the summit.

Asked by: Baroness Northover

My Lords, is the Minister aware of the concern in a number of Commonwealth countries about their position in terms of trade should the UK leave the EU? He will know the economic impact on almost all Commonwealth countries of tariffs both into the UK potentially and onwards into the EU. Can he reassure them at CHOGM?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

First, I hope the noble Baroness has been reassured by the efforts of my right honourable friend the Prime Minister in getting that first deal with our colleagues in the European Union.

Noble Lords

Oh!

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

I hope that was a real roar of appreciation from the Lib Dem Benches. Let us be clear that the Commonwealth is an important issue. Our partners across the Commonwealth are also very clear about Britain's important position within the family of the Commonwealth. Yes, we will be leaving the European Union, but we will retain a relationship with it, albeit a new one. In terms of our relationship with the wider Commonwealth, I have had the good fortune in my role as Minister for the Commonwealth to travel quite widely, from the Caribbean through Asia to Australasia. All countries are very keen to work bilaterally and

collectively through the Commonwealth. There is a huge opportunity, and we all look forward to next April, when we can welcome a real revitalisation of the Commonwealth family.

Asked by: Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale

My Lords, will the Government ensure that there is a full discussion at CHOGM about the delivery of the sustainable development goals and will they perhaps take the opportunity, in advance of CHOGM, to publish a full and complete UK strategy for delivery of the goals by 2030?

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

I am sure the noble Lord is aware that sustainability is one of the key pillars that the Commonwealth will be discussing in that respect.

Commonwealth: Overseas Trade

27 Nov 2017 | 114924

Asked by: Chris Ruane

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what the value of (a) imports to and (b) exports from each region and nation of the UK from and to other Commonwealth countries was in each of the last 30 years for which data is available.

Answering member: Mark Garnier | Department: Department for International Trade

Data on the value of UK trade (exports and imports) in goods and services with the Commonwealth countries since 1999 are available from the ONS at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/nationalaccounts/balanceofpayments/adhocs/007716additionalcountrydatafortradeingoodsandservicesbetween1999and2016>

Data on the value of UK trade in goods by UK region with a limited number of Commonwealth countries since 1996 are available from HM Customs and Revenue (HMRC)'s Build Your Own Tables application at: <https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/BuildYourOwnTables/Pages/Home.aspx> (RTS data)

Data on the value of exports of services (excluding travel, transport and financial services) by GB region to a limited number of Commonwealth countries in 2015 are available from the ONS at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/internationaltrade/articles/estimatingthevalueofserviceexportsabroadfromdifferentpartsoftheuk/2015> (data for earlier years are not available).

Notes:

1. The data at the links above are not comparable due to differences in coverage and methodology between sources
2. Data on the value of imports of services from the Commonwealth countries are not available

Commonwealth: Overseas Trade

24 Nov 2017 | 114735

Asked by: Philip Hollobone

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, if he will initiate a commonwealth trade conference with the objective of increasing intra-commonwealth trade after the UK leaves the EU.

Answering member: Mark Garnier | Department: Department for International Trade

In March this year my Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade hosted the inaugural Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting in London – bringing together politicians, officials and policy makers from over 20 commonwealth nations.

In addition, he will be hosting a commonwealth reception as part of this year's WTO Ministerial Meeting in Buenos Aires.

As the host of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in April 2018, and the Chair of the Commonwealth from April 2018-2020, HMG is committed to highlighting the value of and increasing intra-Commonwealth trade. During CHOGM, businesses from across the Commonwealth will meet in a three-day Commonwealth Business Forum that will see a diverse range of sectors represented. This event will help us to promote our vision for a Global Britain as well as to celebrate and grow intra-Commonwealth trade.

Commonwealth Summit: London

21 Nov 2017 | 631 cc835-6

Asked by: Derek Thomas

2. What progress he has made on preparations for the Commonwealth summit in London in April 2018. [901941]

Answering member: Boris Johnson | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We are delighted to be hosting next year's Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, which will be one of the biggest summits that the UK has ever hosted. All the venues have been agreed, all member states have confirmed that they will be sending high-level delegations, and we are discussing an ambitious agenda. We want a great celebration for the Commonwealth that is underpinned by real substance, and we are working closely with young people from across the Commonwealth to put youth at the heart of the summit.

Asked by: Derek Thomas

I thank the Foreign Secretary for that response. The summit provides a real opportunity for young people. Given that 40% of the world's young people live in the Commonwealth, what more can the Department do to nurture aspiration and create opportunity in the interests of prosperity, democracy and peace across our Commonwealth partners?

Answering member: Boris Johnson

I thank my hon. Friend for putting his finger on the huge opportunity to focus on young people that the Commonwealth summit provides. We should focus in particular on the education of young women and girls. That presents an opportunity to change lives most dramatically across all Commonwealth countries, and indeed across the world, and to promote the objectives of freedom, opportunity, democracy and peace to which he rightly subscribes.

Asked by: Wes Streeting

I am delighted that we are hosting the Commonwealth summit next year. Following the most recent meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council and in relation to our bilateral relationship with Sri Lanka, will the Foreign Secretary take this opportunity to reiterate our Government's position that the Sri Lankan Government must ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and that international judges and prosecutors are involved in the prosecution of historical war crimes in Sri Lanka in order to build confidence that war crimes will be properly investigated and prosecuted?

Answering member: Boris Johnson

I have indeed raised those questions with my opposite number and with the Sri Lankan Government. We believe that they are making progress, but we will continue to insist that more needs to be done.

Asked by: Daniel Kawczynski

23. One sees the huge economic growth of some Commonwealth countries, so does the Secretary of State agree that it is important to use the Commonwealth summit as an opportunity for us to start talking about how we are going to recalibrate our exports policy to focus on the Commonwealth? [901963]

Answering member: Boris Johnson

With 2.4 billion people and some of the fastest growing economies in the world, my hon. Friend is entirely right that the 52 countries of the Commonwealth represent a superb opportunity for this country to do free trade deals. However, that does not mean that we will necessarily be in any way relaxing our desire to do a fantastic free trade deal with our European friends and partners. We believe that this can be a win-win.

Asked by: Patrick Grady

I wonder whether the Commonwealth summit will be discussing the welcome appointment of an Indian judge to the International Court of Justice at the expense of a judge from the United Kingdom. Perhaps the summit will therefore also discuss how that is another sign of the sun setting on "Empire 2.0" before it has even risen.

Answering member: Boris Johnson

On the contrary, I am sure that the whole House will join me in congratulating the Indian judge on his election. I am sure that the House will also agree that it is a fine thing that another common-law judge has joined the International Court of Justice.

Asked by: Sir Hugo Swire

I refer the House to my entry in the Register of Members' Financial Interests as the deputy chairman of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council. Does my right hon. Friend agree that a positive way of showing how a post-Mugabe Zimbabwe could be rehabilitated into the international community would be for it to attend the next Commonwealth summit as a rejoined member? To that end, will the Foreign Secretary begin to have discussions with his partners in the Commonwealth and with the Commonwealth secretary-general to ensure that there is a path to new membership for a post-Mugabe Zimbabwe?

Answering member: Boris Johnson

My right hon. Friend rightly sets out what would be a fine and noble aspiration both for the Commonwealth and for Zimbabwe, but I must caution him that several steps need to be gone through before that can happen. There must be free and fair elections next year, and it then falls to Zimbabwe to apply to the Commonwealth secretariat and to make it clear to the Commonwealth and the world that Zimbabwe fulfils the criteria on human rights, rule of law and democracy that are necessary for Commonwealth membership.

Asked by: Jim Shannon

Will the Secretary of State further outline the discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union on the need for a solidified trade deal between the 52 Commonwealth countries, including Pakistan, India, Australia and New Zealand as four examples? Does he agree that must be a priority for London 2018?

Answering member: Boris Johnson

I fully support the hon. Gentleman's aspiration. Free trade deals and the prospect of increased trade with our Commonwealth friends and partners will, indeed, be at the heart of the summit next year.

Asked by: James Duddridge

Prior to the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth will meet in February, organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Will the Foreign Secretary consider hosting a reception for those 150 parliamentarians, either at the Foreign Office or maybe even in No. 10 Downing Street?

Answering member: Boris Johnson

I am always grateful to my hon. Friend, who is full of knowledge on these matters. I will certainly consider the possibility of holding just such a reception, and I can think of all sorts of suitable venues.

[Commonwealth](#)

06 Nov 2017 | 110906

Asked by: Liz McInnes

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether observer status will be provided for countries which have expressed an interest in joining the Commonwealth during the Commonwealth Summit in London in April 2018.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The only category of Commonwealth membership is that of full membership, which is only open to sovereign states. Any decision to create a new membership status would need to be agreed by consensus of Commonwealth Heads of Government. In 2007 the Heads of Government endorsed the recommendation of the Commonwealth committee on membership not to establish any other membership status.

The UK welcomes applications to join the Commonwealth where countries can demonstrate the necessary requirements and dedication to the Commonwealth's core values, particularly in relation to human rights, good governance and the rule of law. Countries wishing to join the Commonwealth should express their interest to the Commonwealth Secretariat. Decisions on membership are made by consensus of all Commonwealth member states.

[Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting](#)

30 Oct 2017 | 109465

Asked by: Andrew Rosindell

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps he is taking to communicate with hon. Members and Members of the House of Lords plans for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Conservative Party | Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We recognise the extraordinary contribution Parliamentarians can make to the Commonwealth's rejuvenation, both by sharing their wealth of expertise and knowledge and by contributing to activities that celebrate the Commonwealth across the UK in the run up to and during the week of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Lord Ahmad, Minister for the Commonwealth, is in regular contact with parliamentarians from both Houses, engaging with the All Party Parliamentary Group, through Commonwealth Organisations such as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK and by meeting many Parliamentarians individually to set out our plans. Lord Ahmad plans to write to Parliamentarians in both Houses shortly to outline further details regarding the summit.

[Commonwealth: Human Rights](#)

24 Oct 2017 | HL1707

Asked by: Lord Campbell of Pittenweem

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to raise the issue of human rights at the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

| Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We are engaging with the Commonwealth Secretariat, other member states and organisations from across the Commonwealth to agree an agenda for next year's Heads of Government meeting. In this respect papers have been circulated on five key pillars on which the agenda may be progressed. These are prosperity (trade), sustainability, security and fairness. The final pillar of fairness is subject to agreement with member states and the secretariat provides substantial scope for the important issue of human rights to be raised.

The Government believes that the Commonwealth is a force for good around the world, through its promotion of freedom, democracy, and human rights as enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter. The UK-hosted 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting will encourage all Commonwealth members to uphold these values.

[Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting](#)

06 Apr 2017 | 782 cc1121-24

Asked by: Lord Chidgey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to engage United Kingdom parliamentarians in the process and programme for the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in the United Kingdom, in particular with respect to the expansion and strengthening of international cultural, trade and investment initiatives.

Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns

| Department: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

My Lords, this Government recognise the strong contribution of UK parliamentarians to Commonwealth activities, including on enhancing opportunities for trade and investment. We will engage closely with parliamentarians and other Commonwealth stakeholders, including the CPA UK, in designing and delivering an ambitious, creative and innovative Commonwealth summit. We want to make the most of all the Commonwealth has to offer and demonstrate a Commonwealth that is truly relevant for the 21st century.

Asked by: Lord Chidgey

My Lords, I thank the Minister for that reply. The CHOGM summit provides a golden opportunity for all Commonwealth parliamentarians to demonstrate their commitment to democracy, transparency, the rule of law and human rights as laid down in the Commonwealth charter. Will the Minister, therefore, press the Government to support the CPA UK's plan to hold a linked Commonwealth conference prior to

CHOGM? Will she press for a parliamentary forum at CHOGM itself, following the example set by many international high-level meetings?

Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns

The noble Lord raises important points, all of which we are very much taking into account, I assure him. Indeed, most recently I met Andrew Tuggey of the CPA UK to discuss what shape its plans might take—not only, of course, what deliverables there could be for the event itself, but the participation by CPA UK members more generally in the civil society events.

Asked by: Lord Marland

My Lords, I declare an interest as chairman of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council. Is not one of the best ways of engaging parliamentarians up to CHOGM to boost the current Prime Minister's trade envoys network, which is cross-parliamentary and has been very successful? Would not my noble friend the Minister agree that a dedicated Commonwealth trade envoy should be appointed, as suggested by the Maltese chair-in-office of the Commonwealth?

Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns

Again, those are important points. On the trade envoys, eight envoys currently cover 10 Commonwealth countries. The programme has been recently reviewed and recommendations on the future direction of the programme, including suggested new markets, are with No 10 for consideration. We will certainly take the proposal for a trade envoy or ambassador into consideration.

Asked by: Lord Hunt of Chesterton

My Lords, does the Minister agree that parliamentarians across the Commonwealth should also be involved in campaigns for more openness, which should include science and law? This week there was a conference about the openness of legal aspects of the Commonwealth at the University of London.

Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns

I am delighted that the noble Lord has raised this issue. We discussed it briefly outside the Chamber and I assure him that his views will be taken firmly into account.

Asked by: Viscount Waverley

My Lords, would it not be plausible to make full use of the internet and to devise a website to allow for two-way exchanges of opinion among all parliamentarians around the whole of the Commonwealth?

Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns

I assure the noble Viscount that, as part of the programmes that we are putting forward and consulting widely on, it is our intention to make the best use we can of the internet and all it can deliver. In some areas around the world, of course, it is more difficult to get the broadband speed. However he is absolutely right that modern communication is important. After all, we have to think of the young age of most people across the Commonwealth.

Asked by: Baroness Northover

My Lords, the first principle of the Commonwealth charter is democracy. Therefore my noble friend is undoubtedly right. The second concerns human rights. Will the Minister guarantee that the Government will put as a major theme the promotion not only of women's rights but of those within the LGBT community?

Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns

Again, that is a very important issue; "yes" is the answer to it. However, more particularly, we are working out our plans to ensure that important messages are delivered on LGBTI issues at the summit. I have already had discussions about this and I know that Kaleidoscope and the Commonwealth Equality Network are putting forward an agenda, and we want to see how that can feed into the work that we are doing.

Asked by: Lord Howell of Guildford

My Lords, I reinforce the remarks of the noble Lord, Lord Chidgey, and my noble friend Lord Marland. Does my noble friend agree that the pathway from here to the Commonwealth summit next April is an immensely important one and that we must do everything we can to strengthen it? Will she accept my very strong welcome for the decision of the Prime Minister to appoint a powerful Cabinet Office unit to carry this work forward? Does she agree with the comments of my noble friend Lord Marland that a network of 2.5 billion people using English as their working language is a fabulous potential opportunity for this country? Will she urge all concerned, especially some of the doubters about the potential of the Commonwealth, that they should look to the future of our service-based economy rather than harp on about the past?

Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns

As always on Commonwealth matters, my noble friend makes the most important points and I can do no more than thoroughly agree with him.

Asked by: Lord Soley

My Lords, will the Government ensure that educational exchanges at all levels are given a high priority?

Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns

Indeed, my Lords. That is the reason the Commonwealth team is cross-departmental, which ensures that we can take all the issues into account.

Asked by: Baroness Berridge

My Lords, my noble friend the Minister has outlined the design and creation of an appropriate programme. I declare an interest as the leader of a Commonwealth initiative on freedom of religion or belief. Will she consider meeting, as she has done in the past, parliamentarians and representatives from CPA UK, the Youth Parliament and the Commonwealth Youth Parliament so that everyone can play a part in designing the programme?

Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns

My Lords, recently I met a representative of the Youth Parliament and discussed issues around the summit. I assure my noble friend that the

important point she has made will indeed be taken into consideration. I am already holding a series of meetings, as are members of the Commonwealth team now based in the Cabinet Office.

Asked by: Lord Collins of Highbury

My Lords, one important consideration about trade which is often ignored is the need to ensure that we advocate strong minimum standards and support the International Labour Organization. I hope that the noble Baroness will be able to reassure the House that when we engage civil society in CHOGM, we will also include trade unions and the international trade union movement so that we can advocate strong labour standards.

Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns

Yes, my Lords. Yesterday I had the privilege of being able to meet Owen Tudor, who heads the TUC's international relations office, to discuss how his agenda and the decisions that might be made in June by TUC organisations can feed into the summit process.

5. Other Parliamentary material

5.1 Debates

[Commonwealth Summit 2018](#)

2 Nov 2017 | House of Lords | 785 cc1543-1565

Lords question for short debate on whether they will ensure that the programme for the Commonwealth Summit in London in 2018 includes a People's Forum and a Parliamentary Forum. the outcomes of which are recorded in the final communiqué, as has been the case for similar summits in the past.

[Commonwealth](#)

16 Mar 2017 | House of Lords | 779 cc1983-2062

Lords motion to take note of the United Kingdom's relationship with the Commonwealth, ahead of the United Kingdom hosting the Heads of Government meeting in 2018. Agreed to on question.

[Commonwealth: Trade](#)

22 Feb 2017 | House of Commons | 621 cc407-432WH

Motion that this House has considered promoting trade with the Commonwealth. Motion lapsed.

5.2 Early Day Motions

[COMMONWEALTH LEADERSHIP TO END MODERN SLAVERY](#)

EDM 276 (session 2017-19)

6 September 2017

Ann Clwyd

That this House welcomes the opportunity presented by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018 in London, for the Commonwealth to take a leading role in ending modern slavery and achieving SDG 8.7 in Member States; notes, with regret and concern, that the Commonwealth is disproportionately affected by modern slavery; welcomes the involvement of civil society in the run-up to the Summit, including through the Commonwealth 8.7 Group convened by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, and in on-going initiatives to end modern slavery; further welcomes the Government's commitment to achieving SDG 8.7; and urges the Government and parliamentarians to actively support significant political and financial investment, including at the Summit, in global Commonwealth leadership in this area.

6. Further reading

House of Lords Library Note

[Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018](#)

Lords Library notes LLN-2018-0029
14 March 2018

Committee inquiries

[The Commonwealth Summit inquiry](#)

House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee

The Committee will be asking the Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the UN what the UK's plans are for the Commonwealth Summit, what the Government wants to get out of the UK's tenure as Chair-in-Office of the Commonwealth and how the Commonwealth features in the Government's plans for a post-Brexit 'Global Britain'.

Committee reports

[Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018](#)

2nd Report of Session 2017–19
House of Lords Select Committee on International Relations
HL Paper 74
7 February 2018

Commonwealth reports

[Commonwealth Foundation Annual Report 2016-17](#)

Commonwealth Foundation
17 June 2017

[Commonwealth Foundation Strategic Plan 2017-21](#)

Commonwealth Foundation
11 November 2016

Websites

[The Commonwealth](#)

[Commonwealth Parliamentary Association \(CPA\)](#)

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