

## Concluding Statement of the Sixty-Second Meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group

14 March 2023

1. The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) held its sixty-second meeting at Marlborough House, London, on 14 March 2023. The meeting was chaired by the Hon Fiamé Naomi Mata'afa, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Samoa. Ministers of Belize, Canada, Ghana, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Rwanda and a representative of Barbados, were in attendance.
2. The Group expressed their condolences on the loss of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth, on 8 September 2022, HE Badara Alieu Joof, Vice President of The Gambia, on 17 January 2023 and HE Michaël Moussa-Adamo, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Gabon, on 20 January 2023.
3. Ministers recognised that the fundamental values and principles in the Charter are the pre-requisites for achieving and sustaining peace, and that without peace the full potential of the Charter cannot be achieved.
4. Ministers noted that this year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Commonwealth Charter by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and that the Commonwealth Flag for Peace was raised on Commonwealth Day, 13 March 2023, to commemorate this important milestone.
5. Ministers reaffirmed their support for the Secretary-General's Good Offices, a mechanism to protect and promote those values and principles. Ministers welcomed the report from the Secretary-General on her Good Offices engagements with member states. Ministers welcomed initiatives like the Marlborough House Dialogues where leaders were able to discuss their aspirations for peace and for protecting the values of the Commonwealth Charter as well as the more informal and youth-focused Marlborough House Get-Togethers, which also enable dialogues around peace, democracy and the rule of law.
6. In line with its strengthened mandate, the Group continued to review developments in some Commonwealth member states and noted emerging and evolving situations that may require the Secretary-General's Good Offices. Ministers also noted updates on the status of applications for readmission and

on the Secretariat's ongoing work to promote the Commonwealth's fundamental political values.

7. Ministers welcomed the work of the Secretariat on strengthening democratic institutions and the rule of law in the family of states through election observer missions, electoral technical assistance to member countries and through the Commonwealth Election Professionals Initiative. Ministers also welcomed the Secretariat's support for member states on human rights capacity building, rule of law, anti-cybercrime initiatives, on preventing and countering violent extremism, legislative drafting, on civil and criminal justice and public sector governance reform, among others.
8. The Group agreed that, in principle, its next meeting will take place in the margins of the UN General Assembly in September 2023.

Marlborough House, London  
14 March 2023