

Concluding Statement of the Sixty-Fourth Meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group

12 March 2024

1. The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) held its Sixty-Fourth meeting at Marlborough House in London, on Tuesday 12 March 2024. The meeting was chaired by the Honourable Dr Ian Borg, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs and Trade for Malta. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Representatives from Barbados, Belize, Canada, Ghana, Malaysia, Mauritius, Rwanda and Samoa were in attendance.
2. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the fundamental values, principles and human rights as enshrined in the Charter.
3. Ministers reiterated their support for the Secretary-General's Good Offices, a mechanism to protect and promote Commonwealth values and principles and welcomed the report from the Secretary-General on her Good Offices engagements with member states. The meeting recognised the importance of supplying the Secretary-General's Good Offices with adequate resources to fulfil this mandate.
4. Ministers received reports on and welcomed Gabon's efforts towards restoring constitutional order and encouraged the Transitional Government to abide by its reform timelines and schedule for holding credible elections by August 2025. Ministers further encouraged the Transitional Government to pursue nationally inclusive and broad-based reforms that strengthen peace, stability, and cohesion. Ministers encouraged the Secretary-General to continue her Good Offices engagement with Gabon, by also providing technical assistance to support Gabon's transitional processes and encouraged the Transitional Government to use all the available support of the Commonwealth to facilitate its steady and prompt transition to democracy.
5. Ministers reiterated their steadfast, strong and unconditional support for the maintenance and preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Guyana, and the unobstructed exercise of its rights to develop the entirety of its territory for the benefit of its people. Ministers further commended the Secretary-General's prompt assessment of the situation and her engagements with Guyana. The Group reiterated its firm and steadfast support for the

International Court of Justice (ICJ) process underway as the appropriate and lawful means to address the matter under international law, and Guyana's right to self-defence.

6. Ministers welcomed the work of the Secretariat on strengthening democratic institutions and the rule of law in member states through election observer missions, electoral technical assistance to member countries, and the Commonwealth Election Professionals (CEP) Initiative. Ministers also welcomed the Secretariat's support for member states on human rights capacity building, the rule of law, anti-cybercrime, preventing and countering violent extremism, legislative drafting, civil and criminal justice, and public sector governance reform, among others.
7. Ministers recognised the Secretariat's efforts to strengthen partnerships with regions and with the international development community. Ministers are encouraged by the Secretariat's fruitful relationships with the African Union Commission, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations, to promote sustainable development, democracy, good governance, stability, and peace.
8. Ministers welcomed updates on the many awards bestowed on the Secretary-General and on the Secretariat by global, regional and national institutions, that are a testimony to the important work of the Commonwealth.
9. The Group agreed that, in principle, its next meeting will be convened in September 2024 in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Marlborough House, London
12 March 2024