

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

15 July 2025

1. The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) held its Sixty-Ninth meeting virtually on 15 July 2025. The extraordinary meeting was chaired by Hon Dr Ian Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism of Malta. Ministers, and representatives from Antigua and Barbuda, Botswana, Canada, Grenada, Malaysia, Mauritius, Samoa, and Zambia were in attendance.
2. The Group reaffirmed its commitment to the fundamental values and principles of the Commonwealth as enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter.
3. The Group welcomed the new Commonwealth Secretary-General, Hon. Shirley Botchwey, to her first meeting and reiterated their support for the Secretary-General's Good Offices, a mechanism to protect and promote Commonwealth values and principles.
4. The Group received reports from the Gabonese Republic and heard from the Foreign Minister, Honourable Régis Onanga Ndiaye, on behalf of Gabon. Ministers reviewed developments in Gabon since their last meeting in March 2025 and welcomed Gabon's return to constitutional democracy through the Presidential election held on 12 April 2025.
5. The Group reflected on the Report of the Commonwealth Observer Group (COG) and noted the conclusion that, "the election largely reflected the will of the people who voted and that it was conducted in a credible, transparent and inclusive manner". CMAG also noted Gabon's continued membership of other regional and international organisations and Gabon's return to full membership in some cases after the 12 April election.
6. CMAG firmly reiterated its strong condemnation of any unconstitutional overthrow of a duly elected government, emphasising that such action violates the democratic principles at the heart of the Commonwealth and is a serious breach of the Commonwealth Charter.
7. CMAG decided to lift the partial suspension on Gabon. It took the decision that Gabon will remain on CMAG's agenda for the upcoming meetings as it continues its progress towards fulfilling its obligations under the Commonwealth Charter.
8. CMAG requested the Commonwealth Secretary-General to remain engaged with Gabon and encouraged the Government of the Gabonese Republic to continue to strengthen policies that deepen the rule of law, separation of powers, constitutionalism, and good governance as enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter.
9. The Group also encouraged the Government of the Gabonese Republic to access all the available technical support from the Commonwealth to further peace, democratic stability, and good governance.

10. Representatives of Gabon expressed their country's gratitude for the Commonwealth's companionship throughout this endeavour.
11. It was agreed that the next meeting of CMAG will be convened in September 2025 in the margins of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

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