



Concluding Statement of the Seventieth Meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group

21 September 2025

1. The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) held its Seventieth meeting in New York City on Sunday, 21 September 2025. The meeting was chaired by Hon Dr Ian Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism of Malta. Honourable Ministers and distinguished 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 report from the Secretary-General on her Good Offices engagements with member states, a mechanism to protect and promote Commonwealth values and principles.
4. The Group received reports from the Gabonese Republic. Following the decision to lift Gabon's partial suspension at their last meeting in July 2025, Ministers reviewed recent developments and commended Gabon on their continued progress on the election timetable for the conduct of upcoming legislative and local elections. The Group also encouraged the Government to utilise all the available technical support from the Commonwealth to deepen the rule of law, and to further peace, democratic stability, and good governance.
5. The Group endorsed the outcomes of the 11 September 2025 meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Group on Guyana (CMGG) and reaffirmed its steadfast, strong, and unconditional support for Guyana's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and Guyana's right to develop its whole territory for the benefit of its people. The Group welcomed the CMGG's encouragement to the parties to continue to engage with the International Court of Justice as the Court proceeds in 2026 to the oral hearings on the merits of the case.
6. The Group reiterated the importance of the Commonwealth's support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all member states.
7. The Group applauded the Secretariat's work to strengthen partnerships with regional and international organisations, and with the international development community to promote sustainable development, democracy, good governance, stability, and peace.

8. Ministers also welcomed the work of the Secretariat in strengthening democratic institutions, respect for human rights and the rule of law through the whole of electoral cycle approach in member states.
9. Ministers reflected with concern on the growing pressures to democracy, the rule of law, judicial independence, human rights, and democratic space faced by all countries, including those within our Commonwealth family. The Group encouraged members to support the Good Offices of the Secretary-General and the work of the Secretariat to accompany the members of our Commonwealth family as they work to entrench the values of the Commonwealth in their nations.
10. It was agreed that the next meeting of CMAG will be convened in March 2026 in London during Commonwealth Week.

21 September 2025