



Concluding Statement of the Seventy-First Meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group

5 December 2025

1. The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) held its seventy-first meeting on 5 December 2025. The extraordinary meeting was held virtually and chaired by the Honourable 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. Ministers reiterated their support for the Secretary-General's Good Offices, a mechanism to protect and promote Commonwealth values and principles.
4. Ministers expressed deep concern about the growing threats to democracy, the rule of law, judicial independence, human rights, and democratic space faced by many countries within our Commonwealth family. Members reaffirmed that resilient democratic institutions and governance structures, and respect for the rule of law and human rights, are pivotal for sustainable and inclusive economic development, security and for fostering peace.
5. The Group received a report from the Foreign Minister of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, Honourable Ambassador Mahmoud Thabit Kombo (MP).
6. On the matter of Tanzania, Ministers expressed the collective concern of the Commonwealth on the reports of breaches to the fundamental values and principles of the Commonwealth, including the respect for human rights and the freedom of expression, democracy, rule of law, and good governance. Members expressed deep concern over the reported deteriorating situation pre- and post-elections.
7. Ministers commended the Secretary-General's prompt assessment of the situation and her decision to offer her Good Offices through the appointment of a Special Envoy to Tanzania, HE Dr Lazarus Chakwera, former President of the Republic of Malawi.
8. The Group decided that Tanzania be placed on the Formal Agenda of CMAG for the next meeting in March 2026, for a decision of CMAG on Tanzania. The decision of CMAG will be subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions:
 - a. That the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General be granted full and free access to all the relevant stakeholders at the earliest opportunity;
 - b. The lifting of restrictions on freedom of assembly and expression, civil society and the media;
 - c. The holding of an inter-party consultative forum to agree on a collective framework on the way forward for the next election; and

- d. The implementation of transparent legal and administrative processes to hold perpetrators of the violence and its results accountable and to compensate victims, as appropriate.
9. The Group requested that the Government of Tanzania provide the Secretary-General, for the information of CMAG, with the terms of reference for the Commission of Inquiry established by the Government.
10. The Group requested the Secretary-General to provide a full report on the progress made on the above conditions to CMAG at its next meeting.
11. The Ministers asked the Secretary-General to remain engaged with the Government of Tanzania and to continue to support its work to strengthen policies that deepen the rule of law, separation of powers, constitutionalism, and good governance as enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter.
12. The Group also encouraged the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to access all the available technical support from the Commonwealth to further peace, democratic stability, and good governance.
13. The Group received and thanked the Secretary-General for her reports on matters of interest to CMAG.
14. It was agreed that the next meeting of CMAG will be convened on 7 March 2026 in the margins of the Commonwealth Week in London.

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