



## Commonwealth Ministerial Group on Guyana

Virtual Meeting, 14 September 2021

### Concluding Statement

1. The Commonwealth Ministerial Group on Guyana was convened virtually on 14 September 2021 by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, at the request of the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, and in accordance with a mandate given by the Commonwealth Heads of Government in 1999 to monitor “further developments in respect of the existing controversy between Guyana and Venezuela.”
2. The meeting was chaired by the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Hon Dr A. K. Abdul Momen.
3. The Group received an update from the Honourable Hugh Hilton Todd Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, on the status of Guyana’s case before the International Court of Justice.
4. Having considered the update provided by the Hon Hugh H. Todd, the Group noted that Guyana is required to submit its Memorial on the merits of the case, by 8 March 2022 in accordance with the schedule set by the International Court of Justice.
5. The Group expressed its unwavering support for the judicial process underway before the International Court of Justice chosen by the Secretary General of the United Nations under the 1966 Geneva Agreement and the Group continues to encourage Venezuela to participate in the said process.
6. The Group also took note of the “Agreement for the Ratification and Defence of the Sovereignty of Venezuela over the Essequibo between the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Unity Platform” signed in

Mexico City on 6 September 2021, which restated Venezuela's claim to Essequibo and rejected the International Court of Justice process underway. In this regard, the Group supported Guyana's firm rejection of this agreement as it constitutes a further threat to Guyana's sovereignty.

7. The Group reiterated its firm and steadfast 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.
8. The Group encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to use her Good Offices to support Guyana in upholding its sovereignty and territorial integrity.
9. The Group also agreed to draw the conclusions of this meeting to the attention of all Commonwealth member governments.

**14 September 2021, Virtual Meeting**

*Members of the Group, as constituted following the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Durban in 1999, are Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Canada, Guyana, Jamaica, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.*