

Anti-Corruption Summit - London 2016 Commonwealth Statement

1. Creation of a new Commonwealth Office of Civil and Criminal Justice Reform

The Commonwealth will establish a new *Commonwealth Office of Civil and Criminal Justice Reform* to co-ordinate practical efforts to promote sustainable development that is enabled by the rule of law and good governance.

The Commonwealth will use its unique convening power to bring together political leaders to discuss challenges faced by their respective countries and to forge common platforms to fight corruption.

The Commonwealth will use its common language, common legal system and extensive network of professional associations, law practitioners and civil society, to develop anti-corruption policies, strengthen legal frameworks and develop practical toolkits to implement strategies to combat corruption.

The new Commonwealth Office will serve as a source of expert advice and knowledge, a fulcrum for innovation and a vital support for governments and legal services seeking to learn from the Commonwealth experience and deliver effective implementation of best practice models.

This will support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels through policy making and legislation, so as to tackle corruption better and fulfil the Commonwealth's commitment for deliver on SDG 16.

The Commonwealth Office of Civil and Criminal Justice Reform will advocate for, lead and coordinate the Commonwealth's support for the rule of law, constitutional reform and sustainable political, social, and economic development of Commonwealth member states through civil and criminal justice reforms.

2. An update to the Commonwealth model legislative provisions on money laundering, terrorism financing, proceeds of crime, civil forfeiture and sanctions

The Commonwealth will continue to assist member countries to strengthen their anti-corruption agencies by training investigators, prosecutors and other justice actors and ensure assistance in the implementation of best fit anti-corruption legislation.

The Commonwealth will provide assistance to Member Countries, that are yet to ratify the United Nations Conventions Against Corruption (UNCAC), to do so and will assist with its implementation by utilising the Commonwealth Legislative and Technical Guide.

The Commonwealth has developed a Legislative and Technical Guide on Commonwealth Strategies to Combat Corruption and Model legislative provisions on money laundering, terrorism financing, proceeds of crime, civil forfeiture and sanctions to ensure that member countries have comprehensive legislation against money laundering, effective asset recovery, including non-conviction based confiscation powers and the introduction of unexplained wealth orders. The Commonwealth will provide assistance to member states to implement legislation based on the model legislative provisions.

The Commonwealth will continue to support member countries with its pro bono mentoring and twinning programmes to ensure that member countries with developing capacity could benefit and acquire practical skills from jurisdictions with developed practices.

3. Creation of a Commonwealth assurance mark against corruption

The Commonwealth has a unique ability to make a difference in tackling corruption and promoting good governance because of the experience we share through common language and common law.

The Commonwealth will develop a Commonwealth Standard to tackle corruption by promoting best practice.

We will partner with those already working in this field to bring together received best practice to develop an international scheme so as to deliver better procurement across the public and private sector.

This scheme would be used to identify which bodies, institutions, and entities are adhering to best practice and eventually create international standards for compliance of good procurement practice. This validation will promote and differentiate organisations from those that do not share our aspirations in relation to tackling corruption.

The standard can be used by anyone and will help strengthen oversight of finances for businesses, institutions, the public sector, local government and the private sector.

4. Commonwealth Anti-Corruption Networks

The Commonwealth Secretariat will work with member countries to strengthen and expand the Commonwealth Anti-Corruption Networks it has established in Africa and Caribbean. And will follow up with the establishment of Commonwealth Anti-Corruption Network in the Pacific next year and then Asia the following year to promote practitioner partnerships.

The Commonwealth Secretariat will continue to facilitate positive practitioner partnerships in the Commonwealth using our network of Anti-Corruption Agencies such as following:

1. **BOTSWANA and ZAMBIA:** *The Zambia understudied the Botswana's DCEC's Case management system, how DCEC interfaces with the Directorate of Public Prosecutions and working with Authorities, Parliament and Civil society as well as Media relations and how the DCEC works with the different media houses.*
2. **SOUTH AFRICA and BOTSWANA:** South Africa's Special Investigation Unit shared its successes on Forensic investigation, forensic accounting, forensic data analysis and financial profiling with Botswana (DCEC).
3. **NIGERIA and GHANA:** *Ghana's Economic and Organised Crimes Office (EOCO) and Nigeria's EFCC successfully signed MoU for mutual assistance under the auspices of the Association. This has yielded significant result in combatting trans-border crimes in the West Africa sub-region.*
4. **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO and GRENADA:** *Jamaica Office of the Contractor-General supported Grenada's Integrity Commission to implement improved systems and processes for effective anti-corruption work.*
5. **AUSTRALIA and NIGERIA:** *A pairing agreement between the West Australian Police and the Nigeria Economic and Financial Crime Commission provided each other capacity building and operational capability assistance in crime prevention and investigations which led to a successful joint operation resulting in the arrest of some criminals in the West Africa sub region.*

6. **TANZANIA and BOTSWANA:** *Tanzania's Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) was peer-reviewed by Botswana's DCEC on stakeholder engagement in fighting corruption and Media relations.*

The Commonwealth Secretary General welcomes the opportunity to strengthen the Commonwealth's role in tackling corruption as mandated by Commonwealth Leaders at previous Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting since Durban in 1999 and looks forward to working closely on this with the current Commonwealth Chair in Office, Malta, the UK in its capacity as the next host of CHOGM in 2018 and all member states.