

CLGF STATEMENT TO THE 2015 COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING, MALTA, NOVEMBER 2015



Patrons: ■ HE President Yoweri Museveni, Uganda; ■ Rt Hon Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator;
■ Rt Hon Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Tuvalu; ■ Hon Portia Simpson Miller, Prime Minister, Jamaica;
■ HE President John Dramani Mahama, Ghana

The Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, CLGF, meeting in London, 19-20 November 2015:

Warmly appreciates the opportunity afforded to it to meet and exchange views with HRH, the Prince of Wales and HE the Commonwealth Secretary-General on 18 November in advance of the 2015 CHOGM and wishes to put on record appreciation for the support given to CLGF by the Secretary-General during his term of office;

Celebrates the 20th Anniversary of CLGF since its establishment and endorsement by CHOGM in Auckland in 1995 and two decades of services promoting Commonwealth principles of democracy and good governance and encouraging sustainable development, including improved delivery of community services and supporting local economic development;

Recalls the *2015 Gaborone Declaration- Local Government Vision 2030*, adopted by CLGF members, and the local government commitment to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the accompanying Addis Ababa Action Agenda through localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals, securing sub-national financing and ensuring local monitoring and review mechanisms, in particular for Goal 8 on economic growth, Goal 11 on cities and human settlements and Goal 16 on effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Expresses its deep shock at the callous terrorist attack in Paris on innocent citizens, which follows similar attacks in other cities such as London, Mumbai and Nairobi and expresses its full solidarity with the people of Paris and of France.

Highlights the importance of securing a Commonwealth position on Climate Action ahead of COP21, in particular as it impacts on Small States, and the role that local government and its elected leaders can play in climate change mitigation, as will be demonstrated at the Paris Climate Summit for Local Leaders, 4 December.

Recognises the importance of a joined-up Commonwealth and the need for a greater level of cooperation among all the three categories of Commonwealth Organisations, the Secretariat and the Intergovernmental Organisations; the governmental Associated Organisations such as CLGF; and the Civil Society Organisations, but especially between the Intergovernmental and the Associated Organisations, as set out in the latter's official submission and recommendations to the 2015 CHOGM.

Calls on Commonwealth Heads of Government, at their meeting in Malta to:

Promote a joined-up approach to Commonwealth policy making, practice and finances in recognition in particular of the need for a greater level of cooperation between the Commonwealth Intergovernmental organisations and the Commonwealth governmental Associated Organisations as proposed in the AO submission to CHOGM;

Encourage close cooperation of all Commonwealth Organisations in promoting Commonwealth political values, including promotion of peace and security and human rights and good governance in accordance with the Commonwealth Charter;

Support the work of CLGF and the Commonwealth Associated Organisations, especially in respect of adding value to Member States' implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by sharing good practice and mobilising support, including resources, technology and capacity-building at all levels and allocation of funding for appropriate programmes to this end;

Address the growing threat of terrorism and encourage concerned Commonwealth organisations, including CLGF as representative of elected local leaders, to take collective action to share know-how and expertise in mitigating and preventing attacks, as well as ensuring social cohesion and integration.

Acknowledge the role of elected mayors and cities in combatting climate change in its position on COP21 and in the efforts to marshal climate finance;

Facilitate inputs by Associated and Civil Society Organisations into the envisaged review of the governance of the Commonwealth Secretariat so as to ensure that all parts of the Commonwealth family come together in a strategic partnership.

CLGF is committed to working with the Commonwealth Chairperson-in-Office, Prime Minister Muscat, and the incoming Commonwealth Secretary-General-elect in implementing the mandate of the 2015 CHOGM and it warmly looks forward to Malta as the host of the 2017 biennial Commonwealth Local Government Conference.