



The Commonwealth

## Stakeholder Forum of the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017

Kampala, Uganda

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9CYMM (17) (STK)

### Call for Papers

This document is intended to provide information to support those organisations and individuals who wish to submit a paper for presentation at the Stakeholder Forum of the 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting.

This document should be read alongside the accompanying stakeholder forum concept note.

Commonwealth Secretariat  
Marlborough House  
London  
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May 2017

# Resourcing and Financing Youth Development: Empowering Young People

## Overview

Commonwealth member governments, partner organisations and selected research institutions are invited to submit background papers for the **Stakeholder Forum**, 31<sup>st</sup> July - 1<sup>st</sup> August, of the 9<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (9CYMM), 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> August, to be held in Kampala, Uganda. Papers will be under the theme **Resourcing and Financing Youth Development: Empowering Young People**.

**Paper presenters will be informed of the acceptance of papers by 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to enable visa processing, ticketing and booking accommodation for attendance. All presenters, unless otherwise informed by the Secretariat, are expected to self-fund visa, flight and accommodation during the stay for the Stakeholder Forum. Presenters will be expected to arrive in Kampala, Uganda, on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2017, and depart on Wednesday 02<sup>nd</sup> 2017 unless a later departure date is specified in your official invitation letter.**

Papers are invited that address the following areas:

- a) Resourcing and financing **core functions of the youth sector**, especially:
  - i. human resource development and management in youth ministries and departments,
  - ii. regulatory and legislative frameworks that ensure resourcing the sector, and
  - iii. professional youth work<sup>1</sup>, (Annexure 1)
- b) Resourcing and financing **youth mainstreaming**<sup>2</sup> across sectors of employment, poverty alleviation, justice, health, education, peace and reconciliation, migration, and financing/youth budgets etc., that address critical areas of national development planning requiring a youth lens (critical thematic areas may be proposed by paper presenters) (Annexure 2),
- c) Resourcing and financing **research and monitoring and evaluation, including youth-led research and M & E** in youth development to enhance accountability to young people and youth stakeholders (Annexure 3),
- d) **Innovative financing for development options** including harnessing public-private partnerships and unlocking local and global investment opportunities for the development of youth, that ensure their equitable and just development outcomes for all young people, particularly the furthest behind (Annexure 4),
- e) Harnessing the power of **ICT, media and innovation** to best utilise resources and enhance youth development and participation.

(See attached stakeholder meeting concept note for further details).

Papers should either be:

- a) Background Papers that:
  - i. Present evidence-based policy recommendations for the consideration of Commonwealth governments; and/or
  - ii. Outline research or learning that can inform national policy development.
- b) Case studies illustrating a successful policy response in resourcing and financing youth development.

Background papers should be 1500 to 2000 words. Case studies should be 750 to 1000 words only.

Papers should be submitted before 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to Dharshini Seneviratne, Programme Manager, Youth Division (email [d.seneviratne@commonwelath.int](mailto:d.seneviratne@commonwelath.int)) and cc'd to Tiffany Daniels, Assistant Programme Officer, Youth Division (email [t.daniels@commonwealth.int](mailto:t.daniels@commonwealth.int)).

The Stakeholder Forum is scheduled to be for 1 ½ days. As many papers as possible will be accommodated given the timeframe and format of the forum.

## Background and Context

The stakeholder forum is intended to be a space for dialogue and resolutions by non-governmental stakeholders in youth development. At the forum they can share good practice and propose recommendations to the main ministerial meeting on the key themes of the 9CYMM immediately following the Stakeholder Forum and the Youth Leaders Forum.

CYMM is held every four years and is the most important Commonwealth conference for deliberation on the Commonwealth youth development agenda and its relationship with other sustainable development priorities. The meeting brings together Youth Ministers, senior government officials, youth representatives, youth workers and other youth development stakeholders from across the Commonwealth.

This year's theme was selected for the urgency of turning the tide for investment in youth development in order to benefit young people's productivity, wellbeing, self-empowerment, full employment, quality education, good health and an overall life quality; and, in turn, benefit national development.

The meeting will take place in the context of the recent adoption of the SDGs that have recognised the importance of delivering for young people by requirements around age segregation/age groups in goal 1 (poverty), 3 (health), 5 (gender equality), 8 (decent work), 10 (inequality), 11 (sustainable cities), 16 (peaceful, just and inclusive societies) and 17 (partnership). Additionally, there are explicit references to youth, young men and women, adolescents, girls and women aged 20-24 in the targets or indicators of nine goals. These are Goals 1 (poverty), 2 (hunger), 3 (health), 4 (education), 5 (gender equality), 6 (clean water and sanitation), 8 (decent work), 13 (climate action) and 16 (peaceful, just and inclusive societies).<sup>3</sup> However, all SDGs are recognised to influence the realisation of young people's rights in a youth-mainstreamed approach. The SDGs further commit to reaching the furthest behind first, having implications for our work with the most marginalised youth.

## Review Process

Papers will be reviewed by the four key convening organisations of the Stakeholder Forum, the Commonwealth Secretariat's Youth Division, the Commonwealth Alliance of Youth Workers' Associations (CAYWA), the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS), and the Uganda Parliamentary Association for Youth Affairs (UPFYA) ahead of appraisal by the Conference Secretary who is responsible for clearing papers for inclusion in the meeting documentation.

## Paper Dissemination

Papers approved by the Conference Secretary will be included in the meeting documentation for the Stakeholder Forum and the 9CYMM.

## Format

Papers are requested in the following general format:

- Executive Summary/Abstract (including key learning and recommendation)
- Introduction and contextual information
- Main body
- Conclusion and recommendation

- Further information (including sources where additional information can be found).
- Brief author and/or agency bio data

Authors contributing to Commonwealth publications are advised to consider the following questions:

- a) What is the issue or opportunity, what is the evidence of it?
- b) Is it relevant to most Commonwealth countries, or is it specific to one or a few?
- c) How was it addressed and/or what are potential policy options to address the issue in the future?
- d) What is the current evidence of impact or outcomes of the proposed approaches? How well can the approach be tailored?
- e) What issues do, or potentially, remain?
- f) Is the solution replicable in other Commonwealth countries?

## Further Information

For further information on the submission of background papers for the stakeholder forum of the 9CYMM please contact Dharshini Seneviratne, Programme Manager, Youth Division, Commonwealth Secretariat (e. [d.seneviratne@commonwealth.int](mailto:d.seneviratne@commonwealth.int) p.+44 20 7747 6457).

## Annexure 1 - The Youth Sector

The youth sector comprises the multiple players that focus on youth equality and empowerment as their **main institutional focus**. The nodal point for the Sector is generally a Ministry holding the portfolio for Youth, or Youth Department. A youth sector in a member state may be comprised of players as follows:

<b>Government ministry/department for youth at the national and local levels</b> Generally, the state policy arm for youth.
<b>Government youth service implementing bodies</b> These implement youth ministry/department policies for youth services and other related matters, including collaboration with other sectors.
<b>Youth-led organisations</b> Often independent and sometimes served by umbrella bodies, youth-led organisations deliver youth programmes and advocacy driven strongly by youth interests.
<b>Youth movements, including students' unions</b> These differ from youth-led organisations in being relatively more independent of institutional affiliations and more informal in structure. In education contexts, such bodies could be student unions. They often tend to be issue-focused.
<b>Youth-serving non-governmental and voluntary bodies</b> These deliver youth programmes.
<b>Youth studies and youth-work studies delivery departments in universities, colleges and training bodies</b> These deliver training and education for youth empowerment and youth work.
<b>Youth research institutes</b> Such bodies may co-ordinate with the youth ministry and other youth sector bodies for research relating to youth development and empowerment.
<b>Youth workers' associations and other professional bodies in the youth sector</b> These are the guardians of quality and integrity in the youth sector, including youth work. They often regulate youth work practice and youth sector management.

A considerable number of Commonwealth member states have some, but not all, of the entities listed above generally making up the youth sector; these are at different stages of evolution.

Youth rarely has a ministry or entity of its own, and is more often coupled with sports or skills development. This sometimes, not always, leads to the undermining of the core priorities of youth development work. In other cases, the sector has been put at the very helm of national planning under the stewardship of the Head of Government - where there is either the advantage of receiving strategic and resource priority or the disadvantage of becoming somewhat side-lined due to the multiple priorities of the Head of Government.

Papers are expected on the following themes:

### **Human resource development and management in youth ministries and departments**

Human resource development within the youth sector requires management structures that support the delivery of youth work, that enable cross-sectoral planning with all youth sector players, structures and processes that enable research on youth development issues and broadly ensure the mainstreaming of youth development in national planning. Papers will be expected to highlight challenges and gaps in youth sector management, and evidence of where resourcing is required, including innovative ways in which youth sector human resource development has been managed.

### **Resourcing regulatory and legislative frameworks and their implementation**

Resourcing regulatory and legislative frameworks within the youth sector strengthens the accountability of the sector to those who receive the benefits of youth sector services and helps

set parameters of quality and accountability for delivery. In Malta for example, a Youth Work Act enabled the regulation and quality assurance of the youth work sector (see upcoming: A Growth Profession - Youth Work in the Commonwealth). Legislative and regulatory frameworks in setting up youth participation structures such as National Youth Councils, and the professional recognition of youth work establishes the legitimacy and quality of delivery. Papers are expected to share good practise in these directions, as well as innovative ways in which challenges in resourcing and implementation has been overcome.

Adapted from *Transforming Young Lives*, Commonwealth Secretariat, 2017.

### **Resourcing and financing professional youth work<sup>4</sup>**

At the Commonwealth, youth work is broadly defined as “youth engagement approaches that builds personal awareness and supports the social, political and economic empowerment of young people, delivered through non-formal learning within a matrix of care.” This is the core profession in the youth sector that has direct contact with young people.

Criteria at the Commonwealth for professionalising the youth work sector includes The existence of the following: a collectively formulated and owned definition of youth work as a profession, policy and legislative commitments for youth work as a profession, the professional organisation of youth work practitioners, a Code of Ethics and competency standards for youth work and other regulatory frameworks, qualifications pathways for youth work education and training, youth-work specific professional validation of education and training, youth-work specific supervision of practice, and investments in youth work.

Papers will be expected to highlight broadly evidence of the impact of youth work, and the rationale for calling for the recognition of the profession, and for investment in the profession.

## Annexure 2 - Youth Mainstreaming

*Papers covering the thematic area of youth mainstreaming will be expected to highlight effective youth mainstreaming initiatives in national planning, as well as highlight investment implications and good practice that provides a rationale for investing in youth mainstreaming initiatives.*

The following excerpt is from *Transforming Young Lives: Youth Mainstreaming in Development Planning*, upcoming, Commonwealth Secretariat, 2017. (The full document is expected to be shared during CYMM):

Ensuring equity and justice for young people in global and national planning (as of any other group side-lined in policy-making) is critical, and realises a fundamental human right. This is an important ethical and moral imperative, but it is also a political priority considering the explicit articulation of national and global equality for all, including **for all ages**, in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mainstreaming is based on a guiding vision of all social groups benefiting equally from the fruits of development, and participating in that development in accordance with their full human potential.

Youth mainstreaming can be defined as:

*Strategies for intergenerational equity and justice that enable young people’s capabilities, participation and human rights to be an integral dimension of the analysis, design, implementation and monitoring & evaluation of policies and programmes in intersectoral planning across all social, political and economic spheres. It enables young people and adults to benefit equally from, and contribute equally to, development outcomes.*<sup>5</sup>

Youth mainstreaming, then, is a *strategy* to achieve the *goal* of **equality**. Therefore, **mainstreaming is not an end in itself; social equality is**. It links democracy initiatives to achieving equitable development for youth. It is integrally linked to the SDGs in its support of institutional transformation and participatory planning (Goal 16), and reaching end goals of reducing social inequality (Goal 10) and reaching the furthest behind first.

Youth mainstreaming ‘connects the dots’ between legislation and policy, finance and political commitment, organisations and programmes within the context of a comprehensive sociodemographic lens in all planning. **Youth mainstreaming is not random youth initiatives, but integrated, co-ordinated planning**. It intentionally incorporates youth capacities and rights in analysis, planning, implementation and the measurement of outcomes at all levels of the development process.

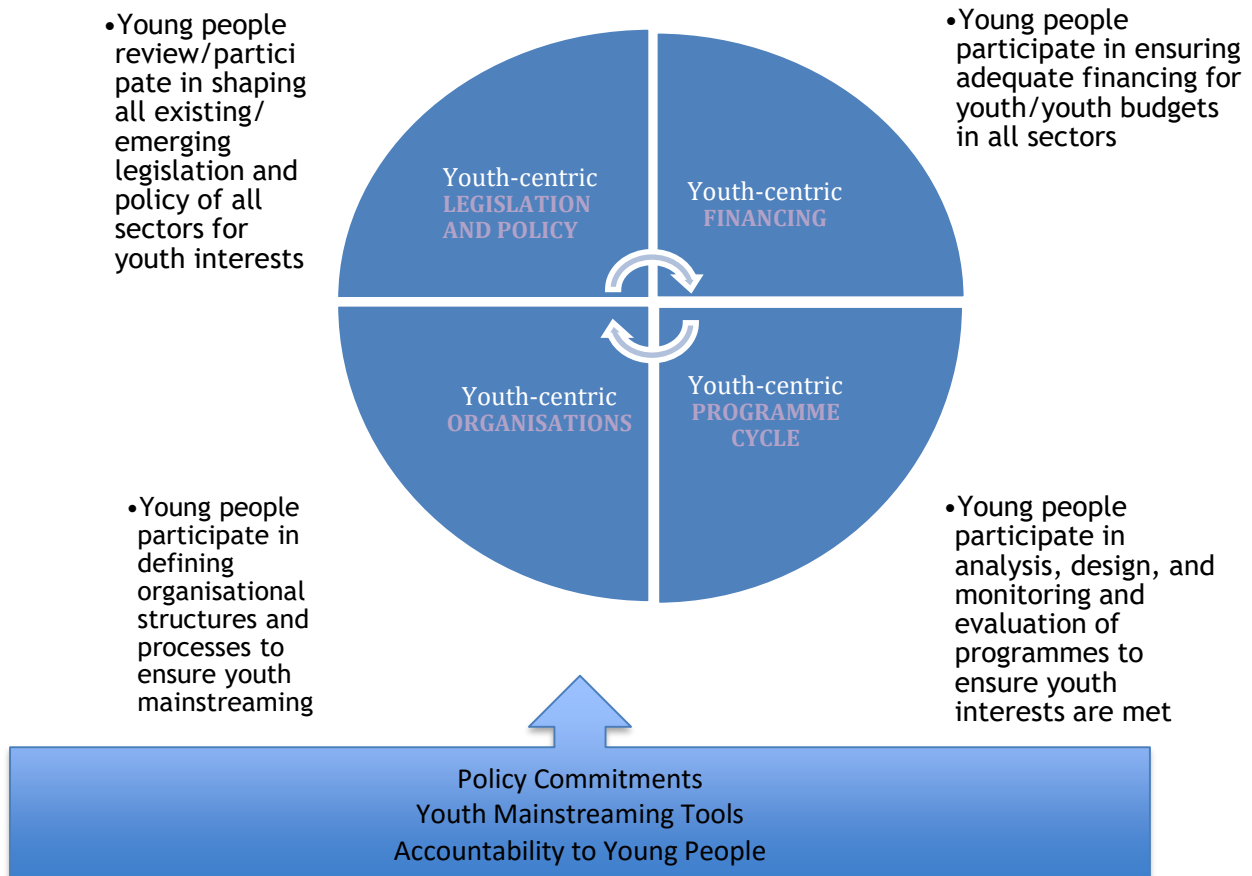
### 1. Youth mainstreaming planning considerations and principal expertise

YM considerations	Cross-sectoral expertise
1. A full comprehension of the <b>implications for youth</b> in planning, including their <b>developmental rights</b> .	<b>Youth empowerment/ psychosocial</b> Youth development/ empowerment specialisation
2. Systematic and meaningful <b>youth participation</b> structures for decisions across the programme cycle, including incorporating the skills and expertise of the youth sector in building in youth empowerment strategies.	<b>Participation and democracy</b> Youth development specialisation Youth participation expertise Expertise in democracy Initiatives
3. Ensuring an <b>evidence base and data disaggregation</b> to measure <b>a. youth cohort</b>	<b>Data</b> Census and data specialisation

involvement, b. outputs and c. outcomes for youth, including for youth age and social subgroups and including global harmonisation of data disaggregation.	Quantitative and qualitative research specialisation Expertise of young researchers' collectives
4. Integrating <b>youth safeguarding</b> within the planning process and in programmes where young people are safe and secure within participation and programme implementation processes.	<b>Safeguarding</b> Child and youth safeguarding specialisation
5. Ensuring <b>financing and budgets</b> for youth at the global, national and subnational levels.	<b>Finance</b> Youth budgeting expertise Youth-centric financing and planning specialisation

**YM policy, tools and accountability mechanisms** (designed and implemented with young people) need to be in place to ensure that this collaborative planning occurs.

**Figure 2: Integrating youth mainstreaming into development planning**





## Annexure 3 - Evidence and Monitoring and Evaluation

Evidence tells us what works, and what does not work, for young people and society. It is the bedrock of objective planning. Particularly for the youth sector, and youth development initiatives across all sectors in general, in a context of continuing investment cuts, evidence is becoming critical to inform a rationale for investing in young people. Papers will be expected to highlight effective evidence that highlight youth development priorities, as well as evidence of positive outcomes of youth development initiatives that has, or has the potential of promoting investment in youth development.

For example, a study in the United Kingdom relating to youth services which assessed **youth work projects** (rather than social work projects, or justice measures) **with gangs** found an over 70% success rate “in terms of diverting young people from criminal activity and reintegrating them with effective education and employment. **No other intervention has been as effective.**”<sup>1</sup> This, and other evidence emerging from the Commonwealth’s 2017 youth work baseline<sup>1</sup> is a distinct indicator for policy makers around the benefits of investing in the profession of youth work across the Commonwealth.

For development research perspectives to legitimately represent young people’s interests,

- a) All research needs to take on a youth lens.
- b) Young people must be involved as partners in the development research process.<sup>6</sup> This involves young people partnering and/or leading the identification of research topics as relevant to the sector, and leading the design, implementation, data interpretation and report writing of the research.

This can have a formidable influence on research outputs by virtue of the lived experiences young people bring into research, and in convincing governments and other stakeholders of the need to invest in youth. These processes require either in-house research capacity or strong links with collaborative research institutes, including youth research institutes.

**Data disaggregation** for youth in general research is a key form of highlighting trends for young people in broader research around employment, housing, healthcare, and so on.

There are several forms of data that can inform the design of youth development programmes

- a) Data to measure youth cohort involvement in a sector in relation to other cohorts;
- b) data to measure access for youth to resources, including for subgroups (youth age subgroups and other social categories) (comparative outputs for youth); and
- c) data to measure equality and equity for youth, including for subgroups (youth age subgroups and other social categories) in relation to other cohorts (comparative outcomes for youth).

At the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Youth Development Index (YDI) helps obtain evidence, predominantly at the **impact level**, on changes in young people’s lives. The YDI is a composite index of 18 indicators that collectively measure progress on youth development through the five domains of education, health and wellbeing, employment and opportunity, political participation and civic participation. It compiles available global youth-related datasets to form an assessment of relative achievements across countries. The 2016 *YDI Index and Report*<sup>7</sup> measured progress in youth development for 183 countries, including 49 of the 53 member states at the time of the report.<sup>8</sup> The YDI supports the disaggregation of data for youth in working towards reaching SDG targets and goals, and will be a useful tool at the national level for measuring the social equality of young people. Just as the gender equality goals and targets in the SDGs help measure the ultimate outcomes for gender mainstreaming, the YDI will be a support in measuring equality for youth.

## Appendix 4 - Forms of Innovative Finance for Youth Development

If increased finances are to be utilised to fund more sustainable and robust Youth Development work, then governments and other organisations, while ensuring adequate public financing, need also to unlock non-traditional financing solutions that enable equitable and just outcomes for all young people, particularly the furthest behind. To make this kind of upscaling a reality, domestic, international and private resources will have to be mobilised. The main forms of resource mobilisation are outlined below.

### Domestic Resource Mobilisation (DRM)

Domestic Resource Mobilisation is, for most countries, the largest source of funding for development and ensures adequate public financing. “Domestic resources” are generated within a country—from individuals, companies, and governments. Individuals contribute to development resources through personal income tax, firms through corporate and business-related taxes, and governments through a variety of public revenue streams and debt management strategies. A persistent challenge that erodes DRM is illicit financial flows, which include corruption and tax evasion.

DRM can also be increased through 1) Improving the design and management of public programs, and 2) Cutting low priority or poorly-designed spending. Both methods increase development impact and free up resources for additional development initiatives. Strong performance metrics, effective monitoring, better policies help to create higher quality, sustainable results.

### International Public Finance

#### Official Development Assistance (ODA)

ODA funding consists of grants and highly concessional loans and is provided by governments and official agencies to finance development in low and middle income countries. Concessional loans are those which offer flexible or lenient terms for repayment, usually at lower than market interest rates. ODA has been the traditional source of international development funding.

#### Private Finance

The drivers of private finance are different from the motivations of public finance. Private sector firms seek investment opportunities based on risk/return considerations. In general, to be effective in fostering private investment for development purposes, governments and other organisations must either help decrease perceived risk or increase anticipated returns. Governments have a fundamental role in providing a conducive investment climate, through supportive governance structures and promoting investment-friendly policy. At the same time, the core principles of equity and justice for all, particularly the furthest behind, environmental sustainability and transparency need to be protected in considerations of private financing.

#### Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)

MDBs and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) remain key financial and knowledge intermediaries, central to financing and implementing the global development agenda. One of the most distinctive features of the MDBs and the IMF is their ability to advise, intermediate and co-invest on efforts to build strong investment opportunities, and to mobilise and encourage private investment.

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<sup>1</sup> Upcoming: A Growth Profession: Youth Work in the Commonwealth. Commonwealth Secretariat, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Upcoming: Transforming Young Lives: Youth Mainstreaming in Development Planning, Commonwealth Secretariat 2017.

<sup>3</sup> YDI 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Upcoming: A Growth Profession: Youth Work in the Commonwealth, (A Baseline of Professional Status). Commonwealth Secretariat, 2017.

<sup>5</sup> The foundation of this definition is the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) definition for gender mainstreaming, as appearing in ECOSOC 1997/2. It has been revised to highlight key factors the youth sector perceives as important in youth mainstreaming.

<sup>6</sup> Development research, as opposed to academic research, focuses on evidence to inform development policy and practice, and is often more participatory than academic research.

<sup>7</sup> Commonwealth Secretariat 2016.

<sup>8</sup> The number of Commonwealth member states was 52 at the time of writing.