



The Commonwealth



CHOGM  
Malta 2015

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# Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

Malta, 27-29 November 2015

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## Report on Commonwealth Business Forum 2015 24-26 November, Malta

For consideration under Agenda Item 4. (iv) Pre-CHOGM Fora -  
Commonwealth Business Forum and Agenda Item 6. Communique



**Statement by Lord Marland of Odstock  
Chairman, Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council  
to be presented at Meeting of Foreign Ministers,  
26<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

Honourable Ministers, Excellencies

Please accept my sincere apologies that neither I or any of my team have been able to join you this afternoon. The Business Forum is still in full swing and we are preparing to receive HRH The Prince of Wales who will be delivering the concluding address at the Forum.

We are extremely grateful to all the Heads of Government, Ministers and their representatives who have participated at the Business Forum over the last three days. It has been a magnificent occasion and I hope that those who have been able to join us have gone away with a sense of the dynamism, purpose and hunger to do business that I believe has characterised the event.

The Business Forum is a unique event. Attended by 1200 business leaders, addressed by 15 Heads of Government and more than 180 Chairs and CEO of global companies.

This was the first Business Forum to be organised by the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council, and I would particularly like to thank those Governments who have become Founding Strategic Partners of our organisations. We hope others will see the value in following suit.

We will be issuing an interim communiqué later today and preparing a full report on in the coming weeks.

It is clear the private sector continues to see value in the Commonwealth network and we believe that a focus on trade and investment is crucial for the future of the organisation. We welcome the findings of the Commonwealth Secretariats publication “The Commonwealth in the Unfolding Global Trade Landscape” and in particular its recommendations on promoting intra-Commonwealth trade and investment.

In addition to the excellent discussions about how the Commonwealth can “Add Value” in our six priority areas of financial services, technology, infrastructure, healthcare, tourism and sustainability, we have launched a number of new initiatives that will be central to our ongoing work:

- **Commonwealth Green Finance Facility** - to help fund sustainable infrastructure projects across the Commonwealth with a focus on island countries.

- **Commonwealth First**- a programme to encourage SMEs to leverage the Commonwealth network when starting their international journey.
- **The Commonwealth Trade Initiative**- an online platform to connect businesses across the Commonwealth and facilitate greater intra-Commonwealth trade and investment.
- **Commonwealth Healthcare Business Group** - which will bring together complementary public, private and third sector expertise to help facilitate the Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth Governments in improving health provision and outcomes.
- **The Global Goals Commonwealth Sustainable Business Challenge** - The Challenge aims to encourage all companies across the Commonwealth and beyond to consider how they can engage with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how they build them into their strategy and the way they do business.

I wish you well in your deliberations at this important time for the future of the Commonwealth.

Finally I would like to record my sincere thanks to the Prime Minister of Malta, the Government of Malta and the CHOGM 2015 Taskforce for wonderful arrangements they have made for us and all their support over the last two years.

**Lord Marland of Odstock**

**Chairman  
Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council**