

**Concluding Statement of the
Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG)
Fifty-third Meeting, New York
28 September 2018**

1. The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) held its fifty-third meeting in New York on 28 September 2018.
2. The meeting was chaired by Hon Dr Monica Juma Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Kenya, and was attended by Foreign Ministers and Representatives of Australia, Barbados, Belize, Ghana, Malaysia, Namibia, Samoa and the United Kingdom.
3. Ministers noted the outcomes of the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), and reiterated the important role of member countries and the Commonwealth Secretariat in delivering a future which is fairer, more sustainable, more secure and more prosperous.
4. The Group received an update from the Secretary-General on her ongoing Good Offices engagements in support of member countries' efforts to promote sustainable peace and development.
5. The Group was updated on recent deployment of Commonwealth Observer Groups to Pakistan and Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwe Election Observation was

deployed as part of the Secretary-General's informal assessment process of Zimbabwe's expression of interest to re-join the Commonwealth family. The Secretary-General also highlighted some of the Secretariat's follow-up work and technical support provided to Election Management Bodies and other key democratic institutions in the Commonwealth.

6. The Group received an update from the Secretary-General on developments in a number of Commonwealth member states. CMAG reiterated the importance of its collaboration with the Secretariat in pursuing an integrated approach in addressing the challenges to Commonwealth values.
7. Recognising current global challenges, the Group encouraged the Secretariat to continue providing support to member states in addressing issues such as poverty, climate change and violent extremism, all of which have the potential to undermine Commonwealth values.
8. Ministers commended the work and the support provided by the Secretariat to CMAG. They further recognised the complementarity between the Secretary-General's Good Offices and their role, while retaining the clear distinction therein as emphasised by Heads of Government in Perth in 2011 in their report on 'Strengthening the role of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group.'

9. In this regard, Ministers agreed to explore modalities that could constructively implement this mandate, including: strengthening of technical cooperation; encouraging inclusive dialogue processes; enhanced collaboration with regional organisations; and, enhancing engagement with new members to the Commonwealth family with a view to supporting adherence to Commonwealth Values.

10. Ministers noted the work of Commonwealth organisations in advancing Commonwealth values.

11. CMAG's next meeting will be held in London in April 2019.

New York

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