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Media Advisory

Triennial Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers meeting in Samoa

Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland, will convene the 11th Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministerial Meeting (WAMM) on 6 to 8 September 2016 in Apia, hosted by the Government of Samoa. At the triennial event, ministers and leading campaigners on gender equality will celebrate women's leadership and promote better equality to deliver global goals on development, human rights and climate change.

The second time the meeting has been held by a Pacific island, 11th WAMM has a theme of 'Gender equality through sustainable development in an inclusive Commonwealth'. Priority areas of focus include gender and climate change, women's leadership, violence against women and girls and intergeneration partnerships for sustainable development.

Date: 6 to 8 September 2016

Location: Taumeasina Island Resort, Apia, Samoa

- Interviews with Secretary-General Scotland are available from the ground, either in person, on the telephone or over Skype
- Multimedia content including photographs and video will be available and updated daily

Key events:

Tuesday 6 September 13:30 - 1500

Side event: Family violence in Samoa - A National Enquiry

Tuesday 6 September 16:30 - 18:00

Opening Ceremony - Remarks from Faimalotoa Kika Stowers Ah Kau, Government of Samoa Minister for Women Community & Social Development and Secretary-General Scotland

Wednesday 7 September 15:45 - 17:30

Launch of two briefings on Women's Leadership in the Public Sector, one on the Caribbean and one on the Pacific

Thursday 8 September 09:00 - 10:45

Launch of East Africa judiciary bench book

Thursday 8 September 14:15 - 15:30

Adoption of the Communique

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Notes to Editors:

WAMM has been held triennially since 1985 and provides the opportunity for ministers, senior officials, civil society, private sector and partner agencies to discuss critical issues in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

It also contributes to the setting of Commonwealth priorities and the global agenda for sustainable and inclusive development. The 10th WAMM was held in Bangladesh in 2013 and the 9th WAMM in Fiji in 2010.

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 53 independent and equal sovereign states. It is home to 2.2 billion citizens, of which over 60% are under the age of 30. The Commonwealth includes some of the world's largest, smallest, richest and poorest countries, spanning five regions. Thirty-one of its members are small states, many of them island nations.

The Commonwealth Secretariat provides guidance on policy making, technical assistance and advisory services to Commonwealth member countries. We support governments to help achieve sustainable, inclusive and equitable development. Our work promotes democracy, rule of law, human rights, good governance and social and economic development. We are a voice for small states and a champion for youth empowerment.

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