

1. Introduction and Background

The Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM) is a high-level meeting held every three years where ministers of education and senior officials from 52 Commonwealth countries meet to discuss key issues and engage in meaningful dialogue on education. The 20th CCEM will take place from 19 to 23 February 2018 in Nadi, Fiji and will convene under the theme: *Sustainability and Resilience: Can education deliver?*

Concurrent to the ministerial meeting, students, teachers, civil society members, higher education leaders, youth representatives and other stakeholders will conduct an Integrated Partners' Forum (IPF) from 19 to 22 February 2018.

While prior CCEMs have held separate forums for civil society stakeholders, higher education representatives, students and teachers, the 20CCEM steering committee agreed that an integrated forum would be adopted at the 20CCEM. This format will foster increased collaboration among the various groups who each have an important role to play in supporting Commonwealth countries achieve SDG4 within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as effectively implement all of the other SDGs through learning and training systems.

The forum will be structured around the theme of the 20CCEM and will provide an opportunity for the wider education community across the Commonwealth to meet, network and exchange ideas. The diverse groups will engage in constructive dialogue, share good practices, as well as discuss issues and challenges faced within member countries.

Stakeholders will have a platform to work towards a renewed partnership and draw up recommendations for education systems that are adapted to a 21st century Commonwealth. There will be emphasis on Commonwealth co-operation, sharing and common action and the added value of working together in a North-South-South paradigm.

Over the four days, IPF representatives will engage with Commonwealth ministers and senior government officials, and will communicate their key priorities as well as contribute to the wider Commonwealth education agenda building.

2. Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)

Through a joint statement presented to education ministers, stakeholders will provide an input to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) that will be held in London, United Kingdom in April 2018. In this view, the IPF will deliberate effective approaches to education and learning for good governance, sustainable growth, inclusive social and economic development, which the main 20CCEM programme will explore further through its associated sub-themes (education for sustainable development; building resilience through education; and education governance and management).

CHOGM's theme is: 'Towards a common future' and the summit is focused on building on the strengths of the Commonwealth to ensure that the organisation is responsive to global challenges and delivers a more prosperous, secure, sustainable and fair future for all its citizens, particularly its young people, girls and women, and the most vulnerable.

3. Objectives of the Integrated Partners' Forum

CHOGM will aim to build links between countries to offer young people access to knowledge and skills. In line with CHOGM and the 20CCEM, the overall goal of the IPF is to advance the attainment of inclusive and equitable quality education, promote skills development and lifelong learning opportunities for all across the Commonwealth. These issues will be addressed through the lens of sustainability and resilience with solutions and recommendations being proposed.

In order to achieve this goal, the key objectives of the IPF are to:

- Provide an opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders to discuss and share perspectives on key issues that affect education systems in the Commonwealth and identify joint priorities and action;
- Understand expectations, roles and contributions of stakeholders in support to the strengthening of Commonwealth education systems including through planning and managing of resources, and a culture of accountability.
- Encourage stakeholders to engage in the discussion around the Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 agenda and to outline their commitments over the next three years.
- Update knowledge and share experience on progress in addressing SDG4 as well as the role of education in addressing the other SDGs, especially the climate change related goals.
- Mobilise a broader base of stakeholders in support of addressing key challenges through education, in particular in small states.

4. Expected Key Outcomes of the Integrated Forum

The forum is expected to have the following main outcomes.

- (a) A joint statement outlining policy recommendations and representing key perspectives from the stakeholders to be delivered to the Ministerial Meeting and that Commonwealth Education Ministers may wish to communicate to Heads of Government convening at CHOGM in April 2018.
- (b) Increased collaborative dialogue and action among partner groups and stakeholders to achieve sustainable futures through education, and contributing to setting a Commonwealth education agenda, including through new or renewed partnerships.
- (c) Actionable suggestions and follow-up actions for the relevant stakeholders in Small States in the overall context of climate change and education for sustainable development.

5. Expected Outputs

At the end of the Forum there should be:

- A list of clear cross cutting strategic priorities set out by the partners for 2018-2020;
- A joint statement developed and presented to Commonwealth Education Ministers outlining the main policy recommendations of the four partner groups.
- Resolutions on work led by individual partners in collaboration with national bodies, governments, Commonwealth partner agencies and other regional or international bodies;
- Lessons learnt in organising multi-stakeholder integrated discussion forums.

6. IPF joint statement

The Integrated Partners' Forum joint statement will be written by the Drafting Committee and delivered at the 20CCEM. Representatives of each of the Partner Groups attending the IPF will participate in the drafting of the joint statement. The draft will be shared with IPF participants for their comments and approval before being finalised and presented to the ministers of education.

The development of the IPF joint statement for Ministers should:

- Integrate the views of all the partners through an exclusive and constructive process
- Be consultative, consensual and respect delivery timeline
- Ensure sharpness and succinct style
- Set no more than 5 recommendations

Composition of the Drafting Committee

- Chair: UK Representative from Commonwealth Teachers' Group
- One representative from each strand, drawn from Commonwealth countries
- Up to three representatives from Fiji

7. Papers and Documents

The 20CCEM Thematic Issues paper as well as other resources and background papers¹, including the Commonwealth Curriculum Framework for the SDGs and the Commonwealth Education Policy Framework will inform the CCEM theme: *Sustainability and Resilience: Can Education Deliver?*

The **20CCEM Thematic Issues Paper (2018)** will be presented to delegates attending the conference and will cover the conference theme and sub-themes: education for sustainable development; building resilience through education; and education governance and management. It will draw attention to the intended focus and scope of substantive issues that the conference will address.

The **SDG4 Status Update Report (2018)** will provide a snapshot of education in the 52 Commonwealth countries. The report will present valuable data and analysis to member countries on their progress on SDG4 since the implementation of the new global education agenda in September 2015.

The **Commonwealth Curriculum Framework for the SDGs (2017)**, which proposes to support member countries address the 17 SDGs through education and learning, will be presented. It is a flexible, non-prescriptive tool that follows a competency development model through a combination of knowledge, skills, values and attitudes. It aims to enable the delivery of the SDGs through a life course approach by ensuring that individuals develop abilities and capacities for social, economic and environmental development and build peaceful societies.

The **Commonwealth Education Policy Framework (CEPF) (2017)** aims to enable countries to align their education policies or develop education policies that address the SDGs, in particular SDG4. The framework incorporates four cornerstones for a good education system: quality, equitable access, relevance and sustainability. Four enablers represent aspects of processes and systems that are crucial to effective policies: governance, knowledge, advocacy and capacity. Six elements represent educational subsystems: early childhood care and education, primary education, secondary education, technical and vocational skills, tertiary education and adult education and learning.

¹ All background documents will be made available on the conference website: www.20CCEM.gov.fj. Forum participants are invited to print and bring to the forum their own copies of the documentation of interest to them, as much as possible for environmental reasons.

The Youth Development Index (YDI) Index (2016) developed by the Commonwealth Secretariat measures the status of young people in 183 countries around the world. The index is a comprehensive measure across five main domains that are critical to youth development - education, health, employment, and civic and political participation - and builds on earlier version created by the Commonwealth in 2013. It informs policy-makers about young people's needs and opportunities, indicating areas of success and where attention and

investment is needed. It also acts as a data advocacy tool, highlighting the importance of gathering statistics on key youth indicators in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The State of Student Governance in the Commonwealth (2016) explores the existence of national student bodies and their role/effectiveness in the Commonwealth. It assesses the extent to which student-led institutions participate and contribute to education policy at national and regional levels, and the best approaches or strategies to engage students in decision making at national and regional levels.

8. The IPF Programme Format

The programme will feature interactive plenary sessions as well as parallel breakout sessions on different topics that participants can choose to attend. Sessions will include panel presentations, debates, working groups and world café workshops with time allocated for Questions and Answers (Q&A).

Panel sessions

The panel sessions will start with a brief presentation by a speaker or moderator, followed by comments from several panellists. The remainder of each session will be moderated discussion.

The approximate length of a panel session will be 90 minutes, with four or five panellists. Each panellist will be allocated 5-10 minutes for his or her presentation, leaving about 50 minutes for Q&A and audience engagement.

World Café Workshops

Modelled after a café, small round tables with chairs and large paper pads on each table to record key points, will be set up. An overall host will set the context. There will be three, 20-minute rounds of conversation with a small group seated around a table. At the end of a 20-minute round, each member of the group moves to a different table.

Moving between tables will allow participants to carry key ideas or themes to new tables, and exchange perspectives. A 'table host' will help guide the conversation at his/her allocated table for the different rounds. Each table will focus on a different question related to the session topic in order that participants address the same questions and share their views.

In the last 'harvest' phase, after participating in the small group conversations, individuals will share insights and reflections with the main group for collective sharing.

Working Groups

The sessions will be based on active exchange between the working group participants and facilitated by a moderator. Each working group session will discuss a specific topic, identifying key issues, strategies and actions to achieve specific identified goals. In a five-minute introduction, the moderator will cover objectives and expected outcomes of the session. The last 15 minutes of the working group sessions will be allocated to preparation of presentation of the session findings.

Appendix 1: Integrated Partners' Forum Programme

Programme - Integrated Partners Forum (IPF) at 20CCEM in Nadi, Fiji, 19-23 February 2018

Sessions	Monday, 19 February	Tuesday, 20 February	Wednesday, 21 February	Thursday, 22 February	Friday, 23 February
9:00 10:30	Opening Session Welcome statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rt. Hon Patricia Scotland, Secretary General - Commonwealth Secretariat Representative of the Government of Fiji Guest Speakers - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Konai Thaman, University of the South Pacific Susan Hoggood, President, Education International Student representative 	Parallel Sessions Teachers' Group Higher Education Group Students' Group Civil Society Organisations	Session 5 Accountability in Education: Who should answer to whom? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of UNESCO's 2017/18 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report Panel discussion - Perspectives from Students, Teachers, Higher Education, Civil Society and Business 	Session 9 IPF Statement to Ministers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation, discussion and adoption of draft IPF joint statement to ministers 	Commonwealth Students Association Meeting (CSAM) Ministerial Meetings
Tea Break	Tea/Coffee	Tea/Coffee	Tea/Coffee	Tea/Coffee	Tea/Coffee
11:00 12:30	Session 2 Defining Inclusive & Quality Education for Sustainability and Resilience in the Commonwealth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactive Panel Discussion Perspectives from Students, Teachers, Higher Education, Civil Society and Business 	Teachers' Group Higher Education Group Students' Group Civil Society Organisations	Session 6 Addressing Equity and Fairness in the Commonwealth: Who are we leaving behind? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations from marginalised groups followed by World Café discussions 	Concluding Meetings for each of the individual IPF partners Ministerial Meeting - Presentation of IPF Statement	Commonwealth Students Association Meeting (CSAM) Ministerial Meetings
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
14:00 15:30	Session 3 Parallel breakout sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financing Education: Who Should Pay and How? From Cradle to Grave: How can education systems respond to the need for lifelong learning? Culture, gender and education: sustainability and resilience 	Teachers' Group Higher Education Group Students' Group Civil Society Organisations	Session 7 Reflecting on Resilience & Sustainability and areas for Commonwealth action through strengthened partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Café discussions and working groups reflecting on the implications for resilience & sustainability of sessions 1-6 	Commonwealth Students Association Meeting (CSAM) Ministerial Roundtables	Commonwealth Students Association Meeting (CSAM) Ministerial Meetings
Tea Break	Tea/Coffee	Tea/Coffee	Tea/Coffee	Tea/Coffee	Tea/Coffee
16:00 17:30	Session 4 Debate - "Education has failed Students and Business on Employability" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For: Business Association and Commonwealth Student Against: Commonwealth Vice-Chancellor and Commonwealth Teacher 	Official Opening Ceremony Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers	Session 8 Can Education Deliver? - Towards a Commonwealth Agenda for Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roundtable reflecting on the implications for Commonwealth governments and nongovernmental actors of sessions 1-6 	Commonwealth Students Association Meeting (CSAM) Plenary Ministerial Meeting	Commonwealth Students Association Meeting (CSAM) Closing of Ministerial Meeting and 20CCBA Declaration issued
Evening	Free	Welcome cocktail hosted by the Prime Minister of Fiji	Dinner hosted by the Minister of Education - Fiji	S-G's Reception	Free