



CHOGM 2022, KIGALI, RWANDA, OFFICIAL SIDE EVENT PROGRAMME FOCUSED ON THE CALL TO ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

BACKGROUND

With 70% of global carbon emissions attributable to cities and Commonwealth countries forecast to account for nearly 50% of the growth in cities to 2050, urbanisation is a defining issue for Commonwealth leaders.

Member states, both large and small, are already facing the impacts of climate change and rapid urbanisation, while the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded these impacts, resulting in one of the worst global health and economic shocks of recent times.

Responding to these challenges, Commonwealth partners including the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the Commonwealth Association of Architects, the Commonwealth Association of Planners and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda and The Prince's Foundation, have come together to issue a Call to Action on Sustainable Urbanisation across the Commonwealth, to advance sustainable urbanisation in the Commonwealth through the Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Initiative.

The Call to Action promotes collaborative partnerships, leveraging inter-governmental, associated, and accredited Commonwealth organisations, with dedicated resources to support sustainable urbanisation that is anchored in core Commonwealth values, specifically:

- To bring a greater focus on enabling sustainable urbanisation in Commonwealth policy making,
- To develop a Commonwealth dialogue to define and implement a new way of working across our respective networks towards multi-level governance and sustainable urbanisation.
- To deliver a Commonwealth initiative of practical action to support sustainable cities and human settlements across the Commonwealth to respond to the Call to Action and to play their full role in achieving the SDGs.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SIDE EVENT

The Side Event provides an important opportunity to convene key Commonwealth stakeholders, to present the Call to Action, share good practice and explore opportunities to mobilise the Commonwealth, to identify priorities and actions to advance the Call to Action at the CHOGM and beyond. Expected outputs include:

- A shared understanding and vision for the Call to Action on Sustainable Urbanisation across the Commonwealth
- Recommendations and key messages that support the ambitions of the Call to Action
- Agreement and announcement of commitments to practical action
- The beginning of an inclusive Commonwealth dialogue towards accelerating collaborative action across the Commonwealth that addresses the sustainable urbanisation agenda.

The Side Event will directly contribute to the overarching CHOGM theme of '*Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming*' and will complement the work being undertaken in other forums. People are at the heart of the Commonwealth agenda and this event will focus on approaches that ensure citizens are at the heart of making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Recognising the reality that 60% of the Commonwealth population is under 30 there will be a particular focus on integrating the voices of young leaders and professionals into the dialogue. This interactive programme will provide a natural segue into the closing segment of the Business Forum on Thursday 23 June, which is being organised by the Rwanda Development Board, supported by the Commonwealth Enterprise & Investment Council.

**A CALL TO ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH
OFFICIAL SIDE EVENT PROGRAMME**

DAY 1, Tuesday 21 June: Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Official Side Event

Venue: Ubumwe Grande Hotel, Kigali (Online registration will open shortly)

Time	Session
09:00	Welcome & introduction
09:15	Background to the Call to Action
09:30	Panel 1, Leaving no-one behind ('People') <i>Moderated Panel Discussion followed by Case Study</i> With 95% of the projected growth in cities to 2050 forecast to take place in Africa and Asia and over 60% of the urban population in sub-Saharan Africa already living in slums and informal settlements, how will Commonwealth partners come together to engage with the challenge of rapid urbanisation, leaving no one and no place behind? This session will consider these issues with particular reference to responsive and inclusive planning and provision of basic services, affordable housing for all, and the importance of multi-level action to meet critical needs and leave no one behind. Case Study 1, Green City Kigali – TBC
10:45	Coffee and networking
11:15	Panel 2, Accelerating Climate Action ('Planet') <i>Moderated Panel Discussion followed by Case Study</i> With 70% of global carbon emissions attributable to cities, 95% of the world's cities most affected by climate change and considered at extreme risk situated in Africa and Asia and SIDS particularly affected by climate change, how will Commonwealth partners work collaboratively to deliver development that achieves climate objectives while creating communities which are safe and resilient? This session will consider integrating the urban dimension to these approaches with particular reference to the provision of accelerating climate action and advancing resilience, and profile actions and initiatives proposed / emerging to meet these critical needs. Case Study 2 – TBC
12:30	Discussion and Summing-up
13:00	Lunch and networking
14:00	Panel 3, Closing the gaps: Data, Evidence & Policy. <i>Moderated Panel Discussion plus breakout workshops</i> The effective planning and management of rapidly urbanising cities and human settlements requires sound, evidence-based policies underpinned by good governance and informed by reliable data. In this session, participants will be invited to consider how Commonwealth partners can work together to collect data, share good practice, use new technology, and develop scalable solutions to better support city leadership and the role of universities and other partners. This session will consider these issues with particular reference to, and profile actions and initiatives proposed / emerging to meet these critical needs
14:45	Breakout 1
15:15	Feedback & Discussion
15:45	Panel 4, Closing the gaps: Addressing the Capacity Gap. <i>Moderated Panel Discussion plus breakouts</i> Recent surveys and the consultations that led to the Call to Action highlight a critical lack of professional and leadership capacity in many of the Commonwealth countries which are urbanising most rapidly and are among the most vulnerable to climate change impacts, especially secondary cities. In this session, participants will be invited to consider the different ways in which Commonwealth partners can come together to address the capacity gap. This session will consider these issues with particular reference to understanding and addressing capacity gaps, enabling policy and legislation, institutional and professional development, strengthening career opportunities, training and skills development; and a focus on the changes and partnerships required to improve the ability of cities to deliver.
16:30	Breakout 2
17:00	Feedback & Discussion
17:30	Summing up & Close of Day 1
18:30 to 20:00	Networking Reception (Rooftop restaurant, Ubumwe Grande Hotel)

**A CALL TO ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH
OFFICIAL SIDE EVENT PROGRAMME**

DAY 2, Wednesday 22 June: Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Official Side Event

Venue: To be confirmed (Invitation only)

Time	Session
16:00	Welcome
16:15	Background to the Call to Action & Keynote Opening Speech
16:30	Panel 1, Empowering Cities to Deliver, <i>High-level Moderated Panel Discussion (3 x Ministers and City Leaders)</i> This panel will focus on the need for multi-level and multi-sectoral cooperation to achieve sustainable urbanisation – what has to change to make this a reality and how could the Commonwealth network support more integrated development?
17:00	Panel 2, Cities as Centres of Economic Growth (Securing Long Term Finance) <i>High-level Moderated Panel Discussion (3 x Ministers and City Leaders)</i> This panel will focus on the importance of economic development and opportunity in cities, and strategies to ensure more sustainable and long-term access to resources for inclusive urban development. Local taxation and own source revenue mobilisation are critical, but this must be reinforced with private sector investment – what will this mean for governments, cities and citizens in the future?
17:30	Summing up & Close of Day 2

DAY 3, Thursday 23 June: Commonwealth Business Forum (Final Day)

Venue: Kigali Cultural Village (See: <https://www.chogm2022.rw/CBF/> for registration details)

Time	Session
09:45	The 'Call to Action' Coalition Presentation
10:00 to 11:00	Future Cities: Sustainable Urbanisation <i>Moderated Panel Discussion</i> The discussions from the Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Side Event will conclude on the 22 June, with the focus then moving to the concluding session of the Commonwealth Business Forum, organised by the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council on behalf of the Rwanda Development Board, for which separate accreditation will be required. For further information about this event, see: https://www.chogm2022.rw/CBF
11:30 to 13:00	Closing Ceremony: A Challenge to the Commonwealth: Towards a Sustainable World

Monday 20 June to Thursday 23 June: Various exhibition spaces plus potential site visits / areas of interest for engagements.

Venue: Commonwealth Business Forum (Kigali Cultural Village), and other venues to be confirmed.

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THE CALL TO ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH**

Time	Tuesday 21 June	Wednesday 22 June	Thursday 23 June	Notes
Youth Forum				18-21 June, Intare Arena
Women's Forum				20-21 June, Serena Hotel
People's Forum				21-22 June, M-Hotel
Business Forum				21-23 June, Kigali Cultural Centre
Morning	09:00-17:45 Sustainable Cities Official Side Event Venue: Ubumwe Grande Hotel, 200-person capacity	10:00-13:00 Presidents Roundtable (Architects, Engineers, Planners) Venue: To be confirmed, anticipated capacity 12-18	09:45-11:00 Sustainable Urbanisation High Level Discussion	
			11:15-12:30 A Challenge to the Commonwealth, Towards a Sustainable World Commonwealth Business Forum Venue: Kigali Cultural Village	
Afternoon	16:00-17:45 Sustainable Cities Official Side Event, High Level Segment Venue: To be confirmed, 60- person capacity	14:00-17:30 Site Visits eg SKAT Affordable Housing and African Leadership University	12:30-13:00 Networking Lunch	
			13:30-14:00 Closing Ceremony Commonwealth Business Forum Venue: Kigali Cultural Village	
Evening	18:30—20:00 Networking Reception Venue: Ubumwe Grande Hotel	18:30-Late Gala Dinner Commonwealth Business Forum		
		18:30-Late Public Lectures eg RICA and Green City Kigali Venue: Car-Free Zone		