



COMMONWEALTH WOMEN'S NETWORK-CWN

The longest established Commonwealth Accredited Organisation, recognised by Commonwealth Secretariat focused on Gender Equality.

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CWN2024 Sierra Leone Conference Report

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Brief History of CWN

The Commonwealth women's network - CWN) is an Accredited Organizations by the Commonwealth Secretariat, recognized by Commonwealth Foundation and approved by Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting as a Commonwealth organization.

The CWN was created by HRM QUEEN ELIZABETH II Head of States of UK, North Ireland and Head of the Commonwealth with the first name Commonwealth Women's NGO's.

The Commonwealth Women's Network (CWN) brings together women and gender focused Civil Societies Organizations from around the Commonwealth.

Also, business, Entrepreneurs, organizations to empower the participation of Women, their organization and Men to enable discussion and proposals to prepare the United Nations Beijing gender mechanism and plan of actions on gender and women's across the Commonwealth member's states. The organization after the UN conference on women's and gender policy change the name and became the Commonwealth women's network.

After serious consultation with civil society's organizations and private sectors of the Commonwealth, CWN was approved by the Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting as a leading Commonwealth organization to implement commonwealth gender policy.

CWN mobilizes greater investment in gender equality and women's empowerment. It works to ensure women and girls reach their full potential develop their leadership skills to create gender balance in all decision-making spheres. CWN's agenda covers women's rights, remove stereotypical roles of women, and promotes economic independence to eradicate poverty and works for a society free of violence among other issues.

The Commonwealth of Nations is an association of 56 independent and equal countries working together in achieving their common goal for prosperity, democracy and peace. Supporting these objectives on ground is an agreement by Head of Governments and the Commonwealth Secretariat to provide accreditation to organizations in various departments to facilitate the control, implementation and evaluation of the intergovernmental organization of the Commonwealth.

As per the Commonwealth Charter;

The Commonwealth Charter is a document of the values and aspirations which unite the Commonwealth.



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The Commonwealth Charter expresses the commitment of member states to the development of free and democratic societies and the promotion of peace and prosperity to improve the lives of all the people of the Commonwealth.

The charter acknowledges the role of civil society in supporting the goals and values of the Commonwealth.

We the people of the Commonwealth

Recognising that in an era of changing economic circumstances and uncertainty, new trade and economic patterns, unprecedented threats to peace and security, and a surge in popular demands for democracy, human rights and broadened economic opportunities, the potential of and need for the Commonwealth – as a compelling force for good and as an effective network for co-operation and for promoting development – has never been greater

In preview of above points and as stated in the Commonwealth Charter, Commonwealth Women Network uses the Charter strictly as a tool in implementing the Gender Mechanism organization.

We are committed to ensuring that the Commonwealth is an effective association, responsive to members' needs, and capable of addressing the significant global challenges of the future.

We aspire to a Commonwealth that is a strong and respected voice in the world, speaking out on major issues; that strengthens and enlarges its networks; that has a global relevance and profile; and that is devoted to improving the lives of all people of the Commonwealth.



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COMMONWEALTH WOMEN'S NETWORK CONFERENCE CWN2024 SIERRA LEONE

In accordance with the Commonwealth rules and laws, CWN2024 Sierra Leone conference was mandated by the Government of Sierra Leone under the office of the Chief Minister, executed by the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs, organized by Commonwealth Women's Network in collaboration with Commonwealth Business Women Network.

CWN in organizing the conference set up a taskforce to enable brainstorm and conceive the theme in preparation of the conference. Base on the facts of the Board of Governors to relocate the CWN Africa continental office from Cameroon to Sierra Leone and research concerning Commonwealth Sierra Leone Cooperation. The Africa Continental office will be working together with African Commonwealth Countries member states from Sierra Leone.

The various sub theme of the conference was conceived from the past Commonwealth Women's Forum (CWF), Commonwealth Gender Affairs Ministers Meeting and Commonwealth Secretariat Gender Plan of Action.

The conference began with a welcoming address from CWN representative in Sierra Leone, acknowledging the presence of all protocols, international guests, stakeholders, youths and the Government of Sierra Leone. Encouraging the youth to engage in programs organize by the Government and Commonwealth. Participate in training skills programs. Also, wishes a pleasant stay of international delegates in peaceful Sierra Leone.

The Youth Leader in one of the youth leading organization within the country also, elaborated on the role of youths in the promotion of development and to be supported by Commonwealth and the Government of Sierra Leone

The Africa Continental General Director of CWN, during his speech emphasize in aligning the Commonwealth Gender Policies with that of the National Policies, taking in consideration diversity of member countries.

The Executive Director of Commonwealth Business Women Network virtually elaborated on screen two minutes video about CBWN and stating in his virtual speech, the collaboration of CWN, CBWN and SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL in executing the Commonwealth Gender Plan of Action across the Commonwealth. CBWN was established to address issues faced by women in business and to empowerment them.

The opening ceremony was chaired by the Minister of Gender and Children's Affairs of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Minister Dr. Isata Mahoi stated her opening speech;



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The Hon. Minister of Gender and Children's Affairs, Dr. Isata Mahoi, marked a significant milestone in the advancement of women's economic empowerment by attending the Commonwealth Women's Network (CWN) Conference, held in partnership with the Commonwealth Business Women Network (CBWN) and the Government of Sierra Leone. The event, which commenced on May 20th and runs through May 22nd, 2024 at the Family Kingdom in Aberdeen, centers on the theme of entrepreneurship, technology, and economic empowerment for women within Commonwealth nations.

In her opening remarks, Minister Mahoi expressed profound gratitude to all guests and participants for their presence, emphasizing that the gathering symbolizes a robust commitment to gender inclusivity. "This conference underscores the necessity for collaboration and dedication to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment," she stated.

Highlighting the government's unwavering commitment to gender equality, the Minister detailed several pivotal policies and legislative measures designed to empower women. These include the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy 2020, the GEWE Act 2022, the PPRC Act 2022, the Customary Land Right Act 2022, and the Empowerment Act 2023. "These legislative measures are instrumental in paving the way for gender equality and women's empowerment," she asserted, urging for continued collaborative efforts to ensure women can thrive in society.

The conference highlighted in panel sessions the deliberations of points addressed during last Commonwealth Women's Forum (CWF) Rwanda 2022, Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting (CWAMM) in The Bahamas.

Ten panel sessions deliberated in two days, exhibition, cultural displays and Africa Continental General Assembly, the outcome mark the network messages and mission as well transmitted. See attach panel sessions.



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Official Opening of CWN2024 Conference in Sierra Leone by
Minister of Gender and Children's Affairs
Hon. Dr. Isata Mahoi



The Commonwealth Women's Network
Africa Continental Director General
HRH. Prince Tamwo Kuate Edgard
Rostand



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CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

The conference witnesses the coordination by CWN Event Management team;

Taskforce General Supervisors – HRM Prince Tamwo Kuate Edgard Rostand
HRM Queen Beatrice Arimoh Fonkem

Coordinators – Cabinet Director, Director of Event – Mr. Niba Louis N
CWN Sierra Leone representative /Acting Continental Secretary General – Mrs. Sia Jarieu Bayoh Mansour
UK Diaspora Coordinator – Andrew Oke O.

Organising Committee Team

Director of Operations – Mr. Moore Daniel
Head Protocol – Saudatu
Chairperson – Kadijah Hammoud
Public Relation – Dora Tee
Head of Communication / Marketing – Marcus Beddie
Head of Decorations – Mrs. Beulah Michaels

Technical team from the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs;

Minister – Dr. Isata Mahoi
Chief Gender Director – Mr. Charles Vandj
Gender Director – Ms Marian Goodie Sowonie
Assistant Gender Director – Mr. Bamie Joseph Sesay

Technical Team Office of the Chief Minister

Human Capital Development – Mrs. Namisa Kramar
Mr. Kallon Mackmoud

Conference took place at Family Kingdom, 9 Lumley Road, Aberdeen, Freetown, Sierra Leone with attendance of 362 delegates.



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The conference key focus gender areas addressed was as follows;

Women in leadership

The CWN2024 sought to develop a deeper understanding of the diverse and positive impact of women's leadership in Sierra Leone and across the Commonwealth, and to consider what was meant by meaningful leadership when considering more inclusive leadership in theory and practice. Panelists explored the key drivers of change to deliver more women in positions of power and appreciated how times of crisis and emergency had highlighted the importance of a diversity of perspective in leadership. To achieve such diversity and inclusion, it was important to provide 12 years quality education to all girls, including girls and women of all ages. They reflected on the importance of enabling more women, especially young women to gain political leadership at all levels of government at this critical time. Panelists also looked to challenge preconceptions inherent in the debate around equal representation and diversity versus merit. The importance of data collection, enabling legislation, promotion of women's emancipation, financial freedom and economic empowerment were also highlighted. Removing barriers to women's effective participation in decision-making roles and ensuring the full autonomy of women and girls – many women and girls were unable to make decisions that directly affected their bodies – remained crucial.

Women's economic empowerment

Women's economic empowerment in a time when the economic crises affecting women and young girls, global events and the energy crisis was continuing to emerge was a key concern for the CWN2024. The session reflected a strong commitment to entrepreneurship and gender-responsive trade as a means of increasing and embedding economic empowerment, and recognized the vital role small businesses played in creating job growth in existing and emerging sectors (for example, Soft Loans, Fin-Tech and Capacity building) in member countries. The role of high-quality education, financial freedom – especially for women entrepreneurs in the informal economy – and equal distribution of care and housework between men and women of all ages were also highlighted as enablers of women's economic empowerment. Furthermore, addressing violence against women and girls was identified as a key precondition to women's economic empowerment.



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KOIDU LTD, West Africa Giant Mining Company on panel session deliberation on community development impact.

Ending violence against women and girls

When rape, killing of women and girls across the world, panelists brought up concern of governments to take measures, while necessary from the point of view of the management and mitigation of risks related to the gender violence, also gave rise to concerns over the safety of women and girls. This incidence rates of violence against women and girls (VAWG) combined with reduction of prevention and protection efforts – were predicted to cut global progress towards ending VAWG within this decade by at least one-third. Against this backdrop, the CWN2024 considered ways in which member countries were engaging men and boys, and the innovative use of data in addressing VAWG, which in turn helped improve health outcomes for women and girls and reduced harm to communities and societies at large. The work on ending VAWG was seen to begin with addressing harmful patriarchal norms, and dismantling gender stereotypes through education and awareness-raising campaigns. It also involved embracing feminist and intersectional approaches to development and service provision, particularly for women with disabilities who face extremely high risk of violence. Sustainable, dedicated funding to those working on preventing and ending VAWG, including to women's grassroots organizations, was recognized as fundamental to achieving gender empowerment and equality. Engaging men and boys in addressing this challenge begins with reflecting on power and privilege and listening to the voices of survivors; for initiatives engaging men and boys to be effective, they must be accountable to those survivors. Another key consideration was the



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availability of good quality, comparable and disaggregated data. Initiatives such as the economic costing of VAWG had helped governments and other key stakeholders understand the cost of inaction on VAWG. Sound data would also help with designing, implementing and monitoring initiatives to end VAWG.



Rokel Commercial Bank on panel deliberation to address Gender Base Violence issues face by women in business

Gender and climate change

The CWN2024 explored the intersection of climate change and gender, highlighting the need to include and promote women as vital change makers and ensure their seat at the policy and decision-making table. It highlighted the fact that climate change disproportionately affected women and girls. The urban poor were particularly vulnerable and political leaders needed to listen to local communities and ensure that they were involved in adaptation and mitigation and not further marginalized. Panelists emphasized the importance of gender responsive funding when looking at the intersection of gender and climate change, and discussed the specific effects that could be achieved by including and promoting more women's voices at the policy-making table when working on disaster risk management and resilience. The CWN2024 noted the importance of committing to innovation, invention and modernization at all levels, and encouraged attending legislators and policy-makers to identify and eradicate discriminatory laws. Recognizing that women and girls are not only particularly affected by climate change, but also experts and agents of change, there is a need to garner commitments for gender-responsive



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solutions and to provide sustainable gender-responsive funding, especially to grassroots organizations that increased the resilience of women and girls and other vulnerable groups. Climate change is a human rights, justice and health issue. It is therefore important to ensure provision of climate change-resilient health systems, including provision of sexual health services. For climate change initiatives to be transformative, they had to recognize the specific needs of girls and women through their life course.

Accountability for gender equality

Delegates at the CWN2024 examined the progress made in establishing accountability mechanisms for gender equality in all spheres of government, including the executive, legislature and the judiciary. They also examined ways in which national human rights institutions, human rights defenders and multilateral institutions could assist governments in ensuring they met their international and regional human rights goals. Delegates noted the barriers to holding governments accountable for their gender equality goals, specifically the persistent gaps in credible and accurate disaggregated data in relation to women's empowerment in all spheres. Delegates highlighted the need for an inclusive and intersectional approach to gender accountability mechanisms, considering disability, age, sexual orientation and gender identity. While there had been notable developments in certain sectors, women's economic empowerment appeared to have declined. Many countries had experienced similar challenges and the forum observed that these examples should be shared across the Commonwealth. Government, civil society organizations, parliaments and multilateral organizations should work more collaboratively for the creation of a credible disaggregated dataset for women's empowerment and gender equality. There is also a need to use existing accountability mechanisms (including those of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women [CEDAW], the Universal Periodic Review [UPR] and the Generation Equality Forums [GEF]) more efficiently, and to feed the outcome of these processes into a central Commonwealth database.

Human capital development

The lessons learned across the Commonwealth from the impact of gender violence on the ability of women to work, progress in their careers, and to access education and coping mechanisms were a focus as the CWN2024 discussed how digital technology continued to impact human capital development. Lessons in remote working and supportive employer practices, access to education and the impact on the careers of women needed to be shared and used to improve institutional and national practices. The barriers to human capital development in a digital world



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could be addressed through inclusive and collaborative approaches, and the CWN2024 considered a wide range of perspectives during this session. Information and communications technology (ICT) could complement and enhance education and facilitate effective professional collaboration. However, to ensure that women and girls could benefit from opportunities afforded by ICT, there was a need for comprehensive education in both formal and informal settings. Private–public co-operation was necessary – not only to tackle online harassment and cyber bullying directed at women and girls, but also to increase technological literacy and affordable internet access and ICT equipment. Gender stereotypes that prevent women and girls from utilizing ICT should be addressed.

Peace in the Commonwealth

Inclusive and gender-sensitive conflict prevention and peace building were reported to be critical to sustainable development, and women's meaningful participation in peace and security processes was imperative to create lasting peace. This included the elevation of women in civil society, peacekeeping, business and diplomacy, and as human rights defenders and peace builders. Women's effective participation should include in all aspects of programme design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. The CWN2024 noted that the women, peace and security agenda had received increased attention since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and progress was being made – but more remained to be done. Women remained chronically underrepresented in conflict prevention and preventative diplomacy and in funding and decision-making relating to security, conflict resolution and peace building because of violence, intimidation and other systemic barriers. Women and girls were also at increased risk from global emergencies such as climate change, conflict and extremism.



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Commonwealth Women's Network 2024 Conference Sierra Leone Family Photo



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SHORTCOMINGS

Following however the successful holding of the conference from the 20th -22nd May 2024, some shortcomings were registered which we would like to mention below.

Government support

In as much as the Minister of Gender and Children's Affairs together with her team were present to open the conference which we hold in high esteem, the total support from the Government was lacking, such as financial and material support.

In accordance with July 1964 agreement and revised in 2022 stating that Commonwealth Prime Ministers report on matters of major international fora and event, Government are expected to contribute totally in support to all Accredited Organization in carrying out activities in their respective.

CWN working as an Accredited Organization, The CWN Board of Governors at African level, operating as the visible servant of the Commonwealth States and intergovernmental associations, the Sierra Leone Government did not understand they have to fund this commonwealth event as well as offering Visa free to delegates, accommodation, hospitality, visa, speakers and presenters, air transport for CWN staff, speakers, presenters.

Due to the lack of total collaboration from the Government, CWN had to endure the financial cost of the conference as per the budget and allowance of Moderators, Presenters, Air tickets, Visa fees, International Guests, Experts and Internal logistics debt of 150,000.00 USD accrued are concerned to be addressed properly to the right quarters of the Republic of Sierra Leone, member of the Commonwealth.

Inadequate participation of Private Sector

Because the Government was lax, the private sector did not come in as expected.

In regard to the above laxity, we would like to propose the way forward due to the fact that, the Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting (CHOGM) coming up in October 2024 in Samoa, we would like the Government to work with us in preparing a delegation from Sierra Leone to attend all the forums, Youth, Women, People and Business.



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WAY FORWARD

As stated in 2022 Further Revised Agreed Memorandum of Governance Arrangements and Annexes.

Following the above statement, we stand by this revised Memorandum which states that, Under International Affairs (16), The Chair-in-Office will continue to work and consult closely with the Secretary General in support of his/her Good Offices role, in efforts to promote and advocate the collective interests of the Commonwealth in other regional and international fora, and in encouraging the delivery of outcomes in fulfillment of CHOGM mandates and commitments.

Under International Affairs concerning international fora and event, In line with the principles set out in the Report of the Commonwealth Intergovernmental Committee to Review the Mandates of International Organizations (MIO),– Ministerial Meetings, adopted at the 2005 CHOGM, outcomes with new financial and/or operational implications for the Secretariat from ministerial meetings can only be approved for implementation to be undertaken by the Secretariat after appropriate budgetary provisions have been identified and allocated by the Executive Committee and approved by the Board of Governors.

Under Economic Affairs (21), In connection with the general economic aspects of the Secretariat's work, the proposals advanced at the 1964 meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers for the initiation of joint Commonwealth Development Projects in individual Commonwealth countries are relevant.

The passage from the 1964 communiqué read: 'In particular they considered a proposal that development projects might be launched in individual Commonwealth countries, which would be implemented by various members acting in close collaboration and contributing whatever resources in men, money, materials, and technical expertise they could most appropriately provide.

Such projects, which would be additional to the support which Commonwealth countries already provide to the United Nations Special Fund and Expanded Program of Technical Assistance, could be directed to a number of different purposes - the improvement of agricultural production and the development of natural resources through extension services, training and research; the enlargement of professional and technical training; the development of new industries; and so



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forth. But they would all be inspired by the common purpose of promoting the development of the Commonwealth by a coordinated program of joint or bilateral projects.

The other member Governments expressed support for the objective of the proposal and agreed that further consideration should be given to the basis on which such a program might be established.'

We propose a Commonwealth Women's Network finance mechanism (Commonwealth Financial Network) an initiative of the network to support public and private sector; we would like the Government of Sierra Leone to partner with us in this endeavor in order to improve and regulate financial management across the Commonwealth Community and beyond.

We would like the Government of Sierra Leone to support the relocation of CWN continental headquarter from Cameroon to Sierra Leone in order to promote partnerships and knowledge sharing at different levels of governance to accelerate learning for sustainability, opening of a bilingual nursery-primary-secondary-Adult school, handicap and vocational training centers for the benefit of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Use gender impact assessments to aid gender mainstreaming and explain gender differentiated impacts of trade policies, reactivate the **Commonwealth Public Procurement Network (CPPN)**.

We recognize the important role that civil society plays in our communities and countries as partners in promoting and supporting Commonwealth values and principles, including the freedom of association and peaceful assembly and in achieving development goals.

We are committed to ensuring that the Commonwealth is an effective association, responsive to members' needs and capable of addressing the significant global challenges of the future. Together with the Government, we aspire to have a strong and respected voice in the world, speaking out on major issues that strengthens and enlarges our networks, have a global relevance and profile, and that is devoted to improving the lives of all peoples of the Commonwealth.

We recognize that gender equality and women's empowerment are essential components of human development and basic human rights. Let's promote advancement of women's rights and the education of girls which are critical preconditions for effective and sustainable development.



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We recognize the positive and active role and contributions of young people in promoting development, peace, democracy and in protecting and promoting other Commonwealth values, such as tolerance and understanding, including respect for other cultures.

The future success of the Commonwealth rests with the continued commitment and contributions of young people in promoting and sustaining the Commonwealth and its values and principles, and we commit to investing in and promoting their development, particularly through the creation of opportunities for youth employment and entrepreneurship

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS

5. All Commonwealth accredited organizations have continuing responsibilities, to maintain the credibility that was exhibited at the initial application stage and to operate within the spirit and values of the Commonwealth Charter, thus to receive financial support and aid from commonwealth countries, governmental none commonwealth aids bodies, international financial institutions and aid foundations.

COMMONWEALTH ACCREDITED ORGANISATIONS (AOs)

ORGANISATIONS MUST;

5.1 Promote and protect the good name of the Commonwealth

5.1.1 Accredited Organizations must promote the good name of the Commonwealth in their operations in Commonwealth countries and protect it from illegitimate use.

5.2 Contribute to the high reputation of the Commonwealth

5.2.1 Accredited Organizations must maintain the Commonwealth brand identity by aligning their values with the values set out in the Commonwealth Charter.

5.3 Implement and Promote Commonwealth Values and principles

5.3.1 Accredited Organizations must actively demonstrate how they promote Commonwealth values and principles through their activities, events, publications and conduct in accordance with the Commonwealth Charter.

5.4 Conduct themselves with integrity and to high professional standards



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5.4.1 Accredited Organizations must keep the commitments they make upon gaining accreditation and achieve these by practicing high standards of professionalism.

5.5 Submit annual activity reports and financial expenditure in the Commonwealth

5.5.1 Accredited Organizations must report their annual activities including financial expenditure in the Commonwealth as set out in Chapters B and E.

5.6 Notify the Secretariat of any significant changes in the organization

5.6.1 Accredited Organizations must inform the Secretariat of any significant changes in governance structure, memberships, as well as Commonwealth countries where they have ceased operation or no longer have a physical presence.

5.7 Provide the Secretariat with a focal point of contact

5.7.1 Accredited Organizations must provide the Secretariat with a focal point of contact to whom correspondence and enquiries will be directed.

5.8 Respond to requests for information from the Secretariat

5.8.1 Organizations must respond promptly to any requests for information from the Cabinet Director of CWN. Chapter E: Conferral of Accreditation and Annual Activity Reporting

FURTHER REVISED AGREED MEMORANDUM ON THE COMMONWEALTH WOMENS NETWORK.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OFFICES

1. Pursuant to their decision announced after the conclusion of the Commonwealth Prime Minister's Meeting the Commonwealth Prime Ministers have decided to establish forthwith a COMMONWEALTH WOMENS NETWORK. (Thereafter "the Secretariat").
2. SITE OF THE SECRETARIAT.

The Commonwealth Governments will arrange for the Secretariat to be accommodated in host countries.



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FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH WOMEN'S NETWORK.

3. The Commonwealth Heads of Government gave further consideration to the role of the COMMONWEALTH WOMENS NETWORK., and the following paragraphs record the functions which they agreed it should perform.

4. The Directorate General alongside the Board of Governors' and Secretariat staff should approach their task bearing in mind that the Commonwealth is an association which enables countries in different regions of the world, consisting of a variety of peoples and representing a number of interests and points of view, to exchange opinions in a friendly, informal and intimate atmosphere. The organization and functions of Board of Governors' should be so designed as to assist in supporting and building on these fundamental elements in the Commonwealth association. At the same time the Commonwealth is not a formal organization. It does not encroach on the sovereignty of individual members. Nor does it require its members to seek to reach collective decisions or to take united action. Experience has proved that there are advantages in such informality. It enables its members to adapt their procedures to meet changing circumstances; conversely there would be disadvantages in establishing too formal procedures and institutions in the association.

5. The Board of Governors' has an important role in ensuring the most effective possible coordination of Commonwealth activity, which is conducted by Commonwealth member countries, by the Board of Governors' itself, by the Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth of Learning, and by accredited Commonwealth organizations.

6. The Board of Governors' should work to improve collaboration and partnership with other Commonwealth organizations (both intergovernmental and accredited). It should take careful note of the High Level Group's findings on collaboration and partnership with accredited organizations and it should address those findings through thorough implementation, and regular review, of its Partnerships Strategy. Commonwealth organizations should have regular access to the Secretariat and to the Board of Governors and vice versa. The Board of Governors' should, where appropriate, involve relevant Commonwealth organizations at an early stage in its strategic planning processes, and in the preparation of Commonwealth Ministerial meetings. It should actively partner with Commonwealth organizations and member countries to encourage collaboration in pursuit of particular Commonwealth priorities. It should increase the opportunities for collaboration by collating and disseminating online information about the activities of Commonwealth organizations and member countries, and through the provision of office in commonwealth countries, where possible.



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GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. Both the Continental Secretary-General and Board of Governors' staff should be seen to be the servants of the Commonwealth countries collectively. They derive their functions from the authority of Commonwealth Heads of Government; and in the discharge of his/her responsibilities in this connection, the Secretary-General should have access to Heads of Government, who will indicate the appropriate channels of communication to them.

8. The Board of Governors' should not arrogate to itself executive functions. At the same time, it should have, and develop, a relationship with other intra-Commonwealth bodies.

9. The Board of Governors' should have a constructive role to play. At the same time, it should operate initially on a modest footing; and its staff and functions should be left to expand pragmatically in the light of experience, subject always to the approval of Governments.

10. Against this background and in the expectation that, as its contacts spread, the Board of Governors' could expect to receive increasing calls on its resources, the various functions which it will exercise fall under the following broad headings: international affairs, economic affairs and general and administrative functions.

In accordance with official commission, the continental secretary general and the newly appointed president of CWN Sierra Leone was presented to delegates at African Continental General Assembly, while waiting official commissioning and installation.

Find attach photos of the Commonwealth Women's Network activities.

CONCLUSION

With regards to the above points, to conclude on the value and benefits of Commonwealth opportunities, the Republic of Sierra Leone long standing member benefits can be address by the activities promoted by Commonwealth Women Network, Accredited Organization of the Commonwealth. While other regulations of binding the installation of the Continental office in Sierra Leone will be addressed in another file.



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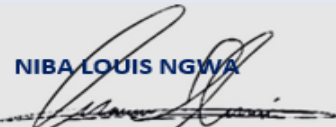




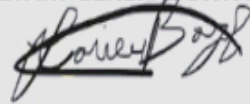
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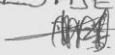
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Signatures


NIBA LOUIS NGWA
CABINET DIRECTOR
CWN AFRICA

Ms SIA JARIEU BAYOH MORSAY
SECRETARY GENERAL CWN AFRICA



BOARD OF GOVERNORS
PRESIDENT

PRINCE TAMWO KUATE
EDGARD ROSTAND



CWN CHAIR
Mrs. NELCIA MARSHALL ROBINSON

The Minister of Gender and Children's Affairs

Chief Minister

The President,
Republic of Sierra Leone