

**PROPOSED CGPMG MEMBERSHIP ROTATION**

CURRENT COMPOSITION OF CGPMG FROM FEB 2007	MEMBERS TO BE ROTATED OUT IN FEB 2008	NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN CGPMG IN FEB 2008	NEW COMPOSITION OF CGPMG FROM FEB 2008
<p><b>Africa/Europe</b></p> <p>Botswana, Cameroon, Uganda and United Kingdom</p>	<p>Uganda United Kingdom</p>	<p>Cyprus Ghana</p>	<p>Botswana, Cameroon, Cyprus and Ghana</p>
<p><b>Asia</b></p> <p>India, Sri Lanka; Bangladesh and Brunei Darussalam</p>	<p>India Sri Lanka</p>	<p>Maldives Singapore</p>	<p>Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Maldives and Singapore</p>
<p><b>Caribbean/Canada</b></p> <p>Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis; Antigua and Barbuda and The Bahamas</p>	<p>Jamaica St Kitts and Nevis</p>	<p>Barbados Belize</p>	<p>Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, The Bahamas and Belize</p>
<p><b>Pacific</b></p> <p>Australia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa</p>	<p>Australia Kiribati</p>	<p>Solomon Islands Tonga</p>	<p>Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga</p>
<p><b>Regional CSOs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Africa/Europe - Women in Law and Development (WILDAF)</li> <li>• Asia – Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA)</li> <li>• Caribbean/Canada - (Development Alternatives With Women for a New Era, DAWN)</li> <li>• Pacific - (Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women - PACFAW)</li> </ul>			<p><i>The new composition of CSOs will be decided by the Commonwealth Foundation.</i></p>

Annex I

## Commonwealth Secretariat

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### Second Meeting of the Commonwealth Gender Plan of Action Monitoring Group

Helmsley Hotel, 212 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York  
Saturday 24 February 2007

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#### PROPOSAL FOR MEMBERSHIP ROTATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH GENDER POA MONITORING GROUP

##### BACKGROUND

The Commonwealth Gender PoA Monitoring Group (CGPMG) was established in 2005 to function as a mechanism for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the PoA in order to strengthen its implementation. The CGPMG currently comprises the following members:

**Africa:** The Gambia, Uganda, South Africa;

**Asia:** India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka;

**Caribbean/Canada:** Canada, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis;

**Europe:** Malta, United Kingdom;

**Pacific:** Australia, Kiribati, New Zealand;

**Civil Society:**

- Africa- Women in Law and Development (WILDAF)
- Asia – National Committee on Women
- Caribbean/Canada - Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA)
- Europe - National Council of Women of Malta
- Pacific - Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women (PACFAW)

According to the terms of reference for the group (annex 1), membership should be rotated biennially with one member per region rotating out after the first year. Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand offered to rotate out from 2006. The regional caucuses held at the Consultation of National Women's Machineries on 26 February 2006 were tasked to finalise the decision as to which members would be rotated out and which new members would be selected to the group. However, due to time constraints the caucuses were unable to propose the new composition of the CGPMG at the New York meetings in February 2006.

In consultation with the Chair of the CGPMG, the Secretariat advised that the current CGPMG, comprising the members listed above, should continue in its role until the new group could be constituted at the next Consultation of NWMs to be held on 24 & 25 February 2007 in New York.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Secretariat is proposing that the rotation and selection of new members to the CGPMG be done alphabetically and following the new guidelines for CGPMG membership (annex II) adopted at the Consultation of NWMs in 2006 in New York.

## **RATIONALE**

The main reasons for this proposal are as follows:

- Decisions were not made in 2006 in New York on rotation of the CGPMG and there is need to have agreement by member countries on the composition of the new group;
- The current CGPMG has been requested to advise on the draft Terms of Reference for the Commonwealth Working Group on Gender, Peace and Security. It is therefore critical to maintain continuity until the new CGPMG is constituted in 2007; and
- Using an alphabetical basis for rotation of members would ensure objectivity in selection of new members to the CGPMG annually.

## Annex II

## PROPOSED CGPMG MEMBERSHIP ROTATION

CURRENT COMPOSITION OF CGPMG FROM FEB 2006-FEB 2007	MEMBERS TO BE ROTATED OUT IN FEB 2007	NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN CGPMG IN FEB 2007	NEW COMPOSITION OF CGPMG FROM FEB 2007
<p><b>Africa/Europe</b> The Gambia, Uganda, South Africa; Malta, United Kingdom</p> <p><b>Asia</b> India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka</p> <p><b>Caribbean/Canada</b> Canada, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis</p> <p><b>Pacific</b> Australia, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, New Zealand;</p> <p><b>Regional CSOs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Africa- Women in Law and Development (WILDAF)</li> <li>• Asia – National Committee on Women</li> <li>• Caribbean/Canada - (Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action, CAFRA)</li> <li>• Europe - (National Council of Women of Malta)</li> <li>• Pacific - (Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women - PACFAW)</li> </ul>	<p>The Gambia, South Africa &amp; Malta*</p> <p>Malaysia**</p> <p>Canada**</p> <p>New Zealand** Fiji Islands (suspended from the Commonwealth)</p>	<p>Botswana &amp; Cameroon</p> <p>Bangladesh &amp; Brunei Darussalam</p> <p>Antigua &amp; Barbuda and The Bahamas</p> <p>Papua New Guinea &amp; Samoa</p>	<p>Botswana, Cameroon; Uganda &amp; United Kingdom</p> <p>India, Sri Lanka; Bangladesh &amp; Brunei Darussalam</p> <p>Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis; Antigua and Barbuda &amp; The Bahamas</p> <p>Australia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa</p> <p><i>The new composition of CSOs will be decided by the Commonwealth Foundation. There will be four CSO representatives, one from each region</i></p>

The regional alphabetical list of Commonwealth countries is at annex III.

\* In line with the guidelines, the new Africa/Europe group is supposed to include only one member from Europe. Malta is alphabetically before UK hence the decision for Malta to be rotated out.

\*\* Malaysia, Canada and New Zealand volunteered to rotate out of the CGPMG in February 2006.

### **Annex III**

#### **Terms of Reference for the Commonwealth Gender PoA Monitoring Group**

This Terms of Reference for the Commonwealth Gender PoA Monitoring Group was developed through the following process:

- A Draft Terms of Reference for a Commonwealth Gender PoA Monitoring Group was tabled by the Commonwealth Secretariat at the Commonwealth Beijing+10 Meeting, which was referred by Ministers to a specially convened meeting of the Gender Reference Group held in New York on 1 March 2005;
- A Revised Draft Terms of Reference for a Commonwealth PoA Monitoring Group, prepared by the Gender Reference Group on 1 March, was circulated to all Ministers for feedback by 20 May 2005;
- This final Terms of Reference for the Commonwealth Gender PoA Monitoring Group includes feedback received from Ministers.

#### **Background**

The Commonwealth 7WAMM Preparatory Meeting of Heads of National Women's Machineries (NWMs), held in New York on 1-2 March 2003, established a Commonwealth Gender Reference Group (CGRG) to work with the Secretariat to contribute to the development of the new Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005-2015. The Group comprised two to three senior officials and one civil society representative from each of the five Commonwealth regions. The Terms of Reference for the original Commonwealth Gender Reference Group is included below. The Group was co-ordinated by the Commonwealth Secretariat as a virtual network, and has now discharged its full responsibilities.

The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005-2015 states in para. 4.22 (page 57) that "A Commonwealth Gender Reference Group, consisting of a rotating core of NWMs and representatives of CSOs from all the regions, will be established to assist with monitoring, evaluation and reviewing the PoA".

The Beijing+10 Meeting of Commonwealth Ministers, Senior Officials, Civil Society Organisations and Partners held in New York on 27 February 2005 agreed that the Revised Draft Terms of Reference for the new Commonwealth Gender Reference Group mandated by the PoA 2005-2015 (henceforth to be called the Commonwealth Gender PoA Monitoring Group (CGPMG)), should be developed by a specially convened meeting (1 March 2005) of the members of the original Commonwealth Gender Reference Group and be sent to member countries for feedback within 30 days.

#### **Terms of Reference for the Commonwealth PoA Monitoring Group (CGPMG)**

1. The responsibilities of the Commonwealth Gender PoA Monitoring Group are as follows:
  - (i) To provide advice to the Commonwealth Secretariat on the development of PoA indicators;

- (ii) To identify the most appropriate monitoring and evaluation framework to:
    - (a) meet the requirements of para. 4.19 of the PoA in harmonising the Secretariat's report on the PoA with CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action processes, the MDGs and targets, and UNSCR1325 in order to reduce the burden of reporting on NWMs and to avoid duplication; and
    - (b) ensure effective implementation of the Plan of Action;
  - (iii) To provide advice to the Commonwealth Secretariat on the mid-term review of the PoA in 2010 and updates as required, as well as the next steps beyond the current tenure of the PoA which ends in 2015; and
  - (iv) To consider any issue that may be referred to it by Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs, related to the implementation of the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005-2015 and, work with the Secretariat, as necessary to develop Terms of Reference, including membership, for the Commonwealth Working Group on UNSCR 1325.
2. The CPMG will be a virtual group, but will meet in conjunction with meetings of Commonwealth Heads of NWMs in the wings of CSW in New York, as required. The CGPMG will be co-ordinated by the Commonwealth Secretariat.
3. The members of the CGPMG will initially comprise members of the original Commonwealth Gender Reference Group, as well as Australia:
  - **Africa:** The Gambia, Uganda, South Africa;
  - **Asia:** India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka;
  - **Caribbean/Canada:** Canada, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis;
  - **Europe:** Malta, United Kingdom;
  - **Pacific:** Australia, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, New Zealand;
  - **Civil Society:** Commonwealth Foundation and one civil society representative from each region (Africa, Asia, Caribbean/Canada, Europe and Pacific).
4. Membership of the Commonwealth PoA Monitoring Group will be rotated biennially, with one member per region rotating out after the first year. The decision as to which member from each region would be rotated out after the first year will be taken at the first meeting of the CGPMG to be held in the wings of the 50th Session of the CSW in New York in February/March 2006. Volunteers for this rotation in advance of the meeting would be welcomed.

**Annex IV**

**GUIDELINES FOR ROTATION OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH GENDER POA MONITORING GROUP**

1. Constitution of the CGPMG
  - 4 regions (Africa/Europe; Asia; Caribbean/Canada; Australia/Pacific)
  - Each region has 4 members with balanced representation from different sub-regions
  - CSOs will have 4 members, one per region
  - Total of 20 members
  
2. Rotation of Membership
  - 2 year term per member
  - 2 members from each region rotated out annually
  - 2 new members nominated in regional caucuses of annual Commonwealth New York meeting
  - Countries will normally have maximum of 2 terms until 2015
  - CSO nomination and rotation managed by Commonwealth Foundation
  - Chair decided annually by CGPMG; maximum of 2 terms

**Annex V**

**ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF  
COMMONWEALTH MEMBER COUNTRIES BY REGION**

<b>AFRICA/EUROPE</b>	<b>ASIA</b>	<b>CARIBBEAN/CANADA</b>	<b>PACIFIC</b>
<p><b>Africa</b> Botswana Cameroon The Gambia Ghana Kenya Lesotho Malawi Mauritius Mozambique Namibia Nigeria Seychelles Sierra Leone South Africa Swaziland Uganda United Republic of Tanzania Zambia</p> <p><b>Europe</b> Cyprus Malta United Kingdom</p>	<p>Bangladesh Brunei Darussalam India Malaysia Maldives <i>Pakistan**</i> Singapore Sri Lanka</p>	<p><b>Caribbean</b> Antigua and Barbuda The Bahamas Barbados Belize Dominica Grenada Guyana Jamaica St Kitts and Nevis St Lucia St Vincent and the Grenadines Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p><b>Canada</b></p>	<p>Australia <i>Fiji Islands**</i> Kiribati <i>Nauru*</i> New Zealand Papua New Guinea Samoa Solomon Islands Tonga Tuvalu Vanuatu</p> <p>*Nauru is a special member ** Fiji and Pakistan have been suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth</p>