



## Ninth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting

*"Gender Issues in Economic Crisis, Recovery and Beyond: Women as  
Agents of Transformation"*

Bridgetown, Barbados, 7-9 June 2010

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Session IV

WAMM(10)4

### **GUIDELINES FOR MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLES**

*Paper prepared by the Commonwealth Secretariat*

## FORMAT

1. Three parallel Ministerial Roundtables (Annex 1) form Session IV of the Ministerial Programme. They will take place on Tuesday, 8 June (1545-1730hrs) in the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre.

2. The Ministerial Roundtable format is intended to provide a forum for wider discussion of critical issues around the 9WAMM theme: "**Gender Issues in Economic Crisis, Recovery and Beyond: Women as Agents of Transformation**". They will focus on the following topics:

- **Roundtable 1:** Gender Responsive Investment
- **Roundtable 2:** Economic Crisis and Social Protection: Ensuring Gender-responsive and Sustainable Outcomes
- **Roundtable 3:** Peace, Security and Prosperity: Women's Leadership Roles

3. **Participation:** Each Roundtable will be chaired by a Minister assisted by a member of the Commonwealth Secretariat team and a rapporteur. Ministers/Heads of Delegation will be joined in their discussions by Senior Officials, observers, and representatives from civil society. These representatives may be called upon to contribute to discussions at the invitation of the Chair.

4. The Roundtables will receive short presentations from invited speakers in order to frame and inform the discussions.

5. Each Roundtable will produce a report on its discussions and recommendations to be presented in the Report Back plenary (Agenda Session V) the following day, 9 June, (0900-1050hrs).

6. Delegations are invited to attend the Roundtable discussion of their choice. Large delegations may wish to nominate more than one delegate per Roundtable but only Ministers/Heads of Delegation will sit at the table. It should be noted that attendance at preferred Roundtables will be on a first-come, first-serve basis, with some geographical considerations. Roundtable attendance will be announced and posted at the 9WAMM conference venue.

7. **Attendance Forms:** Delegations are requested to indicate their choice of Roundtable(s) by completing the attached form (Annex 2). The form should be completed and returned in advance to Ms Dorothy Leathley, email: [d.leathley@commonwealth.int](mailto:d.leathley@commonwealth.int) or on arrival in Barbados to the Commonwealth Secretariat office no later than 1230hrs on Monday, 7 June.

## SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSIONS

8. Ministerial Roundtable reports are expected to comment on:

- National and regional experiences
- Specific Case Studies or initiatives, projects and policies
- Global and Commonwealth trends
- Recommendations for policy and action at Secretariat, national, regional and pan-Commonwealth levels.

9. The three Roundtables are invited to explore, inter alia, the following issues:

## **Gender Responsive Investment**

- Innovations in investment finance that promise to bridge market interests with strategic opportunities to create social value that benefits women and markets in Commonwealth countries.
- Coalitions of social impact investors who are prepared to actively use private capital to drive creative solutions to education, health, climate change and poverty.
- Practical experiences of specialist banking services for women and how they contribute to female empowerment and the closure of gender gaps.
- How examples of effective investments in women, public or private, can be aggregated, scaled and replicated for maximum effect.
- Potential of Gender responsive investment to catalyse economic growth and accelerate recovery process.

## **Economic Crisis and Social Protection: Ensuring Gender-responsive and Sustainable Outcomes**

- Relevant frameworks of analyses and assessments of policy frameworks.
- Social protection measures in the formal and informal sectors and an assessment of policy frameworks for social protection in light of the economic crisis.
- Key gender issues in social protection to enhance understanding of current approaches to social protection in the context of the economic downturn and the ensuing global public debt crisis.
- Country experiences in sustaining social protection measures in the current resource-reduced context.
- Implications for national level reforms of social policy and services for accelerated recovery.

## **Peace, Security and Prosperity: Women's Leadership Roles**

- Women's role in peace building and the important role of women in peace negotiations including at the community, national and regional levels.
- Links between economic governance and achieving the PoA target on Women's representation in decision-making in the context of the global crisis and recovery.
- Governance issues affecting women's empowerment and participation in the pursuit of just and equitable societies.
- Opportunities presented by the economic crisis to review political structures and governance systems.
- Short, medium and long term action required within and across countries to promote inclusive governance models.

10. In addition, all Roundtables are asked to take some or all of the following cross-cutting issues into account:

- Challenges faced by small states
- Role of Partnerships
- Institutional mechanisms

<b>MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLES</b>		
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Topic for Discussion</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<p><b>Roundtable 1:</b></p> <p><b>Room Marigold</b></p>	<p><b>Gender Responsive Investment</b></p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mr David Ashiagbor, Economic Adviser, Commonwealth Secretariat</li> <li>● Case Studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Acumen Fund: Ms Yasmina Zaidman, Director of Communications</li> <li>➢ Cyprus Women’s Cooperative Bank Ltd - Mrs Artemis Toumazi, President and Chief Executive Officer</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Samoa</b></p> <p>Hon Fiame Naomi Mataafa, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development</p>
<p><b>Roundtable 2:</b></p> <p><b>Room Bougainvillea</b></p>	<p><b>Economic Crisis and Social Protection: Ensuring Gender-responsive and Sustainable Outcomes.</b></p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Professor Naila Kabeer, Professorial Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex</li> <li>● Professor Marilyn Waring, Institute of Public Policy, Auckland University of Technology</li> <li>● Case Studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Dr Anit Mukherjee, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, India</li> <li>➢ Mrs Segakweng Tsiane, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour &amp; Home Affairs, Botswana</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Barbados</b></p> <p>Hon Stephen Lashley, Minister of Youth, Family and Sport</p>
<p><b>Roundtable 3:</b></p> <p><b>Room Flamboyant South</b></p>	<p><b>Peace, Security and Prosperity: Women’s Leadership Roles</b></p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dr Rawwida Baksh, Women Rights and Citizenship Program, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada</li> <li>● Professor Mojubaolu Okome, Political Science &amp; Women’s Studies Programme, Director Brooklyn College, New York</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kenya</b></p> <p>Hon Esther Murugi Mathenge, Minister for Gender, Children &amp; Social Development</p>

**MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE ATTENDANCE FORM**

**Provisional Agenda Sessions IV (Tuesday 8 June, 1545 -1730 )**

Each delegation (including observer organisations) should return ONE COPY of this Ministerial Roundtable Attendance Form in advance to Ms Dorothy Leathley, email: [d.leathley@commonwealth.int](mailto:d.leathley@commonwealth.int) or on arrival in Barbados to the Commonwealth Secretariat office no later than 1230hrs on Monday, 7 June, indicating the delegate who will represent the delegation on the Ministerial Roundtable.

Delegations must rank the Roundtable according to their preferred choice. They may also choose to have more than one person attend each Roundtable **but** only Ministers/ Heads of Delegation will sit at the table.

**COUNTRY:** .....

**OBSERVER ORGANISATION:** .....

ROUNDTABLE	NAME(S) OF NOMINEE	PREFERRED CHOICE (Please tick)		
		1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>1. Gender Responsive Investment</b>	.....			
	.....			
	.....			
<b>2. Economic Crisis and Social Protection: Ensuring Gender-responsive and Sustainable Outcomes.</b>	.....			
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	.....			
<b>3. Peace, Security and Prosperity: Women’s Leadership Roles</b>	.....			
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