

## **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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SOM: Agenda Item 2

WAMM(10)(O)2(a)

**REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME IN SUPPORT OF THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
PLAN OF ACTION FOR GENDER EQUALITY 2005-2015**  
*(PowerPoint Presentation by Ms Esther Eghobamien, Head of the Gender Section,  
Social Transformation Programmes Division, Commonwealth Secretariat)*



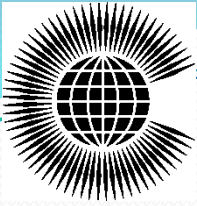
**Review of Work Programme in  
support of the implementation of  
the Commonwealth Plan of Action  
for Gender Equality 2005-2015.**

9<sup>th</sup> Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting  
Bridgetown, June 2010



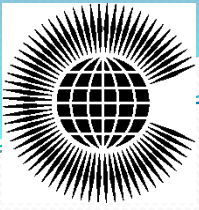
# Purpose of the report

- To re-affirm and demonstrate ComSec's commitment to Gender Equality mainstreaming
- To highlight the comparative advantages of the Secretariat in delivering gender equality policies and results
- To give update on achievements in the implementation of the PoA critical areas since the last NWM consultation
- To provide a forecasting of strategic programming directions



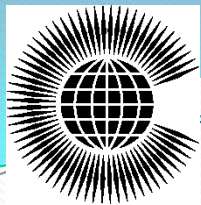
# ComSec Delivery Strategies

- Policy Reform and High Level Advocacy
- Research, Knowledge Creation and Information Sharing
- Technical Assistance and Capacity Building
- Partnerships and Networking



# Institutional Commitment to Gender Equality

- Gender equality mainstreamed in ComSec Strategic Plan review process – programmes 1,2,3, 6 &8 (CHOGM)
- Gender equality policy and institutional gender strategy development processes initiated
- Management approved application of GRB in divisional work across the Secretariat and consideration of Gender Champions to steer gender mainstreaming
- Designated Gender media person to raise profile of gender in all of ComSec's work and



# Comsec's Comparative Advantage

- Political Legitimacy and Convening Powers in CHOGM, Ministerial Meetings - finance, law, education, health, trade, women, CHOGM – welcomed MTR and acknowledged equitable and sustainable development as CW goal etc.
- Capacity and track record in brokering policy and negotiating consensus solutions – EU-ACP Gender training for Trade negotiators; EPAS etc.
- Network of Commonwealth CSO/Associations - CSO Forum preceding NWM consultation
- Provision of cost effective Technical Assistance to Commonwealth members in policy analysis and advice
- Rich pool of resources, knowledge and tools (e.g. Publications, research etc.)



# Gender Section Guiding Principles

Programme design and implementation as defined by CW Principles, Values and Mandates

- Democracy, Good Governance and Peace
- Respect for Human Rights, Rule of Law and Gender Equality
- Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction



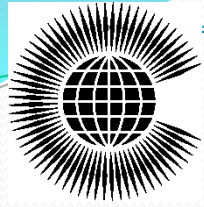
## Four Critical Areas of PoA 2005-2015

- Gender, Democracy, Peace and Conflict
- Gender, Poverty Eradication and Economic Empowerment
- Gender, Human Rights and Law
- Gender and HIV/AIDS



## Key Achievements

- Rapid Appreciation and Capacity Enhancement (RACE) on Gender for women in leadership, e.g. GRB training for African Ministers of Gender, policy and advocacy briefs for CFMM
- Mainstreaming gender in Hubs and Spokes Phase 11 design - ongoing
- Support for launch of Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership, 2009



## Key Achievements - Contd.

- Gender and Trade – research, capacity building, high level advocacy, website and publications
- Progressing Gender, Peace and Security working group
- Reconciling customary practices with international human rights standards and national laws
- Policy advocacy on women's land rights
- CEDAW publications and customary law
- Research on gender and policy dimensions of unpaid HIV care work



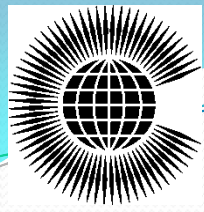
# Gender Mainstreaming in Democracy, Peace and Conflict

- Pan –Commonwealth Model Action Plan on Gender Peace and Security acknowledged as mechanism of improved implementation of UNSCR 1325
- Renewed efforts to set up Commonwealth Working Group on Gender Peace and Security, ToRs revised, concept paper and draft work-plan prepared, Letters on Gender Peace and Security Nucleus formation issued
- Partnership - CW co-funded the launch of the Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership (CWIL)
- Advocacy – towards Aberdeen agenda on local government which promotes gender equality and equity.
- 9WAMM CSO Dialogue on gender peace and security working group convened



# Gender and Economic Empowerment

- Broad work with key components on: Gender Responsive Budgeting; mainstreaming gender in Aid Effectiveness, trade policy etc.
  - Capacity building for Ghana and Uganda
  - New orientation towards sector-base GRB (Capacity building African Women Ministers – 2010 CSW side events, The Gambia, Nigeria)
- Study on institutionalisation of GRB - Ministers of Finance engage in implementing GRB – results in concrete measure to institutionalise GRB in a number of CW countries
- Knowledge has been generated and shared via publications on:
  - Social Protection
  - Gender Impacts of Revenue Collection
  - Engendering Trade Policy/ Training modules
  - A number of toolkits on GRB



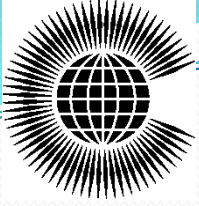
## Gender and Economic Empowerment -Cont.

- Capacity building in gender and trade – regional capacity building in ACP countries (e.g. Gender and trade research website, regional workshops and advocacy, national embedding in India and Uganda). Phase II will build on these achievements
- Research on gendered impacts of EPAs sensitive products in trade in Jamaica, Mozambique and Tanzania (In collaboration with One World Action)
- Private Public Partnership – Exploring partnerships focussing on Gender Responsive Investment, Socially Responsive Investment (SRI), philanthropy capital



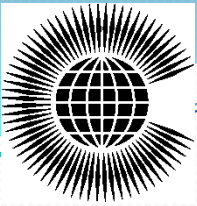
## Gender Human Rights and the Law

- Advancing women's rights through dialogue between stakeholders in the statutory and customary realms – Colloquium in: Pacific, April 2010; Caribbean scheduled for 2011
- Enhancing awareness of widow's rights through law and custom among traditional and religious/faith leaders – e.g. WiDO in Nigeria
- Strengthening jurisprudence of equality programme through curriculum for Judges – e.g. KWJA in Kenya



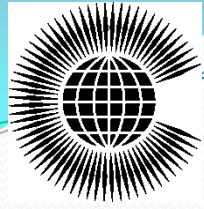
# Gender Human Rights and the Law – Contd.

- Technical Assistance towards advocating on Land laws – facilitating women's access to land and implementing land dispute laws, e.g. KWJA in Kenya, Human Rights Focus in Cameroon etc.
- Technical Assistance on legal literacy training for nomadic women, for example Umajo Uaso Women's Group in Kenya.
- Partnership with UNFPA for convening regional training of traditional chiefs and religious leaders



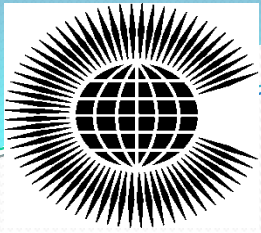
# Gender and HIV/AIDS

- Research on unpaid work in HIV care completed, publication being finalised. Advocacy workshop with CW Parliamentarians at 9WAMM Partners Forum.
- Technical assistance in compilation of training manual and delivery of training at national, regional and sub-regional levels –through multi agency initiative on gender and HIV in the Caribbean
- Policy dialogue in Asia convened – commissioned analysis of national policies and programmes informed dialogues

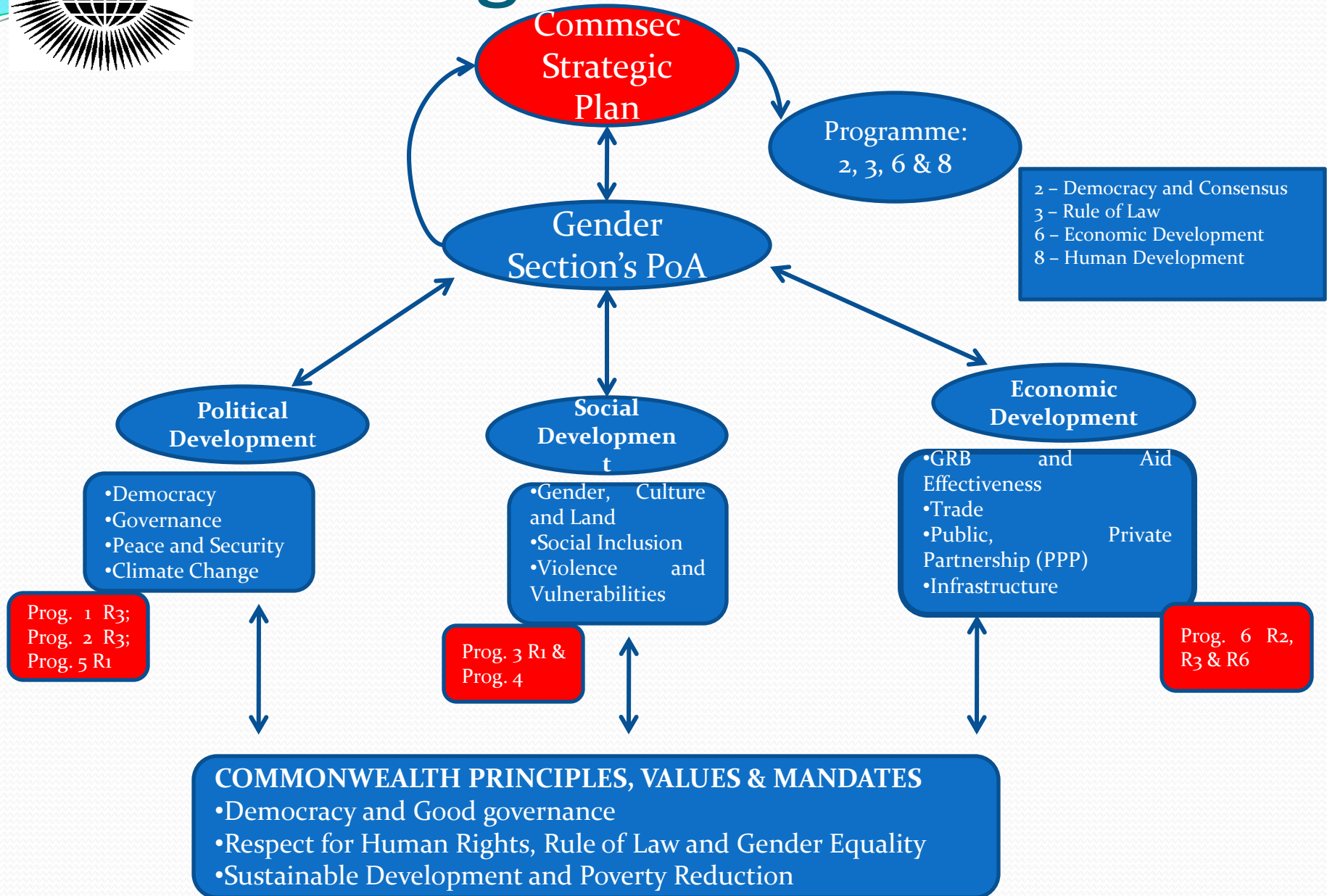


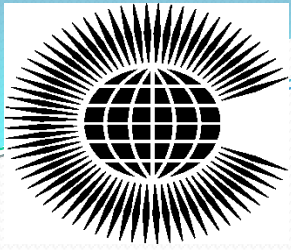
# Mid Term Review (MTR) of the PoA

- MTR – Dual process assessed:
  1. The extent to which CW countries have achieved the aspirations of the PoA since 2005
  2. The degree to which CW programmes have contributed to gender equality and Women’s Empowerment in Member Countries
  
- The MTR will:
  - guide future planning and establish linkages with global gender policies, MDGs and ongoing reviews
  - Enhance the visibility of ComSec and maintain strategic leadership on gender in the global arena

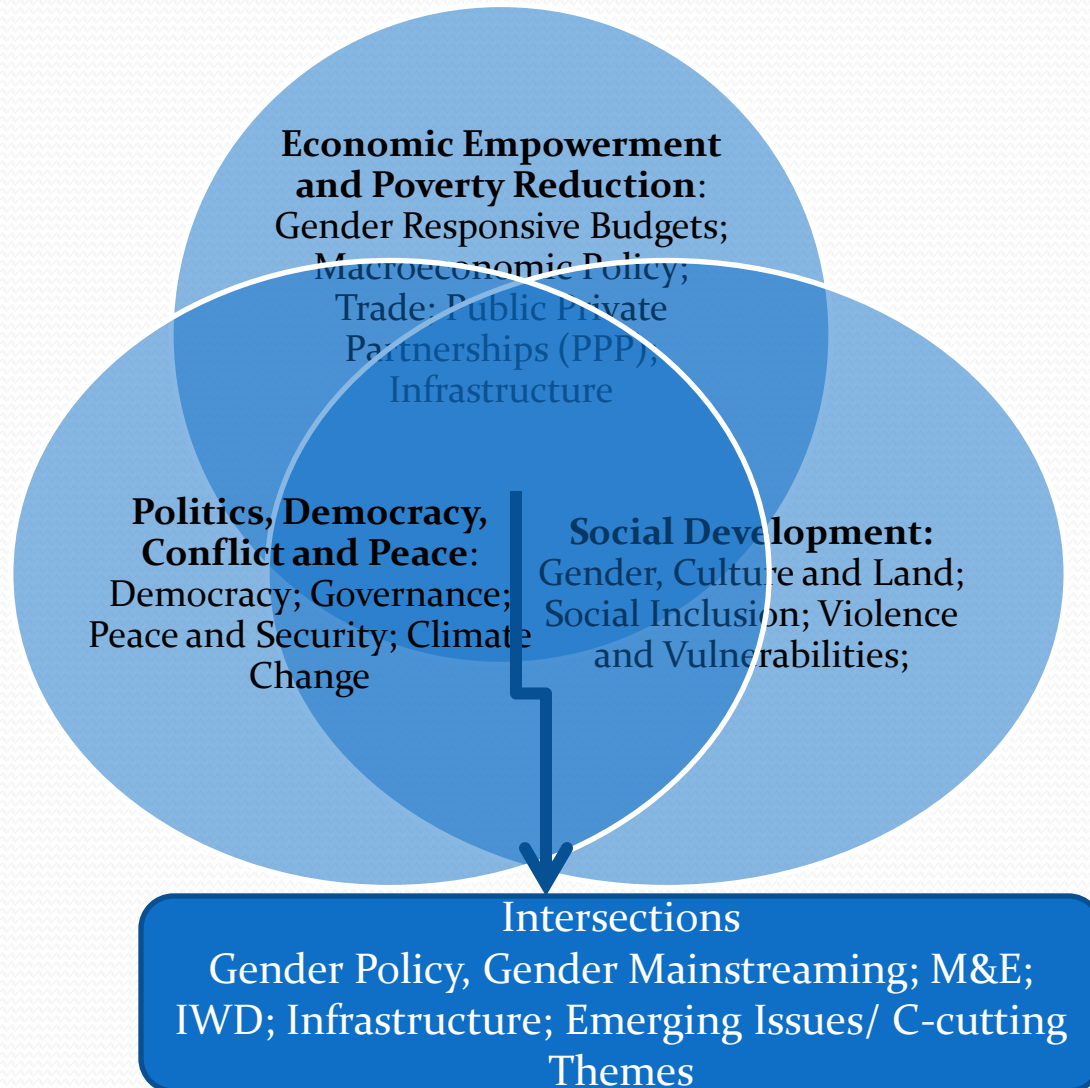


# Strategic Directions 1





# Strategic Directions 2





# Strategic Directions 3

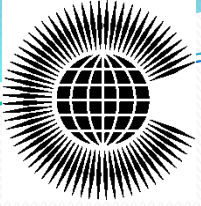
The Gender Section's strategic directions aligned with key CW guiding principles and mandate:

- Economic Development: - Financial and Economic Crisis, Gender Responsive Budgets; Trade; Public Private Partnership (PPP);
- Political Development:- Democratic Governance, Decision Making, Climate Change, Conflict and Peace Management;
- Social Development: Gender Culture and Land, Social Inclusion, Violence and Vulnerabilities.



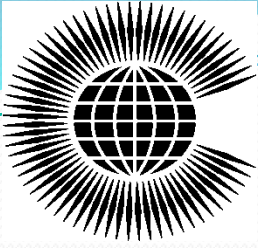
# Challenges

- Staffing, Structure, Rotation Policy
- Capacities for Gender Equality across divisions and sectors
- Availability of funds for project continuation
- Loss of focal points in projects
- High level turn over in NWM and partner ministries
- Weak communication with countries



# Opportunities

- CHOGM mandate
- Strategic Plan and Work Planning Review processes
- MTR
- MDG review summit, B+15
- 9WAMM recommendations
- New Partnerships – UNCTAD; CWWL, Hubs and Spokes, ICTSD



Thank You