

Regional Senior Government Officials Meeting **Report**

Mid-Term Review



Abuja, Nigeria

13 - 18 March 2010



Commonwealth Youth Programme Regional Centre for Africa

Commonwealth Secretariat

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A. INTRODUCTION

The report covers the 2010 Commonwealth Youth Programme Regional Centre for Africa (CYP RCA) Regional Senior Government Officials Meeting (RSGOM) held in Abuja, Nigeria from 16th to 18th March 2010. The meeting was a Mid Term Review (MTR) of CYP RCA's progress and financial performance for the period 2008 - 2010. The Regional Youth Caucus Meeting (RYC) which preceded the RSGOM was held on the 13th – 14th March 2010.

The report includes annexes with speeches and other documents presented during the meeting.

B. PROCEEDINGS OF THE RYC MEETING

1. OPENING REMARKS: RYC MEETING

The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Youth Development, Nigeria, Ms. Anne Ene-Ita officially opened the RYC Meeting and welcomed the delegates to Nigeria. RYCs were encouraged to deliberate on issues that should contribute to youth development in their respective countries. Ms. Ene-Ita emphasised the purpose of the RYC meeting; to promote young people's well being, and reiterated each participant's role in ensuring the success of the Meeting.

The Regional Director of CYP RCA, Mr. James Douglas Odit urged the young people to actively contribute to the deliberations of the meeting and thanked the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for supporting the preparations of the RYC meeting.

The RYC Coordinator, Africa Region, Mr. Samuel Kavuma commended member governments for facilitating the participation of RYC representatives to the meeting. Young people were challenged to make significant contributions to the development of their communities and countries through supporting actions outlined in the various global, regional and national youth development guiding frameworks including the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE), the 2009 Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF) communiqué, the 2009 Commonwealth Heads of Government declaration on 'Investing in young people', the 2008 Commonwealth Youth Minister's Meeting (CYMM) communiqué as well as previous communiqués and statements.

2. RYC MEETING OBJECTIVES

The meeting objectives were outlined as follows;

- a) To communicate the 2008 – 2012 Commonwealth Youth Programme Strategic Plan
- b) To identify strategies to strengthen the role of RYC in CYP governance as well as national structures to effectively contribute to community and national development

- c) To identify actions to support young people's implementation of key CHOGM, Ministerial and CYF policy directions
- d) To provide linkages with other regional and national youth networks to maximize on youth leadership and advocacy efforts

Mr. Samuel Kavuma, the RYC Coordinator and Ms. EwaJesu Asala, the Nigeria RYC representative co-chaired the RYC meeting.

1. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

The agenda was presented and adopted by the Meeting (please refer to Annex 9).

2. RYC REPORT

The chairperson presented the RYC report that reflected activities undertaken since the last Regional Advisory Board (RAB) meeting in October 2007. The report highlighted achievements and challenges faced throughout the period and the importance of RYC representatives participating in development programmes. Mr. Kavuma made reference to recent declarations and communiqués made by Heads of Government, Youth Ministers and young people to mainstream youth issues into global, regional and national development agendas. He commended the RYCs and other youth representatives for making significant contributions to policy formulation processes in the Africa region.

The report further commended CYP and the Commonwealth Secretariat in general for facilitating processes that engage young people in development and governance through strengthened networking and community building. Among the notable RYC activities initiated were the RYC Innovative Projects Award (RIPA) that showcased young people's contribution in community development. RYC representatives of the following member countries were recipients of the RIPA; Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda.

To strengthen the caucus, the following activities were undertaken by RYC representatives during the period;

- Thematic group discussions (Pan Commonwealth and Regional Level)
- Online discussion forum (RYC Africa e-dialogue group)
- Contributions and drafting of the RYC Handbook

The following concerns were noted from the Coordinator's report;

- The need to clarify the roles and responsibilities of RYCs, Governments and CYP in order to strengthen delivery of youth development programmes.
- The need to strengthen partnerships with Governments and CYP to facilitate realisation of youth participation in development

- The need to strengthen youth structures to support the nomination, continuity and accountability of RYC representatives to their constituencies
- The need to improve systems and procedures to support the role of RYC's in advocacy, networking and reporting.

The RYC Coordinator concluded his presentation by making recommendations to strengthen the RYC working relationship with member countries as well as CYP. This should be achieved by defining roles; reviewing partnership guidelines to provide support to the work of RYC's as well as strengthen supervisory roles (refer to RYC report for details).

Discussions on the RYC report

The meeting discussed the strengthening of the RYC functions and activities in their respective countries. A summary of suggestions discussed were as follows;

I. Orientation on role of RYC

The meeting proposed that increased interaction between ministries responsible for youth affairs and the RYC representatives in their countries was very important. Furthermore, the meeting suggested that if government officers were well oriented on the roles, functions and activities of the RYC, it would be easier for the two parties to harmonise issues of reporting, communication and implementation of RYC action plans. It was also emphasised that support to RYC representatives should emanate from governments since RYC representatives' primary role was to contribute to national activities in youth development.

II. Communication

The meeting further underscored communication and reporting challenges that existed among Governments, CYP RCA and the RYC. To improve on the communication process, it was suggested that RYC's connect with other young people in their respective countries through the use of various social networking media e.g. Facebook, Blogs, Yahoo and Google groups, etc. It was envisaged that this would enable RYC's reach out to more young people in their countries on issues of youth development. In this way, it strengthens their advocacy roles in the community.

III. Partnerships

It was proposed that RYC representatives should endeavour to identify non-traditional partners especially the private sector to support their development engagements at community and national levels. CYP was encouraged to forge partnerships to support the strengthening of youth participation and development delivery.

3. CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building workshops were incorporated into the RYC Meeting. The workshops focused on the following; Leadership and advocacy, climate change, translating the CYF7 communiqué into action, strengthening National Youth Councils, networking among youth or-

ganisations as well as providing an opportunity to RYC's and the national youth networks to draw an action plan to guide their contributions in development frameworks. The workshop format comprised presentations, interactive group and plenary discussions. The facilitators were drawn from among young people including serving RYC's and ex-RYC representatives, CYP and the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council (CYEC).

The workshop sessions were designed to assist participants utilise their acquired skills to systematically advocate on youth development issues at community and national level as presented in the CYF7 and other national, regional and global agreements on youth development. The sessions also provided opportunity for interaction between RYC representatives and national and regional youth networks to facilitate networking and strengthen advocacy on a common platform. Facilitation by young people instilled confidence in participants that they have the ability to contribute to development discussions and processes. The participants were also equipped with skills and tools to enable them provide leadership in addressing climate change challenges at community level. (Refer to RYC report for details)

5. CYP 2008 – 2012 STRATEGIC PLAN/RYC STRENGTHENING

CYP presented the 2008 – 2012 CYP Strategic Plan to the meeting. CYP's strategic goal is 'To strengthen the contribution of youth in peace building, democracy and development in Commonwealth countries'. This will be achieved through the following 5 strategic objectives (SO);

- SO1 Effective and responsive youth leadership and youth networks
- SO2 Strengthened capacity of youth ministries to deliver programmes and services
- SO3 Governments endorsed proven policy, plan and model for sustainable livelihoods with a focus on youth enterprise development
- SO4 Improved knowledge, skills and attitudes in youth development
- SO5 Public private partnerships in place/strengthened to contribute to youth development initiatives

The presentation focused on CYP's plan to enhance youth participation in development through strengthening the Regional Youth Caucus and other youth networks in the region. The RYC strengthening initiative focuses on building young people's capacities in advocacy as well as providing opportunities to contribute and influence policy and programme formulation and implementation. To this end CYP introduced thematic groups in the following areas; environment and climate change, education and training, peace building and respect and understanding, democracy and human rights as well as Youth and health.

To support the strengthening initiative, CYP plans to;

- Diversify and streamline participation options at the regional and international levels
- Coordinate youth representation in development planning
- Placing youth at the centre of the Commonwealth Secretariats' work
- The strengthening of youth participation to facilitate young people's contribution to development was informed by the following rationale; that,
- Youth are not a homogeneous group - their needs must be addressed according to their peculiarities
- There is currently limited direct youth connectivity with CYP programme areas. Youth must be at the centre of CYP work and not just as beneficiaries.
- Youth participation is cardinal to development programming.

The following were the proposed youth participation options;

- Young Professional programme in ComSec
- CYP Internship programme
- Commonwealth Fellowship/Volunteer programme
- Commonwealth Youth Caucus programme
- Commonwealth Students' Movement
- Commonwealth Youth Leadership programme
- Youth Ambassadors for Positive Living

The discussions noted the importance of prioritising the strategic objectives so that CYP maximizes on its impact as well as address prioritised needs. The meeting also underscored the importance of promoting youth participation in all aspects of Commonwealth Secretariat's work and that of member governments to facilitate youth mainstreaming.

5. RYC ACTION PLAN

Based on the RYC Report, capacity building workshops and discussions on global and regional youth development frameworks, the RYC developed an action plan to guide its operation for the period 2010 – 2012 on the following areas; climate change, youth and peace building, economic growth and building sustainable livelihoods, youth Involvement in decision making, HIV and AIDS as well as strengthening the RYC structure (refer to RYC report for details).

5. NOMINATION OF DEPUTY RYC COORDINATOR, AFRICA REGION

The Meeting nominated Ms. EwaJesu Asala, RYC Nigeria as the Deputy RYC Coordinator, Africa Region.

7. RYC STATEMENT

The RYC Meeting drafted a RYC statement for presentation at the RSGOM (please refer to Annex 8)

8. CLOSING REMARKS

The Regional Director, CYP RCA Mr. Odit thanked the RYC representatives for their invaluable contributions throughout the meeting. He further thanked the host Government for its support in successfully organizing the Meeting. He assured the Meeting that CYP RCA would endeavor to promote and strengthen youth participation through the RYC initiative and other youth networks in the region.

5. PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGIONAL SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MEETING (RSGOM)

1. OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

The 2010 Africa Regional Senior Government Officials Meeting (RSGOM) was officially opened by the Nigerian Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Al-haji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed CFR on behalf of the acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCON. His Excellency re-affirmed the role and active contributions of young people in promoting development, peace and democracy and acknowledged that the future successes of the Commonwealth rest with them. He urged member countries to prioritise youth mainstreaming as a means to promote both youth and national development (please refer to Annex 1)

The Commonwealth Deputy Secretary General (DSG), Ms. Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba, stated that young people fill a unique space in the world's geo-political landscape. She however added that opportunity should be availed to young people to express their dynamism as well as vision as they contribute to local, national, regional and global development. The DSG underscored the importance of forging partnerships for youth development to build character in young people and strengthen youth development delivery. To make visible young people's significant contributions to development, she encouraged the region to promote and support youth participation in decision making, invest in young people as well as youth mainstreaming. Ms. Masire-Mwamba encouraged young people to utilize their skills and ability to make the world a better place (please refer to Annex 2).

The Honourable Minister of Youth Development, Nigeria, Senator Akinlabi Olasunkanmi urged member countries to periodically assess the level and challenges of implementation of the Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) in the Africa region in order to inform on good practices to facilitate strengthening of youth development delivery and national development. He also

reiterated the importance of measuring programme impact and stated that a Youth Development Index to provide a performance review framework of the youth sector in Nigeria had been developed (please refer to Annex 3).

The CYP Africa Regional Director, Mr. James Douglas Odit, thanked the Federal Republic of Nigeria for hosting the first CYP Mid Term Review (MTR) Meeting. He noted that the outcomes of this regional meeting will be presented at a select Ministerial Mid Term Review (MTR) meeting. The outcomes of the meeting will ultimately be forwarded to the Commonwealth Secretariat by the two Youth Affairs Ministers from Nigeria and Zambia who will be representing the Africa Region (please refer to Annex 4).

The Africa Regional Youth Caucus (RYC) Coordinator, Mr. Samuel Kavuma noted that youth representation and contributions at such meetings was important and thanked the Commonwealth Secretariat and Governments for providing space to young people during this meeting. He challenged his peers to utilise this opportunity to contribute to the design of policy and programme directions that support youth participation.

The official opening was attended by the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Youth Development, Nigeria, Ms. Anne Ene-Ita, Federal Republic of Nigeria cabinet Ministers, representatives of Nigeria's Parliament as well as members of the Diplomatic Corps. In attendance also were representatives of the National Youth Council and National Youth Parliament of Nigeria, development partners and Commonwealth Secretariat Staff.

2. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

The Regional Director, CYP RCA welcomed the delegates to the 2010 RSGOM. He thanked member countries for participating in the meeting and announced its commencement. He added that procedurally, similar meetings are chaired by the host country.

Member countries represented at the meeting were: The Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Malta, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom and Zambia

3. INSTALLATION OF CHAIRPERSON

The Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Youth Development, Nigeria, Ms. Anne Ene-Ita was installed as chairperson of the meeting. She welcomed delegates to Nigeria and to the meeting and wished them fruitful deliberations.

4. MEETING OBJECTIVES

The chairperson reiterated the meeting objectives as follows;

- a) To communicate and disseminate the CYP 2008 - 2012 Strategic Plan to member Governments, young people and key youth development stakeholders
- b) To provide opportunity to member countries to feed into the CYP mid term review process
- c) To provide opportunity to guide CYP RCA programme implementation in line with mandates, PAYE and other regional priorities
- d) To strengthen youth – adult partnerships to facilitate youth participation in community and national development

5. 2008 – 2012 CYP STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTATION

5.1 Printed copies of the 2008 – 2012 CYP Strategic Plan were distributed to delegates.

The Strategic Plan focused on the following;

- a) The development process of the plan both at key stakeholder and staff levels,
- b) The programme cycle changing from a 3 year to a 4 year planning period and its implications on implementation
- c) Identified emerging youth development issues and consequent prioritized goal and strategic objectives for the period
- d) The significance of forging partnerships with a range of stakeholders to facilitate implementation of the strategic plan

The presentation detailed the global context of youth and their evolving needs as follows;

- Youth unemployment
- Conflict
- Crime and violence
- Climate change
- Health and wellbeing issues

The presentation elaborated on the Strategic Plan's Vision:

A Commonwealth where young women and men are provided with the opportunities to realise their potential individually and collectively and are effectively integrated as agents of change for development and transformation.

It further explained in detail the goal and 5 strategic objectives as follows;

Goal: 'To strengthen the contribution of youth in peace building, democracy and development in Commonwealth countries'. This will be achieved through the fol-

lowing 5 strategic objectives (SO);

SO1 Effective and responsive youth leadership and youth networks

SO2 Strengthened capacity of youth ministries to deliver programmes and services

SO3 Governments endorsed proven policy, plan and model for sustainable livelihoods with a focus on youth enterprise development

SO4 Improved knowledge, skills and attitudes in youth development

SO5 Public private partnerships in place/strengthened to contribute to youth development initiatives

The table below indicates the strategic objectives, intervention focus areas as well as the budget proportions;

| Strategic objective | Intervention focus area/programme result area |
|---|---|
| SO1: Youth networks | Youth Governance |
| SO2: Youth Ministries strengthened | Capacity Building |
| SO3: Government endorse models of sustainable livelihoods | Youth Enterprise |
| SO4: Improved Knowledge skills and attitudes | Knowledge management |
| SO5: Public private partnerships in place/strengthened | Across all programme result areas |

The following areas for collaboration are identified in the Strategic Plan to facilitate youth mainstreaming at various levels;

a) Youth Mainstreamed in ComSec at three levels:

1. Increased youth engagement with relevant divisions
2. Greater collaboration under ComSec Human Development objective
3. Support for new youth empowerment & development programmes with Commonwealth affiliate organisations

b) Partnering with RYC and Youth Networks in thematic areas

The development of thematic groups in the following areas; environment and climate change, education and training, peace building and respect and understanding, democracy and human rights as well as health and well being to strengthen advocacy and policy formulation processes.

c) Areas for possible Youth Mainstreaming within ComSec

The following areas were proposed for youth mainstreaming with other ComSec divisions;

| Area | ComSec division |
|---|--|
| Climate Change | Economic Affairs Division |
| Human Rights | Human Rights Unit |
| Political Affairs and Democratic Governance | Political Affairs Division |
| Peace Building | Political Affairs Division |
| Entrepreneurship | Special Advisory Services Division and Governance and Institutional Development Division |
| Advocacy and Communication | Communication and Public Affairs Division |
| Governance and IT | Governance and Institutional Development Division (GIDD) |
| Youth Development Index | |

The presentation emphasised on the need for continuous strengthening of CYP and the RYC structure.

5.2 CYP Financial Report for the Period 2008 - 2010

The financial report for the period July 2008 – January 2010 was presented. The report provided a global picture of CYP's financial position vis-à-vis programme delivery.

In summary, the key points in the financial report were as follows:

- i) Total expenditure for the CYP fund as at end of January was 37% of the annual budget of £2.81 million. The expenditure as at the end of January 2010 was substantially below expectation. It was however anticipated to increase and forecasted to be in line with budget at the end of the financial year.
- ii) In 2008/9, CYP RCA expenditure was GBP 389 854 which represented 82% of the budget. In 2009/10, CYP RCA expenditure was GBP 180 496 which represented 42% of the budget.
- iii) Regarding income, CYP fund had collection rates of 86% for current year contributions and 68% when arrears from previous years are included as at 5 March 2010. (refer to Annex 6).
- iv) As at 5 March 2010, there were three countries in breach of the Abuja Guidelines (i.e. without a dispensation or payment plan) for the CYP fund. These were Jamaica, Kenya and Tonga.
- v) The CHOGM in Kampala Uganda in 2007 agreed that the basis of contributions to the CYP should change from country pledges to assessed contributions starting from 2008/09. The contributions for each country for 2008/09 and 2009/10 were based on the existing proportion of their contributions. A new scale of con-

tributions was under discussion by the Board of Governors.

Discussions

Delegates expressed the following concerns regarding the Strategic plan:-

- a) The development process was not adequately participatory as some member countries indicated that, that was the first time they had known about the plan,
- b) Due to the above concern, the planned time frame should be adjusted to 2010 – 2014
- c) Identification of too many initiatives that may not be realistically achieved

The Deputy Secretary General responded to the concerns raised by the Meeting and explained the participatory process towards development of the Strategic plan. She however assured delegates' that concerns raised on the inadequacy of the consultations had been noted. She further explained that the Strategic Plan time frame was agreed at the 2008 Commonwealth Youth Minister's Meeting and therefore could not be changed as proposed in this meeting. In response to CYP's thin spread in programme focus, she noted that it is the member Governments through the Youth Ministers' that provide the CYP mandates and areas of programme focus. She therefore urged the delegates to advise their respective Governments on proposals for CYP focus areas that can be realistically achieved given the limited budget and other resource constraints. She reiterated the significance of forging partnerships to facilitate the strengthening of youth development delivery.

The meeting proposed that CYP may need to focus on other agencies that recruit youth development practitioners to support recognition of the Youth Work Diploma in addition to the Public Service Commission (PSC).

The meeting acknowledged with appreciation the contributions of members who have paid into the CYP fund and urged members who had not honoured their contributions to do so with urgency.

6. CYP RCA PROGRAMME REVIEW; 2008 - 2010

The Commonwealth Youth Programme Regional Centre for Africa (CYP RCA) report highlighted on the three (3) strategic programme areas and their corresponding sub themes, namely:

- Governance, Development and Youth Networks (GDYN);
 - a) Youth Leadership and Advocacy
 - b) Capacity building of youth Ministries

- Youth Enterprise and Sustainable Livelihoods (YESL);

- a) Capacity building and Training
- b) Advocacy and Promoting an Enabling Environment; and
- c) The provision of Technical Assistance for Programme Support Services (PSS)

- Youth Work Education and Training (YWET).

- a) Capacity building for the professionalisation of the youth work sector
- b) Knowledge Management
- c) Sustainability of Youth Work Training

The programme presentations reflected on mandates, goal, strategic objectives, programme performance, challenges and recommendations. Furthermore, the report gave a forecast for the remaining strategic period. The following are highlights of the programme;

Governance Development and Youth Networks (GDYN)

The Governance Development and Youth Networks (GDYN) programme implemented its work to meet the following Strategic Objectives;

- SO1: Effective and responsive youth leadership and youth networks in place
- SO2: Strengthened capacity of Youth ministries to deliver programmes and services
- SO5: Public private partnerships in place/strengthened to contribute to youth development structures.

The programme directed its efforts towards the strengthening of young people's skills in order to enhance their capacity to support youth empowerment through engagement in skills development events as well as contributing to community development through the RYC Innovative Projects Award (RIPA) initiative. The programme supported capacity building activities for Ministries responsible for youth affairs through inclusive policy formulation, learning missions, training and resource development. GDYN continued to strengthen youth participation through re-examining the RYC structure as well as broadening avenues for youth participation. The programme provided an opportunity for young men and women in the region to showcase their commitment to Commonwealth values as well as prioritise the Youth agenda in national and international development frameworks. The programme forged partnerships with other cooperating partners and ComSec divisions.

Youth Enterprise and Sustainable Livelihoods (YESL)

The Youth Enterprise and Sustainable Livelihoods (YESL) programme implemented its work to meet the following Strategic Objectives;

- SO3: Governments to endorse proven policies, plans and models for sustainable livelihoods with a focus on

youth enterprise development, and

SO5: Public private partnerships in place/strengthened to contribute to youth development structures.

The main focus of the YESL programme area is Youth Employment through the promotion of Youth Entrepreneurship. Emphasis was placed on participatory delivery, partnerships and integrated programming. The programme supported training and building of capacity of stakeholders; advocacy and promotion of an enabling environment for youth entrepreneurship; and the provision of technical assistance for Programme support services (PSS). New adaptations of the Young Ambassadors for Positive Living (YAPL) programme model were piloted in various member countries. The programme enhanced technical and operational capacities of member governments in the delivery of youth employment programmes and the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative (CYCI). YESL expanded the reach of the YAPL programme by conducting new recruitments and capacity building of young men and women in the region. The programme provided ICT services to young people through the CYP RCA Technology Empowerment centre (TEC) and supported Educational institutions in open Educational Resources (OER) development and ICT for Youth Development (ICT4YD) programmes. The programme partnered with ILO to co-organise an international capacity building workshop on Benchmarking tools for youth employment. YESL further contributed to developing the professional capacity of young commonwealth citizens through the CYP Africa internship programme. The programme developed an advocacy strategy, CYCI marketing tools and promotion materials.

Youth Work Education and Training (YWET)

The Youth Work Education and Training (YWET) programme implemented its work to meet the following Strategic Objectives;

SO4: Improve knowledge, skills and attitudes in youth development

SO5: Public private partnerships in place/strengthened to contribute to youth development structures.

YWET advocated for and facilitated the professionalisation of the youth work sector in order to meet the needs of the youth development practitioners. The programme continued to build capacity through supporting the education of youth development practitioners. The trainings were done in partnership with educational institutions, governments, young people, youth workers and other key stakeholders. The programme supported quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation work of the External Regional Moderators. YWET contributed to the building of a body of knowledge in youth work by advocating for partners to contribute to the Commonwealth Youth Development Journal and related materials/publications. The programme further initiated the development of sustainability plans for diploma training with a view of phasing out CYP contributions towards student fees by 2011.

PROGRAMME CHALLENGES

Common challenges across the programmes were cited ranging from: low levels of preparedness and technical competencies in some ministries, limited information flow, coordination problems between CYP and member countries, limited human resource and capacity in ministries and CYP RCA. Despite the challenges, CYP RCA was able to engage Governments in member countries and other stakeholders to provide opportunities for young people through Enterprise/business development, education and training, as well as policy development and implementation.

It was noted that YESL and YWET expended budget stood at 28% and 29% respectively while that of GDYN stood very low at 13% of the total budget as of January 2010. CYP responded that the programme was in the process of delivering other planned programme activities later on in the financial year.

7. RYC STATEMENT TO MTR/RSGOM

The RYC Coordinator presented a RYC statement to the RSGOM. The statement focused on RYC commitment to fulfilling their roles and responsibilities as well as actions they would engage in to contribute to community and national development. The RYCs identified support they require from Governments and CYP to strengthen partnership in youth development delivery. In the open discussion that followed, the meeting reiterated the important role that RYCs play in contributing to community and national development and pledged to fully support the strengthening of mechanisms and allocation of adequate resources.

8. COUNTRY REPORTS

Specific country reports were presented at the meeting which highlighted existing youth programmes, challenges and opportunities in youth development and good practices in youth empowerment. The meeting commended member governments on significant strides made in youth development and encouraged replication or adaptation of good practices within Commonwealth Africa member countries.

The presentations included the following aspects; youth involvement in addressing unemployment through youth enterprise development and micro-credit, youth work training and professionalisation, leadership and skills training, establishment of youth structures, development of youth and inclusive policy frameworks as well as HIV and AIDS. The meeting observed that young people are partners and contributors to development at all levels.

Good practices cited by member countries are categorised under the following broad themes:

a) Participatory/youth inclusive approaches towards

- youth and national development e.g. policy development, programme planning and youth inclusive implementation;
- b) Presence of youth policies and other complimentary national/regional/global development frameworks, e.g. The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE), National Youth Policies, and National Development Plans;
 - c) Presence of implementation structures to facilitate youth and national development e.g. Youth ministries, National Youth Councils, development agencies;
 - d) Inclusion of young people in leadership and governance programmes e.g. Youth Parliaments;
 - e) Job creation opportunities through national youth funds, micro-enterprise development, national youth employment programmes;
 - f) Recognition of young people's contribution to national development through award schemes e.g. National Youth Awards, President's Award schemes;007 RAB
 - g) Education and training opportunities for young people, e.g. vocational training centres, resource centres;

Some of the major challenges that member countries cited were in implementing youth mainstreaming, professionalisation of youth work as well as strategies to address youth unemployment (please refer to Annex 5).

9. WORKING GROUPS

The meeting held two working group sessions that aimed to familiarise delegates with capacity building strategies in: Youth mainstreaming and HIV/AIDS programming in youth development.

I. YOUTH MAINSTREAMING

The session aimed at initiating discussions on the importance of youth mainstreaming and networking within and among member countries. Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Youth Development presented a case study on the development of a toolkit and materials to facilitate youth mainstreaming. The working definition of youth mainstreaming for the case study was "a process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally".

An in-depth discussion provided opportunity for the delegates to share their country level experiences. The working group observed that for youth mainstreaming to be successful, youth issues must form part of all other government ministries' agenda while the Ministry responsible for youth affairs plays the oversight role; structures/mechanisms/legislative frameworks must be

in place to facilitate implementation and that adequate resources (both human and financial) must be allocated to support the implementation process.

It was acknowledged that it was important to mainstream youth issues in all government initiatives because of the following reasons; revert the stereotyping of young people as deviant or incapable; maximise the positive impact of policies and programmes upon young people; invest in young people and realising the benefits of engaging them as a human resource; benefiting from young people's knowledge, skills, ideas and practical contributions. Further more the working group emphasised that youth mainstreaming is a two-fold strategy for pursuing youth development. It involves ensuring youth is reflected in policy and programming stages in various sectors and ensuring there are specific programmes addressing youth.

Delegates affirmed that mainstreaming ensured youth participation in formulation and implementation of policies and programmes. The working group commended Nigeria for developing the youth mainstreaming toolkit and materials which could be used as a reference document by other member countries to support youth mainstreaming actions. The delegates pledged to further strengthen youth mainstreaming efforts in their respective countries.

II. CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (CoE) ON HIV/AIDS PROGRAMMING FOR YOUTH

Following the recommendations of the Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM) 2008 in Colombo to develop the CYPRCA into a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in HIV/AIDS Programming for Youth, a working group session was held to further discuss the practical modalities of developing the CoE.

This session broadly discussed issues related to the function, structure, resources and the time frame required to develop the proposed CoE. Participants recommended that the centre of excellence should provide:

- a) Resources and coordination services,
- b) Information on HIV/AIDS and its effects on Youth,
- c) Information on available HIV/AIDS interventions and their efficacy.

The working group also proposed strategies to promote bilateral and multi lateral linkages, capacity building, research as well as development of models to address HIV and AIDS prevention and mitigation. The working group made a recommendation that extra budgetary resources should be secured from ComSec, Multilateral agencies and Governments to support the establishment of the CoE. CYP RCA was encouraged to continue with current HIV/AIDS programmes however, pilot CoE projects should be conducted before 2012. It was proposed that the CoE development should be rolled out in the next strategic period. (refer to annex XXX)

10. RSGOM SUMMARY REPORT

The meeting endorsed the 2010 Africa RSGOM Summary Report that was proposed by Kenya and seconded by The Gambia. The following recommendations were proposed to strengthen the implementation of the CYMM mandates and the Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE), 2007 - 2015 action points;

- That programmes and actions in the CYP Strategic plan should be re-prioritized to those that can be demonstrated to deliver greater impact taking into consideration progress in various member countries.
- That the RYC handbook is reviewed to address gaps/ omissions/duplications/inconsistencies where applicable by 2012
- That all member countries should have strengthened/ established National Youth Councils by 2012 in order to enhance youth representation and participation and that RYC's should be an integral part of National Youth Councils.
- That member countries should develop inclusive policy frameworks and legislation to ensure effective youth mainstreaming.
- That member countries accelerate plans/actions to meet national strategic goals and objectives (please refer to Annex 7).

11. HOST COUNTRY FOR THE 2011 RAB MEETING

Mauritius pledged to host the 2011 RAB Meeting, however it was noted that CYP will provide additional guidance to member countries on the next Regional Advisory Board Meeting (RAB).

12. PROJECT VISIT

The delegates visited a youth empowerment project under the Ministry of Rural, Social Development, Youth and Sports in Katsina State of Nigeria. The visit facilitated sharing of experiences and good practice in youth skills and capacity development. The project recruits young men and women to train in a range of disciplines. These include electronics, tailoring, carpentry, motor mechanics and crafts. The trainees are supported financially to identify and start business opportunities for job creation. The Government intends to construct similar youth resource centres in other States. Delegates also paid a courtesy call on Governor Ibrahim Shehu Shema of Katsina State.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The chairperson thanked the delegates for their valuable contributions and fruitful deliberations that made the RSGOM a success. The Regional Director, CYP RCA, thanked the chairperson for steering the meeting to its successful conclusion. He thanked and congratulated the delegates for a job well done in promoting youth empowerment in the region.

14. CLOSING CEREMONY

The 2010 RSGOM was officially closed by Ms. Anne Ene-Ita Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Youth Development. She encouraged delegates to champion the cause of youth empowerment in their respective countries. She wished the delegates safe return to their countries. The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Sport, Youth and Child Development, Zambia, Mr. Teddy Mulonga presented certificates of participation to the RYC representatives as well as Certificates of Service received by Government representatives on behalf of the RYC's who had completed their tenure of office. The delegates were hosted for dinner and cultural dance performances.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY
DR GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN, GCON
THE ACTING PRESIDENT, COMMANDER-in-CHIEF
OF THE ARMED FORCES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
AT THE AFRICA 2010 COMMONWEALTH REGION
SENIOR
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MEETING (RSGOM)
HELD AT
MUSA YAR'ADUA CENTRE, CENTRAL BUSINESS
DISTRICT, ABUJA, NIGERIA
MARCH 16, 2010**

Protocol

- a) I am delighted to address you today on this occasion of the Africa Regional Senior Government Officials Meeting (RSGOM). On behalf of the government and the good people of Nigeria, I would like to express how delighted and honoured we feel at the choice of the Federal Capital City of Nigeria, Abuja, as the host for this important event.
- b) First of all, let me seize this opportunity to welcome all delegates to Nigeria, and also reaffirm that we are indeed determined to give all necessary support and co-operation towards engaging member nations in the spirit of the Commonwealth through proactive deliberations and synergy with a view to collectively address the challenges facing young people in member states.
- c) I was informed that this meeting was preceded by a session of the Regional Youth Caucus (RYC) that took place from 13th – 14th March, which gave young people the opportunity to deliberate on issues affecting them, thereby contributing to the development of youth related policies and programmes in member nations.
- d) Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is important to note that there is a growing concern globally among comity of nations particularly Commonwealth member nations in respect of young people. As the greatest asset any nation can have, young people are also one of the most vulnerable groups of the society, in terms of major social economic challenges. That is why (CHOGM) in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, member states adopted a Declaration on young people captioned: Investing in Young People. The declaration affirmed that we full recognize the role and active contributions of young people in promoting development, peace and democracy and acknowledged that the future successes of the Commonwealth rest with them. I am convinced that it is in pursuit of this declaration and other commitments of member states that this meeting and similar ones around the world are being held. Hence I commend the efforts of the Commonwealth Youth Programme for their untiring efforts in pursuing the cause of our future leaders.
- e) At the home front, Head of States and Governments in Africa are conscious of the fact that young people are vital to the process of socio-economic development. To give effect to this commitment, the African Union had since developed a policy framework under the African Youth Charter which prescribes responsibilities to member states for the holistic development of young men and women within the region. I am aware that this charter, through the efforts of most of you here present, has been ratified and domesticated by some member states. It is important to stress that, Nigeria ratified the instrument of the Charter since April 2009.
- f) It may interest delegates to know that Nigeria being the most populous country in Africa also has a huge population of youth with its attendant challenges. The country has an estimated population of 144 million as at 2006 census figures with an annual growth rate of 3.2 percent. One third of this figure is made up of youth within the age bracket of 18-35. Hence, the Nigerian population can be described as predominantly young.
- g) In recognition of this major challenge, the Nigerian government has developed a clear direction towards empowering the youth to overcome the ever increasing challenges of unemployment, crime, HIV/AIDS, disease burden, restiveness, poverty, drug abuse and illiteracy among others. The government adopted the second national Economic Empowerment and Development strategy (NEEDS 11), Vision 20-2020 and the Seven Point Agenda, to chart a course for a more focused developmental strategies. We are also in the process of reforming our health, education and other social services sectors, to ensure that the needs of our youth are adequately taken care of, to make them productive citizens.
- h) As part of our commitment agenda, initiatives are continuously being developed through different Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, with a view to address youth concerns from various perspectives and direct their energies towards more productive ventures. I therefore, urge member nations to take up the issue of youth mainstreaming very seriously in their development planning process.
- i) Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, in a bid to adequately address the overall development of the youth, we created a separate Ministry of Youth Development with a mandate to promote the physical, mental and socio-economic development of the youth, through the advancement and protection of their rights, the promotion of their welfare and provision of opportunities for their self actualization. In addition, we have in place the National Youth Service Scheme which serves as a veritable tool to instill discipline, patriotism, unity, self reliance and promote integration among fresh graduates from tertiary institutions. The scheme mobilizes young people from their immediate environment to other areas where

their services are required such as schools, health centres, rural areas etc.

- j) Also over the years, Nigeria has been facing threats from youth of the Niger Delta region where oil exploration, (which is the major source of the nation's revenue) takes place. In our resolve to develop the Niger Delta, a Federal Ministry of Niger Delta was created with the specific mandate of attending to the infrastructural needs and the challenge of youth unemployment in the area. The new ministry in collaboration with the Niger Delta Development Commission is working assiduously towards addressing the infrastructural deficit of the area.
- k) Furthermore in recognition of the need to address the issue of youth restiveness in the area, and promote lasting peace, we proclaimed a general amnesty and granted unconditional pardon to all those who had taken up arms as a way of drawing attention to the plight of the people of Niger Delta. I am happy to announce to this august body that within a short period of time, the militants accepted the offer and laid down their arms. Meanwhile, a robust amnesty programme has been developed in our on-going efforts at rehabilitating and re-integrating the former militants. This singular act has greatly assisted in boosting the economy of our nation.
- l) Before I conclude my opening remarks, let me use this opportunity to commend the efforts of the Commonwealth Secretariat, in particular the Deputy Secretary General, Mrs. Masire-Mwamba and the entire staff of the CYP Africa region for their keen interest in pursuing the cause of our young people. Your presence here today, it a clear demonstration of your commitment to ensuring that youth in member states are given the priority attention they deserve.
- m) Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, while I recognize the enormous task of charting a new course for youth in member states, it is my hope and prayer that you will succeed in your deliberations and produce positive outcomes.
- n) While wishing you very fruitful and action provoking deliberations, it is now my honour and privilege to declare this meeting open.
- o) Thank you and God bless.

ANNEX 2

**REMARKS BY THE COMMONWEALTH DEPUTY
SECRETARY GENERAL,
MS. MMASEKGOA MASIRE-MWAMBA
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE
MID TERM REVIEW/REGIONAL SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MEETING
16 – 18 MARCH 2010
ABUJA, NIGERIA**

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

Let me begin by expressing just how pleased I am to be here at this the first of four regional MTR meetings to review the progress of the Commonwealth Youth Work programme. I joined the Commonwealth Secretariat just after the Commonwealth Youth Ministers meeting in 2008, but since that time we have been working hard to ensure that the mandates and recommendations of that meeting are fulfilled. I am pleased to be involved in this meeting to share with you our progress, our challenges, our achievements and our setbacks; we want to hear from you as we continue on into the next two years of this planning cycle. So I believe these regional meetings come at a good time.

High level Political Achievements

Since the 2008 CYMM the Secretariat has made significant strides in raising the profile and focus on the youth of the Commonwealth. I will mention two major aspects of work that I believe are noteworthy at this occasion. Recall that in 2009 the Commonwealth dedicated the 60th Anniversary of the Commonwealth towards a vision to "Serve the new generation" – our young people– this was a significant step forward in taking the recommendations and messages from the CYMM meeting to the widest audiences of the Commonwealth- a message that says unless the Commonwealth engages with and empowers the young people, there will be a loss of values, ideals and a vision of the Commonwealth in the next sixty years.

The Commonwealth has filled a unique space in world geo-political landscape- but unless the vision of the past is mingled with the drive, vision and dynamism of the young people – that unique geo-political space may become smaller and in time irrelevant. Choosing the theme Serving a new Generation was the strategic decision to demonstrate that the Commonwealth as an institution has continued through the most challenging times because- it is able to adapt to the changing needs of its member states- not running ahead of them or lagging behind- but keeping pace with the ever increasing changes of our time.

Ladies and Gentlemen-recall also that the Commonwealth Heads of Government in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2009 made an historic Declaration on young people in November- very timely when considering that on the heels of that CHOGM declaration the UN declared 2010 as the International year of the youth. The CHOGM declaration on youth not only recognised the young people of the Commonwealth as active contributors in promoting development, peace and democracy but also their role in promoting Commonwealth values such as tolerance, understanding and respect for other cultures. The heads clearly recognized in the declaration that the "the future successes of the Commonwealth rest with the continued commitment and contributions to our young people". Recognising the severe impact of the economic crisis on the young people – the heads declared that they were concerned about the impact of

unemployment on young people and supported the pilot work of the secretariat on expanding the CYCI initiative and setting up partnerships to encourage skills development for youth in civil society and in business. Ladies and gentlemen, if you have not yet had the opportunity to see the declaration – I hope that over the next few days you will get that opportunity. You know, at times we do not speak about political commitment like this enough- this was a good thing that the heads in the Commonwealth made a declaration in favour of the young- it is an achievement and we should use that show of commitment and good will to work in partnership with our leader for youth development.

Remarks on the Programme Level Achievements

Ladies and gentlemen- many times we find that political achievements are not sufficiently supported by plans at the programmatic level- In the Commonwealth Secretariat we have worked to ensure that the political commitments on youth development are supported by programme level work to ensure that these commitments are translated into action. I refer to two areas that I believe the secretariat has signaled its commitments to the process at the programmatic level.

1) Planning for Youth Development

By now you would have received the Commonwealth Strategic Plan that seeks to combine the CYMM mandates and the Heads declaration in to evidenced based, measurable outcomes that will add value to the work you do in your own ministries. Over the next few hours we will be engaging more and more with the strategic plan- however permit me to share a bit about the full process

- Following the CYMM mandates in 2008 the YAD sat down to draw up plans to fulfill these mandates staff of the Secretariat- an in-depth assessment of the CYP was conducted to ascertain capacity to deliver the mandates
- Secondly, the team met the young people – Pan Commonwealth Executive to hear their perspectives and view on the way forward within the parameters of the CYMM mandates.
- Regional Strategic planning meetings were held with Regional staff to ensure the regional perspectives were fully incorporated in the processes
- A major technical review meeting was held with UN agencies (including UNICEF, Alliance for Civilisations), UN Department for Social and Economic Affairs, ILO, UNAIDS, plus other divisions of the Secretariat
- Sharing with the Board of Governors on the plans

As you can see the plans to be implemented underwent a great deal of work and that work still continues as we will again engage with youth as we work and implement over the next two years. We hope that you are patient with us- if our young people are centre to future of Commonwealth then much time and must be spent to ensure that plans and programmes are sound and well thought-out. I know it has been a challenging walk- to this point – but the Secretariat is committed

to youth empowerment and development and I know with the team and young people working together we will achieve.

2) Partnerships for Youth Development

The Secretariat is aggressively establishing partnerships with other youth serving and youth supporting sectors in the Commonwealth. Already we have solid partnerships with ILO on youth employment; with RCS on peace building; with CYEC on youth participation; just last week I signed a MoU with Duke of Edinburgh (IAA) – We acknowledge that we cannot do it alone and through partnerships much more can be accomplished.

There are a few reasons I believe partnership for youth development is significant for us at this time: Firstly, in the face of challenging times, when negative elements (gangs, terrorist groups, fraud networks, corruption cartels etc.) are coming together to do things that are wrongs and that will hurt our young people rather than inspire them towards that which is good; It is my firm belief that those who work for good in the world, peace, development must also come together in partnerships for that will inspire hope and build character in our young people. The more we are together the stronger we will be against the rising tide of negativism in the world. Our young people need to see and feel that good peoples are still working with them and for their greatest good.

Secondly, this partnership is significant because it means we can get more done- efficiently and effectively- when our skills and abilities are shared the result is a win win for our youth. By working together, partnerships for development of young people I see where Innovative approaches can be shared; where a range of mechanisms can be shared enabling each of us to share their own specific capacities in order to achieve both common and complimentary goals more effectively than when each operates separately. By working together I see where new networks can be formed offering better channels of engagement with the wider community.

Conclusion

In conclusion, allow me to encourage you in this region as you work towards youth empowerment and development ideals.

I know sometimes the work is hard and it seems that no matter how hard you work we are not able to make the kinds of impact we would like to see for our children and young people. But I encourage you to keep trying, keep working, you may not get all the results immediately- but the work you do is making a difference in the lives of young people. While you work hard please remember to:

- a) Continue making the case for our young people- their meaningful participation in decision making.

- b) Making the case for invest in young people now to reap the reward in the future. The theme for the Commonwealth Youth Forum in Trinidad and Tobago was Invest in Youth Sustain the World. That investment is not just a financial investment- but invest time- invest in time mentoring, young people, invest in listening to them, invest in working with and supporting them- invest in youth- sustain the world. You have regional youth representatives- support them to do their work better, support them with office spaces, and access to communication.
- c) Make the case for evidenced based youth development work. Data on youth is needed if you are to plan and invest wisely- there is a need for much more to be done in youth development research.
- d) Continue making the case to mainstream youth development in our work at every level- Mainstreaming youth simply means- placing youth development at the centre of development planning and focus.

To the youth in the audience a simple message- Continue to believe that the world can be a better place, you have the skills and the ability to change your world- go for it, the time is now. Thank you

ANNEX 3

STATEMENT BY
SENATOR AKINLABI OLASUNKANMI,
HONOURABLE MINISTER OF YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT, NIGERIA
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE
COMMONWEALTH AFRICA REGIONAL SENIOR
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MEETING (RSGOM)
HELD AT THE
MUSA YAR'ADUA CENTRE, CENTRAL BUSINESS
DISTRICT
ABUJA, NIGERIA ON 16TH MARCH 2010

PROTOCOL

It is my singular honour and privilege to address this distinguished audience on the occasion of the Regional Senior Government Official's Meeting (RSGOM) holding in Abuja, the Federal Capital City of Nigeria. Let me use this opportunity to thank Almighty God and congratulate you all for journey mercies from your respective destinations.

I must commend the African Regional office of the Commonwealth Youth Programme for organizing this meeting to promote the cause of young people in our Region. I also appreciate the commitment demonstrated by all of you here present in enhancing youth empowerment in your various countries.

It is a statement of fact that over one billion of the world population lives in poverty, facing the unacceptable

conditions of hunger and malnutrition, disease, homelessness, unsafe living environments and social exclusion with majority of this population living in developing countries. A significant percentage of this population comprises of young people, mostly in Sub-Sahara Africa. Commonwealth of Nations no doubt faces enormous challenges of youth disconnection from the society, widening joblessness and economically motivated restiveness.

It is in realization of the enormity of these challenges that regional and sub-regional bodies have launched various plans of action. Some African nations are presently in the process of ratifying the African Youth Charter which Nigeria endorsed last year with a copy already deposited with the African Union. The Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Meeting had also in 2005 endorsed a Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) 2007-2015 which covers three major areas namely Youth Enterprise, Education and Networks. It is thus our challenge as Senior Government Officials responsible for the Youth Sector to assess the level and challenges of implementation of PAYE in the African Region.

I must put on record that both the 6th and 7th Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Meeting held in the Bahamas and Sri-Lanka respectively adopted various policy options to fast track the implementation of PAYE ahead of the 2015 deadline. Such policy recommendations include the establishment of a National Youth Development Index to assess performance of member nations in the youth sector, the integration of PAYE into the National Youth Policy, the introduction of a National Youth Mainstreaming Policy, enhancement of the Commonwealth Youth Work Training Programme and the establishment of a network of National Youth Development Centres for vocational and entrepreneurial training.

I am happy to report that the Nigerian Government with the largest youth population in both Commonwealth Africa and the entire African Continent had in 2007 created a National Youth Development Agenda validated by a United Nations Technical Mission on a visit to Abuja in 2008. The agenda embodies salient aspects of Commonwealth and African Union Youth Empowerment Action Plans. This agenda ensures that policy measures recommended in both Bahamas and Sri Lanka are put into practice under various national youth policy initiatives.

In specific terms, it is my honour to intimate this gathering that the Nigerian Government had just approved a revised National Youth Policy which integrated the Commonwealth PAYE and the African Youth Charter. The policy which covers eighteen (18) priority areas instead of fourteen (14) recommended by the United Nations is to be transformed in to an act of National Assembly in line with the approval of the present administration. The new areas added to the priority areas include street youth, young women youth in prostitution and youth and climate change. The plan to make the policy an Act

of the National Assembly is to make its implementation mandatory for the Federal States and Local Governments in Nigeria.

As youth is a cross cutting issue, the Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Meeting had also recommended the mainstreaming of youth sector into the National Development Agenda. Here, the Nigerian Government through my Ministry had developed a National Youth Mainstreaming of youth sector into the National Development Agenda. Here, the Nigerian Government through my Ministry had developed a National Youth Mainstreaming Policy which will soon be presented before the Nigerian Federal Executive Council. In 2008, the Commonwealth Youth Programme offered Nigeria a partnership on this vital issue of mainstreaming. We are still hopeful and open to collaboration in this area.

Since Youth unemployment is a major challenge worldwide, the Nigerian Government in conformity with the Youth Livelihoods segment of PAYE, had created a National Youth Employment Action Plan, a National Youth Job Creation templates and a cluster of Nation Youth Development Centres for youth vocational and entrepreneurship training. Just last week, His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, the Acting President and Commander-in-Chief, demanded an accelerated action plan to create jobs for millions of Nigerian youth.

In addition to the preceding, Nigeria under the Youth Network and Governance sector of PAYE in 2008 created a Nigerian Youth Parliament which is to be replicated across the 36 States and the 774 Local Governments. The Youth Parliament is both a veritable platform for youth engagement in the public policy process as well as a breeding ground for future leaders of the country. We are looking forward to the third sitting of the Nigeria Youth Parliament later in August.

I must add that the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) Diploma Programme at the University of Abuja is progressing in leaps and bounds. Last year, we had extensive train the trainer's seminar for the instructors of the Diploma Programme and work is also progressing on the upgrading of the Diploma Scheme onto Degree awarding status. We are committed to the training and re-training of youth workers who are the direct fieldsmen and women interacting with the youth on daily basis.

While many member states pursue various youth programmes, the importance of impact assessment was recognized by the Commonwealth Youth Ministers. Hence, major area of Nigeria's implementation of Commonwealth youth roadmap is the creation of a National Youth Development Index for the periodic assessment of government's performance in the youth sector. Nigeria builds on the experiences of Brazil, India and Malaysia in the drive to assess the present status of her youth which provides a sound basis for perform-

ance review of the youth sector on a tri-annual basis. Thus, Nigeria becomes the first African country and the fourth in the Southern Hemisphere to develop the UN prescribed Youth Development Index.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commonwealth Youth Programme is passing through an extraordinary time. African continent as the most challenged in the youth sector cannot afford to rest on its oars. Nigeria as the country with the most youthful population on the continent is ever conscious of the daunting challenges posed by the youth question, hence the pro-youth stance of the present administration.

It is in the light of the above that I challenge this gathering to strengthen implementation relationship with member states to fast track the achievement of PAYE as 2015 approaches. We should move beyond pilot schemes especially in such vital programmes as the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative, the establishment of Youth Development Centres and the larger need for job creation for our teeming youth. The Secretariat must activate and enhance its technical assistance strategy to member states in their drive to strengthen their youth programmes.

I therefore, urge the African Region of the Commonwealth countries to create a synergy with relevant stakeholders to replicate initiatives with success stories so that our collective desired objectives could be achieved. It is only by this that the African Region can benefit from the robust opportunities offered by the Commonwealth Youth Programme and Commonwealth of Nations in general.

Before I conclude, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, let me state here that, I am particularly delighted with the effort of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Africa Region, for not only assisting member nations to actualize their needs and aspirations, but also for ensuring that mechanisms are put in place that allow young people's voices to be heard through the activities of the Regional Youth Caucus. Finally, let me assure you all that, Nigeria is ever ready to give its maximum support and cooperation in our drive towards addressing the challenges facing the youth.

Thank you and May God bless.

ANNEX 4

SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MEETING

16 – 18 MARCH 2010, ABUJA, NIGERIA

Remarks by: James Odit

CYP Regional Director for Africa

The Guest of Honor, the Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan

The Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba

The Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Youth Development, Senator Akinlabi Olasunkanmi

The Honourable Minister, Sport Youth and Child Development from Zambia, being represented by the Permanent Secretary Mr. Teddy Mulonga

The Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Youth Development Ms. Anne Ene-Ita

Senior Government Officials present

The Commonwealth Regional Youth Caucus Coordinator for the Africa Region

Commonwealth Regional Youth Caucus Members and other young people

Colleagues from the Commonwealth Secretariat

The Director of ceremony

Invited guests

Ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of the Africa Regional Office of the Commonwealth Youth Programme, I would like to warmly welcome you to this meeting and thank you for coming – from the various Commonwealth Countries in Africa including from within Nigeria

Permit me to begin my remarks by thanking the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for kindly hosting the first Commonwealth Youth Programme Mid Term Review (MTR) Meeting which we are also referring to as the Regional Senior Government Officials Meeting (RSGOM).

Special gratitude goes to the Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for accepting to be the Guest of Honour for this very important meeting, out of his very busy schedule.

YOUR EXCELLENCY THE ACTING PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, the reason why we are having this Regional Senior Government Officials Meeting (RSGOM), is to provide opportunity for representatives from member countries in the Commonwealth Africa Region, and the Regional Youth Caucus, to contribute to the regional agenda on youth development by: reviewing the Commonwealth Youth Programme's performance since the 7th Commonwealth Youth Ministers meeting (CYMM) in Colombo Sri Lanka; and guiding our programme implementation in line with the Commonwealth Plan Of Action On Youth Empowerment (PAYE) and other mandates notably of the Commonwealth Youth Ministers meeting (CYMM) and Commonwealth Heads Of Government Meetings (CHOGM).

During the meeting, the CYP 2008 - 2012 strategic plan will be communicated and disseminated to member Governments, young people and key youth development stakeholders.

Three CYP strategic programmes will also be reported on and reviewed by the meeting. These are:

- a) Governance Development and Youth Networks (GDYN);
- b) Youth Enterprise and Sustainable Livelihoods (YESL)
- c) Youth Work Education and Training (YWET)

Member governments will share country level experiences in the delivery of youth development policies and programmes for purposes of learning from one another, while the meeting discussions will also focus on: strengthening youth – adult partnerships; Youth Mainstreaming; and HIV and AIDS programming in youth development.

YOUR EXCELLENCY THE ACTING PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, the report of this Meeting and a communiqué will be presented to the two Honourable ministers from the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Zambia. The two Ministers who will be representing the Africa Region at a select Ministerial Mid term Review seek endorsement of other Minister's in the region before presentation at the select Ministerial MTR and ultimately to the Commonwealth Secretariat for action.

GUEST OF HONOUR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, This meeting has been preceded by the Regional Youth Caucus meeting from 13th to 14th March, with a representation of 12 countries.

I am happy to report that the just ended The Regional Youth Caucus Meeting provided an opportunity for young people to among others build their capacity in leadership and advocacy skills in key development areas as well as adopt critical recommendations that will greatly contribute to Commonwealth Youth Programme's policy and programme directions.

It is my sincere hope that the deliberations during this meeting will be beneficial and of substance, as we all seek the enhancement of the promotion of youth empowerment.

May I take this opportunity to commend the member governments and other stakeholders for all you have continued to do in supporting the delivery of youth programmes in the Africa Region.

GUEST OF HONOUR LADIES ND GENTLEMEN and as I end this remarks, may I use this opportunity to warmly welcome representatives from the Government of the Republic of Rwanda to the Commonwealth family

– specifically in the Africa Region.

GUEST OF HONOUR THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, once again I thank you and wish all the delegates fruitful deliberations.

Thank you very much.

ANNEX 5

COUNTRY REPORTS SUMMARY

Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE), 2007 – 2015

The Plan of Action for youth empowerment (PAYE) is Commonwealth's guiding strategy to facilitate youth empowerment and participation within and beyond Commonwealth countries. It is a reference tool to measure youth and national development progress

The following are the 13 PAYE action points;

Action point 1: Develop and implement measures to promote the economic enfranchisement of young people

Action point 2: Strengthen social support systems and collaboration between key stakeholders in youth empowerment

Action point 3: Strengthen ministries, departments and legal frameworks for youth affairs

Action point 4: Promote the participation of young people in decision-making

Action point 5: Promote positive role models and foster young people's self esteem

Action point 6: Take action for equality between young women and men, and for youth in special circumstances

Action point 7: Promote peaceful and democratic environments in which human rights flourish

Action point 8: Provide quality education for all

Action point 9: Improve access to information and communication technology (ICT)

Action point 10: Promote health, development and values through sports and culture

Action point 11: Engage young people to protect the environment

Action point 12: Professionalise the youth work sector

Action point 13: Monitor and evaluate progress in youth development

The table below provides information on youth development initiatives implemented at country level as well as an overview on progress made in implementing Commonwealth mandates and PAYE action points;

Country progress reports

Summary

THE GAMBIA

The Gambia has a youthful population of over 60%. With over 15,000 school leavers annually, the main challenge among young people is unemployment. However, The Gambia has over the years enacted policies and strategies aimed at creating an enabling environment for youth empowerment such as the; National Youth Policy and Plan of Action, which gave birth to the National Youth Council in 2000, National Sports Policy and Plan of Action which also resulted in the creation of the National Sports Council in the same year and National Employment Policy and Action Plan with a number of micro finance institutions. The Government formulated the education action plan of 1988 – 2003 to reinforce the education system with the introduction of the technical education curriculum with particular emphasis at the middle level (grade 7 – 12).

The Government's effort at empowerment of youth, through life skills and entrepreneurship development for self employment and actualisation are the; National Youth Service Scheme (NYSS), National Enterprise Development Initiative (NEDI) and Gambia Priority Employment Programme (GAMJOBS). Established in 1996, the NYSS has been able to make skills training accessible to over 1600 young people. Through NEDI, young people received entrepreneurship training and goods worth D50,000 (over US \$1,500) to each. This resulted in 125 shops being opened across the country. GAMJOBS was a joint project between UNDP, ILO and the government in an attempt to operationalise the National Employment Policy and National Employment Action plan in some sectors of the economy such as agriculture, tourism, fisheries, trade and infrastructure.

The Gambia ratified the African Youth Charter. The impetus of many other youth friendly policies has increased the number of government owned youth skills training institutions across the country.

KENYA

The Government of Kenya demonstrated its commitment in seeking solutions to address the challenges faced by young people through an increase in funds for youth development and enactment of various youth legislations and policies. These included the National Youth Policy (NYP) and Action Plan which ensured Kenyan youth participation in national development and employment of 500,000 youth in the labour market annually. Youth polytechnics, the National Youth Service (NYS), and Vocational and Entrepreneurial Development centres were rehabilitated. The establishment of a Youth Enterprise Development Fund in 2007 has since created self –employment opportunities for about 65,000 young people across the country.

In addressing the underlying causes of conflict as a result of the disputed 2007 general election, the government involved young people in all stages and processes of peace-building initiatives. This was done through integration of peace campaigns in education, sports, training, youth networks and exchange programmes.

The Ministry is in the process of developing the Kenya Youth Development Index (KYDI), which will serve as the primary evaluation tool of the Vision 2030 and national action plans on youth development. The Ministry's curriculum on youth development further supports professionalisation of youth work.

LESOTHO

Youth development is implemented by the Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation. The department of youth is responsible for promotion and coordination of social, economic and political development programmes for young people. The department is further charged with enhancing capacity of young people to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS.

The Government enacted the bill that paved way for the operationalisation of the National Youth Council. The department conducted civic education to raise awareness on the establishment of the NYC as well as preparations for elections of office bearers. Lesotho nominated a RYC representative for 2010 – 2012. The country established resource centres at district level.

Modeled around the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative (CYCI), the Lesotho Youth Credit Initiative (LYCI) facilitated the entrepreneurship training and start-up capital for young people. CYP placed advisors to provide technical support in the development of HIV and AIDS programmes. New adaptation of the Young Ambassadors for Positive Living – School HIV/AIDS Education Programme (YAPL-SHEP) was developed.

MALAWI

The Ministry of Youth Development and Sports was decentralised to district level to facilitate effective youth development delivery. Youth Development and Empowerment was included as one of the nine national development priorities. The Ministry facilitated the following processes; review of its five year strategic plan, development of a youth database and championed for the inclusion of Youth development and sports as one of the sub themes in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS). The national youth policy and national action plan review process were completed. The youth policy was harmonized with other related policies such as the gender, population, sports, nutrition, HIV and AIDS, reproductive health and the decentralisation policies.

The Ministry implemented two important youth projects, the Integrated Youth Development programme

and Turning scavengers into scholars and millionaires. The projects aimed to promote youth in agriculture as well as discourage young people from scavenging on refuse dumps. The National Youth Council was strengthened through increased budgetary allocation from the national budget as well as human resource development. The NYC Act review process also commenced. To increase opportunities for youth employment, the Government introduced the following programmes; internships at Ministry level, volunteerism to build young peoples capacity and contribute to community development, social entrepreneurship through a global students leadership training programme, Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDEF) as a revolving fund to support youth entrepreneurship and National Youth Development Service (NYDS) to build young people's skills.

Young people participated in governance and development processes in the following; board members of NYC, National Aids Commission, Youth Enterprise Development Fund, Malawi Development Advisory Council and Malawi Development Fund. The RYC representative for Malawi was part of the Commonwealth Observer Group to the general elections in Mozambique.

Consultations to professionalise youth work through introduction of a regulatory body – youth workers association were in progress. 75% of graduates of the Commonwealth Diploma in Youth in Development Work had been absorbed by the civil service while 25% by the private sector and NGO's. Plans were underway to introduce a degree programme in Youth Development work by 2011.

MALTA

Through the Parliamentary Secretariat for Youth and Sport, the Malta National Youth Policy was revised to enable the State develop further concrete youth projects since needs and realities of Maltese young people have changed. This was partly due to the accession of Malta within the European Union that has brought along different opportunities and demands which are to be taken into consideration when working with young people.

The revised National Youth Policy, 2010 – 2013 followed an extensive consultation exercise undertaken in 2008/2009, involving national authorities, the National Youth Council, youth organizations and other stakeholders. Young people were consulted on-line, through Facebook and throughout the Youth week in 2008. The National Youth Policy was inspired by principles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other United Nations instruments, Convention on rights of persons with disabilities, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Commission White Paper and other EU Strategy documents.

The policy conveys a vision of young people who are enthusiastic to be successful and empowered to achieve their potential. It is based on a tapestry model with ver-

tical threads to enable mainstreaming of youth issues in diverse public policy areas and horizontal cross cutting threads wrapped through all the themes. The vertical themes include; Education, Employment, Health and Well-being, Youth Justice, Transitions and Vulnerability, Culture and the Arts, Community Cohesion and Volunteering, Sport, Leisure, Information Society and Environment. The horizontal cross cutting issues are; participation, youth information, social inclusion and mobility.

The national youth policy is designed to include young people in a positive light - not as dropouts, drug users, or delinquents. Young people are considered to be facilitators in the effort to bring about social change. Furthermore, the policy document highlights the premise that young people benefit more by having a voice, access and shared power with adults. It also acknowledges the importance of research and training for those working with young people.

The revised youth policy requires immediate action to develop enabling legislation and to foster awareness of the need for further youth development. Steps need to be taken to establish a national youth agency which will enable a collaborative environment for all stakeholders in the youth field and stimulate varied provision of services in partnership for and with young people affecting their opportunities and their capacities.

MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique is one of Africa's successful stories of post/conflict reconstruction and economic recovery. The population is characteristically young. Mozambique therefore created the Ministry of Youth and Sports with the mandate to formulate and implement projects and programmes that address the issues of the Youth.

The Government approved the Youth Policy with the overall objective of making young people participate actively in the construction and consolidation of the Mozambican Nation. Poverty, HIV/AIDS and unemployment are the major threats to Mozambique stability, which is essential for economic growth and a better future for the next generation. Unemployment, generalised absolute poverty, limited access to education, and professional skills and the HIV/AIDS pandemic were the major challenges that faced young people. The employment rate among young people between 20 to 24 years, was 27.5%. Government, youth organisations and a number of NGOs undertook different initiatives which included promotion and strengthening of youth associations, vocational trainings and financial assistance in the form of loans and grants.

The national prevalence rate of HIV in adults (15-49 years) was about 15.1%. It was estimated that more than 600 new infections occur per day (42% among youth under 20 years of age and 45% of them being young people under 24 years of age). UNFPA and Path-

finder International are currently supporting a number of activities focused on life skills education and HIV/AIDS prevention for young people (10-24 years old). Despite introduction of initiatives to promote gender balance, challenges still remain to achieve this due to social-cultural and economic barriers. The Ministry of Youth and Sports therefore focused on gender sensitivity initiatives in sports, education and income generation for the empowerment of young women and a holistic approach to youth development. The Government created an Intersectoral Committee for supporting youth and adolescent development.

The National Youth Council (NYC) was created in 1996, with the aim to provide a structured orientation and harmonisation of different activities developed by youth organised in associations, and to serve as a legitimate interlocutor between youth and Government. A key development issue for Mozambique was the need for skilled people to live and work in rural areas. Through an initiative called "Férias Desenvolvendo o Distrito" (meaning 'youth developing districts'), the University Students Association in co-operation with the National Youth Council and government utilised volunteering for development to build the skills of graduates whilst opening up possible alternative employment paths for them at district offices (where working conditions are normally deemed not good). The National Parliament, ratified the African Youth Charter which constitutes an important instrument for the development of Youth in the Continent.

Government promoted micro-credit as a means of poverty alleviation among youth groups, in order to allow them to develop small-scale enterprises to promote self-employment by implementing income generation projects. This process led to the development of a micro-credit programme in Mozambique known as the Youth Initiative Support Fund (FAIJ).

NIGERIA

The Federal Republic of Nigeria integrated youth concerns in the national development agenda, and undertook the following initiatives; incorporated youth mainstreaming into the national youth policy; developed a toolkit, a trainers' manual and trained youth officers from the line ministries, departments and agencies

The country reviewed the National Youth Policy, which highlighted three priority areas namely: education, environment and youth participation. The Government developed the National Youth Development agenda 2008 – 2015; it was intended to guide youth empowerment initiatives. The Ministry of youth also focused on youth infrastructure and identification of strategies for job creation through development of national youth development centres.

The Federal Government of Nigeria put in place an Amnesty Programme for youth who took up arms (mili-

tants) as a way of drawing attention to the plight of the people of the Niger Delta. The programme included rehabilitation and re-integration into society. Youth Exchange Programmes were introduced in Owode and Keffi where 1600 young people from the 36 states interacted. One of the key outcomes was their commitment to promote respect and peace in their respective communities. The Ministry also led two delegations of young people to participate in exchange programmes in China and Malaysia.

The Government in partnership with CYP trained youth workers. The University of Abuja delivered the CYP diploma in Youth Work with the first set of graduates in the programme being officers from the Ministry of Youth Development and other line ministries.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria requested CYP to support the implementation of Youth Mainstreaming initiatives and the Professionalisation of youth work in Nigeria

RWANDA

The Government of Rwanda recognised the importance of building youth capacities in order for them to contribute meaningfully to national development. The strategy that the government adopted through Rwanda's Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) outlined the government's approach to addressing youth sector challenges and priorities, scope and effectiveness of the current support systems and the level of youth participation.

The Government developed a youth mainstreaming Strategy aimed at addressing youth related issues which included: Youth Unemployment, Gender, HIV/AIDS and the Environment. The strategy ensured that youth issues were incorporated in development processes and representation in decision making organs at all levels. The government further appointed planning officers in the various ministries as youth focal persons. The Government adopted a youth employment promotion strategy as one of the pillars of socio-economic transformation and development of the country. It enacted a National Employment policy with focus on youth welfare. The strategy included initiatives such as empowering youth cooperatives for savings, vocational training, entrepreneurship programmes, promotion of self employment and an internship programme. The government set up 7 out of the proposed 30 youth centres to cater for out of school youths. These facilities aimed to contribute to improving the technological and business skills of young people.

Youth environment protection programs were developed with the objective of enhancing environmental protection and awareness among young people. The activities were focussed on contributing to environmental protection and youth employment. Some of the activities introduced under the programme were reclaiming wetlands and modern bricklaying.

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa adopted its National Youth Policy (NYP 2009-2014) which focused on the provision of an "integrated, holistic, and sustainable youth development service". To improve on institutional mechanisms needed to achieve this, the National Youth Development Agency which worked closely with the South African Youth Council in programme delivery was set up. With nearly 50% of South Africa's population being young, Government efforts addressed the legacy of racial, gender and urban/rural inequality inherited from the policies of the apartheid regime through a holistic multi-sectoral approach.

Challenges faced in youth development programming included: poor collaboration between government and civil society organisations, duplication of roles and responsibilities, lack of technical capacity to drive youth development, and lack of monitoring, evaluation, and assessment of impact mechanisms. South Africa identified the need to collaborate with CYP to develop a skilled workforce dedicated to youth development service delivery in the country as well as the importance of recognising youth work as a profession. Furthermore, young people needed to be connected with the rest of the world through appropriate networking opportunities supported by CYP.

TANZANIA

Tanzania indicated that, with 35% of total population and 65% of its total Labour force being young people, youth development programming was aimed at creating an environment which supported young people's sustainable development and growth. Programming was also aimed at scaling up Life skills initiatives to strengthen the capacity of young people in fighting against HIV and AIDS.

To promote youth employment, Tanzania developed a National Employment Policy (2008), a National Employment Creation Programme (2007) and a National Youth Employment Action Plan – NYEAP (2006). These were operationalised through the following programmes; Youth Economic Groups, skills development, provision of micro credit facilities to Youth Saving and Credit Cooperative groups, and support to youth development centres to facilitate training in Vocational skills, Agriculture, Information Technology. To promote the professionalisation of Youth Work, the Ministry supported the delivery of the Commonwealth Diploma in Youth Work at the Open University of Tanzania and Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy. The Government of Tanzania was in the process of developing a National Youth Participation Strategy. Youth Participation was further promoted through initiatives such as National Youth Week and Youth Work Camps.

Further support was requested from CYP to improve the implementation mechanism of the available Youth

Development Fund and to advocate for micro-credit institutions to increase their services in youth related programmes.

UNITED KINGDOM (UK)

The British Youth Council's area of focus was to develop young people's skills to enable them make a difference, provide a platform for young people to get their voices heard and consult with young people to bring about change. To this end the Youth Council supported strategy development to enhance youth participation and developed documentary film to raise awareness on its work. BYC enhanced its fundraising, research and bid-writing areas of work and developed a media strategy to facilitate raising its profile. The Council undertook an annual review, 26 making waves, to assess its impact and inform areas of focus.

BYC identified the following five key strategic priorities to enhance youth development for 2010 - 2013;

- a) To empower and inspire young people to get involved and effect change within their local, national and international communities
- b) To develop the British Youth Councils' (BYC) membership to be diverse and active, and for BYC to be led by young people for young people
- c) To raise the profile and increase reputation for quality, evidence-based impact and promoting recognition of young people
- d) To continue to work in partnership, and actively seek new partnerships, with those who share, or can further BYC's vision and objectives for young people
- e) To develop, diversify and sustain BYC's income and resources which will support the delivery of strategic objectives.

ZAMBIA

The Zambian Government developed the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP) with a chapter on Youth and Children. This was an effort to involve all stakeholders, young people and youth organizations in the design, implementation and monitoring of youth programmes and projects country wide. The government promoted good governance among young people through the youth leadership development programmes conducted through the National Youth Development Council.

Poverty alleviation and employment programmes for the marginalized youth were designed, particularly to provide demand driven skills training opportunities to those who drop-out of school. Through the Ministry responsible for Youth Affairs, 16 out of the proposed 72 Youth Resource Centres were established. Zambia attained the status of a 26 Lead Country in the UN Youth Employment Network (YEN).

In addition the following youth initiatives were undertaken; human resource development through the Commonwealth Youth Diploma Programme and dissemination of the National Youth Policy and Plan of Action. Further, Zambia benefited from internship programmes for young people at CYP RCA and participation in the Commonwealth Youth Development Awards in which one youth organisation was a recipient of the regional Silver award.

ANNEX 6

Finance Report

| COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|---|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| SEVEN MONTHS EXPENDITURE AND FORECAST TO 31 JANUARY 2010 | | | | | | | | |
| REGIONAL CENTRE: AFRICA | | | | | | | | |
| Budget 2008/09 | 2008/09 EX- PENDITURE ANALY- SIS | | DESCRIPTION | Budget 2009/10 | 2009/10 EX- PENDITURE ANALYSIS | | Forecast to 30/06/2010 | Forecast Vari- ance 2009/10 |
| | Actual (Unau- dited) | % of Budget | | | To 31/01/2010 | % of Budget | | |
| £ | £ | % | | £ | £ | % | £ | £ |
| 75,692 | 61,199 | 81% | Staff Costs | 73,397 | 36,412 | 50% | 73,397 | - |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 115,972 | 100,602 | 87% | General Administra- tion | 115,972 | 50,586 | 44% | 115,972 | - |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Direct Expenditure | | | | | |
| 74,000 | 49,143 | 66% | Youth Enterprise & Sus- tainable Livelihoods | 31,000 | 8,542 | 28% | 31,000 | - |
| 71,200 | 47,144 | 66% | Youth Work Education and Training | 50,500 | 14,652 | 29% | 50,500 | - |
| 37,950 | 40,250 | 106% | Governance, Develop- ment & Youth Networks | 60,500 | 8,036 | 13% | 60,500 | - |
| 102,425 | 91,516 | 89% | Programme Delivery Costs & Contingency | 102,425 | 62,269 | 61% | 102,425 | - |
| 285,575 | 228,053 | 80% | Direct Expenditure | 244,425 | 93,499 | 38% | 244,425 | - |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 477,239 | 389,854 | 82% | TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 433,794 | 180,496 | 42% | 433,794 | - |

Summary Report

Mid Term Review (MTR)/Regional Senior Government Officials Meeting (RSGOM)

CYP Africa Region

16 – 18 March 2010

Abuja - Nigeria

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Africa Regional Senior Government Officials Meeting (RSGOM) was held in Abuja, Nigeria from 16 – 18 March 2010. The main objective of the Meeting was to review CYP RCA's progress and financial performance for the period 2008 - 2010. The meeting was preceded by the Regional Youth Caucus (RYC) Meeting held from 13 – 14 March 2010.

1.2 The RSGOM was officially opened by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed CFR on behalf of the acting President His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCON. The Commonwealth Secretariat Deputy Secretary General Ms. Mmasekgoa Masire – Mwamba participated in the Meeting. The RSGOM was attended by 54 delegates from 15 Commonwealth Africa member countries. They comprised of senior government officials and young people (including 12 Regional Youth Caucus representatives), representatives from National Youth Councils and Youth organizations. Representatives from development agencies were also present. Rwanda was congratulated upon joining the Commonwealth membership.

1.3 His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan re-affirmed the role and active contributions of young people in promoting development, peace and democracy and acknowledged that the future successes of the Commonwealth rest with them. Stating that Nigeria and a majority of member countries are predominantly young, Dr. Jonathan expressed the need for governments to develop clear directions towards empowering the youth in addressing challenges of unemployment, crime, HIV/AIDS, poverty, disease, drug abuse, illiteracy as well as restiveness. He urged member countries to prioritise youth mainstreaming as a means to promote both youth and national development. The Honourable Minister of Youth Development, Nigeria, Senator Akinlabi Olasunkanmi urged member countries to periodically assess the level and challenges of implementation of the Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) in the Africa region in order to inform on good practices to facilitate strengthening of youth development delivery and national development. He also reiterated the importance of measuring impact and stated that Nigeria had developed a Youth Development index to provide a performance review framework of the youth sector. The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Youth Development, Ms. Anne Ene-Ita welcomed the delegates to the Meeting and stated that decisions made at this Meeting

should benefit young people who are our present partners and future leaders of our respective countries.

1.4 The Commonwealth Secretariat Deputy Secretary General (DSG), Ms. Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba stated that young people fill a unique space in the world's geo-political landscape however added that opportunity be availed to them to express their dynamism as well as vision as they contribute to local, national, regional and global development. She emphasized the Commonwealth Secretariat's strategic decisions to prioritise youth issues by choosing the 2008 Commonwealth day theme as Serving a new Generation as well as the 2009 declaration on young people by Commonwealth Heads of Government, 28 Investing in young people. She noted this demonstrates the institution's commitment to keep pace with the ever increasing changes of our times. She stated that the political will by Governments to prioritise youth issues was supported by the plans reflected in the 2008 – 2012 CYP Strategic Plan. The DSG underscored the importance of forging partnerships for Youth development to build character in young people and strengthen youth development delivery. To make visible young people's significant contributions to development she encouraged the region to make the case for youth participation in decision making, investing in young people, evidence based youth development work as well as youth mainstreaming. Ms. Masire-Mwamba encouraged young people to utilize their skills and ability to make the world a better place. The Regional Director, Commonwealth Youth Programme Regional Centre for Africa, Mr. James Odit, thanked the Federal Republic of Nigeria for hosting the first CYP Mid Term Review (MTR) Meeting. He noted that the outcomes of this regional meeting will be presented at a select Ministerial Mid Term Review (MTR). The outcomes of the MTR will ultimately be forwarded to the Commonwealth Secretariat by the two Youth Affairs Ministers from Nigeria and Zambia who will be representing the Africa Region. The Africa Regional Youth Caucus (RYC) coordinator, Mr. Samuel Kavuma noted that youth representation and contributions at such meetings was important and thanked the Commonwealth Secretariat and Governments for providing that space to young people during this Meeting.

1.5 The UNFPA, the National Youth Council of Nigeria and the Nigerian Youth parliament presented their goodwill messages to the RSGOM. The messages encouraged governments to empower young people in order to equip them to address the growing development challenges in their respective countries and globally.

1.6 The RSGOM endorsed the Chair, Ms. Anne Ene-Ita, Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Youth Development, Nigeria.

2.0 Meeting Outcomes

1.1 The Commonwealth Secretariat, Youth Affairs

Division presented the 2008–2012 CYP Strategic Plan for review purposes. The following concerns were raised;

- a) The length of time that it has taken to disseminate the Strategic plan to member countries
- b) The inadequacy of resources and delay in expenditure
- c) Inadequate consultation with stakeholders/member countries in the development of the strategic plan
- d) The need to fast track the implementation of the plan for the 2 year remaining period

1.1 The meeting considered the Report of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Regional Centre for Africa (CYP RCA) to RSGOM on achievements made and lessons learned from CYP RCA's programming in its strategic areas during the period between the Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM), 2008 and the regional mid term review meeting in March 2010. The meeting further considered the CYP's financial report and a presentation on young people's contribution to community and national development. The Meeting built on recommendations on actions to implement youth development highlighted in the following documents;

- a) 29 Investing in young people : A declaration on young people by Commonwealth Heads of Government, Trinidad and Tobago, November 2009.
- b) The Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM) communiqué, Sri Lanka, 2008, 29 Youth and Peace building and;
- c) The Africa Regional Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting, 2007, 29 Youth Mainstreaming; A vehicle to effective national development.

1.1 RSGOM noted that 86% for current year's contributions and 68% were arrears from previous years of total pledge had been collected as at March 2010. The Meeting acknowledged with appreciation the contributions of members who have paid into the CYP fund and urged members who had not honored their pledges to do so with urgency.

1.2 The RSGOM reiterated the central role that young people play in contributing to community and national development and pledged to fully support the strengthening of mechanisms and allocation of adequate resources to support effective youth participation especially focusing on the Commonwealth RYC model.

1.3 The RSGOM received reports from member governments and commended member governments on significant strides made in youth development and encouraged replication/adaptation of good practices within Commonwealth Africa member countries.

1.4 The working group on Youth mainstreaming received a case study report on youth mainstreaming in Nigeria as well as youth mainstreaming strategies implemented in the region. The workshop examined the

Nigeria case studies and pledged to further youth mainstreaming efforts in their respective countries.

1.5 The working group on the Centre of Excellence on HIV and AIDS youth programming recommended promotion of linkages, capacity building, research and development of models to address HIV and AIDS prevention and mitigation. It was noted that extra budgetary resources should be secured from COMSEC, Multilateral agencies and Governments [cost-sharing] to support the establishment of the CoE.

1.6 The delegates visited the Youth Empowerment programme under the Ministry of Rural, Social Development, Youth and Sports in Katsina State of Nigeria. The visit facilitated sharing of experiences and good practice in youth skills and capacity development. Delegates paid a courtesy call on the Governor of Katsina State, Governor Shema.

The following recommendations were proposed to strengthen the implementation of the CYMM mandates and the Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE), 2007 - 2015 action points;

- That programmes and actions in the CYP Strategic plan should be re-prioritized to those that can be demonstrated to deliver greater impact taking into consideration progress in various member countries.

- That the RYC handbook is reviewed to address gaps/omissions/duplications/inconsistencies where applicable by 2012

- That all member countries should have strengthened/established National Youth Councils by 2012 in order to enhance youth representation and participation and that RYC's should be an integral part of national youth councils.

- That member countries should develop inclusive policy frameworks and legislation to ensure effective youth mainstreaming.

- That member countries accelerate plans/actions to meet national strategic goals and objectives

3.0 Regional Youth Caucus

3.1 The RSGOM received a report from the Regional Youth Caucus (RYC). The report reaffirmed the commitment of RYC members to represent the interests and voices of young people in their respective countries in a transparent and accountable manner. The RYC called on governments to strengthen national youth representative structures. They recommended that governments should support the nomination of RYC representation and officially recognise the RYC by meeting a set of minimum standards, including but not limited to: funding participation of RYC's at Commonwealth governance meetings to facilitate mainstreaming of youth development issues; allocating a limited budget to cover ex-

penses for official duties; and providing a contact person in youth ministries.

3.2 The RYC called on CYP for support (as per increased budgeting in CYMM 2008) to enhance communication, including by providing mobile internet/laptops geared towards strengthening Africa Region RYC e-dialogue facility as well as aid participation in the CYP thematic areas and the rapid response policy group.

3.3 It was proposed that the Commonwealth Secretariat notifies youth ministries of upcoming ministerial meetings and recommend the representation of young people through the attendance of the RYC.

3.4 CYP was encouraged to provide an official induction process for RYCs within the first month of their term utilising distance learning, provide media training and expand the online availability of the Commonwealth Youth Diploma course by CYF 2011.

3.5 In view of CYPs limited budgetary resources the RYC expressed reservations about the prioritisation of the CP3 project for young people and recommended that such funds be channeled to programs that can be demonstrated to have greater impact on the ground.

3.6 The RYC recommended that the Eminent Persons Group include a formal commitment to youth participation/engagement within its activities and research.

3.7 The RSGOM endorsed the nomination of Ms. Ewajesu Asala, RYC Nigeria as Deputy RYC Coordinator.

Announcements

South Africa encouraged member countries to support the participation of young people to the Mexico Youth Congress scheduled to be held in August 2010.

CYP will provide additional guidance at a later stage regarding the next Regional Advisory Board Meeting (RAB).

Presentation by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association (IAA)

The Meeting received a report on the work of the Duke of Edinburgh International Award (IAA) for young people. The presentation emphasized the importance of strengthening the existing partnership between IAA and CYP to facilitate effective youth development delivery.

4.0 Conclusions

4.1 RSGOM expressed appreciation to the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and in particular, to the Federal Ministry of Youth Development for the hospitality extended to all delegates during the Meeting.

ANNEX 8

Regional Youth Caucus (RYC) Meeting

13-14 March 2010

Abuja, Nigeria

Statement

We, the Youth Caucus members for the Commonwealth Africa Region, gathered here in Abuja, Nigeria, from 13-14 March 2010, hereby put forward the following Communiqué to the Regional Senior Government Officials Meeting (RSGOM). These recommendations are in line with our detailed Action Plan for the period March 2010 to September 2011:

We commit ourselves to:

- Review the RYC handbook (including effective RYC handover) and re-promote it to member governments. This will ensure that RYCs can effectively represent the young people in their country and have the knowledge and ability to implement their pledges in their own countries;
- Ensure that we monitor and evaluate our work, particularly advocating for the review and implementation of recommendations from previous Commonwealth Youth Forum communiqués, and through regular quarterly reports to CYP and our government ministries;
- Join one of the new CYP thematic areas (these are environment & climate change, youth unemployment, education & training, democracy & human rights, health & well-being, and peace-building);
- Make better use of the links that the Commonwealth Secretariat currently has with media organisations through a RYC rapid response policy group;
- Effectively represent the youth at Commonwealth meetings, with the support of our governments and CYP.

We recommend that Governments:

- Strengthen the official recognition and support provided to RYC representatives by agreeing to meet a set of minimum standards where this is not already in place or exceeded;
- Provide support to develop national representative youth structures, where these do not exist, by CYF 2011 in Australia;
- Facilitate the effective representation by RYCs at Commonwealth governance meetings to enable mainstreaming of youth development issues. This should be done by supporting their attendance at these events, including but not limited to, the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting, the Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting,

the Commonwealth Education Ministers Meeting and the Commonwealth Environment Ministers Meeting.

We recommend that CYP:

- Agree to meet a set of minimum standards when working with RYCs, where this is not already in place or exceeded;
- Expand the online availability of the Commonwealth Youth Diploma for young people before CYF 2011, so that it is more accessible to all;
- Provide an official induction process for RYCs within the first month of their term, utilising distance learning if appropriate;
- Make better use of the links that it has with media organisations, by training RYCs on how they can fully exploit these opportunities;
- Notify the youth ministries of upcoming ministerial meetings and recommend that the youth be represented through the attendance of the RYC, where appropriate.

Minimum Standards

Governments:

- Fund transportation / participation / attendance to Commonwealth Meetings;
- Provide a limited budget to cover expenses of official duties and paperwork;
- Provide access to a single point of contact in the ministry;
- Provide office space.

CYP:

- Mainstream RYC participation activity, including but not limited to, business planning, budgeting, programme design and review processes;
- Support RYCs (as per increased budgeting by member governments at CYMM 2008) in their communication, in particular supporting RYC representatives with mobile internet and laptops, of which member governments are the custodians. This will help RYC representatives to:
 - Build on the strengths of the Africa region, such as the online chat group between country representatives;
 - Communicate with national and international organisations and CYP;
 - Participate in the online Commonwealth Youth Diploma;

- Participate in the rapid response policy group (as per commitment #4 by RYCs);
- Strengthen the national and international partner networks and maintain a database of such;
- Participate in thematic areas as per commitment #3 by RYCs.

Regional Senior Government Officials Meeting (RSGOM)
Abuja 2010

ANNEX 8B

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE DISCUSSIONS

Q. 1: What should be the functions of the CoE?

- a) Research and document effective ways of promoting HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation
- b) Design Models for effective HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation
- c) Promote linkages between practitioners in the field
- d) Expand CoE mandate from just HIV/AIDS to "HIV/AIDS and Wellbeing". (Wellbeing issues to cover issues such as Healthy life style, substance abuse, etc)
- e) Build Capacity of youth development practitioners and youth leaders in HIV/AIDS programming for youth
- f) Develop models for the establishment of country and community level CoEs in member countries
- g) Develop databases of youth CSOs working in HIV/AIDS in member countries

Q. 2: What structure should the CoE have?

- a) The centre should be a virtual center with no new physical infrastructure constructed solely for the purpose
- b) No creation of new structures out of the CYP programming structures. Use existing in-country structures (such as DoYs, NYCs, YDOs, etc) to provide support services
- c) Support the establishment/formation of inter-sectoral teams/committees on HIV/AIDS programming for youth.
- d) Establish focal points in MoYs/DoYs/NYC dedicated to HIV/AIDS and youth programming.
- e) Station CYP Technical Officers/Advisors/Focal Persons in four sub-regions of the Africa Region with a dedicated coordinating Programme Manager at the the CYP Africa Centre
- f) Link CoE programmes to current CYP programming (such as RYC thematic discussions, etc)

Q. 3: What resources are required and how should they be mobilized?

- a) Financial costs to be shared between Governments, COMSEC and donor partner agencies
- b) Governments to provide credible statistics and indicators on HIV/AIDS and Youth.
- c) Governments to help host Zonal/sub-regional focal points/advisors

d) COMSEC/CYP should divert resources of some projects/programmes (eg. P3) into CoEE processes

e) Human Resource contributions (staff of secondment, dedicated focal points and DoY, etc,) should be contributed by governments and partner agencies

f) Special CoE financial contributions, apart from normal CYP pledges, should be made by member countries.

Q. 4: Time Frame

a) Prepare the grounds for full roll out in the next strategic period

b) Continue with current CYP programming in HIV/AIDS (eg, YAPL, etc)

c) Appoint a dedicated Programme Manager before 2012

d) Conduct pilot projects before 2012.

ANNEX 9

Commonwealth Youth Programme Regional Centre for Africa (CYP RCA)
Agenda for the Regional Youth Caucus (RYC) Meeting Agenda
March 13 – 14, 2010
Abuja, Nigeria

| Day/Time | Event | Expected Outcome | Facilitator |
|------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| Friday 12th All day | Arrival of RYC Representatives | Assist delegates settle with minimal inconveniences | Local Planning Committee |
| Saturday 13th | Commencement of the RYC Meeting | | |
| 08.15 – 08.45 | Introduction and Welcome | | CYP RCA/RYC Coordinator |
| 09.00-10.00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Opening ceremony, • Welcome Remarks by RYC Nigeria • Remarks by RYC coordinator • Remarks by Regional Director – CYPRCA • Opening Remarks by PS Federal Ministry of Youth Development Nigeria | Set the tempo for the meeting | CYPRCA |
| 10.00 – 10.30 | Presentation on overview of CYP and Youth Participation programme CYP RCA Strategic Directions/RYC Strengthening | Deepen understanding of CYP youth participation agenda and CYP RCA2008 - 2012 strategic directions including RYC strengthening agenda | CYPRCA |
| 10.30 – 11.00 | BREAK | BREAK | BREAK |
| 11.00 – 13.00 | Presentation of Regional RYC Report Discussions on RYC model strengthening and how to maximize opportunities on following areas; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic groups • Chat facility • RYC manual/handbook to guide CYP/ Govt/RYC partnership • Reporting • Development of RYC data base • RYC deputy representation | Discussions on key RYC structure opportunities and challenges | RYC Coordinator |
| 13.00 – 14.00 | LUNCH | LUNCH | LUNCH |
| 14.00 – 15.30 | CYF 7 communiqué – what have we done/can we do at community level | promote youth participation and contribution to national development | CYEC |
| 15.30 – 17.00 | Climate change – call to action | Build on the London/CHOGM and CYF7 meetings to identify practical steps that young people can take on to contribute to addressing climate/environmental issues | RYC Coordinator / CYEC |

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| 17.00 – 17.30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions on RYC statement to RSGOM/forming the drafting team Announcement End of Day 1 | Presentation of initial ideas captured for RYC statement | |
| Sunday 14th | RYC Meeting continues | | |
| 08.00 – 08.30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap of day 1 Announcements | | RYC coordinator / Rapporteur |
| 08.30 – 10.30 | Training session; leadership and advocacy Bockerie | Call to action on Climate Change – How can we be involved at community level | Bockerie Enssah, former RYC Sierra Leone/CYP RCA |
| 9.00 – 10.30 | B R E A K | B R E A K | B R E A K |
| 11.00 – 13.00 | National Youth Councils and other youth networks; opportunities and challenges – how does the RYC structure form alliances with other youth networks to maximize on youth advocacy/leadership Student movement/Youth parliaments/NYC's to be invited | Explore avenues to strengthen youth leadership and advocacy actions, structures, mechanisms (RYC, NYC/Youth Ambassadors) | CYEC/Bockerie Enssah/CYP RCA |
| 13.00 – 14.00 | L U N C H | L U N C H | L U N C H |
| 14.00 – 16.30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing ideas for broad RYC Action Plan 2010 – 2012 Consensus building on RYC Statement to RSGOM | Broad action plan for 2010 – 2012 RYC statement to RSGOM | RYC Coordinator/CYP RCA |
| 16.30 – 17.30 | Media outreach | | RYC's |
| 17.30 – 18.00 | Closure RYC Meeting | | |
| 20.00 | Dinner with Minister of Youth | Provide opportunity for young people to interact with the Federal Minister of Youth Development, Nigeria | RYC Nigeria |

ANNEX 10

**Commonwealth Africa
Regional Mid Term Review / Senior Government
Officials Meeting (RSGOM)
New Chelsea Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria,
16 – 18 March, 2010**

Organised by the Commonwealth Youth Programme Regional Centre for Africa (CYP RCA), Commonwealth Secretariat and hosted by the Federal Republic of Nigeria

AGENDA

Introduction and Background

The Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) receives mandates for its strategic and operational directions from various governance bodies, namely the Regional Advisory Board (RABs), Regional Youth Caucus (RYCs), Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM),

the Commonwealth Secretariat's Board of Governors (BoG) and its Executive Committee (ExCo), and the Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Meeting (CYMM).

Over the years, CYMM has become an interactive meeting where Ministers of Youth, senior officials and young people in the CYP governance structure, namely the Commonwealth Youth Caucus (CYC) engage in dynamic consultations on issues that represent areas of common concern.

The Regional Senior Government Officials Meeting was an outcome of the 2007 Regional Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting held in Victoria, Seychelles. The Meetings' purpose was to review the progress of youth development as well as build capacity of member countries to strengthen youth development delivery.

The 7th CYMM took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 27 to 30 April, 2008 under the theme: Youth and Peace Building. Among its salient actions, the CYMM examined and made recommendations for CYP's proposed work programme and plan of expenditure for 2008-2012 and endorsed the shift of the CYP strategic planning cycle from a three year to a four year strategic planning in alignment with the Commonwealth Secretariat cycle.

In order to minimise the loss of momentum as well as enhance continuity, the CYMM agreed to establish a mid-term ministerial review team (MTR) to look at CYP progress and financial performance. 7 CYMM selected a group of eight Ministers to conduct the MTR of the CYP in 2010 made up of two representatives per each Commonwealth Region. Representative countries at the MTR for Africa were agreed at 7 CYMM as Nigeria and Zambia. 7 CYMM also agreed for the MTR to include the Chairperson of each Regional Youth Caucus (RYC) and the Pan-Commonwealth Youth Caucus Chair.

The CYMM further agreed that the MTR would be preceded by regional Meetings which would be self-financed, and which would include full representation of the Regional Youth Caucus (RYC).

Prior to the Mid Term Ministerial Review Meeting a CYP RCA Regional Senior Government Officials Meeting is being organised in Abuja, Nigeria from 16 – 18 March 2010. The host Government is the Federal Republic of Nigeria and participation comprises of the 2 Minister's responsible for Youth Affairs representing the region at the Ministerial Mid Term Review Meeting, Permanent Secretaries, Director's of Youth, Youth Officers, representatives from National Youth Councils and other youth networks, Regional Youth Caucus Representatives as well as development partners. The two ministers will receive the report of the Meeting and seek endorsement of other Minister's in the region before presentation at the Ministerial MTR.

Purpose of the RSGOM

The RSGOM will provide an opportunity for member countries in the Commonwealth Africa and the Regional Youth Caucus to contribute to the regional agenda on youth development by reviewing CYP's performance since 7 CYMM and in particular, assessing and advising on the translation of CYMM and CHOGM mandates into concrete strategy in regard to:

1. Regional and global initiatives as well as developments on the youth agenda
2. Assessed Commonwealth and regional priorities in youth development
3. Strategic alliances for leveraging youth development and mainstreaming
4. The participation of young people in development

The RSGOM will be preceded by a Session of the Regional Youth Caucus during March 13 and 14 including a development session of the RYC and youth leaders from national youth councils and other youth networks. Youth recommendations will be tabled for consolidation in the final RSGOM report for presentation to the MTR scheduled for mid 2010.

Proposed Meeting objectives

- a) To communicate and disseminate the CYP 2008 - 2012 strategic plan to member Governments, young people and key youth development stakeholders
- b) Provide opportunity to member countries to feed into the CYP mid term review process
- c) Provide opportunity to guide CYP RCA programme implementation in line with mandates, PAYE and other regional priorities
- d) To strengthen youth – adult partnerships to facilitate youth participation in community and national development

Expected Outcomes

- a) Deepened understanding of CYP 2008–2012 Strategic plan and new direction.
- b) Africa Regional Senior Government Officials Meeting (RSGOM) report containing recommendations to Youth Ministers on strategies to strengthen youth development programmes in the region.
- c) Agreed framework for collaboration to facilitate regional youth development and in particular youth mainstreaming and integration of HIV and AIDS in youth programming
- d) Broad framework on enhanced youth participation in youth development through partnerships

Monday March 15, 2010**ALL DAY ARRIVALS****DAY 1****Tuesday March 16, 2010**

10.00 Departure from Rock View Hotel Lobby/Reception area to Shehu Musa Yar'adua Centre

10:30 – 12:00**Opening Session**

Chair's Welcoming Remarks

Statement by Regional Director, Commonwealth Youth Programme Regional Centre for Africa

Statement by Minister, Federal Ministry of Youth Development

Statement by Chair, Regional Youth Caucus

Address Deputy Secretary-General, Commonwealth Secretariat

Address Honourable Acting President, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Vote of Thanks

12:00 – 13:00**TRAVEL BACK TO MEETING VENUE/COFFEE BREAK**

13.00 – 13:15

Installation of Chair of the RSGOM

Adoption of the Agenda

Administrative Matters

13:15 – 13:35

CYP presentation of the Strategic Plan 2008 – 2012, James Odit, Regional Director, CYP RCA, Commonwealth Secretariat

Delegates will receive a presentation on CYP's work since CYMM 2008, and the status of key development mandates on youth including the 2009 Port of Spain Declaration and other Commonwealth mandates. The Director will present CYP's Strategic Plan as the basis for its work across all Commonwealth Regions over the period.

The estimated CYP budget for 2009-2012 will be proposed in accordance with the CHOGM mandate for an Assessed Contribution Formula. At meetings of CHOGM in Kampala (2008) and Port of Spain (2009, Heads agreed that countries should not only live up to their financial commitments to the budget to the CYP, but that a new Assessed Contributions Formula be developed for the CYP to take effect from 2008/09, in order to address the severe shortfall in funding for the CYP, which was seriously constraining its capacity to deliver its current mandates or fresh initiatives in support of Commonwealth youth priorities and needs

13.35 – 14.15 CYP RCA presentation on Programme implementation 2008 – 2010: Nel-lie Munala and Victor Mensah, Programme Managers

CYP RCA presentation on Finance Report, CYP RCA

CYP will present an overview of programme implementation and the financial implications vis a vis current and emerging youth development opportunities in line with mandates and PAYE. The presentation will provide an overview of proposed programme focus for 2010 -2012.

The RSGOM will comment on specific youth policy directions, implementation priorities and capacity upgrades to feed into a region-wide programmatic support consistent with CYP Strategic Plan and relevant to the work of other development partners.

14:15 – 15:00**LUNCH**

15.00 – 15.30

Young people's contribution to community and national development - Sam Kavuma, RYC Chair, Africa Region

The RYC Chair will summarise regional findings on the challenges and opportunities for young people's role in effective decision-making. The Chair will present for consideration proposals for enhancing the role of the RYC and youth networks towards more strategic contribution and participation in the national/regional development agenda.

The RSGOM will discuss and agree on policy and operational support for the RYC and youth governance networks in the development agenda.

15:30 – 16:30

Question and Answer Session.

The RSGOM will note the Strategic Plan and Budget in the light of existing mandates, and make recommendations on policy directions, programmatic adjustments and financial contributions.

16:30 - 17:30

Country presentations

Member countries will demonstrate progress of youth development delivery in line with CYMM, COMSEC mandates as well as PAYE indicators.

17:30

Plenary is adjourned

19:00 – 21:00

Welcome dinner

Evening reception to welcome senior officials to Meeting.

DAY 2: Wednesday March 17, 2010

08.30 – 10.00

Country presentations

RSGOM will discuss regional progress towards meeting mandates and PAYE indicators and propose what needs to be done to fast track achievement of targets.

10:00 – 13:00

Parallel workshops on;

(a) HIV and AIDS programming in youth development

A short presentation will recap the CYMM mandate to establish a CoE in HIV and AIDS programming in Youth Development and progress so far. The session will ask critical questions to function, scope, time frames as well as discuss required resources to support the process.

(b) Youth Mainstreaming – Federal Republic of Nigeria

A short presentation will highlight the strategic relevance of a cross-sectoral approach to national development and some important considerations for mainstreaming youth development in the national development agenda. The session will examine steps undertaken in the region to mainstream youth and propose what collaborations need to be created to support Youth mainstreaming in the region. Nigeria will present a case study. The session will provide an opportunity to identify broad areas of collaboration to facilitate youth mainstreaming in the region.

The RSGOM will discuss the presentations and contribute inputs about national programmes across sectors that provide opportunities for mainstreamed youth development, planning and implementation.

13:00 – 14:00**LUNCH**

14:00 – 15:30

Strengthening the adult – youth partnership: the RYC model – James Odit, RD, CYP RCA and Sam Kavuma, RYC Chair

A presentation will be made on the current status of the RYC model – challenges and opportunities. The youth and adult perspectives will provide insights on the new look RYC initiative.

The RSGOM will discuss the presentations and contribute inputs on areas for strengthening and key roles for young people, CYP and Governments as well as a time frame for implementation

15:30 – 15:45**TEA BREAK**

15:45 – 17.30

Areas of collaboration

The plenary session will provide an opportunity to member countries and CYP to prioritise actions and collaborations for engagement in line with agreed CYP directions

DAY 3:**Thursday, March 18, 2010**

08:30- 10:30

Recommendations and reporting to the Mid-Term Review (MTR) 2010

The Regional Director will give perspective to the regional priorities based on presentations made in Day 1, Day 2 and Day 3.

A summary of key areas of discussion and agreement of the RSGOM will be circulated for consideration and consensus – building with a view to refining inputs for the Report to the MTR.

Announcements/Chairperson's concluding Remarks

Any Other Business

-AU Youth Day and UN 2010 International Year of Youth

An update on the declaration of 2010 as International Year of Youth.

The RSGOM will note any proposed national and regional initiatives to commemorate the Africa Youth Day as well as Year of Youth, and may propose new events involving regional partners and stakeholders in youth development for "advancing the full and effective participation of youth in all aspects of society."

10.30 – 18.00**Project visit**

Delegates visit youth development projects in Nigeria. The projects provide opportunity for sharing experiences and demonstrating good practice.

19.00 – 21.00

Closing Session/Cultural Event

Remarks: CYP

RYC Representatives receive certificates of participation/service

GoH: Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Youth Development

DAY 4: Friday March 19, 2010**ALL DAY DEPARTURES**

ANNEX 11

COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MEETING (RSGOM)

13 – 18 MARCH 2010, ABUJA, NIGERIA

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Commonwealth Youth Programme Regional Centre for Africa

Commonwealth Secretariat

REGIONAL SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MEETING