

# COMMONWEALTH YOUTH COUNCIL

## Strategic Plan 2014/16

“Engaging and Empowering Young People”



# Message from the CYC Chairperson

As Chairperson of the Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC), I am pleased that this Strategic Plan reflects the views and aspirations of young people from across the Commonwealth. This Strategic Plan has been developed based on the mandate of the CYC General Assembly of the Commonwealth Youth Forum, held in Sri Lanka in November 2013.

I pay special tribute to the young people who attended the General Assembly, the Commonwealth Secretariat and all people and organisations who contributed to the development of the Strategic Plan. This is the youth-led Strategic Plan, to champion the issues of young people in the Commonwealth.

On behalf of the CYC, I am pleased to present this Strategic Plan and offer you a vision for young people for the next two years. A vision for the present and future generations of the Commonwealth. We are determined to further build CYC as a trusted partner in development that extensively contributes to the Commonwealth community, while empowering and engaging young people.

Our exciting and bold strategic plan, *Engaging and Empowering Young People*, is a roadmap for our organization that is allowing us to deliver now and into the future, on our vision of engaging and empowering young people in the Commonwealth for a better and stronger Commonwealth. It is through our strategic plan that we aim to lead in advancing the Commonwealth agenda, enabling young people to reach potential, and innovate and build a solid foundation for all young people in the Commonwealth.

This Strategic Plan is guided by CYC founding philosophy: **PARTICIPATING** to influence global policy agenda, **PROTECTING** the CYC and its members (young people of the Commonwealth) and **PROMOTING** our work at a national and global level. Key issues addressed by the Strategic Plan include: Education, Employment, and Sustainable Development Goals (Post 2015).

With passionate and dedicated membership from across the Commonwealth coupled with unparalleled Commonwealth support through member governments, the CYC is building on the inspiration of the young people we serve.

We encourage you to take the time to browse through our website to learn more about the CYC ([www.commonwealthyouthcouncil.org](http://www.commonwealthyouthcouncil.org)), and the work that we do in engaging and empowering young people of the Commonwealth.

We ask for your continued support and guidance as we continue to progress while promoting young people and upholding the values of the Commonwealth.

**Ahmed Adamu**

Chairperson

Commonwealth Youth Council

# COMMONWEALTH YOUTH COUNCIL (CYC)

**Mission:** Empowering and engaging young people in sustainable development, democracy and the values of the Commonwealth.

**Vision:** Empowered and engaged young people, working for a better world.

CYC is one of the largest and most diverse youth-led international organisations. Representing 1.2 billion young people from across 53 countries of the Commonwealth, CYC is the legitimate and recognised voice for young people of the Commonwealth.

CYC was established by young people with support from the Commonwealth Secretariat, in accordance with the terms of Article XIII of the Commonwealth Charter on the importance of young people in the Commonwealth.

CYC was endorsed by Commonwealth Heads of Government in Perth, Australia in November 2011, and the election of the inaugural executive was presented to Heads of Government in Colombo, Sri Lanka in November 2013.

CYC acts as a coalition of National Youth Councils and other youth-led civil society and private sector institutions.

CYC is a global platform which mainstreams young people; supporting and advocating for an enabling environment that facilitates the active participation and influence of young people in decision-making processes, and influence global agendas.

## THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE CYC:

- a) to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Commonwealth by promoting mutual collaboration among young people, and work in partnership with state and non-state actors in order to empower the young people of the Commonwealth, without distinction of race, ethnic origin, caste, colour, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability, special needs, socio-economic status, marital status, language, religious belief or political opinion;
- b) to be a global platform which mainstreams young people into the work of the Commonwealth at all levels; supporting and advocating for an enabling environment that facilitates the active participation and influence of young people in decision-making processes, and the consideration of youth-specific needs in all policy areas;
- c) to be a centre for mobilising, harmonising, formalising, recognising, legitimising, utilising, and prioritising the voices and actions of young people in the advancement of youth; and to be a unified voice for youth in the Commonwealth; and to encourage and extend, as

appropriate, assistance to Commonwealth countries, in particular small states, in the promotion and acceleration of their Youth Development Strategies;

- d) to advocate for the inclusion of young people as members of government and country delegations to international meets, in particular, Commonwealth Ministerial Meetings, Commonwealth Heads of Governments meetings and United Nations meetings; and to support young people's participation in election observer missions, Commonwealth Board of Governors and other Commonwealth meetings;
- e) to be a centre of excellence for information on youth work and development, and accordingly collect, monitor, analyse and disseminate information and resources including the exchange of experiences and best practices in youth-led development via various online channels so that young people can contribute meaningfully in the achievement of the Commonwealth youth development agenda and continue the path toward a more sustainable future; and
- f) to partner with the Commonwealth Secretariat and other Commonwealth organisations with a focus on youth development, to ensure a relevant, impactful and unified youth development agenda across the Commonwealth.

# **INTRODUCTION**

Sixty per cent of the Commonwealth's population of over 2 billion people is under the age of 30 years. Young people constitute a majority proportion of the population in many Commonwealth countries. Commonly referred to as the 'youth bulge', this demographic imperative will result in the largest ever cohort of young people transitioning into adulthood. By 2015 there will be three billion young people in the world, with 2.5 billion living in developing countries. All the indicators point inexorably to the fact that young people will be exposed to greater challenges and inequalities than any other social group.

In the Commonwealth the youth engagement and empowerment mechanisms are still at the developmental stage. For young people in the Commonwealth to realise political 'empowerment', there should be opportunities, alternatives, pathways and mechanisms that facilitate their participation in the decision making processes as partners and stakeholders in development.

The lack of a credible youth engagement strategy has also meant that there is a lack of standards and accountability for national youth structures. The nature and work of national youth councils vary significantly across the Commonwealth, and where national youth councils exist, they are often under resourced and insufficiently supported. National youth councils and youth led organisations have a significant role to play in the promotion of Commonwealth values and principles.

Sixty-eight per cent of Commonwealth member states have National Youth Councils, and two established regional youth councils out of a possible four exist. It is essential that Governments across the Commonwealth consider young people as one of their most treasured assets to ensure future prosperity and growth of Commonwealth countries.

This strategic plan is designed to implement the Commonwealth Youth Forum/CYC General Assembly outcome document. This plan supports the Commonwealth Heads of Government Magampura Commitment to Young People, which places "Young People at the Centre of Sustainable and Inclusive Development", recognising the vital role that young people can and must play in the development of their countries.

This plan aims to work with youth leaders, member governments and stakeholders to ensure that young people are empowered and supported to participate meaningfully in the political decision making processes and to take forward youth-led initiatives that contribute to the social development of Commonwealth member states. The plan is a culmination of a wide and extensive consultation, evaluation and review process.

This plan will establish and strengthen the youth led mechanisms, platforms, opportunities and pathways for young people to engage politically and through social development interventions at national, regional and Commonwealth levels. These opportunities and platforms must demonstrate legitimacy and significance by being well structured, transparent, democratic and accountable, i.e. they must take account of Commonwealth values and principles.

This plan will target youth leaders, National Youth Councils, Commonwealth youth networks (including the Commonwealth Youth Council and the Commonwealth Students Association), youth workers, and youth officials in non-government institutions. The plan will advocate for greater focus on young people's participation in Post 2015 development framework processes, enhance efforts towards employment opportunities for young people and support the achievement of quality education for all. The plan will also mobilise and join other stakeholders in addressing Social Cohesion and Reconciliation and Professionalization of Youth Work.

## **KEY FOCUS AREAS**

### **1. Youth and Post 2015 Framework**

#### **Mandate**

**Magampura Commitment to Young People by Commonwealth Heads of Government noted that:** The post-2015 development agenda is crucial to young people, who will be its heirs, custodians and champions. We acknowledge the call of Commonwealth Youth Ministers and Youth Leaders for a specific, stand-alone goal on youth empowerment and participation, and youth-specific indicators on all relevant goals. We also acknowledge the recommendations from Commonwealth Education Ministers on education targets for the post-2015 framework.

**Ninth Commonwealth Youth Forum/CYC General Assembly Declaration by the young people of the Commonwealth noted that:** The increasingly large youth demographic in the world makes it impossible to discuss a future development framework without taking into account young people's needs, aspirations and challenges. Special efforts should be made to ensure that the voices of marginalized young people - those with disabilities, girls and young women, key affected populations, migrant youth and indigenous youth - should be heard to ensure that they are not left behind.

#### **Rationale**

The youth of the Commonwealth note that:

- Young people were not adequately recognised in the goals and targets of the Millennium Development Goals.

- Placing young people at the centre of development is essential to national development and is a highly cost effective development strategy.
- The Commonwealth Youth Development Index is a strong tool to inform policy and track progress in youth development.
- The UN MyWorld survey has been extensively taken up by young people and is useful for understanding development priorities.

The youth of the Commonwealth believe:

- It is vital to recognize youth as partners in development and mainstream their concerns in all aspects of planning, implementation and evaluation of the Post 2015 Development agenda.

## Action

The youth of the Commonwealth call on:

- All member states to put young people at the centre of development by advocating for a specific goal on youth development and integrated youth targets for all goals in the post 2015 framework. We recommend that the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Youth Council partner to set up a working committee to propose suggested targets to the relevant decision makers for inclusion in the framework.
- The United Nations to ensure effective and inclusive youth participation in the formulation process of the Post 2015 agenda, using existing mechanisms like the World Conference on Youth 2014. We also call on Commonwealth member states to facilitate youth participation in such platforms and processes.
- All member states to be accountable for implementation of policies and programmes to achieve the post 2015 development goals. We stress the importance of making information accessible to everyone using multiple languages (ethnically, inter-generationally and non-academically), and highlight the potential of the Commonwealth Youth Development Index and other youth-related indices for tracking progress, and the potential of engaging young people in collection of better and more data.
- The Commonwealth Secretariat to establish a youth-specific Commonwealth Post 2015 Goals Monitoring and Evaluation Group, comprising of Commonwealth Youth, Ministers from member states, the Commonwealth Secretariat, Civil Society Organisations working with Youth, and independent experts, that ensures member states maintain and provide support to facilitate youth participation in planning, implementation and evaluation of the post 2015 development agenda.
- All member states to commit to strengthening national youth development and empowerment as per the post 2015 development

goals, and to provide mutual support on sharing knowledge and practices to leverage the diversity of the Commonwealth to deliver on the goals.

## 2. Education - Fit for Purpose

### Mandate

**Magampura Commitment to Young People by Commonwealth Heads of Government noted that:** We recognize the critical importance to young people of access to new technologies and information, including connectivity through social media and ICT curriculum in schools, to effectively communicate and mobilise paid employment opportunities, engage in development initiatives, and build higher expectations of themselves and their communities. We note that ICT can be an effective instrument for rural and small state empowerment, making isolated communities a meaningful stakeholder in the global community

**Ninth Commonwealth Youth Forum/CYC General Assembly Declaration by the young people of the Commonwealth noted that:** Youth of the Commonwealth recognise that educational outcomes for young people are directly related to the amount member states invest in quality education, skills based training and ICT.

### Rationale

The youth of the Commonwealth note:

- There is a disparity between member states of the Commonwealth in regards to access to education by all groups of young people.
- That education curricula of member states of the Commonwealth vary largely in regards to the inclusion and use of Technical, Vocational Educational Training (TVET).

The youth of the Commonwealth believe:

- Quality education based on values is important.
- Education that considers practical skills for all groups of young people is valuable and will benefit the economic needs of a country.
- Entrepreneurship is an excellent sustainable alternative for young people.



## Action

The youth of the Commonwealth call on:

- All Member states to commit to developing/reforming and implementing education policies within Member States to:
  - Improve the access of all categories of youth to quality and Values-Based Education, and ensure marketable and practical skills-building opportunities through accredited Technical, Vocational Educational Training (TVET) which builds on youth skills, especially to cater to the economic needs of the country.
  - Increase entrepreneurship education programmes to support both urban and especially rural communities.
- The Commonwealth Youth Council should commit to partnering with member states through inter-regional sub-committees and National Youth Councils, in order to:
  - Ensure inclusive and relevant educational and entrepreneurship provision to all young people of the Commonwealth, specifically focusing on girls, the differently abled, and persons with learning disabilities.
  - Develop practical systems to ensure quality and relevant curriculum development and delivery to include life skills, technical and vocational skills, leadership and social values.
  - Implement structures for monitoring the development, reformation and implementation of all Government educational programmes and policies (particularly scholarships, fellowships, internships, youth exchange programmes, academic research), with systems to also inform youth of these opportunities.
  - Provide Commonwealth youth oversight on quality standards for academic and technical education curriculum allowing for consistent accountability measures to ensure that all nations of the Commonwealth comply.

### **3. Generating Quality Youth Employment**

#### Mandate

**Ninth Commonwealth Youth Forum/CYC General Assembly Declaration by the young people of the Commonwealth noted that:** Young people across the world face growing rates of unemployment, typically at higher rates than any other cohort in the world. Under-employment, un-fair working conditions and involuntary work can be attributed to a feeling of a lack of worth, social exclusion and vulnerability. The young people of the Commonwealth recognise the importance of skills development, including

vocational and technical skills training, and its potential to enhance their access to quality employment.

**Magampura Commitment to Young People by Commonwealth Heads of Government noted that:** We reaffirm the importance of job creation and youth enterprise for inclusive economic growth, which is vital to national prosperity and social cohesion, and commit to enhancing and investing in relevant policies, regulations and programming. We urge business leaders to prioritise opportunities for young people, and support efforts to address skills training to fit industry needs, especially through technical and vocational Education and training (TVET). We commend the Commonwealth Asia Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs (CAAYE), and encourage replication of the model to build young entrepreneurs' networks in all regions of the Commonwealth. We welcome the Government of Sri Lanka's proposal to the United Nations to declare an "International Skills Day" to promote and recognise youth skills development.

## **Rationale**

The youth of the Commonwealth note:

- More action needs to be taken by member states of the Commonwealth to seek options to create enabling environments for social entrepreneurship, focus attention on transitions from education into decent work and consider how policies need to reflect and address the vulnerable work situations young people find themselves in.
- Promotion of entrepreneurship as a sustainable solution for the increasing demand for employment is vital.

The youth of the Commonwealth believe:

- An education system that is relevant will ensure the discharge of employable youth to the society.

## **Action**

The youth of the Commonwealth call upon:

- Member states to provide adequate fund matching for investment into start-ups.
- Member states to make bank loans more accessible for start-ups in order to grow and stimulate the economy.
- Member states to ensure education and learning curriculums that empower entrepreneurship and facilitate entrepreneurial thinking.
- Member states to promote tertiary education to include practical skills development, work placements and capacity building.

- Member states to enable students to receive academic recognition for internships, volunteering and relevant extra-curricular activities in order to increase their employability.

## 4. Reconciliation and Social Cohesion

### Mandate

**Ninth Commonwealth Youth Forum/CYC General Assembly Declaration by the young people of the Commonwealth noted that:** Young people around the globe continue to seek and take opportunities to build a peaceful world. Moving towards global citizenship, having shared values and regenerating community efforts in ensuring mutual understanding and respect for each other are key priorities. Reconciliation is part of the pathway to social cohesion.

**Magampura Commitment to Young People by Commonwealth Heads of Government mandated that:** We are deeply concerned at the vulnerability of our young people to involvement in crime and to the illicit use of narcotic drugs. We resolve to take concerted action to protect them from such dangers and harness their energies in constructive ways

### Rationale

The youth of the Commonwealth note:

- That not all members of the Commonwealth have National Youth Councils.
- Reconciliation and social cohesion includes respecting the past and moving forward.

The youth of the Commonwealth believe:

- National Youth Councils are key to promoting reconciliation and social cohesion in member countries.
- Mutual understanding and respect are key values in the process of reconciliation and social cohesion.

## Action

The youth of the Commonwealth call on:

- All member states to continue to seek ways to increase capacity to deal with conflict through dialogue and collaborative action through the concepts of reconciliation and social cohesion.
- All member states to review their school curriculum and include topics of history, culture, citizenship, diversity, language and religion that promote reconciliation and social cohesion.
- All member states to partner with young people for development and implementation of reconciliation policies and programs.
- The Commonwealth Youth Council to advocate with each Commonwealth member state to establish a democratically elected National Youth Council that abides by Commonwealth values.
- All member states to support the CYC to build a youth-led working group to promote reconciliation & social cohesion, and to advocate for peace and unity in the Commonwealth, based on the Commonwealth values of democracy, development and diversity.
- The Commonwealth Youth Council to establish an accessible database of best practice and policies on Reconciliation and Social Cohesion.
- All member states to place the existing Commonwealth report 'Civil Paths to Peace' at the forefront of all reconciliation & social cohesion endeavors through the meaningful pursuit and implementation of the report's recommendations, in order to reinforce the other recommendations of the CYC.

## 5. Professionalisation of Youth Work

### Mandate

**Ninth Commonwealth Youth Forum/CYC General Assembly Declaration by the young people of the Commonwealth noted that:** The Commonwealth Youth Forum recognises the important contribution of youth workers and volunteers in youth development, and endorses the Commonwealth Youth Programme's essential work to establish a Professional Code of Ethical Practice and further develop Youth Work Education and Training.

**Magampura Commitment to Young People by Commonwealth Heads of Government mandated that:** We commend the significant contribution made to youth development and empowerment by professional youth development workers across all sectors. We acknowledge the Commonwealth Secretariat's ongoing commitment to youth work education and professionalisation, and the strong commitment demonstrated by the Government of South Africa in hosting the inaugural Commonwealth Conference on Youth Work Education and Training earlier this year.

## **Rationale**

The youth of the Commonwealth note:

- The Commonwealth's on-going commitment to youth work education and professionalization.
- The importance and vital work of youth work practitioners to ensuring safer and healthier lives of young people.

## **Action**

The youth of the Commonwealth call on:

- All member states to recognize and support Youth Work as a profession.
- The Commonwealth Youth Programme to facilitate the establishment of National Youth Workers' Associations.
- The Commonwealth Youth Programme to establish a pan-Commonwealth Youth Workers' Association as an umbrella structure.

# **CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

## **1. Gender Mainstreaming and Equality:**

The Charter of the Commonwealth “recognise[s] that gender equality and women’s empowerment are essential components of human development and basic human rights. The advancement of women’s rights and the education of girls are critical preconditions for effective and sustainable development”.

Men and women must have equal rights and opportunities in all areas of society and the economy if sustainable development is to be achieved. “Mainstreaming a gender perspective is [...] a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women as well as of men an integral part 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, and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal of mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality.”<sup>1</sup>

The Commonwealth Secretariat has long been a leading player in promoting gender equality and gender mainstreaming on the international stage, with its 1995 Plan of Action on Gender and Development (PoA) which established the mandate for gender equality issues to be mainstreamed.

The Commonwealth Youth Council aims to continue the promotion of gender equality and will ensure that programmes and project activities consider gender relevance at every stage, with the aim of avoiding reproducing discrimination on the grounds of gender, and to promote equality between women and men.

The youth of the Commonwealth called for “the Commonwealth Youth Council to advocate for comprehensive gender sensitization programmes which particularly address the harmful consequences of violence against women, men and children” at the Ninth Commonwealth Youth Forum.

## **2. Marginalised and Special Interest Groups:**

In accordance with the theme for the 2013 Commonwealth Youth Forum, ‘Inclusive Development-Stronger Together’, the young people of the Commonwealth called for “special efforts [...] to ensure that the voices of marginalized young people - those with disabilities, girls and young women, key affected populations, migrant youth and indigenous youth - should be heard to ensure that they are not left behind”.

In their Response to the UN High-Level Panel Report on the Post-2015 Agenda, the young people of the Commonwealth noted that collective efforts to leave no one behind should incorporate special treatment for special interest groups,

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<sup>1</sup>As defined by UN ECOSOC in July 1997 : Agreed Conclusions 1997/2.

especially the most marginalised and vulnerable who should be accorded uttermost attention.

While calling for support for the most vulnerable in society, it was also recognised that goals and targets focusing on specific ethnic groups, genders, and income groups should be focused on achieving full and complete equality of opportunity for all people.

## 2. STRATEGIC INTERVENTION AREAS

	<b>Strategic Outcome</b>	Young people are more integrated, valued and enabled to contribute to the social, economic, political and development processes at all levels.	
	<b>Intermediate Outcome</b>	Young people can identify and contribute meaningfully to their future by being empowered and supported in taking forward youth led initiatives in the Commonwealth.	
	<b>PROGRAMME AREAS</b>	<b>OUTCOMES</b>	<b>INDICATORS</b>
1	<b>Youth Inclusion and Development in Sustainable Development Goals (Post 2015 Development Agenda).</b>	Commonwealth youth engaged in the planning, implementation and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (Post 2015 Development Agenda), and are informed and empowered to participate in policy making discussions at local and global level.	<p>Pan-Commonwealth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commonwealth Youth Task Force for the Post-2015 Development Agenda established and functioning effectively.</li> <li>Number of Youth Task Force for Post-2015 meetings/activities that create the interface and interaction between young people and governments/policy makers/stakeholders on Sustainable Development Goals.</li> <li>Commonwealth Youth Task Force for Post-2015's position/advocacy paper produced and shared with state and non-state actors in the Commonwealth and globally.</li> <li><b>SAY YES TO YOUTH</b> campaign launched to mobilise and engage youth, in partnership with YAD and youth networks/organisations to advocate for a stand-alone goal on youth development and integrated youth targets for all Sustainable Development Goals.</li> <li>Initiated the Commonwealth Network of UN Youth Delegates to advance the Say Yes to Youth campaign at high-level policy forums.</li> </ul> <p>Regional/National:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established a youth-specific Commonwealth Post-2015 Goals Monitoring and Evaluation Group to ensure that member states maintain and provide support to facilitate youth participation in all processes related to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.</li> <li>Number of functioning strategic partnerships with bodies including the United Nations for stronger collaboration, legitimacy and knowledge building identified.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Education and Skills Development - Education Fit for Purpose.</b>	Commonwealth youth supported to effectively access and participate in the development and implementation of education policies and programmes.	<p>Pan-Commonwealth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commonwealth Students Association (CSA) and Commonwealth Scholars supported to participate and influence education policy at Education Ministers Meetings and other programmes.</li> </ul> <p>Regional/National:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth-friendly educational approaches/programmes promoted.</li> <li>Commonwealth youth meaningfully engaged and contributing to Educational for all Initiative (EFA).</li> <li>'Best practice' resources pertaining to building relevant and purposeful school curriculums, vocational education and training institutions toolkit developed.</li> </ul>



3	<b>Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship</b>	Facilitated, created and promoted opportunities for youth empowerment, employment and entrepreneurship for Commonwealth youth at national and international levels.	<p>Regional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocated for the establishment of at least 5 Commonwealth Youth Development Centres for Innovation &amp; Entrepreneurship to be in Commonwealth regions, (with programmes for ICT, renewable energies, and conference/meetings facilities).</li> <li>• Number of grants provided to HYPE project (Helping Young People Employed) for youth-led initiatives which tackle youth unemployment.</li> </ul> <p>National:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of countries and companies investing in youth start-ups and providing access to capital for young people.</li> <li>• Commonwealth youth meaningfully engaged and contributing to relevant stakeholder organisations and other employment programmes and consultations.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Youth Engagement and Participatory Governance</b>	Commonwealth youth empowered, engaged, harmonised, recognised and involved in democratic national and regional youth led structures, and other youth-led/focused organisations and networks, working to address issues affecting young people and their communities.	<p>Pan-Commonwealth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commonwealth Youth Council Secretariat established in Sri Lanka and effectively functioning and managing youth-led projects and CYC work.</li> <li>• CYC General Assembly 2015 held and new CYC Executives elected.</li> <li>• Commonwealth Youth Honorary Award recognising people and organisations working toward better youth engagement and political and civic participation.</li> </ul> <p>Regional/National:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National and regional youth led structures/organisations/networks increasingly focused on addressing issues of poor democracy, elections, gender, youth crimes/violence, justice, peace building, health/HIV/AIDs, and climate change.</li> <li>• Number of website and social media platforms for CYC and member organisations supported.</li> <li>• Advocated for an increase in the number of national, regional and Pan-Commonwealth youth networks and platforms established or strengthened and synchronised.</li> <li>• Commonwealth Youth Development Index disseminated and used as a measurement tool for future progress and achievement of the work and common goals of youth-led structures.</li> <li>• Number of CYC member organisations and stakeholders engaged and supported to promote advocacy and action on CYC General Assembly/Commonwealth Youth Forum Declaration recommendations/resolutions.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Professionalisation of Youth Work</b>	Professionalisation of Youth Work in the Commonwealth encouraged and promoted	<p>Pan-Commonwealth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commonwealth youth and stakeholders engaged in the Commonwealth Youth Work Week.</li> </ul> <p>National:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CYC member organisations and youth councils involved in the organisation of national activities in support of Commonwealth Youth Work Week.</li> <li>• Advocated for an increase in the number of countries and universities providing recognised courses on youth work.</li> <li>• Supported the establishment of a youth workers' network.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported advocacy for National Youth Workers' Associations in Commonwealth member states.</li> </ul>
6	Reconciliation and Social Cohesion	Reconciliation and Social Cohesion in the Commonwealth promoted.	<p>Pan-Commonwealth/Regional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nelson Mandela Youth Award on reconciliation and social cohesion established.</li> <li>Commonwealth Youth Sport for Peace and Development Network supported to engage in Reconciliation and Social Cohesion initiatives.</li> <li>Commonwealth Youth Concert for Reconciliation and Social Cohesion held at the Commonwealth Youth General Assembly in Malta/CHOGM.</li> </ul> <p>National:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of Youth-led groups assisted to promote social cohesion at country level, sharing best practices through a database of such practices.</li> </ul>

