

The Commonwealth Business Forum 2022

The Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) has grown from its inaugural meeting in 1997 into a major international event, bringing together Commonwealth leaders from across business and government for a dialogue on practical ways to enhance trade and investment. Through the Commonwealth's shared values, and business, commercial, and legislative practices, it is 21% cheaper to do business across the Commonwealth. This is known as the 'Commonwealth Advantage'. In 2022, we expect to welcome to Kigali around 750 delegates, consisting of a 70/30 split from business and government.

The CBF facilitates direct business linkages and investment promotion activities. The Forum will be run under strict health and safety protocols and will be structured around plenary sessions and interactive networking sessions. It is a platform for B2G and B2B discussion at the very highest levels, addressing the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) theme '**Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming**'.

The Forum provides multiple opportunities for one-to-one business meetings as well as networking during the specially programmed networking sessions and breaks, the Forum Reception and Gala Dinner. CBF 2022 will feature special invitation-only 'Think Tank' sessions to support the Government of Rwanda in developing policy areas for their time as Commonwealth Chair-in-Office.

CBF 2022 will be held on the three days preceding the Official Opening of CHOGM, to maximise the participation of visiting Heads of Government and their delegations. It will be addressed by Heads of Government, senior ministers, captains of industry, and board level business leaders from around the Commonwealth and beyond. CBF 2022 will also feature specially organised site visits for delegates and participants looking to further explore the opportunities in Rwanda.

CBF 2022 will be one of the first major global in-person events in the post-Covid environment, and will be an opportunity for delegates and speakers alike to help contribute to a reset of business norms across the Commonwealth.

CBF 2022 is organised as partnership between the Government of Rwanda and the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC).

Day One- Tuesday 21 June

0830-1000	Registration and Arrivals, Opening of the Exhibition Hall
1000-1100	Opening Ceremony: Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming
Session 1 Plenary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HE Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda • The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC Commonwealth Secretary-General. • Lord Marland, Chairman, CWEIC • Visiting Head of Government
1100-1130	Networking Break
1130-1300	A Global Reset: Leveraging the Commonwealth for a Global Recovery
Session 2 Plenary	<p>The economic shock of Covid-19 has pushed the global economy into a sharp downturn and exposed systemic fragilities. This session will bring together policy makers & business leaders to share insights on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does an inclusive economic recovery look like? • How do recovery strategies align with the Commonwealth's shared values - free trade, diversity and multilateralism, and a commitment to the rules based global economy? • How can the Commonwealth Advantage and the Commonwealth's global network be put to better use?
1300-1400	Networking Lunch
1400-1530	Commonwealth Trade: Challenging Protectionisms and Reducing the Barriers to Business
Session 3 Plenary	<p>As the world recovers, free trade areas and reducing barriers to cross-border trade is more critical than ever – how can the Commonwealth challenge rising protectionism?</p> <p>Most Commonwealth Countries are members of Free Trade Zones, and 19 are members of the world's newest AfCFTA. What lessons can be learnt from existing Common markets and how can we apply them to make Commonwealth trade easier?</p>

	This session will explore new concepts & frameworks to capitalize on trade agreements, the Commonwealth Advantage and the Commonwealth Network.
1400-1530	Positioning the Commonwealth for the Future of Work:
Session 4 Breakout	<p>The future of work is being shaped by new powerful forces: including the growing adoption of artificial intelligence, automation in the workplace, and an adapting workforce including ever increasing examples of non-traditional employment types.</p> <p>Are changes are taking place in workplace, the workforce, and the nature of work itself? Can we re-imagine education to nurture skill of the future? What does talent mobility look like in a more digitised and decentralised world?</p>
1400-1600	Innovation in the Commonwealth
Mixer Session	<p>A specially curated, invitation only, networking and discussion opportunity focused on investors and start-ups in the ICT Sector.</p> <p>Selected investors will present to an audience of start-ups and innovators on how they selected the companies they support and invest in.</p> <p>Hosted in the Disrupt Hub, the session will end with networking and a tour of the Exhibition.</p>
1530-1600	Networking Break
1600-1730	Dressed to save: Fashioning the Commonwealth
Session 5 Plenary	<p>The fashion industry has been a major contributor to climate change and biodiversity loss. The industry's sustainability efforts are critical to the planet's health.</p> <p>This session will feature a series of presentations from leaders in the fashion industry, who will share their journey and lessons learnt as they work to transform the industry. An interactive discussion with the audience will follow.</p>
1830	Welcome Reception & Fashion Show

Day Two – Wednesday 22 June

0830-0930	Arrivals and Networking Break
	Invitation only sponsored working breakfasts
0930-1100	Governance for the Future: Are We Prepared?
Session 6 Plenary	<p>Too often, governance and regulation struggle to keep up with innovation. New ideas, products, and business models are hampered, while citizens are left with outdated protections.</p> <p>As the Fourth Industrial Revolution takes hold, how will the Commonwealth gain a competitive advantage in the global economy through a more agile regulatory approach? How can a seamless regulatory landscape tackle barriers to trade and cooperation?</p> <p>This session will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic measures needed to enhance foresight • “Outcome-focused” regulation • How we can create a space to experiment, and leverage data to fuel innovation. • The role of the private sector in developing a seamless regulatory landscape, and tackling barriers to trade and cooperation.
0930 - 1100	Ecosystems: Redesigning Global Value Chains in a Post-COVID World
Session 7 Breakout	<p>Hybrids between centralisation and decentralisation of processes can be observed in Fourth Industrial Revelation environments.</p> <p>The post-covid world and emerging and underlying digital technologies are influencing the design of ecosystems in global value chains, and thus their management. The new global landscape is challenging all governments to reassess their national competitive advantages and development strategies.</p> <p>This session will feature a series of conversations with policy experts and thought leaders who will share insights into how policy-makers can analyse connectedness, capabilities and competitiveness, and better collaborate with the private sector.</p>
1100-1130	Networking Break
1130-1300	Our Common Health: Delivering Equitable Healthcare
Session 8 Plenary	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the health & livelihoods of Commonwealth citizens and world alike. When it comes to a pandemic, we need a global approach towards enhanced cooperation.</p>

	<p>As we go through the third year of the pandemic, what lessons have we learnt to re-imagine healthcare across the Commonwealth?</p> <p>How do we solve the glaring inequities the pandemic brought to the forefront such as access to treatments, life saving equipment & vaccines?</p>
1130-1300	Innovation in Financing and FinTech, Supporting Sustainable Growth
Session 9 Plenary	<p>How do we finance the next stage of sustainable growth? As the world recovers, do we need to rely on traditional financing methods or can we utilise new technologies and systems? This session will look at the role Government must play to harness innovation and facilitate growth.</p> <p>What role does FinTech such as Crypto, AI and Blockchain play in growing the economy, and how can governments create the infrastructure to help it thrive. How do cross-party stakeholders work together to support an industry in rapid growth, while protecting consumers and a fair tax take?</p>
1130-1300	Impact Investments: Unleashing the Power of Capital for Good
Mixer Session	<p>A specially curated, invitation-only, networking and discussion opportunity on everything you need to know about Investing for Impact.</p> <p>This curated interactive workshop will answer pertinent questions in the world of impact investments – from what they are, who is funding them and financial performance, to market size and opportunities.</p> <p>Hosted in the Disrupt Hub, the session will end with networking and a tour of the Exhibition.</p>
1300-1400	Networking Lunch
1400-1530	Bridging the Digital Divide
Session 10 Plenary	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the transition towards a global digital economy. The world's increased reliance on technology has laid bare the divide between those who can access the digital ecosystem & and those who cannot.</p> <p>How can the Commonwealth Advantage promote business investment opportunities in digital solutions, services & infrastructure? How can the private sector across the Commonwealth gain from these opportunities?</p>
1400-1600	Champions for Green
Mixer Session	A specially curated, invitation only, networking and discussion opportunity on everything you need to know the blue and green economy ecosystems.

	<p>This curated interactive workshop will be exchanging ideas, share best practice on how to make that growth greener.</p> <p>Hosted in the Disrupt Hub, the session will end with networking and a tour of the Exhibition.</p>
1530-1600	Networking Break
1600-1730	Financing Blue-Green Growth for Sustainable Islands
Session 11 Plenary	<p>The unique characteristics of small islands present both benefits and vulnerabilities. How can green financing solutions such as ‘The Commonwealth Green Finance Facility’ help islands use their size and agility to accelerate their uptake of Nature Based Solutions, and transform their reliance on tourism and shipping into blue-green growth?</p> <p>Are there other opportunities available for clean growth that drive economic development and ecological resilience on land and sea?</p>
1600-1730	Sustainable Tourism
Session 12 Breakout	<p>Tourism is a ‘supergrowth industry’ and a vital pillar of many Commonwealth countries. As we emerge from the COVID pandemic, how can the industry overcome concerns and restore confidence in international travel?</p> <p>How can Commonwealth countries ensure that the drive towards tourism recovery prioritises sustainability conservation?</p> <p>In this session, Commonwealth industry leaders will share their future strategies to revitalise tourism and revive ancillary sectors, including transport and hospitality, in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner.</p>
1830	Gala Dinner

Day Three – Thursday 23 June

0800-0900	Arrivals and Networking Break
	Invitation only sponsored working breakfasts
0930-1100	Future Cities: Sustainable Urbanisation
Session 13 Plenary	Urbanisation is one of the great challenges and opportunities of our time. How do we ensure our rapidly expanding cities give decent places to live, move populations safely, provide jobs and foster innovation? How do the new cities we need protect and improve the environment for future generations?
1100-11:30	Networking Coffee Break
1130-1300	Closing Ceremony: A Challenge to the Commonwealth: Towards a Sustainable World
Session 14 Plenary	<p>HRH The Prince of Wales launched 'The Great Reset' in 2020 and 'Terra Carta' in January 2021, as an appeal to bring prosperity in harmony with nature. Rwanda, in its role as Chair-in-Office, will be setting the Commonwealth's biennial agenda during this historic juncture.</p> <p>How does the family of 54 Commonwealth nations, under Rwanda's leadership, achieve a step-change in the renewal of the Commonwealth, towards collective prosperity, economic sustainability and societal resilience?</p>
1300-1400	Networking Lunch
1400-1600	By invitation only - Heads of Government and CEOs Roundtable

Thought Leadership at the Commonwealth Business Forum

For the first time in 2022, the Commonwealth Business Forum will convene special, invitation-only, Think Tank session with Business and Government Leaders to discuss key issues, and develop positions to support the Government of Rwanda during its two years as Chair in Office of the Commonwealth.

Each Think Tank, co-chaired with the Government of Rwanda, will be held under the Chatham House Rule and will provide a space for robust and incisive discussions where members of the Commonwealth family can share experience, exchange views and develop shared positions.

At the end of the sessions, the Think Tanks will propose a set of recommendations for further discussion, and will continue to meet after the conclusion of CBF 2022.

Participants will be contracted by the organisers to be invited to participate in the sessions.

Think Tank One - Innovating for Food Security

Food security is a critical discussion for many if not all Commonwealth Countries, this Think Tank will focus on universal access to food, and climate-smart farming.

The intersection between innovation & agriculture is more pertinent than ever. Digital and AgTech innovations are changing the Food Security Landscape, with Commonwealth Countries at the forefront of this innovation.

This Think Tank, will bring together experts in the Food Security & Food Systems, and will explore a range of issues around policy and digital implementation strategies. Participants will look at successful use cases with a view to proposing pathways to new research, while advocating for digital innovations and solutions.

Think Tank Two - Skills for the Future

With 2.4 billion citizens spanning 5 continents, the Commonwealth's greatest strength lies in its people, 60% of whom are under the age of 30. What does the future of work hold for the next generations? Are our academic institutions producing young people with the skills and knowledge required for their future? How can business and government collaborate to deliver on the promise of the Commonwealth's youth?

This Think Tank will invite policy makers, academics and thought leaders in the field of education with private sector leaders to discuss and debate the future of skills.

Think Tank Three – Standards and Regulations

Trade across borders flows more easily with a common set of standards and regulations. How does the Commonwealth ensure that standards encourage trade, give consumers



confidence and add value for producers without them serving to protect markets for incumbents?

This Think Tank will convene policy makers, regulators, and standards agencies with private sector leaders to discuss how to better ease trade across the Commonwealth.