



APPENDIX TO
COMMONAGE ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT
2023-2024

“Extending our influence”

Datin Jacqueline Wong
CommonAge Vice Chair

(1) COP 28. 30 November to 12 December 2023 in Dubai, UAE. The [Commonwealth Secretariat hosted a pavilion at COP28](#), as a hub for member countries, development partners and other collaborators to use for events, presentations and networking sessions. The highlights included the first [Health Day](#).

I attended as regional representative of the IMF-World Bank Group and as CommonAge representative supported the Commonwealth AOs presenting in the COP28.



(2) The Road to CHMM 2023-2024-2025

Following from the CHMM 2023 in Geneva, consultations and interviews were undertaken with health partners across the Commonwealth regions.

I was consulted on several areas of progress and specific interventions after having presented in the **12 Keys Asks for Advancing UHC** to health ministers and senior health officials at the People’s Forum dialogue convened by the Commonwealth Foundation at the CHMM 2023 in Geneva. The evaluation was on several areas of health concerns:

- Sexual and reproductive health
- Elder care
- Mental health
- Climate change and health
- Addressing disparities and discrimination
- NCDs

The findings were compiled in a Progress Report with the update presented to the health ministers and senior officials on 24 May 2024 in Geneva.



Datin Jacqueline Wong with the Samoa delegation in the Commonwealth People's Forum dialogue convened by the Commonwealth Foundation in 2023, led by Dr Anne Gallagher, Director General of the Commonwealth Foundation. Beside her: HE Mr Valasi Luapitofanua To'ogamaga Tafito Selesele, Minister of Health; and beside me: Dr Aiono Alec Ekeroma, Director-General of Health.

Dr Alec was in a CACH session held in July 2024 convened by the Commonwealth Secretariat hosted by Dame Carol Black, Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Healthy Ageing.

CommonAge's work in Brunei was recognised, and the extracted paragraph in the following:

Recommendation 11: Adopt a life course approach in healthcare priority planning, that accounts for the needs of both current and future generations. To be truly universal, UHC must benefit everyone, at every point throughout their life journey. To be sustainable, progress towards UHC must reflect and seek to meet the needs of both current and future generations. Commonwealth governments should—in policy and in practice—explicitly recognise the health needs and rights of people of all ages. Older people should benefit from policies and strategies that emphasise, fund and create structures to: (i) support healthy ageing; and (ii) prioritise appropriate care for older people including primary healthcare, community-based care, long-term care and support, and palliative care.

The CHMM and SOM are the keys to policy, funding and implementation of the **Commonwealth Roadmap on Ageing Well** blueprint. CommonAge is providing consultations and advice through the ComSec, CACH*, CF and CPF.

** Coincidentally, Brunei is the CACH Chair (2023-24). I am in direct communication with the health minister and DG Health Services. We are on the same page on the roadmap, healthy ageing agenda, including dementia. The DG Health Services was invited to present in Lausanne XI.*

In the 20th Session of Brunei Legislative Council (LegCo) held in March 2024, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, [the Minister of Health underscored the ministry's commitment to provide accessible and comprehensive healthcare services, including individuals with dementia.](#) The minister emphasised the importance of early detection and intervention in dementia prevention, detection, treatment and care. I was invited to attend the LegCo sessions as observer.

(3) C7 Summit, W7 Summit and G7 Ministerial Dialogues 2024

Italy holds the G7 presidency for 2024.



(3.1) C7 Summit 2024

Civil society Working Groups meetings were held from December 2023 through May 2024; and Ministerial meetings from June until December 2024.

In January 2024, [seven Working Groups](#) have been established and working intensively on thematic areas in preparation for the **C7 Summit**. Within these Working Groups, recommendations to the G7 are formulated and/or readdressed. These collective efforts result in a joint political declaration (in the form of a Communiqué) which is then formally presented to the governments of the G7 and deliberated in the G7 Leaders' Summit in June 2024.

C7 Summit 2024 was held on 14-15 May at the FAO Headquarters in Rome with ministerial dialogues and events on the side.

Representing CommonAge, I was involved in five (of total seven) Working Groups and made critical recommendations to the [C7 Communiqué 2024](#). Age-inclusive responses, healthy ageing and longevity through life approach, and dementia were included; include the vulnerable,

marginalised and underserved groups – leaving no one behind; and proposals in grants and sustainable funding from the World Bank and Pandemic Fund were accepted.

The G7 Health Ministerial Meeting was held on 9-11 October in Ancona. I attended online by invitation only. A member of the Global Health Architecture Working Group, I made inputs to the Statement and final Recommendations to the ministerial dialogue.

The Civil 7 (C7) is one of the official engagement groups of the G7. It provides a platform for CSOs to bring forth proposals and demands aimed at protecting the environment and promoting social and economic development and wellbeing for all, ensuring healthy lives, gender equality, human rights and the principle of leaving no one behind, in order to stimulate a constructive dialogue with the G7. The C7 goes far beyond the 7 countries, gathering the voice of more than 700 organisations from over 70 countries; policy positions and recommendations are therefore developed collectively with a vibrant and inclusive process.

(3.2) W7 Summit 2024

Meetings held from February 2024 through May 2024 via online twice monthly.

I was elected as advisor to the W7 Italy 2024 and consulted on **Economic Justice and Financial Empowerment** Working Group. *There are a total of [five sub-Working Groups](#) on: [Labour](#); [Economic justice](#); [Financial empowerment](#); [Gender-based Violence \(GBV\) including Violence against women and girls \(VAWG\)](#); [Climate justice](#); [Women, peace and security \(WPS\)](#).*

Representing CommonAge, my recommendations for age- and gender-responsive and intergenerational transformative actions to be addressed were incorporated in all the sub-WGs were included in the [W7 Communique 2024](#). The W7 Communique 2024 was handed to the Prime Minister of Italy, HE President Giorgia Meloni at the G7 Leaders' Summit 2024 held in Puglia, Italy from 13-14 June 2024.

The W7 Summit 2024 was held on 8 to 9 May in Rome with partner dialogues on the side. I made inputs to the Statement and Recommendations to the ministerial dialogue: age-inclusive, healthy ageing, reskilling and training, social support and care, silver economy, sustainable funding were included and accepted.

The G7 Gender Equality Ministers and Civil Society Dialogue was held from 5-6 October in Matera, and I attended online by invitation only. HE Eugenia Roccella, Minister for the Family, Birth Rate and Equal Opportunities presented the opening address. Also presenting were: Helena Dalli, Commissioner for Equality, European Commission; Maria Grazia Squicciarini, Chief of Executive Office and Director AI, Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO; Barbara Pontecorvo, Partner and Head of Task Force Society Benefit, Deloitte; Sima Bahous, Executive Director, UN Women.

Since 2018, the objective of W7 is to ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed into G7 discussions and translated into the G7 Leaders' Declaration as policies and commitments that foster gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

(4) The IMF-World Bank Group Spring 2024 and Annual Meetings 2024

held in April and October 2024 at the IMF Headquarters in Washington DC, US.



Participated as an elected regional representative of the IMG-WBG Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF) Working Group; and CSO Parliamentarian (an addition and new role) for the Meetings.

Discussions included improvements to becoming more ambitious and impact-oriented in efforts to support poverty eradication, economic development, and aid effectiveness.

As a Regional representative (East Asia & Pacific) of the IMF-WBG Civil Society Policy Forum Working Group. Contributed to: strengthening civil society role on advisory and consultations; better and faster access to emergency fundings and grants; proposing topics and contents of concern to be presented for the Spring and Annual Meetings; advisory and consultations to the WBG teams at Civil Society Roundtable with the World Bank Group Board of Executive Directors. The roundtable is an opportunity to engage with the World Bank leadership on development issues and funding concerns. Topics on ageing population, UHC and healthy ageing have been picked up and on the agenda.

Since 2021, the IMF-WBG leadership has established and formally included Specialist Teams, such as: the Gender Strategy in 2022, the Pandemic Fund in 2022/3, Food Security, Climate, Health, more. Plus, the historic USD 650 billion in Special Drawing Rights declared in 2021 in support of economic recovery from the pandemic lockdowns; public health responses and PPR.

(4.1) The [Pandemic Fund](#) is hosted by the World Bank Group with WHO as Technical Lead. It provides grant and funding opportunities and have/can provide additional support to Commonwealth countries in the LIMCs, LICs and SIDSs.

For Commonwealth countries who were successful in the first call for proposals, the PF is looking at the development progress and outcomes of countries' preparedness; and where best practices will be up-scaled.

(4.2) The World Bank Group has announced an ambitious plan [to support countries in delivering quality, affordable health services to 1.5 billion people by 2030.](#)

(5) "Reframing Ageing" Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Population Ageing 2024 was held in Bali, Indonesia from 11-13 September. The 2024 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference aimed to inspire innovative strategies prioritising equity and well-being across generations; mobilise stakeholders to reimagine ageing societies and advocate for dignified, purposeful lives for older individuals.

HelpAge International organised the conference in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) Indonesia; and supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Age International, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the SKALA–Sinergi dan Kolaborasi untuk Akselerasi Layanan Dasar (Synergies and Collaboration to Accelerate Service Delivery) and Tsao Foundation.



(6) The Lausanne XI Conference and Workshop
from 1 to 3 October 2024 in Lausanne, Switzerland

CommonAge secured and confirmed Pg Dr Hj Md Khalifah bin Pg Hj Ismail, Director-General of Health Services, Ministry of Health, Brunei Darussalam (CACH Chair 2023-2025 and also the

Chair, Steering Committee for Brunei's national healthy ageing plan) to present in a workshop: **Preventative Power: Promoting Brain Health to Address the Alzheimer's Crisis.**

Organised by Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative (DAC) the Lausanne XI is the annual meeting looking at the state of innovation in Alzheimer's disease and dementia, convened by CEOi, World Economic Forum, OECD and ADI. For CEOi, the meeting is particularly important because the topics raised inform the following year's annual priorities. The participants are equal parts industry (pharma and device), policy/international organisations, patient and advocacy groups (approx. 150 participants). Over the years, the conference in Lausanne has launched high-profile projects, including the Blood Based Biomarkers Work Group ([Global CEO Initiative on Alzheimer's Disease | Educating on Real-World Use of Blood-Based Biomarkers \(alzbiomarkerhub.org\)](#)) and [The Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative](#)



ADDING URGENCY TO ACTION

LAUSANNE XI

1 - 3 October 2024



One of the World Economic Forum (WEF) CEO initiatives, DAC is a first-of-its-kind global effort to accelerate discovery, testing and delivery of precision interventions for Alzheimer's and related dementias. The project aims to create a global innovation system to speed up and scale-up the global response, lower costs, and bring new care pathways and treatments to the community, particularly in LMICs.

12 healthcare systems were awarded funding for the DAC Healthcare Preparedness Project including Brunei – the only Commonwealth country – in Southeast Asia and the Pacific to receive this inaugural grant.

(7) The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review: The Beijing+30 global and regional review from 17-21 November 2024 at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand.

Representing CommonAge, I was invited to submit an application to participate in the: Ministerial Review Conference on 19-21 November; and CSO Forum on 17-18 November. This is a privilege as CommonAge is a non-ESCAP member.



Commonage's participation in the Ministerial Review+30 is timely. The Dementia in the Commonwealth report highlighted that only nearly 25% of total UN and WHO member states have adopted a dementia plan and/or strategy. The call for the global action plan on the public health response to dementia 2017-2025, adopted by 194 WHO member states, aims to improve the lives of people with dementia, their carers and families, while decreasing the impact of dementia on communities and economies. The plan applies to government, health and aged care providers, people living with dementia, their carers and families, the broader community and researchers.

The Beijing+30 Review will build upon the regional review conducted by ESCAP and UN Women for Beijing+25 and the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

The regional review aims to assess current and emerging challenges that affect the implementation of the BPfA and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realisation of the 2030 Agenda in the Asia Pacific, and strengthen the knowledge base on progress and gaps in rights of women and girls in the region. It aims to build regional consensus on actions needed to accelerate the implementation of commitments made in the BPfA. The Beijing +30 regional review will consist of three main tracks: (1) analytical, (2) consultative, and (3) intergovernmental.

- (1) The analytical track aims to examine progress, gaps, challenges, and good practices towards achieving the BPfA in the Asia-Pacific region and provide the substantive background to the conference.
- (2) The consultative track will involve the engagement of stakeholders through a broad range of consultations.

- (3) The intergovernmental track will engage directly with ESCAP members to take stock and identify and agree to priority actions towards accelerating gender equality and empowerment of women in the region.

2025 will mark the 13th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women; the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA, 1995); and 10 years of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

These anniversaries are opportunities to strengthen gender-responsive action, the 2030 Agenda implementation and other aligned global commitments. It is also an occasion to engage more with the generation of gender equality advocates and to bring those who remain on the sidelines into the centre of a whole-of-government, whole-of-society efforts to call for action. By joining forces, governments together with civil society can overcome gender inequality and chart a path forward for genuine, substantive equality with equal rights and equal opportunities for women and girls.

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14.10.24