



COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING - SAMOA , 21ST - 26TH OCTOBER



www.commage.org

2024

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting is a biennial summit meeting of the governmental leaders from all Commonwealth nations. Despite the name, the head of state may be present in the meeting instead of the head of government, especially among semi-presidential states.



The Commonwealth

56 countries working together for prosperity, democracy and peace





The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2024 took place in Apia, Samoa from 21–26 October 2024.

This historic gathering in Samoa marked a significant milestone for the Commonwealth, being the first meeting hosted by a Small Island State in the Blue Pacific and under the leadership of His Majesty King Charles III. As we celebrated 75 years of the Modern Commonwealth, we honored the legacy of those who paved the way, particularly the late Queen Elizabeth II, whose stellar leadership and unifying role shaped our community.

The theme, **ONE RESILIENT COMMON FUTURE: TRANSFORMING OUR COMMON WEALTH**, underscored the importance of unity within the Commonwealth family. Samoa's emphasis on resilience was vital, as it encompassed collective action that strengthened societies, upheld justice, nurtured environments, and drove thriving economies.

The *fa'asamoa*, or Samoan way of life, embodied the principles of respect, dignity, love, protection, and service. These values resonated with the Commonwealth Charter, connecting our 56 nations and one-third of the global population in a shared commitment to community and country.

In Samoa, they believe that *'ole aiga ole anofale o afioaga'*—the family is the heart of our communities and organizations. By focusing on our shared beliefs and values, we ensured that every contribution mattered, reinforcing our resilience as a diverse yet united Commonwealth family.

AGEING WELL IN THE COMMONWEALTH - A ROADMAP FOR HEALTHY AGEING ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE: 2024–2030. REPORT LAUNCH



Dame Carol Black,
the Secretary General's Special Envoy on Ageing Well, released a report titled "Ageing Well in the Commonwealth – A Roadmap for Healthy Ageing Across the Life Course: 2024–2030."

[LINK](#)

"This roadmap built on the great work of the World Health Organization (WHO), the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), and, in particular, CommonAge, which led the way as advocates for ensuring that older people in the Commonwealth were fully recognized in society and supported to live well in age-friendly communities."

We are celebrating the launch and now the focus must be on member states to pick up the Roadmap, and make their own plans for their journey to ensure that their populations are supported to Age Well by keeping fit and healthy. Healthy populations are less expensive to support than sick ones. Please give the Roadmap the oxygen it needs to ensure take off in all countries. These are exciting times for our shared endeavour." – **Andrew Larpent OBE, Founder of CommonAge.**

"This was an opportunity for countries with a significant population bulge that would soon create challenges for care to learn from some of the mistakes made by countries ahead of the curve that were now struggling. Healthy ageing would considerably reduce the burden on families and governments." – **Mansur Dalal, Chair of CommonAge.**

SAMOA WELCOMED HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III TO HIS FIRST CHOGM , AS THE HEAD OF THE CHOGM FAMILY AND HER MAJESTY QUEEN CAMILLA



A Royal Ava Ceremony was held at the National University of Samoa (NUS) Fale Samoa by the village of Falelatai for His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Camilla.

THE QUEEN CAMILLA PRESCHOOL OF HOPE OPENS AT TUANA'IMATO

Her Majesty Queen Camilla attended the official opening of a preschool today at Tuana'imato where she cut the ribbon declaring it ready for the use of young children sheltered by the Samoa Victim Support Group at their Campus of Hope. The school has been named after her in honour of her visit to the campus.



COMMONAGE AT THE PEOPLES FORUM



The CommonAge delegate led session at the People's Forum 2024 on Dementia in the Commonwealth can be seen online at:

[Video can be viewed here](#)

Our delegates (Left to right) included Linda Justin, Director who led a high - level panel discussion on the CommonAge “Dementia in the Commonwealth Report” at the Commonwealth People’s Forum on Day 2, Mansur Dalal, Chair, Jacqueline Wong, Vice Chair, Douledel Tyndale, Delegate, and Carmel Murugen, Delegate.

Our Dementia in the Commonwealth report was launched today at [the International Dementia Conference](#), Sydney, Australia and is now available to download from our website!

Believed to be the first report on dementia focussing on Commonwealth countries, this pivotal publication, delves into the current state of dementia care and support; it highlights disparities and challenges, best practices, and the urgent need for action to improve the lives of those affected by dementia.

[Download your copy here](#)

INDEPENDENT FORUM OF COMMONWEALTH AOS



The Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organisations (IFCO) brings together the Commonwealth's Accredited Organisations as the only body representing civil society organisations in the Commonwealth. Our submission to CHOGM 2024 (available on www.ifco.online) reflected concerns about the shrinking civil society space, and set out a series of proposals for protecting and promoting civil society in the Commonwealth.

[Video can be viewed here](#)

ROUND TABLE ON SKILLS MIGRATION



AND THE QUESTION WAS ?

How to integrate healthy ageing, which we promote through intergenerational activities to help challenges in climate change under the agenda of climate justice with identifiable markers . -

Mansur Dalal, Chair CommonAge.



[Listen to the experts reply](#)

CBF ROUNDTABLE SMES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



1) What targeted strategies can be employed to address structural barriers limiting the participation of under-represented groups in the formal sector?

How can the Commonwealth support these initiatives to ensure inclusivity and long-term economic development?

(2) What practical steps can financial institutions and policymakers take to create more inclusive financial systems that provide equitable access to finance for under-represented entrepreneurs?

How can these initiatives be scaled to ensure meaningful impact across diverse regions and industries?

BUILDING BONDS



(Left to right) included Jacqueline Wong, Linda Justin, Mansur Dalal, Dame Carol Black, Secretary General's Special Envoy on Ageing Well and David Stevens of SWI.



Minister of Foreign Affairs , Tanzania



With Rtn Gordon R. McInally, Past President of Rotary International 2023-24 and Rtn Judith Diment MBE, Rotary Representative at the Commonwealth of Nations

BUILDING BONDS



With Dr. Arjoon
Suddhoo DY Sec -Gen.



The First Lady of the
Bahamas



With the respected High
Commissioner of Jamaica ,
Mr. Alexander Williams.



With Dr. Chris Jenkins ,
President , Commonwealth
Games federation

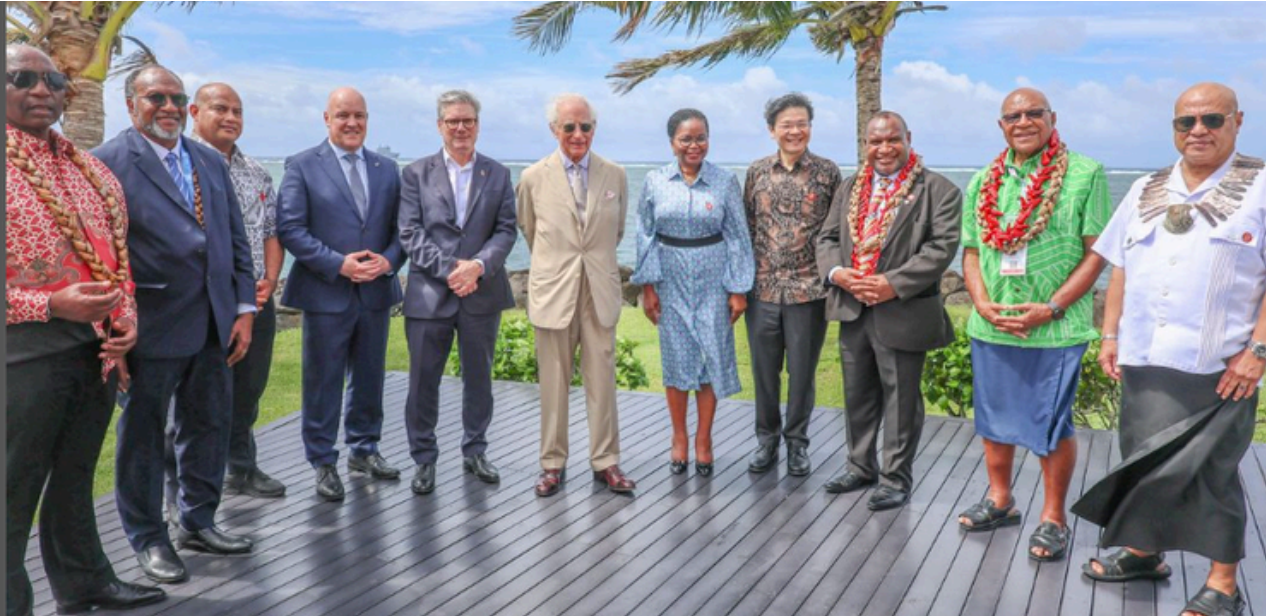


Samoa's Prime Minister Fiame Naomi Mata'afa with Chair of CommonAge, Mansur Dalal



"I am filled with gratitude to CommonAge for giving me this once-in-a-life-time experience of attending CHOGM. It was a hectic, fast paced 5 days, full of learnings from thought leaders, experts across the Commonwealth (CW) and connections made, which I hope will eventually turn into life-long friendships. The cultural kaleidoscope presented by Samoa was fantastic. However, I hope CHOGM 2026 in Antigua and Barbuda will have a change in format. We are 2.7 billion in the CW, out of which 300 million are seniors, and currently we don't have a voice at CHOGM. Since Dr. Sandhoo, Dy Sec- Gen, CWS commented that they changed the format for CHOGM 24 after listening to Civil Society in 2022, can the Commonwealth Foundation consider an independent "Elders' Forum" during CHOGM 26, apart from the Youth, Women and Peoples Forum. We badly need to bring the challenges of the elders in the spotlight and ignite the CW member states to individually push the agenda for policies for seniors across their respective countries. As an example, 60% of CW countries do not have even a Dementia plan in place and almost 30% have no significant policies for elders . This needs to change and change Now" - Mansur Dalal, Chair CommonAge.

THE NEW YOUTH COUNCIL AND HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES



CHOGM SAMOA 2024 OPENING CEREMONY: CELEBRATING PACIFIC CULTURE WITH THE WORLD



CHOGM TRADE VILLAGE - APIA, SAMOA.



The journey has been wonderful with a lot
of learning and
we thank the CHOGM management at
Samoa
for the networking opportunity it has
provided CommonAge.

We shall be grateful to all those who took
the time out to meet us.

THANK YOU

