



COMMONWEALTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM

Background

The Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) was established in 1995 in response to the moves around the Commonwealth towards greater decentralisation and local democracy.

Who we are

CLGF is a membership organisation, bringing together local government stakeholders - local government associations, individual councils and ministries of local government, professional and research organisations - on a common platform. Although an autonomous organisation, CLGF has a close working partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat, and other key international partners, and is recognised by the Commonwealth Heads of Government as an associated organisation of local elected representatives. CLGF has 170 members in 40 Commonwealth countries.

What we do

CLGF focuses on four key areas of work:

1. **Promotion and advocacy of democratic values and good local governance in the Commonwealth** - influencing Commonwealth Heads of Government and Ministerial meetings and direct practical support through election monitoring.
2. **Exchange of experience among local government practitioners** - there is a wealth of experience and good practice within the Commonwealth and CLGF encourages practitioners to share experiences and good practice as widely as possible through research, publications and journals.
3. **Practical capacity building support** - programmes and projects on the ground, many of which flow as direct outcomes of CLGF's policy workshops and events. Often regional in nature, they include training, provision of technical assistance and institutional strengthening

4. **Development of a Commonwealth wide network of local government** - through conferences, international and regional events and the Commonwealth Local Government Good Practice Scheme.

As the local government arm of the Commonwealth, CLGF is promoting and helping development of democracy and good governance at local level. CLGF believes that sharing experience, skills and ideas internationally is of significant benefit to those working in local government.

How we are governed

The CLGF Board is responsible for making decisions which guide the strategic objectives of CLGF. It also agrees and monitors the budget. There is a Policy and Resources Committee made up of a smaller number of Board Members which meets twice a year and has specific responsibility for monitoring the budget and providing a steer on policy making.

The current Chair of CLGF is Cr Basil Morrison, President of Local Government New Zealand. The Vice Chairs are Hon Dr James Burty David, Minister of Local Government from Mauritius and Mayor Zenaida Moya, President of the Mayors Association of Belize. The Lord Mayor of Suva, Cr Ratu Peni Volavola, is also a member of the CLGF Board representing the Pacific region. The CLGF Headquarters is located in London. CLGF also has a global presence in the Pacific, Caribbean, Africa and the Indian sub-continent.

Commonwealth Local Government Conference

CLGF also hosts a major conference every two years which brings together a pan-Commonwealth audience of around 400 practitioners from the local government sector, civil society, the private sector and the academic community to discuss a specific issue of relevance to members. In March 2005 this event took place in Aberdeen in the UK, with the theme "Deepening Local Democracy". A major outcome of the event was the 'Aberdeen Agenda: Commonwealth Principles on Good Practice for Local Democracy and Good Governance'.



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The 2007 Conference was held in Auckland, New Zealand, with the 'Auckland Accord: Delivering Development through Local Leadership' the main product. Both of these strategic policy documents have been endorsed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGM) in 2005 and 2007 and underpin the work of CLGF throughout the Commonwealth. The next Commonwealth Local Government Conference will be held in Freeport, Bahamas, in May 2009.

Website: www.clgf.org.uk

