Commonwealth Health Professions and Partners Alliance

Prosperity Starts Here

A Commonwealth Civil Society Declaration on Wellbeing as a Pillar of Prosperity

Commonwealth People's Forum 2026 | Antigua and Barbuda

We believe that **the prosperity of the Commonwealth begins with the wellbeing of its people; that human wellbeing is a pillar of social and economic prosperity, not merely a product of it**[1].

Healthy, educated and connected communities are the foundations of resilient, prosperous societies. Health is the best driver of productivity, allowing people to make the most of their working lives and stay independent for longer. Education is the incubator of innovation and the nurturer of skills, talent and expertise. Social cohesion is a vital prerequisite of stable, high-trust and democratic societies.

Across the Commonwealth, governments find themselves increasingly under pressure to demonstrate that the social market economy can continue to transform people's lives and make us all wealthier, happier and healthier. Many of the issues that dominate headlines and public discourse are about human wellbeing: anxieties over housing, the human impact of climate change, social disconnection, youth disadvantage, shrinking civil liberties, gender inequality and the threat of AI to jobs.

Rising to these challenges and achieving a sustainable model for prosperity, one that recognises that well people make for well societies and wealth-creating economies, will require collaborative action between sectors, communities and generations.

Civil society is the engine of social progress

Across the Commonwealth, Accredited Organisations, their constituent members, and their partners are translating policy commitments into practical action.

Through leveraging professional expertise, building networks and facilitating cross-sector partnerships, they are strengthening health systems, expanding opportunities, fostering inclusion, building community resilience, and transforming the lives of individuals.

These organisations operate at the critical interface between policy and implementation. Their community connections, agility and ability to mobilise expertise enable them to respond to local needs and deliver meaningful change, often in ways that demonstrate remarkable resource efficiency.

As the Commonwealth strengthens its focus on implementation, **we must recognise that much of the expertise, experience and delivery capacity already exists within its unique civil society networks**.

[1] The foundations for wellbeing outlined in the World Health Organisation Geneva Charter on Wellbeing include a positive vision of health that integrates physical, mental, spiritual and social wellbeing; as well as the development of new indicators of success, beyond gross domestic product, and lead to new priorities for public spending: https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/health-promotion/geneva-charter-4-march-2022.pdf; https://www.who.int/activities/promoting-well-being

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Our call to action

We call on Commonwealth governments, institutions and partners to:

Recognise Accredited Organisations and civil society as essential partners in shaping and implementing Commonwealth and national priorities.

Celebrate the achievements of the Commonwealth civil society eco system by, sharing evidence of impact and championing successful partnerships.

Support their work by strengthening opportunities for collaboration, resource mobilisation and sustainable, locally led action.

Scale up proven initiatives, connecting expertise and partnerships across countries and sectors to extend their reach and impact.

Our collective commitment

We commit to working across organisational and sectoral boundaries to advance wellbeing throughout life, promote inclusion and opportunity, strengthen social cohesion and support healthy, accessible and climate-resilient communities.

We will champion the meaningful participation of young people, women and marginalised communities, recognising the particular needs of small states and those facing the greatest barriers to realising their full potential.

We will share what works, strengthen partnerships and work collectively to turn pan-Commonwealth priorities into tangible, sustainable improvements in people's lives.

We will be the vanguard that drives forward the transition from a Commonwealth of dialogue and policy to a Commonwealth of delivery and action.

Now is the time to recognise, celebrate, support, and scale what works.

Prosperity starts with people. Progress depends on partnership.[2]

[2] *Launched at the Commonwealth People's Forum, November 2026. Proposed for endorsement by Commonwealth Accredited Organisations and civil society partners.*