



CBC

Promoting Global Trade and Investment for Shared Prosperity

Commonwealth Business Council Working Groups 2008

- **Banking**

Chair – Ann Grant, Vice Chairman, Standard Chartered Capital Markets Ltd, UK

For three consecutive years the Banking Working Group has made direct recommendations to Commonwealth Finance Ministers and Heads of Government bringing a private sector perspective to policy making in areas of increasing concern to industry and government, principally: financial inclusion (banking the unbanked) by bringing individuals and groups without access to financial services into the formal system. Micro-finance and inclusive banking have featured strongly in this work as have the specific issues facing women entrepreneurs. The group has also done important work on public/ private partnerships in infrastructure finance and the implications for Finance Ministers and the banking sector of climate change. The outcomes of the group's work are discussed in exclusive inter-active sessions with Finance Ministers at their annual meetings.

- **Public Private Partnerships (PPP) – Infrastructure**

Chair – Kevin Stovell, Group Business Development Director, Mott Macdonald UK

This group is involved in identifying issues and developing proposals to Heads of Government and Finance Ministers to facilitate private sector participation in infrastructure development, particularly in Commonwealth developing countries.

- **Trade and Development**

Chair- John Denton, Partner and CEO, Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Australia

Given the slow progress in the WTO negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda, and the critical role of trade in economic development, it is important to find ways to enhance trade flows particularly with the involvement of the emerging markets and developing countries. The Working Group will aim to provide private sector perspectives and inputs on key issues including aid and trade and ways to link trade directly with economic growth and development.

- **Intra-African Trade**

Chair – Coca-Cola, Africa

By recommending the reform of management systems currently impacting on the cross-border movement of goods, the CBC aims to achieve sustainable growth and poverty reduction in African countries through increasing their level of intra-African trade. The Working Group's report and recommendations to Heads of Government in November 2007 were developed at meetings chaired by senior executives of Coca-Cola Africa and provide the



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basis for carrying forward programmes to support the implementation of key recommendations, particularly at regional level.

- **Corporate Governance**

- **Chair – James Smith, Chairman, Shell UK**

- As part of the CBC's work to promote good corporate practice in managing business for global competition, this Working Group provides leadership on strengthening Corporate Governance including the implementation of the Commonwealth Corporate Governance Principles, providing a forum for exchanges of case studies and good practice and enabling their dissemination amongst policy makers, opinion formers, companies and business associations worldwide. Pilot projects to provide practical support for capacity building are to be implemented under guidance from the Working Group.

- **Health**

- **Chair – Dr Jeffery L. Sturchio, Vice President, External Affairs, Merck and Co**

- The Healthcare Working Group was set up to consider key issues facing healthcare companies with markets in Commonwealth countries and to establish a creative dialogue with governments and regulators on key issues. The group has submitted reports and recommendations direct to Health Ministers at their annual meetings in Geneva on strengthening healthcare delivery through public/ private partnerships and to Heads of Government on the growing menace of counterfeit medicines. The Group is now structuring ongoing programmes relating to healthcare and climate change, e-health and lifestyle illnesses.

- **Emerging Markets – Infrastructure Investment**

- **Chair - John Studzinski, Senior Managing Director, Blackstone Group**

- Lack of infrastructure in the emerging markets particularly some of the fast growing Commonwealth countries such as India, Nigeria, South Africa, and Malaysia is a key impediment to maximising economic growth. A critical constraining factor on inward investment flows is the limited experience and capacity among public administrations in the emerging markets to appreciate the nature of globally acceptable PPP/PFI and other structured finance models. This working group aims to create interfaces in specific countries at National and Regional Government levels between policy makers and project promoters & investors.

- **Disaster Risk Management**

- **Chair – Reto Schnarwiler, Head Public Sector Business Development, Swiss Re**

- This is a newly established Working Group which aims to address the development of management and systems to address new and developing risk issues facing the public and private sectors, particularly in the manufacturing



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industry, banking, insurance and agriculture, and to consider how innovative financial instruments can be developed with the flexibility to meet rapidly changing circumstances and market needs. Issues of climate change, vulnerable states and key sectors will be addressed.

- **Small and Medium Enterprises (SME)**

Chair – Michael Wilson, Board Director, Migson Ltd

The SME Working Group is a newly established group that aims to enable private sector members to consider key issues affecting small and medium-sized enterprises and develop practical actions to help support their development in member countries. A first meeting of the Nigerian chapter will be held in February 2008 at which the CBC will draw on our global networks to help identify challenges, solutions and best practice.

- **Commonwealth Business Women's Network**

Chair – Dr Jannie Tay, Chair, The Hour Glass, Singapore

The Commonwealth Business Women's Network (CBWN) seeks to recognise the significant contribution of women's business throughout the Commonwealth and to promote their active involvement in accessing markets and influencing policy makers. The CBWN organises regular interactive gatherings enabling women entrepreneurs to exchange case studies on gender-specific business challenges and provide their input into government policies and corporate strategy.

- **Climate Change**

The new Climate Change Working Group is being set up to bring a range of private sector strategies and research to the attention of member governments to assist them in their efforts to address the challenges of climate change. In support of this initiative, the CBC will explore the options for establishing a Commonwealth Carbon Trust. The Group will interface with Commonwealth Environment Ministers and Commonwealth Finance Ministers (who addressed climate change at their October 2007 Meeting).

For further information or to express your interest in involvement in CBC Working Groups, please contact Nicole Nwasike, Networks and Membership Assistant, on nicole.nwasike@cbcglobal.org. Group meeting dates to be advised.