

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DECISION MAKERS

With 60% of the population of the Commonwealth aged under 30, young people have a critical role to play in ensuring governments are held accountable for achieving the commitments made during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2018.

To meet the ambition of the commitments and to do justice to young people's role as agents of change, we call on Commonwealth governments and development partners to systematically promote and invest in meaningful youth-led monitoring and accountability. This should take place at all levels, from the collective level at the Commonwealth, through to regional, national and local levels.

These Guiding Principles, while not exhaustive, are meant for those seeking guidelines on how to effectively and proactively foster the meaningful participation of young people across the Commonwealth in the implementation, monitoring and accountability of the CHOGM commitments. We have an important opportunity to harness the collective power of young people to deliver a more prosperous, secure, sustainable and fairer future for all citizens.

THE PRINCIPLES:

1. MEANINGFUL YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Promote inclusive and meaningful youth participation and empowerment, including through youth-led initiatives. Apply a human rights-based approach which recognises young people as agents of change, strengthen avenues for youth participation in governance processes at local and national level and increase investments in youth-led development.

2. ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Foster an enabling environment – including access to sustainable funding – for accessible, inclusive and meaningful youth participation, including through convening formal and informal spaces where young people can participate in policy processes and collaborate with each other, the community at large, multi-stakeholder CHOGM initiatives and partnerships.

3. GENDER EQUALITY

Promote gender equality and girls' and young women's empowerment. Tailored gender-sensitive measures are needed to facilitate the engagement of girls and young women in participatory governance, as this can lead to transformation in gendered social norms by legitimising young women's engagement in decision-making arenas.

4. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Strengthen youth agency by supporting capacity development for young people, youth organisations, networks and movements, including authorities and duty-bearers, to enhance mutual responsiveness, trust and collaboration.

5. DIVERSITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S EXPERIENCES

Recognise and value the diversity of young people's experiences by finding ways to systematically, sustainably and responsibly engage young people and their organisations, networks and movements, typically left out of development projects and programmes.

6. YOUTH-SENSITIVE NATIONAL AND LOCAL INDICATORS

Advocate for youth-sensitive national and local indicators, in addition to age and gender disaggregation, as a critical avenue for ensuring development progress, make data sources youth-friendly and foster young people's role in generating data on the commitments.

7. PARTICIPATION IN MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Ensure that young people's participation in monitoring and accountability is meaningful by establishing channels whereby youth participation can have a visible impact on outcomes.

For further information on how to implement these principles please contact:

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