



TIMELINE

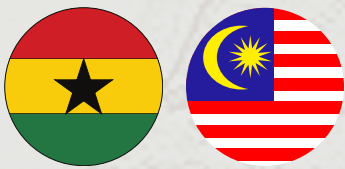
your world your commonwealth

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 56 independent and equal countries.

1949

Eight countries come together to form the Modern Commonwealth - Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa and UK

Ghana and Malaysia joins



1957

1959

First Commonwealth Education Conference. Great importance of education and training.

Nigeria joins



1960

1961

SOUTH AFRICA WITHDRAWS AFTER PRESSURE FROM MEMBER STATES AGAINST IT'S APARTHEID POLICIES

Republic of Cyprus, Sierra Leone and Tanzania joins



Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Uganda joins



1962

1963

Kenya joins



Malawi, Malta, and Zambia joins



1964



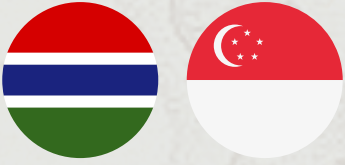
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your world your commonwealth

Home to 2.5 billion people, one-third of the world's population and includes both advanced economies and developing countries.

1965

Gambia and Singapore joins



Commonwealth Secretariat is established. Setup to service all Commonwealth Governments and as a visible symbol of the spirit of co-operation.

Commonwealth Foundation established to administer interchanges between organisations in professional fields

1966

Guyana, Botswana and Lesotho and Barbados joins

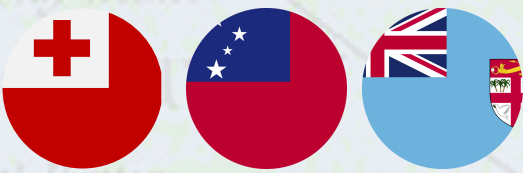


1968

Mauritius, Swaziland and Nauru joins



Tonga, Samoa and Fiji joins

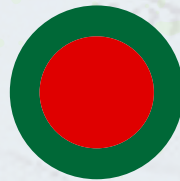


1970

1972

PAKISTAN WITHDRAWS

Bangladesh joins



The Bahamas joins



1973

Commonwealth Youth Programme established to engage and empower young people aged 15-29

1974

Grenada joins



Papua New Guinea joins



1975



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56 countries working together for prosperity,
democracy and peace

1976

Seychelles joins



1977

First simultaneous
Commonwealth Day
observed

1978

Solomon Islands, Tuvalu,
Dominica joins



St Lucia, Kiribati, St Vincent
and the Grenadines joins

1979

Lusaka declaration of
Racism and Racial Prejudice



1980

Zimbabwe and Vanuatu joins



Belize, Antigua and Barbuda joins

1981

Commonwealth establishes Small
States Office, so that they can
take part in UN negotiations



1982

Maldives joins



St Kitts and Nevis joins

1983





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your commonwealth

The Commonwealth helps member countries protect their environments and use their natural resources sustainably. Here are some of our programmes in these areas.

1984

Brunei Darussalam joins



Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group visit Nelson Mandela in prison and sets out negotiating concept to end apartheid in South Africa peacefully

1986

1987

Fiji's membership of the Commonwealth lapses after it declares itself a Republic following a military coup

Commonwealth of Learning established to develop and share open learning/distance education knowledge, resource and technologies

1988

1989

Pakistan rejoins after an absence of 17 years

Namibia joins



1990

1991

Harare Commonwealth declaration sets priorities for 1990s and beyond with emphasis on democracy, human rights and equality

First Commonwealth consultant group of the environment to strengthen cooperation on sustainable development

1993



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your commonwealth

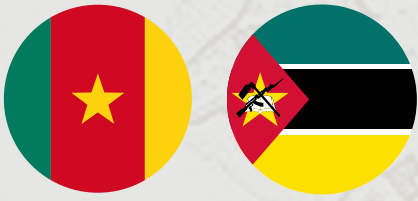
The Commonwealth works with member countries to improve the chances of young people, harness the power of sport to bring people together, advance universal healthcare, improve gender equality, and promote harmony between faiths.

1994

SOUTH AFRICA REJOINS AFTER THE END OF APARTHEID. THE COMMONWEALTH WAS PROUD TO HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE CAUSE TO END APARTHEID.

The Victoria Falls Declaration of Principles for the Promotion of the Human Rights of Women

Cameroon and Mozambique joins



1995

Military ruled Nigeria suspended after serious violation of the Harare Declaration including the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and 10 others

Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group established to deal with persistent and serious violators of the Commonwealths shared principles

Fiji rejoins with new constitution with conforms to Harare Declaration principles

1997

New criteria for Commonwealth Membership

1999

NIGERIA'S SUSPENSION LIFTED AS THEY ENTER A NEW ERA OF DEMOCRACY. PAKISTAN SUSPENDED FROM THE COUNCILS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

Commonwealth celebrates 50 years that members are free and equal members of the Commonwealth Nations, freely operating in the pursuit of peace, liberty and progress

Fiji suspended from the councils of the Commonwealth following the overthrow of the democratic elected government

2000

2001

Fiji suspension lifted as democratic election restored

Zimbabwe suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth due to motivated violent during the Presidential election

2002

2003

Zimbabwe withdraws from the Commonwealth

www.thecommonwealth.org



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The Commonwealth helps boost trade between member countries, to create prosperity for all.

2004

Pakistan suspension lifted

Declaration of Principles for International Election. Elections are an expression of sovereignty, which belongs to the people of the country

2005

Declaration on International Humanitarian Law

2007

PAKISTAN SUSPENDED AGAIN. FAILURE TO FULFIL IT'S OBLIGATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COMMONWEALTH PRINCIPLES.

Civil Paths to Peace launched to look into causes, conflict and extremism in Commonwealth countries

2008

Pakistan suspension lifted

Rwanda joins



2009

Commonwealth Day
Science, Technology and Society

Commonwealth Day -
Commonwealth at 60 years.
Serving a New Generation

FIJI SUSPENDED FROM THE COMMONWEALTH

2010

2011

Commonwealth Day
Women as Agents of Change

Commonwealth Day
Connecting Cultures

2012



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The Commonwealth Secretariat advocates for the use of sport as a vehicle for development and peacebuilding.

2013

Commonwealth Day
Opportunity Through Enterprise

Commonwealth Charter
signed by Her Majesty Queen
Elizabeth II

GAMBIA WITHDRAWS FROM THE
COMMONWEALTH

FIJI SUSPENSION FROM
MEMBERSHIP LIFTED

2014

Commonwealth Day
Team Commonwealth

2015

Commonwealth Day
An Inclusive Commonwealth

Commonwealth Day
A Young Commonwealth

2016

MALDIVES WITHDRAW FROM
THE COMMONWEALTH

2017

Counter violent extremism
unit established

Commonwealth Day
A Peace-Building
Commonwealth

Commonwealth Day
Towards a Common Future

2018

THE GAMBIA REJOINS

2019

Commonwealth at 70 years
a modern Commonwealth

Commonwealth Day
A Connected Commonwealth

Commonwealth Day
Delivering a Common Future -
Connecting, Innovating and
Transforming

2020

MALDIVES REJOINS

2022

Gabon and Togo joins

