

Aeronautical Research Council, the Commonwealth Metallurgical Conference and the Quinquennial Commonwealth Forestry Conference. In education and youth affairs, there are the triennial Commonwealth Education Conferences, regular meetings of the Commonwealth Education Liaison Committee, annual meetings of the Commonwealth Youth Affairs Council and regular meetings of the Commonwealth Youth Programme's Committee of Management.

Government consultations on health matters include the triennial Commonwealth Medical Conference and the annual Meeting of Commonwealth Health Ministers and Senior Administrators held before the World Health Assembly meetings in Geneva. Commonwealth Law Ministers meet every two years and there are biennial meetings of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Council. Other specialized conferences encompass the Commonwealth Auditors General Meeting, the Conference of Commonwealth Postal Administrators, the Commonwealth Defence Science Conference and the Commonwealth Conference of Heads of Valuation Departments.

Besides these regular government consultations, there are other meetings, seminars and workshops on specific topics of interest to Commonwealth member governments.

In addition to the activities already mentioned, Commonwealth governments consult each other on political matters. In the words of the present Commonwealth Secretary-General, Shridath Ramphal:

“It is here that the Commonwealth facility for an ongoing exchange of views at all relevant levels of decision-making — but, more specially, its special facility for frank consultation at the level of the political leadership — can be a catalyst in the process of consensus formation. The uniqueness of this special facility which Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings provide should never be overlooked or minimized. It is the world's only opportunity for frank and intimate exchange of views between political leaders of the world's people, representative of almost every single element in the spectrum of international opinions and positions. Not only can Commonwealth leaders influence each other in their periodic face-to-face meetings, but they can greatly extend their collective influence through the regional groupings and organizations in which they separately play roles of