

that there isn't a counterproductive stand-off between northern NGOs and governments and their southern counterparts. The Commonwealth can help to create a fairer, more open system. But, to take advantage, Commonwealth countries will have to reform themselves.

Deeper good governance and anti-corruption cooperation

As members seek to create the conditions for increased investment and trade, the Commonwealth should deepen its engagement with those that are struggling. It should help members to deliver **timed reform plans** drawn up in association with the Secretariat and other international bodies, such as the World Bank which is increasingly working closely with the Commonwealth on good governance. Deeper cooperation should focus initially on the most important obstacles – basic political and legal frameworks and anti-corruption programmes. The Commonwealth should not just arrange for its members to agree and sign up to anti-corruption guidelines, but should help them to implement these in practice and encourage them to share information about success in reforming inefficient public sectors which offer opportunities for abuse and tackling cultures of corruption. Governments would also benefit from **much closer cooperation with domestic and multinational businesses**, which suffer from corruption but can help to perpetuate bribery when they express resignation and pay up. The Commonwealth Business Council should work with business and governments to agree and promote good practice, so that the business community as