

- supporting the greater flow of investment to developing member countries through schemes such as the Commonwealth Private Investment Initiative;
 - assisting countries with unsustainable debt burdens and promoting enhanced multilateral concessional financing for them; and
 - facilitating successful self-help schemes with nongovernmental organisations and others for mobilising the energies of people to alleviate poverty.
42. Assistance has been provided for *public sector reform* by strengthening public policy management and capacity building and improving the management of economic policy reform. Specific assistance provided has been in the areas of strategic planning and reform of the public sector, reviewing salary structures in the civil service, reform of key areas of the civil service, restructuring and commercialisation of government departments and state enterprises, economic management - specifically the management of structural adjustment programs and debt management, the transition to market based economies, and the privatisation of state enterprises and enhancing the role of the private sector. The assistance has been provided through a series of seminars and workshops, consultancy missions and policy advice, training programs, and publications.
43. As stated, the Secretariat has for many years assisted member countries in formulating and implementing structural adjustment programs through the provision of policy advice and training. This was extended in 1996 to assist countries wishing to develop practical strategies for export growth and diversification to exploit the opportunities available in an open trading environment following the Uruguay Round. It focussed on assessing the competitiveness of certain sectors of the economy for generating exports.
44. Economic reform in Commonwealth developing countries, as in others, has included components for restructuring the public sector and expanding the market forces in the economy. In the past few years, the Secretariat provided assistance to governments in the reform and process of divestiture of state enterprises and advice on the regulatory and policy framework within which privatisation can take place and management in the post-privatisation phase. It also reported on the feasibility of mass privatisation schemes in Africa. Further, Secretariat assistance has been provided for broad-based capacity building for privatisation and private sector development. This has covered pre-privatisation restructuring and strengthening the institutional structure of the private sector to manage the additional responsibilities in the post-privatisation phase.