The Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, based on a common effort and partnership between all the countries of the Commonwealth, plays an important part in maintaining and strengthening the common ideals on which the Commonwealth is founded. It enriches each country of the Commonwealth by enabling an increasing number of its abler citizens to share the wide range of educational resources available throughout the Commonwealth, and thus promotes equality of educational opportunity at the highest level. The majority of the awards under the Plan go to men and women of high intellectual promise, who may be expected to make a significant contribution to life in their own countries on their return from study overseas.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General will be the Secretary-General of the conference, and will be responsible for its organization, with the assistance of the host government, the Federal Military Government of Nigeria.