

## The Edinburgh Communiqué

1. Commonwealth Heads of Government met in Edinburgh from 24-27 October 1997. Of the 51 countries which attended the Meeting, 43 were represented by Heads of State or Prime Ministers. The Meeting was chaired by the British Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Tony Blair.
2. The Opening Session of the Meeting was addressed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth.
3. Heads of Government expressed satisfaction at the return of Fiji on 1 October 1997 to the Commonwealth, as its 54th member state.
4. Heads of Government congratulated the Governments and peoples of India and Pakistan who have recently celebrated their 50th anniversaries of independence.
5. Heads of Government conveyed their appreciation for the excellent arrangements made for their Meeting and the warm hospitality extended by the British Government and people, as well as for the Chairman's admirable conduct of the Meeting.
6. Heads of Government adopted the *Edinburgh Commonwealth Economic Declaration on Promoting Shared Prosperity*, which they saw as a fitting complement to the Harare Commonwealth Declaration of 1991.
7. Heads of Government expressed concern about the special problems of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). To enable them to share the benefits of globalisation, they invited donors to work for the target of 0.15 per cent of GNP for LDCs. They also resolved to promote the role of micro credit in poverty reduction.

### Small States

8. Heads of Government received with satisfaction the attached Report of the Chairperson of the Ministerial Group on Small States. They also welcomed the Report of an Advisory Group, *A Future for Small States: Overcoming Vulnerability*, as an important Commonwealth contribution towards addressing the particular concerns of small states, and agreed on a package of measures to alleviate these concerns.