

constituted a priority for the vast majority of its member states. They were firmly of the view that development issues should remain at the forefront of Commonwealth concerns and that the association should continue to stress delivery of technical assistance programmes in the areas of social and economic development; work for the achievement of a stable international economic framework within which growth could be achieved; for sound economic management recognising the central role of the market economy; the freest possible flow of multilateral trade on equitable terms; adequate flow of resources to developing countries; the development of human resources paying special attention to the needs of women, youth and children; and the protection of the environment through respect for the principles of sustainable development.

61. Heads of Government emphasised the importance of human resource development for the attainment of socio-economic and political progress in their countries. They commended the Commonwealth Working Group on Human Resource Development Strategies for its Report: Foundation for the Future. The Prime Minister of Jamaica proposed that the response to the recommendations of the Working Group should include a special human resource initiative embracing the inter-related areas of education, training, research and the professions, and with particular regard to the potential of youth. This initiative would seek to ensure better mobilisation of the human resource development capabilities of existing Commonwealth institutions. Heads invited the Secretary-General to initiate early consultations to prepare proposals for consideration first at official, and later at ministerial, level in 1994.

62. Heads of Government reaffirmed their conviction that the Commonwealth had a distinctive role to play in world affairs and that it was a growing force for good. They felt that such Commonwealth values as respect for pluralism, informality and belief in genuine consensus rendered it well placed to further serve its members and to assist the larger international community in the quest for early solutions to situations of potential or actual tension. They believed there would continue to be scope for the Commonwealth's good offices to be used to assist concerned member states at their request.

63. In the light of the foregoing, Heads of Government expressed their collective resolve to support and strengthen the Commonwealth association. Bearing in mind the extensive process of review and restructuring of the Commonwealth Secretariat, aimed at greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness, they agreed, if it emerged that additional resources were still required after available resources had been matched to needs, to consider making appropriate contributions.

Commonwealth Functional Co-operation

64. Heads of Government approved the attached Report of the Committee of the Whole on Programmes of Commonwealth Functional