Commonwealth Heads of Government in Vancouver agreed that "the capacity of South Africa's neighbours to resist Pretoria's policy of destabilization and destruction must be strengthened" and committed themselves to continuing to work towards the ending of apartheid and to helping the region enhance security and advance the cause of freedom and independence. Consequently, the Committee has agreed that as was the case in previous CFM meetings, a particular issue will have a prominent place on the agenda. Given the location of this meeting and the special circumstances of the FLS, the Committee has accepted the proposal that destabilization be the theme of the Harare meeting.

Ministers will discuss Commonwealth assistance to the states in the region including development assistance and efforts to promote trade and investment with and among Southern African nations. Namibia, including developments related to the implementation of the UN Namibian settlement plan, will also be an important item for discussion.