

## **The Emergence of a Global Humanitarian Order**

6. Having discussed the Special Theme of the Meeting: 'The Emergence of a Global Humanitarian Order', and acknowledging its importance, Heads of Government requested the Commonwealth Secretary-General to constitute, in consultation with Commonwealth governments, a high-level intergovernmental group to examine specific ways in which the Commonwealth could make the fullest possible contribution to the work of the international community on this theme. The report of the group would be for consideration by governments.

## **Democracy and Human Rights**

7. Heads of Government expressed particular satisfaction at the increasing appeal of and commitment to democratic ideals, both within the Commonwealth and elsewhere. They reaffirmed, *inter alia*, their commitment to democracy, fundamental human rights, the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary and just and honest government, as essential ingredients of the Commonwealth's fundamental political values. Affirming the importance of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in June 1993, they reiterated that all human rights were universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. They stressed that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms were interdependent and mutually reinforcing. They welcomed the reaffirmation of the right to development, as stated in the Declaration on the Right to Development, as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights.

8. Heads of Government further reiterated their commitment to the International Bill of Human Rights, and called on member governments which had not already done so to make every effort to become party to the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights by 1995.

9. Heads of Government reaffirmed that women's rights were an integral and indivisible part of human rights and supported the principles embodied in the Vienna Declaration on Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They urged all Commonwealth governments to ratify by 1995 the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. They regarded violence against women as a contravention of women's rights and called on all governments to adopt the draft UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.