

Making the Commonwealth consensus matter

But the Commonwealth needs to change if it is to deliver on the new Commonwealth consensus.

- **The Commonwealth must become a more delivery-oriented organisation.** It must leave the excessive caution of the past behind, and develop an infrastructure capable of achieving its objectives.
- **Commonwealth countries need to make their commitments a reality.** The Commonwealth talks about a 'Commonwealth Factor' in trade and investment, but needs to help Commonwealth countries overcome the realities of corruption and a lack of capacity which hold them back.
- **The Commonwealth needs to project itself and its values – as a quality standard of good governance and safe investment.** Otherwise, successful reformers will continue to be held back by outdated stereotypes and fail to win the investment and growth they deserve.

Capitalising on the new Commonwealth consensus could make Commonwealth countries richer, their societies more equal and their democracies stronger. It can give them a greater say both in the international system and over the future of their own societies. Chapters 2-6 outline the ways that the Commonwealth needs to move forward in order to achieve this. But the key factor will be whether its members embrace this agenda and make it work.

If they do, membership of the Commonwealth will be a much more valuable asset than it has been in the past. The Commonwealth will not just take useful initiatives