

governance, infrastructure development and Commonwealth-CBC co-operation. Heads of Government expressed support for the work of the Commonwealth Business Council and for the proposed Commonwealth guidelines on corporate governance developed by the Commonwealth Association for Corporate Governance.

### **Small States**

47. Heads of Government received with appreciation the attached Report of the Chairperson of the Ministerial Group on Small States.
48. Heads of Government recognised the vulnerability of small states and the development needs they face. They called for the Commonwealth to continue to take a leading role in promoting the interests of small states. They welcomed the Interim Report of the Commonwealth Secretariat/World Bank Task Force, 'Small States: Meeting Challenges in the Global Economy,' as a landmark document that confirmed these special problems, vulnerabilities and needs. They noted the areas identified in the Interim Report for further work, including the criteria for the classification of small states and called on the Joint Task Force to complete its report in time for the meeting of the Development Committee of the World Bank and the IMF in Spring 2000 after the fullest consultations with governments of small states, and key multilateral agencies.
49. They agreed that members of the Ministerial Mission should continue to act as a monitoring mechanism and play an advisory role until completion of the work of the Task Force and its final report, and that implementation of the final report's recommendations be similarly tracked.
50. Heads of Government underscored the need for the Secretary-General to continue the Commonwealth's collaborative efforts with all partner organisations to ensure the implementation of the Report.
51. Heads of Government urged the next WTO Ministerial Meeting in Seattle to consider special measures, including special and differential treatment, for vulnerable small states.

### **Multilateral Trade Issues**

52. Recalling their Fancourt Declaration on Globalisation and People-Centred Development, Heads requested the Secretariat to continue its support of multilateral trade issues to Commonwealth developing countries, especially small states, in building their capacities for negotiating, updating legislation and strengthening domestic trade policy institutions. They welcomed the contribution which the Trade and Investment Access Facility has made to providing this support, and hoped to expand its resources. In addition, they called on the Secretariat to work with other multilateral bodies and bilateral donors to give practical effect to pledges in international fora and to co-ordinate with others in developing effective, practical programmes of capacity-building for trade, for example by extending the principles of the Integrated Framework more widely.