

## DAY ONE

### MONDAY, 21 OCTOBER

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#### 8am-9am | Welcome Desk Registration

#### 9am-9.45am | Conference Centre **People's Forum 2024 Opening Ceremony**

**Speakers:** Selina Tusitala Marsh, Terri-Karelle Johnson

*The People's Forum 2024 will open with a ceremony themed around the concept of Fa'asamoa (the 'Samoan Way'). The session will feature brief speeches, including a welcome by Her Excellency Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa, Prime Minister of Samoa; a poetry recital of 'They taking pictures of us in the water' by Audrey Brown-Pereira and a hip hop remix by Matthew Salapu-Faiumu (aka Anonymouz); and an exploration of the ideas civil society has generated and developed since Rwanda: the location of the last People's Forum.*

#### 10am-11.30am | Conference Centre **The Challenges Ahead: Climate Justice, Health Justice and Freedom of Expression**

**Speakers:** Terri-Karelle Johnson, Kalafi Moala, Brianna Fruean, Dr James Hospedales

*In this session civil society leaders from the Caribbean and Pacific will challenge us to think critically about how change happens, and how obstructions can be overcome. This participatory discussion will set the stage for a deeper exploration of climate justice, health justice and freedom of expression taking place throughout the People's Forum. Drawing from a series of preparatory events and our speakers' rich experience, we will openly interrogate barriers to progress and share stories of groundbreaking solutions to issues such as noncommunicable diseases, the threats posed to media freedom, and the climate challenges faced by the Commonwealth's small and vulnerable states.*

#### 11.30am-11.55am | Outside Conference Centre **Tea Break**

*Tea break and opportunity to browse 'Our Climate, Our Future', an exhibition of photography by young Samoans.*

#### 12pm-1.30pm | Conference Centre **The People Act: Community-Led Initiatives Towards Climate and Health Justice**

**Speakers:** Dr James Hospedales, Dr Collin Tukuitonga, Archana Soreng, Stephanie Harvey, Ineza Grace

*This interactive session will spotlight trailblazing grassroots initiatives that are leading the way to greater climate and health justice. We will seek to understand how pioneering tactics from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and the Pacific can be supported, replicated, and scaled Commonwealth-wide. Alongside an intergenerational and indigenous panel, we will explore the central importance of youth advocacy, how community-driven approaches are influencing national and global policies, and how vulnerable communities, including indigenous peoples and those living in the Global South, can be fairly*

*represented and heard in policymaking. All participants will have the opportunity to actively engage, share insights, and contribute to the conversation.*

**1.30pm-1.45pm | Outside Conference Centre**

**Lunch Break**

*Lunch break and opportunity to browse 'Our Climate, Our Future' exhibition and attend delegate-led sessions.*

**2pm-2.45pm | Conference Fale**

**DELEGATE-LED SESSION**

**People Centred Research in Action: Indigenous Perspectives on the Impact of Climate Change on Community Health and Wellbeing**

**Led by Association of Commonwealth Universities**

*Climate change affects community health needs and weakens healthcare systems across the Commonwealth, especially in smaller and more vulnerable states. To support a coordinated response to these impacts, Member States have called for robust evidence that details the links between climate and health. This session will present research from Fiji National University and The University of the West Indies, highlighting indigenous perspectives on community health and wellbeing. The session will explore how climate change affects food security, nutrition, and the prevalence of non-communicable diseases, and will underscore the importance of local flora and fauna as community health assets. Participants will also discuss strategies to enhance coordination between academia and civil society to improve community health outcomes.*

**2pm-2.45pm | Conference Centre**

**DELEGATE-LED SESSION**

**'Disabled People, Climate and other Emergencies in the Commonwealth'**

**Led by the Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum**

*People with disabilities in the Commonwealth's climate-vulnerable states face heightened risks from rising sea levels and extreme weather events. Despite comprising 16% of the Commonwealth population, their safety and needs are often overlooked in emergency planning. This workshop will introduce a human rights approach to emergency preparedness, guided by Article 11 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It will emphasise the importance of fully including disabled people in planning, training, and climate response strategies. Participants will hear best practices of effective disability inclusion in emergency preparation and action.*

**3pm-4.30pm | Conference Centre**

**No Time to Waste: Financing for Climate Justice and Resilience**

**Speakers:** Audrey Brown-Pereira, Christopher Bartlett, Ineza Grace, Othniel Yila, Jevanic Henry

*Financing for climate justice and resilience is not happening at the rate and scale that is desperately needed. Frontline countries are calling for a show of solidarity across the Commonwealth and a new approach that can deliver meaningful results. Our speakers will explore policy that can meet the immediate needs of the Commonwealth's most marginalised and remote communities while building*

*long-term resilience. Participants will be asked to shape clear and actionable proposals for the next United Nation's climate summit (COP29).*

**4.30pm-5pm | Outside Conference Centre**  
**Tea Break**

*Tea break and opportunity to browse 'Our Climate, Our Future' photography exhibition and attend delegate-led sessions.*

**4.45pm-5.30pm | Conference Fale**  
**DELEGATE-LED SESSION**

**Ensuring equitable access to affordable medicines of assured quality**

**Led by Commonwealth Pharmacists Association**

Global events—conflicts, health emergencies, natural disasters, and climate change—are straining healthcare systems and disrupting medical supply chains. As a result, vital medicines are inaccessible or unaffordable for many. This event will discuss how to strengthen the resilience of supply chains and maintain access to quality medicines. It will provide a platform to share innovative solutions for improving access to medicine across the Commonwealth. Participants will discuss strategies to build more resilient healthcare systems and contribute insights for strengthening healthcare equity.

**4.45pm-5.30pm | Upstairs Boardroom**  
**DELEGATE-LED SESSION**

**Resilient Commonwealth Communities: Indigenous Social Work Responses to Health and Equity in the Pacific Region**

**Led by Commonwealth Organisation of Social Work**

Pacific Island communities are facing significant health and equity challenges, intensified by the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate crisis. What role can indigenous knowledge and practices play in building a fairer and healthier future? This session will explore how indigenous values and knowledge—often integrated into social work practices—can build healthier and fairer communities. Presenters from the Pacific and Aotearoa (New Zealand), including representatives from the Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work and regional universities, will share case studies that highlight the value of indigenous approaches. Delegates from all fields are invited to join the discussion and contribute their views.

**6pm-8pm | Conference Centre**  
**Creativity for Change in the Pacific**

**Speakers:** Selina Tusitala-Marsh, Okalani Mariner, Rosaiviti Solomona, Michael Theophilus Dom, Moemoana Schwenke

The Commonwealth Foundation's cultural work is founded on the belief that art and creativity can catalyse social change. Starting with a set of live performances, this evening event will explore how different forms of creativity, including photography, storytelling, poetry, music and dance, can be used to advocate for climate justice in the Pacific region. Panellists will discuss the cultural implications of the climate crisis and highlight traditional and present-day examples of Pacific communities preparing for climate events and building resilience.

## DAY TWO

### TUESDAY, 21 OCTOBER

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#### 8am-9am | Welcome Desk Registration

#### 8am-8.45am | Conference Fale DELEGATE-LED SESSION

### Charting a Course to Integrity - Pacific Corruption Barometer Results and Opportunities

#### Led by Transparency International

*The values of transparent and accountable governance are increasingly at risk in the Pacific. Concerns around media freedom and freedom of expression intensified during the Covid-19 pandemic and now affect critical areas like elections and the current discourse on geopolitics. This roundtable will bring together Pacific voices to explore the importance of freedom in good governance. Participants are invited to share their perspectives and expectations for free expression and collaborate to develop strategies to reinforce democratic resilience and uphold the values of an inclusive and transparent Pacific.*

#### 8am-8.45am | Conference Centre DELEGATE-LED SESSION

### Dementia in the Commonwealth – Discussion of the CommonAge Report

#### Led by Commonwealth Association for the Ageing (CommonAge)

*Dementia affects millions across the Commonwealth, yet it remains under-recognised and under-resourced. Despite the WHO's 2017 Global Dementia Action Plan urging all states to develop National Dementia Plans (NDPs), many countries have yet to act. With dementia cases projected to triple by 2050, collaborative solutions for increasing care are urgently needed. This session will introduce CommonAge's 'Dementia in the Commonwealth' report, a resource to assist Member States in creating NDPs that address care, diagnosis, and treatment gaps. Attendees will be invited to join a discussion on strategies for making dementia a public health priority.*

#### 8am-8.45am | Upstairs Boardroom DELEGATE-LED SESSION

### Trade Unions and a Resilient, Rights and Justice-based Commonwealth

#### Led by Commonwealth Trade Union Group

*The Commonwealth Trade Union Group, which represents 70 million members in 46 Member States, is set to unveil its 2024 report on Trade Union and Worker Rights. The report examines the role of union rights in upholding democracy and protecting freedom of expression, association, and assembly. In this event, Pacific and international trade unionists will argue for the importance of trade union rights for creating a freer and fairer Commonwealth. Participants are invited to share their perspectives and suggest actionable strategies for advancing health and climate justice through union rights.*

**9am-10.30am | Conference Centre**

## **Putting People First: Health Justice for Those Most in Need**

**Speakers:** Justin Koonin, Abi Begho, Dr Collin Tukuitonga, Faatino Utumapu, Dr  
Stellah Bosire

*Achieving health justice for the most vulnerable is a moral imperative and a truly global challenge. Right across the Commonwealth, preventable differences in the burden of ill-health persist. This session will explore what health justice means for the diverse populations of the Commonwealth and, crucially, how we can take practical steps to achieve it. Our speakers will explore innovation that can drastically improve access to quality care in some of the world's most marginalised and underserved communities, as well as strategies for advocacy, cross-sector partnerships, and integrating traditional knowledge with modern medicine.*

**10.30am-10.55am | Outside Conference Centre**

### **Tea Break**

*Tea break and opportunity to browse 'Our Climate, Our Future' photography exhibition.*

**11am-12.30pm | Conference Centre**

## **The People Speak: Freedom of Expression in our Commonwealth**

**Speakers:** Shahidul Alam, Kalafi Moala, Neha Dixit, Lance Polu, Kumi Naidoo

*Over a third of Commonwealth nations experienced sharp declines in media freedom in the decade to 2022. This decline, coupled with rising censorship and legal attacks on free expression, threatens transparency, accountability, and the ability of Commonwealth citizens to participate in their governance. In this session we will document and confront the urgent challenges to freedom of expression that are growing across the Commonwealth. Our speakers will explore how the contraction of civic space impacts everything from election integrity to environmental reporting, as well as the crucial role of online platforms as both tools of empowerment and vehicles for disinformation. As Heads of Government prepare to approve the Commonwealth Principles on Freedom of Expression in Samoa, we will explore the practical ways in which the Organisation can strengthen this most fundamental of rights into the future.*

**12.30pm-1.45pm | Outside Conference Centre**

### **Lunch break**

*Lunch break and opportunity to browse 'Our Climate, Our Future' exhibition and attend delegate-led sessions.*

**1pm-1.45pm | Conference Fale****DELEGATE-LED SESSION**

## **Decriminalise! A human rights-based approach to criminal law in the modern Commonwealth**

**Led by Institute of Commonwealth Studies**

*Across the Commonwealth, civil society is calling for criminal law reforms to prioritise human rights and uphold freedom of expression. In response, the Institute of Commonwealth Studies will lead a session on implementing a human rights-based approach to criminal law reform, introducing essential resources*

such as the '8 March Principles' and the new 'Practitioners' Guide' as practical tools for advocates and legal practitioners. This event will explore what modern, rights-centred criminal law looks like across the Commonwealth, with a particular focus on decriminalising freedom of expression. This session invites attendees to engage, share perspectives, and build cross-regional partnerships, working together to strengthen justice systems that reflect our shared commitment to human rights.

**1pm-1.45pm**

**DELEGATE-LED SESSION**

## **Civil Society and the Intergovernmental Commonwealth**

**Led by Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organisations (IFCO)**

**Conference Centre**

As global civic society space shrinks, the Commonwealth, with its unique emphasis on civil society, has a vital role to play. With the first CHOGM in the Pacific and a new Secretary-General on the horizon, this session offers a chance to reset and strengthen Commonwealth civil society's relationship with its intergovernmental institutions and governments, building on the regional network of civil society in PIANGO and SUNGO. The session will examine key recommendations from the Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organisations' (IFCO) submission to the Committee of the Whole. Participants are invited to engage in collaborative discussions on enhancing civil society access and influence, fostering a shared culture of engagement, and building resilient regional networks across the Commonwealth.

**2pm-3.30pm | Conference Centre**

## **Our Commonwealth, Our Future**

**Speakers:** Professor Sue Onslow, The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG, Sir Anand Satyanand, Darrion Narine, Shomy Hasan Chowdhury

The Commonwealth stands at a significant juncture in its history. As Heads of Government prepare to select a new Secretary-General, the Commonwealth's 1.5 billion young people—whose attitudes will surely determine its future relevance—are rightly questioning whether the Commonwealth is equipped to address modern-day threats to democracy, peace, and the health of our planet. Together with our dynamic and intergenerational panel of speakers, we will explore how the Commonwealth can strengthen democracy, foster economic development, and advocate for its most vulnerable member states. This final session of the People's Forum will aim to inspire fresh thinking and generate ideas for turning words into action.

**3.30pm-3.55pm | Outside Conference Centre**

## **Tea Break**

Tea break and opportunity to browse 'Our Climate, Our Future' photography exhibition.

**4pm-4.45pm | Conference Centre**

## **People's Forum 2024 Closing Ceremony**

**Speakers:** Selina Tusitala Marsh, Terri-Karelle Johnson

The Commonwealth People's Forum 2024 will close with a summary of the key discussion points, identified priorities and actionable solutions put forward by civil society. The session will feature short speeches, as well as a live performance of 'Symphony', an African-inspired rendition of the Commonwealth Resounds relay song, by award-winning Botswanan artist Lorraine Lionheart and her Ensemble from the African Diaspora. The winners of the 'Our Climate, Our Future' photography competition for Young Samoans will also be publicly announced and presented with their prizes.

**6pm-8.30pm | Saint Therese Retreat**  
**All-Forums Joint Closing Reception**

*Organised by the Host Government, the CHOGM All-Forums closing reception will be held at St Therese Retreat, featuring live performances by local Samoan creatives.*

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**SCAN FOR MORE**

For a full list of speakers and access to the livestream please scan the QR code below  
or visit [commonwealthfoundation.com/peoples-forum](https://commonwealthfoundation.com/peoples-forum)

