

INTRODUCTION

1. The future of the Commonwealth belongs to its Youth.

This manifesto and the supporting compendium express current policy recommendations of Commonwealth Young architects, planners and urbanists regarding the urban policies of member states. They represent the thoughts of youth leaders across the Commonwealth - Australia, The Caribbean, India, The United Kingdom, South Africa, Nigeria and Malaysia.

2. The Young Planners of the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP) and Young Architects of Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA), *have looked* to their members (and others) to help shape the outcomes of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, by aiming to get their opinion on the following question **“How can young people within the Commonwealth help to deliver Sustainable Development Goal 11, to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable?”**

3. *We believe* in a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach to the global challenges our current and future generations face. To ensure a sustainable, fairer, more secure and more prosperous future, **the Youth of the Commonwealth are calling for a more collaborative strategy to meet SDG 11.** This will help nurture, provide opportunities and strengthen the youth across the Commonwealth: the young minds of today that will become the leaders of tomorrow.

BY THIS MANIFESTO, WE:

4. *Recall and commit* to the **Charter of the Commonwealth, The United Nations Agenda 2030, Sustainable Development Goals and The New Urban Agenda.** *We call* on the Heads of Governments to move boldly ahead and look towards **implementation and delivery** strategies to achieve the goals set in the above agreements.

5. As young leaders, *we pledge our continuous support and call* on governments, civil society organisations, NGOs, international donor partners and other stakeholders active in member states to partner with us to **support the following policy recommendations:**

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND YOUTH VOICE

6. *We recognise* that Young Professionals possess unique fresh perspective and freedom of thought. We acknowledge, that Young Professionals have a willingness to learn and a curiosity to drive and untangle the complex issues facing nation states in achieving the SDGs. **We believe, the Commonwealth member states should actively engage Young People in the creation of their future cities.**

We, the young architects, planners and urbanists of the Commonwealth call for:

7. The promotion of a **‘Talent Pipeline’** to globally engage and nurture the passion of young planners, architects and urbanists. *We want* to eliminate the gap between the ‘young’ and the ‘experts’ by establishing strong relationships with local institutions and communities. *We call* for the **expansion of Youth Leaders program** across the Commonwealth.

8. Young Experts should be involved in key decision making processes on local, national and international level. *We want* Young Professionals to be engaged in projects to help the development of policy in key areas of sustainability and urbanism. *We call* on governments to **bring insightful and resourceful Young Individuals into the policy and city making process.**

9. Governments should ensure that there are routes for Young People to explore, network and discuss the issues that impact them. *We call* for the **establishment of outreach programmes** to cultivate talent and knowledge of SDGs. We call on governments to listen to the voices of their youth and provide a way for those voices to be heard in the policy making process.

COMMONWEALTH YOUTH NETWORK AND COLLABORATION

We, the young architects, planners and urbanists of the Commonwealth call for:

10. The creation of better integrated platforms for the sharing of knowledge and experience across the Commonwealth member nations. Young people should be provided with the resources, and guidance required to set up and grow **cross-sector networking organisations across the Commonwealth** to collectively strengthen their own voice.

11. Promotion of **exchange of ideas across nation states** to build one another’s capacity and address economic, social and environmental challenges. *We call* for the support of Young Professionals to attend events, conferences, seminars and skills workshops across the Commonwealth member states.

12. The **introduction of local networking hubs** for professionals from all sectors, to engage and help their cities or towns to work towards achieving SDG goals, to meet, discuss and prioritise small local activities and to identify how they can help the organisations they are a part of to drive local changes to achieve the SDGs.

13. The incorporation of the SDGs into education at all levels. *We want* Young Experts to be empowered to promote the importance of sustainability as a benefit to society through **peer to peer education schemes.**

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES FIRST

We, the young architects, planners and urbanists of the Commonwealth call for:

14. **Understanding of local communities before creating policy,** places and plans. Policy should not be top down but driven by communities and Young People *should be* at the forefront of community engagement to create more inclusive places.

15. Understanding of the **importance of social-cultural aspects in place-making,** each region and place needs to have policy considerate of culture, specificity and context. Young Experts *should be* empowered to work and to promote sustainable solutions that could house innovation, resilience and prosperity.

TAKE PRIDE IN COMMONWEALTH CULTURE

We, the young architects, planners and urbanists of the Commonwealth call for:

16. **The celebration of the diversity of the Commonwealth** nations to deliver better futures. Avoiding homogenous design strategies and encourage experimentation. Developing planning decisions in response to a nation’s identity and context. Sharing the results for others around the Commonwealth to learn.

17. Recognition and taking pride in your culture and engaging to develop better social, economic and environmental outcomes. Incorporating globalisation in a sustainable manner. **Respecting the needs of all nation states – small and large.**

CONCLUSIONS

18. *We welcome and encourage* the actions taken by the Commonwealth Youth Council, Commonwealth Secretariat, member states and Commonwealth civil society in engaging with young people across the Commonwealth. *We call* for a Commonwealth shaped by Young People and, importantly, Young Professionals.

19. There is a desire by Young Professionals to make their world a better place and they want their voice to be heard loudly, when shaping their professions. Young Professionals across the Commonwealth are trying to deliver **inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable places** for the billions of people in the Commonwealth to live, grow, play and work.

20. *We call* on Governments, Non-government Organisations, agencies, donor partners, private sector, and civil society organisations to partner with us to ensure that the policy recommendations outlined above are implemented.



POWERING OUR COMMON FUTURE: URBANISM IN THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH MANIFESTO

LONDON, 16-19 APRIL, 2018

*“Young people have views of their own, needs of their own, and their own way of enjoying themselves. Young people can often be more altruistic and forward thinking, with less buy-in and attachment to the status quo. So, one of the things which young people can do to help to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11 is to get together to break down boundaries, and amplify their collective voice within a given locality.”**

**Quote was received from William Steel who responded to our Call.*

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REFERENCES:

Commonwealth Committee of the Whole, Meeting with Accredited, Commonwealth Organisations, **Submission by Commonwealth Civil Society Organisations**, 20 March 2018. Marlborough House, London

‘Urbanisation: The need for a co-ordinated Commonwealth response’, Joint submission by CAA, CAP and Commonwealth Local Governments Forum (CLGF), 30th October 2017

All references are included in the accompanying compendium.



Commonwealth Association of Planners



CAA
Commonwealth Association of Architects

RIBA
Royal Institute of British Architects

RTPI
Royal Town Planning Institute