

## 10<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Youth Forum

*21-25 November 2015, Saint Paul's Bay, Malta*

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### Call for Organisers of **SETTING THE CONTEXT** sessions

The Commonwealth is a unique global family of 53 member countries encompassing a multitude of cultures, religions and institutions. Its 2.1 billion people make up a quarter of the world's population and have become a vibrant and growing association of states in tune with the modern world. In 1991, the Harare Commonwealth Declaration set the association firmly on a new course, promoting democracy, good governance, human rights, the rule of law, and sustainable economic and social development. Today, the Commonwealth continues to be an active contributor in global affairs and building consensus around the world. The Commonwealth is a modern international association proud of its diversity and ready to meet future challenges.

Young people under 30 make up over half of the Commonwealth's population of two billion and the youth population is still growing. The Commonwealth is committed to address the challenge of the "youth bulge" and the associated need to create enabling opportunities for young people. The organisation is working to ensure sustainable development through a youth lens where young people are given a strong voice in development strategies across all member countries.

It is in this framework that the Government of Malta will be hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF) as one of four parallel forums as part of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2015. The CYF will take place from 21-25 November 2015 at San Antonio Hotel, Saint Paul's Bay, Malta. The forum is organised jointly by Government of Malta, Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC) & Youth Division Commonwealth Secretariat. This year the theme of the youth forum is "*Adding Global Value...#WhatNext?*".

About 450 representatives of national youth councils, youth bodies, youth organisations as well as youth leaders, youth workers, young professionals and experts from across the Commonwealth are expected to attend the forum.

### Hosting 'SETTING THE CONTEXT' sessions

The forum will be open to organisations and institutions interested in hosting sessions under the name of **SETTING THE CONTEXT**<sup>1</sup> to complement CYF. Applications are welcomed from both Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries.

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<sup>1</sup> SETTING THE CONTEXT sessions were previously known as side events

### ❖ What is a **SETTING THE CONTEXT** session?

SETTING THE CONTEXT sessions are focused events during CYF that are highly specialized on the themes aligned with the Forum's agenda. The goal of SETTING THE CONTEXT sessions is to create meaningful, relevant and productive discussion in line with the theme, share best practices and methodologies used currently in the thematic areas and present ground realities of work field. These sessions will enable CYF delegates to put forth concrete proposals at the end of CYF 2015 in form of output document presented to the Heads of Government.

### ❖ Who can apply?

- National and regional Youth Councils, youth-led or youth-focused organisations, international development agencies or programmes, youth enterprises, intergovernmental organisations, governments, and other related youth programmes and foundations interested;
- Applicants should work or be interested to work in youth development, youth empowerment or other youth related issues on national, regional or global level;
- Applicants can be from both Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries;
- The organisations should have a working experience in the selected theme.

### ❖ What are the benefits of organising a **SETTING THE CONTEXT** session at CYF?

As an organiser of SETTING THE CONTEXT session at the youth forum you will be able to:

- Meet and interact with youth leaders, young professionals and the international youth sector;
- Possibly interact with a wide cross section of the Commonwealth family
- Showcase your work, organisation, institution, project and/or materials to about 450 young people and other guests from across the Commonwealth;
- Raise the profile of your organisation/institution/project/campaign and materials at the forum;
- Exchange ideas and experiences on various topics with youth leaders and special guests;
- Deliver your SETTING THE CONTEXT session as a thematic capacity-building session in order to empower young people attending the forum with specific skills, capacity, ability, knowledge, etc;
- Network and explore potential partners and funding opportunities for your organisation, institution or project;
- Share the culture of your country and region with delegates and guests and learn about the diversity of the Commonwealth;
- Participate as observers in the youth forum, including plenary and thematic sessions;
- Connect with a network of youth leaders from across the Commonwealth.

### ❖ Availability of Setting the Context session

CYF will take place in the San Antonio Hotel, Saint Paul's Bay Malta throughout the five days of the youth forum (21-25 November 2015). The number to be allocated will depend on the availability of

spaces (rooms) and slots (booths) in line with the final programme of the youth forum. Due to limited number of slots applicants are encouraged to apply early, as space will fill quickly.

SETTING THE CONTEXT sessions will be allocated based of the themes below and as follows:

AGENDA & THEMES	NUMBER OF SIDE EVENTS
<b>ECONOMIC AGENDA</b>	<b>2 slots available</b>
Innovation & Technology	
Decent Employment Youth Entrepreneurship for Economic Growth	
<b>ENVIRONMENT AGENDA</b>	<b>2 slots available</b>
Disaster Risk Reduction, Resilience & Recovery	
Protection of Natural Resources Climate Change	
<b>SOCIAL AGENDA</b>	<b>2 slots available</b>
Quality & Inclusive Education	
Health Youth Policy & Youth Work	
<b>POLITICAL AGENDA</b>	<b>2 slots available</b>
Peace & Security	
Social Cohesion Human Rights	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8 slots available</b>

SETTING THE CONTEXT sessions will take place on Sunday 22 November from 10:00 to 10:45 & Wednesday 25th November 2015 from 17:30 to 18:15 (Malta time GMT+1:00). A final allocation of SETTING THE CONTEXT rooms will be circulated to all selected organisers and as part of the forum's final programme. This information will also be made available online. In the interest of the program CYF organisers reserve the right to make changes to program without prior notice.

❖ **Technical specifications for SETTING THE CONTEXT room**

- SETTING THE CONTEXT sessions are sitting rooms that could be arranged for workshop, roundtable or panel;
- Rooms are equipped with a computer, a projector, a screen, power outlet, internet access, microphones, seats, a podium, and a hand held microphone for Questions and Answers;
- Organisers of SETTING THE CONTEXT session are encouraged to bring any additional equipment or supplies they may need (with prior permission of the organisers);
- Access to SETTING THE CONTEXT rooms is limited to CYF10 accredited delegates and participants only;
- The forum organisers reserve the right to reallocate or cancel SETTING THE CONTEXT session that exceed the authorized number of attendees, that do not respect the forum guidelines or that did not take place on the allocated day without any notice to the forum secretariat.

❖ **Application procedure for SETTING THE CONTEXT session**

To apply for a Setting the Context session, please complete the online application form by **23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2015 GMT 2300**. The application form can be found at <http://www.yourcommonwealth.org/> or <https://chogm2015.mt/fora/youthforum>

Please also note that late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Applicants will all be notified about their application status by the first week of October.

Note: If your organisation is interested in contributing through sponsoring a speaker or youth delegate/s to further strengthen the program, please let us know via email given below.

**Important to note before applying**

Each organisation will be allocated one session only. Interested applicants are encouraged to submit more than one application for SETTING THE CONTEXT session to increase their chances of selection.

All applicants must provide a title for their event and must choose a sub-theme out of the list provided above that is relevant to their activity. Additionally successful applicants agree that forum organisers have permission to publish their name, organisation details, SETTING THE CONTEXT session title, and short description of the activity on CYF10 related media and communications. These data may also be used for any post-forum reporting or documentation purposes.

**Travel to Malta for Setting the Context event organisers**

Please be aware that the forum organisers do not have the capacity to support your travel costs for participating in the forum as a SETTING THE CONTEXT session organiser. Therefore we only encourage you to apply if you are able to secure your own funding covering your return flight ticket to and from Malta, your visa fees, your meals outside of the CYF10 venue, and any other costs related to your travel. Upon selection, CYF team will host two representatives of the organisation (during

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their stay in Malta) for the purpose of SETTING THE CONTEXT session. Accommodation will be provided on twin sharing basis. If more than two representatives desire to attend as observers, CYF team will be able to support them by providing necessary information but financial responsibility shall lie with the respective applicant/organisation.

**International Task Force,  
Commonwealth Youth Forum 2015  
Email: [youthforum@chogm2015.mt](mailto:youthforum@chogm2015.mt)**

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