



COMMONWEALTH
Trade & Investment Summit
London, United Kingdom

COMMONWEALTH

Enterprise and Investment Council

Commonwealth Trade and Investment Summit **2026**

Commonwealth Solutions to Global Challenges



**20 & 21
April 2026**

The Mansion House, London

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The fifth edition of the Commonwealth Trade and Investment Summit will be held on 20th and 21st April, 2026, at the City of London's historic Mansion House. CWEIC will convene Heads of Government, Ministers, and senior business leaders from across the Commonwealth for two days of discussion and networking at the highest level.

The 56 countries of the Commonwealth offer a unique platform for collaboration – connected by common institutions, shared legal traditions, and a rapidly expanding consumer base. With a population of 2.7 billion and some of the world's most dynamic emerging markets, the Commonwealth's scale and diversity create significant opportunities for innovation, investment, and economic partnership.

Under the theme "Commonwealth Solutions to Global Challenges," CTIS 2026 will convene leaders from government, business, finance, and technology for two days of strategic discussions. The programme will examine issues such as the future of AI, sustainable energy transitions, infrastructure investment, health technologies, creative industries, and the evolving global financial landscape. The Summit will also host closed-door roundtables designed to encourage robust dialogue and practical problem-solving.

Past Speakers have included:

- **The Rt Hon David Cameron**, Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- **Philipp Hildebrand**, Vice-Chairman, BlackRock
- **Janine Hirt**, CEO, Innovate Finance
- **The Hon Lee Kinyanjui**, Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade, and Industry, Kenya
- **Diana Layfield**, Chair, British International Investment
- **Saif Malik**, CEO – UK and Regional Head, Standard Chartered
- **HE Dr Peter Ndubuisi Mbah**, Governor of Enugu State
- **HE Dr Felix Mbayu**, Government of Cameroon
- **HE Wamkele Mene**, Secretary-General, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
- **The Hon Dr Jumoke Oduwole**, Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Nigeria
- **Dr Bright Okogu**, Chief of Staff, World Trade Organisation
- **HE Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu**, Governor of Lagos State



Monday 20 April**0930 – 1030 Opening Session: The Commonwealth as the Next Great Global Trading Bloc**

The Commonwealth's 56 nations, with shared values, shared language, and governance structures that make it an attractive and powerful political, and technological bloc. Increasingly, non-Commonwealth countries are looking to this trading bloc as a powerful platform, and as global power dynamics shift, how can the Commonwealth utilise its advantage on the world stage?

1030 – 1100 Global Tariffs; Reshaping the World Economy, Blurring the Line Between Economic Strength and Economic Insecurity

Rising protectionism and trade barriers have created worldwide uncertainty. Are tariffs tools to safeguard national industries and signal economic power, or do they reveal vulnerabilities and threaten global cooperation? How are businesses changing their behaviour to adapt to rising tariffs, and can they present any new opportunities?

1100 – 1200 Plenary 1 – Investment Strategies in Emerging Markets; Funding the Future of Growth

Emerging Markets are home to some of the world's fastest growing economies, abundant in natural resources, and a youthful, entrepreneurial populations. Yet investors are hesitant to take bold steps, limiting opportunities for companies to scale and innovate. Can blended finance offer a solution?

1100 – 1200 Roundtable 1 – Security & Resilience: Security Infrastructure, Systems and Supply Chains

Security is no longer just about borders, it encompasses cybersecurity, critical infrastructure, and the resilience of economies and societies. How can Commonwealth nations build robust and adaptive systems which can handle both emerging technologies and geopolitical tensions?

1200 – 1300 Networking Lunch**1200 – 1300 Invitation Only VIP Lunch****1300 – 1400 Plenary 2 – Financing Digital Health Systems; Achieving Sustainable Universal Health Coverage for All**

How can new payment models, blended financing, and PPP structures sustainably fund national digital health infrastructure as countries strive for universal health coverage. By exploring long-term revenue pathways that deliver societal, economic, and clinical value, how can we reframe digital health not as a cost centre but as a strategic national investment?

1300 – 1400 Roundtable 2 – The Business of Tourism; Balancing Culture, Profit, and Sustainability

Tourism is a major economic driver for many Commonwealth nations, supporting jobs, cultural exchange, and regional development. Increasingly, countries are also diversifying through eco-tourism, wellness experiences, sporting events, MICE tourism, and exploring innovations such as shore power and renewable-energy integration across hotels and cruise infrastructure. How can tourism grow inclusively and sustainably while preserving and celebrating local cultures?

1400 – 1430 Networking Break

1430 – 1445 Special Intervention: Commonwealth Connections; Strengthening Partnerships in the Middle East

How Commonwealth markets can deepen partnerships to unlock new areas for trade, investment, and innovation corridors for mutual growth.

1445 – 1545 Plenary 3 – Navigating New Horizons; Unlocking Economic Growth in Island Nations

How can Commonwealth Island Nations can turn their oceans into real engines of growth? From sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, to marine tourism and ocean-based renewable energy, what are some of the key strategies and partnerships that will drive resilient, sustainable economic opportunities across the Commonwealth's Island States?

1445 – 1545 Roundtable 3 – The Future of Money

The financial landscape is being reshaped by digital currencies and changing consumer behaviour. Emerging markets face unique opportunities and challenges in adopting new financial technologies while ensuring inclusion, security, and regulatory compliance. How can digital currencies enhance access and efficiency for governments and businesses alike?

1445 – 1545 Special Roundtable: Invest in the Commonwealth Roundtable

A Commonwealth Country, State or Region will be invited to lead a discussion on the opportunities available to the business and investor community

1545 – 1615 Networking Break

1615 – 1630 Special Intervention: The Global Energy Transition; What Will Power the Next Decade?

How will shifting alliances, resource competition, and global power dynamics impact the energy systems over the next ten years?

1630 – 1730 Plenary 4 – The Orange Economy; Creativity as an Engine of Growth

The creative economy offers a viable pathway for economic growth and makes significant contributions to many Commonwealth economies. As countries increasingly seek to leverage their cultural assets, events such as major sporting tournaments can elevate national brands and attract investment into everything from major infrastructure to ceremonies. How can governments and the private sector harness the creative economy to deliver sustainable, inclusive development?

1630 – 1730 Roundtable 4 – Future-Proofing Talent: Skills for an AI-Driven Economy

Artificial intelligence is transforming work, creating new industries, and reshaping labour markets worldwide, and it is estimated that as many as 800 million jobs could be needed in Sub-Saharan Africa alone by 2050 to accommodate population growth. The challenge lies in equipping people with the skills to thrive alongside AI while addressing ethical, social, and economic implications.

1630 – 1730 Special Roundtable: Invest in the Commonwealth

A Commonwealth Country, State or Region will be invited to lead a discussion on the opportunities available to the business and investor community

1730 - 1930 Evening Reception

Tuesday 21 April**0730 – 0900 Special Breakfast: Invest in the Commonwealth**

A Commonwealth Country, State or Region will be invited to lead a discussion on the opportunities available to the business and investor community

0930 - 1030 Plenary 5 – Achieving a Just Energy Transition in Today's Geopolitical Climate

The global energy transition is complicated by geopolitics, resource competition, and national security concerns. Ensuring that the shift to low-carbon energy is equitable, affordable, and reliable remains a major challenge. As some countries still rely on imported energy, who pays for the needed transition? Can governments and companies deliver a just transition while navigating competing pressures?

0930 – 1030 Roundtable 5 – Risk, Return, and Resilience: Unlocking Investment in Infrastructure for Growth

Robust infrastructure underpins economic growth, social development, and global competitiveness. Yet, financing, scaling, and managing risk in emerging markets remains challenging. What strategies can the Commonwealth use to mobilise capital, foster public-private partnerships, and deliver sustainable, high-impact infrastructure projects?

0930 - 1030 Special Roundtable: Invest in the Commonwealth

A Commonwealth Country, State or Region will be invited to lead a discussion on the opportunities available to the business and investor community

1030 - 1100 Networking Break

1100 – 1200 Plenary 6 – Tech That Can Change the World; Ensuring Affordability, Reliability, and Scalability

Sustainable technologies are critical in tackling some of the Commonwealth's biggest climate challenges, but high costs, uncertain performance, and scalability often limit their impact. How can investors and implementors bridge these gaps to drive meaningful environmental and social outcomes?

1100 – 1200 Roundtable 6 – De-risking the Future: Insurance as a Catalyst for Investment

Insurance and risk mitigation tools play a critical role in enabling investment, protecting communities, and enhancing economic resilience. Emerging markets often face high exposure to climate, financial, and operational risks, which can deter investment. This session will explore innovative approaches to de-risk projects, improve coverage, and promote resilience across sectors.

1100 – 1200 Special Roundtable: Invest in the Commonwealth

A Commonwealth Country, State or Region will be invited to lead a discussion on the opportunities available to the business and investor community

1200 - 1230 Closing Session: Towards Antigua and Barbuda

1230 – 1400 Networking Lunch

The Commonwealth Trade and Investment Summit 2026



A Key Commonwealth Business Summit

- Addressed by Presidents and Prime Ministers from the Commonwealth's 56 member countries and beyond.
- More than 300 influential business delegates representing companies from across the world.



High level attendance

- Heads of Government supported by their accompanying delegations, including Ministers and senior business leaders.
- Chairs and CEOs of multinationals and global investment companies.
- World experts from a diverse range of fields.



Learn from influential speakers

- Over 30 distinguished speakers from business, government, and international institutions.
- Plenary sessions focused on major international issues and addressed by global thought leaders.
- Invitation-only roundtable discussion, for more focused dialogue.



An unrivalled networking opportunity

- Online booking system for contacting and arranging meetings.
- Networking breaks, networking lunches and dedicated sessions.
- Summit reception for more informal networking



Showcase your brand

- Opportunities to introduce your company to a global business audience.
- Profile your company alongside global leaders in your field.
- Opportunity to host sessions during the Forum.