



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

Commonwealth Trade & Investment Summit 2026

Commonwealth Solutions to Global Challenges

20 & 21 April 2026

The Mansion House, London

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.

Confirmed speakers include:



Haresh Aswani, Chief Executive, Tolaram



Dominic Barton, Chair, Rio Tinto



The Hon Dr Ian Borg, Deputy Prime Minister, Republic of Malta



John Harrison, Chairman, Airbus UK



Jennifer Pryce, CEO, Calvert Impact



The Rt Hon the Lady Mayor, Dame Susan Langley DBE, City of London



HE Wamkele Mene, Secretary-General, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)



Dr James Mworira, CEO, Centum Investment



Dr Mteto Nyati, Chair, Eskom



Fabrizio Opertti, Manager of the Productivity, Trade, and Innovation Sector, Inter-American Development Bank

Monday 20 April

0930 – 1015 Opening Session: The Commonwealth's Advantage

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?

Addressed by:

- Lord Marland, Chairman, CWEIC
- The Hon Dr Ian Borg, Deputy Prime Minister, Republic of Malta
- The Hon Shirley Botchway, Secretary-General, The Commonwealth
- The Rt Hon the Lady Mayor, Dame Susan Langley DBE, City of London Corporation

1015 – 1100 Global Tariffs; Reshaping the World's Economy

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?

Panellists:

- Haresh Aswani, Chief Executive, Tolaram
- John Harrison, Chairman, Airbus UK

Chaired by:

- Lanre Akinola, Editor, African Business

1100 – 1200 Plenary 1 – Mobilising Capital for Growth in Emerging Markets

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?

Panellists:

- Chris Hayward, Policy Chairman, City of London Corporation
- Susana Leith-Smith, Senior Managing Director and Head of Capital Markets EMEA, Macquarie Asset Management
- Leslie Maasdorp, CEO, British International Investment
- Dr James Mworira, CEO, Centum Investment

Chaired by:

- Lanre Akinola, Editor, African Business

1100 – 1200 Roundtable 1 – Building Security and Resilience Across Critical Systems

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?

Chaired by:

- Ross Buchanan, Agent-General for the United Kingdom, Trade and Investment Queensland

1200 – 1300 Networking Lunch

1200 – 1300 Invitation Only VIP Lunch

1300 – 1315 Special Intervention: Critical Minerals, Capital, and Commonwealth Power

As geopolitical fragmentation reshapes global trade, supply chains, and resource security, how is the Commonwealth uniquely positioned to transform resource strength into trusted supply chains, economic resilience and long-term strategic growth?

- Hirander Misra, Chair and CEO, GMEX Group and ZERO13
- Samantha Cohen CVO.OBE, CEO, CWEIC

1315 – 1415 Plenary 2 – Investing in the Future of Digital Health Systems

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?

Chaired by:

- Chris Bates, Director of Research of Analytics, TPP

1315 – 1415 Roundtable 2 – Balancing Growth and Preservation in Global Tourism

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?

1415 – 1430 Networking Break

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

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

- Mohamed Althaf, Director for Global Operations, Lulu Group
-

1445 – 1545 **Plenary 3 – Cross-Border Payments: The Backbone of Global Trade**

The ability to move money efficiently, securely, and at scale is now a defining enabler of global trade competitiveness. Yet, cross-border payments remain slow, costly, and fragmented, particularly for businesses operating across emerging and developing markets. How are banks, digital platforms, fintech innovations, and regulatory reforms converging to create new payment systems which reshape how trade is financed, settled, and scaled across borders?

Keynote:

- Dr James Mwangi, Managing Director and CEO, Equity Group Holdings

Panellists:

- Dr Joseph Garcia, Deputy Chief Minister, Gibraltar
- Janine Hirt, CEO, Innovate Finance
- Neeraj Kapur, CEO, Crown Agents Bank

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?

Chaired by:

- Professor Michael Mainelli KStJ OMRI FCCA FCSI(Hon) FBCS FRSA, Chairman and Founder, Z/Yen Group
-

1445 – 1545 **Special Roundtable: Future Mobility; Clean Transport, Energy and Urban Growth**

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?

Addressed by:

- Dominic Barton, Chair, Rio Tinto
-

1630 – 1730 Plenary 4 – 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?

Panellists:

- Lina Constantinovici, Founder and CEO, Innovation 4.4
- Arun Kelshiker CFA, CAIA, Head of Sustainable and Impact Investing EMEA, Invesco
- Fabrizio Opertti, Man Manager of the Productivity, Trade, and Innovation Sector (PTI), Inter-American Development Bank
- Will Straw CBE, CEO, King's Trust International

Chaired by:

- Deodat Maharaj, Managing Director, UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries

1630 – 1730 Roundtable 4 – Skills, Work, and Inclusion in the Age of AI

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.

Chaired by:

- Professor Birgitte Andersen, CEO, Big Innovation Centre

1630 – 1730 Special Roundtable: Infrastructure and Supply Chains; Powering Trade

1730 – 1745 Special Intervention: Values as Strategy: Leading Through Change

- Maitreya Dadashreeji, Global Humanitarian, Sustainability Leader
-

1745 - 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 – Balancing Energy Security and Decarbonisation**

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?

Panellists:

- Dr Mteto Nyati, Chairperson, Eskom and BSG
- Jennifer Pryce, CEO, Calvert Impact
- Jeremy Wrathall, Founder, Cornish Lithium

0930 – 1030 **Roundtable 5 – Unlocking Infrastructure Investment 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?

Chaired by:

- Niro Cooke, Executive Board Member, CWEIC
-

0930 - 1030 **Special Roundtable: Family Offices and the Future of Global Impact**

- Anthony Cowell, Co-CEO and Founding Partner, CYNREN
-

1030 - 1100 **Networking Break**

1100 – 1200 **Plenary 6 – Tech That Can Change the World**

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?

Strategic Launch:

- Kayode Adekele, CEO, RusselSmith

Panellists:

- Alistair Cooper, Head of Venture Investments, Cibus Capital
- Jason Knauf LVO, CEO, Earthshot Prize
- Norah Magero, Co-Founder and CEO, Drop Access

1100 – 1200 Roundtable 6 – De-Risking Projects for Resilience

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: Cameroon's National Development Strategy 2030

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, 2027, and Beyond**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.