

# Commonwealth- A Family

## Commonwealth and diversity

The discussion on how the Commonwealth accepts and promotes diversity, brought forward new ideas and research from the participants.

The participants generally agreed that:

- The Harare Declaration of 1991 declared the general stance of Commonwealth as an organization and vehemently opposed racial discrimination and honoured human dignity and equality
- The geographical outlook of Commonwealth with membership spanning all continents of the globe, was a special feature of the organization
- Small densely populated countries such as Singapore and a large sparsely populated countries such as Canada were given equal representation
- The Commonwealth accepts diversity by allowing states of different cultures and language to host CHOGM, thus giving opportunity to be the host of the meeting.
- Commonwealth is a platform for all the members to put their issues on the table and reach a possible solution for it.
- The Commonwealth sees diversity as a tool for creating a better society, a better world, a commonwealth of nations.
- Commonwealth of Learning (COL) has practically shown this understanding of diversity.
- COL's strength was to design country action plans that respond to local needs as expressed by national governments.
- Women role in the Commonwealth was more and more important.
- The Commonwealth accepts diversity in many fields, which include employment for all, equality of all in Commonwealth and its tasks, recognition of equality under the Commonwealth and equal representation for all states.

- To further enhance the diversity outlook of Commonwealth, a student exchange program was required which would not necessarily encompass education only but cultural exchange also.

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