

Commonwealth Trade & Investment Summit 2025

7 – 8 April 2025, Mansion House, City of London

CWEIC's annual Commonwealth Trade and Investment Summit will convene at the City of London's historic Mansion House in London in April 2025. CTIS brings together the Commonwealth Business Community with Heads of Government, senior Ministers and representatives of Commonwealth Governments.

Following the Commonwealth Business Forum and Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa in October 2024, this Business-to-Government Summit will provide a platform to advance discussion, re-focus on critical issues, and ensure that Commonwealth Business priorities are advanced.

The Summit will feature Plenary Sessions and high-level Roundtable discussions, supported by more informal networking opportunities and one-to-one meetings, attracting some of the Commonwealth's most high-profile participants.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government have been invited to address the Summit, alongside Ministers, representatives of Multilateral and Regional institutions, as well as business leaders from the Commonwealth and beyond.

Day One - Monday 7 April

0900 – 1000 **Registration and Networking**

1000 – 1030 **Opening Session**

1030 – 1130 **Opening Plenary Session: A New Commonwealth, Driving Global Trade and Investment**

The Commonwealth's greatest strength is its convening power to foster trading relationships and reduce barriers to trade, and revitalised, it can sustain its crucial role in creating growth within the global economic climate.

1130 – 1200 **Networking Break**

1200 – 1300 **Plenary One: Unlocking Investment in the Commonwealth's Under-recognised Growth Markets**

The Commonwealth is home to over half of the world's top 20 emerging cities, and remains crucial to businesses looking for high growth markets. Investment is crucial for enabling trade, this session will offer solutions to some of the physical, technical, and digital barriers to growth.

1200 – 1300 **Roundtable One: Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Innovation**

Supporting the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators with education and skills is paramount to achieving the Commonwealth's full potential. This roundtable will discuss how both private and public education can help create the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs.

- 1300 – 1430 Networking Lunch**
- 1430 – 1530 Plenary Two: AI in the Commonwealth; Global Opportunities and Innovation**
In an AI-driven digital world, the opportunities for developing economies are boundless, though not without significant risks. How can the Commonwealth foster innovation while mitigating challenges in regulation, data, and readiness.
- 1430 – 1530 Roundtable Two: Transforming Urban Centres, Industrialisation and Rapid Urbanisation**
This roundtable will explore strategies from some of the Commonwealth's most populated urban centres in maintaining growth while dealing with the challenges of rapid urbanisation and population growth.
- 1530 – 1600 Networking Break**
- 1600 – 1700 Plenary Three: The Global Energy Transition; Long Term Upscaling and Adaptability**
Creating a sustainable energy transition requires collaboration and fostering partnerships that emphasise long-term upscaling and local financial empowerment. This session will look at the challenges in reducing carbon emissions while meeting the current energy demand.
- 1600 – 1700 Roundtable Three: Cameroon National Development Strategy 2030**
Cameroon offers many opportunities for the Commonwealth business community with a vibrant economy driven by extractives, textiles, digital development, energy infrastructure and innovation, pharmaceuticals and transport infrastructure and development. This session will hear from senior Ministerial voices from Cameroon on these opportunities.
- 1700 – 1900 Summit Reception**

Day Two – Tuesday 8 April**0900 – 1000 Registration and Networking****1000 – 1100 Plenary Four: Innovative Financing and Accessing Capital**

Access to finance is pivotal in fuelling economic growth and development across the Commonwealth, and it remains a critical convenor of capital and expertise, this session will highlight the role that investment finance plays in sustainable growth, job creation, and risk mitigation.

1000 – 1100 Roundtable Four: Closing the Insurance Gap

The Commonwealth can play a vital role in aligning government and private sector voices in closing the substantial \$2 trillion insurance gap. This roundtable will discuss barriers to investor confidence in the private sector and beyond to help some of the Commonwealth's most climate vulnerable states

1100 – 1130 Networking Break**1130 – 1230 Plenary Five: The Africa Opportunity; Regional Collaboration and Trade Facilitation**

18 of the 56 members of the Commonwealth are in Africa, and the Continent continues to be the largest contributor to Commonwealth dialogue on trade and investment. Africa is setting the benchmark for cross-border collaboration and trade facilitation, and this flagship CTIS session will share best practice and a vision for the future as it continues to grow.

1130 – 1230 Roundtable Five: Standards and Regulation; Creating Competitive and Dynamic Regulatory Environments to Drive Growth

The Commonwealth has a wealth of knowledge within its financial services sector, and can use its expertise in supporting the development of robust and attractive regulatory environments for new International Finance Centres.

1230 – 1400 Networking Lunch**1400 – 1500 Plenary Six: Mitigation or Adaptation; Commonwealth Solutions**

Trust, collaboration, and education are pivotal for success in achieving a climate resilient future. We will look at initiatives which will enable business to address the myriad climate challenges Commonwealth countries continue to face.

1400 – 1500 Roundtable Six: Supply Chains and Food Security

Global supply chain security has never been more important. This roundtable will look at how the current geopolitical landscape necessitates resilience, while looking at the challenges to food security across all Commonwealth economies.

1500 – 1530 Networking Break**1530 – 1600 Closing Session**