

## **Commonwealth Trade & Investment Summit 2021: Build Back Business**

A virtual Business-to-Government Commonwealth Summit hosted from London with participation from across the 54 member nations.

### **Monday 13 September**

**0900-0945**      **Opening Session: The Leadership Role of the Commonwealth in Reshaping the Global Trade Recovery Post-Pandemic.**

**0950-1100**      **Commonwealth Trade: The Lever for Future Prosperity**

This high-profile session will set the scene for the Summit. Leading specialists in global trade from business and government will forecast future trends and discuss ways of ensuring Commonwealth countries benefit as the world slowly emerges from the pandemic, and global trade recovers and accelerates.

**1200-1300**      **Vaccines: Lessons Learned; Preparing for the next pandemic**

The Covid pandemic has focused global discourse on the inequities in access to quality healthcare and healthcare monitoring and innovation. Companies, in partnership with governments across the Commonwealth, have been developing scalable vaccination programmes and delivery methodologies while grappling with supply issues. With the recent pledge from G7 leaders for 1 billion vaccine doses for the poorer countries including 100 million from the UK, there is still a significant requirement to support countries that are still badly affected. Furthermore, we must look to the future to manage potential additional covid waves and future pandemics. This session will showcase excellence in managing the pandemic, examine the lessons learned, and inoculate against future pandemics.

**1400-1500**      **A Sustainable Future: “De-carboning’ the economy and the Race for Renewables.”**

Sustainability is at the forefront of everyone’s mind as we approach COP 26 and combating climate change is an urgent global challenge. Businesses will be required to innovate to create new products and services that not only reduce impact on the environment but also push back against encroaching environmental disaster. Government must regulate and incentivise to allow this innovation while leading the charge to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. This session will showcase Commonwealth excellence in these areas.

**1530-1645**      **Virtual Global Advisory Board Meeting, for CWEIC Strategic Partners only**

**1800**              **The Commonwealth Banquet, by invitation only**  
The Guildhall, City of London

**Tuesday 14 September****1000-1100 Financial Services: Fintech to Consumer Finance**

The ease of accessing finance to support business growth, to fund entrepreneurs and facilitate international trade remains inequitable across the Commonwealth. This session will look at how advances in Fintech can address this, while looking at the role the Commonwealth's Global International Financial Centres can play in meeting the challenge.

**1330-1430 The Shape of the 21st Century Workplace: New challenges, New opportunities.**

The workplace has been evolving, creating new challenges and opportunities for employers and the Covid pandemic has supercharged this change. Challenges around diversity are offset as new ways of working have emerged allowing more inclusive, if geographically diverse, workspaces. However structural challenges, the automation and digitisation of roles and emerging specialities remain key challenges. The future is unclear and businesses are struggling to navigate the "new normal". This session will examine how business and government, working together can tackle the 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges.

**1445-1545 Gaps and Gains on the Road to Equality: Showcasing Exceptional Women Leaders and Preparing the Next Generation.**

The gap in opportunities for women remains a pressing and perennial problem – both in business and government. As countries across the Commonwealth focus on rebuilding their economies and setting new trajectories for business post-covid, there is a critical need to create opportunities for women to step into leadership roles and to pave the way for future generations. This session will look at the failings of current systems and methodologies for promoting women, while showcasing examples of Commonwealth excellence. We will look at how talent is identified and nurtured and the ways in which mentoring and championing can lead to better opportunities for all.

**1600 - 1700 The African Opportunity: AfCFTA and Beyond**

There are 18 Commonwealth countries in Africa – representing some of the fastest growing economies in the world, and some of the most exciting emerging opportunities. The AfCFTA area - the largest free trade area in the world since the formation of the WTO, can be a game changer for the continent and an opportunity for ambitious businesses across the world. This session will look at how business and government should work together to progress the AfCFTA and reduce barriers to intra-African trade to ensure that the potential of Africa is met for all its citizens.