

THURSDAY 25 JUNE 2020

OPENING SESSION: COMMONWEALTH FORUM: TECHNOLOGY, TRADE, AND INNOVATION IN A COVID WORLD

09:00 – 09:30

09:00

Introduction and goodwill message

The Rt. Honourable Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary-General, Commonwealth of Nations

09:15

Official opening of the Commonwealth Forum: Technology, Trade & Innovation in a COVID World

Rt. Honourable Paula Ingabire, Minister of ICT and Innovation, Government of the Republic of Rwanda

SESSION ONE: COMMONWEALTH DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

09:30 – 11:00

09:30

Panel discussion: Creating a common approach to promote the digital economy

Chair: **Gisa Fuatai Purcell**, Director of ICTs, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation

Panellists:

- **Honourable Paula Ingabire**, Minister of ICT and Innovation, Republic of Rwanda
- **Honourable Jonathan Le Tocq**, Minister for External Affairs, The Bailiwick of Guernsey
- **Arif Zaman**, Executive Director, Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network (CBWN)

10:30

Question and Answers / Open discussion

SESSION TWO: COMMONWEALTH DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY REPORT 2020

11:00 – 12:30

The first study to focus specifically on digitalisation in the Commonwealth which fills an important gap by providing new knowledge on the state of the digital economy in the Commonwealth, the challenges posed by digitalisation, and the opportunities available for Commonwealth members to harness the benefits of digitalisation for development and to boost intra-Commonwealth trade.

11:00

Panel discussion: Commonwealth Digital Connectivity Report 2020

Chair: **Freda Miriklis**, Chair, Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network

Panellists:

- **Dr Karishma Banga**, Senior Research Officer, Overseas Development Institute and Author, Commonwealth Digital Connectivity Report 2020
- **Akanksha Sharma**, Research and Insights Director, GSMA
- **Dr Salamat Ali**, Economic Advisor-Trade Economist, Trade, Oceans and Natural Resources Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat

12:00

Question and Answers / Open discussion

12:30

COMFORT BREAK

SESSION THREE: OVER-THE-TOP STUDY REPORT 2020

13:00 – 14:30

The new findings of a second study by the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) show that many stakeholders continue to recognize and appreciate the innovative nature of over-the-top (OTT) services within the Internet value chain. Since the publication of the CTO 2018 OTT Report, new OTT related developments and issues have emerged in the ICT policy and regulatory space. At the same time, OTT applications have become even more pervasive in enhancing digital communications and interactions. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has fast tracked the digitalisation of the way people work and live around the globe. OTT applications have also been used to digitalise business processes and teamwork.

Chair: **Anusha Rahman Ahmad Khan**, Regional Advisor for East and South Asia, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO), Former Minister for Telecommunications, Islamic Republic of Pakistan

13:00

Presentation: Over-the-Top (OTT) study report 2020

Martin Koyabe, Manager, Technical Support and Consultancy, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) and **Dr Christoph Stork**, Telecom Expert, Research ICT solutions (RIS)

13:15

Panel discussion: Over-the-Top (OTT) study report 2020: ensuring effective government policies and regulation in an ever-changing world

Panellists:

- **Kojo Boakye**, Director, Africa Public Policy, Facebook
- **Dr Christoph Stork**, Telecom Expert, Research ICT solutions (RIS)
- **Martin Koyabe**, Manager, Technical Support and Consultancy, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO)

14:15

Question and Answers / Open discussion

14:30

COMFORT BREAK

SESSION FOUR: COMMONWEALTH TRADE DEVELOPMENTS

15:00 – 16:30

This session will look at key developments in Commonwealth trade, during the UK term as Chair-in-Office (since April 2018). These include the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda, the Commonwealth Standards Network, Commonwealth She Trades and the CBWN 10 Point Action Plan on Women in International Trade which builds on the London CHOGM commitment in this area.

	Chair: Arif Zaman , Executive Director, Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network
15:00	<p>Panel discussion: Commonwealth trade developments: exploring trends and patterns</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clarisse Irabagiza, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, DMM, HeHe, Republic of Rwanda, UNCTAD eTrade for Women Advocate ▪ Shafquat Haider, Executive Committee Member, SAARC Chamber and Managing Director, Ciproco Computers, People's Republic of Bangladesh
16:00	Question and Answers / Open discussion
<h2>CLOSING SESSION: COMMONWEALTH FORUM: TECHNOLOGY, TRADE, AND INNOVATION IN A COVID WORLD</h2> <p>16:00 – 16:30</p>	
16:00	<p>Closing address</p> <p>Arif Zaman, Executive Director, Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network</p>
16:15	<p>Closing address</p> <p>Gisa Fuatai Purcell, Director of ICTs, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation</p>