Commonwealth Association of Planners
Over 40 years of work in the Commonwealth

World Town Planning Day Online Conference

4\textsuperscript{th} November 2015

Clive Harridge, Secretary - General
The Commonwealth

- Voluntary association of 54 countries - largest and smallest, richest and poorest, arctic to equator

- Shared goals of democracy, development & peace

- 2 billion citizens: 30% of world, half under 26

- Spirit of co-operation, partnership, understanding
Commonwealth Association of Planners

- Founded 1971
- President – Dyan Currie – Australia
- RTPI President’s Award 2010
# CAP Membership

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CAP represents over 40,000 planners in the Commonwealth
CAP’s Mission

“to meet the challenges of urbanisation and the sustainable development of human settlements”
CAP Objectives

• Contribute to the well being of society & creation of more sustainable settlements & adequate shelter

• Encourage the establishment of planning societies

• Support planners in countries where no planning associations exist

• Promote education & research / exchange of information

• Collaborate with other professionals
Priorities

• Promoting good planning

• Influencing Governments

• Capacity building / planning education

• Key topics: gender, sustainable urbanisation, food security, health, legislation, resilience

• Women in Planning & Young Planners Networks
State of Commonwealth Cities Report
Main findings

• 0.75 billion people live in Commonwealth urban areas - growing at 65,000 / day, 23.5 million pa

• Almost half annual urban growth is in slums

• Number of slum dwellers growing 10m pa

• 2010: 400m+ Commonwealth citizens live in slums / 50% of urban population
Planning Education project

- Research led by Cliff Hague
- Severe shortages particularly in countries with high urban growth rates
- Virtually non-existent in small Commonwealth countries
Food Security

• One of most serious challenges facing Commonwealth

• Planning has key role in addressing food security issues

• Research on planning & food security undertaken by University of Guelph, Canada
Planning and Health

• Critical issue in all countries
  - developed (NCDs)
  - developing (public heath)

• Needs effective coordination between professions

• CAP Expert Group prepared Issues Paper
Commonwealth Planning Legislation

• Often based on historic UK model

• Needs to reflect different cultural and economic contexts

• Needs to tackle 21st century planning issues

• Used to justify forced clearances in some countries

• CAP Expert Group
Climate Change / Disaster Management

- Co-convened UN Habitat workshop
- Toolkit / resource guide prepared
- Supported Sri Lanka following tsunami
- On Advisory Panel of UN task force on disaster reduction
Women in Planning Network

- “CAP Good Practice on Planning with Gender in CW”

- Involved in CW and UN gender initiatives

- CAP Gender Equity Self Assessment Tool - developed by Prof Dory Reeves New Zealand
Young Planners Network

- Over 60% of Commonwealth’s 2 billion population is under 30 – youth issues critical
- Network provides voice for young planners across the CW
- Commonwealth theme for 2014: “A Young Commonwealth”
- Proactive social media engagement:
  - Twitter
  - Facebook
  - YP blog
  - Web page
- Young Planners webinars
World Urban Campaign
“*I’m a City Changer*”

- CAP has a key role in Campaign leadership
- Campaign guided by 7 key principles:
  - pro poor
  - socially inclusive
  - Environmentally sound
  - Participatory
  - Vibrant local economies
  - Non-discrimination and equal rights
  - Empowering cities and communities to plan
UN Sustainable Development Goals

• Much urbanisation is slum-led

• CAP helped lead global campaign for urban based SDG – success!

• “Cities are where the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost.”

• Big challenge now is to achieve successful implementation – planners have huge role
CAP has unique access to Commonwealth Governments

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

Commonwealth Peoples Forum
Planning recognised for first time in CHOGM Communiqué:

“Heads recognised that rapid urbanisation was posing a significant challenge .... and that new and inclusive approaches to urban planning and management were central to achieving the MDGs.”
CHOGM 2013, Sri Lanka

• Made case for urban planning
• Led seminar on post 2015 agenda
• CPF communiqué:
  - Urban growth & land use management
  - State of the CW Cities Programme
• CHOGM communiqué:
  - Sustainable, inclusive and equitable development
  - Climate change, gender, health
CHOGM 2015, Malta

- Major opportunity to promote effective implementation of SDGs
- Already addressed national delegations from all Commonwealth Countries at Committee of the Whole
- Will be addressing meeting of Foreign Ministers in Malta
- Participation in Commonwealth Peoples Forum and Commonwealth Business Forum
Why planners should support CAP

- Successful promotion of planning globally
- No other planning organisation has such global reach and influence
- Demonstrable influence at the highest levels
- Addresses global critical issues
- Provides incredible value for money

- Above all - because it can help create a better world!
Contact details

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Secretary-General

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