

Next meeting of IFCO – Forum of Commonwealth Organisations

Date: **12 September 2018, 14:00-17:00**

Venue: Royal Over-Seas League

(Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR)

Draft Agenda:

12:00-14:00 Opportunity for informal meetings.

Details of any proposed meetings to follow. This could be an opportunity to start discussion of the 'Cities and Urban Areas' Cluster.

13:30 Skype setup

(Skype setup at 13:30. For those wishing to join via Skype, please **send a contact request to nicholas.watts1**, and an email request with 'IFCO Skype' in the Subject line to nsjwatts@gmail.com), by Tuesday 11 September.

MAIN MEETING

14.00-15.00 Dialogue with Commonwealth Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

- **Louise Ellis**, *Head of Commonwealth Unit* and

Update on CHOGM

Main target is for an invigorated Commonwealth

Showcase what the CQ can do

Blue charter framework; aim to half malaria by 2023. Need to support the youngest, and most vulnerable states

What next – delivery, ensuring strength in the Commonwealth – leading to Rwanda 2020

Support the reform of the Secretariat

Strengthen the voice of the Commonwealth – how to achieve the aims of CHOGM

Made an announcement worth half a billion to support projects and programmes

CHOGM – great access to the foreign ministers at the CW organisation level

- **Alex Partridge**, *Head of Institutions and Partnerships Team*

Louise Ellis will speak for 5-10 minutes followed by Q&A with COs. This session is planned to allow discussion of the UK's plans for the Chair in Office period. The work of the Accreditation Committee, which Louise chairs, and plans for the discussion of the High Level Review Group's report to Foreign Ministers at UNGA in late September, may also feature.

15:00 Partnerships

- Discussion of the Secretariat's Partnerships Strategy, tabled 31 July at the meeting with the SG, and since made available online (but so far without Annexes detailing MoUs).
- The mapping exercise of COs by IFCO and by ComSec (previously done in partnership)
- Information requests from ComSec, e.g. the August call for contributions from Education COs
- Working with Commonwealth programmes (including Blue Charter)
- Stemming irregular migration through local development in The Gambia (BUILD, Nick Maurice)

- Formalising governance, nomenclature of (I)FCO, including Working/Steering Group

16:00 – 16:45 New IFCO Clusters

- 16:00 – 16:30 The 'Culture Cluster' (Discussion led by Catherine Cole, SG of CAM, from Edmonton, Alberta. See Catherine's note of skype call on 20 August, received 21 August)
- 16:30-16:45 The 'Cities and Urban Areas Cluster' (Draft note attached)

16:45-16:55 Announcements by COs: new activities and programmes (please notify me in advance if interested in making a brief announcement).

16:55-17:00 Any other business, time of next (December) meeting.

Nicholas Watts 6 September 2018, for the IFCO

Please send any proposed amendments/additions to me by Sunday, 9 September. The IFCO Working/Steering Group will be holding a pre-meeting on Monday 10 September at 16:00 at the RCS.