



COMMONWEALTH
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ORGANISATION
INTERNATIONALE DE
la francophonie

Commonwealth and
Francophonie Submissions to the
G20 Development Working Group
2012



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Foreword

An inaugural meeting of the Commonwealth and Francophonie with the G20 Development Working Group in Cape Town in 2011 brought together the six G20 members of the two associations and several of the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable Commonwealth and Francophonie developing countries, to discuss three common policy priorities of both the two associations and the G20: trade, growth with resilience and financial inclusion. Marking a first step toward greater qualitative technical discussion, engagement, the sharing of development experience as well as outreach, last year's inaugural meeting highlighted many practical suggestions, offered by Commonwealth and Francophonie developing countries, for development policy action by the international community, including through the G20 DWG; and heralded the prospect of a more regular and substantive channel for substantive policy dialogue between Commonwealth and Francophonie developing countries, with the G20 DWG.

In 2012, engagement with the G20 DWG has deepened. It has been spurred by a strong and concerted effort by the Mexican G20 Presidency to ensure a stronger process of G20 engagement with developing countries and those not part of the G20 and a better, more detailed and perceptive understanding and recognition of the unique circumstances and challenges which the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable developing countries confront. The more extensive engagement has also been propelled by the increasing complexity and depth of the development challenges and needs of these countries. Their acute institutional, financial and capacity constraints, the escalating financing requirements to address their development challenges and the continued uncertain outlook for the global economy have all augmented the value of regular dialogue.

Through close collaborative effort between the Mexican G20 Presidency and DWG Chair and the Commonwealth and Francophonie Secretariats a second successful dialogue and outreach meeting was held in Washington DC in April this year. The meeting, which followed last year's inaugural meeting in Cape Town, addressed two critical policy challenges for the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable developing countries of the two associations: food insecurity; and achieving green growth and a successful transition to green economies in these countries. Their challenges are enormous, often poorly understood and recognized; and addressing them requires very significant financial, institutional and human resources.

This volume comprises the papers and discussion documents arising from the second Commonwealth-Francophonie-G20 dialogue and outreach meeting and includes the Outcome Statement, discussion papers and presentations. The papers highlight the specific challenges confronting Commonwealth and Francophonie developing countries, recognize the significant efforts to date by the G20 and other international institutions in seeking to address these; and offer several key developing country suggestions for global policy action.

The Secretariat wishes to acknowledge the support provided by the AusAid, in support of this year's Commonwealth – G20 engagement.

Cyrus Rustomjee. *Director: Economic Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, June 2012*

Outcome Statement: Commonwealth-Francophonie-G20 Meeting

Washington DC, 19 April 2012





Outcome Statement: Commonwealth – Francophonie G20 Meeting, 19 April 2012, Washington DC

1. Meeting in Washington DC on the sidelines of the IMF and World Bank 2012 Spring Meetings, the Commonwealth and La Francophonie held an outreach meeting with Mexico, 2012 President of the G20, together with several members of the G20 Development Working Group (DWG). Commonwealth and Francophonie participants included a large number of developing countries from Africa, Asia-Pacific and Caribbean regions. The meeting provided an important opportunity for several of the world's poorest, smallest and most vulnerable countries to share with the G20 Chair and some of the G20 DWG members, their experiences in addressing their most pressing development challenges, as well as their perspectives on the key priority actions needed by the international community, including the G20, to address these challenges. Participants noted a wide range of challenges, including inter alia the challenge of achieving sustainable development, addressing regional challenges and finding regional solutions to these, as well as identifying job-creating pathways to higher growth, strengthening green accounting frameworks, and addressing the challenges that many of our member countries face in building sustainable wetlands and marine resources.
2. We welcomed Mexico's initiative to hold the outreach meeting and the opportunity this has provided to receive an update on recent developments within the G20, and in particular the work of the G20 DWG. Our meeting builds on the successful Commonwealth-Francophonie and G20 DWG outreach meeting held in Cape Town in 2011, which focused on the acute challenges in building growth with resilience, strengthening international trade and promoting financial inclusion in the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable members of the Commonwealth and Francophonie. Our discussions today have extended and deepened our ongoing dialogue on development issues.
3. We welcomed the continued pursuit by the G20 DWG of its multi-year action plan on development, noting in particular that the plan focuses on several policy challenges which are of critical importance to developing Commonwealth and Francophonie countries. As stated by the Mexican Presidency, G20 priorities for 2012 include improving food security, fostering financial inclusion, the pursuit of inclusive green growth and sustainable development and infrastructure development. Our discussions recognized that food insecurity and the challenges of building green growth and green economies in the context of sustainable development rank among the most urgent priorities in many of the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable countries of the Commonwealth and the Francophonie and accordingly we have focused our discussion today on these two priorities.
4. We welcome Mexico's initiative to begin G20 work on inclusive green growth and sustainable development. This initiative recognizes the particular importance of green growth and sustainable development to low-income countries and small island developing states who are most dependent of their natural resources. We have sought to build on these efforts through a detailed discussion of the priorities, experiences and perspectives of the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable members of the Commonwealth and the Francophonie. These

countries are particularly challenged by profound interconnected challenges related to climate change, water, food and energy security. For these countries, the concepts of green economies and green growth in the context of sustainable development offer an important opportunity to address their challenges in a holistic way, opening for them a transformation pathway, away from crisis, towards growth and sustainable development. Our discussion has shown that for these countries, building green economies, green growth and sustainable development can provide resilience to external shocks, reduce environmental risks and protect and enhance the natural resource base of the economy. In their pursuit of green growth and sustainable development, these countries also share many of the objectives of the G20, including the need to generate new sources of growth and employment, particularly amongst the youth, increasing energy efficiency, promoting sustainable consumption and production and renewable energy supplies.

5. Evidence from the poorest and smallest members of the Commonwealth and Francophonie has highlighted four key priorities for the international community, including the G20, in support of their efforts to promote green economies, green growth and sustainable development. These include a scaling up of investment in the natural resource base of developing countries as a key basis for green production and growth; new initiatives to promote knowledge sharing on the experiences, practices and lessons learned to date in forging effective pathways to green growth and sustainable development, including building communities of practice in these countries, in visioning and implementing specific Green Economy policies and strategies; identifying and securing viable financing options and frameworks to support transformative actions in developing countries; and achieving stronger and more concerted international support for costed and time-bound national implementation frameworks for the Green Economy which embrace an integrated and cross-sectoral approach tied to sustainable development objectives. Our discussions have also shown that to build momentum for the achievement of these priorities, increased international recognition and commitment will be needed, of the special challenges faced by these countries, in building more resilient economies, through key global processes in 2012, including the forthcoming G20 Los Cabos Summit, the Rio+20 Conference and the UNFCCC climate change process. We have urged that these processes be pursued with both a high level of ambition to support the development of climate resilient, lower-carbon economies in particularly vulnerable countries and strengthened efforts to bring the international community closer to an agreed and more joined-up approach to sustainable development in these countries.
6. We welcomed the important progress which has been made by the G20 in promoting food security and the commitment of the G20 Presidency to take this forward. Food insecurity poses an acute challenge to many of the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable members of the Commonwealth and the Francophonie. Our discussions have examined these challenges, including the causes of food insecurity in these countries in terms of both the availability

of food and access to it. Compelling evidence has shown that food insecurity can quickly erode resilience and exacerbate vulnerabilities in these countries. We have examined several examples of the impacts this is having, on countries' abilities to maintain effective social safety nets, reduce poverty and achieve sustainable growth; and have considered an extensive range of measures being implemented by these countries to promote food security, including strengthened national strategic plans, experience sharing, training, the management of food reserves, weather risk and social protection mechanisms.

7. We have also recognized that national efforts need to be complemented by more concerted international action to strengthen food security in the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable countries. Evidence from these countries highlights the need for a cohesive set of measures to achieve this. These include securing longer-term commitments for future investment, financial and technical assistance; enhancing support for building national capacity; enabling a growth-oriented global trade environment; adapting new research to better assist the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable developing countries; developing tools to help increase productivity for small landholders in countries that face the greatest development challenges; promoting long-term sustainable use of natural resource proceeds, adapted where possible to the needs of the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable countries; and encouraging the international community including the G20, to broaden, for these countries, the set of development issues associated with food insecurity, including a more detailed focus on environmental factors.
8. The Commonwealth and the Francophonie have also identified food security as a major global challenge. Commonwealth Heads of Government discussed food security at their summit in Perth in October 2011 and set out the Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles; and leaders of the Francophonie at their Summit meetings in 2008 and 2010 have similarly strongly emphasized the urgency in addressing food insecurity in the poorest developing countries. We recognized that the two associations have strong comparative advantages in advocacy and consensus building, developing networks of support, sharing knowledge and learning, both among countries and regions. We noted that research by the two associations, into some relatively lesser known causes of food security, the inter-linkages among food security, trade and green growth and sustainable development, and on how the causes and impacts of food insecurity have differing impacts across countries, can contribute to a better understanding of the some of the international policy measures to be adopted in addressing food insecurity.
9. We welcomed Mexico's commitment to intensive G20 outreach and the work of the Commonwealth and Francophonie Secretariats on food security and green growth and sustainable development. We have agreed to continue to collaborate closely to facilitate dialogue and the sharing of knowledge and information across G20 and non-G20 member states, and with wider audiences. We agreed that a strong outreach process by the G20

DWG is essential to the success of its multi-year action plan on development and that the Commonwealth and the Francophonie, two associations which include the majority of the world's poorest, smallest and most vulnerable countries, can play an important role in bringing to the attention of the DWG the key developmental challenges and priorities of these countries. We have agreed to explore further opportunities to deepen the dialogue between the G20 DWG and the two associations.

10. We thanked the Mexican G20 Presidency for facilitating this meeting and the World Bank for providing the venue for our meeting. We are also grateful to the Government of Australia for its financial support for the Commonwealth-G20 development dialogue.


Green Growth in Poor, Small and Vulnerable States:

The Green Economy as a
Transformation Pathway to Sustainable Development

A Paper for the Commonwealth–Francophonie–G20
Development Working Group Outreach Meeting,
19 April 2012, Washington, DC

29 March 2012

A paper by the Commonwealth Secretariat prepared as a catalyst for discussion. The views expressed do not necessarily represent the position of the Commonwealth Secretariat or the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie or any member Governments of such intergovernmental organisations or the G20



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Abbreviations

AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
DWG	Development Working Group of the G20
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
Francophonie	Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
G20	Group of Twenty
HDI	Human Development Index
IEPF	Institut de l'Énergie et de l'Environnement de la Francophonie
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
LDC	Least Developed Country
LIC	Low Income Country
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
PSMV	Poorest, Smallest and Most Vulnerable Country
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
RIO+20	UN Conference on Sustainable Development
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Introduction

The persistence and seemingly increased frequency of shocks, including food, fuel, economic, financial and environmental crises, have brought the challenge of achieving growth and resilience to the forefront of global discourse. The challenge has been most acute in countries exhibiting high levels of vulnerability and limited capacity to develop resilience, and has been widely experienced among members of the Commonwealth and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (Francophonie), two associations that collectively represent approximately 80 developing countries. These countries are collectively referred to in this paper as 'poorest, smallest and most vulnerable' (PSMVs) reflecting their characteristics of being acutely vulnerable and requiring enhanced resilience, as well as facing an absence of adequate institutional, human and financial services to address the above challenges and secure opportunities on their own.

The paper presents the experiences, challenges and priorities of Commonwealth and Francophonie PSMVs in the promotion of a Green Economy to secure resilient and sustainable forms of growth and development. It does so to stimulate a discussion of specific and practical steps to support these countries in progressing green growth and the Green Economy. It is a critical time to consider this matter. Mexico, as 2012 President of the G20, has identified green growth as a major priority of the G20 Presidency for 2012. In June 2012, the G20 will hold its Summit meeting in Los Cabos, Mexico. Shortly thereafter, the international community will gather in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held on the 20th anniversary of the 1992 Earth Summit. The two themes of Rio+20 are the Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication; and the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development. This paper recognises the important opportunities which the confluence of these key international meetings offers to the developing countries of the Commonwealth and Francophonie. The Commonwealth Secretariat and the OIF have long track records of engagement on behalf of their members on issues related to the Green Economy and green growth. This support has been delivered through policy research and consensus building at the level of ministers and leaders. These institutions have also built active partnerships with regional organisations of PSMVs and implemented direct country-level support through capacity building and strategic policy support.

The G20 has recognised green growth as an important contributor to sustainable development. The G20 Seoul Development Consensus focuses on an enabling environment conducive to green growth, promoting energy efficiency and clean technologies. More recently, in selecting green growth as a priority issue for the 2012 G20 Presidency, Mexico recognised the particular importance of green growth to low-income countries and small island developing states, placing special emphasis on the importance of natural assets. The current paper builds on these valuable insights and illustrates the major challenges, experiences and perspectives of PSMVs, together with priority actions that they need to take to make progress on green growth.

The paper examines the concept of the Green Economy and the common themes that are contained in different approaches that PSMVs have elaborated. An examination of current

efforts shows that a clear elaboration of PSMV country needs is particularly important, allowing the current international focus on energy efficiency and clean technologies to be amplified to take account of a broader set of perspectives and priorities. While the PSMVs share many of the objectives of industrialised countries in the Green Economy, their starting point and policy objectives are often different. This means that the drivers and priorities in the transformation to a Green Economy may also differ and require a tailored approach and support. Objectives for PSMVs in the development of the Green Economy are closely allied to wider development objectives. This makes the Green Economy for them more difficult to define, and more complex to achieve. Internationally, it implies that support mechanisms that relate to promotion of the Green Economy are likely to have a strong cross-over to other policy areas such as debt reduction, climate financing frameworks and 'Aid for Trade'.

A key objective for the Green Economy is to build a more harmonious relationship between economic activity and the goods and services that the environment provides. This international priority seeks to reduce the increasing risks from deeply inter-linked challenges related to climate change, demographic change, food security, water availability, environmental degradation, and energy provision for all. For industrialised countries and emerging markets this has translated into an important focus on resource efficiency and consumption and production patterns. However, for many PSMVs, poverty reduction and investment in the natural resource base of the economy are often the primary objectives. At a time of sharp fiscal constraints, PSMVs are challenged to find the necessary investment to restore and expand natural environments and to effectively capture their true value. To do so will require more deeply integrated governance frameworks, but also perhaps rapid industrialisation and the development of alternative livelihoods and skills for current users of the natural resource base if innovative new options under a Green Economy, such as the payment of ecosystem services, are to be realised. For these countries, technology transfer and investment frameworks to support green growth and skills become driving factors of success.

PSMV have strong interests in an ambitious outcome on international negotiations related to the development of the Green Economy, both under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Rio+20. They are disproportionately affected by global environmental challenges, whilst contributing least to the problem. Due to their size or the structure of their economies, many are well-placed to implement green policies that reduce inefficiencies, enhance growth and foster structural transformation and innovation. Many are also affected indirectly by global environmental trends which are increasing resource scarcities, changing the cost of strategic imports, and affecting trade and investment flows which are important to their growth and development. Technology transfer and financing to support resource efficiency, a resilient and competitive economy and the implementation of renewable energy technologies which can deliver significant development dividends, address energy poverty and help to reduce risks from climate change, are all essential elements of an effective green growth strategy for these countries.

The paper touches on the need for active participation in the Green Economy by a wide range of players, from the private sector and civil society to regional and international institutions, with governments playing a critical catalytic role in bringing these together. The paper examines the roles of the Commonwealth, Francophonie and the G20 and its Development Working Group, in supporting PSMVs in their own efforts within this newly emerging and rapidly evolving field to implement a Green Economy and create enabling conditions for green growth.

1. Green Growth: an imperative for PSMVs

The current debate on green growth takes place in the context of an emergence of the Global Economy from the financial crisis and the need to address deepening risks associated with the inter-linked challenges of climate change, demographic change, environmental degradation, water, energy and food security.

As the global financial crisis slowly stabilises, Commonwealth and Francophonie members are finding themselves differently equipped to address challenges to their sustainable development. Some members are emerging with levels of unemployment, social indicators and macro-economic indicators in a comparatively healthy state. Others have suffered irreversible damage to social or human capital and some among them find themselves with large domestic and foreign debt, large balance of payments deficits, and weakened currencies. The group of poorest, smallest and most vulnerable countries (PSMV) find themselves particularly challenged.

For example, the economies of small states (countries with populations of 1.5m or less) have contracted through the global economic and financial crises with many facing declines greater than other developing countries. The Human Development Index (HDI) provides a measure of country progress on development issues. Analysis of the changes in HDI between 2010 and 2011 for 19 small states shows that, for the most part, human development in small states has deteriorated significantly (Table 1):

Table 1: Human Development Trends in Selected Small States – 2010 to 2011

Very high HDI	High HDI	Medium HDI	Low HDI
Malta (33)(36)–3*	Bahamas, The (43) (53) –10*	Fiji Islands (86) (100)–14*	Solomon Islands (123)(142) –19* Papua New Guinea (137)(153) –16*
Cyprus (35)(31) +4	Trinidad & Tobago (59)(62)–3*	Botswana (98)(118) –10*	Lesotho (141)(160) –19*
Brunei Darussalam (37)(33)+4	Mauritius (72)(77) –5*	Guyana (104)(117) –13*	Gambia, The (151) (168) –17*
Barbados (42) (47) –5*	Belize (78)(93) –15* Tonga (85)(90) –5*	Namibia (105) (120)–15* Maldives (107)(109) –2*	
		Swaziland (121)(104) +17	

Source: UN Human Development Reports, 2010 and 2011. The table shows HDI ratings for selected countries for 2010 and 2011 and the net change.

*Small states that have moved down the HDI.

In the worst cases, achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has been put at risk and it is clear that the financial crisis will have long-term consequences for nutrition, health, education, and welfare. However, there are many opportunities for these countries to prosper and achieve human development targets in the future, if the appropriate investments can be made which balance risks and opportunities. At the same time, PSMVs have to manage challenges to sustainable development, including: climate change and national resource stress, including biodiversity and water; food and energy security; rapid urbanisation, which is having significant consequences for the availability of arable land; demographic changes; and changes in the global economy.

Global environmental trends are worrying as they show how the natural capital on which the Green Economy depends is gradually being eroded. It is estimated that 1.6 billion people lack access to electricity and many rural poor lack access to clean water and sanitation. Deforestation is occurring at a rate of 13 million hectares per year, biodiversity loss is alarming, and three-quarters of the population will likely face freshwater shortages. The climate change, economic and financial crises and increased competition for natural resources are impairing the ability to feed people. This will only be exacerbated with current global population projections of 9 billion by 2050.

Policy will be key to a successful bridging from crisis to future growth, and the concept of the Green Economy and green growth has emerged as an approach – and indeed an opportunity – to address the deep root causes of the interconnected challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, water, food and energy security and create a transformation pathway to truly sustainable development.

2. The Role of the Commonwealth, Francophonie and G20

PSMV in the Francophonie and Commonwealth recognise the presence of a unique and timely set of opportunities in the lead up to both the G20 Los Cabos Summit and the Rio+20 Conference. There is the opportunity to present their perspectives, challenges, opportunities and priorities. Where consensus can be found across the Commonwealth and Francophonie, there are also important opportunities to advocate for the needs of poor, small and vulnerable states as they develop, refine and implement their pathways to a Green Economy. The January 2012 version of the Zero Draft Outcome Document for Rio+20 states explicitly that:

“The vulnerability of SIDS has worsened over the last two decades, primarily because of higher exposure to external shocks, including adverse impacts of climate change and more frequent and intense natural disasters as well as the fuel, food, and financial crises, combined with inadequate international support” (UN 2012)

To maximise the benefits that Commonwealth and Francophonie PSMVs can accrue from a Green Economy approach will require further support and interventions to enable them to compete and function in a global economy for the long-term. Where consensus can be forged within and across the two associations on specific policy options to address some of the challenges of these countries, this can serve to contribute to actively promoting the interests of the poorest and most directly vulnerable sectors of society.

2.1 The Commonwealth and Green Growth

The Commonwealth Secretariat has worked on the Green Economy since the 2009 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. That Summit adopted the Port of Spain Climate Change Consensus and sought support for small states and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in advancing their own strategies and policy frameworks on adaptation towards carbon-neutral and climate-resilient economies. A Good Offices Role for the Environment was also created at that time for the Commonwealth Secretary-General.

These mandates have been pursued in several ways. Firstly, Commonwealth Finance Ministers in 2010 considered practical steps towards the Green Economy. They welcomed the opportunity the Commonwealth provides for dialogue between G20 and non-G20 members and emphasised the need for a renewed focus on economic growth. They also looked at investments in the natural resource base and economic transformation.

A Commonwealth High-Level Meeting on Climate Finance in January 2011 brought together Ministries of Planning, Finance, Environment and Foreign Affairs, combined with development partners and climate finance experts and regional organisations to examine the climate financing needs of the Commonwealth’s poorest and most vulnerable members. A complex range of issues emerged, from the level of financing available and difficulties in accessing existing sources, to an imbalance between mitigation and adaptation financing; and the challenge of connecting to highly fragmented funding landscape. This work is being taken forward with regional organisations of small states (e.g. the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs); Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)) to facilitate climate financing in small states.

Commonwealth Environment Ministers in February 2011 discussed the Green Economy and highlighted the need to address: natural resources management; investment; job creation; renewable energy and energy security; and resilience building. In February 2012, Commonwealth Environment Ministers considered new approaches to ocean governance as a practical way to fast track the application of the Green Economy.

In the context of the Commonwealth's work in support of small states, a paper has been prepared for the Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS) on Green Economy in small states; and experts met in November 2011 to examine resilient growth in small states, with reference to sustainable development and the Green Economy. This work will come to fruition with practical policy papers later this year to be considered at the Second Global Small States Conference in London.

Members have also asked the Secretariat to deepen understanding of the Green Economy and exchange experiences on the Green Economy at national, regional and Pan-Commonwealth levels. The Secretariat's expanding work programme on the Green Economy includes work on ocean governance; and detailed policy dialogues with member states, beginning with the Commonwealth-Francophonie and G20 DWG Outreach Meeting, and focusing on leadership in the transition to a Green Economy. This work, in part, supports preparations for Rio+20 in June 2012.

The Commonwealth's promotion of environmentally sustainable development stems from the 1989 Langkawi Declaration, which recognised the environment as a key resource that is vital to pro-poor development. The Commonwealth's approach was further elaborated through the 2007 Lake Victoria Commonwealth Climate Change Action Plan (the Lake Victoria Action Plan), which sets out action to address sustainable development concerns related to climate change. This Declaration, the Lake Victoria Action Plan and the above activities form part of the Commonwealth's long-standing and deep engagement with the concerns of small states and LDCs in the field of sustainable development, environment and climate change. The above activities attest to the Commonwealth's ability to convene high-level forums across different sectors and departments to help forge new concepts, and wider ownership of sustainable development. The Commonwealth's work at the highest levels of Government is paramount to bridging institutional and sectoral silos, adopting a more holistic view and developing appropriate and context-specific sustainable development governance solutions, which are key to transition to green low-carbon and climate-resilient economies.

2.2 The Francophonie and Green Growth

The Francophonie shares a similar interest in green growth. The Institute of Energy and Environment of the Francophonie (Institut de l'Énergie et de l'Environnement de la Francophonie – IEPPF) contributes to the development and implementation of national policies and strategies for sustainable development, engages in capacity-building, supports countries in international negotiations on the environment and sustainable development, provides technical support, brokers networks of expertise and develops partnerships as competent body of the OIF. At the

‘Forum Francophone’ preparatory meeting for Rio+20 held in Lyon, France in February 2012, La Francophonie emphasised the importance of a holistic approach to the Green Economy including integrating social and cultural aspects of the economy, which is a common element of the Green Economy shared by the small states of both the Francophonie and Commonwealth.

In April 2012, the IEPF will deliver training to members of the Francophonie on environmental economics with a specific focus on natural resource valuation. The Institute has also undertaken other research on environmental impact assessments and on renewable energy. It has helped to build negotiating capacities of their members, particularly in the context of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) related to climate change and desertification. IEPF have also collaborated with CIRIDD in creating Médiaterre, a French language online portal which has been in existence for twenty years, providing a key sustainable development and knowledge resource. On the ground, IEPF has worked with various developed members of Francophonie to support a Green Economy. For example, it supported Tunisia in developing its renewable sector focusing on wind. It has helped to support micro-hydro development to provide electricity to a coastal community and its agriculture facilities in Madagascar, the supply of energy in Vanuatu, and supported energy efficiency in Benin. The IEPF is also developing studies on the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol post 2012, which it may share with both Anglophone and Francophone countries in Africa. The Francophonie has also had a strong level of engagement with the Africa Group on green growth.

2.3 The G20 and Green Growth

Through the Presidency of G20, Mexico has been a strong advocate for both green growth and the Green Economy. Green growth is one of the G20 DWG three main priority areas in 2012 alongside food security and infrastructure, and it serves as an overarching structural priority which has yet to be tackled systematically. Within the infrastructure priority, there are strong links to green growth.

The G20 and Green Growth

“We recognise that sustainable green growth, as it is inherently a part of sustainable development, is a strategy of quality development, enabling countries to leapfrog old technologies in new sectors, including those through the use of energy efficiency and clean technology. To that end, we will take steps to create, as appropriate the enabling environments that are conducive to the development of energy efficiency and clean technologies, including policies, practices in our countries and beyond, including technology transfer and capacity building” (The G20 Seoul Summit Leader’s Declaration, 11–12 November 2010)

The G20's approach to green growth, as summarised in the text box above, appears to fall within the definition of the Green Economy applicable to larger and more industrialised economies. As illustrated in the current paper, there is scope to amplify this approach to acknowledge the unique challenges faced by PSMVs as they conceptualise and deliver a more holistic approach to Green Economy, based on their natural capital, and aimed at becoming more resilient to the global crises. In this context, PSMVs have been encouraged that the Mexican Presidency has subsequently stressed the importance of green growth to the development agenda. Importantly, it has identified the centrality of natural assets in low income countries and the need for green growth strategies to streamline sustainable development and drive progress, particularly in SIDS where efforts are also required to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance resilience.

The G20 Development Agenda for Green Growth identifies multiple areas for action which range from best practices specific to least developed and insular nations, to identification of green principles to guide international development cooperation to enhance resilience, as well as networking with research and scientific institutions to support knowledge sharing and developing performance indicators and metrics to measure progress.

3. PSMV Perspectives on the Green Economy

3.1 Green Economy Definitions and Aims

In the past decade, a range of definitions of the Green Economy has been proposed and many extend the concept of Green Economy further to embrace poverty reduction and propose use of the concept as a means for sustainable development. The diversity of conceptualisations may, in part, be due to the need to tailor the Green Economy concept to national socio-political and economic contexts and each country's natural resource endowment. There is however consensus that each country will have its own approach towards implementation (UNCTAD 2011) and that current *"prices faced by producers and consumers in the global economy do not reflect environmental and social costs adequately"* (Le Blanc 2011).

Barbados

In 2007, Barbados identified the following three key principles as integral to a green economy: (1) we should not exploit resources at a rate greater than we can assimilate the waste that is generated, (2) we should not exploit renewable resources at rates greater than they can be replenished, and (3) non-renewable resources should not be depleted at rates greater than they can be replaced by renewable resources. These principles would guide the development of policies for transitioning to a Green Economy, particularly in the crosscutting sectors of energy, water resources and waste management. Source: Government of Barbados

Beyond definitions, it is clear that a number of elements or principles of a Green Economy have emerged and can help provide clarity on objectives and approaches. These include characteristics such as being: low-carbon (or "decarbonised"); adapted to climate change ("climate resilient"); and taking advantage of the growth and job opportunities which decarbonisation and climate resilience bring. The Green Economy often encompasses concerns related to social and environmental objectives and sustainable development, including the effective management of natural resources, and investment in natural capital and people. A Green Economy is seen as helping to guide sustainable development policy, but also has economic growth benefits because it supports competitiveness by lowering the costs of production. It might also develop new and innovative sources of income, such as payments for carbon sequestration or from other ecosystem services.

For developed and industrialised economies, the application of the Green Economy concept, has often been in the context of a country's carbon and natural resource footprint, and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve efficiency by mainstreaming environmental and energy considerations into existing sectors. The focus has therefore been on the 'greening' products and services by reducing environmental harm from their delivery during their whole lifecycle (a cradle-to-grave approach, including through the supply chain); and on developing or expanding energy efficient industries, renewable energy and other environmentally-friendly technologies. New 'green jobs' are created through this process. This is a fairly focused approach to the Green Economy.

Evidence from PSMVs shows that for them, a Green Economy provides resilience to external shocks; reduces environmental risks; and protects and enhances the natural resource base of the economy. Many of the objectives of developed and industrialised countries also hold true for this group: needing to generate new sources of growth and employment (particularly amongst youth and women); increasing resource efficiency; promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns and renewable energy supplies. However, the balance and priorities within the two groups may be different. The objectives for PSMVs are closely related to wider national development objectives. For them, the achievement of sustainable development across environmental, social and environmental spheres is fundamental to defining a Green Economy. The focus is on enhancing the value derived from natural resource endowments through activities such as agriculture, fisheries and forestry. As PSMVs begin to operationalise the Green Economy at the national level, they are doing so to address a plethora of immediate development challenges. Options for action are therefore complex and approaches to the Green Economy are only just beginning to emerge fully. However, some distinctive approaches can be identified, as illustrated by the following examples:

- Transformation to an Environmentally-sound Organic Island: Dominica
- Low Carbon Development Strategy: Guyana
- Transformation to a Green Economy: Barbados
- Sectoral Approaches such as renewable energy development, as in the Maurice Isle Durable initiative, Mauritius; and
- Integrated approaches based in National (Sustainable Development) Plans: Pacific Island Countries.

2011 Delhi Ministerial dialogue on ‘Green Economy and Inclusive Growth’

- Components of the Green Economy exist both at national and global levels and both require concerted efforts (e.g. as food and energy security impact global growth prospects)
- The thrust of the Green Economy in the developed world is targeted at low-carbon yet in the developing countries, the Green Economy exists in the natural resources based in livelihoods
- Attention is needed on how Green Economy paradigms impact on the livelihoods of the vulnerable sections of society (e.g. small and marginalised farmers and those employed in SMEs) and how poor and vulnerable groups can be brought into the ambit of the Green Economy and given access to resources
- Key priorities for the Green Economy include: water conservation, renewable energy, protection of land from degradation, and conversion of waste into energy
- Twin requirements of affordability and environmental sustainability for energy supply require reconciliation

3.2 Strategic Frameworks

A variety of broad **regional frameworks** guide green growth within PSMVs. Within the Caribbean, CARICOM has set the context of the Green Economy for Caribbean with the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action and the 2005 Mauritius Strategy of Implementation, together with the regional development platform under CARICOM. Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders adopted the Pacific Plan, one of the main pillars of which is sustainable development, and agencies of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) often provide direct delivery of services related to climate change adaptation and sustainable development at the national level. For many African and Indian Ocean PSMVs, regional and international protocols and conventions provide policy guidance for sustainable development. The countries also participate in the activities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which aims primarily to eradicate poverty through sustainable development. A comprehensive programme of intervention and a portfolio of Africa regional projects have been developed to address identified issues including impacts of uncontrolled tourism development, over exploitation of fisheries and other living resources and loss and modification of ecosystems. Asian PSMVs work within the ASEAN region frameworks where they have been involved in promoting clean and green ASEAN, amongst other activities.

At the **national level**, **Barbados** has set its Green Economy approach in the context of wider national policies such as the Sustainable Development Policy of 2006. It draws different policy strands together to explore synergies and promote implementation across these policies by helping to direct investment and funding. In 2007, the national budget allocated a substantial section to 'Green Economy Fiscal and Economic Proposals'. The more recent National Budget for 2011–12 focused primarily on the energy sector and a Renewable Energy Policy. Guyana, with its rich endowment of forest resources, has opted to implement a Low-carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) within the context of its Forest Policy which promotes sustainable forest management, and its Energy Policy which promotes renewable energy and energy efficiency. The overarching policy context is Guyana's National Development Strategy (NDS) which sets out the country's overall development framework, and the National Competitiveness Strategy (NCS) which takes forward specific economic development priorities. The LCDS, which is also the major climate change adaptation policy for Guyana, sets out the country's approach to transitioning to a Green Economy.

Another example of a national level approach in the Caribbean is **Dominica's** "Organic Island" initiative, which is aimed at "Transforming Dominica into an environmentally sound Organic Island: Creating an Enabling Environment for Sustainable Development and Economic Growth." Through this initiative a 10-year Plan is being developed that utilises an ecosystem approach to integrating ecotourism and agriculture as the main drivers of a sustainable development strategy. For the Pacific region, indications are that countries have not yet declared national policy positions with respect to the Green Economy. However, as reported in the 5-Year Review of the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Sustainable

Development in SIDS (ESCAP, 2010), all Pacific SIDS have an overarching development plan and many of these contain a long-term vision with goals, guiding principles and strategic areas. It has been suggested that these plans might be revisited to reflect any decisions pertaining to implementing a Green Economy (UNDESA, 2011).

The government of **Mauritius** in its 2010 budget announced the national initiative “Sustaining Green Mauritius”, which lays emphasis on the promotion of sustainable development through financial support for energy efficiency and the promotion of use of renewable energy. The budget also outlined measures aimed at sustaining a Green Mauritius, with a focus on high technology, low carbon, renewable energy and green quality living; as well as investment in greening the physical infrastructure of buildings. **Ghana** has multiple green economic policies in place. Since 2005, the country has consulted on how to green the national budget, renewable energy choices, retrofit of buildings, energy efficiency of infrastructure, support to R&D on environmentally friendly technologies through the Energy Fund, substantial public investment to restore, maintain and enhance stock of natural capital (of forests). There are numerous other examples.

Sectoral initiatives include **Jamaica’s** National Energy Policy 2009–2030; **Trinidad and Tobago’s** Green Business Forum to encourage establishment of a Green Economy in Trinidad & Tobago; and **Cook Islands** 100% Renewable Energy by 2020 goal. Examples of **regional sectoral initiatives** include the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP); the Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands (SEIAPI) project to promote energy efficiency and renewables through certification and communities of practice.

National and sectoral initiatives have helped to channel some financing towards green growth priorities. International organisations and financing mechanisms have played a valuable role in partnership with PSMV governments and regional organisations in the development of a range of green growth-related projects, both through catalytic financing and technical support.

3.3 Opportunities for PSMVs in the Green Economy

The Green Economy affords many opportunities for PSMVs to tackle head on their inherent vulnerabilities and development risks. The financial crisis has developed a strong desire in these countries to re-double efforts to building their economies on a resilient and sustainable basis with green growth providing a framework through which the delivery of new sources of growth might be developed, long-term risks from climate change might be addressed, and investments promoted to aid recovery.

Botswana

“How can a Green Economy, in this world of global economic competition, provide us, in a Middle Income Country (MIC) like Botswana, with opportunities for investment and employment creation (green jobs) and, perhaps more importantly, with opportunities to improve livelihoods and lift people out of poverty” (PEI 2011:2)

Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism (MEWT), Mr Samuel Rathedi has identified elements of the Green Economy within the national context of Botswana:

1. “**Regulating consumption behaviour** by building a unified economic and financial framework comprising economic policies that are environmentally friendly”;
2. “**Investing in alternative growth strategies** leading to formulation and adoption of new domestic and international policies, programmes and strategies in order to transform towards new dynamic green activities”;
3. “Requiring **new methods of measuring the wealth** of individual countries – which will inadvertently lead to a shift from the use of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as an indicator of countries’ standard of living to include, among others, environmental health of a given country”;
4. “Implementing a **Green investments/clean investments strategy**. The strategy entails a reallocation of investments towards green activities. It emphasises ‘getting prices right’ which includes removing subsidies, valuing natural resources and imposing appropriate taxes on those activities that harm the environment or environmental ‘bads’; and
5. “Investing in new equipment and new technology and restrictions on outdated technologies that increase environmental pollution.....**technological revolution** will require capacity building, new skills and training for adaptation.

At a Caribbean dialogue in February 2011, run by the University of the West Indies and the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute, participants exchanged information on how Caribbean economies are actively **building resilience**. This included regional integration; disaster preparedness; changes to the housing industry to shift to low–energy and resource efficiency and resilient buildings; taking industries higher up the value chain through better use of biodiversity and culture; realising real value from links with Caribbean diaspora around the world; and recognising good natural resource management by local communities and support to sustain livelihoods.

One of the greatest opportunities for PSMVs lies in **capitalising on natural resource assets** for economic development; and to increase growth by addressing inefficiencies in existing environmental policies and by expanding the natural resource base of the economy. There are also tangible benefits to be accrued through conservation and good environmental stewardship. For example studies on the economics of biodiversity show that conservation of “mangrove swamps, forests and other natural resources and made the case that conserving the resources often yield more value than converting their use to commercial aquaculture or other uses” (Khor 2011).

Pacific Island SIDS : Green Economy = Blue Economy

Pacific SIDS have identified **14 preliminary priorities for advancing the blue economy in the context of Rio+20:**

- 1) Equitable sharing of economic return from fisheries and related industries;
- 2) Addressing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU Fishing);
- 3) Reducing the world’s fisheries fleet capacity based on scientific evidence;
- 4) Addressing pollutants (e.g. agricultural run-off and oil spills or plastic debris) which created dead zones and contaminate food supply;
- 5) Prohibiting destructive fishing practices (e.g. bottom-trawling);
- 6) Global action to reduce fishing bycatch and discards;
- 7) Addressing the impacts of climate change (sea level rise, severe storms, ocean acidification) and its effects on biodiversity and food security;
- 8) Protecting coral reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development;
- 9) Mainstreaming the imperatives in the Barbados Programme of Action and Mauritius Strategy into the global oceans governance framework;
- 10) Implementing existing international law (e.g. under fish stocks agreements)
- 11) Reviewing and holding Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) accountable for the health of fish stocks in their jurisdiction; and ensuring more effective participation of Pacific SIDS in RFMOs;
- 12) Enhancing efforts to expand the global network of marine protected areas recognising marine reserves as a key contribution to safeguarding the ocean’s natural capital and ensuring food security;
- 13) Delineation of the continental shelf with resource allocation to support Pacific SIDS in this process; and
- 14) Regional and international coordination to protect native ecosystems from alien species.

The Green Economy offers PSMVs opportunities for building economic resilience and **growth beyond business as usual**. The Commonwealth of Dominica has identified priority areas for investment, i.e. organic agriculture, tourism, green industrialisation and renewable energy as part of its green growth strategy (see box below). Other Commonwealth and Francophonie PSMVs are focusing on investments in buildings, transport, energy, agricultural, manufacturing or waste sectors, and the underlying service sectors which support these. Some may benefit economic from productivity enhancements, reductions in energy consumption and moving up the value chain of existing productive activities which all can be viewed as forms of diversification. New markets and market shares may also open up for small domestic industries such as organic agriculture or tourism, which may stimulate job creation.

The Commonwealth of Dominica

A draft Low-Carbon Climate-Resilient Development Strategy (the Draft Strategy) has recently been discussed with international development partners and donors, and refers to investments anchored in sector strategies for growth in Dominica's Growth and Social Protection Strategy (2012–2014):

- supporting micro and small business access opportunities in the Green Economy;
- attracting suitable Green Economy businesses into Dominica;
- providing education, training and capacity-building to enhance the skills base of the workforce to support Dominica's transition to a Green Economy; and
- integrating green principles into national economic management and planning, and marrying environmental preservation and management into Dominica's strategy for achieving higher levels of sustained economic growth.

The Draft Strategy also states that “Government will be more consciously seeking to integrate green principles into national economic management and planning, and marry environmental preservation and management into [the] country's strategy for achieving higher levels of sustained economic growth”. It also includes recognition by Dominica of the need to build national capacity to implement Dominica's *Low-Carbon Climate-Resilient Strategy* which is “regarded as a key element in Government's plan to create sustainable quality employment opportunities”. Moreover, Dominica has also stressed the importance of recognising climate change as a development not an environmental issue. Dominica cites the Draft Strategy as offering an “opportunity to demonstrate viable interventions to address climate change risks associated with SIDS within the context of a national development framework that establishes the country firmly on the path to a Green Economy.

For example, it has been estimated that a shift to sustainable agriculture could increase global employment by 4%, and increased forest conservation and reforestation could increase employment by 20% by 2050. In the same time period, improvements in energy transport and investments in renewable and energy efficiency are also likely to offer 10% and 20% increases in employment respectively. SIDS, in particular, have multiple opportunities for renewable energy such as geothermal, solar, and tidal wave power, and developments in this area could change the need for energy imports. While significant opportunities can accrue to small states through the Green Economy, it is important to note that not all small states will benefit equally. At the same time as identifying opportunities, countries will also need to manage the risks and costs associated with such transformations.

Bangladesh

At the 2011 Delhi Ministerial Dialogue on Green Growth, it was noted by Bangladesh that:

“One specific area which needs to be addressed pertains to the difference between the ideal concept of a “green economy”, which is still somewhat fuzzy in its early conceptual stage and the near to medium–term implications for developing countries and particularly for the Least Developed Countries, of stepping into the transition to a Green Economy”.

3.4 Transformation to a Green Economy

As Commonwealth and Francophonie developing countries, particularly PSMVs seek to capture the benefits of green growth, they are also faced with a new challenge of visioning the Green Economy and implementing this vision within particular national circumstances. How can PSMVs best link the Green Economy to existing national frameworks for sustainable development and develop practical frameworks for action? PSMVs are just beginning to make a start on these issues, and they range from regional to national approaches and from sectoral to all–encompassing national plans.

Ghana

Ghana defines a Green Economy as comprising “*economic policies and instruments to harness economic activities ...in support of one or more of its sustainable development goals*” and recognises that green growth pathways seek convergence between the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

According to the *Ghana Share Growth and Development Agenda 2010*, Ghana’s current pattern of development puts a lot of stress on the environment with the total economic cost of poor environmental management and sanitation amounting to about 10% of Ghana’s GDP. From a Ghanaian perspective, transformation to a Green Economy means having sustainable recourse for policy direction in specific sectors such as energy, transport, agriculture, urban environmental management and infrastructure—roads, building and industrial installations.

Fundamental to visioning and operationalizing the Green Economy in PSMVs is the **valuation of natural capital**. For example, where goods and services have been valued for the ocean the estimates of worth are very significant. The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study documents the different values associated with, for example, coral reefs. They play a wide range of roles beyond the obvious aesthetic value: for natural hazard management (up to 189,000 US\$/hectare/year); for tourism (up to 1 million US\$/hectare/year); for genetic materials and bio-prospecting (up to 57,000 US\$/hectare/year); and for fisheries (up to 3,818 US\$/hectare/year). The potential costs of damage from storms, coastal and inland flooding and landslides can be considerably reduced by a combination of careful land use planning and maintaining and restoring ecosystems to enhance buffering capacity. Planting and protecting, for example, nearly 12,000 hectares of mangroves cost US\$ 1.1 million but saved annual expenditure of dyke maintenance of US\$7.3 million. If fisheries were better managed they would have an increased performance of US\$50 billion annually. The benefits of changing towards governance and management approaches that **better integrate such values into decision making** are clear.

There are a number of ways in which this can be done, including changes to measurements of economic growth that take into account wealth from natural capital. Greater recognition by a variety of institutions, national and international, of such approaches could help PSMVs and others to integrate natural resource valuations into mainstream economic planning. Valuations at a global level would also need to recognise the role of public and global common goods to the global and national economies (e.g. healthy and clean air). Some countries like Sri Lanka have begun to explore measuring these aspects (see the text box).

Sri Lanka

In 2008, Sri Lanka developed a Sustainable Human Development Index to add environmental and quality of life parameters (e.g. carbon emission, bio-capacity, ecological footprint and poverty) to the Human Development Index developed by UNDP. They have also enhanced an Environmental Conservation Levy Act based on the polluter pays principle to secure financial resources. In 2012, Sri Lanka has taken steps to develop a green accounting mechanism, with an initial focus on the forestry sector's contribution to the national economy.

Of equal importance, and commonly raised throughout the current discourse on the Green Economy is the need for a **holistic economic framework**, since a Green Economy is an economy in which income and employment are driven by public and private sector investments that reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhance energy and resource efficiency, and prevent loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. These investments are catalysed by policy reforms and regulation changes. Such an integrated approach would entail taking a more cross-sectoral approach to both visioning and implementation of the Green Economy and organising the economy to facilitate job creation and more sustainable livelihoods, to tackle poverty and become least wasteful of the resources on which the health and wellbeing of populations rely. Some PSMVs have begun to supplement economic tests with environmental and social ones to ensure a more holistic focus – for example, through subsidies – and have also begun to explore incentives and disincentives for supporting behaviours. The Commonwealth of Dominica has recognised that investments in green and greener technology are key to transforming their national economy and have been exploring this in the context of a single climate resilient strategy. Other small states like Samoa have been considering the economic viability of these options, particular renewable and other low carbon technologies as they manage the risks associated with climate change.

Countries need to set rules, reduce inefficient resource use, promote green innovation and protect ecosystems vital to their major exports while balancing longer-term sustainability of their natural resource endowments. A rebalance of **economic incentives** is needed, with options including a price on carbon and reform of subsidies. Some PSMVs have implemented **fiscal measures** to encourage green consumption and production, and some recognise that shifts in **corporate behaviour** towards sustainability are required and have at their disposal regulation, economic incentives and an ability to exert public pressure for changes in corporate norms and practices. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, solar waters imported from the CARICOM region are exempt from both import duty and value added tax. St. Lucia exempts renewable energy technologies from import duty and imposes an environmental levy on some imported items. Guyana has an environmental tax of G\$10.00 on every imported non-returnable beverage container and has reported environmental tax revenue earnings of G\$674 million for 2010. These revenues have not been earmarked for any specific expenditure. In Seychelles, a US\$2.00 levy per household

is imposed on utilities and the revenues earned are used for environmental conservation and management, while in Kiribati there is a deposit on aluminium cans. Barbados provides an annual home improvement allowance for energy audits which is deductible against personal income tax and a further deduction is allowed for investment in energy conservation and renewable energy technologies including solar technologies. Other examples from Barbados include a tax credit on the capital cost of fittings, pipes and pumps used in the improvement of wastewater systems. Incentives also exist for compact fluorescent light bulbs, house and attic fans, and ceramic coatings for roofs, while a full waiver is in place for many renewable energy and energy efficiency products, including wind turbines, photovoltaic systems, as well as solar thermal systems, and heat pump systems. In addition, companies operating in the construction, manufacturing and tourism sectors, which achieve certain internationally recognized environmental standards, qualify for a 150 per cent deduction in the costs of the certification process.

Greater attention is also required to the **trade concerns of PSMVs** as these countries progress strategies towards green growth and a Green Economy. Climate change is likely to have significant impacts on international trade with potentially far-reaching consequences for PSMVs. There is a growing literature indicating that the impacts of climate change on PSMVs could be substantial. Their economies are amongst the most open and trade-dependent in the world, and tend to be more dependent on natural resources, which themselves are sensitive to moderate changes in climate. Moderate changes in climate could, for example, affect soil quality, availability of water for drinking and as habitat for fish. Many agricultural systems rely on natural rainfall rather than irrigation. In fact it's not just the amount of rainfall that matters, but its timing and distribution across the growing season as well. Additionally, some agricultural systems are located in low lying delta regions, which rely on rich silt deposits from rivers. These locations may become more prone to flooding and the intrusion of salt water. Several developing countries are island communities already exposed to severe weather events, such as hurricanes and cyclones. The destruction caused by such extreme weather events might raise the costs of agriculture to a point where it becomes unsustainable. Furthermore, as climate change deepens, resource scarcities will affect the price of 'virtual water' and 'ghost land' imported into many PSMVs in the form of food, and may impact the competitiveness of remote and land-locked economies through the price of fuel. There is widespread energy poverty in developing countries and a key challenge for developing countries how to address the huge unmet demand for energy through renewable sources of energy.

Concerns have also been expressed about the impacts of policy tools implemented to address climate change on the economies of PSMVs. Developing countries recognise that their progress towards a Green Economy will be contingent on developed countries taking the lead in changing their production and consumption patterns and will need support from developed countries in this transition through global economic and financial reforms and technology transfer. The implication for PSMVs is to strengthen the climate resilience of trade infrastructure; upgrade or adjust operations to take account of efficiency gains that can be made in the Green Economy or changes in supply chain requirements; and, in some cases, diversifying away from the most severely-impacted sectors.

CARICOM – Regional Elements of a Green Economy Strategy

- 1) Community Industry Policy pursuing enhanced industrial production on an environmentally sustained basis;
- 2) Sustainable Tourism;
- 3) Community Agricultural Policy calling for sustainable exploitation of the Region's natural resources;
- 4) Fisheries management and Development;
- 5) Forest Management and Development; Research and Development; and
- 6) Environmental Protection.

Leadership and governance will be key. Commonwealth Environment Ministers in February 2012 recognised the critical role of governance mechanisms, driven by strong political will, to forge deeply integrated objectives within the Green Economy. They endorsed a 5pronged approach to put the necessary system changes in place, focusing on the elaboration of a Green Economy applied to the oceans (sometimes referred to as the Blue Economy). This framework focuses especially on integrated approaches at the national level, highlighting the critical leadership role of government in bringing different stakeholder and sectoral interests together (see the text box below). At the international level, leadership will help to unlock the financing and access to technologies that PSMVs need to move plans to reality.

Commonwealth Framework for Transformation to a Green Economy Applied to the Oceans

- 1) **Recognising the value of 'natural blue capital' and its potential for growth** – transforming our approach to biodiversity in the ocean from one seen to be based around habitats and species to one based around 'blue capital', where biodiversity has multiple values and can act as natural solutions to inform and answer wider challenges.
- 2) **Introducing marine spatial planning** – reinvesting in a wider spatial perspective to management and governance of the ocean area by linking the ocean to coastal and inland issues in such a way that previous conflicts, barriers and costs are reduced or removed, and new multiple benefits and new growth are promoted.
- 3) **Transforming patterns of economic investments** – altering the economic investment portfolio to remove perverse incentives that act as barriers to progress, recognise the financial value of natural blue capital, and reinvest the

money released in new areas that achieve greater long-term growth and deliver multiple benefits within social, economic and environmental priorities.

- 4) **Creating new approaches to ocean governance** – enhancing cooperation and communications to create more political will to strengthen governance and cooperation at all scales to remove and reduce barriers to implementation, making growing the Green Economy easier to achieve with ocean resources and more politically desirable to do.
- 5) **Growing the institutional and human capacity to act** – devising new ways of working that lever greater capacity from current systems to make change happen through for example increased regional cooperation, sharing of costs and knowledge, public/private partnerships and creating ‘fast-track’ approaches to translating aid into action.

3.5 Policies towards a Green Economy

A wide basket of policy options for supporting the transition to a Green Economy and promoting green growth are on offer to achieve:

- 1) **Conservation, regeneration and meaningful limits on resource activity:** caps/targets; fiscal reforms; environmental regulations for non-tradable sectors such as buildings and transportation; attracting (carbon) finance, elaborating payments for ecosystem services;
- 2) **Robust macro-economic systems for sustainability,** macro-economic frameworks which mutually reinforce economic growth and the conservation of natural capital; addressing unsustainable consumption and production patterns;
- 3) **Adopting an integrated and long-term approaches,** integrated planning; mainstreaming; building on existing national strategies for sustainable development;
- 4) **Stimulating the private sector and green jobs,** education, conditioned support for green sectors, R&D;
- 5) **Addressing inequalities,** strengthening human and social capital; specific policy interventions to address negative effects of structural changes in the transition to a Green Economy; deepening stakeholder participation in development of the Green Economy;
- 6) **Promoting greater accountability and transparency** in the pathway to a Green Economy and in policy coherence and in measuring and monitoring progress and trends and a triple bottom line; and
- 7) **Collective action at the international level** to strengthen responses to challenges related to the global commons and to the financing and technology concerns of PSMVs.

4. Key Priorities of the Poorest, Smallest and Most Vulnerable Members of the Commonwealth and Francophonie

A wide range of experiences and good practices in confronting the challenges of a Green Economy at the national and regional levels in the small, poor and vulnerable members of both the Commonwealth and the Francophonie suggest that there are a number of interventions which may be beneficial to support their efforts. Many of these interventions are likely to occur – and indeed are taking place – at the national level, and amongst regional institutional institutions engaged in green and economic development issues, where consensus is able to be forged. Such institutions include CARICOM, the Indian Ocean Commission, the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. They may also occur within the two associations themselves, as well as at an international level. Many PSMVs consider that key catalysts for international interventions can emanate from the G20 DWG. While it is clear that no country has fully conceptualised and operationalized the Green Economy, there are still many initiatives that can be learnt from.

Developing countries of the Commonwealth and Francophonie and in particular small states have expressed considerable interest in and have made strides towards visioning and implementing a Green Economy despite encountering a vast array of concepts. Collective evidence across these countries suggest a cumulative eightstep process of enabling conditions for green growth and Green Economy transformation in PSMVs. Each step reinforces and builds on the earlier step and contributes positively to and enables small states to chart their own pathway to transformation based on their own priorities and uniqueness.

Africa Consensus Statement to Rio+20

The Ministers of Africa, in the African Consensus Statement from the Africa Regional Preparatory Conference held in 20–25 October 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, emphasised the need to enhance understanding of the Green Economy as a way to protect and sustain natural capital, improve resource efficiency, including innovative financing and sustainable consumption and production, and enhance contributions to sustainable development. They further call on the international community to put an international investment strategy in place to facilitate the transition to a Green Economy. They welcome an exchange of experiences and best practices on innovative policies and practices on sustainable forms of farming, renewable energy development, ecosystem-based adaptation, resource efficient production, and enhancement of natural capital.

4.1 Eight Key Priorities for PSMVs

- 1) According more **specific international recognition of the special challenges faced by PSMVs** in building more resilient economies, for example through supportive political statements by leaders and senior officials in global processes in 2012, including the forthcoming G20 Los Cabos Summit and the Rio+20 Conference;
- 2) Recognising the need for **investment in the natural resource base** of PSMVs as a key basis for green production and growth;
- 3) A broader international process of **knowledge-sharing** on the experiences, practices and lessons learned to date from PSMVs on forging effective pathways to green growth and the wider Green Economy;
- 4) Concerted international support for developing and building **communities of practice** to learn together as PSMVs during visioning and implementation of specific Green Economy policies and strategies;
- 5) Developing **viable financing options and frameworks** to support transformative actions in PSMVs. Initiatives can include, inter alia, mechanisms to help channel financing to national objectives, including pilot initiatives, regionally-based mechanisms and trust funds, which would extend beyond energy efficiency to greening of key sectors, the promotion of new opportunities for growth, investment in natural capital and climate resilience;
- 6) Building stronger and more concerted international support for costed and time-bound **national implementation frameworks** for the Green Economy, which fully embrace an integrated and cross-sectoral approach tied to sustainable development objectives; and
- 7) Supporting governments of PSMVs in fostering an enabling environment for Green Economy innovative transformation including technical, financial and managerial capacity building of society, individuals and institutions, through more holistic governance systems and through development of conditions for private sector growth of the Green Economy.
- 8) Maintaining **high ambitions for Rio+20** and the UNFCCC climate change negotiations: building a clear picture of each country's contribution to the Green Economy; strengthening the institutional framework driving engagement towards ambitious sustainable development goals; building international support for measures to achieve food and energy security in PSMVs; making progress on capturing the true value of ecosystem services; and identifying specific measures that can be taken to address PSMV concerns related to aspects such as ocean acidification, protection of coral reefs and overfishing.

A View from the Atlantic, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean and South Asia (AIMS) SIDS

President of the Seychelles, the Honourable James Michel, speaking on behalf of the AIMS SIDS, discussed the Green Economy in the context of AIMS SIDS at the 7 July 2011 Rio+20 preparatory meeting. The President notes that “the post cold war and post Rio landscape has not improved the development possibilities for islands in any significant manner” and that “islands are more vulnerable today than they have ever been in their history”:

- 1) **Funding** – SIDS have less access to funds today than in 1992;
- 2) **Climate Change Adaptation Funds** – most SIDS are still waiting;
- 3) **Trade** – SIDS have seen a large erosion of preferences and their trading positions in the world economy have weakened;
- 4) **Debt** – an ever larger number of SIDS have debt to GDP ratios in excess of 100% and have limited access to affordable credit;
- 5) **Infrastructure Development** – SIDS have benefits the least from regional infrastructure mechanisms, and they also have less access to grant funding for new projects than...in 1991;
- 6) **Resource base available to SIDS** – globalisation of the world economy means that the potential comparative advantage of SIDS is even more limited than in 1992; and
- 7) **Commodity prices** – SIDS are even more vulnerable to price shocks than they were in 1992.

SIDS have also advocated for the “oceans-based Blue economy to be an integral part of the concept, definition and development of the Green Economy”.

Conclusion

Analysis and experiences to date of the Commonwealth and Francophonie's poorest, smallest and most vulnerable members in the conceptualisation and implementation of a Green Economy have shown that they face a number of unique challenges. They need to address immediate development imperatives while at the same time finding innovative ways in which to direct investment into natural resource base of their economies, and find ways to capture the full value of those resources in economic terms.

The current 2012 G20 Presidency's focus on green growth is a major priority for 2012, which together with the Rio+20 process provides a unique opportunity to recognise the particular concerns of PSMVs in promoting green growth, and to set in place specific supportive mechanisms to facilitate transformative actions by poor, small and most vulnerable countries towards their sustainable development.

Adopting an ambitious approach to addressing the challenges of PSMVs in creating a Green Economy will help to address critical growing international risks from the interconnected challenges of the financial crisis, climate change, environmental degradation, food security, energy production and water availability. It will also facilitate an unlocking of appropriate financing mechanisms and flows of environmentally-sound technologies that can improve resource efficiency, economic competitiveness and climate resilience in particularly vulnerable countries. At the same time, the transition to a Green Economy will require all governments to play a dynamic facilitative role using effective governance arrangements to broker a step-change towards more integrated development approaches and poverty reduction.

PSMV and other members of the Commonwealth and Francophonie, together with the two Secretariats, will continue to play a constructive role in promoting the perspectives and interests of member countries in green growth and development and implementation of the Green Economy. Efforts can include analysis and research to help conceptualise the Green Economy, particularly from a PSMV perspective; helping members to develop tangible work plans; building active communities-of-practice on green growth and the Green Economy in PSMVs to evaluate the different approaches taken and range of policy instruments applied; sharing experiences and engaging experts and a wider network of institutions to help deliver solutions to specific challenges or capture new opportunities; examining options for financing and investment frameworks tailored to the needs of PSMVs in creating a Green Economy in the context of sustainable development; and advocacy on the special concerns of this group, where consensus can be forged within and across the two associations.



Food Security

Perspectives from the Poorest, Smallest and Most Vulnerable
Members of the Commonwealth and the Francophonie

A paper prepared for the Commonwealth–Francophonie–G20 Development Working Group
Outreach Meeting, 19 April 2012, Washington, DC

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29 March 2012



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Abbreviations

AFSI	L'Aquila Food Security Initiative
AMIS	Agricultural Market Information System
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme
CAP	Commonwealth Association of Planners
CCRIF	Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
DWG	Development Working Group of the G20
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
Francophonie	Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
GAFFSP	Global Agriculture and Food Security Program
G20	Group of Twenty
LIC	Low Income Country
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organisation

Introduction

The poorest, smallest and most vulnerable members of the Commonwealth and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (“Francophonies”) are deeply challenged by food insecurity, and this has in recent years been exacerbated by food price volatility and structural change. This paper examines the challenges being faced by this particular group of developing countries, identifies the steps many of them are taking to seek to allay food insecurity, and sets out some key priorities from their perspectives. In illustrating the challenges and perspectives of these developing countries, this paper does not represent the collective views of the entire membership of the two associations.

Food security exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life. This is founded on three pillars, including: the availability of enough food on a consistent basis; sufficient resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet; and appropriate food use based on knowledge of basic nutrition and care, as well as adequate water and sanitation. It is a complex issue linked both to human development (via health and malnutrition), and economic development, environment, and trade (WHO¹).

Several Commonwealth and Francophonie leaders have highlighted the need to tackle food insecurity in recent years, most notably at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGM) in Trinidad (2009) and in Perth (2011), and at the Francophonie Summits in Quebec (2008) and Montreux (2010). The CHOGM in 2011 saw the launch of the “Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles”, which provide an important rallying point for Commonwealth members and others to consider a series of prioritised actions.

In considering these Principles, an important first step is to identify the key challenges more precisely, lessons learnt in addressing these challenges, and best practices that might be adapted across the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable countries more widely. In responding to these questions, several unique Commonwealth and Francophonie strengths and synergies can be brought to bear. These include the sharing of knowledge and best practices across the two associations, highlighting common challenges and innovative solutions to food insecurity, promoting networks, and bringing to light practical measures being taken across both associations, coordination, and collective action. In so doing, it is hoped that these efforts dovetail closely with those in other international forums, including in particular the G20.

Commonwealth, Francophonie, and G20 involvement

Small, vulnerable economies as a group are net food importers. The majority of Commonwealth and Francophonie member countries are among the world’s smallest, poorest and most vulnerable, and experience high degrees of food insecurity. These countries also provide excellent examples of best practice from which many other developing countries and regions may be able to identify lessons of best practice. Commonwealth and Francophonie members also comprise almost a third of the G20s’ membership and the two associations have highlighted the challenges of non-G20

¹ <http://www.who.int/trade/glossary/story028/en/>

countries from an early stage. Both within the two associations and through the G20, these efforts have increased since the 2008 food crisis.

The G8 summit in L'Aquila (July 2009) brought international attention to the challenge, through a joint statement on Global Food Security, signed by 27 countries and 15 international organisations, including the majority of G20 members. The **L'Aquila Food Security Initiative** (AFSI) sought a comprehensive approach to food security, covering productivity, pre and post harvest interventions, private sector, smallholders, women and families, the natural resource base, employment, knowledge and training, trade, governance and policy. Signatories committed \$20 billion over three years. The **G20 Pittsburgh Summit** (2009) called on the World Bank to set up a Trust Fund to assist in the implementation of pledges made under AFSI, which resulted in the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) to support country and regional strategic investment plans. At its **Seoul Summit (2010)** the G20 established its Multi Year Action Plan on Development, naming food security as one of its nine pillars of sustainable development. The first **G20 Agriculture Ministers** meeting (June 2011) developed an "**Action Plan on food price volatility and agriculture**" (G20, 2011a²), which was submitted to the Cannes Summit (November 2011), at which leaders agreed to adopt it in full (G20, 2011b³) (see Section 4 for details).

Leaders of both the Francophonie and the Commonwealth have also recognised the challenge. In the face of the global food crisis in 2008, the Francophonie at its twelfth summit in Quebec presented a series of recommendations⁴; and at its thirteenth Summit in Montreux in 2010, underlined the associations' commitment to tackling food insecurity along with climate change and biodiversity as part of its wider agenda on sustainable development⁵.

Similarly, at their meeting in 2009, Commonwealth Heads of Government raised food insecurity as a deep concern, recognising that poverty remains the fundamental cause. Leaders presented a series of agreements and recommendations covering sustainable agriculture, rural development, natural resource management, social protection especially for the poorest and most vulnerable, trade policy, and infrastructure (CHOGM Communiqué 2009⁶). In February 2011, the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP) issued a paper to raise awareness of challenges across the

² G20 (2011a) "Ministerial Declaration: Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture", Meeting of G20 Agriculture Ministers, Paris 22 and 23 June 2011 http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Full_Report_5.PDF

³ G20 (2011b) "Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All", Draft of November 4. See especially paragraphs 40–51. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁴ See especially Paragraphs 50–55 in the Quebec Declaration (2008) <http://www.francophonie.org/IMG/pdf/decl-quebec-2008.pdf>

⁵ See especially Paragraphs 19–36 in the Montreux Declaration (2010) http://www.francophonie.org/IMG/pdf/Declaration_SOM_XIII_24102010.pdf

⁶ See in particular Paragraphs 78–80. <http://www.thecommonwealth.org/files/216904/FileName/TrinidadandTobagoCHOGMCommunique.pdf>

Commonwealth (CAP, 2011⁷). And in October 2011, Commonwealth Heads of Government agreed their “Declaration on Food Security Principles”⁸. Recognising the complexity of the issue, the Declaration was wide ranging, addressing crisis response, prevention, mitigation and resilience; management, productivity and sustainability of agricultural and marine resources; supporting government-led programmes; developing country-led strategies and aligning donor support to country priorities; nutritional interventions; agricultural R&D; international market access for smallholders and women; affordable financing, local value-added, and infrastructure; collaboration between international organisations, donors, and national governments; and improving the institutional framework for global food security efforts, including by supporting reform of the UN FAO (see Annex 1 for details) Consistent with this, Commonwealth Heads of Government additionally committed to support African countries realise their long term potential as food producers and exporters.

Most recently, Mexico, in its capacity as G20 President, has singled out food security as one of the five priorities of its Presidency, and one of its three priorities for the Development Working Group (see Section 4). In this context, developing countries of the Commonwealth and Francophonie are aware of, and strongly appreciate, the focussed concern of the Mexican G20 authorities and the G20 Commodity Markets Subgroup of the Energy and Commodity Markets Working Group in seeking to address the on-going high volatility in international commodity markets. Related to this, Commonwealth and Francophonie developing countries also acknowledge the G20 Mexican Presidency’s recognition that significant distortions exist in markets around the world. Several of these issues are of inherent concern to the poorest, smallest, and most vulnerable members of the two associations, and are addressed in the current paper from the particular perspectives of this group of countries, and in the specific context of the longer term and more intractable structural challenges that underlie and perpetuate food insecurity in these economies.

The current paper is structured as follows. Section 1 outlines the current crisis and its effect on the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable members of the Francophonie and the Commonwealth. Section 2 addresses the causes and impacts of food insecurity in these countries. Section 3 reviews selected experiences among these countries in tackling food insecurity. Section 4 examines the G20 Action Plan and sets out some key priorities for the G20 made on behalf of the Commonwealth’s smallest, poorest and most vulnerable members. Section 5 concludes with an examination of further opportunities to address food insecurity in the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable members of the two associations, drawing on the two associations’ comparative advantages in research and analysis, convening power and broad based membership.

⁷ CAP (2011) “Planning and Food Security within the Commonwealth: Discussion Paper”, February. <http://www.commonwealth-planners.org/papers/food.pdf>

⁸ Commonwealth Secretariat (2011) “Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles”, 29 October. <http://www.thecommonwealth.org/news/241600/291011foodsecurity.htm>

1. The Current Crisis and its Effect on the Poorest, Smallest and Most Vulnerable Members of the Commonwealth and Francophonie

1.1 The Challenge

In 1974 the first World Food Conference, held in response to a food crisis brought on by rising oil prices, a repeated failure of grain crops and the soaring cost of fertilizer, adopted the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, which declared that *'Every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop fully and maintain their physical and mental faculties'*. Commonwealth Ministers played an active part in that conference, meeting together three times to consider supplementary ways in which they could provide assistance. This reflected both the fact that the great majority of the Commonwealth's population lived in developing countries most acutely affected by the crisis, and Ministers' emphasis on the important role of international co-operation in backing national efforts to respond.

Nearly four decades later the world is no nearer achieving the Declaration's aspiration. Another food crisis confronts the world, affecting especially the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable. Its importance for this group of members of the Commonwealth and Francophonie is as great as that of the 1970s. For example, at present more than 10 million people, including some 2 million commonwealth citizens, are affected by a food crisis in parts of East Africa, following the worst drought in the region for more than fifty years, on top of land degradation, reduced harvests and high food prices. Tens of thousands of people have fled their homes in search of food, refugee camps continue to attract thousands more people every week, and many of the people, especially children, who reach them are so weak and malnourished they are likely to die. Feeding points on the way are said to be overwhelmed. The sums required to tackle the problem are huge, but in addition conflict and instability in the region prevents available food from reaching many of those who need it.

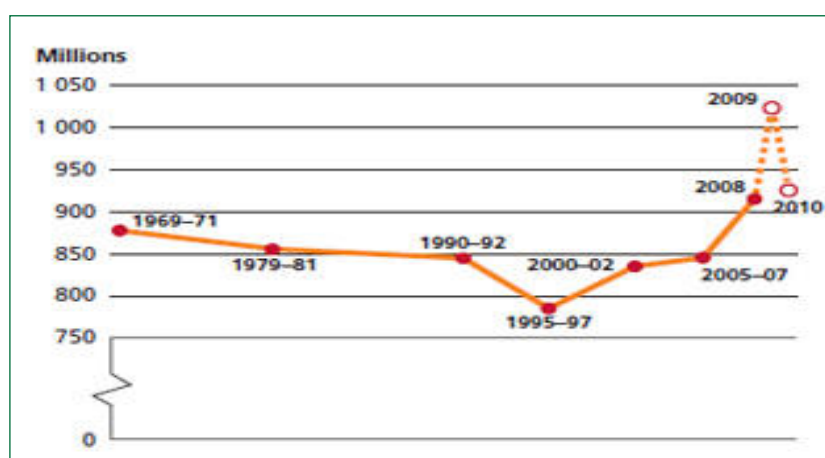
In 2008 a food price crisis caused riots and unrest in more than 20 countries, and sent the number of people affected by hunger over a billion, more than one in seven of the world's population. Good harvests and improvements in the global economy brought food prices back down in 2010 and the number of people suffering from hunger dropped back in 2010 from its 2009 spike to about 925 million; but improvements have not been sustained, and prices in the spring of 2011 were more than a third higher than they had been a year before. The World Bank has estimated that another 44 million people were pushed into poverty between June 2010 and February 2011 because of those increases.

The situation remains critical: food price levels remained high during 2011 and in spite of dipping in Q4 (FAO 2012⁹), both the level and the volatility of prices continue to obstruct poverty reduction efforts and sustainable development. Given the close links between poverty and food insecurity, efforts to tackle food insecurity in these more volatile conditions are made more complex, more difficult, and at the same time much more urgent.

⁹ FAO (2012) "FAO Food Price Index" 12 January <http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/wfs-home/foodpricesindex/en/>

Shocks such as those in the early 1970s) highlight and give immediacy to the problems of food security, bringing increased political attention; but the causes of the crises are systemic and long term and they cannot be solved by quick or short term interventions. Hunger has been a stubborn problem for many decades. Even before the effect of recent shocks caused their damage there had been very little progress in reducing numbers over the last 50 years (see Chart 1 below). Few countries have made significant progress towards the 2000 MDG target to half the numbers affected by hunger, and numbers have continued to rise.

Chart 1: Number of undernourished people in the world, 1969–2010



Source: Figure 1 in FAO, 2010¹⁰

It should also be noted that the FAO estimates for a decline in 2010 were prepared in an assumed context that economic growth would recover in 2010 (FAO 2010 op. cit. – see in particular Figure 3), and therefore may not fully address the complications to the global recovery that have subsequently unfolded. Latest FAO data and estimates would therefore be very welcome in reviewing what effects lingering global recession has had on the number of undernourished people in the world.

1.2 Medium Term Prospects

There is very little to suggest that, if current trends continue, any greater progress will be made or the situation will be any better in the coming decades. World population is forecast to rise to around 9 billion by the middle of the century, up from the current figure of 6.8 billion, with most of the growth occurring in developing countries; growing income, as well as growing population, in emerging and developing countries is expected to add significantly to the global demand for food, which is expected to have increased by between 70% and 100% from current figures: global grain consumption is currently increasing by about 1.5% a year. The situation is expected to be challenging in the shorter term too and, according to the OECD/FAO medium term outlook,

¹⁰ FAO (2010) *The State of Food Security in the World 2010* <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1683e/i1683e.pdf>

projected prices of crops and most livestock products will be higher in both real and nominal terms during the decade to 2019 than they were in the decade before the 2007/08 price spikes.

If the rate of growth of agricultural production does not keep pace with demand, upward pressure on prices will result. Although food production has kept up with growing demand so far and world agriculture is estimated by FAO to produce 17 per cent more calories per person today than it did 30 years ago, despite population increase, the annual rate of growth in agricultural production is nevertheless expected to fall to 1.5% between now and 2030 and further to 0.9% between 2030 and 2050, compared with 2.3% per year over the last fifty years. Added to this, shocks due to climatic or other reasons can have a major impact on food production, adding to vulnerability and upward price movements, as the food market may lack the capacity to absorb them.

Evidence from the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable developing countries of the Commonwealth and Francophonie shows that food security¹¹ is not achieved simply as a result of adequate food production. In these countries, the physical availability of food is not enough if it cannot be accessed by all those who need it. When food prices remain high or volatile those most at risk of not being able to access food have been found to be poor and vulnerable people, most often in the poorest countries, who do not have enough land to grow or income to purchase the food they need. More broadly, compared to averages in developed countries of around 15% or less, most poor people in developing countries as a whole spend at least 50%, and in some cases as much as 80% of their income on food. This does not allow much spare capacity to deal with price increases. When people cannot afford sufficient food they are forced either to eat less or less nutritious food; or to stop spending on other items, such as healthcare or education; or to sell the assets which might be vital to them to maintain production in future. Compelling evidence across Commonwealth and Francophonie developing countries has shown that this leads to further and often even deeper poverty.

Growing poverty affects both urban and rural areas. Many small farmers for example buy more food than they produce, so lose out from price rises in net terms. And investing to improve their productivity becomes a highly risky strategy, because they are unable to forecast prices with any degree of certainty. These short-term consequences have far-reaching long-term damaging effects as inadequate food intake among the youngest inhibits their health and future earning capacity, and therefore undermines efforts to reduce poverty.

Perversely, high food prices may have a positive outcome in promoting food security in the longer term, by providing an incentive for increased investment in agriculture, in particular from the private sector. As recognised in the Perth Declaration, increased investment in agriculture is certainly called for to boost agricultural production and productivity. But in the absence of

¹¹ The World Food Summit of 1996 defined food security as existing when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

additional measures, this anticipated benefit can be far outweighed by the negative consequences of food insecurity.

1.3 Impact on the Poorest, Smallest and Most Vulnerable Members of the Commonwealth and Francophonie

The factors that made the first World Food Conference matter to the Commonwealth and Francophonie are as valid today as they were then. Some 69 members of the two associations are developing countries, the two associations count among their membership 32 of 46 Sub-Saharan African members, 34 of the world's least developed countries and approximately 40 of the world's small vulnerable economies. Many of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people are citizens of the two associations. For example, about 750 million commonwealth citizens are estimated to fall beneath the globally acknowledged 1.25 dollar a day poverty line. The FAO estimates that two thirds of the world's hungry people (some 600 million people) live in just 7 countries, of which three are commonwealth countries (India, Bangladesh and Pakistan). In India alone at least one in five of the population are hungry. Five of the ten countries with the highest rates of chronically malnourished children, with more than 40% of their children affected, are Commonwealth countries. 32 Commonwealth countries are small states, of which 25 are small islands, amongst the most vulnerable countries to factors such as climate change. Moreover, the great majority of small islands are net food importers, vulnerable to increases in food prices. In Trinidad and Tobago, for example, research by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean estimated that the poverty rate rose from 16.7% in 2005 to 19% in 2008, as a result of food price increases.

But just as the developing countries of the Commonwealth and Francophonie are affected by the problems of food insecurity, so they are well placed to provide solutions to the challenge, building on interventions made by leaders of the two associations in recent years, including both the outcomes of the Francophonie's Montreaux Summit in 2010 and more recently Commonwealth Leaders' endorsement of the 2011 Perth Declaration, and in taking advantage of their diversity, and their commitment to common values, including working to reduce the development gap between members.

2. The Range of Challenges

Food insecurity is a wide ranging, multifaceted problem. As reflected in the outcomes of both the Montreaux Summit and the Perth Declaration, both associations recognise that food insecurity relates closely to a range other issues, including sustainable economic development, the environment, and trade. There is room for debate about the relevant role of different contributory factors and which are the most important causes. But what is clear is that it is a huge problem with potentially devastating impact, especially on the poorest and most vulnerable countries and households. This section presents first the causes of food insecurity, and then considers its impacts.

2.1 The Causes of Food Insecurity

The causes of food insecurity are many and varied, and there is considerable debate about the relative weight of different elements, though all play a part. Broadly speaking, these relate to environmental opportunities and constraints, and social and economic factors. Environmental factors arguably present the greatest challenges to attaining food security in the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable members of the Commonwealth and the Francophonie, as the world's natural resources come under ever more extreme pressure. Social and economic considerations also weigh in heavily (CAP, 2011 op. cit.). Subsistence farmers (among the poorest in the two associations) are especially vulnerable to environmental and economic shocks that affect their access to food. They can be grouped in two main sets: those that concern the **availability of food**, now or in the future, and those that concern **access to food**.

2.1.1 Availability of food

Environmental factors

In many Commonwealth and Francophonie developing countries, even where farmers have continued to invest, **land degradation** has had an adverse impact on productivity, as has **climate change**. Increasingly worse and more frequent adverse weather events have caused significant losses in food production in both developed and developing countries. The challenge is particularly acute for small-scale farmers in the developing countries of the two associations, who form the basis of food production. For example, Pakistan's floods in 2010 caused an estimated \$1 billion in crop losses, and the small island states of the Caribbean, Pacific and elsewhere are also acutely and directly vulnerable. The effects of global warming will vary across regions, but Africa is expected to be particularly severely affected, with several countries experiencing up to 60% declines in agricultural output potential by 2080 (Cline (2007, cited in CAP, 2011: 13). Ironically, while reducing agricultural productivity in some regions, climate change may increase it in others such as North America (te Velde 2012 op. cit.). In the absence of international action, climate change may thereby skew investment away from countries experiencing climate change-induced declines in productivity. **Water shortages** are also leading to land degradation and the loss of agricultural land. Farmers (many of whom already experience water scarcity) will need 19% more water by 2050 to meet increasing demands for food (UN, 2012¹²).

¹² UN (2012) *World Water Development Report*, 4th Edition <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/>

Social and economic factors

Global pressures on the world's natural resources are severe. Demand for water, energy and food is expected to increase by half in the coming two decades, which in a business as usual scenario without significant innovation would increase the demand and eventually the relative price of land, water and ecosystems. Consequently, the relative price of food, which relies increasingly on scarce resources, may also continue to increase (te Velde, 2012 op.cit.).

One of the biggest reasons for reduced food production in the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable members of the two associations is a **lack of productive investment** over time in agriculture, including for research, inputs, extension and other agricultural services¹³. Government spending on agriculture in developing countries fell from a peak of 12% of total spending in 1980 to 9% by 2000 and by even less in Africa; and the share of ODA to agriculture fell from 17% in 1982 to 4% in 2002. Commercial bank lending to agriculture in developing countries is also small – less than 10% in sub-Saharan Africa, and in many African LICs agriculture attracts little FDI. The many causes include low returns, due to inadequate seeds and insufficient research; expensive inputs including oil; and lack of access to finance especially by smallholders and women. Increased demand for food should lead to more investment in those areas that have sufficient arable land, freshwater, and high quality ecosystem services (te Velde, 2012 op. cit.). Consequently many developing countries in the Commonwealth and Francophonie which have less arable land will struggle to attain the levels of private investment necessary to counter food insecurity, necessitating the introduction of incentives for private investors such as Advance Market Commitments to stimulate R&D and production. Of particular concern is that these impacts are likely to be most severe among the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable among these developing countries in the Commonwealth and Francophonie.

Moreover, the **availability of productive land** measured in terms of arable land in hectares per person, varies significantly across the Francophonie and the Commonwealth: while some large members enjoy substantial endowments, small island states in particular, inter alia including the Seychelles, St Lucia, Trinidad, Malta and Grenada, have among the lowest (World Bank World Development Indicators 2011, cited in te Velde 2012 op. cit.). In several small states and acutely vulnerable members of the two associations, there is also a very substantial **loss of productive land** owing to unsustainable farming practices and to more economically attractive alternative uses, inter alia including biofuels and rural residential development, as well as rural to urban migration and urban expansion, and abandonment of farms deemed not profitable enough.

Security of tenure is a necessary prerequisite to food self-sufficiency, yet in a large number of the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable countries across the Commonwealth and the Francophonie, land distribution is highly inequitable, impacting on productivity. Coupled with this is the growing

environment/water/wwap/wwdr/wwdr4-2012/

¹³ According to the FAO, ensuring women farmers get the same access to agricultural resources as men could reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 12–17 per cent.

trend toward selling or leasing productive land to foreigners, who may grow produce for export, and put pressure on local water supplies (Bloomberg Businessweek¹⁴, te Velde 2012¹⁵).

A further challenge for several Commonwealth and Francophonie developing countries comprises **population growth**. The FAO predicts food output would need to rise 70% by 2050 from current levels, to feed 9.3 billion people.

Evidence provided by the FAO also shows that many small developing countries in the Commonwealth and the Francophonie are also challenged by weak food supply chains and associated poor infrastructure and transportation, as well as inadequate storage, processing and packaging capacities. (FAO, 2011¹⁶). Collectively these pose acute challenges for these members, resulting inter alia in disproportionate waste and substantial scope to improve the management of food reserves.

Discussion Points

Several factors are affecting the availability of food in the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable developing countries of the Commonwealth and Francophonie. These include both environmental and socio-economic factors; and these vary from country to country.

- Which among these are most important?
- Are global forums paying sufficient attention to the most important causes?
- What more can be done to increase international attention to the challenge of availability of food in these countries, and what practical actions can the G20 DWG take to enhance food availability in the most acutely vulnerable countries?

2.1.2 Access to food

Trade and poorly developed markets

The poorest, smallest and most vulnerable members of the Commonwealth and Francophonie are acutely vulnerable to protectionist measures, subsidies and defensive trade measures taken by their trading partners. These actions, which can stop food flowing from regions of surplus to regions of deficit, have had particularly adverse impacts in these countries. They were particularly affected

¹⁴ <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-03-11/farmers-to-battle-water-scarcity-as-food-demand-grows-un-says>

¹⁵ Dirk Willem te Velde (2012 forthcoming) "Trade solutions in a global green economy: Proposal for a ComSec THT", Draft 16 February

¹⁶ FAO (2011) "Global Food Losses and Food Waste: Extent, Causes and Prevention", Study conducted for the SAVE FOOD! At Interpack 2011, Dusseldorf, Germany http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ags/publications/GFL_web.pdf

during the 2008 food crisis, when many countries tried to respond quickly to the problems of steep rises in food prices and food price volatility. For example, some governments in exporting countries, including 25 of 81 developing countries surveyed by FAO, moved quickly to introduce defensive trade policies, such as **export bans** or increased export taxes for wheat and rice, to try and prevent further depletion of stocks in country. This precipitated even further reduction in the available stocks on the market for others. Some 43 importing countries **reduced import tariffs**. In practice this allowed consumers to maintain consumption in the face of rising prices that might otherwise have discouraged consumption, and caused them to switch to some other staple; and a number of agencies, householders and traders, determined to ensure local availability supplies, went to international markets to restock during the crisis, leading to **hoarding key staples**, even when they did not have any immediate or short term need to do so. All of these had the effect of further reducing availability. Once world prices began to fall back, governments of some wheat and rice exporting countries relaxed the restrictions they had placed on exports, although some have remained in place.

At the national level, **poorly developed markets**, including poor **distribution** and poor **infrastructure** can also make it harder for food to reach those who need it.

Commodity Markets

Problems over access to food and pricing of food are caused by a different range of factors. Farmers have traditionally used derivative instruments to hedge against price risk. However, at the global level increased **speculation** in the futures markets, encouraged by uncertain information about stocks and forecast yields, can cause increases in prices, and increased investment in cereals futures by index funds looking for returns in the medium to long run from the early 2000s onwards may have raised futures prices. However, there is considerable uncertainty about this: not all the agricultural commodities into which index funds have invested have seen large increases in prices, while some farm products for which there is little or no futures market (such as rice) did see price spikes. **High oil prices**, which affected fertiliser prices, processing and transport costs have also contributed.

Discussion Points

Among small, poor and vulnerable members of the Commonwealth and Francophonie, the factors affecting access to food vary significantly.

- What are the most important factors affecting access to food?
- Are global forums paying sufficient attention to these?
- What practical steps can the G20 DWG take to help address this challenge in countries and regions least able to secure sufficient access to food?

2.2 The Impact of Food Insecurity

Experience across the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable members of the two associations has shown that the impacts of food insecurity are very closely inter-connected, with vulnerability in one area leading to a wide range of other difficulties making the problem much worse. For example, in developing countries within the two associations, where poor households cannot absorb increased food costs within their regular budget, most of these households have sought to increase their income where possible, often through borrowing. In Bangladesh, where micro finance systems are generally well developed, a study has reported 60% of families having recourse to loans to see them through food crises. But loans, whether extended formally or obtained through informal borrowing from family or friends, are not always available to poor families. In most developing countries of the Commonwealth and the Francophonie, less than a half the population has a bank account. In Kenya for example, the IFC reports that only 19 per cent of the population had access to formal financial services in 2006 and in the Solomon Islands an estimated 85 per cent of the population is without access to financial services. In many developing countries women are also more likely to be financially excluded than men, often finding it more difficult to access credit, or food for work schemes. They may suffer greater adverse impact: according to the FAO more often than not women own smaller and less fertile land holdings than men. Indeed, most women do not own the land on which they farm, and customary practices and legal provisions can also limit their access to land and productive assets.

Experience across Commonwealth and Francophonie developing countries has also shown that in the face of inadequate access to finance, **selling off of assets**, such as livestock, or agricultural inputs, can often be families' next option. But this has adverse effects on their ability in the medium term to invest in response to any improvement in circumstances, or to recover from the crisis.

Evidence also shows that families try to **find more work** to supplement their income. In Bangladesh, for example, reports provide evidence of the garments industry in urban areas drawing whole families into **migration** at the height of the food crisis, as children are **taken out of school** to supplement family income through work. In many such instances, across small and poor developing countries of the Francophonie and the Commonwealth, people are reported to have returned to villages in response to rising prices, to find that a **lack of work** there has added to the difficulties they faced. Other examples from the current crisis in East Africa reveal farmers moving their livestock when they thought more food might be available for them elsewhere, only to find it was not, revealing that a lack of reliable information can have severe and damaging consequences on livelihoods during already challenging times.

Where families cannot find means to increase their income they are obliged to **cut down on their expenditure**. Typically this will mean they have less to spend on food. They are likely to cut down more expensive, more nutritious foods, such as vegetables or animal products, from their diets. This brings associated **adverse nutritional impact**, again impacting the most vulnerable within households. Poor nutrition plays a role in half of the **deaths of children** under five in

developing countries, **magnifying the effect of diseases** such as measles or malaria (about 3.5 million children). Those who survive are unlikely to achieve their full potential if their food lacks adequate nutrients, and access to health services, clean water and sanitation is beyond their reach. Nutritionists note that there is only a 1,000 day window between pre-birth and age 2 to change the course of a child's life, as the damage caused by early malnutrition is irreversible. More than 30% of children in developing countries suffer from stunting. Children born to malnourished mothers are likely to be born with low birth weight, a risk factor for neonatal deaths. **Economic losses** in developing countries with the highest burden of maternal and early childhood under-nutrition amount to between 2 and 3% of gross domestic product, according to the World Bank.

Evidence also shows that the consequences of food insecurity can extend beyond individual families. Political **unrest and conflict** can also extend much wider. For example, more than 20 countries faced riots related to the food crisis in 2008, and more recent examples show riots and looting as a result of, for example, subsidies on bread being removed.

In order to escape this negative web of impacts it is necessary both to seek to reduce the causes of food insecurity, and to mitigate the impacts for those who suffer them.

Discussion Points

Evidence across Commonwealth and Francophonie developing countries, particularly the smallest and poorest developing countries, shows that food insecurity has a particularly significant impact on the poorest and most vulnerable and further downward cycles of widening and growing poverty.

- What are the most significant impacts of food security in your country?
- Are there any impacts not included in this paper that should be?

3. Responses from the Poorest, Smallest and Most Vulnerable Developing Countries of the Francophonie and the Commonwealth

The smallest, poorest, and most vulnerable members of the two associations have responded in various ways to address the causes and impacts of food insecurity. This section presents just a few examples.

3.1 Mitigating the causes of food insecurity

Addressing environmental factors

Both the Francophonie and the Commonwealth have taken strong forward positions on climate change, which poses a considerable threat to many members, in particular the smallest, poorest, and most vulnerable. For example, the Commonwealth's **Lake Victoria Climate Change Action Plan** (2007, 2009 and updated by Commonwealth Leaders in 2011) notes the threat and undertakes to work to reach agreement on collective, comprehensive and global action through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. It highlights initiatives to strengthen participation in international negotiations; consider human and economic aspects of climate change; support improved land use management; study the sustainability of fresh agricultural exports; support natural disaster management; and provide technical assistance and other support to assess the implications of climate change and the benefits of building adaptation into all aspects of national planning (Box 2).

Box 2: Climate Change

In support of the Commonwealth's Climate Change Action Plan, the Commonwealth Secretariat has **trained negotiators** to identify gaps in technical information and agree priority outcomes, **supported analysis and debate**, e.g. with the Caribbean Community Climate Change to help set up a professional network to conduct research and analysis on the effects of climate change on agriculture, **published research**, and encouraged young people to share experiences and establish a **youth-led advocacy movement** at the Young Commonwealth Climate Change Summit in October 2009. The Commonwealth Secretariat is also engaging in work on **Green Growth**, and the nexus between trade and food security.

Commonwealth and Francophonie developing countries have also developed innovative solutions that have been implemented at both national and international levels. Madagascar for example, launched a **System of Rice Intensification** in the 1990s, which subsequently spread to many rice growing developing countries. This has led typically to 50% increased yield and 50% reduced use of irrigation water, less use of agrochemicals, and greater resilience to extreme weather (Brooks and Loevinsohn, 2011: 189–190¹⁷).

¹⁷ Sally Brooks and Michael Loevinsohn (2011) "Shaping agricultural innovation systems responsive to food insecurity and climate change", *Natural Resources Forum* 35 (2011) 185–200. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1477-8947.2011.01396.x/pdf>

India has innovated a series of successful **watershed development** projects since the 1970s, which have evolved over time to meet social and economic as well as environmental need. At first these targeted the physical symptoms of watershed degradation, for example by building infrastructure and banning grazing and the harvesting of forest products. While these early projects had positive environmental impacts, some farmers benefitted more than others. Pioneering village-level projects sought to address this by granting rights to the additional surface water generated to the landless in return for their cooperation in conserving soil and vegetation. In addition to environmental benefits, this yielded more equitable socio-economic benefits, contributing to job creation and reduced out-migration. These efforts have been taken forward and adapted by Government and NGOs in India (Brooks and Loevinsohn, 2011: 190–192 op.cit.).

Since the 1990s, various new approaches to **small-scale, maize-centred mixed farming** have also been adopted in several Sub-Saharan African countries. “Participatory Plant Breeding” for example, is a decentralised approach in which varieties are developed to suit less favourable environmental conditions, which helps women subsistence farmers in particular. Malawi’s **Fertiliser Subsidy Programme** (a “smart subsidy”), popularly launched in the wake of the 2001–2 famine (see also Box 4), succeeded in raising food production and productivity, which in turn increased food availability, real wages, economic growth and poverty reduction, and is now regarded by donors as a legitimate policy instrument. Unfortunately however, the Malawi case is exceptional, as innovation in this area tends to be more supply driven, targeting short-term solutions rather than longer term structural causes (Brooks and Loevinsohn, 2011: 192–194 op.cit.).

In 2006 Nigeria proposed to the African Union proposals for a **Green Wall for the Sahara**, to combat further desert encroachment by recovering the ecosystem along a 1500km band that runs through eleven African states. Under a “desert-to-food programme” land would be reclaimed by planting leguminous ground cover and tree crops to replenish the organic nutrients of the soil, reduce erosion and conserve water. Progress has been slow, but the FAO has subsequently taken action to start the project in five countries.

Addressing social and economic factors

The Commonwealth Secretariat working with the **Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth** provides technical assistance to help farmers improve productivity (Box 3).

Box 3: Commonwealth Training for farmers

Farmers in Botswana have been **trained** to improve their farm management skills, especially business planning and market analysis, which will assist them to identify opportunities to sell various produce in both national and international markets¹⁸. And farmers in Eastern and Southern Africa have been trained in how to manage their produce effectively.

In addition, the Commonwealth Secretariat and FAO published a training **manual** (2008) to help farmers improve their fresh produce supply chains, and, in southern Africa, to reduce vulnerability by diversifying their product¹⁹.

Elsewhere, the **Lifelong Learning for Farmers** programme establishes information and communications technology kiosks in villages for farmers groups to provide information and advice, contacts with banks to give loans and companies to market farmers' goods. Begun in India in 2004, it has been replicated in five other Commonwealth countries – Sri Lanka, Jamaica, Kenya, Mauritius and Papua New Guinea²⁰.

The Commonwealth has supported the development of agribusiness, including women's participation; and worked to improved regulatory frameworks, food safety and quality control infrastructure to enable their exporters to meet the food safety standards set by importers in seven eastern and southern African countries. It has also examined ways to organise the supply chain to improve the competitiveness of farmers and small businesses in domestic and regional markets.

In addition, the Commonwealth Business Council has been working to alleviate poverty and to stimulate business and development in Africa with a range of projects from infrastructure development to trade facilitation, micro finance and mobilising investment, and in this context is working to bring new investment in agriculture for self-sufficiency in staple food production²¹.

A number of Francophonie and Commonwealth developing countries have established **national strategic plans for agriculture**, which may be in association with related donor-supported activities (Box 4).

¹⁸ Commonwealth Secretariat (2008) "Farming for the country and not the individual", 3 July <http://www.thecommonwealth.org/news/34580/34581/181200/030708farmbotswana.htm>

¹⁹ Commonwealth Secretariat "Briefing Note – Agriculture" <http://www.thecommonwealth.org/files/216536/FileName/ComSecBriefing-Agriculture.pdf>

²⁰ Commonwealth Quarterly (2008) "Lifelong Learning for Farmers", 6 March <http://www.thecommonwealth.org/EZIinformation/176131/060803life/>

²¹ Commonwealth Business Council "Investment in Agriculture" <http://www.cbglobal.org/programmes/details/investment-in-agriculture>

Box 4: Developing Strategic Plans for Agriculture

Many Francophonie and Commonwealth developing countries have developed **country-owned strategic plans** for agriculture, as advocated in the 2009 World Food Summit Rome Principles. Many African members of the two associations are doing this as part of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), the overarching framework for agricultural development and investment in Africa, which advocates raising the **share of the national budget** allocated to agriculture to 10%, while calling for targets for agricultural growth rates of 6%. By 2008 10 countries had met the 10% target. 11 countries in Africa (of a total 25 participants) had signed up to CAADP, and 7 (of a total 19 countries) had so far developed investment plans, inter alia including Rwanda, The Gambia, Ghana, Uganda, Malawi, Tanzania and Kenya. Gender and climate change are cross cutting issues for CAADP, although neither of these have featured strongly in plans so far.

In Asia, Bangladesh was one of the first countries to develop a comprehensive investment plan for agriculture, food security and nutrition, launched in June 2010. Rural communities in Bangladesh benefitted from increased spending in the stimulus package and 2009–10 budget through fertilizer subsidies.

Jamaica's sector plan for agriculture is part of its "Vision 2030" National Development Plan (2009). The Plan seeks to transform the agricultural sector through a research-oriented, technological, market-driven and private sector-led revolution that would involve focusing on high value production and national food security. This would be via: modernised and more efficient farming systems; traditional and non-traditional sub-sector development; strengthening marketing structures and linkages with other sectors; expanding agricultural training; improving the policy and institutional framework, infrastructure extension services and access to credit; supporting long-term development of rural communities; promoting environmental sustainability and strengthen hazard mitigation; and implementing key food security projects²². Perhaps related to the latter is a 2 year programme also starting in 2009, with the support of the FAO. This includes the expansion of planting areas, rapid multiplication centres for the production of quality planting material and set up greenhouses for the production of quality seedlings; training in improved organic farming practices, post-harvest storage and packaging techniques; increasing the use of small-scale irrigation systems and training in efficient irrigation techniques to farmers' groups; providing information

²² Government of Jamaica (2009) *Vision 2030 Jamaica: National Development Plan*. See especially Chapter 3, pp203–206. <http://www.vision2030.gov.jm/NationalDevelopmentPlan/tabid/73/Default.aspx>

and training on setting up backyard gardens; and expanding a small livestock breeding programme to serve local markets²³.

Nigeria is pursuing a policy of investment in small farmers as the core of its food security strategy. In Nigeria the government has procured and distributed fertilizer to ensure that farmers could maintain productivity, despite tightening of agricultural credit markets. The National Special Programme for Food Security has promoted technologies that enabled small farmers to increase productivity and income significantly by introducing double and triple cropping. It has also helped develop rural communities by enhancing access to extension, credit, and marketing services and nutrition and health education. This integrated approach is now being implemented nationwide, with benefits for the economy as a whole, as well as for participating farmers.

A package of subsidised seeds and fertilisers introduced by the Malawian government has helped increase production, although there have been concerns about affordability in the face of growing fertiliser prices. The government has recently scaled up a nationwide campaign to use cheaper, more sustainable organic composts as an alternative to synthetic fertilisers, and has also promoted irrigation.

In the Pacific region policy is being developed to increase productivity and mitigate further impacts of the changing international economic environment. Throughout the Pacific region, demand for food is increasingly being serviced by imports. Basic staples such as rice and wheat for flour are key substitutes of traditional diets. Regional approaches to solutions can also be helpful. For example, three commodity chain studies have been implemented in close collaboration between Fiji, Kiribati and Vanuatu, respectively for import substitution, food security and export potential.

The Commonwealth and Francophonie include some 69 developing countries, with a vast array of different practices and experiences, allowing very substantial scope for **learning from each other** (Box 5).

²³ FAO Initiative on Soaring Food Prices: Jamaica <http://www.fao.org/isfp/country-information/jamaica/en/>

Box 5: Sharing Experience:

In 2001, Sierra Leone developed a Community-based Extension and Capacity-building Programme, as part of a special programme for food security, and invited experts from Uganda and elsewhere to run pilot Farmer Field Schools on rice, vegetables, tree crops and marketing in 48 sites, with over 1 000 farmers involved. This developed into the National Programme for Food Security.

A Pacific Food Forum in 2010 included a regional training course in food safety and regulation in international trade.

Sharing of experience is also promoted in publications produced by the two associations and through a range regional and pan-association events.

Several developing countries in both associations have also increased **investment in agriculture**, and in this respect both Commonwealth and Francophonie donors have increased ODA. For example, Australia and Canada have contributed to the multilateral Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, set up in response to a G20 request for pledges made at the L'Aquila Summit to be met.

Managing emergency **food stocks** can be costly, risk distorting markets, and may be susceptible to corruption, inefficiency, or political interference, but they played an important part in many countries' response to the 2008 food crisis. More than 30 countries including many members of both the Commonwealth and Francophonie, inter alia including Cameroon, India, Kenya, Nigeria and Pakistan, used stock interventions to respond more quickly to the crisis. Bangladesh released 300,000 tonnes of public stocks of rice at a below market rate in 2008 to check high prices and growing rates of malnutrition. India procured extra rice and wheat as part of a price insurance mechanism for farmers and was then able to release 25 million tonnes of grain into the market through its public distribution system.

Nigeria manages a National Strategic Reserve for emergencies, with stocks purchased through a Buyer of Last Resort Grain Programme and a mandatory buffer stock equal to 10 per cent of grains harvested by state governments. In response to soaring food prices, Nigeria released 65 000 metric tonnes of assorted grains from this Reserve. Other countries, including Pakistan and Zambia, have expressed intent to boost reserves. An increasing number of Commonwealth and Francophonie developing countries are also investing in new methods of building reserves (Box 6).

Box 6: Handling the problems of managing food reserves

Some developing countries in both associations are investigating a new generation of reserves with external oversight, using produce purchased from local smallholders where possible.

For example, Malawi is supporting farmers through rebuilding physical reserves, with supplies for three months which cushion against the hungry season and help buy surplus produce from farmers. Decisions on when to release stocks are made by a Stakeholder Committee, which includes representatives from smallholder farmers' groups, the private sector and civil society representatives.

A number of **regional schemes** which provide cost savings through economies of scale, and achieve collective agreement to avoid trade restrictions during a major food crisis, are also currently being planned, particularly in Africa, and a number of both Commonwealth and Francophonie countries are party to these.

Many poor and small members of both associations have also sought to introduce measures to **preserve the stock of agricultural land** by limiting its conversion to other uses, or its division into units so small as to become unviable (CAP, 2012 op. cit.).

Discussion Points

A wide range of experience has emerged from the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable developing countries of both the Commonwealth and the Francophonie. Some of these experiences in improving the **availability** of food are highlighted above.

- How might some of these initiatives be improved, and adapted more widely across the developing countries of the two associations?
- Is sufficient attention being paid to environmental factors which cause food insecurity?
- Is sufficient attention being paid to social and economic factors?
- Are there any other experiences you wish to share on improving food **availability**?
- Are there any experiences you wish to share on improving **access** to food?
- How can best practices in the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable members of the two associations best be shared?

3.2 Mitigating the impacts of food insecurity

Evidence across Francophonie and Commonwealth developing countries shows that strategies to tackle food insecurity need to address the impacts as well as the causes, and managing risk and putting in place social protection schemes or “safety nets” can help to mitigate the impacts.

Agriculture in many of these developing countries remains highly susceptible to extreme, uncontrollable weather events that severely impact both crop quality and yield. The effects of weather risk are most often felt at the household level. A number of schemes exist to manage the risks of bad weather or of poor production, including hedging schemes. Some work at national level, others at the level of specific groups, for example farmers, using index-based insurance (Box 7).

Box 7: Insuring against weather risk

In 2010, the Global Index Insurance Facility extended grants in Kenya and Rwanda to help expand access to insurance in East Africa, aiming to bring weather-related, index-based insurance to 35,000 farmers and 5,000 livestock herders over the three years.

India’s weather insurance market has grown rapidly since 2003, with four insurance companies in operation. Weather risk has been reinsured on international risk markets. For the 2005 monsoon season, a leading Indian seed company bought a bulk

weather insurance policy so that it could attach free weather insurance coupons for a minimal level of drought coverage to its cottonseed packets, sold to 100,000 farmers in Maharashtra.

In 2005, groundnut farmers in Malawi bought weather insurance to increase their ability to manage drought risk and in turn access credit for better inputs.

At the government level, both Pacific and Indian Ocean countries have shown interest in the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF). This is a parametric insurance scheme, in which payments are calculated according to pre-defined indexes based on the intensity, period and location of a disaster rather than actual losses.

By pooling their risk, CCRIF’s 16 member governments share administrative and operational costs and pay lower premiums. Other countries in the Commonwealth including in the Pacific have expressed interest in a similar scheme.

Many developing countries have also implemented measures to provide relief from high and volatile food prices, such as cash transfers, direct food assistance or increases in disposable income including by reducing taxes or other charges. Many countries have also granted support to producers to offset rapidly rising and again volatile input costs for fertilizer and feed. Several developing country members of both associations have in place such social protection schemes to support the most vulnerable, adapted to local circumstances. Some examples are illustrated below (Box 8).

Box 8: Some social protection approaches

In Bangladesh rural people have benefitted from increased coverage of a targeted Primary School Stipends scheme, and new provision of a school feeding programme for rural children. Allocations to safety nets increased by 26 per cent, mainly through expanded programmes, particularly the Open Market Sales of subsidised rice. It has also been found that subsidised rice and other food items sales in 2007–8 were considered most valuable during the peak of the food crisis. Subsidised food sales were also valued more by urban beneficiaries than by their rural counterparts, for whom the costs and time involved in travelling to the distribution centre and queuing would outweigh the small amounts.

In post–conflict Sierra Leone, where youth unemployment and poverty is widespread, a series cash–for–work projects was introduced in March 2010 to assist 22,000 vulnerable people across the capital and its periphery. These projects engage the most vulnerable youth in short–term projects such as road maintenance, drain clearing, composting, tree–planting and waste management, in exchange for which they receive cash to buy food for their families. Their labour also contributes to local community development (WFP, 2010²⁴).

Some countries, including Jamaica, have been able to build on existing social safety net structures to handle increased needs following the 2008 food crisis, by adapting benefit levels or thresholds.

Beyond the Commonwealth and the Francophonie, there are many further examples of successful social protection schemes. Liberia for example, scaled up its monthly school feeding in 2008 in response to high food prices, to reach 150,000 urban children in Moravia, in addition to 400,000 in rural areas. And its cooked meals and take–home rations project aims to improve access to primary education for boys and girls through the distribution of daily cooked meals, and for upper primary girls through distribution of monthly take–home food rations in addition to the daily meals (WFP, 2008²⁵).

²⁴ WFP (2010) “Fighting Hunger with Cash – Young Sierra Leoneans benefit from first Cash–for–Work programme”, 6 October <http://www.wfp.org/countries/sierra-leone/news/fighting-hunger-with-cash-young-sierra-leoneans-benefit-from-first-cash-for-work-programme>

²⁵ WFP (2008) “WFP scales up Liberia school feeding for over half a million children”, 18 September <http://www.wfp.org/node/139>

Discussion Points

Commonwealth and Francophonie developing countries have offered a wide variety of responses to the impacts of food insecurity. Many of these have related to mitigating risk, and putting in place adequate social safety nets.

- How might these initiatives be improved?
- What other experiences can you share?

4. The G20 Action Plan and Priorities of the Mexican Presidency

The G20 Action Plan focuses on the challenges both of increasing food production to meet future demand, and of short-term excessive volatility, and contains a mixture of broad recommendations and specific proposals. Most recently and in the context of this Action Plan, Mexico, in its capacity as President of the G20, has highlighted its priorities for addressing food productivity during 2012²⁶, as reflected below.

4.1 Increasing Food Production and Productivity

The G20 recognises that improving agricultural production and productivity both in the short and long term is essential to respond to a growing demand for agricultural commodities.

In the Action Plan, members commit themselves to implementing a broad range of actions to boost agricultural growth, and to giving special attention to smallholders, especially women and young farmers, in particular in developing countries. The plan encourages countries to **increase investment** in developing countries' agriculture in support of country owned investment plans and supports the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), including in its outreach to the private sector and civil society. However, the Action Plan stops short of seeking further contributions or monitoring existing commitments and noting shortfalls, which are substantial. The GAFSP is currently active in two Commonwealth countries (Bangladesh and Sierra Leone), four Francophone countries (Cambodia, Haiti, Niger, and Togo), and one country that is a member of both associations (Rwanda). It also has a pipeline of unfunded projects. Australia (a Commonwealth country) and Canada (a member of both the Commonwealth and the Francophonie) who are also G20 members are among the GAFSP's donors.

The plan supports **agricultural research** and launches an International Research Initiative for Wheat Improvement in order to coordinate research efforts. First steps were to be organised at a meeting in Paris in September 2011 bringing together scientific leaders.

The action plan notes the importance of continued study of **biofuels**, but does not make any further comment on the subject. It notes the importance of reducing losses and waste, without making specific commitments; and does not address linkages between food security and **climate change**.

As part of the work stream of the Agricultural Ministers Group, the Mexican Presidency has asked international organisations to produce a report on improving global sustainable agricultural productivity growth, and bridging the gap for small family farms. This will touch on R&D, investment, improved technologies, institutional design of agricultural knowledge and innovation systems, climate smart agriculture, and market integration. A priority for this work will be to ensure that it is adapted to the context of Low Income Countries.

²⁶ "Palabras de S.E. Sandra Fuentes-Berain, Embajadora de Mexico ante el Reino de Belgica y el Gran Ducado de Luxemburgo y Jefe de Mision ante la Union Europea, en la sesion inaugural de la Primera reunion del Bloque Tematico sobre Cooperacion Sur-Sur Triangular", Brussels, Belgium, 5 March, 2012.

The Mexican Presidency additionally considers that the G20 Development Working Group could use the work being undertaken by the international organisations to:

- Develop specific tools to contribute to increasing productivity for landholders (emphasising countries facing the greatest development challenges); and
- Promote the long-term sustainable use of natural resources (especially water and soil) via analysis of best practices, and exploring possible avenues for international cooperation on R&D, innovation, technology transfer, financing, and generating the appropriate incentives to promote private sector investment.

4.2 Food Reserves for use in emergencies

The Action Plan requests WFP and other international organisations to develop a proposal for a targeted emergency humanitarian food reserves system to complement existing regional and national food reserves, in response to the expressed needs of developing countries and focused on regional approaches, providing evidence of added-value in terms of cost effectiveness and optimization of existing mechanisms (physical and financial). It also invites interested international organizations to develop a code of conduct for responsible emergency food reserves management, compiling a set of voluntary principles and good practices, involving the countries and regions concerned, academics, civil society and private sector. The G20 does not take any steps towards encouraging or facilitating broader buffer stocks which could be used to help manage prices volatility, which are widely judged to have had only limited success in reducing the volatility of prices.

4.3 Trade

The Action Plan recognizes the role that international trade can play in improving food security and in addressing the issue of food price volatility. It supports a stable, predictable, distortion free and transparent system for trade that allows the unrestricted flow of food and agricultural commodities. It calls for a successful, ambitious, comprehensive and balanced conclusion to the Doha Round.

It notes that food export barriers restricting humanitarian aid can penalize the most needy, and agrees to remove food export restrictions or extraordinary taxes for food purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by WFP and agrees not to impose them in the future. It said the G20 will seek support within the United Nations agencies and had recommended the adoption of a specific resolution by the WTO for the Ministerial Conference in December 2011. As noted above, export taxes are one of the factors which have led to shortages in food markets. This commitment goes beyond what is said in the 2009 World Food Summit declaration and is welcome. But emergency food stocks are only a very small part of the total market, and it would be beneficial to extend this restriction to the whole market. The Action Plan notes the first responsibility of each member state is to ensure the food security of its own population, but this is an area where collective action tends to work towards mutual benefit.

4.4 Commodity Markets / speculation

The Action Plan seeks to **increase market information and transparency** in order to better anchor expectations from governments and economic operators. It launches an Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), which will help to increase transparency and restore confidence in markets, reduce uncertainty and provide a more level playing field for poor countries by enhancing the dissemination of quality food market information. This will enable financial actors and market regulators to be better informed of the fundamentals of physical markets. Better collaboration between authorities, regulators and bodies responsible for agriculture physical and financial markets will improve regulation and supervision of markets. AMIS will also provide the basis for more timely global food market alerts to price surges, through a Rapid Response Forum to discuss effective policy responses to market developments. The Action Plan also notes that work to improve the functioning of agricultural commodities' derivatives markets will be pursued by Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors. The System will only apply to G20 countries, and the provision of information remains voluntary.

4.5 Managing Risks

The Action Plan notes that each country, firm and farm faces different combinations of challenges, and there is no single instrument that addresses all risks. The most effective approach is a toolbox of instruments, which can help governments, firms and farms develop the capacity to evaluate risk and ways of managing it. Against this background the G20 encourages vulnerable countries and regions to integrate risk assessment and management strategies into their agricultural development program, and invites multilateral organisations to coordinate the provision of risk management advisory and intermediation services to developing country clients through a new risk management advisory Mechanism, which could provide support to a few pilot programs, elaborated on the basis of expressed interest by developing country clients. It aimed to explore counter-cyclical instruments or mechanisms for vulnerable countries in the event of external shocks, including food price surges and collapses, by November 2011. It invites the multilateral, regional and national development banks or agencies to further explore the following, in connection with the private sector as appropriate: Development of hedging strategies that could help international humanitarian agencies, in particular WFP, to optimize food procurements and maximize the purchasing power of financial resources, building upon forward purchase; Counter-cyclical instruments and mechanisms for vulnerable countries, which could include rapid availability of financing through emergency drawdown of undisbursed monies or deferred repayment options in the event of external shocks, including food price surges and collapses; Weather index insurance and risk management schemes, in connection with modernization of meteorological services, building on on-going initiatives in vulnerable countries.

4.6 Social protection

The G20's Global Plan for Recovery and Reform, agreed in April 2009, makes available resources for social protection for the poorest countries, including through investing in long-term food security and through voluntary bilateral contributions to the World Bank's Vulnerability Framework, including the Infrastructure Crisis Facility, and the Rapid Social Response Fund. The Agricultural Ministers' Action Plan reiterates the importance of targeted safety nets, to mitigate the impact of excessive food price volatility, and the importance of a specific focus on nutrition in safety nets. It does not contain any specific proposals.

5. Key priorities for the G20 DWG: Perspectives from the Poorest, Smallest and Most Vulnerable Members of the Two Associations

Commonwealth and Francophonie developing countries welcome the recent G20 initiatives to address food insecurity. They recognise that the G20's actions have made a strong contribution to keeping food security at the forefront of attention, and have made positive progress in a number of key areas. At the same time, the profound experiences of food insecurity among the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable members of the two associations suggest a number key priorities for the G20, including through the work of the G20 DWG, which could substantially improve coordinated international action to assist these countries address several of their challenges. These include the following:

- The commitments made under AFSI cover a three year period from 2009. The needs for future investment and financial and technical assistance are likely to be as great after 2012 as they are now, but as yet there is no framework in place to cover longer term commitments after 2012. It would be useful for the G20 DWG and the forthcoming 2012 Mexican G20 Summit to **establish a longer-term set of commitments for future investment, financial and technical assistance.**
- For the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable developing countries including Commonwealth and Francophonie developing countries, more specific commitments on supporting country-owned strategic plans, or to investment in smallholder agricultural would be particularly useful, along with a greater focus on specific actions to support the most vulnerable, including those most at risk from climate change. The G20 DWG could consider **a more dedicated initiative to support national capacity in the poorest and smallest developing countries**, to facilitate the development of country-owned strategic plans which more effectively integrate the multiple linkages to food insecurity, inter alia including climate change and to enable more sustainable whole-of-government strategic plans to be developed.
- Despite reference in the L'Aquila statement to mutual accountability, there is little monitoring of what has been done. The G20 DWG meeting in January 2012 agreed to implement and / or monitor the pending work previously agreed on food security. It would be important for the G20 DWG to **prioritise the monitoring of progress with commitments to date.**
- The ban on export taxes for humanitarian supplies should be extended beyond humanitarian relief to the whole of the food market. It would be valuable for the **G20 DWG to develop guidelines and recommendations to extend the ban on export taxes**, which could be considered at the Los Cabos G20 Summit.
- The G20 DWG can agree to ensure that the **valuable new research work commissioned by the Mexican Presidency (see above) is in fact adapted to the contexts of the poorest, smallest, and most vulnerable developing countries.** Some of this could be shared. This would be consistent with the priorities of Commonwealth and Francophonie developing countries, including their poorest, smallest and most vulnerable members.
- It will be particularly valuable to the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable developing countries if the goal of the Mexican Presidency proceeds to **develop specific tools that can contribute to increasing productivity for small landholders, and ensures that this targets and seeks**

to directly address the needs of those in countries that face the greatest development challenges. The direct development experiences of the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable developing countries of the Commonwealth and the Francophonie can usefully contribute to the design of the toolkit.

- It will also be particularly valuable if the goal of the Mexican Presidency to promote the long-term sustainable use of natural resources proceeds, and if this goal is adapted wherever possible to the needs of the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable countries. It will similarly be particularly useful to the poorest and smallest developing countries if the intent to address private sector incentives echoes discussions at the G20 Toronto (2010) and Cannes (2011) Summits, which addressed the desirability of “pull mechanisms” or results-based payments to the private sector, to incentivise them to innovative agricultural products and services²⁷
- Evidence from the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable developing countries illustrates that **it will be important and necessary to ensure that the G20 DWG’s debate on food security addresses a broader set of the key issues**, and that relatively unrecognised areas such as food waste be included on the agenda
- **More explicit focus on environmental factors in forthcoming work is recommended, given the importance to food security, and the extreme vulnerability of many developing countries in the Commonwealth and Francophonie, inter alia to climate change.**

Finally, it will be important to ensure that momentum is maintained and that, in areas where further work has been commissioned, necessary next steps are taken forward at the 2012 G20 Summit in Los Cabos in June 2012.

Discussion Points

- Are these the right priorities for the smallest, poorest and most vulnerable countries?
- What other issues need to be addressed?
- How can G20 and non-G20 countries best work together to achieve these objectives?
- What roles can the Secretariats of the Commonwealth and the Francophonie play in facilitating this collaboration?

²⁷ <http://dalberg.com/blog/?p=437>

6. Further Considerations for Commonwealth and Francophonie Developing Countries

The smallest, poorest, and most vulnerable members of the Commonwealth recognise that food insecurity is a growing concern. This is undermining their efforts to reduce poverty, as it affects particularly the poorest and most vulnerable members of their societies. These members also recognise that the issue is complex, and cannot be addressed in isolation, and that serious consideration needs to be paid to closely intertwined development-related challenges in trade, the environment, and financing strategies for development. As this paper has endeavoured to illustrate, these countries have proactively sought to address the problem of food insecurity, and to varying degrees and in particular areas have met with success. Much more support is needed however, if food insecurity is to be checked.

Where consensus can be identified, the Commonwealth and Francophonie Secretariats on behalf of their smallest, poorest, and most vulnerable members can draw on the two association's strong comparative advantages in advocacy and consensus building, developing networks of support, sharing knowledge and learning, and research and analysis.

6.1 Research and analysis

While much has been written and is already well understood about the causes, impacts, and responses to food insecurity, there remain large gaps and ambiguities in the present knowledge, especially in relation to the smallest, poorest, and most vulnerable countries. For this group of countries there would be considerable benefit in the commencement of further research and analysis into:

- The relatively lesser understood or known causes of food insecurity
- The inter-linkages between food security and trade; between food security, the environment and green growth; between food security and financing for development strategies, including innovative financing strategies such as advance market commitments to provide incentives to the private sector, and counter-cyclical loan and insurance schemes to help deal with catastrophes.
- How causes and impacts of food insecurity vary differently in different countries, with a particular focus on the smallest and most vulnerable states. In this regard, the two Secretariats look forward to the research work adapted to Low Income Countries advocated by the G20 Mexican Presidency during 2012.
- A more comprehensive survey of country responses so that best practices might be identified and shared more widely. This may include a review of how food security fits into national development strategies, and the extent to which these are harmonised with donor-funded national-level strategies.

The work may be prioritised and focussed drawing on country-based evidence in the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable developing countries of the two associations, as illustrated in this brief paper. Drawing on its on-going work in each of these areas, the two Secretariats could be well placed to take this forward in consultation with other collaborating partners.

6.2. Developing networks of support

Research and analysis as well as sharing of knowledge can contribute to more specific recommendations and solutions for how support may be provided at the country level in promoting food security. This can be pursued in several ways:

- Peer-to-peer country support across both associations, based on matching up the most appropriate best practices to the most pressing needs
- Integration of food security as a topic into other related analytical work inter alia on trade, the environment, and financing for development
- Region-level experience sharing and capacity building initiatives, focused on a small set of priorities identified by countries or regions. Examples include sharing knowledge on the challenges in establishing a catastrophe financing facility; integrating food security into national development plans and harmonising those plans with donor-funded schemes in line with national priorities; and implementing measures to reduce food waste, improve storage and transportation.

Annex 1 The Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles

The Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles agreed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government in 2011 builds on the common values shared among Commonwealth member countries and highlights strong the strong spirit of cooperation to address problems facing the poorest members. This Declaration is intended as a guide to support domestic efforts to build food security, in addition to which Heads of Government committed to support efforts to help African countries realise their long term potential as food producers and exporters. The Declaration calls for:

- a) Coordinated and timely regional and global emergency relief efforts to deal with immediate crises;
- b) Undertaking decisive and timely measures to prevent crises occurring, mitigate their impact when they do and build resilience;
- c) Delivering practical measures over the medium–term to make agriculture, including irrigated agriculture, and fisheries more productive and sustainable;
- d) Strengthening support to government–led programmes and initiatives based on the spirit of effective partnerships;
- e) Development of country–led medium to long–term strategies and programmes to improve food security and ensure alignment of donor support to implementation of country priorities;
- f) Scaling up nutritional interventions, including those that target mothers and young children, and incorporating nutrition considerations into broad food security initiatives;
- g) Enhancing research and development over the longer term to build a sustainable agricultural sector, including through the promotion and sharing of best agricultural practices, in order to feed and nourish the people of the world;
- h) Strengthening fisheries and marine resource management in member states’ waters to ensure sustainability of these resources for national and global food security, including through addressing illegal unregulated and unreported fishing;
- i) Improving international market access for food producers, including smallholders and women, through trade liberalisation measures such as the elimination of tariff and non–tariff trade barriers and avoidance of restrictions on food exports;
- j) Addressing the impediments that are inhibiting economic opportunities for these important producers, including lack of affordable financing, local value–added and adequate infrastructure;
- k) Collaboration between international organisations, donor countries, and national governments to address production, storage, waste reduction, elimination of post–harvest losses, transportation and marketing challenges; this collaboration could include more effective ways of meeting infrastructure financing gaps that engage the private sector; and
- l) Improving the institutional framework for global food security efforts, including by supporting reform of the UN FAO (Commonwealth Secretariat, 2011).

