



Welcome Message from  
H.E. Joseph Muscat,  
Prime Minister of the  
Republic of Malta

Leaders of the Commonwealth will be meeting for this year's CHOGM in Malta at a time when unity and solidarity are the qualities needed to fight those who are trying to divide, and even destabilise, the world. The 2015 CHOGM gathering can show the rest of the world how countries can work together towards common goals. That is how the Commonwealth can add global value.

CHOGM will be discussing the most pressing global issues, from radicalisation, which leads to violence and terrorism, to the migration challenge, as well as climate change, ahead of the historic COP21 summit which will be held in Paris within hours of CHOGM 2015 closing.

This shows that the coming together of 53 Commonwealth

countries, representing 2.2 billion people, is relevant for its people and the rest of the world.

The world is changing drastically and countries have to adapt to the challenges of the future. The wide range of countries meeting in the same room during CHOGM can truly turn into an historic moment if we all agree on charting a concrete way forward, based on the experiences of each and every individual country. Some of the countries participating have had challenges which others are now facing. Their experiences can spark an important exchange of ideas to avoid the pitfalls, while strengthening decisions which worked. Similarly, for the countries who are suffering as a direct consequence of the more advanced Commonwealth

countries, CHOGM 2015 can be an important platform where leaders can talk frankly among themselves.

Because the world keeps changing, Commonwealth countries need to keep ahead of times and come up with solutions to long-term problems, adding value globally.

Through CHOGM Malta 2015 collaboration among the Commonwealth states will be strengthened on all fronts. This is expected to be achieved through a Trade Finance Facility and the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Small States. This year's CHOGM will also seek to establish other reforms and as its chair for 2 years, Malta will have the opportunity to drive home positions in collaboration with the other members of the Commonwealth.

Our aim at CHOGM Malta 2015 is to discuss the future, and shape it together. We cannot afford to miss such an opportunity at this important juncture by turning the meeting into a talking shop. Leaders of the Commonwealth have to come up with concrete solutions to challenges we face and when we meet again at the next CHOGM in two years' time, we will have to take stock of what has been achieved.

Malta is a beacon of stability and a safe haven, strategically located at the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, a European country which is only half an hour away from the African continent. We believe our island will provide the perfect venue to promote serene discussion among Commonwealth leaders. **F**

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