

# An opportunity to revitalise

By H.E. NICOS ANASTASIADES

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS



NICOS ANASTASIADES became President of the Republic of Cyprus in February 2013. Since 1995, he has been a member of the National Council (the top advisory body to the President of Cyprus on the handling of the Cyprus Problem). He studied Law at the University of Athens and pursued postgraduate studies in Maritime Law at the University of London. He has practiced law since 1972. He was also elected Vice President of the House of Representatives for the years 1996-2001 and served as Parliamentary Spokesman of the Democratic Rally.

It is with great enthusiasm, that Cyprus, along with the rest of our Commonwealth partners, looks forward to CHOGM 2015 in Malta. We are convinced that the potential of this upcoming CHOGM to make a genuinely tangible difference, both within, and outside our organisation, is very great indeed.

The meeting of the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth will be a chance for deliberating and providing potential solutions on a range of important issues currently facing the organisation's member states. At the same time, Commonwealth leaders will work towards the advancement of the organisation itself, allowing it to further improve its internal modus operandi, while aiding it in broadening its long list of remarkable achievements.

At the core of our tasks relating to the advancement of the Commonwealth, will be the important decision to select the next Commonwealth Secretary-General. The crucial role of the Secretary-General in ensuring the cohesion and overall development of the Commonwealth family, points to the importance of reaching decisions in a thoughtful, responsible manner, guided by our vision of an even stronger, even more productive organisation. Indeed, our task of filling the vacuum brought by the departure of the current Secretary-General will be extremely difficult, given the undisputed abilities of Mr Kamallesh Sharma and his dedication and commitment in advancing the Commonwealth of Nations in all areas.

The opportune timing of CHOGM 2015 also

provides the Commonwealth Heads of Government with the chance to deliberate a range of issues of global concern – particularly those of significance to the Commonwealth member states – at a time when these challenges have become immensely pressing. Such challenges include the issue of migration, the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and our struggle against climate change and violent extremism. The fact that CHOGM 2015 coincides with other important international meetings such as the Valetta Summit on Migration and the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Paris, will provide an additional dynamic to our discussions.

The Republic of Cyprus is ready to constructively contribute to the attainment of conclusive, substantial decisions on global issues, which will be reflective of our geographic, social and economic capacities, always in total allegiance to the fundamental values of our organisation. Our membership of the European Union, our geographical position and excellent relations with the countries of our region, as well as our commitment to the full respect of international law, democracy and human rights, are elements which enhance our capacity to work towards a better future for the Commonwealth and the world as a whole.

The conditions are now ideal for us to make a difference. It is paramount that we, the Heads of State and Government of the Commonwealth, grasp the opportunity to revitalise our organisation, and at the

same time acknowledge and effectively address the challenges facing our world. I am certain that our interactive, frank and constructive deliberations in Malta, will yield results representative of our core values, sheer diversity, and sense of responsibility.

I wish all participants a successful CHOGM, filled with fruitful deliberations. **F**



Cyprus has recovered from the banking crisis