

## Economics and Finance

This session will consider issues and questions arising from the CHOGM 2011 Communiqué (<http://bit.ly/ueOhqK>) and the Commonwealth Civil Society Statement, also presented to CHOGM (<http://bit.ly/tbodl3>).

### Problems

In the midst of a global recession, food crises, and political instability across the world, our financial future is uncertain. In the CHOGM Communiqué, Commonwealth member states were called upon to help secure the global recovery and develop sustainable systems for the future by working together.

### Commonwealth perspectives and questions

Calls to open up trade routes – CHOGM support for the creation of the African Free Trade Area (AFTA) which will encompass 24 countries and hopefully be in place by 2014.

- What are the benefits of such free trade?
- Will this make a difference to trade relations in Africa? How will it differ from current systems?

Commonwealth Civil Society Statement suggested that freer movement of people would help to strengthen economies, as recommended by the Ramphal Commission on Migration.

- Do you think that this is a sustainable solution?
- What is the employment situation?
- Would countries benefit from a sharing of skills as well as goods?

Commonwealth Civil Society Statement has also suggested that migration law be reformed to, among other things, reduce the cost of remittances.

- Would this make working easier?
- Should we allow the portability of pensions and wider recognition of professional qualifications?
- Would this encourage/allow more people into employment?

### CSC Professional Networks

This network is active on LinkedIn as a subgroup of the Commonwealth Scholars Group. The coordinator of this network is Phil Lewis, who posts items for discussion on this online forum regularly. For further information, please visit <http://bit.ly/cscuk-professional-networks>