

## Science and the Environment

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

Focus has currently been on the environment and climate change, with flooding, drought, famine, and earthquakes being felt across the Commonwealth. As well as natural disasters, there are also huge threats being posed by climate change to the economies and prospects of smaller developing nations.

### Commonwealth perspective and questions

Commonwealth Civil Society Statement urges a combined approach using mechanisms such as technology sharing to combat these issues.

- How can we provide for depleting natural resources (fish stocks, agricultural space, sufficient water) in a world where the costs of urbanisation and populations are increasing?
- The CHOGM Communiqué has agreed to promote more effective natural resource management – how would this take place?

Commonwealth member states have been called on to establish a suitable funding mechanism to support initiatives and projects which may help tackle these threats.

- To what use might you put this money (bearing in mind that the systems must be transparent and sustainable)?

CHOGM Communiqué recalled the Port of Spain Climate Change Consensus, which called attention to:

‘the undisputed threat that climate change poses to the security, prosperity, economic and social development of our people’

Paragraph 9 of the Port of Spain declaration states:

‘In addition, we will strive to significantly increase technological and technology support to developing countries to facilitate the deployment and diffusion of clean technologies through a range of mechanisms. We will work to facilitate and enable the transition to low-emission economies, climate resilience, and in particular, support, including through capacity building, for increasing the climate resilience of vulnerable economies. We will also aim to develop cleaner, more affordable and renewable energy sources. We must explore global mechanisms through which those identified technologies can be disseminated as rapidly as possible.’

- Have these technological advances occurred? What is still needed to combat climate change? How can technology tackle this issue?

### CSC Professional Networks

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