Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance
Commonwealth Civil Society Policy Forum 2020

2020
Virtual Meeting

Wednesday 6 May 2020
10:00hrs to 12:00hrs
(London Time GMT +1)

Concept Note and Programme

Strengthening Health Systems with Digital Technologies in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure Universal Health Coverage

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is based on the principle that individuals and communities have the right to equitably access comprehensive and good quality health services without experiencing financial hardship. The rights-based approach lies at the core of this concept. UHC is pivotal to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda. It is necessary to use modern technology in innovative ways to strengthen and reengineer processes within health systems and health care to achieve UHC. The COVID-19 global pandemic has brought health systems even in high income countries to their knees. Digital and diagnostic technologies are playing a leading role in the response to the pandemic and understanding how these technologies can be used effectively and strategically to mitigate the effects of the pandemic and to ensure Universal Health Coverage is vital for all countries. The objective of the 2020 Commonwealth Civil Society Policy Forum is to discuss these issues and form recommendations to share with Commonwealth Health Ministers.

This forum is usually conducted in conjunction with the annual Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting (CHMM) and the World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva in May each year. This year in view of the global pandemic it has been decided to hold the event as a virtual event.

The outcome of the forum will be a policy brief that will be widely circulated to Ministries of Health in Commonwealth countries as well international development partners and intergovernmental agencies.

To Register:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0lcOqgpjstEtT11SG8-Gd5JNLPZMpIp4-x

CHPA
Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance

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Program
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Time	Activity
10:00	**Welcome Remarks** Professor Tony Nelson, Chair, Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance
10:05	**Remarks by** Baroness Patricia Scotland, Secretary General of the Commonwealth
10:10	**Remarks by** Dr Anne Therese Gallagher AO, Director General, Commonwealth Foundation
10:15	**The role of digital technologies in the response to a global pandemic** Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientific Officer, World Health Organization
10:30	**Responding to the COVID 19 pandemic with digital technologies** Professor Vajira Dissanayake, Past President, Commonwealth Medical Association; and Founder, Commonwealth Digital Health Initiative
11:00	**Roundtable Discussion: From the Front Line** Moderator: Dr Ashley McKimm, Director of Partnership Development and Innovation, British Medical Journal Dr Osahon Enabulele, President, Commonwealth Medical Association Professor Kathleen McCourt, President, Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation Dr Amy Chan, Professional Development and Research Lead, Commonwealth Pharmacists Association Dr Stephen Allen, Secretary, Commonwealth Association for Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition Dr Uday Bodhankar, Executive Director, Commonwealth Association for Health and Disability Dr Godfred Boahen, Board Member, Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work Mr Anton Ofield-Kerr, Chairperson, Commonwealth HIV and AIDS Action Group Professor Tony Nelson, Chair, Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance
12:00	**Close**

Baroness Scotland QC   Anne Gallagher   Soumya Swaminathan   Vajira Dissanayake