



The Commonwealth
King's Christian Collegiate Model United Nations
- February 25, 2023 -

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Dear King'sMUN 2023 delegates,

I am truly honoured as this year's Secretary General of King'sMUN to welcome you to our 9th annual conference and our first in-person conference since the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretariat has been working hard throughout this school year to deliver you an incredible conference with a variety of creative committees, experienced chairs, and an overall successful day of debate.

MUN is a reenactment of United Nations conferences at the high school and university level, where representatives from all over come together to discuss the most pressing issues that plague our world today. Students take on the positions of various countries, characters, or political figures in order to create resolutions for both real and fictional issues and crises.

Throughout my time participating in Model United Nations, I have developed many valuable skills that I will take with me throughout my life. It has improved my confidence when public speaking as well as my ability to problem solve. Furthermore, MUN is valuable to me as it promotes lifelong connections with new people as you meet many other delegates who share your passions while in committee sessions. I truly believe that the skills that you will learn through your participation in MUN will help you throughout your high school journey, in everyday life, and beyond.

Contrary to popular belief, MUN is truly for everyone. At King'sMUN, we provide a variety of committees to ensure that we have something that everyone will enjoy debating about. From the world's most pressing issues discussed in UNSC and UN Women to Indigenous affairs and from the gods on Mount Olympus to the prohibition in the 1920s, we strive to ensure that we can appeal to the passions of a variety of delegates. Everyone is welcome at King'sMUN, whether you have no experience or have been to a multitude of conferences, there is a place for you here.

Once again, I am thrilled to welcome all delegates, new or returning, back in person to King'sMUN. I, as well as the rest of the secretariat, are looking very forward to seeing you on Saturday, February 25. Whether this is your first conference or your last, I hope you are able to engage in fruitful debate and have an amazing time at King'sMUN 2023.

Sincerely,

Athena Ponte
Secretary General
King'sMUN 2023

History of the Commonwealth

Established in 1965, the Commonwealth is home to more than 2.5 billion people across 56 countries and 5 continents. Commonwealth is split into 3 sections, the Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth Foundation, and Commonwealth of Learning. It is one of the oldest political associations of states, dating back to the British Empire. Originally countries within the Commonwealth all had ties to the British Empire, but the 4 recent additions, Rwanda, Mozambique, Gabon, and Togo all have no historical relation to the British Empire. The creation of the Commonwealth stems from governments slowly gaining different levels of freedom. It is important to note not all of the Commonwealth countries believe in allegiance to the king or queen, and it is also not required to acknowledge and/or support British Royalty. The Commonwealth Organization contains a Head of the Commonwealth(British king or queen), Secretariat, Secretary-General, Board of Governors, Commonwealth Chair-in-office, and Staff.



Left image is Commonwealth Secretary-General Right Honourable Patricia Scotland KC, on the right is Commonwealth Chair-in-Office Rwanda's President Paul Kagame.

What they do:

- Provide a voice for small and vulnerable states
- Champion young people
- Promote justice and human rights
- Address threats like climate change, debt and inequality
- Help grow economies and boost trade
- Support decision-makers to make good laws and deliver policies
- Help strengthen governance and build inclusive public institutions
- Provide technical help and training
- Send experts and observers to countries to give impartial advice and help solve national problems
- Provide systems, software and research for managing resources

List of all 56 Commonwealth Countries

United Kingdom
Canada
Australia
New Zealand
South Africa
India
Pakistan
Sri Lanka
Ghana
Malaysia
Nigeria
Cyprus
Sierra Leone
Tanzania
Jamaica
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Kenya
Malawi
Malta
Zambia
The Gambia
Singapore
Guyana
Botswana
Lesotho
Barbados
Mauritius
Nauru
Swaziland(Eswatini)
Tonga
Samoa
Fiji
Bangladesh
The Bahamas
Grenada
Papua New Guinea
Seychelles
Solomon Islands

Tuvalu
 Dominica
 Kiribati
 Saint Lucia
 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
 Vanuatu
 Belize
 Antigua and Barbuda
 Maldives
 Saint Kitts and Nevis
 Brunei
 Namibia
 Cameroon
 Mozambique
 Rwanda
 Gabon
 Togo



The Commonwealth is made up of 56 countries around the world

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of independent countries spread over every continent and ocean. Its over 2.5 billion people, who account for almost one third of the world's population, are in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Americas, Europe and the Pacific. They are of many faiths, races, languages and cultures.

The Commonwealth promotes peace and international co-operation, democracy and good governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law, and the improvement of lives through economic and social development.

These values and aspirations are described in the Charter of the Commonwealth. The Charter expresses the commitment of member countries to the development of free and democratic societies and the promotion of peace and prosperity to improve the lives of all Commonwealth people. It also acknowledges the role of civil society in supporting the goals and values of the Commonwealth.



MEMBER COUNTRY	CAPITAL	MEMBER COUNTRY	CAPITAL	MEMBER COUNTRY	CAPITAL
1 AUSTRALIA	Canberra	21 JAMAICA	Kingston	48 ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	Kingstown
2 AUSTRALIA	Canberra	22 KENYA	Nairobi	49 SAO TOME AND PRINCIPLE	Luanda
3 THE BAHAMAS	Nassau	23 KIRIBATI	Tarawa	50 TIMOR-LESTE	Dili
4 BANGLADESH	Dhaka	24 LESOTHO	Maseru	51 TUVALU	Funafuti
5 BARBADOS	Bridgetown	25 MALAWI	Lilongwe	52 UGANDA	Kampala
6 BELIZE	Belize City	26 MALAYSIA	Kuala Lumpur	53 UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	London
7 BOTSWANA	Gaborone	27 MALDIVES	Malé	54 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Washington, DC
8 BROWNE AND GREENWICH ISLANDS	St John's	28 MALTA	Valletta	55 VANUATU	Port Vila
9 CAMBODIA	Phnom Penh	29 MALTA	Valletta	56 ZAMBIA	Lusaka
10 CANADA	Ottawa	30 INDONESIA	Jakarta		
11 CHINA	Beijing	31 NARBERA	Windhoek		
12 COLOMBIA	Bogotá	32 NIGERIA	Abuja		
13 COTE D'IVOIRE	Yamoussoukro	33 NEW ZEALAND	Wellington		
14 CUBA	Havana	34 NIGERIA	Abuja		
15 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Santiago	35 PAKISTAN	Islamabad		
16 THE GAMBIA	Banjul	36 PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Port Moresby		
17 GHANA	Accra	37 PERU	Lima		
18 GRENADA	St George's	38 ST KITTS AND NEVIS	Basseterre		
19 GUINEA	Conakry	39 SAINT LUCIA	Castries		
20 INDIA	New Delhi				

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Severing Ties With the Commonwealth

In most cases, countries belong to the Commonwealth due to colonization. This directly relates to slavery, which has permanently affected many Caribbean and African countries. Following the passing of the beloved Queen Elizabeth II, many countries with pasts connecting to slavery refused to acknowledge King Charles III has ascended the throne. In fact, only 15 of 56 countries acknowledge he is the Head of the Commonwealth.

In the past countries have left the commonwealth and rejoined later:

- South Africa joined in 1931, left in 1961, and rejoined 1994
- Pakistan joined in 1947, left in 1972, and rejoined 1989
- The Gambia joined in 1965, left in 2013, and rejoined in 2018
- Fiji joined in 1971, left in 1987, rejoined in 1997
- Maldives joined in 1982 joined as special member, became a full member in 1985, left in 2016, and rejoined in 2020



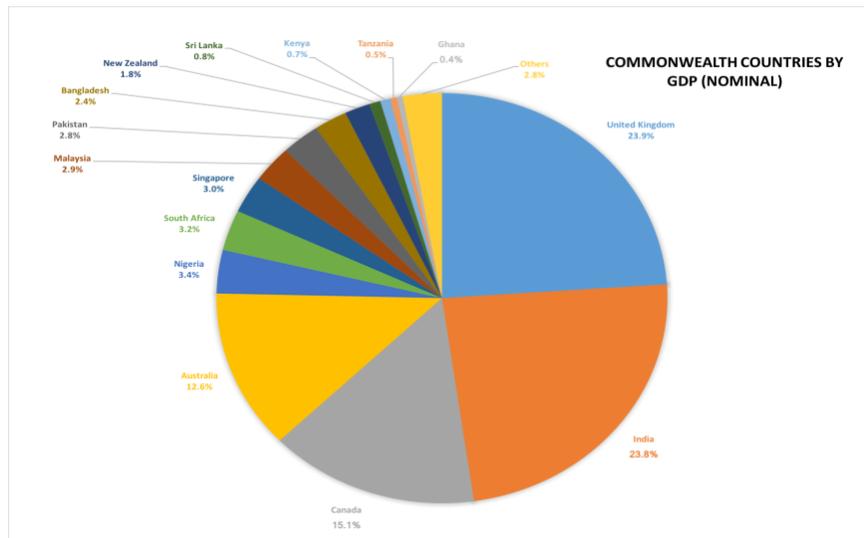
Following the Queen's passing, it sparked ideas of republicanism for many Commonwealth countries. 3 days after Charles ascended the throne, Antigua and Barbuda's prime minister Gaston Browne announced the country will become a republic within the next 3 years. 6 countries have already decided to remove the King as their Head of State; Belize, The Bahamas, Jamaica, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, and St Kitts and Nevis. This republican

movement is a call for reparation on damages done by colonization and slavery. The Bahamas specifically hope for an apology from King Charles for damages done during the colonization era. Bahamian politician Michael Pintard, of the Free National Movement, said: “(Reparations for slavery) has always been a front-burner issue in the minds of descendants of Africans who were enslaved and we know very well that the United Kingdom played a role in that regard.”

Australia and New Zealand also plan to follow a path to becoming republics, however it is stated in the media both countries believe it is not the time. Specifically, the Australian PM Anthony Albanese has stated out of respect for the Queen, they will not hold a referendum in his term. Australia held its last republic referendum in 1999. Currently, King Charles is the Head of State in the UK, Antigua and Bermuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saints Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. Although many countries are starting to plan to become a republic, many expect to wait until the end of their political term. Jamaican PM Andrew Holness believes that by the next election in 2025, Jamaica will be developing into a republic. The increase in popularity for republicanism stems from India in 1949, which allowed the inclusion of republic states in the Commonwealth. Additionally, it is important to note that only 2 countries have fully left the Commonwealth; Ireland and Zambia.

Common problems within the Commonwealth:

- Economic inequality
- Inability to enforce resolutions
- Divided loyalty due to the membership of other international organizations
- Ideological differences of members states
- Political instability among some member states
- Introduction of visas by Britain discourages the free movement of people
- Inadequate funds for projects



Future of Commonwealth countries being questioned following death of Queen Elizabeth II

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, there is growing debate on whether some Commonwealth nations will leave the monarchy and choose to be independent republics ruled by their own leaders



56 MEMBERS

15 (MEMBERS) accept the leader of the British monarchy as head of state

THOSE RULED BY A MONARCH

UK
Australia
Canada
Bahamas
Belize
Grenada
Jamaica
New Zealand
Papua New Guinea
Antigua and Barbuda
St. Kitts and Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Solomon Islands
Tuvalu

LEFT THE COMMONWEALTH
Ireland
Zimbabwe

REJECTED THE REFERENDUM TO ABANDON THE MONARCHY
Australia
St. Vincent and the Grenadines

CARIBBEAN AND AMERICA

13 COUNTRIES

EUROPE

3 COUNTRIES

AFRICA

21 COUNTRIES

ASIA

8 COUNTRIES

PACIFIC

11 COUNTRIES

AFRICA

● Botswana
● Cameroon
● Gabon
● Gambia
● Ghana
● Kenya
● Kingdom of Eswatini
● Lesotho
● Malawi
● Mauritius
● Mozambique
● Namibia
● Nigeria
● Rwanda
● Seychelles
● Sierra Leone
● South Africa
● Togo
● Uganda
● Tanzania
● Zambia

ASIA

● Bangladesh
● Sultanate of Brunei
● India
● Malaysia
● Maldives
● Pakistan
● Singapore
● Sri Lanka

CARRIBBEAN AND AMERICA

● Antigua and Barbuda
● Bahamas
● Barbados
● Belize
● Canada
● Dominica
● Grenada
● Guyana
● Jamaica
● St. Lucia

● St. Kitts and Nevis
● St. Vincent and the Grenadines
● Trinidad and Tobago

EUROPE

● GCASC
● Malta
● England

PACIFIC

● Australia
● Fiji
● Kiribati
● Nauru
● New Zealand
● Papua New Guinea
● Samoa
● Solomon Islands
● Tonga
● Tuvalu
● Vanuatu

Sept. 22, 2022



Focus Questions

1. As many countries plan to step forward into republicanism, what further steps must be taken to make this possible? Could this have an effect on trade agreements within the 56 countries?
2. What effects do republicanism have on the Commonwealth, and could it be possible more countries spark interest in leaving?

Resources

iNews, 14 September 2022, <https://inews.co.uk/news/world/commonwealth-realm-king-charles-head-state-1853355>. Accessed 10 January 2023.

Millar, Will. "Commonwealth: Which nations could leave after the death of Queen?" *Edinburgh News*, 19 December 2022, <https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/read-this/commonwealth-queen-king-charles-3840160>. Accessed 10 January 2023.

Assessing the Role of the Royal Family

The origin of the Commonwealth is the British Empire, countries became territories at different times by settlement, conquest or surrender. Each territory formed its own government and became ruled differently, hence the creation of the Commonwealth of Nations. Although many countries have tried to become republics, India was the first to become a republic, and choose to stay in the Commonwealth, as previously stated. In 1949, the 1949 London Declaration recognised King George VI as Head of the Commonwealth. Following his death, the Commonwealth leaders recognised Queen Elizabeth II as the Head of the Commonwealth. In order to become the Head of the Commonwealth, it must be unanimously voted for.



The role of the King in the Commonwealth is to unify and is considered a symbolic role. His Majesty is supposed to be responsible for joining people together from around the world. The London Declaration recognises the British Monarch as the symbol of the free association of independent member nations and as Head of the Commonwealth. During Queen Elizabeth II's reign, the Commonwealth expanded from 8 countries to 54. The Queen was a symbol of unity and strength at the heart of the Commonwealth. She made over 200 visits to all the Commonwealth countries, not including Cameroon and Rwanda. However, she did make many repeat visits to countries. It was stated that $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Queen's overseas travels were to Commonwealth countries. As for King Charles, he regularly meets with the Secretary-General

and Secretariat which are based in London, he also frequently meets with the Heads of Government in the Commonwealth Countries.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)



Since 1971, the CHOGM has been held every 2 years, and the Queen attended every single one as of 1973. The Head of Commonwealth is supposed to have a series of private meetings with the Commonwealth countries' leaders, attend a CHOGM reception and dinner, where they would make a speech. In December 2012, Commonwealth leaders adopted a new Charter for the Commonwealth to reaffirm the core values that unite the Commonwealth. The Charter was presented to The Queen at the Commonwealth Day reception on March 11, 2013.

Focus Questions

1. How can King Charles continue to maintain strong relationships with the Commonwealth countries following Queen Elizabeth's passing?
2. What impact did Queen Elizabeth have during her reign, and what events caused the increase of countries into the Commonwealth?
3. What is the importance of Commonwealth Day, and what do the Heads of Government hope to accomplish during the CHOGM?

Resources

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Related Sustainable Development Goals

