

PRESS RELEASE

Day Two of the Commonwealth Business Forum Held in Parallel with the People's Forum

June 22, 2022 - Kigali - *Day two of the Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) addressed four integral themes: altering global value chains post-pandemic, digital divide, equitable healthcare, and sustainable development.*

The panel zoomed in on the role of financial institutions and ecosystems in aiding recovery. All speakers echoed the role of technology, and various cryptosystems enabling businesses to surface stronger. The panel also discussed the pandemic's disruption of global value supply chain challenges and lessons learned.

This session also stressed a few challenges Commonwealth countries faced in their digital infrastructures. These included affordable devices and services, adequate digital literacy skills, etc. Speakers urged delegations to welcome disruptive thinking, which will lead to disruptive solutions that will enable various countries to close the gap of 2.9 billion people who remain unconnected, as the Rt. Hon. Andrew Michael Holness specified.

“For many in the developing world, we are consumers of technology; we are only utilizing the benefits of technology as appliances. For the developing world, we need to start seeing ourselves as the originators and creators of technology.” - Rt. Hon. Andrew Michael Holness

One of the repeatedly discussed challenges associated with the widening of equitable healthcare was income and class disparity within African countries. The panelists agreed that the recent pandemic highlighted such effects.

“Context is key. So, when we talk about global solutions, when we talk about practices which extend beyond regions, beyond boundaries, unless we take account of the local context, we are setting up for failure.” - Hon. Chris Fearne (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health, Malta).

The agreed-upon solution was for governments, private businesses, civil corporations, etc., to focus on often ignored healthcare data, to ensure that all people have access to needed assistance and medication.

The second day of the Commonwealth Business Forum was held in parallel with the Commonwealth People's Forum, which entered its final day.

For media inquiries, or to access our photo gallery of the event please visit <https://www.chogm2022.rw/media/>.