

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Commonwealth Business Forum enters second day, People's Forum ends, as several side events take place**

Day 4 | Kigali, 22 June 2022

On the second day of the Commonwealth Business Forum in Kigali, government and business leaders underlined the need for countries to invest in infrastructure development to boost access to technology and reduce the skills gap for sustainable and inclusive transformation.

Addressing delegates at the session that focused on bridging the digital divide within the Commonwealth, Prime Minister of Jamaica, Andrew Holness reiterated the importance of narrowing the digital divide for inclusive social economic transformation.

**"Internet and digital technologies are critical drivers of wealth creation and prosperity in our society. Government must be deliberate in ensuring that this public good is accessible for all the citizens, otherwise it would come to define a new dimension of poverty,"** Prime Minister Holness said.

Sharing Rwanda's experience, Minister of ICT and Innovation, Paula Ingabire highlighted the need for increased efforts in connecting more citizens to fill the digital gap.

**"We have put in place digital ambassadors in different parts of the country who go out and train citizens but also what we are doing is to mainstream digital literacy within the education system because the majority of people are youth and are in some form of education establishment. (...) What is also more important is policies and regulations that we are putting in place to support all the operators to drive wide scale deployment of infrastructure but also adoption at the same time"** Minister Ingabire said.

On its second day, the Business Forum discussed various topics including Redesigning Global Value Chains in a Post- COVID World, Technology and Governance, accelerating the transition to Sustainable Energy, Equitable Healthcare, Innovative Financing, Bridging the Digital Divide, Financing Blue-Green Growth among others.

Besides the Commonwealth Business Forum, the Commonwealth People's Forum was officially closed following panel discussions on Innovations in participatory governance, Advancing Freedom of Expression in the Commonwealth, and a Commonwealth for all.

Also, on the sidelines of the two forums, several events were held including a Breakfast Meeting on **"Climate Change and the Commonwealth: Accelerating Action"** attended by policy makers and key players to discuss the steps to enhance joint actions on climate change and responding to dangers including land degradation and biodiversity loss.

Also the Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting on small states brought together foreign affairs ministers from thirty-two of the world's 42 small states are Commonwealth members. The meeting served as a platform to identify practical ways the Commonwealth can contribute to a strengthened global response to the challenges they face.

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