



## PRESS RELEASE

### Commonwealth Youth Forum kicks-off in Kigali

Day 1 | June 19, 2022

**Today marked the opening of** The Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF) in Kigali, Rwanda. Young people from across the commonwealth came together to issue a call to action to their peers, imploring them to maximize their potential to address the challenges we face, and to build a better future.

More than 350 youth leaders from 54 nations are gathering at the Intare Conference Arena for the three-day forum under the theme: **“Taking Charge of our Future”**. This is the 12th Commonwealth Youth Forum, following the last one held in the United Kingdom in 2018.

The CYF 2022 is one of the four CHOGM parallel forums to be held during CHOGM. The other three forums are the Commonwealth Women’s Forum, Commonwealth Business Forum and Commonwealth People’s Forum.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Rwanda’s Minister of Youth and Culture, Rosemary Mbabazi called on the youth to be the agents of change in finding solutions to the emerging challenges in the Commonwealth.

“I encourage you to build networks that will turn into markets needed for your innovations, and create innovations that respond and solve problems of our communities. I am sure, you will leave here with more knowledge and transformed mindsets”, Said Minister Mbabazi.

In his remarks, the Chairperson of Commonwealth Youth Council, Kim Allen emphasized the need to invest in youth to enable them to contribute to addressing global challenges.

“The Commonwealth Youth Forum presents us with an opportunity to work towards solving emerging problems collectively. As young people, we simply cannot afford to stand on the sidelines and not get involved in driving solutions to our global and common challenges” said CYF Chairperson.

The commonwealth family accounts for 2.5 billion people, of which more than 60% are under the age of 30. The first day of the 2022 Commonwealth Youth Forum comprised different sessions covering a range of themes including: Youth Involvement in Decision-Making; Inclusive, Equitable and Accessible Opportunities; Environment and Climate change.

The Commonwealth Youth Forum will create opportunities for the young people of the Commonwealth to debate challenges facing young people, agree on youth-led initiatives, and build cross-cultural connections and networks, taking charge of their destiny.

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