

Annex 1

Biographies of COG Members

Mr Olara Otunnu (Uganda) – Chair

Mr Otunnu has extensive experience in international security, conflict management, United Nations, development and he is a prominent advocate for human rights. Currently, Mr Otunnu serves as the President of the Uganda People's Congress and the President of LBL Foundation for Children.

Mr Otunnu has held several prominent positions including UN Under-Secretary General; President of the UN Security Council; President of the International Peace Academy; Chairman of UN Commission for Human Rights; Ambassador of Uganda to the United Nations; Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr Otunnu has taught at Albany Law School in the US and American University in Paris.

Mr Otunnu has received several major International awards, including Germany Africa Prize; Sydney Peace Prize; Harvard Law School Association Award and Global Award for outstanding contribution to Human Rights (India). Mr Otunnu was educated at Gulu High School, Kings College Budo, Makerere University, Oxford University and Harvard Law School.

Mr Paul Dacey (Australia)

Paul Dacey was a career Public Servant in Australia for 40 years. He spent the last 28 years in senior positions in the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) and held the post of Deputy Electoral Commissioner from 2000 until his retirement in December 2011. In this position, his functions included management and oversight of the AEC's wide reaching international assistance programme.

Mr Dacey has served on many overseas electoral missions, including South Africa, Indonesia, East Timor, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Thailand. He has represented the Commonwealth and the United Nations on several occasions, including at workshops and conferences focusing on electoral management.

In 2006, Mr Dacey held the office of Vice Chair of the International Mission for Iraqi Elections.

Mrs Martha Sayed (Botswana)

Mrs Martha Sayed joined the Botswana Independent Electoral Commission in 1999 having served the public service for years as a human resources practitioner. Currently the Deputy Secretary to the Independent Electoral Commission with responsibility for ensuring that

electoral administrative activities in the form of preparations for polls, training of poll staff, registration of voters, and procurement of materials are planned and budgeted for.

Mrs Sayed has extensive experience in election observation that she has carried in countries within Southern and West Africa, Asia and Europe.

These observations were under the auspices of the African Union, Commonwealth Secretariat, Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (EISA), the United States of American Embassy in Botswana and the Needs Project in Brussels.

Ms Pauline Welsh (Jamaica)

Pauline Welsh is the Director of Legal Affairs, Research and Development at the Electoral Commission of Jamaica. She has been involved in electoral management and administration at senior management level for nearly 18 years. She is also responsible for training at the Electoral Commission of Jamaica and has been involved in several initiatives to promote democracy and electoral reform within Latin America and the Caribbean. Ms Welsh has participated in several observation missions through CARICOM and the Organisation of American States (OAS). Ms Welsh has also undertaken initiatives at national level to further the participation of women in politics by engaging in interventions to promote electoral education amongst women through collaborating with the Jamaican Women's Political Caucus.

Prior to joining the Electoral Commission of Jamaica, Ms Welsh served as Director of Field Investigation for the titling of several parcels of government land. Ms Welsh holds a post graduate degree in Law and Diplomas in Management Studies.

Ms Jane Godia (Kenya)

A Gender and Media expert in Nairobi Kenya, Ms Godia spent 17 years working with The Standard Media Group in Nairobi as an Editor and Deputy Managing Editor. She joined civil society and has been keen on working around issues that advocate for gender equality especially human and women's rights. Ms Godia is currently working with African Woman and Child Feature Service as Chief Editor.

Ms Godia has been keen on the issue of women and elections, especially in working with them on how to get visibility through media. She has trained women leaders on how to get visibility during electioneering periods and especially how to deal with the media, as well as working with women on how they can be peace champions during election time to help promote free, fair and peaceful elections.

Ms Godia has also been training journalists on peace and conflict-sensitive reporting as well as gender-sensitive reporting. This is her second election observer mission.

Ms Godia sits on the steering committee of the Kenya Media Programme and is a member of the Scientific and Ethics Committee of African Medical Research Institute (AMREF).

Councillor Justus Kangwagye (Rwanda)

Councillor Justus Kangwagye is the Mayor of Rulindo District in the Republic of Rwanda. He was re-elected for his second term of office in March 2011. He is a board member of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum and President of the Rwandese Association for Local Government authorities. He is a Commissioner in the East Africa Local Government Authorities (EALGA).

Councillor Kangwagye has held various positions in Government having served as the Provincial Executive Secretary in 2005. He has also served as the Director of Governance and Social development for the City of Kigali. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from the National University of Rwanda and a diploma in Education.

Mr Kangwagye was among the eminent speakers at the Brussels European Day for People with Disabilities in December 2010. In May 2012 he was a guest speaker at Aurora Community College in USA.

Mr Andrew Simmons (St. Vincent and the Grenadines)

Mr Andrew Simmons is the Executive Director for his consultancy business, Kingshill Development Solutions (KDS). He is currently a consultant with the Nature Conservancy (TNC) working on enhancing the institutional capacity of the NISP, a component of the National Parks, Beach and River Authority. He worked at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London as the Deputy Director of Youth Affairs Division at CYP Pan-Commonwealth Office in London, UK (1997–2006).

Prior to his employment at the Commonwealth Secretariat he worked for the government of St Vincent and the Grenadines as Director of Community Services in the Ministry of Housing and Community Services with responsibility for spearheading government's poverty eradication and social development programmes (1990–1997). Mr Simmons is the founder of JEMS (1978) and co-founder of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN, 1990) and the Caribbean Federation of Youth (CFY 1986).

He possesses over 30 years of experience working on socio-economic development and environmental issues in St Vincent and across the Caribbean region. He is an ardent community development and environmentalist in practice and received global recognition and numerous awards for his achievements in the field. These prestigious international environment awards include the UN 'Global 500 Award' (1989), the Goldman Environmental

Prize (1994), listing of his biography in Marques Special Millennium Publication on 'Who's Who in Science and Engineering' (2000) and the UN Award for his contribution to the development of Small Island Developing States (2005).

Ms Rita Payne (United Kingdom)

Rita Payne is President of the Commonwealth Journalists Association. She is also Editorial Director of Global Magazine (a quarterly magazine that covers international affairs), a freelance journalist and media adviser – Rita Payne Media. Rita also writes for the travel and tourism website, ETurboNews and other publications. She is regularly invited to speak at public meetings or on TV and radio on topical issues. She was a moderator and speaker at the 2012 Rotary World Peace Symposium in Bangkok in May 2012. She chaired key dialogues at the UN World Forum in Rio de Janeiro in March 2010 and Nanjing in 2008. She was a member of the Commonwealth Election Observer Mission to the Solomon Islands in 2010. Rita worked for nearly 30 years at the BBC until her retirement in 2008. Her last position at the BBC was Asia Editor, BBC World News (TV) with responsibility for three news programmes a day. Before moving to TV, Rita was a news editor, producer, presenter at BBC World Service Radio. She was nominated for the BBC Global Reith Awards 2009 and Asian Women of Achievement Awards 2006. She was born in Assam, India.

Mr Dennis Ngosa (Zambia)

Mr Ngosa Dennis is the Commonwealth Youth Representative from Zambia. He is also a member of the Commonwealth Youth Sub-committee on Human Rights and Democracy. Mr Ngosa has been involved as a youth and human rights activist since 2005. He is currently working with the Zambia Episcopal Conference as the National Youth Programme Coordinator and Advocate Officer.

He has participated in many International Youth Programmes. His work includes responding to Government policy initiatives and providing training and support for youth and community organisations on how to integrate a global dimension into their work, and advising international NGOs on how to develop informal education programmes with young people. He is also a Board Member of the Zambia Scouts Association.

Commonwealth Secretariat Support Team

Mr Linford Andrews, Head of Office, Office of the Deputy Secretary-General – Team Leader
Ms Clara Cole, Political Affairs Officer, Political Affairs Division
Ms Victoria Holdsworth, Communications Officer, Communications and Public Affairs Division
Ms Diane Mensah-Bonsu, Interim Political Affairs Officer, Political Affairs Division
Ms Zippy Ojago, Executive Officer, Political Affairs Division.