

*Commonwealth Foundation Statement  
Delivered During the COP24 High-Level Segment  
By Vijay Krishnarayan, Director- General*

*The Commonwealth Foundation is the Commonwealth's agency for civil society. The Foundation is unique among international intergovernmental organisations in that it has been given a mandate by its governments to strengthen civil society. With our focus on those less heard, we amplify civic voices as they engage with the institutions that shape people's lives.*

*The COP23 gender action plan was an acknowledgement that some voices have not been heard. Earlier this year in partnership with UNDP GEF in Barbados we called together civic voices from the Commonwealth Caribbean to explore the intersections between gender and climate change. We have committed to continuing that conversation.*

*We convened civil society at this year's Commonwealth Summit. In their dialogue with Foreign Ministers – civic voices highlighted the unjust burden, loss and damage imposed on small states. They critiqued a preoccupation with adaptation which places an inequitable burden on communities at the margins where climate change impacts continue to be catastrophic.*

*Civic voices from Oceania remind us that politics and history matter too – particularly when considering relocation for already marginalised peoples. Fairer, more inclusive and participatory governance are central to climate justice.*

*Ends*