

Commonwealth ICT Ministers Forum 2014

Marlborough House, London

3 - 4 March 2014

Agreed text by Commonwealth ICT Ministers Forum on ICTs and Disability

Commonwealth ICT Ministers affirm the declaration of eight action points agreed at the Commonwealth e-Accessibility Summit in August 2012, and commit to working towards their implementation so as to ensure that people with disabilities in all Commonwealth countries are thereby enabled to benefit appropriately from the use of ICTs.

The 2012 summit concluded with agreement around eight action points that are necessary for taking this forward.

1. The inclusion of e-inclusion on the CHOGM agenda;
2. Policies and practices so that people with disabilities should have equal access to ICTs and accessible information, without having to pay a premium for it;
3. An e-inclusion champion in every Commonwealth country;
4. An e-inclusion policy in every Commonwealth country;
5. The sharing of examples of existing good practice in the Commonwealth and beyond;
6. Government and business use of ICT procurement to encourage inclusive design;
7. The Accessible Technology Charter¹; and
8. Effective training programmes on e-inclusion for governments, the private sector and civil society.

Ministers meeting in London on 3rd March 2014 also affirmed the following assertion: Universal Service and Access Funds can be used effectively to support all underserved people, including those with disabilities.

Ministers note that the use of ICTs by people with disabilities is one of the priority areas of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation, and request that the organisation further promotes this agenda and supports governments in its implementation.

¹ <http://businessdisabilityforum.org.uk/our-offer/technology-taskforce/accessible-technology-charter>