

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Increasing Engineering Capacity: Critical to Achieving UN SDGs CHOGM, Samoa October 2024

KEY TAKE-AWAYS

Engineering capacity underpins the advancement and delivery of most of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and integrating engineering capacity building into the delivery objectives of every aid project is key to enabling a climate resilient future for our world. **Currently, however, there are significant gaps in global engineering capacity which will impact the ability to deliver this development, and these urgently need to be addressed.**

The Commonwealth Engineers' Council (CEC) is calling on Commonwealth Heads of Government to support the underlisted enabling commitments:

1. Enable the **building of local engineering skills capacity and professional registration systems to internationally recognised levels of competence** through appropriate policy, education and training, and funding support.
2. **Ensure through transparent contract, funding and policy levers that development work uses local skills, local material resources,** and appropriate building knowledge and best practice techniques, in order to build local capability.
3. Whilst supporting international skills mobility, **embed attractive incentives** including financial, professional development, and availability of high-level roles **to ensure that local engineering professionals can be engaged and retained in developing countries,** preventing a one way exodus of engineering talent from where it is most needed.

Notes

The Commonwealth Engineers' Council is a long-established network of engineers and engineering institutions which formed in 1946.

CEC is a Commonwealth accredited organisation, and works collectively with other built environment professionals across the Commonwealth through the Built Environment Professionals in the Commonwealth (BEPIC) group, and the Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Initiative (CSCI).

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A lack of engineering capacity has been identified as a key barrier to increased economic growth, rapid urban development, and adaptation to climate change.

Growing local engineering skills and capacity will be a key enabler which will allow countries to develop sustainably; create renewable and secure energy systems; and address climate and biodiversity crises.

In-country Development projects must be key enablers rather than detractors of local skills and capacity.

Policy, legislation, and funding is required to support engineering capacity building and Professional Registration systems.