



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

**CLOSING REMARKS BY THE CABINET SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION-KENYA, PROF. GEORGE A. O.
MAGOHA, CBS, DURING THE CLOSING OF THE 21ST CCEM,
ON 28TH APRIL 2022 AT SAFARI PARK(KENYA).**

**The Secretary General, Commonwealth Secretariat, Rt.
Hon Patricia Scotland,**

**Hon. Ministers of Education from the Commonwealth
Member states,**

Representatives from Regional Economic Communities

Representatives from UN Agencies and other partners

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Distinguished Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Once again it is my pleasure to be with you during the closing ceremony of the 21CCEM.

As was well elaborated during the proceedings of this meeting the benefits of education at the individual and economic levels are enormous and permeate all our lives. Education is a critical component in the eradication of poverty and hunger, improved health, protection of our planet and in building more inclusive, resilient and peaceful societies. The Conference of Commonwealth of Education Ministers provides a platform for the members of this family to review our progress, build synergies and forge a common way forward towards improving education in our countries. It is therefore my earnest hope that our discussions in the last two days and the direction provided in the Declaration emanating from this meeting will accelerate momentum towards the achievement of the Education 2030 commitments.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, as per the theme of this conference “***Rethinking Education for Innovation, Growth and Sustainability post-Covid-19***”, I am delighted to observe that this meeting provided us the opportunity to share our

experiences on various issues and specifically on the five thematic areas highlighted in the round table discussions. I acknowledge the enriching deliberations and recommendations that have come through the CADME and Stakeholder groups helping us refocus on education for sustainability in the post COVID-19 pandemic period. We specifically recognize the great effort made by Member Countries to mitigate learning losses that occurred as a result of closing down learning institutions and look forward to working together towards achievement of these commitments.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, I note that the outcomes of this meeting will inform discussions at the upcoming CHOGM expected to take place in June 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda. I urge fellow ministers to support the passionate case and appeal for enhanced support to all levels of education in the Commonwealth during the CHOGM as highlighted in the Ministerial Declaration emanating from the 21CCEM. Our concerted effort will go a long way in promoting “***Innovation, Growth and Sustainability post-Covid-19***”.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, I take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chair of the Education Ministers Action Group

(EMAG) Hon. Premila Kumar, the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Fiji for steering the team since 2018. Kenya humbly accepts the honour to Chair the EMAG for the next three years. We commit to work collaboratively with the Commonwealth Secretariat to facilitate sharing of best practices from member countries and tracking the implementation of the 21CCEM declaration. I urge all member states to support us in this endeavor towards a commonwealth family that is united towards ensuring that ***"no learner is left behind"***.

As we come to the close of the 21 CCEM, I wish to appreciate all delegations for taking time to participate actively both physically as well as virtually. Sincere thanks to the President of the Republic of Kenya and the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, H.E. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, for supporting and facilitating the Ministry of Education to ensure a successful Conference. Special thanks go to the Commonwealth Secretariat for working collaboratively with the Ministry to organize this meeting in a Hybrid format.

It is my hope that those who managed to attend this meeting physically enjoyed the unique Kenyan hospitality. We recognize

the need for physical social connections in the Commonwealth family and therefore look forward to a face to face 22CCEM.

It is now my pleasure to declare this Conference officially closed.
I wish you all safe travel back home.

Goodbye/ Kwaherini ya Kuonana