TALKING POINT

01

21st Century Skills

Learning to livelihoods for a prosperous Commonwealth

60%+

of the Commonwealth's 2.7 billion people are under 30

Commonwealth Secretariat (2026)

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TALKING POINT

01

21st Century Skills

Learning to livelihoods for a prosperous Commonwealth



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TALKING POINT

02

New Models for School

Reaching beyond the classroom

273 million

children and young people worldwide were out of school in 2024: one in six of school age

UN DESA (2026)

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TALKING POINT

02

New Models for School

Reaching beyond the classroom



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TALKING POINT

03

Higher Education

Lifelong, open pathways for a young Commonwealth

Students in higher education

80% vs 9%

gross enrolment ratio: about 80% in Western Europe and North America, but just 9% in sub-Saharan Africa

UNESCO IESALC (2026)

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TALKING POINT

03

Higher Education

Lifelong, open pathways for a young Commonwealth

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TALKING POINT

04

C21 Teaching

Empowering teachers for digital-age learning

44 million

additional teachers needed for universal primary and secondary education by 2030

UNESCO & International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030 (2024)

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TALKING POINT

04

C21 Teaching

Empowering teachers for digital-age learning

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TALKING POINT

05

Unlocking Credentials

Micro-credentials for quality, digital and lifelong learning

94%

of employers willing to offer higher starting salaries to graduates with micro-credentials

Coursera (2026) survey

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TALKING POINT

05

Unlocking Credentials

Micro-credentials for quality, digital and lifelong learning

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TALKING POINT

06

Digital Skills for Youth

From connection to livelihoods

In 2025

27.9%

of young people in low-income countries were not in employment, education or training

ILO (2026)

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TALKING POINT

06

Digital Skills for Youth

From connection to livelihoods

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TALKING POINT

07

Future Green Skills

Climate-smart livelihoods, starting with agriculture

Nearly

US$1 trillion

to global GDP by closing the gender gap in farm productivity and wages in agrifood systems

FAO (2023)

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TALKING POINT

07

Future Green Skills

Climate-smart livelihoods, starting with agriculture

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TALKING POINT

08

Blue Economy Skills

Large ocean states need ocean-ready youth

About

1.4 million km^2

Seychelles' exclusive economic zone: almost 3,000 times its land area

Government of Seychelles (n.d.)

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TALKING POINT

08

Blue Economy Skills

Large ocean states need ocean-ready youth

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TALKING POINT

09

Orange Economy Skills

Turning creativity and culture into livelihoods

More than

48 million

jobs worldwide in cultural and creative industries, almost half held by women

United Nations (n.d.), citing UNESCO data

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TALKING POINT

09

Orange Economy Skills

Turning creativity and culture into livelihoods

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TALKING POINT

10

Frugal Educational AI

Affordable AI, under local control

71%

of the world's AI computing capacity: five companies' estimated share at the end of 2025

Epoch AI (2026)

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TALKING POINT

10

Frugal Educational AI

Affordable AI, under local control

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TALKING POINT

11

Sovereign AI

Data, languages and cultural heritage

Nearly

Half a trillion

dollars invested in AI infrastructure last year, but public investment in AI capacity for developing countries is “a rounding error”

United Nations (2026)

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TALKING POINT

11

Sovereign AI

Data, languages and cultural heritage

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TALKING POINT

12

Safe and Human Technology

Protecting and empowering learners

16–58%

of women have experienced technology-facilitated violence, studies suggest

UN Women (2025)

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TALKING POINT

12

Safe and Human Technology

Protecting and empowering learners



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TALKING POINT

13

Climate Action

Resilient learning for resilient communities

At least

171 million

students in 106 countries or territories had their schooling disrupted by climate shocks in 2025

UNICEF (2026)

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TALKING POINT

13

Climate Action

Resilient learning for resilient communities



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TALKING POINT

14

Empowering Women and Girls

From community voice to national change

31%

of young women in sub-Saharan Africa were married before 18

UN DESA (2026)

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TALKING POINT

14

Empowering Women and Girls

From community voice to national change

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TALKING POINT

15

Small State Advantage

Agility matched with urgent need

33

of the world's 42 small states are Commonwealth Member Nations

Commonwealth Secretariat (2026)

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TALKING POINT

15

Small State Advantage

Agility matched with urgent need

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