The Commonwealth Standards Network (CSN)

Commonwealth
Standards
Network

The Commonwealth Standards Network (CSN) was established in 2018 as a collaborative network that supports trade, economic growth and prosperity throughout the Commonwealth by promoting increased awareness, development and use of international standards.

International standards play an important role in promoting productivity and efficiency, reducing costs, removing barriers to trade, and driving economic growth. As such, the CSN is especially relevant to National Standards Bodies from Commonwealth nations that are looking to boost support of their nations international trade capabilities.

Commonwealth member states have the opportunity to promote free trade, working together to shape new policies and approaches, and showing the world a route to prosperity through collaboration and partnership, rather than protectionism.[1]

The Commonwealth:

includes

56

independent and equal sovereign states [2]

and is home to

2.5b

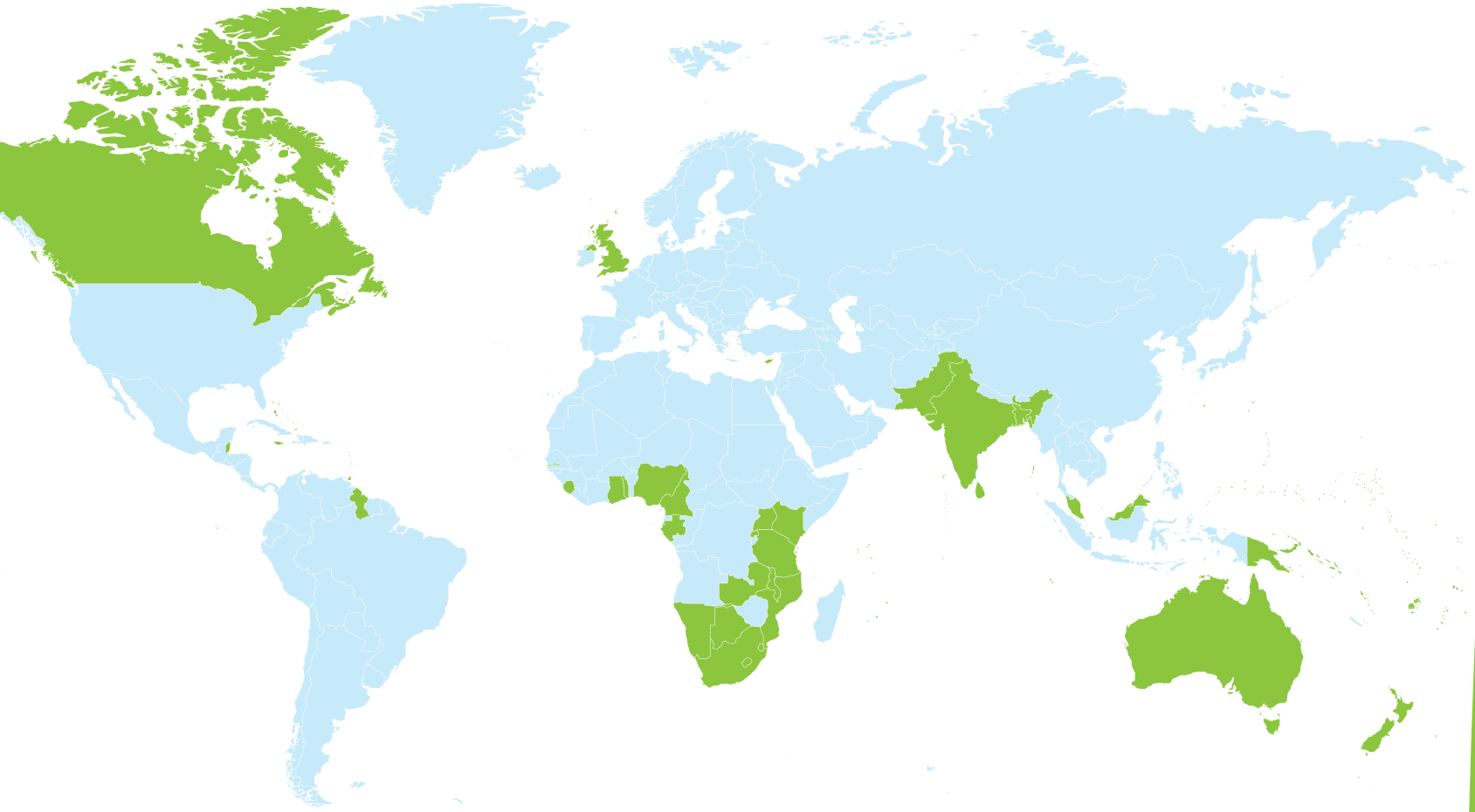
people [2]

The Commonwealth advantage:

- Commonwealth countries, on average, tend to trade around 20% more and generate 10% more investment with each other than with non-member countries.
- Bilateral costs for trading partners in Commonwealth countries are on average 19% less than between those in non-member countries. [3]

Policies built upon this commonwealth advantage can trigger even greater gains.

1. 'Action on trade and inclusivity to benefit all Commonwealth citizens' Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street. Press release. 2018
2. https://thecommonwealth.org/our-member-countries
3. Commonwealth Trade Review 2018', Commonwealth Secretariat. 2018



Commonwealth countries by region:

Africa
Botswana
Cameroon
Gabon
Gambia, The
Ghana
Kenya
Kingdom of eSwatini
Lesotho
Malawi
Mauritius
Mozambique
Namibia
Nigeria
Rwanda
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Togo
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Zambia

Asia
Bangladesh
Brunei Darussalam
India
Malaysia
Maldives
Pakistan
Singapore
Sri Lanka

Caribbean and Americas
Antigua and Barbuda
Bahamas, The
Barbados
Belize
Canada
Dominica
Grenada
Guyana
Jamaica
Saint Lucia
St Kitts and Nevis
St Vincent and The Grenadines
Trinidad and Tobago

Europe
Cyprus
Malta
United Kingdom

Pacific
Australia
Fiji
Kiribati
Nauru
New Zealand
Papua New Guinea
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu

CSN overview:

The CSN promotes the use and awareness of international standards, and improves the technical and institutional capacity to use and develop international standards amongst its members. The following outputs have been delivered since CSN's launch in 2018:

1. **Portal:** www.commonwealthstandards.net encourages collaboration between National Standards Bodies throughout the Commonwealth, to assist information exchange and peer to peer learning and support.
2. **Written resources:** The CSN has developed a framework of existing international standards for use across the Commonwealth, which is based on members' economic development priorities. A tailored toolkit has been developed to support the implementation of these and other international standards, and a suite of guidance on topics such as NSB development, stakeholder engagement, SME support, and standards supporting Policy objectives are freely available in the CSN Portal Library: www.commonwealthstandards.net/library
3. **Support:** Training and workshops are delivered to a range of Commonwealth countries, focussed on raising awareness of the benefits and use of international standards and empowering countries to take a more active role in standards development.
4. **Technical assistance:** Several developing countries within the Commonwealth have been provided with technical assistance to gain the skills necessary to support domestic standards development, use international standards effectively for trade, and be empowered to take an active role in standards development. For more information on the Technical Assistance programmes please contact projects@bsigroup.com.

Join the CSN:

The CSN is a collaborative network open to all Commonwealth countries, and it is important that all members are actively involved in shaping its development so that outcomes best suit their needs.

If you would like find out more about the CSN or wish to participate or support this important initiative, please visit www.commonwealthstandards.net, or contact the CSN Senior Programme Manager, Ben Hedley: ben.hedley@bsigroup.com

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UK International Development

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