

Official CYF Theme: “Navigating Our Course: Building Resilience for a Common Future”

Tagline: *Matimatiga for a Stronger Tomorrow*

1.0 Breakdown and Explanation for the Theme

“*Navigating Our Course: Building Resilience for a Common Future*” serves as the theme of the Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF), providing a vibrant platform for young people from across the Commonwealth to engage in meaningful dialogue, exchange ideas, and collaborate on solutions to pressing global challenges.

The theme “Navigating Our Course” pays homage to the Pacific region’s rich traditions of navigating through the vast oceans. It signifies the forum’s dedication to empowering youth to seize control of their destinies, proactively navigating through pressing global challenges, and actively shaping the future they aspire to see. This theme underscores the inherent agency and leadership potential of young people in steering their own paths forward.

“Building Resilience” underscores the critical importance of equipping young individuals with the skills, knowledge, and support systems necessary to rebound from adversity and thrive in the face of challenges. It emphasizes that resilience is not solely an individual trait but a collective endeavor, highlighting the interconnectedness of youth across the Commonwealth and the strength derived from mutual support.

“For a Common Future” emphasizes the shared aspirations and responsibilities of young people within the Commonwealth. It acknowledges the diverse backgrounds and contexts of individuals while emphasizing their shared vision for a better world. By fostering collaboration and unity, youth can harness their diversity as a source of strength, working together to create an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future.

Throughout the forum, participants will have the opportunity to explore various dimensions of resilience, ranging from personal well-being and mental health to community resilience and global citizenship. The Commonwealth Youth Forum aims to empower young people to become proactive agents of change within their communities and beyond, driving positive social, economic, and environmental impacts for the collective benefit of all Commonwealth citizens. By Navigating their course together and building resilience for a common future, youth can play a vital role in shaping a brighter tomorrow for generations to come.

1.1 Why this Theme and Tagline?

1 Inclusivity and Unity:

Our main theme, “Navigating Our Course: Building Resilience for a Common Future,” is designed to be inclusive and resonate with all participants. It highlights our collective journey and shared goals, fostering a strong sense of unity among the youth across the Commonwealth.

2 Cultural Significance:

The tagline, “Matimatiga for a Stronger Tomorrow,” integrates the Samoan word “Matimatiga,” emphasizing the importance of striving for a resilient and prosperous future. This not only honors Samoa’s cultural heritage but also enriches our forum with meaningful local context.

3 Inspiration and Action:

Together, the theme and tagline encapsulate our commitment to navigating challenges and building resilience. They serve as a powerful call to action, inspiring all of us to contribute to a sustainable and united future.

This combination perfectly balances universal relevance with local cultural depth, making it a compelling and unifying message for our forum.

2.0 CHOGM and CYF Pillars

As demonstrated with the CHOGM theme, *Resilience* is a unifying approach that transcends the humanitarian, development, human rights, and peace and security pillars. It is the ability of individuals, households, communities, cities, institutions, systems and societies to prevent, resist, absorb, adapt, respond and recover positively, efficiently and effectively from exogenous shocks. Resilience demands the maintenance of acceptable levels of functioning without compromising long-term prospects for sustainable development, peace and security, human rights and well-being for all. When faced with crisis, resilience helps prevent and curtail economic, environmental and human losses¹. The CHOGM thematic pillars are:

- **resilient democratic institutions** that uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law.
- **a resilient environment** for the survival of our planet and to combat the existential threat of the climate emergency.
- **resilient economies** to support recovery from and survive future pandemics, withstand economic uncertainties and unlock the potential of the private sector, bolstered by the adoption of innovative and transformative technologies and digital solutions that can safeguard the prosperity of our family of nations.
- **resilient societies and peoples** that can enjoy peace, security, social inclusion and lead free, healthy and productive lives.

The proposed thematic pillars for the 13th CYF Declaration reflect a comprehensive approach to building resilience across the Commonwealth. By embedding a youth lens into each pillar, we ensure that the voices, needs, and potential of young people are integral to shaping a resilient and inclusive future. The 13th CYF Declaration will not only articulate the aspirations and challenges faced by the youth but also provide actionable solutions that contribute to a sustainable and prosperous Commonwealth for all. The Proposed CYF thematic Pillars are:

¹ CHOGM 2024 Samoa Theme Paper

Resilient Democratic Institutions that uphold human rights, democracy, and the rule of law by actively involving young people in governance and decision-making processes

Upholding Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law: Young people are crucial to the future of democratic governance. This pillar will focus on:

- **Youth Participation in Governance:** Creating platforms for young people to engage in decision-making processes at all levels.
- **Human Rights Advocacy:** Empowering youth to lead initiatives that protect and promote human rights.
- **Anti-Corruption Efforts:** Involving young leaders in anti-corruption campaigns and transparency initiatives.



Resilient Economies to support recovery and unlock the potential of the private sector by creating job opportunities and fostering entrepreneurship among young people

Economic Recovery and Innovation: Economic resilience is vital for sustainable development. This pillar will address:

- **Youth Employment:** Creating job opportunities and pathways for young people in emerging industries.
- **Entrepreneurship:** Fostering a supportive environment for youth entrepreneurship and startups.
- **Digital Transformation:** Equipping youth with digital skills to thrive in a technology-driven economy.



A Resilient Environment for the survival of our planet by empowering young people to lead initiatives addressing climate change and promoting sustainability.

Combating the Climate Emergency: Young people are at the forefront of environmental activism. This pillar will emphasize:

- **Youth-Led Climate Action:** Supporting youth initiatives that address climate change and promote sustainability.
- **Environmental Education:** Integrating environmental studies into education systems to build awareness and action-oriented knowledge among youth.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Encouraging young entrepreneurs to develop green businesses and technologies.



Resilient Societies and Peoples that can enjoy peace, security, and social inclusion by providing young people with access to healthcare, mental health services, and social protection, and encouraging their active participation in community development.

Health, Well-being, and Social Inclusion: Building resilient societies requires addressing health disparities and promoting social inclusion. This pillar will emphasize:

- **Healthcare Access:** Ensuring young people have access to affordable healthcare, including mental health services.
- **Social Protection:** Supporting policies that protect vulnerable youth populations.
- **Community Engagement:** Encouraging youth involvement in community development and social initiatives.

