COMMONWEALTH YOUTH COUNCIL

2026 Executive Committee Elections

Election Guide and Role Descriptions

Nominations and voting online on the Mi-Voice platform
November 2026

CYC Electoral Board, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat
Commonwealth Youth Council 2026 Executive Committee Elections

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About this document

This guide sets out the process, rules and role descriptions for the 2026 CYC Executive Committee elections, bringing the election guide, nomination instructions and role descriptions together in one document.

1. The 2026 elections at a glance

The Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC) Electoral Board, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat, will run the 2026 elections for the CYC Executive Committee. The elections will be held **entirely online**, with nominations and voting managed on the **Mi-Voice** platform.

10	56	1	48h
positions to be elected	national delegations voting	vote per delegation, by secret ballot	online voting window on Mi-Voice

Milestone	Date
Call for nominations opens	23 November 2026
Nominations close	30 November 2026
Notification of outcome	14 December
Campaigning	17-19 December
Voting on Mi-Voice	20-21 December
Results announced	22 December

Two rotation rules apply in 2026

Chair rotates to Asia

Under Article 21(2)(f) of the CYC Constitution, the Chairperson rotates between regions in alphabetical order. The 2024–2026 Chair is from Africa (Ghana), so the 2026 Chairperson must be a national of an **Asia-region** country.

A new country for every seat

Under Article 21(2)(g), no country may hold the same elected position for two consecutive terms. Each incoming office-holder must be from a **different country** from the 2024–2026 holder (see Section 3).

2. The CYC and its Executive

The Commonwealth Youth Council is the official representative voice of more than 1.5 billion young people in the Commonwealth. It is a coalition of national youth councils and other youth-led civil society and private sector organisations from across the 56 member countries, and works to integrate young people into the development work of the Commonwealth at national, regional and pan-Commonwealth levels.

The CYC is led by a 10-member Executive Committee, elected by and accountable to the General Assembly, which is made up of the National Youth Delegations of the 56 member countries. All Executive roles are **voluntary and unpaid**, and each requires a minimum of **20 hours per week**.

Positions to be elected

#	Position	Group
1	**Chairperson**	Chair
2	**Vice Chairperson – Partnerships & Resources**	Vice Chairs
3	**Vice Chairperson – Policy & Advocacy**	Vice Chairs
4	**Vice Chairperson – Inclusion & Engagement**	Vice Chairs
5	**Regional Representative – Africa**	Regional Representatives
6	**Regional Representative – Asia**	Regional Representatives
7	**Regional Representative – Caribbean**	Regional Representatives
8	**Regional Representative – Europe & Canada**	Regional Representatives
9	**Regional Representative – Pacific**	Regional Representatives
10	**Representative – Special Interest Groups**	Special Interest

The Caribbean region includes the Commonwealth members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Canada is grouped with Europe for CYC purposes. The full list of countries by region is in Annex D.

Term of office

- The term of office is **two years and is non-renewable** (Article 21(2)(b)).
- The incoming Executive takes office after the announcement of results.

3. Rotation rules and the 2024–2026 Executive

Chairperson: rotation to Asia

Article 21(2)(f) of the CYC Constitution provides that the Chairperson rotates in alphabetical order between the regions of the Commonwealth: Africa and Europe; Asia; Caribbean and Americas; Pacific. The previous Chair (2022–2024) was from Papua New Guinea in the Pacific, and the 2024–2026 Chair is from Ghana in Africa. **The 2026–2028 Chairperson must therefore come from the Asia region.**

2022–2024	2024–2026	2026–2028	2028–2030
Pacific	**Africa & Europe**	**ASIA**	**Caribbean & Americas**
Papua New Guinea	*Ghana*	*This election*	*Next in rotation*

Eligible countries for Chairperson in 2026

Bangladesh · Brunei Darussalam · India · Malaysia · Maldives · Pakistan · Singapore · Sri Lanka

All positions: a different country from the 2024–2026 holder

Article 21(2)(g) provides that no country or member organisation may hold an elected position of the Council for two consecutive terms. This is applied to each position: **the incoming holder of each position must be from a different country from the 2024–2026 holder of that position.** Nominees from the restricted country remain free to stand for any other position for which they are eligible.

2024–2026 Executive Committee and 2026 eligibility

The table lists the members of the 2024–2026 Executive Committee and shows who may stand for each position in 2026.

Position	2024–2026 holder	Country	Who may stand in 2026
Chairperson	Joshua Opey	Ghana	**Asia-region** nationals only (rotation)
VC – Partnerships & Resources	Gurdit Singh Vohra	India	All countries **except India**
VC – Policy & Advocacy	Falit Sijariya	India	All countries **except India**
VC – Inclusion & Engagement	Neema Sheikh Abdikadir	Kenya	All countries **except Kenya**
Regional Rep – Africa	Rosy Schaneck	Namibia	Africa region **except Namibia**
Regional Rep – Asia	Muskaan Anand	India	Asia region **except India**
Regional Rep – Caribbean	Amanda Jessica Slew	Jamaica	Caribbean region **except Jamaica**
Regional Rep – Europe & Canada	Eunice Oladejo	Canada	Cyprus, Malta, UK (**not Canada**)
Regional Rep – Pacific	Moeloto Tuilaepa Tiatia	Samoa	Pacific region **except Samoa**
Rep – Special Interest Groups	Farhana Bhat	India	All countries **except India**

4. Who can stand

To be eligible, a nominee must meet all of the following requirements. Nominations that do not meet them will not be shortlisted.

Requirement	Detail
Age	Aged at least 15 and must not reach their 30th birthday during the 2-year term of office (Article 21(2)(a)).
Nationality	A national of a Commonwealth member country. Nominees do not need to live in that country.
Regional link	Candidates for a Regional Representative position must be nationals of a country in that region. Candidates for Chairperson in 2026 must be nationals of an Asia-region country.
Rotation	Not a national of the country of the 2024–2026 holder of the position (see Section 3).
Experience	At least **three years'** experience as a national and regional or international youth leader and advocate; **four years** for Chairperson. See the role descriptions in Annex A.
Competencies	Able to demonstrate at least **six** of the competencies in the framework at Annex B.
Nomination	Endorsed by a National Youth Council, a Regional Youth Council, or a registered national, regional or international youth-led organisation.
One position	Each nominee may stand for **one position only**.
Availability	Able to commit at least 20 hours per week, take part in the handover and attend the installation.

Encouraging a representative Executive

Nominating organisations are encouraged to put forward candidates who reflect the diversity of young people in the Commonwealth, including young women, young people with disabilities, young people under 24 and those from small states and under-represented communities.

5. Timeline

The table sets out the tentative dates for each stage of the election. **Dates will be confirmed by the Electoral Board.** All deadlines are 23:59 GMT unless stated otherwise.

	Date	Stage	What happens
		Preparation	Electoral Board and Returning Officer confirmed; Mi-Voice nomination and voting set up and tested; voting contact for each national delegation confirmed; call for nominations and letters to Ministers finalised.
	23 November 2026	**Nominations open**	Call for nominations published on Mi-Voice and CYC channels; letters sent to Ministers responsible for youth and to High Commissions.
	30 November 2026	**Nominations close**	Complete packages must be submitted on Mi-Voice by 23:59 GMT. Late or incomplete nominations will not be accepted.
	1 December- 11 December	**Screening**	Electoral Board checks eligibility, documents and references.
	14 December	**Outcomes notified**	All nominees told the outcome by email.
	16 December	**Candidacy confirmed**	Shortlisted nominees confirm they accept their candidacy and the campaign rules.
	17 December	**Campaign opens**	Candidate profiles go live on Mi-Voice; press announcement; campaigning may begin.
	19 December	**Campaign closes**	All campaigning ends at 23:59 GMT.
	20-21 December	**Voting**	48 hours on Mi-Voice, opening at 00:00 GMT and closing at 23:59 GMT on the second day.
	22 December	**Count and verification**	Mi-Voice count; results checked and certified by the Returning Officer.
	22 December	**Results announced**	Results published and candidates notified.

Colour key: grey = preparation · navy = nominations · blue = screening · green = campaign · red = voting and results ·

6. How to apply

All nominations must be submitted through the online nomination form on **Mi-Voice**: www.mi-nomination.com/cyc Paper or emailed nominations will not be accepted.

Nominees make **one submission only**. The documents you upload are used by the Electoral Board for screening and, if you are shortlisted, published on your Mi-Voice candidate profile, so please submit final versions.

Nomination checklist

#	Item	Requirement	Format	Public?
1	**Online nomination form**	Candidate and nominator details, position, optional social media handles, and the declarations in Annex C.	Mi-Voice form	Partly
2	**Headshot photograph**	One recent (within 6 months), high-resolution colour headshot against a plain background; dressed appropriately, no hat or dark glasses.	JPEG / PNG	Yes
3	**Personal profile**	Up to **300 words**: background, education and experience, showing how you meet the qualifications and at least six competencies (Annex B).	Form Response	Yes
4	**Manifesto**	Up to **1,000 words**: what you will achieve in the role, how and by when, linked to the main duties in the role description (Annex A).	Form Response	Yes
5	**Campaign video**	One video of up to **3 minutes**, uploaded to YouTube (public or unlisted). See naming rules below.	YouTube link	Yes
6	**CV**	Up to **2 pages**. Used for verification only.	PDF	No
7	**Endorsement and reference letter**	One letter on letterhead, signed and stamped by the nominating National or Regional Youth Council or registered youth-led organisation. It must both endorse the nominee and comment on their experience and suitability.	PDF	No
8	**Government attestation letter**	On letterhead, signed and stamped by a Government Ministry or Department, or a Member of Parliament, confirming the nominee's details.	PDF	No
9	**Campaign Photo**	Preferred Campaign Photo	PNG/JPEG	Yes
10	**Passport**	A copy of the photo page of the nominee's passport.	PDF / JPEG / PNG, 6 MB	No

Government attestation and the short window

Nominees should request the government attestation letter as soon as the call opens. If the letter is delayed, upload a request for an extension in its place.

Shortlisted nominees must then submit the letter by a date set by the Board. All other documents must be submitted by the closing date.

Naming your campaign video

Title your YouTube video exactly as follows, using the position titles in Section 2:

CYC EXCO Elections 2026 – <Name of Candidate>, <Position>

Example: CYC EXCO Elections 2026 – Jane Doe, Regional Representative – Pacific

Practical points

- Remove private details (home address, phone number, ID numbers) from any document that will be published.
- Keep to the word and time limits; materials that exceed them may be returned or truncated.
- Submit early. Mi-Voice will be busy close to the deadline and late submissions cannot be accepted.
- Questions about the process should be sent to **cyc@commonwealth.int**.

7. Screening and confirmation

After nominations close, the Electoral Board reviews every nomination for each position against the eligibility requirements, the rotation rules and the checklist.

1. **Completeness.** Is every required item present and within the limits?
2. **Eligibility.** Do the age, nationality, region, rotation and experience requirements hold?
3. **Verification.** Are the endorsement, reference and attestation genuine? The Board may contact referees or ask for further information.
4. **Notification.** All nominees are told the outcome by email.
5. **Confirmation.** Shortlisted nominees confirm by email that they accept their candidacy and the campaign rules by the deadline set by the Board. A nomination becomes effective on confirmation.
6. **Publication.** The final list of candidates for each position is published once all confirmations are received.

Background checks

Where background checks apply, nominees must disclose any criminal record, including convictions, cautions, reprimands and final warnings, and any other information that may bear on their suitability. Providing false or misleading information will lead to disqualification or, if elected, to removal from office.

8. Campaigning and conduct

When and how

- Campaigning may begin only when the campaign period opens and must end by **23:59 GMT on the last day of the campaign period**.
- All campaigning is **online**: social media, virtual meetings, email and the official Mi-Voice candidate profile.
- Candidates are expected to take part fully in all official campaign activities.

Campaign costs

Candidates are **advised not to spend any money on their campaigns**. Free digital tools, including social media, video platforms, messaging apps and virtual meeting services, allow candidates to reach National Youth Delegates effectively at no cost.

Campaigning without spending keeps the election fair and open to every candidate, whatever their means. The Electoral Board encourages candidates to focus on their ideas, their manifesto and their campaign video.

Expected conduct

Candidates must campaign honestly, respectfully and in line with the values of the Commonwealth, the CYC Constitution and this guide. The following are not permitted:

✕ Any form of harassment, intimidation, bullying, hate speech or personal attacks on other candidates or voters	✕ Offering or promising money, gifts, positions or other inducements in return for votes or endorsements
✕ Publishing false or misleading information about yourself or other candidates	✕ Using CYC or Commonwealth Secretariat logos, accounts or channels in a way that suggests official endorsement
✕ Campaigning before the campaign opens and after it closes, directly or through third parties	✕ Attempting to influence or discuss the election privately with members of the Electoral Board

Sanctions

The Electoral Board may respond to breaches proportionately, by a warning, a requirement to remove content, restrictions on campaign activity or, for serious or repeated misconduct, **disqualification**.

9. Voting on Mi-Voice

Who votes

- The voters are the **National Youth Delegations** that make up the CYC General Assembly.
- Each of the 56 national delegations has **one vote**, cast by secret ballot (Articles 20(6) and 21(1)(b)).
- Each delegation receives **one unique Mi-Voice voting code**, sent to its confirmed voting contact. Delegations should agree internally how they will cast their vote.
- Every delegation may vote in **all ten positions**.
- Where a registered delegation cannot vote, it may appoint another delegation as its **proxy** (Article 21(1)(c)). Proxies must be notified to the Returning Officer before voting opens.
- Voting instructions and codes are sent before voting opens, with email reminders. Support is available throughout the 48-hour window at Mi-Voice support at **support@mi-voice.com or call +44 (0)23 8076 3987**.

How preferential voting works

The CYC uses **preferential voting**. Instead of choosing one candidate, voters **rank the candidates in order of preference**: 1 for their first choice, 2 for their second, and so on. Voters may rank as many or as few candidates as they wish.

To win, a candidate needs **more than half** of the votes still in the count. If no one has this on first preferences, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and their votes pass to the next preference shown. This repeats until one candidate has a majority.

Re-Open Nominations (RON) appears on every ballot as an option. Voters who do not support any candidate can rank RON. If RON wins, the position is re-opened.

Worked example (56 votes, majority = 29)

Candidate	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Candidate A	20	22	27
Candidate B	18	21	**29 - elected**
Candidate C	12	13	eliminated
Candidate D	6	eliminated	-

Round 2: D's 6 votes pass to A (2), B (3) and C (1). Round 3: C's 13 votes pass to A (5) and B (8). B reaches 29 and is elected, even though A led on first preferences.

10. Results

Count and results

When voting closes, Mi-Voice produces the count for each position. The Returning Officer checks and certifies the results, which are announced on CYC channels and emailed to all candidates and delegations.

Appeals and Resolutions

A clear route for concerns protects candidates, voters and the credibility of the result. The following procedure is proposed, subject to the CYC Electoral Regulations:

Stage	Who and how
1. Appeals/ Complaint	Any candidate or delegation may submit a written complaint, with evidence, to the Returning Officer at CYC@Commonwealth.int within 24 hours of the incident.
2. Decision	The Electoral Board considers the complaint, hears from those concerned and gives a written decision with reasons.

Handover and installation

- Following the announcement of results, the new executive will receive orientation and hand over of responsibilities and records of the CYC.
- Newly elected members take the Oath of Office, sign the Executive Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct.

11. The Electoral Board

The Electoral Board, led by the Returning Officer, oversees the elections in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat, supported by election officers and the Mi-Voice platform (Article 21(4)).

Role	Name
Returning Officer	Cherisse Sultana
Electoral Board members	Chisom Jane Ikechukwu, Jaida Boateng
Voting provider	Mi-Voice

Integrity commitments

Every member of the Electoral Board signs a Code of Conduct. In summary, Board members commit to:

Impartiality – no favour to any candidate; personal views kept out of decisions	**Transparency** – decisions communicated clearly, with reasons
Conflicts of interest – disclosed promptly, with recusal where needed	**Confidentiality** – candidate and voter information protected
No endorsement – no public or private support for any candidate	**Official channels only** – no private election discussion with candidates or their supporters, and no membership of campaign WhatsApp or similar groups
Fair and equal treatment – no advantage based on affiliation	**Integrity of the vote** – accurate counting and vigilance against fraud or coercion

Annex A – Role descriptions

Each role description sets out the purpose of the role, the qualifications and experience required, the main duties and who may stand in 2026. Every Executive member serves as a trustee of the CYC, is accountable to the General Assembly, and should allow **at least 20 hours per week**. All candidates must demonstrate at least six competencies from the framework in Annex B.

1. Chairperson

Who may stand — 2026: Open only to nationals of Asia-region countries — Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka (Article 21(2)(f) rotation).

Overall purpose

The Chairperson is the presiding officer of the Council's Executive meetings, provides leadership and direction to the Council and is its official spokesperson. The Chair's primary role is to ensure the Council sets and delivers its strategic plan and work priorities effectively, efficiently and to a high standard, and that the Executive is well governed. The Chair is accountable to the General Assembly and is the direct liaison between the Executive Committee and the CYC Secretariat.

Qualifications, skills and experience

A minimum of **four years'** experience as a national and regional or international youth leader and advocate, with a proven track record. Good knowledge of youth development issues, resource management and strategic planning; strong organisational skills; relevant work or policy experience in the Commonwealth and at the global/United Nations level; and a sound knowledge of rules of order.

Main duties

- Be the foremost champion and advocate for young people in the Commonwealth, and promote the CYC through formal and informal networks
- Provide leadership to the Executive, and be accountable to the members and the Executive
- Plan and conduct Executive meetings effectively and ensure decisions are implemented
- Recommend policies, programmes and actions to advance the CYC, and take all major actions to the Executive for approval
- Ensure all Executive members are involved in the Committee's work and that it focuses on the priorities set by the General Assembly
- Ensure information is shared regularly and in good time with the Executive and the General Assembly, and report formally to the General Assembly on the status of the Council
- Act as principal signing authority for financial, legal and statutory purposes
- Represent the Council to the Commonwealth, youth organisations, governments and international bodies, and promote inter-regional and pan-Commonwealth networks with IGOs and INGOs
- Govern the organisation in keeping with the CYC Constitution, by-laws and policies, and periodically assess and strengthen the Executive's performance
- Support and manage the Chief Executive of the CYC Secretariat
- Build, maintain and grow relationships with partners and stakeholders, and ensure the resources the CYC needs are available and accountably managed
- Serve as a trustee of the CYC and ensure a positive public image of the organisation is built and maintained

Time commitment

A minimum of **20 hours per week**. The role is voluntary and unpaid.

2. Vice Chairperson – Partnerships & Resources

Who may stand — 2026: Open to nationals of all Commonwealth countries except India (country of the 2024–2026 holder).

Overall purpose

The lead officer responsible for advocating and promoting effective collaboration and partnerships among relevant stakeholders. The Vice Chair leads on setting the CYC's budget, reports on and monitors its finances, and leads resource mobilisation and fundraising on behalf of the Council. The Vice Chair develops joint programmes and projects with partners and coordinates, monitors and reports on them.

Qualifications, skills and experience

A minimum of **three years'** experience at national and regional or international level with a proven track record; sound knowledge of accounting principles and of resource mobilisation and financial management in an organisational context; and a sound understanding of how to build and sustain partnerships.

Main duties

- Prepare, present and report to the Executive and General Assembly on the budget, accounts and financial statements
- Ensure proper records are kept and the CYC adheres to its financial regulations; monitor and advise on its financial viability
- Identify potential partners, and build, sustain and manage the CYC's partnerships
- Identify and mobilise cash and non-cash resources, and safeguard the Council's assets and property
- Monitor and coordinate joint initiatives with stakeholders
- Facilitate meetings of the Stakeholders Panel on behalf of the Executive and act as liaison between the Panel and the Executive
- Advise on the financial implications of the CYC strategic plan and support the Secretariat on financial matters
- Fulfil the Chair function in the Chair's absence, as required, and act as a signing authority for financial, legal and statutory purposes
- Build and sustain a positive public image of the organisation and serve as an effective trustee of the CYC

Time commitment

A minimum of **20 hours per week**. The role is voluntary and unpaid.

3. Vice Chairperson – Policy & Advocacy

Who may stand — 2026: Open to nationals of all Commonwealth countries except India (country of the 2024–2026 holder).

Overall purpose

The lead officer providing strategic direction and leadership in planning, implementing and reviewing the CYC's policy, advocacy, campaigning and communications work. The Vice Chair represents the CYC, its work and policy positions to internal and external audiences, and adapts key messages for written and online communications, media and fundraising.

Qualifications, skills and experience

A minimum of **three years'** experience at national and regional or international level with a proven track record; a good understanding of youth policy, development and global issues; experience managing advocacy campaigns across a range of tools and platforms; excellent written and verbal communication; and good lobbying and negotiation skills.

Main duties

- Coordinate the CYC's policy development, advocacy work and advocacy campaigns
- Work closely with other youth organisations to effect policy change at all levels
- Coordinate research and analysis on key youth policy issues and track the Commonwealth policy environment
- Advise on the CYC's political strategy and positioning
- Build relationships with relevant bodies to advance CYC policy objectives
- Develop policy and advocacy outputs such as briefings, position papers, press releases and reports
- Report to the General Assembly on the CYC's policy work
- Support agreed national, regional and international campaigns on behalf of the Council
- Work with the media to promote the CYC policy agenda and ensure an effective presence on social and other media
- Serve as an effective trustee of the CYC

Time commitment

A minimum of **20 hours per week**. The role is voluntary and unpaid.

4. Vice Chairperson - Inclusion & Engagement

Who may stand — 2026: Open to nationals of all Commonwealth countries except Kenya (country of the 2024–2026 holder).

Overall purpose

Coordinates the CYC's engagement with members and all its internal and external events, and develops plans for members' ongoing engagement with the Council. The Vice Chair works to ensure persons with disabilities, minorities and other excluded groups are included and mainstreamed in all decision-making and activities, leads on membership communication, and is the focal point for all members and affiliated observers.

Qualifications, skills and experience

A minimum of **three years'** experience at national and regional or international level with a proven track record in diversity and inclusion; strong organisational and event management skills; experience in promotion, marketing and stakeholder engagement; and extensive experience of working across a range of stakeholders.

Main duties

- Support the development and delivery of a membership strategy that maximises benefits to members and the CYC
- Develop and maintain an accurate membership database, and recruit new members or affiliated observers as needed
- Coordinate and support the national and regional delegations
- Promote the inclusion of marginalised young people at all levels of the CYC, and grow the CYC's diversity and inclusion strategy and work
- Chair the CYC's membership panel and report to the General Assembly on membership
- Run an effective communication system for members and provide them with accurate information
- Coordinate and manage the General Assembly and other membership events
- Monitor membership representation on sub-committees, and deal effectively with concerns, complaints and conflicts between members
- Serve as an effective trustee of the CYC

Time commitment

A minimum of **20 hours per week**. The role is voluntary and unpaid.

5-9. Regional Representatives

Africa · Asia · Caribbean · Europe & Canada · Pacific

Who may stand — 2026: Candidates must be nationals of a country in the region they stand for. Not open to nationals of: Namibia (Africa), India (Asia), Jamaica (Caribbean), Canada (Europe & Canada), Samoa (Pacific).

Overall purpose

Supports the overall governance of the CYC in their region and is accountable to the General Assembly as the official liaison between the CYC and the region. The Regional Representative is a committed advocate and ambassador for the Council, supports national youth councils and bodies, heads the Regional Delegation, and coordinates and promotes the Council's work at regional level.

Qualifications, skills and experience

A minimum of **three years'** experience as a regional or international youth leader with a proven track record; good knowledge of youth development issues, policy and development organisations in the region; and good organisational skills.

Main duties

- Be the advocate and liaison for young people in the region, and promote the CYC through regional networks
- Support the CYC in achieving the objectives in its Strategic Plan, and serve as a trustee of the CYC in the region
- Prepare for and attend Executive meetings, and plan and conduct regional meetings
- Keep members in the region informed and ensure all member organisations in the region are involved in the CYC's work
- Prepare regional reports and updates for the Executive
- Represent the Council to national youth organisations, governments and regional bodies, and at national and regional events
- Promote intra-regional networks with other non-governmental organisations, and work with national youth bodies to expand CYC programmes
- Build closer relationships with governments, donors, civil society and other stakeholders in the region
- Support advocacy, lobbying and mainstreaming of youth development work in the region
- Collate information from members and maintain a database of member organisations in the region

Time commitment

A minimum of **20 hours per week**. The role is voluntary and unpaid.

10. Representative - Special Interest Groups

Who may stand — 2026: Open to nationals of all Commonwealth countries except India (country of the 2024–2026 holder).

Overall purpose

Supports the overall governance of the CYC in the interest of excluded and under-represented groups, affiliated observers, thematic and standing committees and other youth networks. The Representative is accountable to the General Assembly as the official liaison between the CYC and special interest groups, advocates for marginalised young people, and works in close partnership with the Vice Chair for Inclusion & Engagement.

Qualifications, skills and experience

A minimum of three years' experience at national and regional or international level as a youth leader with a proven track record; good knowledge of youth development and of the issues facing under-represented and marginalised young people; and sound coordination and organisational skills.

Main duties

- Represent the views of under-represented and marginalised young people to the CYC
- Coordinate the work and inputs of youth networks and the reports of special groups within the CYC
- Provide timely updates and information to affiliated observers
- Support the work and inputs of standing committees
- Act as liaison between thematic networks, affiliated observers and the Executive
- Develop and implement actions that engage special groups in the Council
- Support the work of the Vice Chair for Inclusion & Engagement
- Ensure inclusion and accessibility are considered in all CYC projects and initiatives
- Serve as a trustee of the CYC

Time commitment

A minimum of **20 hours per week**. The role is voluntary and unpaid.

Annex B – Competency framework

This framework applies to **all ten positions**. Nominees should show, in their personal profile and manifesto, that they are competent in **six or more** of the following areas.

Cluster	Competency	Definition
INTERPERSONAL	**Working with others**	Develops productive relationships with others, respecting cultural diversity.
	Communication	Expresses information clearly and effectively; listens actively; interprets messages correctly and responds appropriately, tailoring communication to the audience.
	Leadership & development	Provides and communicates a clear vision, purpose and direction; serves as a role model; develops strategies to achieve objectives; empowers others; shows courage to take unpopular stances and drives change. Supports own and others' development.
EXPERTISE	**Planning & analysis**	Organises and prioritises tasks effectively, monitors performance against deadlines and milestones, and interprets information to resolve a range of issues.
	Developing & applying professional expertise	Proactively develops own expertise and applies knowledge effectively to a range of issues.
	Managing resources	Identifies, deploys and directs resources, such as people or budget, to meet objectives.
PRINCIPLES & VALUES	**Accountability**	Takes ownership of responsibilities, honours commitments and delivers within the agreed time, cost and quality standards.
	Respect for diversity	Builds respect, tolerance and understanding of diversity in dealing with colleagues, partners and stakeholders.
	Adhering to principles and values	Operates in line with the values and principles of the Commonwealth, supporting it in pursuit of its aims.
DRIVE	**Decision making**	Objectively assesses available information, makes effective decisions on a variety of issues and takes ownership of them.
	Adapting & innovating	Creates pioneering processes, strategies or solutions, adapts to changing circumstances and shows flexibility where appropriate.
	Leadership & development	Falls under both the Drive and Interpersonal clusters (see definition above).

Annex C – Nominee declarations

Nominees confirm the following declarations when submitting the Mi-Voice nomination form. The CYC Electoral Board may withdraw a nomination, with or without notice, if any of them is found not to be met.

1. The information I have given is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that false or misleading information will disqualify me or, if I am elected, may lead to my removal without notice.
2. I meet the eligibility requirements in Section 4 of the 2026 Election Guide, including the age requirement for the term of office.
3. I hold the qualifications and experience I have claimed, and have obtained all the required endorsements and letters.
4. Where background checks apply, I will disclose any criminal record (including convictions, cautions, reprimands and final warnings) and any other information that may bear on my suitability.
5. I understand the 2026 rotation rules: the Chairperson must be from the Asia region, and I may not stand for a position whose 2024–2026 holder is from my country (Section 3).
6. I will abide by the CYC Constitution, the CYC Electoral Regulations, this guide and the campaign rules, and will accept the decisions of the Electoral Board and the Arbitrators.
7. I understand that candidates are advised not to spend any money on their campaigns, and I will campaign using free tools.
8. If elected, I will take part in the handover, take the Oath of Office at the installation, and sign the Executive Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct.
9. If elected, I will commit at least 20 hours per week to the role.
10. I consent to the CYC and the Commonwealth Secretariat using my information for election administration under data protection law, and to my profile, photograph, manifesto and video being published on Mi-Voice and CYC channels.

Annex D – Commonwealth countries by CYC region

The Commonwealth has 56 member countries. For CYC purposes, Canada is grouped with Europe. Countries shown in **bold red** cannot stand for that region's Representative position in 2026 under the rotation rule.

Africa (21)	Asia (8)	Caribbean (12)	Europe & Canada (4)	Pacific (11)
Botswana	Bangladesh	Antigua and Barbuda	**Canada**	Australia
Cameroon	Brunei Darussalam	The Bahamas	Cyprus	Fiji
Eswatini	**India**	Barbados	Malta	Kiribati
Gabon	Malaysia	Belize	United Kingdom	Nauru
The Gambia	Maldives	Dominica		New Zealand
Ghana	Pakistan	Grenada		Papua New Guinea
Kenya	Singapore	Guyana		**Samoa**
Lesotho	Sri Lanka	**Jamaica**		Solomon Islands
Malawi		Saint Kitts and Nevis		Tonga
Mauritius		Saint Lucia		Tuvalu
Mozambique		Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		Vanuatu
Namibia		Trinidad and Tobago		
Nigeria				
Rwanda				
Seychelles				
Sierra Leone				
South Africa				
Togo				
Uganda				
United Republic of Tanzania				
Zambia				