

**Sixth COMMACT “Working For Common  
Wealth” Conference (6WCW)**

**Mumbai, India, 16-19 October 2005**

***Theme: “Re-Engineering COMMACT”***

**CONFERENCE REPORT**

**COMMACT is grateful to the Commonwealth Foundation, Jobs Australia Inc, Community Sector Banking, Australia and COMMACT UK for their financial support for the conference and COMMACT's activities.**

# **COMMACT Sixth “Working For Common Wealth” Conference (6WCW), Mumbai, India, 16-19 October 2005**

***Theme: “Re-Engineering COMMACT”***

## ***Introduction***

This report summarises the discussions and decisions made at the 6WCW conference. The conference programme is at Annex 1.

### ***1<sup>st</sup> day: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2005***

*Chair: Ms. Devasmita Sridhar, India.*

#### ***Eulogy***

The conference began with a eulogy to former member/advocate/ friend Shabbi Kohli. The words of love and admiration were led by Roopa Mehta and Michael K.J.

As a key member of COMMACT since soon after its inception, as a passionate advocate of the organisation, and as Chair of COMMACT India. Shabbi is greatly missed, but nevertheless recognised as one of the reasons why the organisation is still standing today.

A two-minute silence was observed.

#### ***Transfer of responsibility***

The traditional handing over of the Maori oar (first given to COMMACT at the inaugural General Assembly in New Zealand in 1990) was carried out, with Nico Ferreira (South Africa, hosts of the 5WCW) making the presentation to Noel D’Silva. This symbolic gesture is one that was described as the representation of a voyage of progress, development and the empowering of people. The spirit of a shared direction for all those the world who want to make a contribution to people-centred development is encapsulated in the oar and in COMMACT.

*Welcome address by COMMACT Honorary President Noel D’Silva.*

Noel D’Silva warmly welcomed conference participants to the “throbbing, culturally rich and first city of India“. He highlighted that Mumbai is a city of contradictions, where the marginalised and oppressed live side by side with those living with great wealth and inhabiting the corridors of power.

Noel's key points were:

- The 6WCW is everyone's conference.
- Thanks to the Commonwealth Foundation, COMMACT UK, Jobs Australia, and Community Sector Banking Australia for the financial support which made the 6WCW and COMMACT's future activities, possible.
- "This is an age of technology and tragedy and the tragedies are shaping the world. COMMACT should be one of many in the effort to change this"
- COMMACT should be a community organisation, individualism should not be a guiding principle: "All for one and one for all".
- It is a strong community with strong ideals and an organisation through which people can share their knowledge and expertise.

*Proposals for a re-engineered COMMACT*

*Presented by COMMACT interim Chairperson, Colin Ball*

Colin spoke to the "Re-engineering COMMACT" paper (available as a separate document) that had been drafted over the months before the conference by the Executive Council and circulated to all participants in advance.

Colin's key points were:

- The 6WCW is quite different from all past COMMACT WCW conferences in that past conferences they have concentrated on giving the opportunity for practitioners in PCD (people centred development) to share their experiences. The conferences gave too little time to the development of COMMACT itself, as an organisation. The central purpose of the 6WCW conference was to give priority, unashamedly, to COMMACT's general working and functioning, which have been ignored for too long.
  - COMMACT has many achievements to its credit, but is still not fulfilling its potential.
  - The 2004 Liverpool "gathering", the ideas and results of which are included in the *Re-engineering* paper, laid the basis for the future development of COMMACT.
- Three features define COMMACT:
- 1.It is an organisation of people who want to *do* things. Not academics or consultants but real practitioners who work in the field.
  - 2.*Sharing* expertise, experiences and success is at the heart of the organisation.
  - 3.Everyone in COMMACT likes to *meet* and there is no substitute.
- Areas of necessary improvement include these:
- Improving on the "sharing" that occurs through the organisation

- The vision and focus of the organisation needs to be re-examined in order to find a common ground in the direction of COMMACT. That said, the vision agreed as long ago as 1992 at the 3WCW still seems valid. Indeed it seems more valid now than it was then!
- COMMACT needs to do more to share its knowledge, beliefs and influence with the wider world, from the men and women on the street to those who occupy the highest positions of power. If COMMACT is likened to an orange, this influence is the outer skin of the organisation.
- Within the orange that is COMMACT, some segments of the organisation have been working well – now and even more so in the past there have been very active Chapter organisations – and some are not. There needs to be a step forward: the segments – whether geographical ones such as Chapters, or thematic ones focusing on particular aspects of PCD – need to be developed. The ‘local economic development’ segment is very well developed but there are other areas that are not so well represented such as education, health, shelter and environment.
- At the heart of all the segments are the ‘pips’ – key grassroots activists who drive the organisation. These are not only the drivers of the organisation, however: they are the seeds of its future. COMMACT needs more of them and more from them.
- Finally, the Re-engineering paper does not cover every detail. Far from it: it sets out the basis rather than the details. It is for this conference to add the detail, and indeed to challenge the basics. That is the challenge for all of us.

### *The new Portal/Website*

*Presented by David Thompson and Peter Quarmby*

David and Peter stressed that the new portal/website proposal was a way of enhancing COMMACT’S communication without anything taking away from its unique personal style.

The format of the portal is comprised of several layers. At the very heart of it is the COMMACT international website which would be the umbrella site for a series of smaller sites. They would all take the same format through a website ‘cloning’ system. This would enable all COMMACT member organisations and community groups, chapters and regional groups to have their own sites that lead off from the main site. The control of information would ultimately be in the hands of COMMACT administrator of main portal, but would enable inter-sector communication. At each layer there will also be forums for discussion, calendars,

notice boards, document archives, online chats and a search engine. The overall design, as presented, is available as a separate document.

### *Key points from the plenary discussion following the presentations*

The discussion that followed from the presentations was lively and thought-invoking from the outset.

The key points and questions raised included::

- Why is there the need to re-engineer COMMACT; where exactly has it failed in the past?
- What should COMMACT be, and what does it want to become? A unique selling point/vision/focus is needed.
- COMMACT should break down the barriers in development that exist between the different disciplines and provide a link for practitioners who are involved in a wide variety of work for people-centred development.
- If COMMACT does not move on it may wither and die.
- In addition to “*doing, sharing and learning*” COMMACT should be *influencing*.
- Economic and social development are interlinked.
- COMMACT has been very good at focusing on local economic development in the past, but it has neglected some of the other areas of the field.
- Even though COMMACT is made up of practitioners it is failing to act as a pressure group.
- How do non-English speakers access the website at the grassroots level?
- In the growth and expansion of COMMACT through communication in the form of the new portal/website, it should not diffuse its vision.
- How should membership be organised and implemented?
- How does COMMACT give grass-root practitioners a voice on the international stage?
- COMMACT needs to be an organisation that influences people on the street, including the indigenous and oppressed, to at the very top of the “political food chain”, heads of government. And everyone in between.
- What is COMMACT’S position on globalisation?
- Stories of success in the development field should be made available.
- It is not just about voicing the concerns of the ‘professionals’ but also about giving a voice to everyone. Getting these voices heard is essential.

### *Afternoon session - Working groups*

The afternoon working groups focussed on four key aspects of COMMACT: its vision and purpose (it was felt that this should be added in the light of the morning’s discussion); its technology and communications (as proposed as sub-topic b. on the programme); its membership and chapter arrangements (as proposed at c. and f. on the programme); and its structure and governance (as proposed at a. and e. of the programme).

In briefing the groups the Chairperson encouraged them not to be too restrained by their focus: everyone should feel free to 'spill over' into the topics being covered by other groups, as all the issues were inter-connected.

The reports back were as follows:

### ***COMMACT's Vision and purpose***

Two groups focused on this subject and reported separately

#### *Group 1:*

- People-centred development (PCD) is the focus for COMMACT.
- PCD includes:
  - Voice for the voiceless: The marginalised, poor, underprivileged, indigenous, and oppressed.
  - Sustainable development: a balance of, the natural, socio-economic, protection of and increase of indigenous knowledge.
  - Influence/lobbying in the Commonwealth: Advocacy, critique of globalisation, support for people centred politics and opposing "anti-people" policies.
  - Sharing: All for one and one for all, solidarity, meeting in person, aligning with other networks around other issues.
- COMMACT Membership fee – should be affordable, and collected by local chapter.
- 'Issue based Commissions': these should be established by COMMACT as and when necessary, in the light of world events, to examine particular issues.

#### *Group 2:*

- The Who, Why and How of COMMACT:
  - **Who:** Individuals, NGOs and other institutions that are involved in the promotion of community based, integrated local development. Academics should be invited and membership should stretch beyond the Commonwealth.
  - **Why:** "Doing, Sharing and learning." Develop new strategies and continue support for capacity-building projects. Connecting and linking practitioners on the national and international level.
  - **How:** Resource centre, the internet, meeting in person, exchange visits, news letters, need analysis, documentation and publication, Resource directory and expert opinions, training, research, technology and most importantly a functional structure on both the national and international level.

## ***COMMACT's communications and technology***

What is needed is:

- Visibility, legitimacy and credibility.
- Easy to use and represent everyone.
- Interesting
- Strengthen network for society builders.
- Bridge the digital divide.
- User friendly.
- Regular updates.
- Continuous evolution.
- E-letter.
- Consistency in design and content.
- Security.
- Promotion and training.

## ***COMMACT's governance and structure***

Main points discussed:

- Need for short-term interim arrangements between 6WCW and 7WCW.
- Another legal entity will need to be formed. It will be categorised legally as an Australian non-profit organisation with a board of directors of at least three members (two must be Australian and one can be a non-Australian). A Trust Deed could define the vision, purposes
- All chapters and components of COMMACT must be accountable.
- There must be a strategy for re-engineering Chapters as well as the international body.
- What resources are needed for all the ideas discussed?

## ***Membership and chapters***

Main points discussed:

- It is hard to attract new members without a clear vision.
- The use of too much development “jargon” may put some potential grassroots members off the organisation. Therefore a more open and accessible language needs to be used in the more public information made available including the new portal.
- Greater contribution into the international debates may bring new members. A more prominent role can be played by COMMACT.
- Membership should evolve from the grassroots.
- Contributions from non-members should be permitted in order to fulfil the sharing of ideas within the organisation.

- How should COMMACT accommodate new groups and chapters?
- Chapters must be able to liaise and lobby their own governments.

*Evening Speech: Dr Rajesh Tandon*

Dr Rajesh Tandon is Founder and President of PRIA, the Society for Participatory Research in Asia. He has many years of experience working at every level from local to international and has represented other people's voices for most of his career.

Rajesh's key points were:

- Commending COMMACT for taking a bold step to re-engineer: this is particularly rare in many NGOs, as it involves facing the question: is this organisation still needed? In 1993 for example, an organisation known as the Peoples Alliance for Social Development disappeared from the scene.
- PCD 'euphoria' peaked about 5 years ago: free market is now accepted and the language used is less 'confrontational' than it used to be: now for example 'exploitation' is not used. Instead the softer word 'exclusion' is used
- COMMACT can create a voice for the unheard and promote PCD as integral to better governance.
- We should not under-estimate the importance of the Commonwealth: it includes many small island states in the Pacific and the Caribbean sitting as equals, side-by-side with the big and powerful states. No other international forum provides this.
- The Commonwealth Heads of Government Declaration of 1999 in Durban spoke much more about PCD than the free market: it is a guiding light for us.
- Dr. Tandon encouraged participants to be bold in plotting a future for COMMACT.

***2<sup>nd</sup> Day: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October***

*Chair: Ms Padma Ratnayake, Sri Lanka*

*Morning:*

In the morning plenary session it was agreed that three working groups should be formed to continue the discussion of the previous day: vision and mission; membership; and structure.

The reports-back were as follows:

***Vision and Mission:***

Mission: "to support, promote and advocate for those who are marginalised, oppressed or rejected, to realise their full potential"

### Key features:

- Restoring dignity to those who are oppressed and lack opportunity is at the heart of COMMACT's values and principles.
- The power to change lies in working together as a coherent group bringing together many ideas and varied experiences.
- A short mission statement on the portal and in COMMACT'S newsletter will improve the knowledge of the vision and purpose of the organisation.
- COMMACT must oppose "anti-people" policies at every level.
- The personal sharing of ideas and the close network COMMACT provides is its unique quality. This must continue and be strengthened through formal and informal conferences, which will hopefully include an even bigger spectrum of members.
- International conferences must be every two years and national ones once a year.
- Interest-based working groups could be a good mechanism to improve the work of the organisation. These could have some powers to act within the system to be more effective outside it.
- International consistency is essential for a well defined vision.

### **Membership:**

- Different organisations, groups and people may want to be members of COMMACT. There should be a membership system that reflects this.
- There should be a three-pronged membership structure with different levels of entitlements within the organisation:
  - Ordinary Organisational Membership
  - Associate Organisational Membership
  - Associate Individual Membership
- Different levels of password access could be included in the portal to help with this three tier membership structure.
- There must be evidence of the 'appropriateness' of a potential member.
- What classifies as an NGO?
- The grassroots level member must not be forgotten.
- The civil society sector must be well represented.
- It is unwise to exclude influential people or organisations.
- If a person or organisation wants to be a member of COMACT they must sign up to its values and principles and be willing to "share".

### **Structure:**

- As mentioned in Monday's afternoon sessions there will be interim arrangements for the structure between the end of the 6WCW and the 7WCW. This will include the creation of a new non-profit organisation in

Australia.

- The new office should be well staffed and have the resources to fulfill its objectives.
- How do the chapters fit in to the interim structure?
- All chapters and members should try to promote COMMACT in order to expand and broaden the membership.
- A long-term strategy cannot be lost in the interim.
- The international body must give permission for the formation of new chapters depending on their eligibility. Each chapter must have a delegate.
- Existing chapters are legally established and therefore not affected by the interim arrangements for COMMACT.
- Sub-chapters must only be organised within a chapter and not be recognised independently.

#### *Afternoon: Field Visits*

While the Chairperson and rapporteur worked on a set of draft resolutions that would take into account the various recommendations made during the working groups and plenary discussions, participants went on field visits.

The following organisations were visited:

#### **CREATIVE HANDICRAFTS**

An organisation to empower women in the slums of Mumbai through economic independence. Women are trained to make soft toys, bags, household cloth articles. These are sold in local, national and international markets. The profits go entirely to the women. The women also make food (lunch & dinner packets) for distribution to offices and homes. The ownership of the organisation is entirely in the hands of the women.

#### **PREM AANGAN**

An organisation that helps the youth in the slums to believe in themselves through educational (non-formal and vocational) programmes. Battered women and problem families are also helped by counselling and, in some cases, financial help.

#### **SNEHASADAN**

An organisation for the rehabilitation of street-children.

The unique feature is that **house parents** look after up to 12 such children besides their own. The parents must be good spouses who are capable of sharing love with their "extra" children and make them feel truly at home. The organisation helps in the education of the children and also sees to their future employment and marriage. The organisation helped in the establishment of a 24-hour telephone service called HELPLINE as well as

a room in Mumbai's largest Railway Station (formerly known as Victoria Terminus) where street children can rest, seek solace, help and counselling.

*Evening:*

The text of the first draft resolutions was distributed to all participants.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Day: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

*Chair: Ms Kay Caldwell, Scotland*

*Morning session:*

The text of the first draft resolutions was examined and discussed, resolution by resolution, in extended plenary session. The resolutions were in Groups numbered 1 – 10.

It was agreed that the resolutions, as amended in the light of the discussion, would be endorsed by a blanket resolution made in the ensuing General Assembly. The amended resolutions are at Annex 2.

National/regional working groups were formed briefly late in the morning to discuss national and/or regional plans for the future; to make nominations for the membership of the Interim International Consultative Committee proposed in the draft resolutions; and to make any other proposals.

The following proposals were made concerning the membership of the IICC:

- ❑ Ms Roopa Mehta, India (Chair)
- ❑ Mr Michael KJ, India
- ❑ Ms Monique Harper, Jamaica
- ❑ Prof. Jassy Kwesiga, Uganda
- ❑ Mr Bruce Hamilton, New Zealand
- ❑ Dr Padma Ratnayake, Sri Lanka
- ❑ UK – to be nominated
- ❑ Malaysia - to be nominated

*Afternoon session:*

***6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Commonwealth Association for Local Action and Economic Development (COMMACT)***

The Agenda for the General Assembly is at Annex 3.

*Item 1: Welcoming speech by the Chairperson*

The Chairperson, Colin Ball, formally welcomed all members attending.

*Item 2: Address by the Hon. President*

The Hon. President, Noel D'Silva, made a brief address

*Item 3: Presentation and adoption of Executive Director's report for the years 1999-2005.*

The Chairperson tabled the Executive Director's report (at Annex 4). The report was adopted

(Proposed: Mr. David Thompson; Seconded: Mr George Thomas)

*Item 4: Presentation and adoption of audited financial statements for the years 1999-2002*

The Chairperson tabled the financial statements (available as separate documents). The statements were approved and adopted.

(Proposed: Mr. David Thompson; Seconded: Mr. Bruce Hamilton)

*Item 5A (additional item): Adoption of Resolutions 1-10 as amended in the morning session.*

The resolutions were adopted, provided that they were amended to take account of the discussion.

(Proposed: Mr. George Thomas; Seconded: Mr. Garry Bargh)

*Item 5B: Resolution to dissolve the existing Association.*

The resolution to dissolve the previous legal entity registered in Malaysia in 1991 as the Commonwealth Association for Local Action and Economic Development was put to the meeting by the Chairperson.

The resolution was adopted, unanimously by all members present with no

abstentions or votes against.

Resolution 3(2) (included at Annex 2) was put to the meeting by the Chairperson:

*“That any COMMACT financial assets not expended on the 6WCW, and/or residual liabilities, together with all its intellectual property assets, be transferred to a new entity, as described below, and that any of its physical assets, such as computers and office materials and equipment be donated to USIAMAS, an NGO in Malaysia”*

The resolution was adopted, unanimously.

*Item 6: Any other business*

a) Ms Roopa Mehta was nominated for the non-Australian position in the new COMMACT international office based in Australia. The nomination was agreed.

(Proposed: Mr. Peter Quarmby; Seconded: Dr. Padma Ratnayake)

b) A sincere thank you to Mr. Colin Ball and Mr Noel D’Silva for their hard work in the re-engineering of COMMACT was adopted

(Proposed: Mr. David Thompson; Seconded: Mr. Kebba Barrow)

c) A formal vote of thanks to the outgoing Executive Director, Dato’ Professor Abdullah Malim Baginda for his many years of devoted service to the association was adopted.

(Proposed: Mr Colin Ball; Seconded: Mr David Thompson)

d) A formal thank you to all the members present for their commitment to COMMACT’s vision was adopted.

(Proposed: Mr. Noel D’Silva; Seconded: Mr. Peter Quarmby)

There being no other business, the Chairperson declared the General Assembly closed.

**Workshops**

Following the General Assembly, workshop groups were convened on:

- The work of Community Sector Banking in Australia
- The ‘Rickshaw Bank’ established by the Centre for Rural Development in India

- Development work in Nepal
- The development of a COMMACT Women's Network

In addition, those nominated for the IICC, together with David Thompson and Gerry Crotty, held a meeting.

### ***Closing statements***

*Honorary president Mr Noel D'Silva*

In Noel's warm closing address to the conference he highlighted how successful and constructive the conference had been for the re-engineering of COMMACT. The smaller sessions were particularly constructive in this task. In light of this success he expressed optimism about the future despite the many challenges that lie ahead. He continued by pleading with conference participants to make their voices heard in the global village. He thanked the "smiles, intellectual contributions and sacrifices" of the participants and those who made the 6WCW possible.

With his last words he looked to the future: "Let's make COMMACT what we have promised it to be"

*Interim COMMACT chairperson Mr. Colin Ball.*

Colin expressed sincere thanks, on behalf of all, to:

- the Commonwealth Foundation, Jobs Australia, the Community Sector Banking and COMMACT UK for their financial support;
- Jean, Susan and Surrender for their wonderful work as the conference Secretariat;
- the management and staff of the Executive Enclave Hotel, and most especially Mr Anil Tellis;
- Abdullah Baginda for his many years of friendship and service, together with best wishes for a speedy recovery

Colin stated that while this was the end of the conference which marks the end of an era, it is only the beginning of a broader and better COMMACT. While the 'new management' in Australia will, he felt sure, do its best, "in reality it is up to all of us to make the future work".

He also expressed his pleasure at being the interim chairperson during such an exciting time and wished everyone well for the future.

### ***Evaluation***

The results of the evaluation of the conference are at Annex 5.

### ***Acknowledgement***

This report has been prepared by John Mundy, Conference Rapporteur.

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## **ANNEX 1: Conference Programme**

### **SIXTH “WORKING FOR COMMON WEALTH” CONFERENCE (6WCW) Mumbai, India, 16-19 October 2005**

**Theme: “RE-ENGINEERING COMMACT”**

**Venue: Executive Enclave Hotel, 331 Dr Ambedkar Road, Pali Hill, Bandra,  
Mumbai 400050, India**

#### **Sunday 16 October**

- 12 pm onwards: Registrations
- 3 pm Meeting of the COMMACT International Executive Council
- 5.30 pm: Bar/social get-together
- 7 pm: Dinner
- 9 pm: Meeting of Session Chairs

#### **Monday 17 October**

*Chair: Devasmita Sridhar, India*

- 7.30 am onwards: Breakfast
- 8 – 9am: Late registrations
- 9 am: *Eulogy and two-minute silence in memory of Shabbi Kohli*, led by Roopa Mehta and Michael KJ, COMMACT India
- 9.10 am: *Welcome Address* by COMMACT Hon President, Noel D’Silva
- 9.20 am: *Briefing* by Conference Secretary, Jean Saldanha
- 9.30 am: Get together/introductions session
- 10.30 am: Tea/coffee break
- 11.00 am: *Proposals for a Re-engineered COMMACT*, presented by COMMACT Interim Chairperson, Colin Ball
- 11.30 am: *The prototype COMMACT Website Portal /Communications Network* presented by David Thompson and Peter Quarmby, COMMACT Australia
- 12.00 pm: Plenary discussion
  
- 1 – 2 pm: Lunch
  
- 2.00 pm: Introduction to group work and discussion of group topics
- 2.30 pm: Group work on key re-engineering sub-topics, including:
  - a. International, national and legal structure and constitution
  - b. Website Portal/Communications Network functioning and protocols
  - c. Chapter arrangements
  - d. Finance
  - e. Executive Committee

f. Membership arrangements

- 3.30 pm: Tea/coffee break
  - 4.00 pm: Group work continues
  - 5.00 pm: Reports back by sub-topic work groups in plenary
  - 5.30 pm: Formation of Working/Drafting Team

*Evening*

- 6.00 pm: Bar/social
- 7.00 pm: Conference dinner. Guest speaker: Dr Rajesh Tandon, President, Society for Participatory Research in India (PRIA), New Delhi
- 9.00 pm: Working/Drafting Team discussion and redrafting

**Tuesday 18 October**

*Chair: Padma Ratnayake, Sri Lanka*

- 7.30 am onwards: Breakfast
- 9.00 am: Presentation of revised draft proposals by the Working/Drafting Team
- 9.30 am: Plenary discussion
- 10.30 am: Tea/coffee break
- 11.00 am: Further group work on key re-engineering sub-topics
- 12.30 pm: Reports back by sub-topic work groups in plenary
  
- 1 – 2 pm: Lunch
  
- 2.00 – 6.00 pm:
  - Field visits/city tour
  - Working/Drafting Team discussion and redrafting

*Evening*

- Free
- [If necessary] Plenary to receive and further discuss Working/Drafting Team draft
  - [If necessary] Working/Drafting Team discussion and redrafting

**Wednesday 19 October**

*Chair: Kay Caldwell, Scotland*

- 7.30 am onwards: Breakfast
- 9.00 am: Presentation of revised draft proposals by the Working/Drafting Team
- 9.30 am: Plenary discussion

- 10.00 am: National/regional Work Groups to discuss composition, role and membership of proposed Executive Committee
- 10.30 am: Tea/coffee break
- 11.00 am: National/regional work groups continued
- 11.30 am: Reports back by National/regional Work Groups
- 12.00 pm: Formal COMMACT General Assemblies convened to receive reports/accounts; make all necessary formal resolutions regarding past and future COMMACTs; agree membership of Executive Committee etc
  
- 1 – 2 pm: Lunch
  
- [ If necessary] 2.00 pm: General Assemblies continued
- 2.00 or 2.30 pm: Seminar/focus groups on PCD practices and links including:
  - youth,
  - housing,
  - women,
  - community and social enterprise,
  - community banking
  - first meeting of the Executive Committee
  
- 3.30 pm: Tea/coffee break
- 4.00 pm: Seminar/focus groups continue
- 5.00 pm: Closing plenary:
  - Reports back from seminar/focus groups
  - Planning for the future: Overview/Proposals by Executive Committee
  - Conclusion, thanks and farewells by Hon President/s and participants

**COMMACT is grateful to the Commonwealth Foundation, Jobs Australia Inc, Community Sector Banking, Australia and COMMACT UK for their financial support for the conference and COMMACT's activities.**

**ANNEX 2: AMENDED RESOLUTIONS OF THE SIXTH “WORKING FOR COMMON WEALTH” (6WCW) CONFERENCE, MUMBAI, 16-19 OCTOBER 2005**

**Resolution 1: Name**

1 That COMMACT retain its existing short name ('COMMACT') but change its full name to: **COMMACT: The Common Wealth network for people-centred development.**

**Resolutions 2: Overall vision and purposes**

*AMENDMENTS: Resolutions 2 (original wording in Draft 1 below) to be recrafted by CI/IICC in developing the new Vision Statement and Position paper (see Resolution 10(1) B and C) to take in:*

***Sentence about meaning of PCD from old Vision Statement to be included***

***Concern about upfront use of word ‘oppressed’***

***Need for clarity about references to ‘environment’***

***Need to say something about responsibilities as well as rights***

*Original wording:*

*2(1) That COMMACT continues to exist in order to support, respect the dignity of, and empower the impoverished, the marginalised and the oppressed.*

*2(2) Further, that COMMACT will continue to be an organisation that provides a supportive network for practitioners of people-centred development; the dissemination of information among them; the promotion of such development among the wider public and policy-makers; and advocacy of the need and value of such development in meeting social, economic and human needs in a sustainable manner.*

*2(3) Further, that COMMACT believes that people-centred development can be broadly defined and described as an approach to human, community, economic and environmental development that empowers and enables the individual to be autonomous in his or her decision-making capabilities. COMMACT therefore opposes “anti-people” and unsustainable development policies, including those that deplete or destroy the natural environment.*

**Resolutions 3: Existing legal entity**

3(1) That COMMACT’s existing legal entity in Malaysia, and its existing constitution and Secretariat be dissolved.

3(2) That any COMMACT financial assets not expended on the 6WCW, and/or residual liabilities, together with all its intellectual property assets, be transferred to a new entity, as described below, and that any of its physical assets, such as computers and office materials and equipment be donated to USIAMAS, an NGO in Malaysia.

3(3) That the dissolution of COMMACT does not imply or necessitate the dissolution of any of its existing Chapters.

#### **Resolutions 4: New legal entity**

4(1) That a new non-profit legal entity in Australia, to be known as COMMACT International, (hereinafter known as CI) be established and incorporated.

4(2) That the affairs of CI should be overseen by a Board of Trustees or Directors, as required by the laws of Australia pertaining to the mode of incorporation.

4(3) That the Australian Directors/Trustees of CI will be Mr David Thompson AM and Mr Gerry Crotty.

4(4) That in overseeing the affairs of CI , the Board's decisions at all times be entirely within the spirit and letter of a Constitution or Trust Deed which incorporates the vision, purposes, guiding principles and structure of COMMACT as determined by the Sixth Working for Common Wealth (6WCW) conference held at Mumbai, 16-19 October 2005, as encapsulated in all the resolutions set out hereunder and above.

4(5) That as well as fulfilling their reporting requirements under the laws and regulations pertaining to its incorporation, the Board of Directors/Trustees of CI present a report on the entity's activities and finances at every WCW conference.

#### **Resolutions 5: Governance of CI**

5(1) That the CI Directors/Trustees decisions be made through processes of prior consultation with an *International Consultative Committee* whose initial membership (numbering 5 or 6 people) will be determined by the 6WCW conference.

5(2) That in the first instance, the International Consultative Committee will be known as the *Interim International Consultative Committee (IICC)*, the members of which will hold office only until the 7WCW or such time that, by the decision of the COMMACT or CI Chapters some of them represent, initial members are replaced by others.

5(3) That the first Chair of the IICC will be Ms Roopa Mehta.

5(4) That the Chair of the IICC, or her nominee (who must be a member of the IICC) will be the non-Australian member of the Board of Directors/Trustees of CI.

5(5) That the existing Hon President of COMMACT, Noel D'Silva, will remain in office and be an ex-officio member of the IICC.

5(6) That the existing Executive Director of COMMACT, Dato' Professor Abdullah Malim Baginda will be accorded the status of Joint Hon President and will also be an ex-officio member of the IICC.

5(7) That the Joint Hon Presidents will be the Vice-Chairs of the IICC, either of whom shall assume the role of Chair in the absence of the Chair, on a rotation basis.

### **Resolutions 6: Communications:**

6(1) That a portal/ website/communications network be established and launched as soon as is practicable after CI's incorporation.

6(2) That the aims of the portal/ Website/communications system, reflecting that of CI and its predecessor organisation, will be to share knowledge and experience of PCD in all its applications and manifestations. Its structure and content should in part be open and accessible to all interested parties, and in part be accessible only to members of COMMACT, as defined below.

6(3) That a COMMACT *Communications Coordinator* be appointed by the Board of Directors/Trustees in consultation with the IICC and reporting to the Board of Directors/Trustees, and be given responsibility for the development and maintenance of the portal/ Website/communications system on a day-to-day basis, and to support and facilitate consultation between CI and the IICC and among members of the IICC.

### **Resolutions 7: Membership**

7(1) That for as long as CI, in consultation with the IICC, shall determine, membership of COMMACT shall be as follows:

- A. *Organisational Membership*: Open to civil society organisations in any country supporting COMMACT's vision and purposes and meeting the membership criteria set out below
- B. *Associate Organisational Membership*: Open to other organisations and institutions in the public and private sectors, including academia and the media, supporting COMMACT's vision and purposes
- C. *Associate Individual Membership*: Open to individuals in all sectors,

including academia and the media, supporting COMMACT's vision and purposes

7(2) *Criteria for Category A (Organisational) Membership*: That to be considered for such membership, organisations must subscribe fully to COMMACT's Vision and values, provide evidence of having development policies and practices which are people-centred; and demonstrate willingness to contribute their experience, knowledge and time to COMMACT.

7(3) *Voting rights*: That only members in Membership Category A above will have voting rights at any international Assembly of Members.

7(4) That different levels of access to the portal/website/communication network will apply to the different categories of members, the lowest levels being accorded to Category C Members and the highest to Category A members through a layered password system.

7(5) That CI Membership fees (which may be in cash or in kind) will be at a level to be determined by the Directors/Trustees of CI, in consultation with the IICC

7(6) That with the exception only of existing members of COMMACT admission to membership in any category be determined by the CI Board of Directors/Trustees, in consultation with the IICC and with the relevant Chapter organisation, where it exists.

### **Resolutions 8: Chapter organisations**

8(1) That Chapter organisations of COMMACT members may be formed at national or regional levels by the decision of such members, provided that the constitutions and procedures of such Chapters are within the Guidelines laid down from time to time by CI in consultation with the IICC. Chapters not working within such Guidelines will not be recognised by CI. These Guidelines include requirements regarding the minimum number of members required to form such Chapters.

8(2) That such Chapter organisations shall determine whether they should adopt a legal identity or not.

8(3) That Members of CI (in all categories) shall determine whether or not they wish to join their national or regional Chapter organisation or form new Chapters.

8(4) That the officers or governing bodies of Chapters shall have the discretion to determine whether or not to levy Chapter membership fees on their members, provided that the level of such fees is within the guidelines laid down by CI in consultation with the IICC.

8(5) That provided the approval of CI is obtained, National chapters may form sub-Chapters; and Regional Chapters may form national chapters.

8(6) That in any materials produced by Chapters describing and promoting their activities, Chapters must use language approved by CI or downloaded from the portal/website.

8(7) That where activities of CI, such as WCW conferences, exchanges or other activities, take place in a country or region having a Chapter, the activities will be organised in full consultation with the Chapter.

### **Resolutions 9: Finance and use of funds**

9(1) That once CI is launched and in operation, financial support for it would come from any or all of:

A. Membership fees

B. Any CI member (individual or organisational) willing to make grants or donations to the international entity on a voluntary basis

C. Any CI National Chapter organisation willing to make a grant or donation to CI on a voluntary basis

D. Grants from international donors and foundations, including, but not restricted to, the Commonwealth Foundation

9(2) That CI may allocate funds to any activity it establishes, including to Chapter development and Chapter activities such as national meetings and projects, and to Chapter-to-Chapter practical links.

9(3) That Chapters may apply for funds from any source and for any activity as they see fit and decide, provided that they consult with CI before doing so.

### **Resolutions 10: Initial priority CI Activities**

10(1) That the initial (from the 6WCW to the 7WCW) priority activities, instigated by the CI Board of Directors/Trustees in consultation with the IICC, shall be as follows:

A. Follow-up on all 6WCW resolutions

B. Formulation of a CI Constitution/ Trust Deed

C. Drafting of a Vision Statement (as per Resolutions 2)

D. Drafting of a fuller position paper on the meaning and application of people-centred development (as per Resolutions 2)

E. Establishing the portal/website/communications network

- F. Consolidation of CI finances
- G. Expansion of membership (all categories) through all available means of promotion
- H. Chapter consolidation and promotion
- I. Elaboration of Membership criteria and fees
- J. Determination of Guidelines for Chapters
- K. Elaboration of a document that sets out the inter-relationships between CI, the IICC, Assemblies of Members, Chapters and members
- L. Through the establishment of a working party, design and establishment of a scheme of Awards or fellowships to in commemoration of Subashini Kohli, former Chair of COMMACT India and International COMMACT Exco Member
- M. Production and dissemination of a regular newsletter for members on no less than a quarterly basis
- N. Fund-raising

**Mumbai, 19 October 2005**

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**ANNEX 3:**

**COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL ACTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (COMMACT)**

**6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

**Executive Enclave Hotel, Mumbai, India**

**19 October 2005**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcoming Speech by the Chairperson, Colin Ball
2. Address by the Hon. President, Noel D'Silva
3. Presentation and Adoption of Executive Director's Report for the years 1999-2005
4. Presentation and Adoption of audited financial statements for the years 1999-2002
5. Resolution to dissolve the Association
6. Any Other Business

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## **ANNEX 4:**

### **COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL ACTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (COMMACT)**

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEARS 1999-2005**

##### **A. Introduction**

This report describes COMMACT's activities since the last General Assembly held in Stutterheim, South Africa on 23 April 1999 until today. It covers the activities of COMMACT- International undertaken by the Executive Council and some COMMACT national chapters.

##### **B. Constitutional matters**

At the last General Assembly in 1999, a number of amendments to the constitution were made. These were subsequently approved by the Registrar of Societies, Malaysia. The most significant change in the Constitution was in the name of the organisation, now to be known as "COMMACT-International". This provided a clear distinction between the international component, the national chapters, and the general reference to the movement as a whole.

##### **C. Management**

COMMACT Secretariat continued to be maintained by Abdullah Baginda without additional help in order to conserve available fund. Nonetheless, within its own limitation, the Secretariat tried as best possible to perform whatever necessary functions in managing the organisation.

##### **Executive Council (ExCo)**

It should be recalled that the General Assembly in 1999 had elected the following to the Executive Council, namely:

Chairperson	Mr. Mandla Sindane (South Africa)
Vice-Chairperson	Ms. Subhashini Kohli (India)
Treasurer	Mr. Yusof Kasim (Malaysia)
Council Members	Ms. Rudo M. Chitiga (Zimbabwe)
	Ms. Jenny Applewhaite (Barbados)

Mr. John Pearce (UK)  
Mr. Neil Beattie (Australia)

In 2000 Rudo Chitiga resigned, upon her appointment as the Deputy Director of the Commonwealth Foundation. COMMACT wished her well in this appointment. The Executive Council at its meeting later in 2000 decided not to fill the vacancy, hoping that a new Council would be elected at the following General Assembly, then expected to be held in 2001.

Executive Council members were assigned to deal with certain specific aspects of COMMACT developmental activities in order to offset the reduced function of the Secretariat. A number of the members have made some progress in this direction.

In due course, all members of the Executive Council gained access to the internet, and henceforth, correspondence was carried in this medium. As all correspondence was copied to every member of the Council, hopefully everyone would get involved in the many issues brought before it. Keeping all members in the “information loop” has greatly improved collective decision-making process and the sharing of information.

In 2003 the Chairperson, Mandla Sindane, had to face a personal problem that prevented him from playing an active role in the running of COMMACT, and he subsequently resigned. In 2004, the Vice-Chairperson, Subhashini Kohli, passed away after an illness. In the meantime, Neil Beattie, also resigned. These episodes brought the number of Executive Council members down to three. Early in 2005, the remaining Exco members decided to co-opt ordinary members to fill the vacant positions in order to make it functional and, more importantly, to consider seriously the recommendations of the Liverpool gathering held in September 2004. The co-opted members were:

Mr. Colin Ball (Australia)  
Mr. K.J. Michael (India)  
Mr. Bruce Hamilton (New Zealand)  
Mr. David Thompson (Australia)

Colin Ball was elected the interim Chairperson, to fill in the position left vacant by Mandla Sindane.

### **Consultative Council (ConsCo)**

One of the devices used in communicating with COMMACT Chapters was the establishment of the Consultative Council (ConsCo). A representative of each of the six COMMACT-Chapters was appointed to be on the Consultative Council, and the members were:

Mr. Bruce Hamilton (COMMACT-Aotearoa)  
Mr. Femi Sowande (COMMACT-UK)  
Mr. Joseph Scaria (COMMACT-India)  
Ms. Janet Chee (COMMACT-Malaysia)  
Ms. Pumla Kubakeli (COMMACT-South Africa)  
Ms. Gail Cannon (COMMACT-Australia)

### **COMMACT Chapters**

COMMACT has six effective Chapters throughout the Commonwealth, namely:

COMMACT-Aotearoa  
COMMACT-UK  
COMMACT-India  
COMMACT-Malaysia  
COMMACT-South Africa  
COMMACT-Australia

Apart from the above, a number of Chapters were reported to be at various stages of formation. They were Barbados, Fiji, Zimbabwe and Zambia, but as time went on, efforts towards this end seemed to have fizzled down.

### **D. Membership**

It was estimated that COMMACT membership has remained around 250 from 35 Commonwealth countries, for most of the time. However, as the responsibility for maintaining membership lists lay with the respective Chapters, where they existed, it was difficult to keep track with them due to irregular reporting.

### **E. Financial Position**

COMMACT was very grateful to the Commonwealth Foundation for its continuing support, especially in terms of providing annual financial grants. For the period under review, the Foundation has provided COMMACT with a total of GBP 44,000.

Copies of the audited statement of accounts for the years ended 31 December 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002 were attached for your reference.

### **F. Activities**

Activities of the COMMACT network were carried out at three distinct levels: (a) by the COMMACT-International ExCo and Secretariat, (b) by the national COMMACT Chapters and (c) by various COMMACT members and their organisations. It was COMMACT's policy to encourage the Chapters and the members to take various initiatives and develop projects under the COMMACT "umbrella". However, this report relates largely to the activities of COMMACT-International, and those of others that were known to the Secretariat.

## **Publications**

COMMACT continued to publish materials that served not only the general purpose of expanding knowledge, education and the exchange of ideas, but also of promoting itself as a network focusing on people-centred development. During the period under review, the following have been published:

a) **COMMActions**

Quarterly issues of COMMActions have been published in printed format each year since the beginning of 1996, until June 1999. However, it was decided in 2000 to do away with this format in view of the cost involved and also the lack of contribution from members. Instead, COMMActions would in future be published electronically using e-mail.

In this connection, COMMACT-India was given the responsibility to publish and distribute it to members via respective Chapters and, in addition, the Secretariat would distribute it to members without Chapters.

b) **People-Centred Development (PCD) Series**

Only one PCD series was published during this period – "The Udder Tale" by Joseph Scaria..

c) **Journal/Year Book on People-Centred Development**

The report of the 5<sup>th</sup> Working for Common Wealth conference held in April 1999, including some selected papers was supposed to form the basis for the 1999 Yearbook. However, due to some difficulties, the said report was only published in 2004, as a separate booklet.

## **Conferences**

As a matter of policy, COMMACT aimed to organise an international "Working for Common Wealth" conference once in every three years. These would coincide with its General Assembly, as provided in the Constitution. These international conferences would seek to provide the opportunity to those who may otherwise not get the chance to meet and discuss with other people

engaged in grass-roots development work.

At the same time, COMMACT members and the various COMMACT Chapters were encouraged to organise various forms of meetings on people-centred development topics at the regional, national and even local levels. It was hoped that through such regular efforts, development practitioners would be able to persuade decision-makers to focus on people-centred development alongside other forms of development.

a) International

The Sixth “Working for Common Wealth” conference was originally intended to take place in the Gold Coast in Queensland from 30 September to 4 October 2001 to coincide with the Commonwealth People’s Festival and CHOGM. However, in view of the many activities associated with these two events, it was decided to defer it to 20 – 24 May 2002 to be organised by COMMACT-Australia. This, for various reasons, also could not be realised until now.

b) Regional/National Conferences

During the course of the last few year, a number of conferences, seminars and symposia have been organised by various COMMACT chapters, notably in the UK, in South Africa, in Malaysia and India.

However, the most significant event was the one organised by COMMACT-UK in Liverpool in September 2004, at which a number of international members were also present. One of the outcomes of this meeting was the effort at re-engineering COMMACT in order to make it more viable and in line with current approach, as evidenced by the contents of the Sixth Working for Common Wealth conference.

### **Networking**

COMMACT’s greatest assets are its members and it is a firm COMMACT policy to encourage networking between members and to encourage the development of bilateral initiatives. During the past years COMMACT members from the UK have visited India, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and South Africa. COMMACT members from Australia have also visited South Africa and Malaysia.

Noel D’Silva, Honorary President (India) and Abdullah Baginda, the Executive Director (Malaysia) visited Australia in May 2001. Apart from attending to some COMMACT work in Brisbane, they took time to participate in a conference organised by Job Australia in Melbourne. They took the opportunity to provide information on COMMACT and exchange notes on various issues.

## **Fellowship/Bursaries**

COMMACT has established a procedure for selecting candidates for various fellowship/bursaries to ensure that only the most suitable and qualified persons were nominated for these awards.

### a) The Commonwealth Foundation Fellowship

COMMACT submitted nominations for the Commonwealth Foundation Fellowship awards every year since the beginning of this reporting period but has not been successful so far.

## **Exchanges**

It has been COMMACT policy to encourage the growth of an Exchange Programme between and among Chapters and other members as well. An Exchange programme between COMMACT India and COMMACT UK that started 2000 continued with two Indian members visiting the UK in May 2001. Likewise, several UK members have been visiting India.

Similar programme between the UK and New Zealand; and between the UK and Malaysia and South Africa were carried out.

## **Web-site**

Some work towards establishing a COMMACT website was started by COMMACT Australia and the Executive Council meeting in Brisbane had the opportunity to be briefed on the progress of this effort. However, the web-site, named "COMMACT.org", did not take off officially.

## **Social Auditing**

Social Auditing projects established in the UK and New Zealand continued to progress. The planned training programme for Australia and India took place during this period, but the follow-up course for Malaysia was deferred. It was hoped that, in time, the Social Audit project would be one of the significant contributions of COMMACT to the growth of people-centred development.

## **G. Future Programme**

The newly constituted Executive Council started work on the re-engineering COMMACT in earnest since early 2005. This Sixth Working for Common Wealth conference would decide on the new format that would bring

COMMACT to a new and greater height.

## **H. Concluding Remarks**

With the impending changes taking shape, this will be the last report from the Executive Council. The Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to convey its sincere appreciation for all the support and co-operation extended over the years by COMMACT leaders, Chapters and ordinary members in making COMMACT an organisation that is widely recognised throughout the Commonwealth, and also the world at large.

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## ANNEX 5:

### SIXTH “WORKING FOR COMMON WEALTH” (6WCW0 CONFERENCE, MUMBAI, 16-20 OCTOBER 2005

## EVALUATION

There were 45 participants. Evaluation forms were completed by 33 participants. A few did not comment on some items (hence less than 100% total in some items below).

### *Overall Evaluation*

On a simple scale (as below) participants were asked to rate the conference on a number of aspects. The overall results were as follows

<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Very satisfactory</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Not satisfactory</b>
Pre-Conference Communication	67%	30%	3%
Hotel arrangements/food/accomm	69.7%	30.3%	----
Conference structure	51.5%	48.5%	----
Speakers	57.6%	39.4%	----
Conference environment	66.7%	33.3%	----
Workshops	39.4%	51.5%	----
Field Visit	72.7%	9.1%	3%

### *Participant comments*

Participants were invited to make more detailed comments if they so wished. These were as follows:

#### ***Pre-Conference Communication:***

1. I did not get all the e-mails – this was a technical problem.
2. V. good.

3. Well done.
4. V. clear and organised.
5. I would have liked more background info on COMMACT being new to the Conference. May be the responsibility was for me & the country I came from?
6. Well done.
7. It was not communicated to new persons what was being asked of them.
8. What I received was excellent but I did not receive the draft, etc.
9. Good clarity & clear-cut guidance.
10. Not very well informed.
11. All good.
12. Very good.
13. Wonderful info sent by Jean & Co., helpful when traveling & info about COMMACT.
14. Colin/Noel e-mails were helpful in the short time I had decided to attend

***Hotel arrangements/accomm/food:***

1. Hotel was excellent and food was also excellent.
2. V. good
3. Food good/all in order.
4. Very homely, attentive. Bar did not go well with concern for the marginalised.
5. Excellent.
6. Would have preferred more Indian food but others might disagree!
7. Staff have been very helpful & accommodating; looked after very well.
8. Very good.
9. Within the permiss (??) good.
10. Regal food/transport
11. Fantastic
12. Excellent.
13. Very well done.
14. All good.
15. Food and accom excellent. Split hotel major negative. Staff excellent and tremendous service.
16. Transport from Regal, problem. Needed a small bus. All in one would be better.
17. Wonderful people. Always willing to help and really made me feel comfortable and safe. Nothing was a problem.
18. Noise at night unwelcome.
19. People staying at Regal would have served in the same Hotel.

***Conference Structure:***

1. Very good.
2. Very relaxed, yet serious and well planned and monitored. The availability

- of Jean and Susan is very much appreciated.
3. Excellent.
  4. Perhaps some of the discussions should have been structured sequentially rather than concurrently (e.g. agree vision first then other issues) – could have had small groups discussing same issue.
  5. Commencement of Conference did not provide enough background and overview of COMMACT considering audience had number of new faces
  6. Very good.
  7. Some more background for New Comers would have been welcomed.
  8. Very good in achieving the goal.
  9. Somewhat over-powered by current members – may be a pre-meeting for newcomers or more info provided by e-mail, documentation, etc.
  10. We were too slow at times or too \_\_\_\_\_(?) at others but got close to our goals for the conference. Maybe some of the discussion points could have had some fleshing out prior to the conference. Maybe some models mapped out, etc.
  11. Reasonably effective.

***Speakers:***

1. Dr. Rajesh Tandon's intervention was very inspiring.
2. Very good.
3. Colin Ball was very much in the participatory method and approach. Congrats Colin.
4. Provided a really good overarching framework for thinking of the re-engineered COMMACT.
5. Very good.
6. Done well
7. Very good.
8. Excellent.
9. Relevant and knowledgeable.
10. Very informative, encouraged reaction between groups.
11. Normal speakers except Rajesh who was very helpful.
12. Sometimes language barrier.
13. Speakers did brilliantly and were able to keep full participation.

***Conference environment:***

1. Excellent to have tea, lunch, dinner in the adjoining room.
2. Reflective, educative and informative. Noel's humble and simple presence made a difference to us.
3. Excellent.
4. Exchange of models/projects and building relationships, the strongest character of COMMACT.
5. Very good.
6. The Hotel was splendid, couldn't improve.

7. Excellent.
8. Very friendly and comfortable environment.
9. Pretty good but sound ??.
10. Great environment to experience. The hustle and bustle of life in India and also to have the Conference contained within the hotel excellent.
11. Sound system not working half the time.

**Workshops:**

1. Very good. Facilitating.
2. Very good.
3. Good participatory climate.
4. Good opportunity to hear more voices; was puzzled at times of the clarity of COMMACT's values/principles as members speaking from what I thought in own value base – Challenge to get consensus.
5. Very good.
6. Sometimes lost direction, but all in all very good.
7. V. good.
8. Got through the business – OK.
9. Worked very effectively.
10. Great way to interact, share ideas, and promote communication for less confident new members.
11. Productive and clear.
12. Good, frank and honest discussions; participants were all committed to see COMMACT move forward.

**Field Visit:**

1. Thank you for allowing us to have a chance to experience the real work on the ground.
2. Very good.
3. Inspiring and informative.
4. Very privileged for the opportunity, heightened my learning, and motivation in the field of PCD.
5. Very good.
6. Excellent.
7. VVV good
8. Enlightening.
9. VVV good
10. Very good.
11. Most enjoyable experience. Most needed to experience the host country's culture. Make sure there is one at every conference.
12. Interesting and relevant.
13. Very good. Should have been day one to set the context in what we work.
14. Great reality checker. Good way to experience what is really happening in PCD. Very impacting to see the human side. Something I will never forget.

15. Productive and clear.
16. Excellent projects for the benefit of needy people.
17. COMMACT had helped shaped the lives of a whole generation of women and bring who may not be heard without COMMACT's intervention.

**General:**

1. Thank you for creating the opportunity for me to network with so many practitioners all over the world.
2. Successful.
3. Meaningful, informative, interesting.
4. I am very happy to have come for this conference. There was that right topic – Re-engineering COMMACT which was the apt topic to deal with. It was the need of the time for COMMACT. I expect something more practical and concrete will emerge from this for the cause of the marginalised of our particular society. Otherwise we will be accountable to them for the money we have spent for this conference in Mumbai.
5. Thanking organisers, Mr. Noel and team.
6. Appreciated the thought given to the needs of people based in Regal Hotel – space to sit, etc., in suites in Executive Hotel.
7. All very good.
8. Very good.
9. Arrangements were all right. Nothing to complain about, especially considering that many of us were new to the task, very challenging.
10. Quite happy with the programme.
11. The visit to the projects was an amazing experience.
12. Thank you all for allowing me to have such a wonderful experience.
13. A crucial workshop for COMMACT's revival. Very well conducted.
14. A good experience.
15. Was structured event with good practical vision.
16. Excellent.
17. The Hotel should be congratulated and given a letter of appreciation & certificate from COMMACT.
18. Very inspiring. Well done. Let's now all work together.
19. Bad timing for Mumbai's climate. Should have been held on one site – a cheaper location.
20. A very uplifting experience, a great way to network, experience other issues in other countries, build your own determination.
21. Overall – excellent!
22. Congratulations to the organising team.
23. Participants took a bold decision to re-engineer COMMACT and the discussions, resolutions passed will help the new Secretariat of COMMACT to work towards the fulfillment of its Mission and Vision

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