

Mendel University in Brno
Faculty of Regional Development and International Studies

Commonwealth of Nations and its importance in politics

Bachelor Thesis

Thesis supervisor:
Mgr. Ondřej Mocek, PhD.

Author:
Milan Procházka

Brno 2017

Acknowledgement

I take this opportunity to express gratitude to my thesis supervisor Mgr. Ondřej Mocek, PhD. for his helpful advice, comments and support provided during the period of my thesis completing.

Declaration

I hereby declare that, this thesis entitled **Commonwealth of Nations and its importance in politics** was written and completed by me. I also declare that all the sources and information used to complete the thesis are included in the list of references. I agree that the thesis could be made public in accordance with Article 47b of Act No. 111/1998 Coll., Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments and Supplements to Some Other Acts (the Higher Education Act), and in accordance with the current Directive on publishing of the final thesis.

I am aware that my thesis is written in accordance to Act. 121/2000 Coll., on Copyright and therefore Mendel University in Brno has the right to conclude licence agreements on the utilization of the thesis as a school work in accordance with Article 60(1) of the Copyright Act.

Before concluding a licence agreement on utilization of the work by another person, I will request a written statement from the university that the licence agreement is not in contradiction to legitimate interests of the university, and I will also pay a prospective fee to cover the cost incurred in creating the work to the full amount of such costs.

In Brno

Date

Abstract

The goal of this thesis is to assess Commonwealth of Nations as an international organization and its usefulness for member countries. At the beginning, the thesis describes development of Commonwealth of Nations, what are its main principles, member countries and structure of the organization. Then it focuses on importance of the organization by examining how it helps to member countries to develop, especially according certain principles that are selected from basic Commonwealth document - Harare Declaration from 1991 and summarized into 8 main categories - democracy and global peace, education and youth support, human rights, health care, economic growth and internal trade, protection of environment, sport and culture. The thesis also mentions how programs on support in these categories are financed. Important is to evaluate whether Commonwealth's activities designed to help are focused on countries which need the help most.

Keywords

Commonwealth of Nations, Harare Declaration, assistance, usefulness, Commonwealth principles

Abstrakt

Cílem této práce je posoudit Společenství národů a jeho užitečnost pro členské země. Zpočátku práce popisuje vývoj Společenství národů, jaké jsou jeho principy, členské země a organizační struktura. Poté se práce soustředí na důležitost organizace pomocí zkoumání, jak organizace pomáhá členským zemím k rozvoji, a to zejména podle principů, které jsou vybrány ze základního dokumentu společenství – Deklarace z Harare z roku 1991. Tyto principy jsou shrnuty do 8 kategorií – demokracie a světový mír, vzdělání a podpora mladistvých, lidská práva, zdravotní péče, ekonomický růst a vnitřní obchod, ochrana životního prostředí, sport a kultura. Práce také zmiňuje, jak jsou programy určené na podporu těchto kategorií financovány. Důležité je posoudit, zdali jsou podporující aktivity Společenství národů zaměřeny na země, které to nejvíce potřebují.

Klíčová slova

Společenství národů, Deklarace z Harare, pomoc, užitečnost, principy Společenství národů

Content

1	Introduction	10
1.1	Methodology.....	11
2	Description of Commonwealth of Nations	12
2.1	Commonwealth Members.....	12
3	History	14
3.1	Creation of the Commonwealth.....	14
3.2	First extension of the community.....	15
3.3	Different views of some countries on governance.....	15
3.4	Second extension of the community.....	15
3.5	Strengthening organizational units.....	16
3.6	Continuation of new members joining but also leaving.....	16
3.7	Harare Declaration.....	17
3.8	Suspensions.....	17
4	Commonwealth realm	19
5	Commonwealth structure	21
5.1	Head of the Commonwealth.....	21
5.2	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.....	21
5.3	Commonwealth Secretary-General.....	21
5.4	Commonwealth Deputy Secretaries-General.....	22
5.5	Board of Governors.....	22
5.6	Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group.....	22
5.7	Commonwealth Chair in Office.....	22
5.8	Commonwealth family.....	22
6	Importance of Commonwealth	23
6.1	Maldives leaving Commonwealth.....	25

7	Analysis of Harare Declaration categories	27
7.1	Democracy and Global Peace.....	28
7.2	Education and Youth support	34
7.3	Human Rights	37
7.4	Health care	41
7.5	Economic Growth and Internal Trade	45
7.6	Protection of environment	48
7.7	Culture	51
7.8	Sport.....	52
7.9	Financing of Commonwealth supportive activities	53
8	Conclusion	55
9	Reference List	59

List of figures

Fig. 1	Democracy Index Development Source: Created on my own, based on data from Economist Intelligence Unit (c2013-c2017)	31
Fig. 2	Global Peace Index Development Created on my own, based on data from Institute for Economics and Peace 2011 and 2016	34
Fig. 3	Commonwealth trade trend Source: Created on my own, based on data from Commonwealth Secretariat (c2015) - Commonwealth Trade Review 2015: The Commonwealth in the Unfolding Global Trade Landscape	46
Fig. 4	Environmental Performance Index Development Sources: Created on my own, on basis of data from Emerson et al., 2010; Hsu et al., 2014 and Hsu et al., 2016	50
Fig. 5	Human Rights Risk Index 2014 Source: Maplecroft (c 2013)	69
Fig. 6	Human Rights Risk Index 2016 Source: Verisk Maplecroft (c 2016)	70

List of tables

Tab. 1	Life expectancy at birth 2010, 2015 in countries with projects	45
Tab. 2	Countries recommended to focus on due low life expectancy	45
Tab. 3	GDP per capita growth (constant 2010 in US \$ thousands)	71

1 Introduction

Commonwealth of Nations is an association of countries from all around the world. Most of these countries are former British colonies. After independence in some countries the association was established by Britain and continued to grow as more countries gained independence. Membership is not obligatory thus all member countries joined voluntarily and on the basis of their own conviction (Green, 2006).

The main target of Commonwealth of Nations is to spread principles which are important for development according the association. Commonwealth's principles were determined in many basic documents through history. The current principles according which Commonwealth drives its activities are determined in Harare Declaration from 1991 (The Harare Commonwealth Declaration, 1991).

Sometimes doubtful opinions on Commonwealth usefulness appear and claim it is an outdated organization which is not successful in achieving its aims in member countries (Schreuder, 2002). Hence this thesis examines Commonwealth programs designed for development of particular principles which could lead to improvement of well-being in its member countries. The examined principles were extracted from the Harare Declaration and for better clarity they were summarized into 8 categories. Concrete categories are democracy and global peace, education and youth support, human rights, health care, economic growth and internal trade, protection of environment, culture and sport.

Objective of the thesis is then to find out whether Commonwealth performs activities, which are supposed to contribute to improvement in certain categories, in countries where needed. This is appraised by index which is chosen for every category, where it is possible to express the state of category in particular countries by index (number). This work also includes how these indexes changed over a period of time in member countries where projects were implemented. This will tell us how situation in Commonwealth's countries looks like and in which direction it moves. Where it is not

possible to find proper index for measurement, there it is assessed whether the category is important to focus on and why.

After evaluation of categories by indexes it is considered whether Commonwealth focuses its support on countries which need it most and whether they should focus more on some categories, eventually in which countries.

1.1 Methodology

The thesis describes Commonwealth of Nations as international organization and examines activities led by Commonwealth of Nations which shall serve to improve well-being of its members. Literature research is the main method of acquisition of data and information. Important for me is examination of annual and biennial reports which are crucial to find out where the activity of Commonwealth is directed and which programs are implemented, but also other literature regarding Commonwealth of Nations. This thesis have chosen following approach to find out Commonwealth's usefulness for its members: concretely it tries to find it out by categories which are important for Commonwealth according Harare Declaration. Situation in member countries according selected categories is analyzed by index chosen for each category if possible and showing the situation in certain countries or by assessment whether the category improvement is suitable. Indexes selected for concrete categories are democracy index and global peace index for democracy and global peace, human rights risk index for human rights, but also data on gender inequality index are mentioned in this category, education index for education and youth support, life expectancy for health care, GDP per capita is used for economic growth, and environmental performance index for protection of environment. There are not indexes available which would properly measure the state of culture and sport in countries thus the suitability of assistance in these categories is assessed in this work. At the end it is evaluated whether Commonwealth directs its activities to places where needed and whether situation in every category moved in a positive or negative way and thus it is recommended on which categories Commonwealth should focus more on to increase the chance to get rid of doubts it is not helping its own members.

2 Description of Commonwealth of Nations

Commonwealth of Nations is an association of 52 voluntarily entered sovereign nations that have international goals and are mutually cooperating in trustful environment to reach these goals. The goals are to support sustainable development in developing countries, promotion of democracy, human development through support for education and other tools, to fight against racism and terrorism, protection of environment, last but not least also equality et cetera (Green, 2006).

According to teVelde (2016) participation of countries, which have diverse or different areas, politics and also economic skills, is based on history of the British Empire.

Every state which is somehow connected to some of a current member states may apply for acceptance to the Community, if the applying state is willing to accept basic rules of Commonwealth. Then the application is assessed (Šanc and Ženíšek, 2008).

2.1 Commonwealth Members

All 52 member countries are listed in this subchapter. As mentioned above, every candidate state willing to join the community must be connected by constitutional link to other member state, but there is also place for exception like in case of Rwanda and Mozambique (Commonwealth Network, c2017).

Despite the fact neither Rwanda nor Mozambique had been British colonies before, are members. In case of Rwanda it is caused by strong effort of president Paul Kagame who was trying a lot to avoid French influence and rather join "British" Commonwealth (Pflanz, 2009). Due to the increasing interest of countries which had not had the right to join, Commonwealth determined new rules for joining of these countries in 2007. Finally according these rules, Rwanda was accepted in 2009 (Commonwealth Network, c2017).

List of countries according alphabetical order starts with Antigua and Barbuda (member since 1981), Australia (1931), Bahamas (1973), Bangladesh (1972), Barbados (1966),

Belize (1981), Botswana (1966), Brunei Darussalam (1984), Cameroon (1995), Canada (1931), Cyprus (1960), Dominica (1978), Fiji (1970; rejoin 1997), Ghana (1957), Grenada (1974), Guyana (1966), India (1947), Jamaica (1962), Kenya (1963), Kiribati (1979), Lesotho (1966), Malawi (1964), Malaysia (1957), Malta (1964), Mauritius (1968), Mozambique (1995), Namibia (1990), Nauru (1968), New Zealand (1931), Nigeria (1960; in suspension in 1995-1999), Pakistan (1947, rejoin 1989), Papua New Guinea (1975), Rwanda (2009), Saint Lucia (1979), Samoa (1970), Seychelles (1976), Sierra Leone (1961), Singapore (1965), Solomon Islands (1978), South Africa (1931, rejoin 1994), Sri Lanka (1948), St. Kitts and Nevis (1983), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (1979), Swaziland (1968), Tonga (1970), Trinidad and Tobago (1962), Tuvalu (1978), Uganda (1962), United Kingdom, Tanzania (1961), Vanuatu (1980), Zambia 1964 (Commonwealth Network, c2017).

3 History

3.1 Creation of the Commonwealth

Commonwealth of Nations began to emerge in early nineteenth century as a community of Britain and former British colonies. It started when stronger colonies started pushing the British government, in effort to obtain more political rights to manage their own countries. Rather we can say that it was an engagement of residents that came usually from Britain in certain colonies (Commonwealth Network, c2016).

First who was given the right to govern itself in 1840s and then also obtained dominion status in 1867 was Canada. Followed by Australia in 1901, New Zealand in 1907, South Africa in 1910 and the Irish Free State in 1921. Also Newfoundland should be mentioned as the dominion but it gave up its position and later in 1949 was Newfoundland associated to Canada. These five states or with Newfoundland six states were first dominions which means that they obtained autonomy within the British Empire (Green, 2006).

In 1923 Dominions received the possibility to undersign contracts but except contracts which were at high political level, so the main privilege still belonged to Britain. Commonwealth of Nations was first time officially declared in Balfour Report at Imperial Conference in 1926 (Commonwealth Network, c2016). It was the "breaking point" when Dominions received equality between themselves and also with Britain. Although still state authorities in Dominions were taken from the Britain and protection of the empire was still Britain's task, Dominions also achieved some of their legal requirements. For example it was a possibility of replacement of diplomats within the Dominions (teVelde, 2016). Since 1931 it was basically leading to independence of the states (Commonwealth Network, c2016). The autonomy or we can say independence of dominions is basically stated in Statue of Westminster from 1931 that declared parity between Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, Newfoundland and South Africa (Encyclopædia Britannica, 1998). These states thus took the advantage to have more rights but they still have remained "under Britain" in Commonwealth.

3.2 First extension of the community

Other different countries were trying to achieve the dominion status namely India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan and they were successful in achieving it. These countries were different because firstly indigenous people were endeavouring for the independence and this caused that Commonwealth led to become multiracial community. The dominion status was achieved in 1947 (by India and Pakistan) and 1948 (by Sri Lanka) (Commonwealth Network, c2016).

3.3 Different views of some countries on governance

Originally one of the meanings of the community was that member states should have the same head of state. Their head of state would be British queen or king, but thanks to India that wanted their own government, it was shown that British are not unyielding and India's requirements were met. This situation motivated also some other countries and the option of having their own head of state but staying in Commonwealth and recognizing British queen or king as the head of Commonwealth was spread (Green, 2006).

3.4 Second extension of the community

Sometimes countries were not willing to join immediately after gaining independence but later decided to join; this can be example of Maldives or Samoa. Huge extension of the Commonwealth happened in 1950s and 1960s in times when mainly African and Asian colonies were abundantly becoming independent. Most of liberated colonies decided to join the Commonwealth but of course not each country. For example, Myanmar decided not to join the community, Ireland was member but decided to secede in 1949 and joining was not also in the interest of Middle East countries. Those who expanded the community in 1950s and 1960s were for example Malaysia, Cameroon, Cyprus, Jamaica, Ghana and many others (Commonwealth Network, c2016).

3.5 Strengthening organizational units

As Commonwealth was growing in this time, its structure also strengthened because more authorities were created. From these authorities, it is important to mention Commonwealth Secretariat (since 1965) that deals with community's administration (Commonwealth Network, c2016). In 1966 Commonwealth Foundation was established with its task to provide support to non-profit organizations linked with Commonwealth (Šanc and Ženíšek, 2008).

Year 1971 was important or "a turning point" because of The Singapore Declaration. This significant document helped to the whole understanding of the Community. It was because it allegedly changed its way of functioning from "imperial" style to more democratic and open (Šanc and Ženíšek, 2008). Since 1971 there has been also the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation that serves as a tool for mutual development aid of member countries. Member countries could put optional amount of money to this fund and if needed they could use money from it for development. Interesting and helpful authority can be also Commonwealth of Learning that was created in 1988 to support education (Commonwealth Network, c2016).

3.6 Continuation of new members joining but also leaving

Joining of new members was continuing also in 1970s, 1980s and in 1990s too. (The Commonwealth, c2016). As we can see Commonwealth of Nations went through huge extension but there were also some problems with member countries, so when a country violates principles of democracy or rules of the Commonwealth, it is then suspended. In the case that problem is fixed, country can rejoin back. This is the case of South Africa for example when it left the community in 1961. The Commonwealth did not tolerate apartheid policy there so South Africa was not member until democratic elections in 1994. Another example can be Fiji Islands. Fiji left in 1987 because of political instability that lead to a military coup. It was taken back in 1997 thanks to constitutional reform and support of other members. Nigeria can be also named as the good example of suspension from Commonwealth of Nations. Nigeria joined in 1960 and 35 years

later was suspended because it violated declaration that is very important for the Commonwealth, namely Harare Declaration from 1991 (Commonwealth Network, c2016).

3.7 Harare Declaration

Harare Declaration is a fundamental document of the Commonwealth's principles. It is an extension of an existing document Declaration of Commonwealth Principles from Singapore 1971. In Harare Declaration there are stated fundamental points of Commonwealth's attitude like liberty, peace, support to developing and small countries, environment protection, fight against discrimination, poverty, inequality et cetera (The Harare Commonwealth Declaration, 1991). I would say it is just a basic document that generally says that Commonwealth of Nations is supposed to connect very diverse countries of different cultures, languages, habits, races, ethnics and so on and lead them to democratic principles and mutual help. More about Harare Declaration is described in introduction of subchapter Analysis of Harare Declaration categories.

3.8 Suspensions

Situation in Nigeria after suspension was being monitored because of violation of democratic principles, which Commonwealth is based on and these principles are considered a lot (Commonwealth Network, c2016). Nigeria suffered a lot from corruption in a government and violation of human rights. Situation there was very bad and was terribly worsening economy in the country (Falola and Heaton, 2008). Nigeria was taken back in 1999 after democratic election of a president (Commonwealth Network, c2016).

Zimbabwe was not only suspended but it left Commonwealth in 2003 and still has not been taken back (Commonwealth Network, c2016). It was a reaction on CHOGM (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting) Statement that was about disappointment from violation of democracy. This targeted bullying and violence during elections in Zimbabwe (All Africa, 2002).

There were other suspensions for Fiji and Pakistan but both have already been taken back, Fiji in 2001 and Pakistan in 2004 (Commonwealth Network, c2016).

4 Commonwealth realm

Commonwealth realm is a term that describes member countries of Commonwealth of Nations that voluntarily have accepted British queen (or a king) as their ruler. In Commonwealth realm countries, the monarch is represented by governor-general who acts in country's matters. But United Kingdom is only country of Commonwealth realm which does not have this function in government. Another important function has the prime minister who is there to help the governor general to lead certain country especially in obligations originating from the constitution (Panton, 2011). The Queen's position in governance is preserved from history and is rather a tradition than position with some influential powers. By the way Queen can for example discuss some matters with other Commonwealth politicians and current Queen Elisabeth II. appreciated Commonwealth of Nations for its humanity (Green, 2006).

Panton also mentions that Commonwealth realm can be a disadvantageous especially when British monarch speaks about matters on which are different opinions in Britain and in another Commonwealth realm country. Thus, a dispute can occur between them when monarch expresses rather British interests. Surprisingly, despite of some problems or disagreements, a lot of people still want to preserve the neutral ruler (Panton, 2011).

I agree British monarch as a head of the whole Commonwealth should always try to speak in the way to do not upset anyone from member countries. Once they are the community so good relationships are necessary if Commonwealth is supposed to be beneficial as a community.

As mentioned in history part of this thesis, originally one ruler for all member countries was supposed but India was first who did not want to recognize British monarch as their monarch and they wanted reserve their own government. This possibility was an incentive for other countries who wanted it the same like India. The result was that "only" 16 countries out of 52 have British queen recognized as their queen (Green, 2006).

Namely Commonwealth realm countries are - Canada (since 1931), Australia (since 1942), New Zealand (since 1947), Jamaica (since 1962), Barbados (since 1966), Bahamas (since 1973), Grenada (since 1974), Papua New Guinea (since 1975), Solomon Islands and Tuvalu both have been members since 1978, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (both since 1979), Antigua and Barbuda (since 1981), Belize (also since 1981) and Saint Kitts and Nevis (since 1983). And of course, the 16th country is the United Kingdom (Panton, 2011).

5 Commonwealth structure

5.1 Head of the Commonwealth

As mentioned above, this function belongs to the United Kingdom's ruler. The function does not have any special powers or obligatory activities that would be necessary for functioning of the entire Commonwealth of Nations. In present Head of the Commonwealth is still Queen Elizabeth II (Šanc and Ženíšek, 2008).

5.2 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

This is interesting part of Commonwealth structure because it is not particular function but it is a meeting of prime ministers of member countries. This meeting takes place every 2 years and political matters are discussed. There is also a vote on important matters and in this vote, there must be consensus achieved otherwise decision is not taken (Šanc and Ženíšek, 2008).

5.3 Commonwealth Secretary-General

This role is the Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Secretariat. The task of officer on this position is representation of the Commonwealth and to promote communication and negotiation between governments of member states, which leads to cooperation. The mandate lasts maximum for two four-year terms and the officer is elected by upper Commonwealth officers. Nowadays this function is executed by Patricia Scotland from Dominica (The Commonwealth, c2016).

Under Commonwealth Secretariat falls also Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal and it is used for solving internal problems of the secretariat (Šanc and Ženíšek, 2008).

5.4 Commonwealth Deputy Secretaries-General

Three people perform this position, namely Josephine Ojiambo, Deodat Maharaj and Gary Dunn. Their task is to support Secretary-General with performing her managing functions (The Commonwealth, c2016).

5.5 Board of Governors

They are representatives of all member governments. Board of Governors' task is to approve Commonwealth Secretariat's proposals regarding the budget and also other work. They meet every year (The Commonwealth, c2016).

5.6 Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group

This group focuses on solving problems connected with violation of Commonwealth principles. They can suspend member country or submit a proposal of suspension (Šanc and Ženíšek, 2008).

5.7 Commonwealth Chair in Office

Function is executed by the leader of member country in which a Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) takes place. Commonwealth Chair in Office also represents Commonwealth internationally and expresses its interests at various meetings (The Commonwealth, c2016).

5.8 Commonwealth family

So called Commonwealth family, consists of many (around 90) organizations which are associated to the Community, act in harmony with aims of the Community and perform activity in all member countries (Šanc and Ženíšek, 2008).

6 Importance of Commonwealth

This chapter deals with studying and comparing Commonwealth's positives and negatives in their policy making. Because there are both supporters and critics of Commonwealth's activity (or inactivity) it is important to explore opinions of both sides. Next, this part of thesis describes programmes of Commonwealth which serve as tools of improvement in certain areas and examines their importance. This can help to understand better whether Commonwealth is important and somehow useful as international organization helping its own members or not.

According to Šanc and Ženíšek (2008) Commonwealth presents itself as a trustworthy community which is here for all the citizens of member states and it has been trying to provide good, peaceful policy which achieves equality, democracy, peace, eradication of poverty, sustainable development and consensus.

With regard to the importance of the Commonwealth, Schreuder (2002) mentions that even though that it is possible to hear some sceptical opinions on Commonwealth from many sides, it should not be condemned because Commonwealth has some benefits which should not be forgotten. Internal advantage of the community is the possibility that member countries are supposed to learn things from each other. Not a bad thing is to take into account that Commonwealth connects different ethnics from 52 countries all over the world. The interesting is that they are connected only by the fact they were in past a part of one huge empire.

But author also reckons with an opinion that it is difficult to find proper reasons (except historical and cultural) to maintain an obsolete and useless organization. Even we can find those who criticise Commonwealth a lot because it allegedly failed in achieving their important objectives like for example to bring democracy for countries which still do not have it and also fail in assistance to bring development; these failures could be visible especially in African, Asian and Pacific countries (Schreuder, 2002).

It is also mentioned in 2012-2013 report of British House of Commons that some doubts regarding democracy and human rights encouragement exist (House of Commons, 2012).

Criticism continues with a feeling that Commonwealth has some advantages in terms of human rights but anyway these are still being violated in many countries and unfortunately sometimes also by the state or with its consciousness. It is difficult to keep weaker countries on the right way and critics say that Commonwealth continues in policy of British Empire by internationalizing problems like poorness and lack of equity and they do not see the fair reason why it connects both very developed and non-advanced countries. They see rather unfair "imperial" reasons and this can be for example "attack" on the developing countries and exploitation of their native societies (Schreuder, 2002).

Schreuder does not describe only opinions of critics. He tries to explain why Commonwealth is useful in some matters. He appreciates the whole organization because it works on not such a bureaucratic basis unlike for example United Nations. It is very appreciable that Commonwealth acts, we can say casually, but to achieve their goals, thanks to the mutual cooperation, willingness and understanding of very small states with the big ones. The real usefulness is in mutual cooperation for instance when prime ministers of all member countries meet at Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and together negotiate about solutions of their problems and appreciable is also the casual atmosphere in which they act. The movement of abilities and social capital within Commonwealth is very crucial. Positive is also the fact that there are small states which have some voice (Schreuder, 2002).

Also former Prime Minister of Australia Malcolm Fraser (2012) had neither only sceptical nor only positive view on Commonwealth. He said Commonwealth is only people who are living in the Community or who work for it and that it is not very powerful. However, it has a potential. Its potential is about Commonwealth leaders' discussion of important problems and effort to find out how to solve them the best.

Schreuder (2002) sees other benefits of Commonwealth in professional organizations. Commonwealth is excellent in establishing useful organizations which promote law, medicine, education, human rights, fight against terrorism, peace, environment, agencies for cultural, social and economic matters and others.

Commonwealth countries are diverse but have mutual interests. There are great advanced countries and also small developing countries. Challenge of Commonwealth is in educating weaker countries by the stronger ones, especially educating them in democratic, administrative, security, economic, reducing criminality, health care and other important areas. Because Commonwealth is good in establishing useful organizations there is still possibility to do research and create new programmes which would help. On the other hand, even though they are trying, Commonwealth together with international organizations like United Nations and others have not helped much to solve global problems like poverty, lack of justice, oppression et cetera. But Commonwealth with its focus on right things has probably good potential to help with solution of problematic matters in the world and to help with development. The advantage of Commonwealth is experience from history which can be used for future welfare (Schreuder, 2002).

6.1 Maldives leaving Commonwealth

As a concrete example showing there can occur even country discontentment, which can lead to exit from the community, I used the recent case of Maldives leaving Commonwealth.

Recent reflect of dissatisfaction dates to October 13, when one of the small countries – Maldives, decided to leave Commonwealth due to the insufficient and decreasing support (Józwiak, 2016).

The Secretariat exhibited disappointment with their decision, and claims they were providing them active support through the Fund For Technical Cooperation and they invested in Maldives more than Maldives invested into this fund. Concretely, the

Secretariat affirmed that contribution from the fund did 1.85£ for every 1£ that was invested by Maldives, through projects focused on human rights, young people, help with debt management and capacity building in judiciary sector (Józwiak, 2016).

According to The Australian (2016), Commonwealth Secretary-General also expressed her hope to Maldives rejoin back to the community and she believe that Maldivian exit from Commonwealth is not forever.

Mohamed Asim who is the current Maldivian Minister of Foreign Affairs allegedly said that impact of Commonwealth's projects was not so influential to development of the country (Józwiak, 2016).

Thus Maldives are another country which left the community because in 2013 it was The Gambia who left. (The Australian, 2016).

Example of Maldives reveals that not everybody must be necessarily satisfied in Commonwealth. Better mutual communication and focus on the right causes of problems in particular countries could be the basics for satisfaction. On the other hand if the country is not satisfied, like in this case Maldives, the government of the country can from day to day decide that they want to leave the community. And this could be considered as the positive option in the community, because they can leave it without any complicated obstacles and bureaucracy. Maybe this also proves that countries are not so tied with the community, like for example EU members with the European Union and people could have many different opinions if this is better way or the worse one. However Commonwealth is not organization that would be similar to EU. Commonwealth is just a community of mostly former British colonies from all parts of the world with the aim of mutual help among member countries, as described in preceding chapters.

7 Analysis of Harare Declaration categories

In The Harare Commonwealth Declaration it was agreed on quite a lot of principles which Commonwealth is supposed to follow. I summarized this principles into 8 categories which provides better clarity, this was done with effort to summarize principles which can be summarized with each other. I put together principles regarding democracy promotion, fair justice and preservation of basic Commonwealth's political tenets which are actually democracy and matters connected with democracy, and also provision and support of global peace (including security matters). These are in Democracy and Global Peace category and measured by Democracy Index and Global Peace Index. All points connected to education, schooling, training and youngsters and children support are lumped together in category called Education and Youth Support. Equality and other points regarding human rights are included in Human Rights category and measured by Human Rights Risk Index. Principles focusing on population health status, unhealthy way of life impacts elimination, illnesses mitigation et cetera are put into Health Care category and index used for measurement of situation is Life Expectancy at Birth. After Health Care, the economic matters follow. Into economic category called Economic Growth and Internal Trade, principles as economic growth, effective management, mutual trade, support of small, developing states, assistance in economic problems solutions and other similar things, belong. Economic growth is usually measured by GDP progression, thus GDP per capita is chosen also in this thesis for measurement of economic growth. GDP per capita is more accurate because it eliminates a distortion caused by the fact some states are large with large population and some are small and less populated. Protection of the Environment is another assumption of Commonwealth, therefore this principle has dedicated its own category and this category is measured by Environmental Performance Index. Sport and Culture are supported by Commonwealth but it is not possible to measure it by proper index, thus I examine why it is important to support this categories. Standard of living is also principle anchored in Harare Declaration but this was not selected as a single category because I believe previous categories capture this topic. The reason is that standard of

living includes economic matters, education, health and these are already mentioned. The same is sustainable development, it is a very wide term including many factors and lot of these factors could be similar as my categories. Also technological advancement is their purpose which was not chosen as single category because technology improvement is a subject of some other categories like for example health care.

7.1 Democracy and Global Peace

One of the main efforts of Commonwealth is to spread democratic principles all over the community (The Harare Commonwealth Declaration, 1991).

Report of the Commonwealth Secretary – General 2011-2013 describes activities designed for promotion of democracy. These activities in certain countries are mentioned in this subchapter and are then evaluated according to the Democracy Index, whether the Commonwealth performs this activities in countries with low Democracy Index. Then comparison of index after few years is done. The comparison of the index can prompt whether the state of democracy in particular countries changed positively.

One of the countries where Commonwealth tries to improve democracy is Swaziland. In 2012 their support meant the determination of the adviser who would help to improve Swaziland's attitude to democratic requirements (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2013]). Unfortunately in this country the effort was probably insufficient, the Democracy index has decreasing trend there. In 2012 Swaziland's score of the index was 3.20 (Economist Intelligence Unit, c2013). 2014 index shows lower number, concretely 3.09 (Economist Intelligence Unit, c2015). And in 2016 index, the number was lower again, 3.03 was the score of Democracy index there. The biggest issue in Swaziland's democratic principles is the process of elections which has the lowest number from the components of Democracy index. This low score means that Swaziland is included between authoritarian countries (Economist Intelligence Unit, c2017).

Another country where Commonwealth has a lot to do is Sierra Leone. In 2012 elections were supervised by Commonwealth and after that gathering of winners and

losers was also mediated by Commonwealth. This ensured that grievances about elections were made without brutality and according to the law (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2013]). Sierra Leone does not belong to the worst group (authoritarian) according to the index but belongs to a group higher (hybrid regimes). This is not any huge win and number 4.71 tells that there is still a lot of work (Economist Intelligence Unit, c2013). Neither in Sierra Leone it has an increasing tendency. In 2014 the index dropped to 4.56, which probably tells us that help is not sufficient in the country but on the other hand it is always very difficult to arrange an improvement in countries like this. (Economist Intelligence Unit, c2015). Even though the decline is low between 2014-2016, the index only proves it. Specific number is only hundredth lower - 4.55 (Economist Intelligence Unit, c2017).

Between 2011 and 2013 Commonwealth focused on reinforcing the work of institutions dealing with democratic principles in Cameroon, Gambia, Kenya and Lesotho. Also they were helping with elections and supervision over the elections in these countries plus in Uganda, Nigeria, Zambia, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Papua New Guinea, already mentioned Sierra Leone, Ghana and Pakistan. Commonwealth argues they helped them to increase trust in the ballot (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2013]). If we check the progress of Democracy index in these countries we can notice following results:

- Cameroon's score was fluctuating during the last years. It was 3.44 in 2012 index, then increased in 2015 to 3.66 and dropped to 3.46 in 2016.
- Gambia is a country with decreasing tendency. 3.31 from 2012 decreased to 3.05 during two years and it went even under the 3, when in 2015 the score was 2.97 and 2.91 in 2016.
- In Kenya we can observe slight increase, in 2012 it was 4.71 then it swung over 5 in 2013 (5.13) and in 2016 Kenya achieved 5.33 score.
- Lesotho had quite stable score, while in 2012-2014 it was 6.66 but then it declined to 6.59 in 2015 and 2016.

-
- Uganda was one of the countries which experienced small increase. From 5.16 in 2012 through 5.22 in 2013, 2014 and 2015 to 5.26 in 2016.
 - Nigeria experienced relatively high increase if we compare it to the countries above. Nigeria had score 3.77 in 2012, 2013 slight drop in 2014 (3.76) but score then skyrocketed to 4.62 in 2015. Unfortunately decline to 4.5 in 2016 spoils the impression.
 - Zambia's peak was in 2014 with score 6.39 (before it was 6.26 in 2012 and 2013) then it decreased to 6.28 in 2015 and to 5.99 in 2016.
 - Guyana had 6.05 in 2012 and 2013, 5.91 in 2014, then again 6.05 in 2015. In 2016 it reached the peak by 6.25.
 - For Saint Lucia there are no data available.
 - Papua New Guinea is experiencing decreasing tendency through the years. From 6.32 in 2012 to 6.36 in 2013 it was increase but then it dropped to 6.03 in 2014 and this situation lasted till 2016.
 - Ghana's situation is not as bad as in some other countries. Democracy index there was 6.02 in 2012, it increased to 6.33 in 2013 and 2014. Then it reached the peak in 2015 by 6.86 but unfortunately in 2016 there was a decline to 6.75 score of the Democracy index.
 - Pakistan's score in 2012 was 4.57, it reached its peak in 2013 and 2014 with score 4.64 and then it fell to 4.4 in 2015 and 4.33 in 2016. (Economist Intelligence Unit, c2017)

Pakistan did a big step regarding the democracy during its Democracy index peak in 2013 when in this year previously elected government was replaced by newly elected government without any violence and obstacles (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2013]).

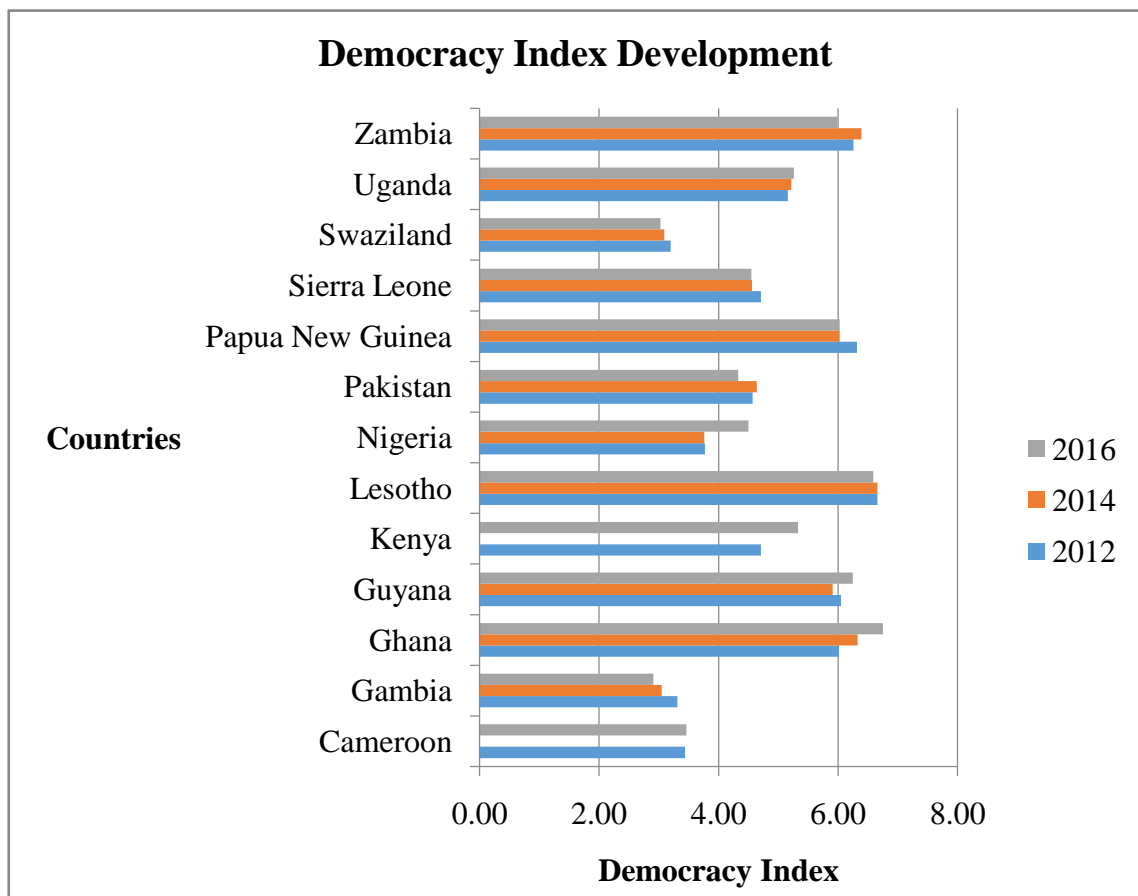


Fig. 1 Democracy Index Development

Source: Created on my own, based on data from Economist Intelligence Unit (c2013-c2017)

Figure 1 describes development of Democracy Index for determined years in countries where programs were implemented. This figure nicely shows democratic differences even in these countries.

Therefore, if we check the Democracy index progress in participated countries, sometimes there is a small increase but in more cases, there is unfortunately rather decrease in democracy. Nigeria could be considered as an exception because there was surprisingly quite a big increase according to the index. Other countries experienced much lower increase or even decrease. Some of them had hopeful increase after few years but then it felt down again. But this is case of Nigeria too, after strong rise of the index there was some decline and it would be a pity if it fell even more. Thus, if Commonwealth wants to help with democracies it should have bigger effort, but of course it is always difficult to change things like this. On the other hand, programs in

these countries were insufficient and stronger would be welcomed, especially in countries like Gambia, where democratic score is so low and continues to decline. But nowadays it is not part of Commonwealth's agenda because, as already mentioned, Gambia left the community in 2013, but data for Gambia are included here because till 2013 Gambia was part of Commonwealth programs which are examined here. The question is whether the Commonwealth has so much power and capability to change bad situation in their member countries because it is not only organization, which is trying to help in African and other countries to development, and in case of non-improvement only Commonwealth cannot be blamed for it.

When looking on the promotion of global peace, Commonwealth has more or less the same or similar programs as for democracy. Usually in the same countries, which is probably caused by the fact that democracy and peace has a tight relationship. Their often attempts for provision of global peace are being done by promotion of so called "Good Offices for Peace" as Commonwealth titles it. Their work is to support institutions focusing on peace. Activities towards peace are especially in these countries: Swaziland, Sierra Leone, Maldives, Kenya, Gambia, Cameroon and Lesotho (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2013]).

Global Peace Index takes into consideration both the external and internal peace of the country. The best possible index value is 1, it is the best option for a country to achieve (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2011). We can compare index value of countries from 2011 because we draw information from report starting in this year and values from 2016 which are the newest available. This will show us how the peace situation developed in countries.

For comparison, the highest position of Commonwealth countries occupies New Zealand with score 1.279 and is in 2nd place. Countries mentioned above have following values: Swaziland is in 69th place (score 1.995), Sierra Leone is even better in 61st place (score 1.904), Gambia is one place behind with score 1.910. Kenya occupies 111th place with 2.276 score value, while Cameroon is on 86th place and its

score is 2.104. Scores and ratings of Maldives and Lesotho are not available in 2011 Global Peace Index. But there are also countries which are in worse situation and it could be fine to focus on their peace situation improvement. Between these countries we can include Sri Lanka with 2.407 score and ranking 126th place, India 135th place (score 2.570), Nigeria on 142nd place (score 2.743) or Pakistan on 146th place with score 2.905 (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2011).

The index from 2016 shows the situation has not improved in most countries. Swaziland occupies 90th place and its score is 2.074, but Sierra Leone is an exception with its movement on 43rd place and score 1.805. Gambia is on worse 92nd place (score 2.091), Kenya is on 131st place with score 2.379, Cameroon is 130th (score 2.356), not previously measured Lesotho is on 63rd place with score 1.941, Maldives are not still available. Also, previously mentioned New Zealand has experienced a drop - from 2nd to 4th place with score 1.287 (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2016).

It is visible that situation is worse than before and efforts to improve global peace have not helped. But we cannot blame Commonwealth for it, because the index value worsened in many countries. For example, Finland was in 2011 index in 7th place with score 1.352 or United States of America were in 82nd place and its score was 2.063 (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2011). In 2016 index, it occupies 11th place with score 1.429 and United States of America are in 103rd place with score 2.154 (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2016). Thus, it is not the fault of Commonwealth but trend of peace in the whole world is rather decreasing.

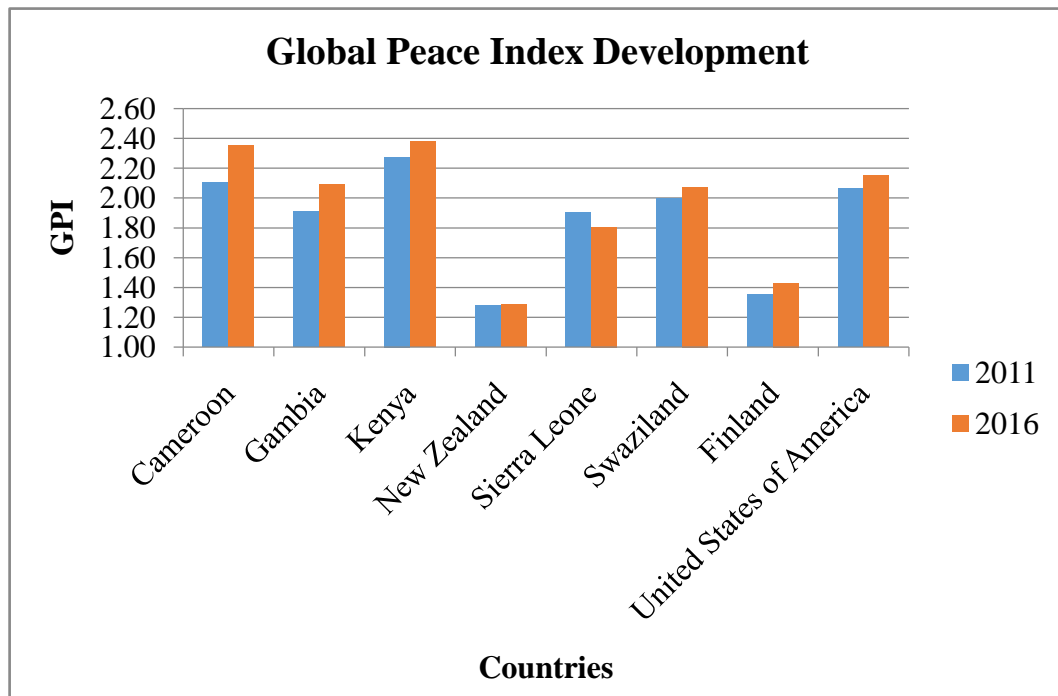


Fig. 2 Global Peace Index Development

Created on my own, based on data from Institute for Economics and Peace 2011 and 2016

Figure 2 shows the trend of increasing trend in Global Peace Index (except of Sierra Leone), in countries where programs on peace were implemented, which is negative phenomenon because the higher the value, the lesser the peace. For comparison United States and Finland are included to show that trend is not negative only in Commonwealth countries. New Zealand is included there to show, how big inequalities can be seen within the Commonwealth countries, regarding the Global Peace Index.

7.2 Education and Youth support

The subchapter dealing with education and youth development observes state of education in particular countries by looking at countries which Commonwealth has projects for schooling and education development in. Education Index was chosen for this measurement. Calculation of Education Index is composed of mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling (Human Development Reports, 2013). Because it contains these two parts which are important for assessment of education

status according to my opinion, this can serve as a proper index for showing how the schooling situation in countries looks like.

Brace (2000) mentions that young people do not have so tied relationship with Commonwealth because new generations do not have experience with its origin, how and why it was created et cetera. This is the reason why they do not consider Commonwealth a lot. But he mentions it can be changed by including young people in Commonwealth's work through for example existing programmes for youth.

Improvement of Commonwealth's position among young people can be achieved when they are taught about it more practically, it means when it touches relevant existing issues which need to be solved (Brace, 2000).

The Pan-Commonwealth Framework on Professional Standards for Teachers and School Leaders from 2013 showed some kind of trust of member countries in Commonwealth frameworks, when some countries trialled and some (Jamaica, Maldives and Samoa) even practically implemented their national educational policies based on this framework. The framework is coming from mutual cooperation of member countries with participation of countries from Africa, Asia, Caribbean and the Pacific. They cooperated through their experience from particular regions, and proposed some resources that countries can use for implementation of their national plans (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2015]).

Commonwealth has some institutions which are focused on improvement of education quality. One of them, which is well-known and popular is called Commonwealth of Learning (COL) with the main focus on programmes regarding open schooling, provision of access to higher education, improvement of teachers' training and last but not least VUSSC (Virtual University for Small states of the Commonwealth). VUSSC is a group of 32 small member states which electronically cooperate in development of skills, technology and other useful sectors. These members are of course supported by COL, mainly they assist them with development of online materials (Commonwealth Network, c2017).

I would like to appreciate especially VUSSC system because it helps to provide education in small, usually developing countries where it would be otherwise very difficult to access higher education. These supportive, helpful programmes, not only VUSSC but also others, could be considered as a big advantage of Commonwealth and a proof that Commonwealth works for its citizens, in the case they are somehow improving quality of certain areas. According progress report of Commonwealth Secretariat from session 2015/2016, their educational programmes are helping. Technical and Vocational Educational Training (TVET) can serve as an example that was implemented in Fiji and Jamaica with good results. Especially it helped them to find out insufficiencies in this area and they know what to focus on when improving it (Commonwealth Secretariat, c2016).

Commonwealth found out that there are also some problems regarding educational policy implementation and it is necessary to improve it, especially in Bangladesh, Gambia, Jamaica, Kenya and Papua New Guinea. Commonwealth takes also the Caribbean into account, concretely they focused on young boys' incompetence with the aim to improve the situation. Policies determined for this action were launched in Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica. In Africa also Malawi should not be forgotten, there was an effort to start program which would provide better education possibilities for albino children. (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2013]). Uganda and Botswana are other countries where programs implemented are focused especially on education availability for Nomadic people (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2015]).

They focused on countries which are not ranked only in the worst places in the table of countries according to Education Index, but logically they did not focus a lot on highly ranked countries which have relatively good education compared with others who are much worse in educational systems.

Trinidad and Tobago is placed in 64th place, Fiji is in 88th place, Jamaica belongs to 96th place, Saint Lucia is just behind the Jamaica in 97th place, Maldives are in 103rd place, Samoa's ranking is 106th place, 109th is Botswana, 147th place is for Kenya,

157th for Papua New Guinea, unpleasant 164th place belongs to Uganda, Gambia is on very poor 172nd and Malawi even on 174th place out of 187 places in the table, according to 2013 Education Index. When looking on this table, it could be recommended to focus also on Mozambique and Sierra Leone during this period. These are two worst-placed Commonwealth countries in the Education Index table. Mozambique is in 178th and Sierra Leone in 183rd place out of 187 places (Human Development Reports, 2013). But otherwise there are included countries which has a low index and thus need to improve their education, so Commonwealth directed their educational programs to relatively correct way.

Because this subchapter contains also youngsters support I would like to mention also some actions focusing on young people within Commonwealth. Commonwealth created networks and programs which support a lot for example young businessmen and businesswomen (i.e. Commonwealth Asia Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs), but also programs and institutions regarding sport, work opportunities, possibilities for students et cetera. Commonwealth also invented its own index – Youth Development Index by which they can measure progress of youth development in member countries and according to their findings they can implement strategies and policies which would fit exactly on the specific issue (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2013]). This I consider a lot because they created something that fits directly to them and they can have more exact view what is needed in member countries regarding the youth development.

7.3 Human Rights

Human rights are still a big issue and everyday topic of many developing countries worldwide. Because Commonwealth has many of these countries as members, it is obvious it should try to do best for improving the situation. As human rights are one of the most important point in Harare Declaration, Commonwealth has programmes focusing to achieve better situation in this countries. Commonwealth makes no secret that it cooperates with United Nations in many fields because together they can achieve more significant results. And this cooperation exists also in terms of human rights (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2013]).

In the period 2011-2013 the Commonwealth's supporting of human rights was highly linked with the United Nations' program Universal Periodic Review which monitors situation regarding human rights in all UN member countries (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2013]).

Commonwealth's assistance was more or less about discussions (but on international level), training of persons chosen for training of others, also it was about assistance to developing governments to implement some human rights "rules" and emphasis was put on increasing the capacity of human rights institutions capacity too. This assistance was rather technical to ensure better administrative performance than significant changes and improvement in human rights. Steps towards progress were small but at least some (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2013]).

During this period Commonwealth put an effort on supporting the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, especially to fortify its ability to be more influential and stronger in investigations that serve for human rights protection (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2013]). Commonwealth deserves recognition for focusing on the right problem at the right place because Sri Lanka and human rights in 2012 was not a good story. Government ignored war crimes that were done during civil war (ended in 2009). Threats, arrests without righteous judicial proceeding, violence, intimidation, this all was the attitude of the government against civilians and safety in this country was low. Violence and oppression was targeted mainly on minority population of Tamils (Human Rights Watch, 2013).

In 2014 there was a small, I must emphasize the word "small" improvement. This improvement from the government was really slender and Sri Lankan government was still violently "fighting" against their critics. Their improvement consisted in better attitude against war crimes. This little betterment was rather enforced by UN's investigations (Human Rights Watch, 2015).

The biggest steps to better conditions were made in 2015 after elections and advent of the new government. They cancelled a lot of oppressive tools like media censorship,

also they started to vivify fair justice and other measures needed were done. But the new government was not an absolute saviour, there was still violence being implemented in some sectors, for example by police. Pressure of UN continued and improvements were slowly coming and it seemed that also willingness to international negotiation was higher. (Human Rights Watch, c2017).

For control of the progress, Human Rights Risk Index (HRRI) can be selected. HRRI takes into account several factors of the country that shows human rights situation there. These are freedom of speech, press, religion, authorized or unauthorized arrests, fairness of courts and rights of minorities. The index has 4 groups of human rights conditions in certain countries. These groups are: low risk (the best), medium risk, high risk and extreme risk (the worst) (Verisk Maplecroft, 2011). When applying this index to Sri Lanka, some improvement is visible there. In 2014 Sri Lanka was included among countries that have extreme risk according to HRRI (Maplecroft, c2013). In 2016 the country jumped from extreme risk to high risk group (Verisk Maplecroft, c2016).

Even though that Sri Lanka still has problems and has a lot to improve, some changes started. It can be said that changes were rather thanks to the UN than the Commonwealth, but as mentioned, Commonwealth cooperates with UN and concretely in this case, Commonwealth was assisting to their human rights program, was part of the team which brought some positive changes.

These facts show us that Commonwealth probably does not have powers to be super-strong institution which can immediately enforce changes in their member country, but can be a eligible partner for stronger and more influential world organizations (like in this case United Nations) and this partner has a lot of supportive activities and able experts who can participate in existing but also in newly established plans.

Commonwealth continues to support the Universal Periodic Review and to create other National Human Rights Institutions that would take care about human rights in particular country as they did in Sri Lanka. The institutions promotion or creation is located to Jamaica, Swaziland, Seychelles, continues in Sri Lanka by implementing

good examples from practice in Namibia, South Africa and Northern Ireland (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2015]).

Similar situation regarding human rights and improvement according to HRRI occurred also in Ghana when in 2014 HRRI, Ghana was in high risk group (Maplecroft, c2013). In 2016 Ghana was in medium risk part already. The positive movement occurred even in India, from extreme risk to high risk group (Verisk Maplecroft, c2016).

Unfortunately opposite effect can be observed too. Concrete country when this happened is Guyana. In 2014 Guyana was in relatively nice medium risk group (Maplecroft, c2013). But HRRI data from 2016 shows Guyana's adverse movement, concretely to the high risk group (Verisk Maplecroft, c2016). This shows us which country's improvement Commonwealth could focus more on and in which sector. According to Commonwealth Secretariat (c2016) Commonwealth thought about Guyana in terms of human rights and they run programs to promote justice and legal system to be more successful. This assistance contains again capacity building, administrative help, technical assistance, and legal frameworks support. Once more there is evident Commonwealth's endeavour on the right place. Deterioration in human rights sector in Guyana in 2014 probably resulted to new actions and in 2015/2016 there are activities focusing on Guyana's legal system and judiciary improvement.

Countries' movement in Human Rights Risk Index groups can be seen in Figure 5 and Figure 6, which are available in annexes.

Gender equality is often discussed topic and it is not different in Commonwealth. And they have a very good reason to speak about it. The reason is that a lot of Commonwealth member countries have a high rate of Gender Inequality Index (GII) which shows inequality particularly in Africa (Sierra Leone occupies terrible 145th place in the world gender equality, Malawi 140th, Mozambique 135th, Cameroon 132nd...), Asian countries (India 130th, Pakistan 121st...), but also countries from Pacific region (Papua New Guinea 140th place together with Malawi, Tonga even 148th), data are from 2014 (Human Development Reports, 2015). The fact that

countries like India and Pakistan which have been a long time members of Commonwealth have a high inequality rate is bewildering and critics could use them as an example to show that Commonwealth is not able to help its developing members.

On the other hand, the new Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland who is the first women Secretary-General ever, could have huge interest in improving the situation and be more dynamic in solving this problem. Therefore she carried out the first Commonwealth Women Leaders' Summit in July 2016 where she informed about involving women leaders from Commonwealth in a new action called Gender Equality Framework 2020. This framework is supposed to plan and prepare policies till 2020 in following sectors: violence against women and girls, women in leadership, women's economic empowerment (The Commonwealth, 2016).

7.4 Health care

Because Commonwealth members include countries that suffer from high mortality or many dangerous diseases which can be reduced by proper awareness and educational training to learn about it, Commonwealth has also an effort to improve health care sector of its member countries. The main targets to fight against are malaria, HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases, child mortality and bad maternal health situation (Commonwealth Network, c2017).

Whereas health is important for the development, Commonwealth aid contains mainly training and provision of health workers where needed, e-health creation and promotion and effort to enforce health policies that would be more useful in affected countries. E-health creation is nowadays a big point among Commonwealth's health programs. Commonwealth believes that big advantages of e-health are that it can reduce health care costs and improve awareness (Commonwealth Network, c2017).

Implementation of e-health project was for example in Kenya. (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2013]) In 2010 life expectancy at birth in Kenya was 60.3 years (World Health Organization, c2016).

Health care projects of Commonwealth are today concentrated in the area which need it most. Concretely I mean Sierra Leone (Commonwealth Secretariat, c2016), country which has the lowest life expectancy not only in Commonwealth but in the world with life expectancy that counts only 50.1 years in 2015 and even in 2010 it was only 48.1 years, which is a terribly low number (World Health Organization, c2016). It is understandable that Commonwealth is doing well by supporting health system in Sierra Leone where so terrible life expectancy is. But in spite of the fact that Sierra Leone had so low life expectancy, there were not health programs focusing in the country during the years 2011-2013 mentioned in the report from this period. In Commonwealth reports we could notice that they implemented health supportive actions around 2014. These actions were especially increasing capacities of health laboratories and help with determination of national health planning (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2015]). In 2016, also as a reaction on Ebola virus, Commonwealth tested a new program focusing on communicable diseases prevention and surveillance, readiness to face the health problems, and last but not least environmental health. Allegedly this already have positive evaluation by Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation (Commonwealth Secretariat, c2016). However only future may tell us whether this Commonwealth's interest in Sierra Leone brought some progress or not. What is unequivocal is the fact that Sierra Leone really needs positive results of improvement programs in health care systems support and finally Commonwealth realized it.

Commonwealth had some health projects in West Africa during 2011-2013 and the main target of this area was probably Gambia. In Africa there were also other countries as members of Commonwealth projects. There were projects in Oceania too, particularly in Tonga and in Caribbean – Saint Lucia (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2013]).

In this 2 years, focus of Commonwealth's assistance could be considered as irrational in some cases if we look on the life expectancy, Tonga - 72.8, Gambia 59.3 (which can be considered as relatively low) but also Saint Lucia -74.2 (World Health Organization, c2016). On the other hand there could be other reasons for helping concretely in this

countries, for example some current of temporary problems and we can say nowadays targets of their assistance are absolutely correct. Which country would be better to focus on regarding health care status than country with the lowest life expectancy?

Sierra Leone suffered a lot from serious diseases as for example cholera and Ebola last years. And it is risky in this country which has the lowest life expectancy not only due to these two illnesses. Thus the positive change is a necessity and Commonwealth's task is to help the Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation with improving the system of public health also by provision of experts and assist with creation of system that would supervise, recognize and control another possible future threats. They had a project dealing with this which lasted one year and was implemented since July 2015 till July 2016. Overall goal was to make Sierra Leone's public health system more usable, useful and provide better control over the diseases for Ministry of Health and Sanitation. If the project was successful it would result in limitation of the diseases appearance and ensure that Ministry of Health and Sanitation would be stronger adversary to the insidious diseases (The Commonwealth, c2017).

Other examples of health care programs could be seen in Malawi, Seychelles, Tanzania or Uganda where projects focusing on teaching of midwives were implemented. In some other countries like Swaziland or Zambia they started to work on it. (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2013]). Life expectancy at birth (2010) in these countries was 52.9 years in Malawi, 72.4 in Seychelles, 57.5 years in Tanzania and 58.4 years in Uganda. In Swaziland it was 53.6 and in Zambia 58 years. (World Health Organization, c2016). Focus on countries like Malawi, Swaziland and others which have low life expectancy and increase in number of projects started in Sierra Leone is some kind of indication that Commonwealth wants to help there where it is really needed. But there are also programs which could be maybe considered as little bit irrational – like those in countries which have life expectancy higher than 70 years. I would rather recommend to focus on countries like Cameroon which had 55.3 years life expectancy in 2010 and 57.3 in 2015, Lesotho 51.1 (2010) and 53.7 (2015), Mozambique 54 (2010) and 57.6

(2015) and Nigeria 52 years in 2010 and 54.5 in 2015 (World Health Organization, c2016).

The data from previous paragraphs are processed into following 2 tables. Table 1 contains life expectancy for 2010 and 2015 in countries where programs mentioned were implemented, while Table 2 shows countries and their life expectancy for 2010 and 2015 which I recommend to focus on. Of course projects should continue in most countries, maybe except of Saint Lucia, Tonga and Seychelles, which have quite a nice life expectancy compared to others. Instead of them, Commonwealth can focus on countries which are figured in the Table 2.

Tab. 1 Life expectancy at birth 2010, 2015 in countries with projects

Countries	2010	2015
Saint Lucia	74,2	75,2
Tonga	72,8	73,5
Seychelles	72,4	73,2
Kenya	60,3	63,4
Gambia	59,3	61,1
Uganda	58,4	62,3
Zambia	58,0	61,8
Tanzania	57,5	61,8
Swaziland	53,6	58,9
Malawi	52,9	58,3
Sierra Leone	48,1	50,1

Source: Created on my own, based on data from World Health Organization (c2016)

Tab. 2 Countries recommended to focus on due low life expectancy

Countries	2010	2015
Cameroon	55,3	57,3
Mozambique	54,0	57,6
Nigeria	52,0	54,5
Lesotho	51,1	53,7

Source: Created on my own, based on data from World Health Organization (c2016)

7.5 Economic Growth and Internal Trade

This subchapter is devoted to internal trade within Commonwealth and trade opportunities between members. There are some signs showing that the internal trade is important for them and has rising trend. Also, overall economic growth trends within Commonwealth are described here.

Even though the countries do not focus only on trade with other Commonwealth members and have many trading partners also from non-Commonwealth countries,

mutual trade is there and is increasing its numbers. This improves Commonwealth image in terms of mutual cooperation, especially in mutual trade. In numbers rising trade means that Commonwealth internal trade value was \$ 592 billion, it is estimated that one trillion will be achieved in 2020 and it will continue to rise till 2030 when value can achieve 2.75 trillion (Commonwealth Secretariat, c2015).

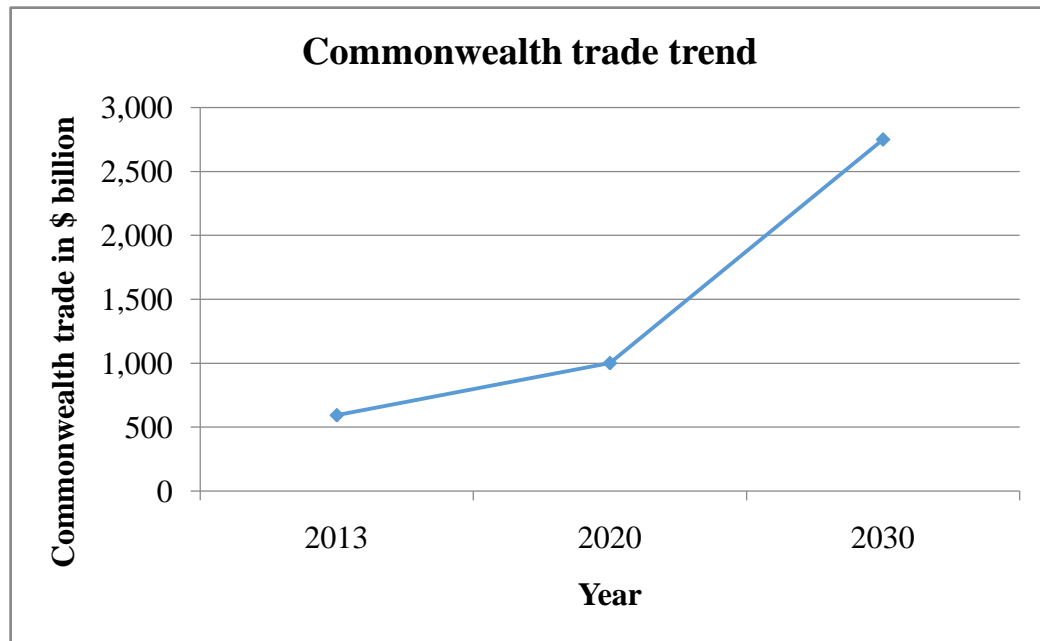


Fig. 3 Commonwealth trade trend

Source: Created on my own, based on data from Commonwealth Secretariat (c2015) - Commonwealth Trade Review 2015: The Commonwealth in the Unfolding Global Trade Landscape

Figure 3 shows the estimation of Commonwealth trade progress in future. As mentioned above, in 2013 its value was almost \$ 600 billion. The graph is included to show Commonwealth optimistic prognosis. Trade value is estimated to grow till 2020 and forecast for period 2020-2030 says the increase is even steeper.

Economic growth measured by GDP per capita can be seen in Table 3, which is available in annexes. Twelve countries experienced a decrease in GDP per capita between 2014 and 2015, concrete countries are Bahamas, Belize, Botswana, Dominica, Malawi, Nauru, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Vanuatu and Zambia. These countries could be helped to achieve better economic performance. The main focus should be on Sierra Leone because they suffered a big blow in economics.

Its decline in GDP per capita was 22.29% between 2014 and 2015. On the opposite side is India, which was the most successful Commonwealth country in this context. Its increase was 6.64% between 2014 and 2015.

For mutual trade approximation, I chose United Kingdom and Australia, as representatives of Commonwealth developed countries, and its import. It is investigated whether they import from Commonwealth countries more and therefore prefer them.

The Commonwealth country, which United Kingdom imports the most from, is Canada, but it counts only 1.4% of total United Kingdom imports. Next is South Africa with 0.98%. Australia contributes only by 0.46%, Malaysia 0.43%, Nigeria 0,32%, another can be Singapore with 0.27% of total UK imports, from New Zealand they import only 0.21% of their imports et cetera. United Kingdom imports also from small, developing Commonwealth member countries (Ghana, Seychelles, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands and so on) but it makes very small proportion of their imports (The Observatory of Economic Complexity, 2015).

Total import of Australia contains a larger proportion of imports from Commonwealth countries than import of United Kingdom. 3.7% of total Australian import comes from Singapore, 3.6% are imported from Malaysia, 3% from New Zealand, 2.8% of total import is from United Kingdom, 1.8% from India, 1.1% from Papua New Guinea, 0.89% from Canada and many other countries including Bangladesh, Brunei, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, South Africa, Zambia, Kenya, Mauritius, Tanzania and so on. (The Observatory of Economic Complexity, 2015). United Kingdom do not prefer Commonwealth countries to import from, but it can be caused by their needs. At first they must choose things they need and then they need to find country which can provide it to them. With respect to their needs, it is difficult to choose only from Commonwealth countries. Imports from Commonwealth countries to Australia account for a larger percentage of total Australia's imports, however needs of Australia and United Kingdom can be different.

7.6 Protection of environment

In this part Commonwealth's goals and preferences regarding the environment are described and discussed whether their assistance is properly directed. For this evaluation, the Environmental Performance Index is used as a tool which can prompt how the environmental conditions in Commonwealth's countries look like.

In terms of environment protection and sustainable development Commonwealth in long term wants to focus especially on climate change, pathway to low-carbon economies, forests protection and conservation and also they connect assistance in human settlements to it (Commonwealth Network, c2017).

Regarding climate change, Commonwealth included this issue on its agenda because some of its member countries are endangered due to the climate change and Commonwealth of course is not trying to do impossible by reducing the climate change but rather to reduce its impact by helping the countries to deal with negative consequences of the climate change. It can harm also their economy especially when it negatively influences their agriculture, tourism and other sectors (Commonwealth Network, c2017).

When looking on Commonwealth's concrete activities connected with the environment, there is possibility to notice that Commonwealth is trying to support conversions to the green economy in some countries, like Seychelles, Botswana, Jamaica, Grenada, Guyana, Mauritius, Nauru and Samoa (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2013]). In Botswana, Jamaica and Seychelles there are also efforts to implement policies determined to control exploitation of natural resources. Other countries with policies focusing on natural resources are Bahamas and Namibia (Commonwealth Secretariat, c2016).

Environmental Performance Index from 2010 shows us that Botswana was in 149th place, from 163 countries evaluated in the EPI table, with score 41.3 (0 is the worst, 100 is the best option). Jamaica was doing better with score 58.0, while Guyana had 59.2, Namibia 59.3 and Mauritius even 80.6 ranked in 6th place (Emerson et al., 2010).

Grenada has the newest data available from 2014 and their EPI score was concretely 35.24, Bahamas had 46.58 and Seychelles 55.56 (Hsu et al., 2014). Nauru does not have EPI data available and Samoa has only from 2016 and its score is 70.2 (Hsu et al., 2016).

If we compare data from 2010 (or 2014 for some countries) and 2016 there are following changes:

Botswana has score 70.2 which is very nice improvement. Jamaica's score raised to 77.02, Guyana improved their EPI too - 71.14. Namibia's number raised to 70.84, Grenada has 63.28 which is nice and fast increase in comparison to 2014, its ranking 120th place in 2016 is still relatively low but if the similarly fast rise continues, it will be very positive. Bahamas have score 69.34 in 2016 and Seychelles' number counts for 64.92. Only Mauritius have experienced a drop from 6th place to 77th with score 70.84 (Hsu et al., 2016).

Previous numbers showed that Environmental Performance Index in almost all examined Commonwealth countries have increased, which is a positive effect. In some countries, it lasted only 2 years to experience high increase. However, it is necessary to say that there was overall increase in a lot of countries' EPI score, not only in Commonwealth's countries (Hsu et al., 2016). Of course, this is welcomed trend and we can hope it will continue. On the other hand, whether the index had rising trend in vast majority of countries it would not be trustful to declare that Commonwealth significantly contributed to increase in its countries. But at least Commonwealth has an endeavour and it is better than doing nothing. It is also good to mention that Commonwealth directed its support on the right countries in most cases, especially in Grenada, Botswana or Bahamas which had a relatively low score in 2010 or in 2014.

Regarding developed Commonwealth member countries there are five countries included in the top fifteen and are doing well in attitude to environmental protection. These are Singapore 14th place, Australia 13th, United Kingdom 12th, New Zealand 11th and topmost Malta in 9th place with score 88.48 (Hsu et al., 2016).

But then there are still countries which could be recommended to focus on with Commonwealth projects. These are for example Bangladesh with score 41.77 and position on 173rd place, another participant could be Mozambique with score 41.82 on 172nd place, Sierra Leone with score 45.98 and 162nd place and others (Hsu et al., 2016).

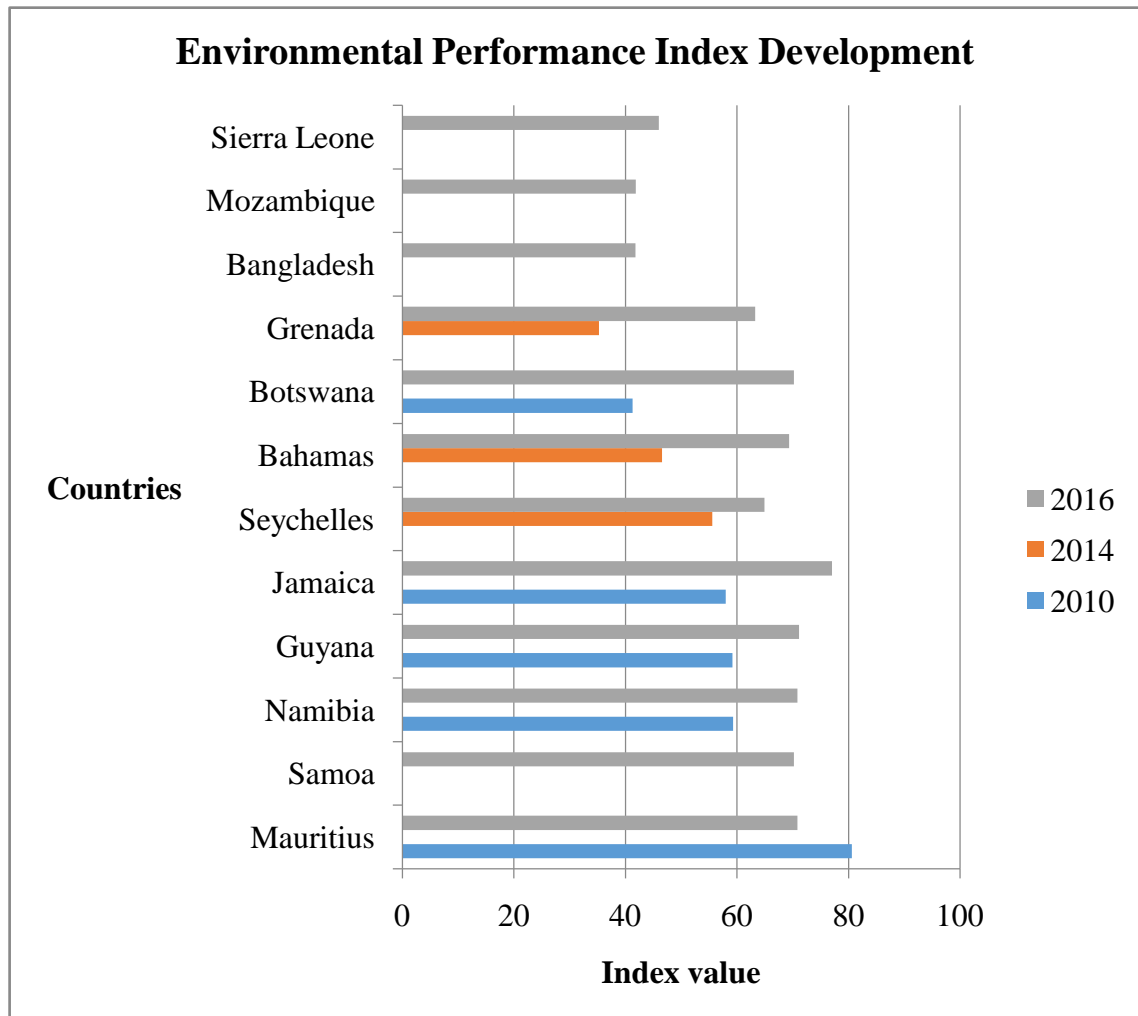


Fig. 4 Environmental Performance Index Development

Sources: Created on my own, on basis of data from Emerson et al., 2010; Hsu et al., 2014 and Hsu et al., 2016

Countries in the upper part of Figure 4, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Bangladesh are countries which I recommend to focus on because their index values are low even in 2016 when we compare with other countries which experienced a good progress. The

graph contains 3 different years, it is because of data availability. Some data were not available from 2010 but were available from 2014. Samoa was available only from 2016 and countries recommended (Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Bangladesh) have only index from 2016 assigned because older indexes are not important when recommending to focus on them in future.

It is fair to allude to Commonwealth's associations whose endeavour is connected to some environmental matters too. Commonwealth Forestry Association spread the forestry education and provide information how to carry out the forestry often through on-line sources, publication but also through teaching and training (Commonwealth Forestry Association, c2011). Commonwealth Veterinary Association is there to provide awareness and education about veterinary medicine, to improve animal well-being within Commonwealth and to hearten formation of veterinary institutions in Commonwealth countries (Commonwealth Veterinary Association, c2015).

7.7 Culture

Green (2006) mentions Commonwealth's focus on culture and cultural variety because programs on culture could be good for interaction of culture with development and democracy as well. Green also references to importance of activities which support mutual understanding and mentions that Commonwealth gives cultural prizes like for example Commonwealth Arts and Crafts Awards, Commonwealth Writers' Prize and others.

In 2012 Commonwealth had a topic called "Connecting Cultures" which served to commemorate the Commonwealth's cultural variety. People had for example possibility to sent their photos, audio or video records showing their culture to Commonwealth and Commonwealth then posted it via their websites or Facebook. Commonwealth wanted to show its variety to people, which should help to improve mutual insight (The Commonwealth, 2012).

It is a good attitude of Commonwealth to support also culture and cultural diversity somehow, because since the past there have been conflicts resulting from non-understanding between people of different cultures. It is important to support mutual understanding to avoid these conflicts. Cultural diversity in a group of persons can be more successful in problems solution because their thinking is more compound and this can be beneficial. Also mutual understanding prevents from having prejudices and nowadays we more often meet people of different cultures and we should learn to esteem them. Last but not least diversity provides more possibilities in business and trade (Springbreak Watches, 2016).

7.8 Sport

Subchapter dedicated to sport deals with sports within the Commonwealth, concretely Commonwealth Games and other sport programs and tries to detect whether this events help to improve mutual relations of the countries. It is obvious that sport event cannot help them significantly in case of country development, thus the focus is on mutual relations.

Commonwealth Games is an event which contains many sporting disciplines. It should help to extend overall happiness, to provide relaxation to people, and to bring more peaceful values into the community. This are the reasons why it is sometimes called "Friendly Games". Games are held, as same as Olympic Games, every 4 years and are organized by the Commonwealth Games Federation (Commonwealth Games Federation, c2014).

Except Commonwealth Games there is program called Sport for Development and Peace, under the auspices of Commonwealth Secretariat. Commonwealth considers this sport program (implemented in 2013-2015) as an instrument for accomplishment of togetherness and development of people. Sport as an instrument can help to increase these desired things (Commonwealth Secretariat, [2015]).

It is appreciable that Commonwealth organizes sport events with lot of disciplines and even Commonwealth Games which can serve as a "small Olympic Games" for Commonwealth members. Sport usually brings joy, friendships, sometimes it brings disappointment but it belongs to sport. According UN (2005) sport is an important source of amusement that is useful for development of children, for health - abatement of probability to contract a disease, but it also trains people to respect and collaborate, unifies people of different cultures and ethnicities, thus is support peace and last but not least it is also good economic strength which can ensure employment and support local development.

Thus it is not doing bad when Commonwealth invests in sport because all of these, above mentioned things, can be beneficial for development and mutual understanding which is always good to support. And development and understanding are very important factors in worldwide organization, like Commonwealth, including so many developing countries. Sport just promotes and teaches positive things which Commonwealth aims to spread therefore it is matter-of-fact that Commonwealth supports it.

7.9 Financing of Commonwealth supportive activities

Mostly the activities or projects which are designed to serve as a tool for development have been financed from Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation. Although in the name of the fund is written the word "technical" it does not mean that money used from this fund are reserved only to technological advancement but it supports many areas of development (Sampath, 2007).

Amount of contributions to this fund by Commonwealth members depends on their capability. Budget of this fund every year usually exceeds £20 million, but these are not only contributions of members but also money gained from some partnerships. Finances in the fund are supposed to be especially used for provision of experts, training, networks of knowledge, capacity building, administrative assistance, advice and other tools of assistance, as we could deduce also during analysis of programs in certain

areas. Division and use of resources is usually included in the Commonwealth Secretariat's 4-year Strategic Plan (Sampath, 2007).

8 Conclusion

Commonwealth of Nations is an old organization with rich history, whose member countries are located all around the world. Since the end of British empire, Commonwealth evolved a lot to its present form. Nowadays it has 52 member countries, including developed but also developing countries, large and small countries as well.

Commonwealth's aim is to support development in its member countries with special focus on principles, which are anchored in Commonwealth basic document called the Harare Commonwealth Declaration from 1991. Principles and goals are described there and Commonwealth is supposed to drive its activities according to these principles. In the declaration the principles are more complex and some are similar to each other, therefore this thesis summarizes the principles into 8 categories for better clarity and to more easily investigate them.

When examining whether Commonwealth focuses its activities, according to these categories, on countries where needed the most and how their situation looks like, there are following findings for each category:

Commonwealth tries to focus a lot on democracy and peace, its programs are mainly to promote democratic elections or support democratic institutions. In most of the countries observed, the index has not changed positively. In Kenya, Uganda or Guyana there is a small positive increase. Some countries experienced fluctuation, so they had a positive increase, but then dropped and other examined countries had rather declining in democracy according to the index. There was a bigger increase in Nigeria but there also a drop came last year and question is how it will continue? It would be a pity if they had fallen back after so rapid increase. Regarding democracy the main aspirant to help should be Swaziland because its index is really low and has a decreasing trend. On the other hand Commonwealth should not be blamed for this mostly negative numbers, because it is very difficult to turn country into more democratic. Positive is the fact that Commonwealth focuses its help on countries which has really low democratic principles, mostly African countries, and have an effort to improve it at least by doing

small steps. Regarding global peace promotion the Commonwealth has programs which are similar to those of democratic principles promotion. They are implemented mostly in the same countries, thus the assistance direction is again relatively good but this time I would recommend to focus on the countries like Sri Lanka, India, Nigeria or Pakistan which are very low in Global Peace Index. The peace in Commonwealth countries is declining but also in this case it is not fair to guilt the Commonwealth because the declining trend is in many countries all around the world and this shows that not only Commonwealth is less peaceful but the whole world is.

In Education and Youth Support Commonwealth has many activities which are used to promote better education and they applied them in countries which are poor in Education Index but also in countries which are not in such a bad situation as some others. Here they would do a good job if they did more supportive programs for education in Mozambique and Sierra Leone because these are the worst-placed countries in the Education Index table and programs on education are not mentioned in reports examined. But otherwise Commonwealth really tries in youth support, there are networks of youth people serving to them and Commonwealth even evolved its own index for youth development measurement, which can be very beneficial.

Human Rights are the category where Commonwealth is doing some small but positive steps. Whereas Human Rights Risk Index shows countries' inclusion in a one of a four groups, it is possible to examine only bigger improvement or worsening by looking on their movement between groups. Examples of positive movement are Ghana which moved from high risk group (3rd) to medium risk group (2nd) between 2014-2016 and also India which was in extreme risk group (4th) and moved to high risk group (3rd). There was also negative movement, namely it was Guyana which fell into the high risk group. Commonwealth showed their focus on the right place here and implemented new programs there. Also new policies on gender equality in member countries are on Commonwealth's agenda.

Health Care category and Commonwealth assistance in this category shows that Commonwealth tries to help in country which need it most – Sierra Leone, country with the lowest life expectancy in the world. Also assistance to countries like for example Malawi, Swaziland, Gambia, Tanzania, Uganda etc. can be a token of good Commonwealth focus, but there are also programs in countries with high life expectancy instead of countries which would need it more. Thus I would recommend to increase assistance directed on health care in countries with low life expectancy like Cameroon, Lesotho, Mozambique and Nigeria.

Regarding Economic Growth and Internal Trade – mutual trade looks like an advantage of Commonwealth because the trade is increasing within Commonwealth. But preferences depend on country, Australia has for example relatively nice proportion of imports from Commonwealth countries, on the other hand United Kingdom has low proportion of import from other Commonwealth members. Economic growth measured by GDP per capita showed that 12 countries suffered a decrease in GDP per capita growth between 2014 and 2015, thus economic help could be focused on these countries, especially on Sierra Leone which suffered 22.29% decrease, which is very huge drop.

Protection of the Environment, measured by Environmental Index, has a global rising trend and Commonwealth countries are not an exception. Also in this category Commonwealth focused on countries with low score, concretely Grenada, Botswana and Bahamas, but not on all countries which need to improve their environmental situation. There are countries where projects on environmental protection would be welcomed. Examples of countries which I would include in this group are Bangladesh, Mozambique and Sierra Leone.

Commonwealth is doing well by having principles to support culture, because Commonwealth is multi-cultural community and understanding between different cultures within can provide some benefits and prevents from conflict which would possibly result from non-understanding between different cultures.

Sport is supported a lot by Commonwealth and I was wondering how it could be useful for member countries. There are Commonwealth Games every 4 years, it is an event with many disciplines. Games are supposed to serve as tool for new friendships, to provide relaxation, to make a peaceful community. In Commonwealth there is also program Sport for Development and Peace, which is also focused on mutual relations building. Commonwealth is doing well when supporting sport, because it promotes children development, it is pleasant for health, teaches respect and can be beneficial also economically because it can support local development and provide employment. Sport promotion is the proof that Commonwealth knows mutual relations are important in such a community.

Commonwealth of Nations is an organization which provides a lot of help and assistance and thus is not useless. Another hint of its usefulness is that it often performs activities in countries which need it and these activities are suitable for particular countries. Of course it possible to name countries where Commonwealth could focus more on their improvement, but it could be already noticed that there had not been program implemented on certain country and would be needed there, but eventually they did some project or activity there. Possibilities are endless, therefore it is possible Commonwealth will implement new projects in countries which I recommended to focus on more. Commonwealth is still evolving community and its steps are perhaps small but these steps towards their goals are better than doing nothing. Important is that Commonwealth usually directs its assistance to countries where needed and still there are many countries which need to be helped.

9 Reference List

About the CFA. *Commonwealth Forestry Association* [online]. c2011 [cit. 2017-04-16]. Available at: http://www.cfa-international.org/about_the_cfa.php.

Aims & Objectives. *Commonwealth Veterinary Association* [online]. Baranduda, c2015 [cit. 2017-04-16]. Available at: <http://www.commonwealthvetassoc.com/about-us/aims-objectives/>.

All Africa. *Zimbabwe: CHOGM Statement On Zimbabwe* [online]. 2002 [cit. 2016-09-29]. Available at: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200203070766.html>.

Annual Report: Report of the Commonwealth Secretary-General 2011-2013 [online]. London: Commonwealth Secretariat, [2013] [cit. 2017-03-22]. Available at: <http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/page/documents/Report%20of%20the%20Commonwealth%20Secretary-General%202011-2013%20Low%20Res.pdf>.

Biennial Report of the Commonwealth Secretary-General 2013-2015 [online]. London: Commonwealth Secretariat, [2015] [cit. 2017-04-02]. Available at: <http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/BR220013-2015.pdf>.

BRACE, Steve. Commonwealth citizens—building the next generation through education. *The Round Table*. 2000, 89(356), 493-499. DOI: 10.1080/003585300225061. ISSN 0035-8533. Available at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/003585300225061>.

Commonwealth Members. *Commonwealth Network* [online]. Cambridge: Nexus Partnerships, c2017 [cit. 2017-04-12]. Available at: <http://www.commonwealthofnations.org/commonwealth/commonwealth-membership/commonwealth-members/>.

Commonwealth of Learning. *Commonwealth Network* [online]. Cambridge: Nexus Strategic Partnerships Limited, c2017 [cit. 2017-01-12]. Available at: <http://www.commonwealthofnations.org/commonwealth-directory/commonwealth-of-learning/>.

Commonwealth Secretary-General accelerates to empower women. *The Commonwealth* [online]. 2016 [cit. 2017-01-13]. Available at: <http://thecommonwealth.org/media/news/commonwealth-secretary-general-accelerates-work-empower-women>.

Commonwealth Trade Review 2015: The Commonwealth in the Unfolding Global Trade Landscape [online]. London: Commonwealth Secretariat, c2015 [cit. 2017-03-09]. ISBN 978-1-84859-939-0. Available at: https://books.google.cz/books?hl=cs&lr=&id=cbt-DQAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PP1&dq=importance+of+commonwealth&ots=6cZQmmfxwX&sig=PmylpofXOgIaGKpHJrIORnVnTdY&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=importance%20of%20commonwealth&f=false.

Democracy Index 2012: Democracy at a standstill. In: *The Economist Intelligence Unit* [online]. London: The Economist Intelligence Unit, c2013 [cit. 2017-03-29]. Available at: <http://pages.eiu.com/rs/eiu2/images/Democracy-Index-2012.pdf>.

Democracy Index 2014: Democracy and its discontents. In: *The Economist Intelligence Unit* [online]. London: The Economist Intelligence Unit, c2015 [cit. 2017-03-29]. Available also at: <http://www.sudestada.com.uy/Content/Articles/421a313a-d58f-462e-9b24-2504a37f6b56/Democracy-index-2014.pdf>.

Democracy Index 2016: Revenge of the “deplorables”. In: *The Economist Intelligence Unit* [online]. London: The Economist Intelligence Unit, c2017 [cit. 2017-03-29]. Available at: http://pages.eiu.com/rs/783-XMC-194/images/Democracy_Index_2016.pdf.

Education Index. *Human Development Reports: United Nations Development Programme* [online]. 2013 [cit. 2017-05-02]. Available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/education-index>.

EMERSON, Jay. et al. *2010 Environmental Performance Index* [online]. New Heaven: Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, 2010 [cit. 2017-04-14]. Available at: http://epi.yale.edu/sites/default/files/2010_epi_report_2.pdf.

FALOLA, Toyin and Matthew M. HEATON. *A history of Nigeria* [online]. Cambridge: Cambridge university press, 2008 [cit. 2016-09-29]. Available at: https://books.google.cz/books?id=XygZjbNRap0C&printsec=frontcover&dq=nigeria&hl=cs&sa=X&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false.

FRASER, Malcolm. The Contemporary Commonwealth: An organization whose time has come? *The Round Table*. 2012, 101(1), 71-79. DOI: 10.1080/00358533.2012.656024. ISSN 0035-8533. Available at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00358533.2012.656024>.

GDP per capita (constant 2010 US \$). In: *The World Bank* [online]. The World Bank Group, 2017 [cit. 2017-05-10]. Available at: <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.KD>.

Global Peace Index 2016 [online]. 39th ed. Sydney: Institute for Economics and Peace, 2016 [cit. 2017-05-03]. ISBN 978-0-9946034-0-1. Available at: http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2017/02/GPI-2016-Report_2.pdf.

Global Peace Index Report 2011: 2011 Methodology, Results & Findings [online]. Sydney: Institute for Economics and Peace, 2011 [cit. 2017-05-03]. ISBN 978-0-9806279-4-7. Available at: <http://www.culturadelalegalidad.org.mx/recursos/Contenidos/Estudiosacademicosyestadisticos/documentos/global-peace-index-report-2011.pdf>.

GREEN, Richard, ed. *The Commonwealth yearbook 2006* [online]. London: Nexus Strategic Partnerships, 2006 [cit. 2016-10-24]. ISBN 09-549-6294-X. Available at: <https://books.google.cz/books?id=PsALI1fatKIC&pg=PA32&lpg=PA32&dq=commonwealth+yearbook+2006&source=bl&ots=Dd9b4Yygfa&sig=mVkKAyPhPh1Jpp69RPXqOpAK6-0&hl=cs&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjT7bvnqb3TAhWEDMAKHxUrBfgQ6AEIJDA#v=onepage&q=commonwealth%20yearbook%202006&f=false>.

History of the Commonwealth. Commonwealth Network [online]. Cambridge: Nexus Strategic Partnerships Limited, c2016 [cit. 2016-09-29]. Available at: <http://www.commonwealthofnations.org/commonwealth/history/>.

HSU, Angel et al. *2014 Environmental Performance Index* [online]. New Heaven: Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy, 2014 [cit. 2017-04-14]. Available at: http://epi.yale.edu/sites/default/files/2014_epi_report_0.pdf.

HSU, Angel et al. *2016 Environmental Performance Index* [online]. New Heaven: Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy, 2016 [cit. 2017-04-14]. Available at: http://epi.yale.edu/sites/default/files/2016EPI_Full_Report_opt.pdf.

Human Development. *Commonwealth Network* [online]. Cambridge: Nexus Partnerships, c2017 [cit. 2017-03-05]. Available at: <http://www.commonwealthofnations.org/commonwealth-in-action/human-development-2/>.

Human Rights Risk Index 2014. In: *Reliefweb* [online]. Bath: Maplecroft, c2013 [cit. 2017-04-12]. Available at: http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2014_Human_Rights_Risk_Index_Map.pdf.

Human Rights Risk Index 2016-Q4. In: *Reliefweb* [online]. Bath: Verisk Maplecroft, c2016 [cit. 2017-04-12]. Available at: http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2016_ITF_Human_Rights_Index_2016-01.pdf.

JÓZWIAK, Gabriella. *Maldives leaves the Commonwealth*. In: Devex [online]. 2016 [cit. 2017-03-09]. Available at: <https://www.devex.com/news/maldives-leaves-the-commonwealth-89337>.

Life expectancy at birth (years), 2000-2015: Both sexes: 2010. *World Health Organization* [online]. Geneva: WHO, c2016 [cit. 2017-04-10]. Available at: http://gamapserver.who.int/gho/interactive_charts/mbd/life_expectancy/atlas.html.

Life expectancy at birth (years), 2000-2015: Both sexes: 2015. *World Health Organization* [online]. Geneva: WHO, c2016 [cit. 2017-04-10]. Available at: http://gamapserver.who.int/gho/interactive_charts/mbd/life_expectancy/atlas.html.

Maldives to leave the Commonwealth. *The Australian: For the informed Australian* [online]. The Australian, 2016 [cit. 2017-04-29]. Available at: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/maldives-to-leave-the-commonwealth/news-story/43c219a24eab3149ce476667bf14fd3a>.

Member countries. In: *The Commonwealth* [online]. The Commonwealth, c2016 [cit. 2016-09-29]. Available at: <http://thecommonwealth.org/member-countries>.

Membership Criteria. *Commonwealth Network* [online]. Cambridge: Nexus Partnerships, c2017 [cit. 2017-02-27]. Available at: <http://www.commonwealthofnations.org/commonwealth/commonwealth-membership/membership-criteria/>.

My Culture. *The Commonwealth* [online]. 2012 [cit. 2017-05-03]. Available at: <http://thecommonwealth.org/media/news/my-culture>.

Our Governance. In: *The Commonwealth* [online]. The Commonwealth, c2016 [cit. 2016-12-30]. Available at: <http://thecommonwealth.org/our-governance>.

PANTON, Kenneth J. *Historical dictionary of the British monarchy* [online]. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2011 [cit. 2017-01-09]. ISBN 9780810874978. Available at: https://books.google.cz/books?hl=cs&lr=&id=BiyyueBTpaMC&oi=fnd&pg=PR5&dq=panton+commonwealth&ots=bjKaOulDRt&sig=jVoWfD5ANU3jysRhpH05j7e40AU&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=panton%20commonwealth&f=false.

PFLANZ, Mike. Rwanda joins the Commonwealth. In: *The Telegraph* [online]. Nairobi, 2009 [cit. 2017-02-27]. Available at: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/rwanda/6685316/Rwanda-joins-the-Commonwealth.html>.

Progress Report: Commonwealth Secretariat Annual Results Report 2015/2016 [online]. London: Commonwealth Secretariat, c2016 [cit. 2017-01-13]. Available at: <http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/page/documents/P14798SPEDAnnualResultsReportEversion.pdf>.

Risk calculators and dashboards. *Verisk Maplecroft* [online]. Bath, 2011 [cit. 2017-03-09]. Available at: <https://www.maplecroft.com/about/news/hrra.html>.

SAMPATH, Srinivas. *Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC)* [online presentation]. Farnham: Commonwealth Secretariat, 2007 [cit. 2017-04-12]. Available at: http://www.powershow.com/view/a1eb6-ZDNhO/Commonwealth_Fund_for_Technical_Cooperation_CFTC_powerpoint_ppt_presentation.

SCHREUDER, Deryck M. A Commonwealth for the 21st century: An organization whose time has come? *The Round Table*. 2002, 91(367), 649-656. DOI: 10.1080/0035853022000038335. ISSN 0035-8533. Available at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/0035853022000038335>.

Sport as a Tool for Development and Peace: Towards Achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. *United Nations* [online]. New York: UN Inter-Agency Task Force, 2005 [cit. 2017-04-12]. Available at: https://www.un.org/sport2005/resources/task_force.pdf.

Sri Lanka: Events of 2015. *Human Rights Watch* [online]. New York, c2017 [cit. 2017-03-02]. Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2016/country-chapters/sri-lanka>.

Statue of Westminster. *Encyclopædia Britannica* [online]. Encyclopædia Britannica, 1998 [cit. 2017-03-03]. Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/event/Statute-of-Westminster>.

Strengthening of Sierra Leone Public Health System. *The Commonwealth* [online]. London, c2017 [cit. 2017-03-11]. Available at: <http://thecommonwealth.org/project/strengthening-sierra-leone-public-health-system>.

Sustainable Development. *Commonwealth Network* [online]. Cambridge: Nexus Partnerships, c2017 [cit. 2017-04-14]. Available at: <http://www.commonwealthofnations.org/commonwealth-in-action/environmentally-sustainable-development/>.

ŠANC, David a Marek ŽENÍŠEK. *Commonwealth: z perspektivy politické vědy*. Plzeň: Vydavatelství a nakladatelství Aleš Čeněk, 2008. ISBN 978-80-7380-146-5.

Table 5: Gender Inequality Index. *Human Development Reports: United Nations Development Programme* [online]. 2015 [cit. 2017-03-02]. Available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>.

TE VELDE, Victoria. *The Commonwealth Brand: Global Voice, Local Action* [online]. Routledge, 2016 [cit. 2016-10-08]. ISBN 9781317037682. Available at: https://books.google.cz/books?id=gfHOCwAAQBAJ&pg=PT5&dq=The+British+Commonwealth:+A+Symposium+The+Nature+and+Structure+of+the+Commonwealth&hl=cs&source=gbs_selected_pages&cad=2#v=onepage&q=Balfour%20&f=false.

The Harare Commonwealth Declaration. In: . Harare: Commonwealth Of Nations, 1991. Available also at: <http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/history-items/documents/Harare%20Commonwealth%20Declaration%201991.pdf>.

The role and future of the Commonwealth: Fourth Report of Session 2012-13 [online]. London: House of Commons, 2012, 17-19 [cit. 2017-05-13]. Available at: <https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmcaff/114/114.pdf>

The Role of the CGF. *Commonwealth Games Federation* [online]. London: Commonwealth Games Federation, c2014 [cit. 2017-04-10]. Available at: <http://www.thecgf.com/about/role.asp>.

Where does Australia import from? (2015). *The Observatory of Economic Complexity* [online]. The Observatory of Economic Complexity, 2015 [cit. 2017-05-03]. Available at: http://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/visualize/tree_map/hs92/import/aus/show/all/2015/.

Where does the United Kingdom import from? (2015). *The Observatory of Economic Complexity* [online]. The Observatory of Economic Complexity, 2015 [cit. 2017-05-03]. Available at: http://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/visualize/tree_map/hs92/import/gbr/show/all/2015/.

Why Cultural Diversity Is Important Today. *Springbreak Watches* [online]. North Carolina: Springbreak Watches, 2016 [cit. 2017-05-08]. Available at: <https://www.springbreakwatches.com/blogs/dreamers/75931589-why-cultural-diversity-is-important-today>.

World Report 2013: Sri Lanka. *Human Rights Watch* [online]. New York, 2013 [cit. 2017-03-02]. Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2013/country-chapters/sri-lanka>.

World Report 2015: Sri Lanka: Events of 2014. *Human Rights Watch* [online]. New York, 2015 [cit. 2017-03-02]. Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2015/country-chapters/sri-lanka>.

Annexes

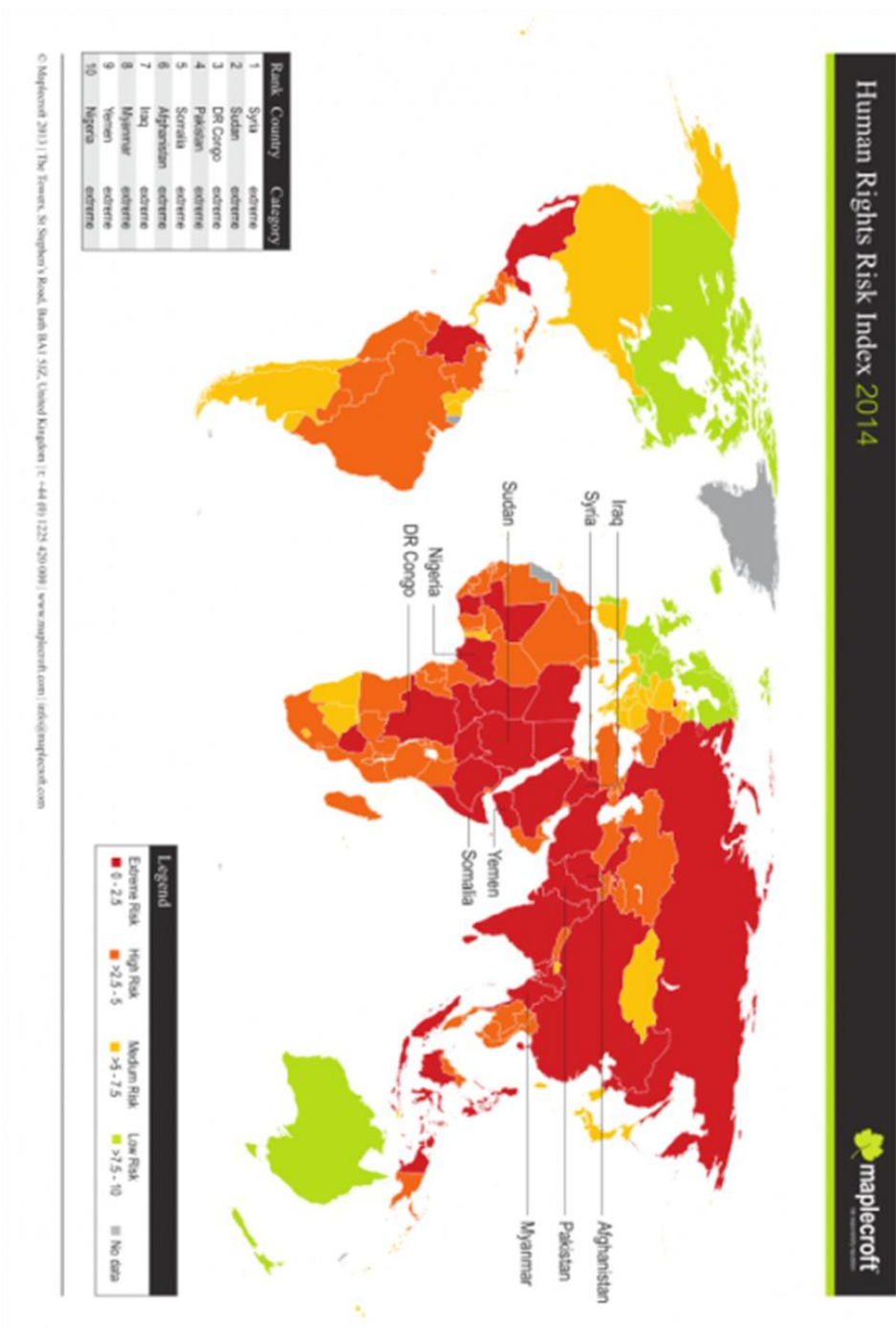


Fig. 5 Human Rights Risk Index 2014
Source: Maplecroft (c 2013)

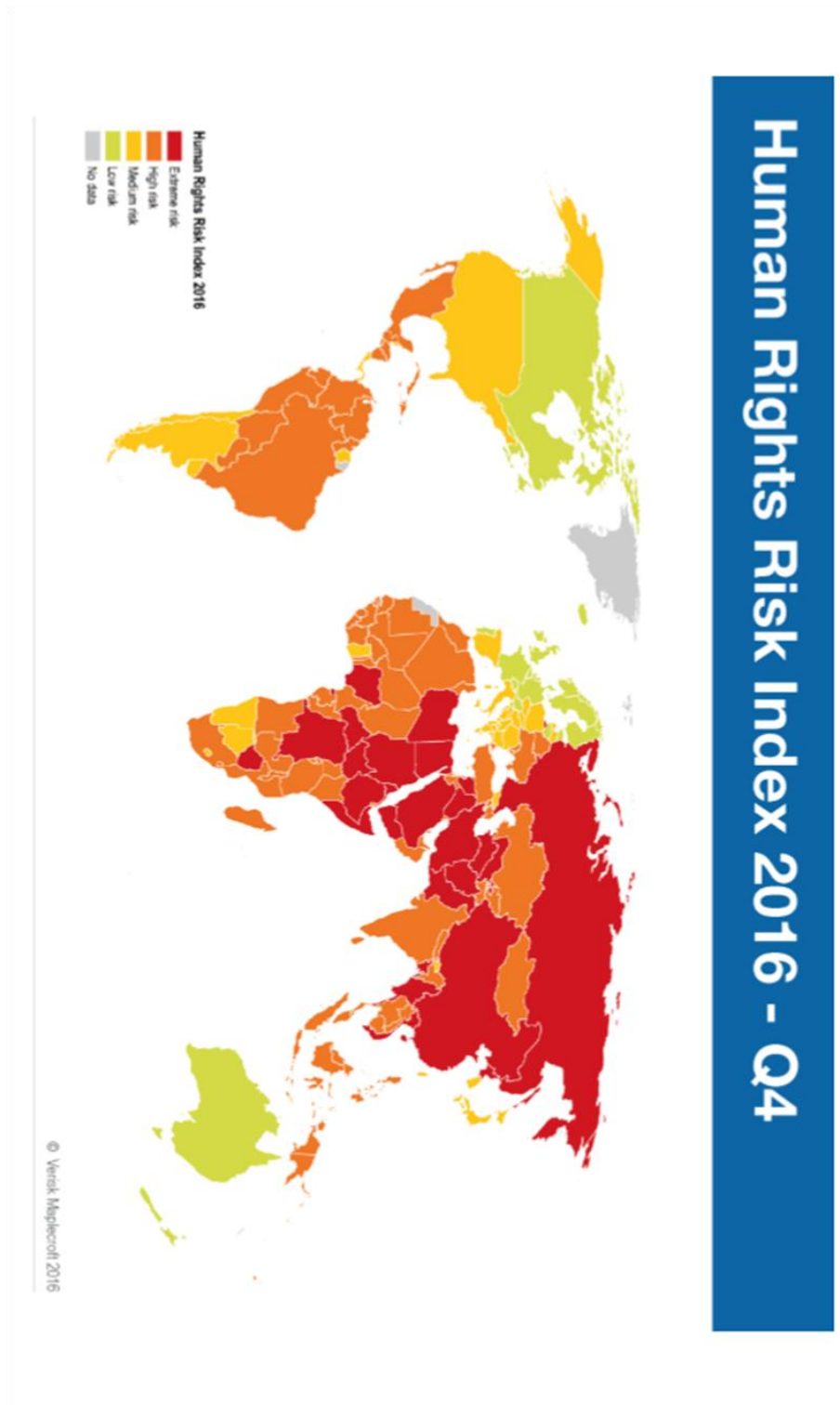


Fig. 6 Human Rights Risk Index 2016
Source: Verisk Maplecroft (c 2016)

Tab. 3 GDP per capita growth (constant 2010 in US \$ thousands)

Country	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Annual Growth 2014/2015 (%)
Antigua and Barbuda	13 017,31	12 650,58	13 000,80	12842,71	13 298,61	13 709,00	3,09
Australia	51 845,65	52 346,90	53 321,88	53703,57	54 240,50	54 688,45	0,83
Bahamas	5 842,81	5 770,97	5 820,08	6 078,32	6 122,98	6 117,03	-0,10
Bangladesh	760,33	800,04	842,05	881,90	924,06	972,88	5,28
Barbados	15 906,19	15 967,30	15 959,32	15 895,71	15 877,97	15 971,01	0,59
Belize	4 348,02	4 337,11	4 398,93	4 359,78	4 440,87	4 392,55	-1,09
Botswana	6 244,00	6 488,97	6 641,10	7 149,47	7 234,26	7 080,12	-2,13
Brunei	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	No data
Cameroon	1 147,24	1 164,85	1 187,91	1 222,83	1 263,35	1 303,59	3,19
Canada	47 445,76	48 455,21	48 722,49	49 353,31	50 065,23	50 108,07	0,09
Cyprus	30 818,46	30 138,59	28 745,54	27 097,31	26 977,63	27 587,28	2,26
Dominica	6 938,95	6 900,14	6 799,37	6 821,32	7 073,92	6 916,85	-2,22
Fiji	3 651,96	3 718,86	3 759,29	3 959,21	4 146,76	4 349,52	4,89
Ghana	1 323,10	1 471,97	1 569,96	1 644,85	1 670,68	1 696,64	1,55
Grenada	7 365,67	7 394,24	7 280,68	7 421,97	7 934,50	8 391,16	5,76

Guyana	2 998,94	3 151,45	3 292,23	3 452,20	3 571,38	3 663,42	2,58
India	1 345,72	1 416,12	1 474,69	1 551,61	1 642,73	1 751,75	6,64
Jamaica	4 812,48	4 875,94	4 827,01	4 833,39	4 849,33	4 880,06	0,63
Kenya	991,85	1 024,73	1 043,12	1 073,50	1 101,23	1 133,46	2,93
Kiribati	1 493,22	1 471,47	1 519,38	1 578,74	1 588,58	1 615,58	1,70
Lesotho	1 189,78	1 259,07	1 312,16	1 322,12	1 365,04	1 370,27	0,38
Malawi	471,06	479,10	473,41	482,96	495,05	493,66	-0,28
Malaysia	9 069,03	9 397,58	9 758,70	10 062,91	10 512,14	10 878,39	3,48
Malta	21 087,79	21 381,41	21 823,97	22 588,95	23 152,56	24 320,93	5,05
Mauritius	8 000,38	8 313,27	8 580,09	8 848,89	9 163,63	9 468,94	3,33
Mozambique	417,50	434,78	453,11	472,00	493,18	511,47	3,71
Namibia	5 143,13	5 292,75	5 435,72	5 608,60	5 831,04	6 000,04	2,90
Nauru	4 912,60	5 469,15	5 890,77	7 510,28	9 360,63	9 143,67	-2,32
New Zealand	33 692,17	34 263,87	34 870,41	35 553,03	36 272,47	36 801,40	1,46
Nigeria	2 302,83	2 351,28	2 386,76	2 448,90	2 535,07	2 534,82	-0,01
Pakistan	1043,30	1 049,59	1 063,61	1 087,08	1 114,21	1 142,75	2,56
Papua New Guinea	1418,92	1 535,85	1 624,40	1 678,23	1 783,69	0,00	No data for 2015
Rwanda	553,60	582,20	618,09	631,82	660,40	689,69	4,44

Saint Lucia	7 000,64	6 943,70	6 782,14	6 733,70	6 713,80	6 822,61	1,62
Samoa	3 530,57	3 706,60	3 692,60	3 592,87	3 608,27	3 641,01	0,91
Seychelles	10 804,68	11 967,36	12 633,89	13 153,04	13 379,59	13 542,23	1,22
Sierra Leone	453,02	464,13	522,71	617,14	631,29	490,56	-22,29
Singapore	46 569,68	48 439,94	49 000,71	50 467,84	51 440,82	51 855,08	0,81
Solomon Islands	1 276,35	1 410,61	1 445,40	1 458,37	1 450,63	1 475,36	1,70
South Africa	7 362,76	7 494,33	7 546,81	7 606,01	7 610,73	7 585,76	-0,33
Sri Lanka	2 819,51	3 033,56	3 286,01	3 371,18	3 503,99	3 637,54	3,81
St. Kitts and Nevis	13 466,83	13 621,77	13 375,42	14 037,03	14 700,00	15 080,77	2,59
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	6 231,71	6 204,16	6 290,22	6 405,89	6 477,73	6 575,45	1,51
Swaziland	3 793,66	3 804,24	3 873,20	3 988,98	4 038,96	4 057,28	0,45
Tanzania	708,52	740,64	754,39	783,95	812,56	842,37	3,67
Tonga	3 554,08	3 637,75	3 656,90	3 530,11	3 587,74	3 700,24	3,14
Trinidad and Tobago	16 684,01	16 551,46	16 680,79	17 038,89	16 862,67	16 696,03	-0,99
Tuvalu	3 238,38	3 506,06	3 506,48	3 546,24	3 619,30	3 706,31	2,40
Uganda	608,95	644,56	647,72	649,26	661,05	672,81	1,78
United Kingdom	38 708,68	38 986,87	39 225,08	39 707,96	40 620,02	41 182,62	1,39

Vanuatu	2 965,75	2 932,81	2 916,49	2 907,35	2 909,40	2 823,19	-2,96
Zambia	1 456,13	1 491,49	1 556,72	1 586,19	1 610,48	1 607,36	-0,19

Source: Created and annual growth calculated on my own, based on data from The World Bank (2017)

Note: Green number highlights the biggest increase and red number highlights the biggest decrease in GDP per capita annual growth (%) for 2014/2015.