

## Commonwealth Education Stakeholders' Forum

10-14 December 2006 Cape Town, South Africa

In December 2006, the CEPD organised the Commonwealth Education Stakeholders' Forum which ran parallel to the 16th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM). The Stakeholders' Forum brought together about 350 individuals and representatives of various groups with an interest in education in the Commonwealth: academics, NGOs, business and labour organisations, national and international agencies and others. The Forum had both plenary and parallel sessions. The two dynamic keynote speakers were Ms Graça Machel, former Mozambique Minister of Education and child rights activist, and Dr Blade Nzimande, former chair of the parliamentary education committee in South Africa and currently General Secretary of the South African Communist Party. Discussions in the parallel sessions centred around presentations by approximately eighty leading experts from across the Commonwealth and beyond. Sessions were organised along four main sub-themes: Increasing Access to Quality Education; Globalisation, Development and Quality Education; The Right to Quality Education; and Resourcing/Financing of Quality Education. Within these sub-themes, a wide range of topics were covered, including issues related to education rights and equity, educational quality, learning and teaching, education management and finance systems, and the relationship between education and society in an era of globalisation. The Stakeholders' Forum produced a report with recommendations which was presented to the Ministers' Conference. The Forum also heard presentations from various projects from around the Commonwealth which had been short listed as finalists for the Commonwealth Good Practices Award. For additional information on the 16CCEM and the Stakeholders' Forum, including details on speakers and copies of their presentations, please see the website: <http://www.16ccem.com>