

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Gibraltar Passes Motion at the 45th British Islands & Mediterranean Region Commonwealth Conference**

At today's annual general meeting of the 45th British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Commonwealth Conference, the Hon. Joe Bossano, on behalf of the Gibraltar delegation, tabled a motion calling on the Region to endorse the attendance of the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) that is scheduled to be held in Malta in November of this year.

Minister Bossano argued that, whilst other members of the Region like Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland could, by virtue of the fact that they elected Members of Parliament to the national parliament at Westminster, influence the position adopted by the UK at CHOGM, the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies did not have representation at Westminster and thus their views would not be heard at CHOGM. Therefore, the UK Government could take a policy decision at this meeting that could have an impact on the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies without the UK first consulting them on the possible impact of such a decision.

This clearly highlighted a parliamentary deficit in the democratic process that needed to be addressed and resolved. The views of the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies had to be heard to ensure due democratic process was carried out. Minister Bossano was firmly of the view that this was a case for advancing democracy.

There was widespread support from the countries attending the Conference for this motion and it was resolved that the Chairperson would take this issue up with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

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