Commonwealth books provide authoritative research and evidence-based policy advice, resulting from our work across all 53 member countries. They focus on trade policy, social and economic development, good governance, democracy, rule of law, and human rights.

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This collection of essays offers timely and expert commentary on some of the challenges confronting the multilateral trading system today, and what reforms could help modernise and strengthen the WTO as the custodian of global trade governance for the twenty-first century.

The publication provides historical and up-to-date insights into how reform can be transformational and progressive in nature and broadens the debate by focusing not only on new pathways for decision-making but also on important issues such as the environment and the SDGs. Finally, it highlights the importance of keeping the multilateral trading system alive for the benefit of all states, particularly for small states, Least Developed Countries and sub-Saharan African countries.

WTO Reform: Reshaping Global Trade Governance for 21st Century Challenges, is designed to serve as a valuable resource for government officials, trade negotiators, journalists, academics and researchers who are attempting to sort through the complexities of the organisation and the role they can play in supporting a fairer, more inclusive WTO and multilateral trading system.

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This report documents progress made by the Commonwealth’s 53 member countries in promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment. In doing so, it records Commonwealth countries’ performances on available indicators covering the four themes adopted as priorities for Gender Equality 2017–2020 and beyond, endorsed by the 11th Commonwealth Women’s Affairs Ministers at their 2016 meeting hosted by the Government of Samoa.

These themes are: (1) Women in leadership, (2) Women’s economic empowerment, (3) Ending violence against women and girls and (4) Gender and climate change.

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Quantifying the Barriers to Services Trade in the Commonwealth
A Focus on Kenya and Rwanda

Major data limitations arise within the realm of assessing services trade restrictiveness measures among Commonwealth countries, many of which overwhelmingly depend on this sector for growth and jobs.

Quantifying the Barriers to Services Trade in the Commonwealth focuses on addressing policy barriers within services sectors in Kenya and Rwanda, including commercial banking, distribution and road transportation, which are key enablers of trade.

Our findings suggest many policy barriers are crosscutting issues, rather than sector specific. Moreover, there is a degree of regulatory convergence with other Commonwealth countries included in the OECD’s trade restrictiveness database, which helps to reduce trade costs.

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02-2019; 94pp;
Paperback; £25.00
There is a need for more focused impact assessments of the potential costs and benefits arising from transitioning from Least Developed Country (LDC) status. This includes a deeper understanding of how LDCs are positioned within global value chains. In view of the fragmented nature of trade and the relative positions of countries within global value chains, the competitiveness challenges arising from the loss of preferential market access must be better identified and targeted.

A Guide to Graduating from Least Developed Country Status provides research methods to analyse the trade-related effects of tariff preference loss as well as, how to integrate private sector consultations and survey methods to take in the perspectives of lead firms and buyers.

It is essential reading for policy-makers and development partners who are supporting LDCs to adapt to the competitiveness challenges arising from graduation and enhance trade-related performance, which is so vital for export diversification and the achievement of sustainable development and growth.

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12-2018; 52pp; Paperback; £25.00
The five countries featured in this book – Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Rwanda and Seychelles – were selected because of their relatively strong scores on Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index, or because they had registered a significant improvement in their scores over the previous decade. These countries, while continuing to experience challenges arising from corruption have made significant progress.

‘Tackling Corruption in Commonwealth Africa’ identifies the institutions in each country that have taken the lead in reducing the impact of corruption and accounts for the factors – both technical and political – that have enabled these institutions to implement successful anti-corruption strategies.

With the many examples of anti-corruption activities contained here, the research challenges the assumption that developing Global South economies are more corrupt than Western economies. Whether in the reform of legal and institutional frameworks, reports on prosecutions, or fraudulent cross-border activities the research throws up numerous examples of the international dimensions of corruption, particularly with respect to asset repatriation and money laundering.

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11-2018; 152pp;
Paperback; £40.00
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