

Press Release
For Immediate Release

IPPG Endorses Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey for Secretary-General of the Commonwealth



Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Ghana's Minister for Foreign Affairs & Regional Integration

Accra, May 28, 2024 - The International Perspective for Policy & Governance (IPPG), an independent and non-profit foreign affairs and sustainable development think tank, is proud to announce its strong support for Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Ghana's Minister for Foreign Affairs & Regional Integration, in her bid for the esteemed position of Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. The election for the new Secretary-General of the Commonwealth is slated for October 2024 during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Samoa.

Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey has demonstrated exemplary leadership and an unwavering commitment to the principles of good governance, sustainable development, and international cooperation. Her extensive experience in foreign affairs and regional integration positions her as an ideal candidate to lead the Commonwealth towards a more prosperous and united future.

"Hon. Botchwey's interest in the position is a testament to her dedication and significant contributions to Ghana and the African continent," said Seth Owusu-Mante, Co-Founder and Research Fellow of IPPG. Her vision to prioritize addressing climate change and supporting small island states as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth underscores her dedication to creating sustainable solutions and fostering resilience among the most vulnerable regions of the Commonwealth.

By focusing on climate action and the unique challenges faced by small island states, Hon. Botchwey will promote environmental sustainability, economic stability, and an enhanced quality of life for all member

nations. This vision aligns seamlessly with the Commonwealth's goals of fostering sustainable development and protecting the environment for future generations.

In addition to her focus on climate change and small island states, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey envisions prioritizing trade and investment within the Commonwealth. A commitment to trade and investment will enhance economic cooperation and create a more integrated and prosperous economic community among member states. Prioritizing trade and investments involve advocating for policies that reduce trade barriers, improve market access, and stimulate local manufacturing and industrialization. This approach will foster stronger trade relations within the Commonwealth, leading to inclusive economic growth that benefits all its members.

As an organization devoted to the implementation of sound policies and the strengthening of good governance practices, IPPG firmly believes that Hon. Botchwey's election as Secretary-General will bring significant benefits not only to the Commonwealth but also to the broader international community. Her track record of effective diplomacy and advocacy for sustainable development instills hope and optimism, making her a standout candidate for this prestigious role.

We join the Government of Ghana and the African Union in calling upon all member states of the Commonwealth to support Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey in the upcoming election. Together, we can ensure a future of cooperation, stability, and growth for all member nations.

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