



REPUBLIC OF GHANA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOREIGN MINISTER ANNOUNCES HER CANDIDACY FOR  
COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL**

**ACCRA, 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024** - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration is pleased to announce that Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, has formally expressed interest in the position of Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.

Based on an understanding among members of the Commonwealth that its next Secretary-General would come from Africa, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo nominated Hon. Botchwey as Ghana's candidate. A new Secretary-General of the 56-member organisation will be elected on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2024 at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Samoa to replace Baroness Patricia Scotland, a dual Dominican-British citizen, whose second and final tenure expires at the end of 2024.

Nominating her, President Akufo-Addo stated, "I have strong confidence in Foreign Minister Botchwey to lead our aspiration for renewal and for building future-looking resilient and thriving economies, through community cooperation and action, as underscored at Kigali, Rwanda, during the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)."

Hon. Botchwey has been endorsed by the African Union, and also enjoys considerable support across all regions of the Commonwealth. Hon. Botchwey is a lawyer, diplomat, politician, and communications professional, with extensive experience in international relations and diplomacy, and public service. She is also a member of the National Security Council.

The Commonwealth is a diverse intergovernmental association headed by King Charles III. It promotes, among other objectives, democratic governance among member-states, and cooperation in trade, education, climate advocacy and transparency in financial systems.

Hon. Botchwey has served as Ghana's Foreign Minister for the past seven years, during which she steered Ghana's momentous two-year tenure on the United Nations Security Council, ending in December 2023. She also chaired the 15-member Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Council of Ministers for two successive terms from 2020 to 2022.

She previously served as Deputy Foreign Minister from 2006 to 2009, and Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry, and Communications prior to that. A four-term legislator from 2004 through 2020, Hon. Botchwey served on several parliamentary select committees, including Foreign Affairs, as well as Appointments, Defence and Interior, Communications, and Gender and Children. She was also a member of the ECOWAS Parliament from 2013 to 2017 and was Vice-Chair on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Committees.

**TO ALL MEDIA HOUSES**

