



**HONOURABLE  
SHIRLEY AYORKOR  
BOTCHWEY**

**MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION**



**CANDIDATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA FOR  
ELECTION AS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH, 2024**

**A Commonwealth of the people**



The rich part of the Commonwealth needs the poorer part as much as the poorer part needs the richer part. My campaign is dedicated to engaging with the Commonwealth family on how to make the members of Commonwealth, rich or poor, big or small, including the developing countries which constitute 94% of the organization, a vital part of an agenda of ensuring and promoting democracy and good governance, economic transformation, and resilience of all the Commonwealth.

Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey

**PROFILE**  
**HONOURABLE SHIRLEY AYORKOR BOTCHWEY**  
**MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND**  
**REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

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Honourable Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey has served as the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana since January 2017. Her extensive experience in diplomacy dates back to the second term of the erstwhile administration of President John Agyekum Kufuor from 2005-2009 during which she served as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (2008-2009 & 2006-2007), after stints as Deputy Minister for Information, and Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry.

Her tenure as Foreign Minister has been characterized by several notable achievements. She oversaw an extensive transformation in both human resource development and conditions of service for Foreign Service Officers, in addition to the establishment of the Foreign Service Institute (FSI). She has streamlined and improved consular and passport services both at home and at Ghana's Missions abroad, introducing digitization and enhanced online services. Ghana's foreign policy successes under her leadership include the high visibility and positive image Ghana enjoys under the Presidency of His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo.

As Foreign Minister, she also chaired the Council of Ministers of the 15-member Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for two successive terms, 2020-2022. She played an integral part in the negotiations towards the transitions to democracy in the region. Under her leadership, the Council advised the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS on:

- the response to the security situation in the Sahel and the West Africa region, including four military takeovers;
- the review of the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance;
- the reform of the ECOWAS Commission; including ECOWAS budget reforms to ensure efficiency and more funding for Community Programmes.





As an opposition member of Parliament from 2009 to 2013, Hon. Botchwey served as the spokesperson on Foreign Affairs.

She also served on the following Committees in Parliament:

- Select Committee on Foreign Affairs;
- Appointments Committee;
- Defence and Interior Committee;
- Communications Committee;
- Gender and Children Committee.

Hon. Botchwey was a member of the ECOWAS Parliament from 2013 to 2017. She contributed in shaping the parliament's work by advising the Community and its institutions and organs particularly on issues relating to fundamental human rights and freedoms. She was Vice-Chair of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Committees of the ECOWAS Parliament.

As a four-term legislator, Hon. Botchwey represented the most populous constituency in the country, Weija, in the Greater Accra Region for two terms (2005-2013) until it was redemarcated. She subsequently represented the Anyaa/Sowutuom constituency for two terms (2013-2021).

Before entering frontline politics, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey ran a successful Marketing and Communications Company and served as a consultant for the Ministry of Tourism. She worked in various capacities with organizations such as Worldspace Ghana, the Divestiture Implementation Committee, Glaxo Group Research and Hodge Recruitment.

The academic and professional qualifications of the Hon. Minister include:

- Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Ghana
- Barrister at Law (BL), Qualifying Certificate in Law (QCL), Ghana School of Law, Accra, Ghana
- Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Legal Practice (LPC), The University of Law, London, United Kingdom
- Bachelor of Laws (LLB), University of London, United Kingdom
- Executive MBA, (Project Management Option), University of Ghana Business School, Legon, Ghana
- MA Public Communications & Public Relations, University of Westminster, London, United Kingdom
- Diploma in Public Relations & Advertising, Ghana Institute of Journalism, Ghana
- Diploma in Secretarial & Management Studies, Pitman Central College, London, United Kingdom
- Certificate in Marketing Management, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration, (GIMPA) Ghana.



Hon. Botchwey is a member of the Ghana National Association of Alternative Dispute (ADR) Practitioners. She has participated in numerous capacity- building programmes on leadership, marketing, driving government performance and parliament and the rule of law, including at the Institute of Paralegal Training and Leadership Studies, Harvard Kennedy School, Casa Africa, Parliament of Spain, The African Leadership Initiative/The Aspen Institute, and the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration.

Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey is a mother of two.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a blue patterned dress with green and white designs, is looking out a window. Her hands are resting on the windowsill. The view outside shows a cityscape with buildings and greenery under a clear sky.

## **My Vision: A Commonwealth of the People**

Commonwealth values are the ethos and strength of our family of nations. To respond to today's needs and a fast-changing world, we need to leverage those values and their outcomes to respond fully to the needs and aspirations of all our peoples. We can realize and sustain the democratic dividend for all Commonwealth Citizens by:

- Building resilience across the Commonwealth;
- Responding effectively to the existential crisis of climate change and natural disasters; and
- Making the Commonwealth Work for All its Citizens.



## **THIS REQUIRES REPOSITIONING THE COMMONWEALTH IN SIX AREAS TO :**

- Transform the economies of the countries in the Commonwealth;
- Enable inclusive development and climate resilience and;
- Respond to the expectations of the hundreds of millions across the Commonwealth for a good life.

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### **SIX AREAS FOR REPOSITIONING**

- Trade and Investment
- Youth, Education, Skills, Innovation and Start-Ups
- Mobility and Labour Markets
- Climate Change
- Small / Island states
- Managing resources for an Effective Commonwealth Institution

## **Trade and Investment**

The largest number of citizens in the Commonwealth do not earn enough to power the production and market expansion needed to create economic security. Trade and investment are critical drivers for the transformation of the lives of citizens of the Commonwealth, especially women and the youth. We need to deliver an inclusive green, blue and consumer-based framework for Commonwealth trade to surpass the potential \$2 trillion trade within the Commonwealth. A Commonwealth strategy for industrialization and economic diversification is a guarantee against the stagnation that is widespread across our countries.

## **Youth, Education and Skills**

Young people in the Commonwealth constitute a third of all young people in the world. With advances in ICT, automation and AI and the innovations of social media for distance learning, producing the tech and other workers of the Twenty-first Century for a Commonwealth-wide market of high knowledge, intensive innovation and services is an achievable goal in the short term.

## **Innovation and Start Ups**

We need to close the Commonwealth's digital gap in health, education, finance and trade. This requires building digital infrastructure to boost connectivity within and between Commonwealth countries. It also means taking advantage of best practices and attainments across the Commonwealth, including designing core curriculum and common standards and facilitating access to borderless financing to ensure that we are the leaders in innovation, start-ups, and services in the world.

## **Mobility and Labour Markets**

A Commonwealth-wide mobility compact would help redress labour and skills demand through safe, orderly and regulated migration, while the ability to teach or train young people, wherever they live in the Commonwealth, as well as a common Commonwealth market, allows work and services to be exchanged without relocation of workers across borders.

## **Climate Change**

It is impossible to look at a future-looking Commonwealth without a robust Commonwealth strategy on climate adaptation. We need to achieve a resilient Commonwealth by enhancing climate change leadership and technical assistance; unlocking vital finance for vulnerable countries; building blue and green economies across the Commonwealth; and helping members overcome external shocks.

## **Climate Change and Financing**

Within the Commonwealth, we have huge needs for development and installation of renewables. At the same time, we have global leaders in the production, installation and servicing of renewables.

With credit and other financing from the richer part of the Commonwealth, we will ensure that each Member of the Commonwealth benefits from the renewable energy revolution and low-carbon transition of national economies. The benefits of trade in renewables would cushion the cost of transition and reduce opposition to implementing the emission standards agreed to at the Conference of Parties. This is a true win-win. No one loses, including those who provide financing at market rates.

## **Small/Island States**

With limited economic opportunities and significant migration, Small States often face capacity constraints. Small States remain susceptible to external shocks because of their geographic positioning, inherent structural challenges, and deep integration into the global economy. We need to continue strengthening our common strategies to support Small States and position them to better access sustainable financing, build resilience, and enhance their voice on the global stage.

## **Managing Resources for an Effective Commonwealth Organisation**

An ambitious Commonwealth should be funded at comparative levels as other multilateral organizations. Together with a better-resourced Programme, it is time to take better advantage of the expertise from Member States through secondments to the Secretariat. This would enable more resources to be ploughed back into programmes, and ensure a resilient Secretariat with long-term stability, attracting the best of the Commonwealth's talent in the service of all members.

Making the Organisation to better serve the needs of its members requires greater coordination with Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth of Learning as well as creating or upgrading representational offices in the Pacific and elsewhere.



## HONOURABLE SHIRLEY AYORKOR BOTCHWEY

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MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Candidate of the Republic of Ghana  
for election as Secretary-General of  
the Commonwealth, 2024

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**NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO**  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
AND  
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE GHANA ARMED FORCES

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 26<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). Her background as a political leader with both private sector and governance experience, including at high level positions in foreign affairs, trade and industry, communication as well as being a member of Ghana's National Security Council and, in recent years, as the chair of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers during the most challenging two years of terrorist activity, military coups and the most far-reaching reforms of ECOWAS, makes her eminently fit to take on the challenges we face as a community and to seize the opportunities for transformation.

