



PROGRAMME

Commonwealth Women's Forum 2024,
TATTE Convention Centre
Apia, Samoa

21-22 October 2024

Collective Action for a Resilient Commonwealth: Solidarity for Gender Equality

Day 1: Monday 21 October 2024	
0700 - 0830 - Joint Forums Opening Ceremony at Mulinu'u Bay	
0900-1030	<p>Opening Plenary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrival of Chief Guests• Welcome Remarks & Speeches<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, Commonwealth Secretary-General○ Hon Mulipola Anarosa Ale-Molio'o MP, Minister for Women, Community and Social Development, Samoa○ Hon Myles LaRoda MP, Minister for Social Services, Information and Broadcasting, The Bahamas <p>Launch of the <i>Samoa Gender Climate Survey</i> by Hon Mulipola Anarosa Ale-Molio'o MP, Minister for Women, Community and Social Development, Samoa</p> <p>“Echoes of the Wave: Resilience Unveiled” In collaboration with Onomea Productions. Amidst emotional reflections after the tsunami, High Chief Tuatagaloa Joe Annandale shares a survival story—a testament to enduring resilience. Within this tapestry of strength, women's empowerment emerges as a vital thread, weaving hope and determination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Official Photographs <p>MC: Leituāla Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago, Regional Director, Oceania Regional Office, International Union for Conservation of Nature</p>
1030-1100	Networking and Refreshment Break



1100-1230	<p>Opening Plenary continued: Women in Leadership</p> <p>In conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, Commonwealth Secretary-General• Cici Manwa, Councillor, Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park, United Kingdom <p>Women in Leadership Panel <i>Panel discussion by speakers exemplifying women's leadership from across the Commonwealth</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hon Lenora Qereqeretabua MP, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Fiji• Ambassador Amina Mohamed, Former Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Kenya, Commonwealth Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Sport, Enterprise and Development• Emeline 'Uheina 'I Luvuluvu Katoa Tuita, Chief Executive Officer, Tonga Development Bank, Tonga• Jotika Sharma, Executive Director Programmes & Chair International Trade Union Congress (ITUC) Women's Committee, Fiji• Mossarat Qadeem, Women Mediators Across the Commonwealth, Pakistan• L. Nana Oye Hesse-Bayne, President, Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL), Trinidad & Tobago <p>Moderator: Jude Kelly CBE, CEO & Founder, The WOW Foundation</p>
1230-1400	Networking Lunch
1400-1655	<p>Parallel Session A: Gender & Climate Change</p> <p>Keynote Address: Hon Doreen Sioka MP, Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, Namibia</p> <p>Context Setting Presentation: The Rationale for Collaboration on Gender-responsive Climate Action</p> <p>Aishwarya Pillai, Lead Specialist- Infrastructure for Resilience Island States (IRIS), the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)</p>



World Café Dialogue

Group 1: Bridging the knowledge gap on the gendered impacts of climate change

Facilitator: **Vashti Maharaj**, Adviser Digital Trade Policy, The Commonwealth Secretariat

Group 2: Increased access and deployment of gender-responsive climate finance

Facilitator: **Opeyemi Abebe**, Adviser and Head - Trade Competitiveness Section, The Commonwealth Secretariat

Group 3: Strengthened leadership and decision-making power for women and men in climate action

Facilitator: **Steve Onwuasoanya**, Head (Ag) Human Rights Unit, The Commonwealth Secretariat

Group 4: Integrating the needs of the most vulnerable in climate action including indigenous people, persons with disability and youth.

Facilitator: **Abiola Sunmonu**, Adviser and Head - Africa, The Commonwealth Secretariat

Networking break

Moderated Panel Discussion including Question and Answers

- **Hon Lenora Qereqeretabua MP**, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Fiji
- **Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago**, Regional Director, Oceania Regional Office, International Union for Conservation of Nature
- **Brianna Fruean**, Advocate, Commonwealth Youth Award winner (climate change), Samoa
- **Delphine Serumaga**, UN Women Multi-Country Office Representative for the Pacific

Moderator: **Ruth Kattumuri**, Senior Director, EYSD, The Commonwealth Secretariat

Closing Remarks and Way Forward

Unnikrishnan Nair, Assistant Director of Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat



1400-1655	<p>Parallel Session B: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls</p> <p>Keynote Address: Hon Mmapaseka Steve Letsike MP, Deputy Minister for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, South Africa</p> <p>1st Panel Discussion <i>Panellists will share examples of effective ending VAWG policies, programmes and initiatives which are grounded in the local context.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hon Myles LaRoda MP, Minister for Social Services, Information and Broadcasting, The Bahamas• Fiona Hukula, Policy Adviser, Gender Equality, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Papua New Guinea• Sarah Kamau, Chair, Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum, Kenya• Leigh-Ashley Lipscomb, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) / kNOwVAWdata, UNFPA Pacific, Fiji <p>Moderator: Sneh Aurora, Director, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), United Kingdom</p> <p>Musical Interlude:</p> <p>Lorraine Lionheart, the Commonwealth Resounds!</p> <p>Networking break</p> <p>2nd Panel Discussion <i>Panellists will discuss engaging men and boys in eliminating violence. Highlighting initiatives from across the Commonwealth that work proactively to engage men and boys</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Samitha Sugathimala, Global Co-Chair, MenEngage Alliance, Director, Foundation for Innovative Social Development, Sri Lanka• Phillip Carlisle, Regional Chair, CariMAN, Dominica• Tura Lewai, Human Rights Defender, Fiji <p>Moderator: Lemau Pala'amo, President, Soul Talk Samoa</p> <p>Word Cloud</p> <p>Session Summary</p>



1700-1745	<p>Pacific Leadership for Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment</p> <p><i>A discussion on the Pacific's regional approach to gender equality and women's empowerment</i></p> <p>Opening Remarks: Hon Lord Vaea MP, Minister of Internal Affairs, Tonga</p> <p>Panel Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mereseini Rakuita, Principal Strategic Lead - Pacific Women and Girls, Pacific Community• Easter Chu Shing, Deputy Director General, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Samoa• Claire McGeechan, Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission in Samoa• Fiona Hukula, Gender Adviser, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat <p>Moderator: Papali'i Mele Maualaivao, Country Programme Coordinator, UN Women, Samoa</p>
1745-1800	<p>Launch:</p> <p>Pola Puipui Samoa National Prevention Framework, prevention framework for ending gender-based violence - 'Let it End with Me'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hon. Mulipola Anarosa Ale-Molio'o, Minister for Women and Community Development• Siliniu Lina Chang, President, Samoa Victims Support Group
1800 - 2100	<p>Manaia Women Maketi (Night Market)</p>
<p>Day 2: Tuesday 22 October 2024</p>	
0900-1030	<p>Day 2 Plenary - Leaving No One Behind</p> <p>1st Panel Discussion <i>Session will create the space to hear from a range of voices on the ways in which gender inequality interacts with other forms of disadvantage</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Su'a Hellen Wallwork, Attorney-General and Chair Pacific Islands Law Officers Network, Samoa• Hon. Mmapaseka Steve Letsike, MP, Deputy Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, South Africa• Heike Alefsen, Regional Representative for the Pacific UNOHCHR• Sruti Mohapatra, Vice-Chair, Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum, India• Joleen Mataele, Vice-Chair, The Commonwealth Equality Network, Tonga Leitis Association Programme Coordinator, Tonga <p>Moderator: Jude Kelly CBE, CEO & Founder, The WOW Foundation</p>



1030-1045	Networking and Refreshments Break
1045-1220	<p>Day 2 Plenary - Leaving No One Behind</p> <p>2nd Panel Discussion <i>Session will consider an enabling environment for greater inclusion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lord Collins of Highbury, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office), United Kingdom• Dame Carol Black GBE, FRCP, Commonwealth Special Envoy for Ageing Well• Providence Umurungi, Chairperson, Rwanda National Commission for Human Rights, Rwanda• Sovaia Sisi Coalala, Inclusive Development Programme Team, Pacific Disability Forum, Fiji• Angela Hassan-Sharp, Divisional Manager; United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; New Zealand <p>Moderator: Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago, Regional Director, Oceania Regional Office, International Union for Conservation of Nature</p>
1230-1330	Networking Lunch
1330-1530	<p>Parallel Session C: Digital Inclusion: The Dynamic opportunities and Dangers</p> <p>Keynote Address: Hon Peace Regis Mutuuzo, Minister of State for Gender and Culture Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda [TBC]</p> <p>Interactive item</p> <p>Panel Discussion <i>To consider both the potential of and the risks of digital technology in furthering gender equality and women's empowerment.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hon Toelupe Poumulinuku Onesemo, Minister of ICT Samoa• Bernadette Lewis, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization• Seluvaia Kouvaka, Founder, Tonga Women in ICT, Tonga• Jennifer Britton, Deputy Programme Manager, ICT for Development, CARICOM Secretariat• Dibya Singh, Sub-regional Digital Expert, UNDP• Rury Demsey, Consultant, International Telecommunications Union, Area Office for South-East Asia <p>Moderator: Virginia Dawson, Policy Director, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat</p>



1330-1530	<p>Parallel Session D: Women's Economic Empowerment</p> <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon Myles LaRoda MP, Minister for Social Services, Information and Broadcasting, The Bahamas <p>Presentation of TCS Research findings <i>Research on Women-owned MSME's Access to Finance in the Pacific Islands</i></p> <p>Panel Discussion <i>Panel discussion on research findings and how women entrepreneurs can build and scale-up</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon Myles LaRoda MP, Minister for Social Services, Information and Broadcasting, The Bahamas • Eseta Nadakuitavuki, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women Affairs, Fiji • Maria Ronna Luna Pastorizo-Sekiguchi, Founder Greenhouse Coworking, Greenhouse Studio • Tuala Maria Melei Tagiilima, Unit Head, Samoa Pacific Country Office, Asian Development Bank • Tofilau Fiti Leung Wai, Founder and CEO of Samoa Stationery and Books (SSAB) <p>Moderator: Opeyemi Abebe, Adviser and Head of Trade Competitiveness Section, Commonwealth Secretariat</p> <p>E-platform for information on access to finance and global trade opportunities: Suresh Yadav, Senior Director a.i. Trade and Oceans Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat</p>
1530-1545	Networking and Refreshments Break
1545-1650	<p>Women at the Heart of Change: Leading Resilience and Innovation</p> <p>High-level Closing Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon Fiame Naomi Mata'afa MP, Prime Minister, Samoa • Hon Feleti Penitala Teo OBE, Prime Minister and Minister of Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment, Tuvalu <p>Moderator: Taulapapa Brenda Heather-Latu MBE, Former Attorney-General of Samoa</p> <p>LAUNCH Resilient Spirit: Portraits of Samoa Women Warriors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By Hon Fiame Naomi Mata'afa MP, Prime Minister, Samoa • Narrative by Loau Donina Va'a, CEO, Ministry for Women Community and Social Development, Samoa
1650-1700	Outcomes of the Commonwealth Women's Forum &



**COMMONWEALTH
WOMEN'S FORUM**

	Closing Remarks Arjoon Suddhoo , Deputy Secretary-General, Commonwealth Secretariat
Evening	Reception