

# Inaugural Commonwealth Ocean Ministers Meeting (COMM)

*Our resilient common ocean: from Cyprus to Samoa<sup>1</sup>*

Thursday 18 and Friday 19 April 2024

Cyprus

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Arrival Day - Wednesday 17 April 2024		
Afternoon	Arrival at venue and Registration	
Day 1 - Thursday 18 April 2024: Ocean Senior Officials Meeting (O-SOM)		
0900 - 1000	Registration, light refreshments	
1000 - 1200	<p><b>O-SOM morning</b></p> <p><i>Co-Chairs:</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Stelios Himonas, Permanent Secretary of the Shipping Deputy Ministry, Republic of Cyprus</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Costas Hadjipanayiotou, Permanent Secretary of the Directorate-General for the Environment of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Republic of Cyprus</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Welcome</li><li>2. Presentation and discussion of COMM agenda</li><li>3. Format for plenary interventions at COMM</li><li>4. Confirmation of ministerial announcements to be made at COMM</li><li>5. Review and discussion of the process for drafting the Ocean Declaration</li><li>6. Review and discussion of CHOGM 2024 ocean-related objectives</li></ol>	
1200 - 1300	<p>GROUP PHOTO</p> <p>LUNCH BREAK</p>	
1300 - 1500	<p><b>O-SOM afternoon</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>7. Principles &amp; priorities</li><li>8. Any other business</li></ol>	
1500 - 1530	REFRESHMENT BREAK	
1530 - 1800	FREE TIME	<p><b>Side Event: Implementing the 30x30 target for marine protection</b></p> <p>(by invitation)</p>
	Ocean Virtual Reality Display and Exhibition	
1800 - 2030	Official Welcome Reception by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus	

Day 2 - Friday 19 April 2024: Commonwealth Ocean Ministers Meeting (COMM)	
0730 - 0900	Breakfast side event: Roundtable with Ministers on Scaling Access to Blue Finance (by invitation)
0900 - 0930	Registration, light refreshments
0930 - 1100	<b>Opening Plenary</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, Commonwealth Secretary-General</i></li> <li>Remarks from the Co-Chairs <i>Dr Maria Panagiotou, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Republic of Cyprus</i> <i>Ms Marina Hadjimanolis, Shipping Deputy Minister to the President, Republic of Cyprus</i></li> <li>Special Address <i>Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean</i></li> </ol>
	<b>Roundtable 1</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of provisional agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Co-Chairs of COMM</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>Report of the Ocean Senior Officials Meeting (O-SOM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Co-Chairs of O-SOM</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>Ministerial Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Member Countries (pre-arranged)</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>Commonwealth Secretariat Ocean Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Commonwealth Secretariat</i></li> </ul> </li> </ol>
1100 - 1130	<b>REFRESHMENT BREAK &amp; GROUP PHOTO</b>
1130 - 1300	<b>Roundtable 2a: Ocean Principles &amp; Priorities (a. introduction)</b> <i>Co-Chairs of COMM</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation: summary of survey results - <i>Deputy Conf. Secretary</i></li> <li>Discussion and interventions, with guiding questions</li> </ol>
1300 - 1400	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ministerial lunch</b> hosted by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC</li> <li>Officials are warmly invited to an informal lunch</li> </ul>
1400 - 1530	<b>Roundtable 2b: Ocean Principles &amp; Priorities (b. resolution)</b> <i>Co-Chairs of COMM</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion with guiding questions, cont'd</li> </ol>
1530 - 1600	<b>REFRESHMENT BREAK</b>
1600 - 1730	<b>11. Roundtable 3: Pathway to Samoa -CHOGM 2024, and beyond</b> <i>Co-Chairs of COMM</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation - <i>Samoa</i></li> <li>• Discussion</li> <li>• Next COMM</li> </ul>
<b>1730 - 1800</b>	<b>12. Closing Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Co-Chairs of COMM</i></li> <li>• <i>Commonwealth Secretary-General</i></li> </ul>
<b>1800 - 1900</b>	<b>FREE TIME</b>
<b>1900 - 2100</b>	<b>CLOSING RECEPTION FOR ALL DELEGATES</b> <i>Theme: Celebrating the Commonwealth Blue Charter Champions</i>
<b>END</b>	

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<sup>1</sup> Aligning with CHOGM 2024 Theme 'One Resilient Common Future: Transforming our Common Wealth'