

In just one week, a new Commonwealth Secretary-General will be selected and appointed during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa. The candidates vying for this prestigious role have articulated their diverse visions for the future of the Commonwealth, addressing its colonial legacy, climate crisis, and the defense of democracy and human rights.

Dr. Mamadou Tangara, representing The Gambia, emphasized the importance of leveraging historical opportunities to create a better future. When questioned about the Commonwealth's colonial past, he stressed the need for a proactive approach to address the implications of history while focusing on future growth and collaboration.

Mr. Joshua Setipa from Lesotho reflected on the impactful legacy of previous Secretaries-General. He expressed admiration for their achievements through the "quiet diplomacy" of the Commonwealth, highlighting the potential for diplomacy to facilitate meaningful change and cooperation among member states.

Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey of Ghana brought attention to pressing global issues, including the climate crisis and threats to democracy and human rights. She pledged to provide leadership based on her track record, asserting that her experience would be crucial in addressing these significant challenges facing the Commonwealth.

The new Secretary-General will be tasked with ensuring that the Commonwealth remains a cornerstone of international cooperation, especially as its 56 member states navigate a period of dramatic global change. The successful candidate will play a vital role in upholding the Commonwealth's commitment to human rights and democratic values.

As the appointment date approaches, member states will weigh the candidates' proposals carefully, seeking a leader capable of steering the Commonwealth towards a more unified and resilient future.

The new Commonwealth Secretary-General will replace Patricia Scotland, who has served in the role since April 2016. Scotland, the first woman to hold this position, has focused on various issues, including climate change, gender equality, and youth empowerment during her tenure.