

# IORA BUSINESS CONCLAVE – 2024 CONCEPT PRESENTATION



Strengthening Regional Architecture:  
Reinforcing Indian Ocean Identity



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



*The*  
**Ceylon**  
*Chamber of*  
**Commerce**

# **IORA BUSINESS CONCLAVE - 2024**

**Unlocking Economic Opportunities**

**Business Conclave for Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)  
Region Members**

**under the theme**

**“Sustaining Growth – Bridging Horizons”**

# Unlocking Economic Opportunities: Business Conclave for Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Region Members –

## Under the theme “Sustaining Growth – Bridging Horizons”



**Event Organizers** – The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce as the Chair of the IORBF in Collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka is the current Chair of IORA



**Introduction:** The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) region encompasses diverse economies within the 23 Member States with vast potential for trade, investment, and collaboration. To harness this potential and foster economic growth, a Business Conclave is proposed, bringing together key stakeholders from member states to discuss opportunities, challenges, and strategies for enhancing economic cooperation and development within the region.



**Objective:** The primary objective of the Business Conclave is to facilitate dialogue, networking, and collaboration among business leaders, policymakers, and other stakeholders from IORA 23 Member States and 12 Dialogue partners. The Conclave aims to identify opportunities for trade and investment, address challenges hindering economic growth, and explore innovative strategies for promoting sustainable development and regional integration.

# KEY POINTS

## Economic Landscape of the IORA Region:



**Overview of IORA 23 Member States:** Introducing the diverse economies, industries, and business sectors represented within the region.

**Economic trends and challenges:** Analyzing key economic indicators, trade patterns, investment flows, and challenges faced by 23 Member States, including infrastructure deficits, regulatory barriers, and market access constraints.

**Opportunities for collaboration:** Identifying sectors with high growth potential, emerging market trends, and untapped opportunities for trade, investment, and business partnerships within the IORA region.

# Themes and Focus Areas for Discussion



**Trade facilitation and connectivity**: Exploring measures to enhance trade facilitation, reduce non-tariff barriers, and improve connectivity through infrastructure development, logistics optimization, and digital trade platforms.



**Investment promotion and facilitation**: Discussing strategies to attract foreign direct investment (FDI), promote public-private partnerships (PPPs), and create an enabling environment for business investment and entrepreneurship across sectors.



**Innovation and technology transfer**: Highlighting the role of innovation, research, and technology transfer in driving economic diversification, enhancing productivity, and fostering competitiveness within the IORA region.



**Sustainable development and inclusive growth**: Addressing the importance of sustainable development goals (SDGs), environmental sustainability, social inclusivity, and corporate social responsibility (CSR) in guiding business practices and investments.

# Format and Structure of the Business Conclave:

**Plenary sessions:** Keynote addresses, panel discussions, and presentations by eminent speakers on thematic areas related to economic cooperation, investment opportunities, and regional integration. [Further explained in slide No.11]



**Sector-specific workshops:** Breakout sessions focusing on specific industries or sectors of interest, allowing participants to delve deeper into opportunities, challenges, and best practices. [Further explained in slide No. 12]



**Networking events:** Business matchmaking sessions, B2B meetings, and networking receptions to facilitate interactions, exchange of ideas, and partnership-building among participants. [Further explained in slide No. 13]

# Outcomes and Follow-up Actions:

## **Policy recommendations:**

Developing actionable recommendations and policy proposals based on insights gathered during the Conclave discussions, aimed at fostering economic cooperation and addressing common challenges within the IORA region.



## **Business partnerships:**

Facilitating the establishment of business alliances, joint ventures, and strategic partnerships among participants to capitalize on identified opportunities and promote cross-border collaboration.



## **Continued engagement:**

Committing to ongoing dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration through follow-up initiatives, working groups, and business forums to sustain momentum and drive tangible outcomes beyond the Conclave.

# CONCLUSION

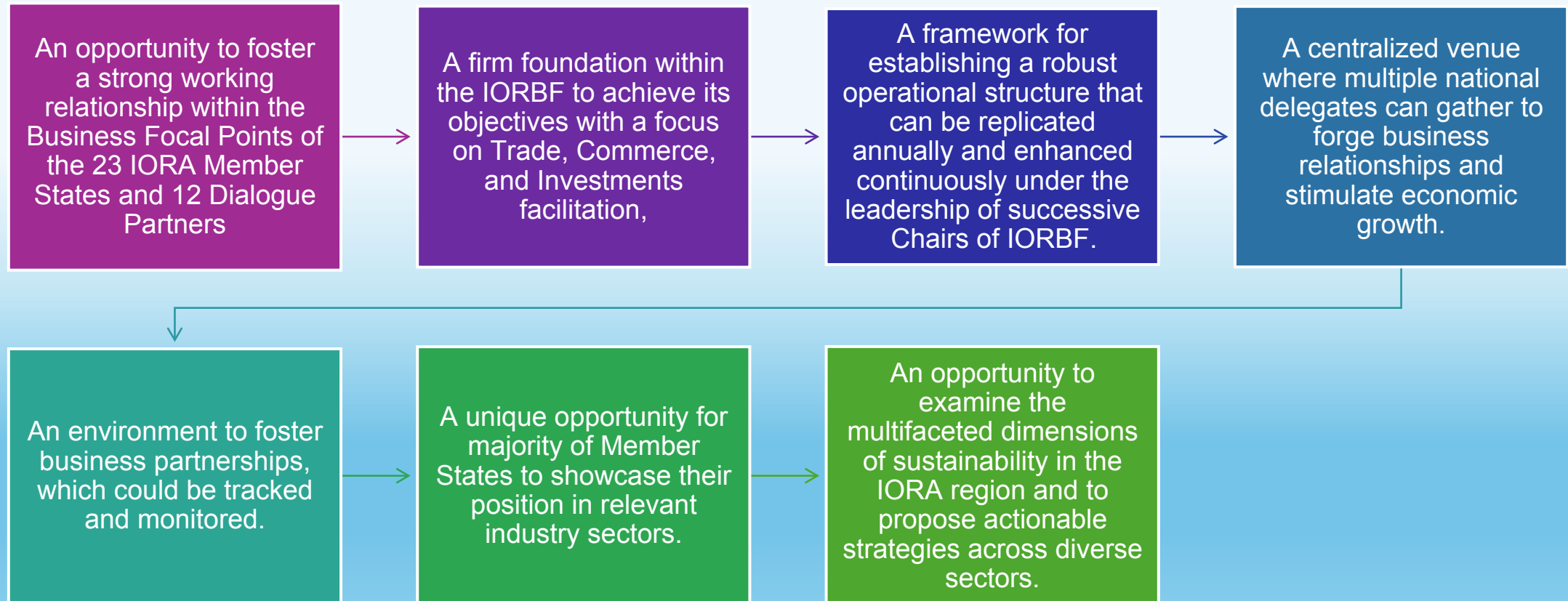
The Business Conclave for IORA region members presents a unique opportunity to catalyze economic growth, foster business partnerships, and promote sustainable development within the region.

By harnessing the collective expertise, resources, and innovation of stakeholders from diverse sectors and geographies, the Conclave aims to unlock the full economic potential of the Indian Ocean Rim and pave the way for a more prosperous and integrated future for member states.



# In summary –

*Business Conclave provides;*



| IORA BUSINESS CONCLAVE - DAY2 - 29th MAY 2024 - DAYPLANNER |         |                    |                                         |                                                                                                                         |           |          |           |                                                 |                  |            |                                 |                                         |                                                                                                                    |           |          |                        |                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| TIME                                                       | MINUTES | LOCATION           | EVENT                                   | TOPIC                                                                                                                   |           |          |           | PRES ENTER / MODERATOR                          |                  | LOCATION   | EVENT                           | TOPIC                                   |                                                                                                                    |           |          | PRES ENTER / MODERATOR |                                      |
| 8.30 to 9.00 AM                                            |         | Shangri-la Colombo | Registration                            |                                                                                                                         |           |          |           |                                                 |                  |            |                                 |                                         |                                                                                                                    |           |          |                        |                                      |
| 9.00 to 9.30 AM                                            | 30      | Lotus Ball Room    | Plenary Session 1                       | SME Development & Opportunities for Women's Economic Development Across the Indian Ocean Rim .                          |           |          |           | Presenter- Japan                                |                  |            |                                 |                                         |                                                                                                                    |           |          |                        |                                      |
| 9.30 to 10.00 AM                                           | 30      |                    | Plenary Session 2                       | Blue Economy in the IORA Region                                                                                         |           |          |           | Presenter- IFC - Ms. Pushkala Lakshmi Ratan     |                  |            |                                 |                                         |                                                                                                                    |           |          |                        |                                      |
| 10.00 to 10.30 AM                                          | 30      |                    | Plenary Session 3                       | Advancing Trade, Commerce and Investment in the Indian Ocean Rim Association [IORA] Region : Opportunities & Strategies |           |          |           | Presenter- HSBC                                 |                  |            |                                 |                                         |                                                                                                                    |           |          |                        |                                      |
| Parallel Breakout Sessions - A1                            |         |                    |                                         | Tourism                                                                                                                 |           |          |           |                                                 | Breakup Sessions | Spice Room | Parallel Breakout Sessions - A2 | Logistics                               |                                                                                                                    |           |          |                        |                                      |
| 10.30 to 11.00 AM                                          | 30      | Lotus Ball Room    | Sector Presentation                     | Topic - Unlocking the Potential: Exploring Tourism in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Region                    |           |          |           | Presenter - UNDP                                |                  |            |                                 | Sector Presentation                     | Topic - Enhancing Logistic Connectivity in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Region                          |           |          |                        | Presenter - Hayleys Advantis         |
| 11.00 to 11.40 AM.                                         | 40      |                    | Country Presentations (10 minutes each) | Mauritius                                                                                                               | Sri Lanka | Maldives | Kenya     | Moderator - Mrs Shiromal Cooray, Jetwing Group  |                  |            |                                 | Country Presentations (10 minutes each) | South Africa                                                                                                       | Singapore | UAE      | Bangladesh             | Moderator - Bingumal Thewarathanthri |
| 11.40 to 12.00 Noon                                        | 20      |                    | Q & A                                   | Panel Discussion [all 5 presenters]                                                                                     |           |          |           |                                                 |                  |            |                                 | Q & A                                   | Panel Discussion [all 5 presenters]                                                                                |           |          |                        |                                      |
| Parallel Breakout Sessions - B1                            |         |                    |                                         | Agriculture                                                                                                             |           |          |           |                                                 |                  | Spice Room | Parallel Breakout Sessions - B2 | Information Communication Technology    |                                                                                                                    |           |          |                        |                                      |
| 12.00 to 12.30 PM                                          | 30      | Lotus Ball Room    | Sector Presentation                     | Topic - Cultivating Sustainability: Agriculture in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Region                       |           |          |           | Presenter - ADB - Mr. Sanath Ranwala            |                  |            |                                 | Sectro Presentation                     | Topic - Bridging Digital Divides: Harnessing ICT for Development in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Region |           |          |                        | Presenter - 99X                      |
| 12.30 to 1.10 AM.                                          | 40      |                    | Country Presentations (10 minutes each) | Australia                                                                                                               | Oman      | Thailand | Indonesia | Moderator - Sustainable Development Council, SL |                  |            |                                 | Country Presentations (10 minutes each) | France                                                                                                             | India     | Malaysia | Sri Lanka              | Moderator - Dinesh Saparamadu        |
| 1.10 to 1.30 PM.                                           | 20      |                    | Q & A                                   | Panel Discussion [all 5 presenters]                                                                                     |           |          |           |                                                 |                  |            |                                 | Q & A                                   | Panel Discussion [all 5 presenters]                                                                                |           |          |                        |                                      |
| 1.30 to 2.15 PM                                            | 15      |                    | Lunch Break                             |                                                                                                                         |           |          |           |                                                 |                  |            |                                 |                                         |                                                                                                                    |           |          |                        |                                      |
| 2.15 to 5.45 PM                                            | 210     |                    | Business Conclave                       | B2B Sessions covering 5 Industry Sectors - Agriculture, Tourism , Logistics , Renewable Energy and ICT                  |           |          |           |                                                 |                  |            |                                 |                                         |                                                                                                                    |           |          |                        |                                      |
| 5.45 to 6.00 PM                                            | 15      |                    | Final Session                           | Closing Ceremony                                                                                                        |           |          |           |                                                 |                  |            |                                 |                                         |                                                                                                                    |           |          |                        |                                      |

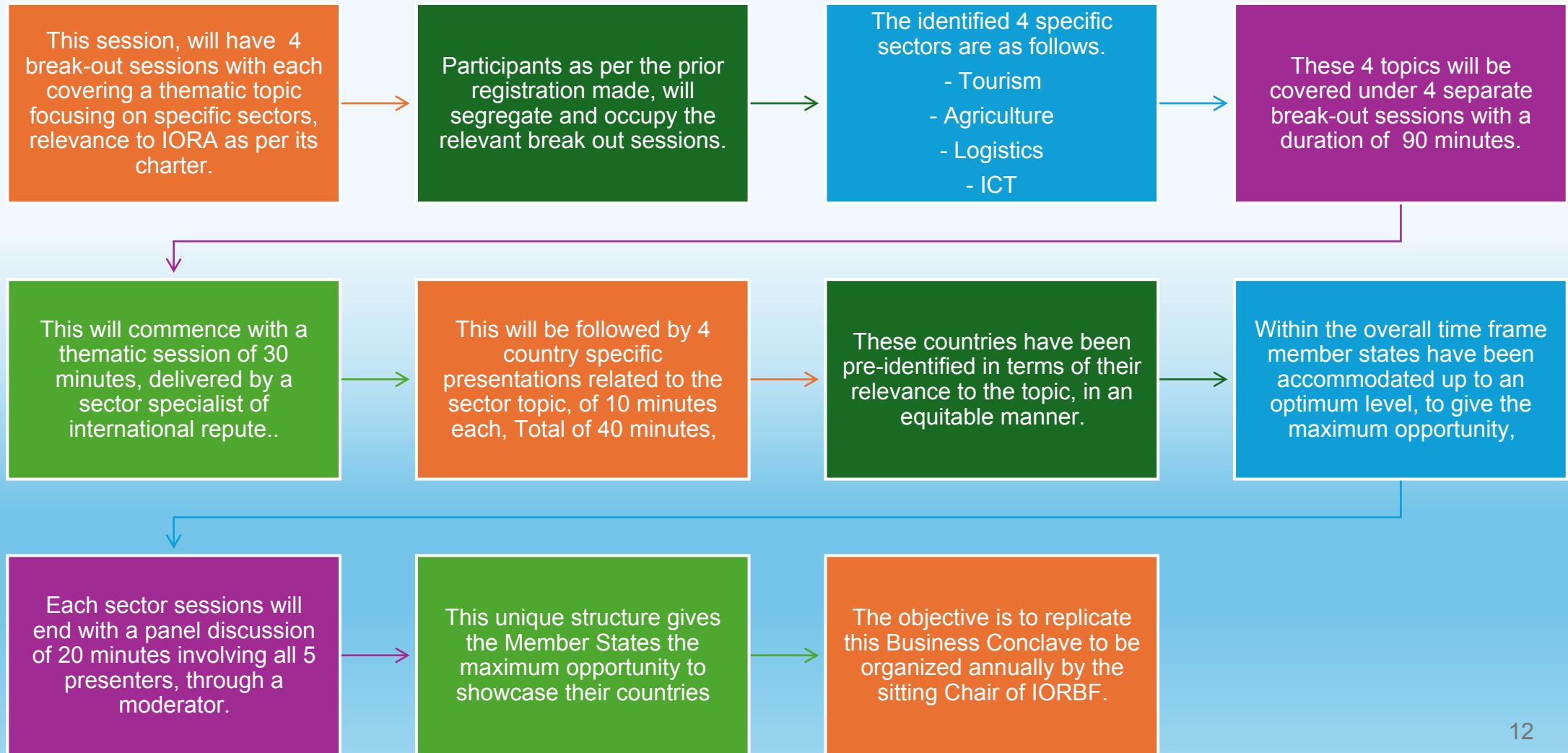
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## Plenary sessions.

1. The plenary sessions will take place on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May commencing at 9.00 am after registration.
2. This session will encompass all business delegates, focal point representatives, and other registered participants.
3. This will cover 3 plenary sessions of 30 minutes each covering the following 3 broad areas, presented by reputed international organizations, with specific expertise.
  - **SME Development and Women Empowerment Across the Indian Ocean Rim**
  - **Blue Economy in the IORA Region**
  - **Advancing Trade, Commerce, and Investment in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Region: Opportunities and Strategies**

# “Sector-specific” Workshops:



## Networking events:

**Business matchmaking sessions, B2B meetings, and networking receptions to facilitate interactions, exchange of ideas, and partnership-building among participants.**



**This session will commence soon after the lunch break.**



**The organizers will make arrangements to coordinate the process for Business Delegates to meet their pre-identified counterparts in a systematic manner to operate within strict timelines for the benefit of all participants.**



**Total allocated time 3 ½ hours (210 minutes)**

# IMPORTANT REQUEST

from all  
Business Focal Points of Member States and Dialogue Partners



1. As per slide No 12 – all “Business Focal Points” who have been identified with a “Country Presentation” to **CONFIRM** their Sector Allocation and the relevant “Nominee Presenter” by **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April**.



2. All Business Focal Points of 23 Member States and 12 Dialogue Partners to **CONFIRM** by **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April** of their



[a] Participation at this Business Conclave in Colombo on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> May



and



[b] Also the presence of a “Business Delegation” for the B2B discussions.