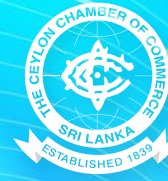




Strengthening Regional Architecture:  
Reinforcing Indian Ocean Identity



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF SRI LANKA



The  
Ceylon  
Chamber of  
Commerce

Preliminary Brochure

# Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Business Conclave 2024

## Sustaining Growth – Bridging Horizons

28th – 29th May 2024

Shangri-La Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Organised by**

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
























[www.ioraconclave.lk](http://www.ioraconclave.lk)




# Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is a dynamic inter-governmental organisation aimed at strengthening regional co-operation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region through its 23 Member States and 12 Dialogue Partners.
- Promoting trade and investment is at the heart of IORA. The Indian Ocean Rim region has been linked by commerce for centuries and is still at the centre of global trade and investment.
- Member States of IORA are diverse in their respective social and economic capabilities and capacities. Their social and economic indicators have huge variations.
- Despite such diversity and differences, these countries are bound together by the Indian Ocean and they are all committed to promote the sustained growth and balanced development of the region and to create common ground for regional economic co-operation.

## IORA Member States

 Australia	 Bangladesh	 Comoros	 France
 India	 Indonesia	 Iran	 Kenya
 Madagascar	 Malaysia	 Maldives	 Mauritius
 Mozambique	 Oman	 Seychelles	 Singapore
 Somalia	 South Africa	 Sri Lanka (Chair)	 Tanzania
 Thailand	 United Arab Emirates	 Yemen	

## IORA – Dialogue Partners

 China	 Egypt	 European Union	 Germany
 Italy	 Japan	 Russia	 Saudi Arabia
 South Korea	 Turkey	 United Kingdom	 United States

# IORA Business Conclave 2024

The IORA Business Conclave 2024 provides a unique platform to explore the burgeoning prospects in the 23 Member States of the Indian Ocean Rim and the 12 Dialogue Partners.

This event offers a seamless blend of opportunities to empower institutional, corporate, and individual investors, as well as business entities, by furnishing them with a comprehensive framework for informed business and investment choices. Moreover, it serves as a prime networking avenue, facilitating introductions to potential business collaborators and fostering the establishment of partnerships within the 23 member States and 12 Dialogue Partners of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

Advisory Collaborator



Official IT Partner



Official Hotel



Official Airline



Official Communication Partner



Official Travel Partner



## Focus Sectors



### **Agriculture**

Cultivation and Processing of Fruits, Vegetables, Herbs and Spices, Deep Sea Fishing & Rearing/ Processing of Fish, Animal Husbandry Projects, Horticulture / Floriculture



### **ICT**

IT Software Development, KPO / BPO Industry, IT and IT Enabled Services, IT Training Sectors.



### **Logistics**

Transportation: (including Modes such as Road, Rail, Air, Sea, and Multimodal Transportation, Depending on factors like distance, urgency, and type of goods), Warehousing, Inventory Management, Supply Chain Management (SCM), Packaging, Distribution, Technology in Logistics, Reverse Logistics, Global Logistics, and Sustainability.



### **Tourism**

Hotels/ Resorts/Villas, Higher-End Restaurants, Leisure/ Entertainment And Theme Parks, Tourist Transport: Domestic and International Sea & Air Transport, Meeting Incentive Convention and Exhibition (MICE), Domestic and International Air Transport/ Water-Based Transport, Skill Development: Hotel/ Hospitality Training Institutes.



### **Renewable Energy**

Biodiesel Production, Charging Station, Electric Vehicles, Energy Auditing, Geothermal Power, Hydroelectric, Power Generator, Rainwater Harvesting, Solar - Business Ideas, Cells, Consultancy, Distributor, Education and Training, Installers, Refrigeration Systems, Street Lighting, Water Heating and Wind Mill.



### **SME Development and Women Empowerment**

To seek opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises to thrive, contributing to job creation and innovation. Women empowerment within SMEs enhances inclusivity and diversity, unlocking untapped potential and driving sustainable development goals.

# Programme

## Event Programme

### Day 1 28th May 2024

06.00 pm – 09.00 pm

- Inauguration
- Formal exchanging of Memoranda of Understanding among the IORA Members and Dialogue Partners
- Strategic Networking Reception

### Day 2 29th May 2024

08:30 am – 09:00 am

- Arrival of participants

#### Technical Sessions

09:00 am – 09:30 am

- Plenary Session 1

09:30 am – 10:00 am

- Plenary Session 2

10:00 am – 10:30 am

- Plenary Session 3

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

#### Parallel Breakout Sessions

- Breakout Session 1 - Logistics
- Breakout Session 2 - Tourism

12:00 am – 01:30 pm

#### Parallel Breakout Sessions

- Breakout Session 3 - ICT
- Breakout Session 4 - Agriculture

01:30 pm – 02:15 pm

- Lunch Break

#### Business Matchmaking

02:15 pm – 05:45 pm

- B2B Matchmaking for Agriculture, ICT, Logistics, Renewable Energy and Tourism

05:45 pm – 06:00 pm

- Closing ceremony

## Spouse Programme

### Day 1 28th May 2024

Invitation to attend the Inauguration/Strategic Networking Reception

### Day 2 29th May 2024

Visits to the following locations (Group transport will be provided)

- ➔ Gangaramaya Buddhist Temple
- ➔ Colombo City Centre
- ➔ Odel Mall
- ➔ SPA Ceylon

## Post Event Tour Programme (optional)

### Day 3 30th May 2024

Colombo to Kandy and return on the same day - Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage, Temple of the Tooth Relic Sri Dalada Maligawa, Lankathilaka Temple and Spice Garden

## Why Attend?



Updates on new business and investment opportunities with the interaction with multiple countries



Understand the policies and regulations of IORA Member States



Gain exposure to new ideas, contacts, resources and insights into best practices



Business with Leisure – Spouse Programme to enjoy your visit to Sri Lanka

## Your Investment

Two-day event including high-level Strategic Networking Reception, IORA Business Conclave 2024 including B2B Meetings

### Delegate Fee

**IORA Member States** - US \$ 150 per participant

**Non-IORA Member States** - US \$ 175 per participant  
(entitled to attend the day 2 of the IORA Business Conclave including B2B Meetings)

**Spouse Fee** - US \$ 140 per person

**Post Event Tour to Kandy** - US \$ 70 per participant inclusive of admission tickets to attractions and lunch.

## Registration Process

Please Register online and settle your participation fee before 1st May 2024. Your registration is subject to receipt of the complete payment.

Payment can be made online [www.ioraconclave.lk](http://www.ioraconclave.lk)

### Cancellation Policy

By or before 20th April 2024 – full refund of Registration Fee, less Administrative Fee of US \$ 60.

By or before 31st April 2024 – 50% refund of Registration Fee

By or before 10th May 2024 – 25% refund of Registration Fee

After 10th May 2024 – No refund

Refunds will be made three weeks following the conclusion of the IORA Business Conclave 2024.

## Entry Requirements

A Business Visa is issued to foreign nationals who visit Sri Lanka for business purposes for short periods. This visa may be issued for single or multiple journeys. Upon receiving your request and verifying the completion of the payment, we will promptly issue a letter of invitation to support your visa application. [Further details http://www.eta.gov.lk](http://www.eta.gov.lk)

## A Better Way to Connect



SriLankan Airlines will offer a discount up to 10% on Economy Class Airfare and discount up to 15% on Business Class Airfare (based on the prevailing market fare at the time of ticketing) to all participants and accompanying persons attending the IORA Business Conclave (valid from 20th to May to 6th June 2024). This offer is applicable for the purchase by registered delegates travelling to SriLankan Airlines online stations which currently include the following destinations:

### Indian Sub Continent

Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Cochin, Bangalore, Trichy, Trivandrum, Madurai, Hyderabad, Maldives, Gan Islands

### Bangladesh

### Far East

Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Shanghai, Canton, Tokyo, Indonesia

### Australia

Melbourne, Sydney

### Middle East

Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Dammam, Jeddah

### Europe

London, Germany, France



Please note that to avail of these discounts, ticketing must be carried out through the web promo page of SriLankan Airlines and not through Agents. All applicable taxes are to be paid separately and are not eligible for any discount.

To Contact the SriLankan Airlines offices, visit the corporate website [www.srilankan.com/en\\_uk/special-offers/promotion/iora-business-conclave-2024](http://www.srilankan.com/en_uk/special-offers/promotion/iora-business-conclave-2024)

### For further details, contact the

**IORA Business Conclave 2024 Secretariat**  
The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce  
No.50 Navam Mawatha Colombo 2 Sri Lanka  
Tel: +94 11 5588818, 5588888, 5588800  
Fax: +94 11 2449352, 2381012  
E-mail: [ioraconclave@chamber.lk](mailto:ioraconclave@chamber.lk)  
[www.ioraconclave.lk](http://www.ioraconclave.lk)

## Accommodation



### Cinnamon Grand Hotel



77, Galle Road, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka  
Tel: +94 11 243 7437 Fax: +94 11 244 9280

	Single BB	Double BB
<b>Premium Room</b>	USD 148 Nett	USD 162 Nett
<b>Executive Room</b>	USD 188 Nett	USD 188 Nett
<b>Premium Suite</b>	USD 269 Nett	USD 269 Nett



### Hilton Colombo Residences



200 Union Place, Colombo, 02, Sri Lanka  
Tel: +94 11 534 4644

	Single BB	Double BB
<b>Standard</b>	USD 141 Nett	USD 155 Nett
<b>Deluxe</b>	USD 155 Nett	USD 168 Nett
<b>Business</b>	USD 195 Nett	USD 208 Nett



### Jetwing Colombo Seven



57, Ward Place, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka.  
Tel: +94 11 255 0200 Fax: +94 11 269 5516

	Single BB	Double BB
<b>Deluxe</b>	USD 114 Nett	USD 127 Nett
<b>Studio</b>	USD 127 Nett	USD 140 Nett
<b>Business</b>	USD 195 Nett	USD 208 Nett



### Shangri-La Hotel Colombo



1, Galle Face, Colombo 02, Sri Lanka.  
Tel: +94 11 788 8288

	Single BB	Double BB
<b>Deluxe Room</b>	USD 195 Nett	USD 209 Nett
<b>Premier Room</b>	USD 209 Nett	USD 222 Nett
<b>Horizon Club</b>	USD 276 Nett	USD 289 Nett



### Kingsbury Hotel



48, Janadhipathi Mawatha,  
Colombo 01, Sri Lanka.  
Tel: +94 11 242 1221 Fax: +94 11 243 7326

	Single BB	Double BB
<b>Deluxe Room</b>	USD 128 Nett	USD 142 Nett
<b>Premium Room</b>	USD 155 Nett	USD 168 Nett
<b>Executive Room</b>	USD 182 Nett	USD 195 Nett



### Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel



115, Sir Chittampalam A. Gardiner Mawatha,  
Colombo 02, Sri Lanka.  
Tel: +94 11 249 1000 Fax: +94 11 254 4211

	Single BB	Double BB
<b>Superior Room</b>	USD 148 Nett	USD 162 Nett
<b>Premium Room</b>	USD 148 Nett	USD 162 Nett
<b>Executive Room</b>	USD 175 Nett	USD 175 Nett



### Ramada Colombo



30 Sir Mohamed Macan Markar Mawatha,  
Colombo 03, Sri Lanka.  
Tel: +94 11 242 2001 Fax: +94 11 244 7977

	Single BB	Double BB
<b>Deluxe Room</b>	USD 113 Nett	USD 125 Nett

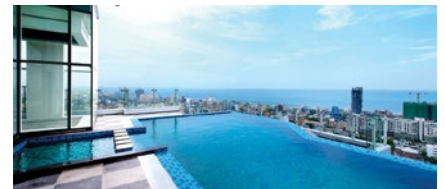


### Taj Samudra Colombo



No. 25 Galle Face Centre Road,  
Colombo 3, Sri Lanka.  
Tel: +94 11 244 6622 Fax: +94 11 243 7208

	Single BB	Double BB
<b>Deluxe City View</b>	USD 148 Nett	USD 161 Nett
<b>Taj Club Room</b>	USD 188 Nett	USD 201 Nett



### Cinnamon Red



59, Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha, Colombo  
03, Sri Lanka.  
Tel: +94 11 214 5145 Fax: +94 11 214 5146

	Single BB	Double BB
<b>Standard Room</b>	USD 85 Nett	USD 96 Nett
<b>Suite</b>	USD 212 Nett	USD 223 Nett



### Hilton Colombo



No 2 Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha,  
Colombo 02, Sri Lanka.  
Tel: +94 11 249 2019 Fax: +94 11 254 4657

	Single BB	Double BB
<b>Deluxe Room</b>	USD 148 Nett	USD 161.2Nett
<b>Executive</b>	USD 174.64Nett	USD 188.07Nett
<b>Corner Suite</b>	USD 221.16Nett	USD 235.09Nett

- Hotel Room Rates are subject to prevailing Taxes in Sri Lanka
- Check in time – 01.00 p.m.
- Check out time – 12.00 noon
- Airport Transfers can be arranged by the Hotel
- Room charge equivalent to one-night stay will apply in case of no-show and cancellation made 2 days prior to the check-in date stated in the Registration Form
- Payment through Credit Cards is accepted and will be based on the prevailing Rates of Exchange
- Online Hotel Room Reservation can be carried out via [www.ioirconclave.lk](http://www.ioirconclave.lk) with effect from 15th March 2024

# Registration Form

For Official Use Only

Date received .....

Registration No .....

Please complete in **BLOCK LETTERS** and return along with your payment before 1st May 2024 to:

**IORA Business Conclave 2024 Secretariat**

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

No.50 Navam Mawatha Colombo 2 Sri Lanka

Tel: +94 11 5588818, 5588888, 5588800

Fax: +94 11 2449352, 2381012

E-mail: ioraconclave@chamber.lk

## Delegate Details

Name of Organisation			
Mailing Address			
Country	Tel. (Direct)	Fax	
E-mail	Website		
Company Profile (Maximum 6 lines)			

### Participant 1

Participant Name	H.E./Prof./Dr./Mr./Ms.	Designation	
Passport Number	Date of Expiry	Mobile	E-mail

If you are interested in attending the following (Please mark 'x' in the box)

- 28th May - Inauguration/ Strategic Networking Reception ( **Participation is restricted only for IORA Member States and Dialogue Partners** )
- 29th May - Plenary Sessions      29th May - Parallel Breakout Sessions (Please select one sector per session)       29th May - B-2-B Meetings
- Session 1    Logistics    Tourism       30th May - Post Event Tour Programme
- Session 2    Agriculture    ICT

Spouse Programme (Only for Spouse) \*

Name of the Spouse (Prof./Dr./Mr./Mrs) ..... Passport Number .....

- 28th May - Inauguration/ Strategic Networking Reception       29th May - Visit (Group transport will be provided)
- Gangaramaya Buddhist Temple - Colombo 2      Colombo City Centre - Colombo 2      Odel Mall - Colombo 7      Spa Ceylon - Colombo 3
- www.gangaramaya.com      www.colombocitycentre.lk      www.odel-mall.com      www.lk.spaceylon.com

### Participant 2

Participant Name	H.E./Prof./Dr./Mr./Ms.	Designation	
Passport Number	Date of Expiry	Mobile	E-mail

If you are interested in attending the following (Please mark 'x' in the box)

- 28th May - Inauguration/ Strategic Networking Reception ( **Participation is restricted only for IORA Member States and Dialogue Partners** )
- 29th May - Plenary Sessions      29th May - Parallel Breakout Sessions (Please select one sector per session)       29th May - B-2-B Meetings
- Session 1    Logistics    Tourism       30th May - Post Event Tour Programme
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- www.gangaramaya.com      www.colombocitycentre.lk      www.odel-mall.com      www.lk.spaceylon.com



## B-2-B Meetings

Sectors of interests to invest/set up Joint Ventures / Technology Transfer/ Outsource/ Export/ Import/ Other.

It is compulsory that you visit [www.ioraconclave.lk](http://www.ioraconclave.lk) to identify and select more specific areas of interest in order to schedule B2B Meetings with matching investor/business partners. - (Please mark 'x' in the box)

Focused Sector/ Area	Invest	Joint Venture	Technology Transfer	Outsource	Export	Import	Other
Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information and Communications Technology (ICT)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Logistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Renewable Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Hotel Reservation: Need Assistance

On own

Preferred Hotel

Please make a reservation for: (kindly circle the dates you wish to reserve hotel accommodation)

Single Room

Number of days

Dates:

MAY 27

MAY 28

MAY 29

MAY 30

JUN 01

JUN 02

2024

Double Room

Number of days

Dates:

MAY 27

MAY 28

MAY 29

MAY 30

JUN 01

JUN 02

2024

**Please provide me** (Please mark 'x' in the box)

Letter of invitation to apply for Visa

An Invoice

**I am aware of the Cancellation Policy stated below**

By or before 20th April 2024 – full refund of Registration Fee, less Administrative Fee of US \$ 60.

By or before 31st April 2024 – 50% refund of Registration Fee

By or before 10th May 2024 – 25% refund of Registration Fee

After 10th May 2024 – No refund

Name: .....

Signature: .....

Designation: .....

Date: .....

## CONCEPT PAPER ON IORA BUSINESS CONCLAVE - 2024

**Title:** 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 ie 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 23 IORA 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:

1. **Plenary sessions:** Keynote addresses, panel discussions, and presentations by eminent speakers on thematic areas related to economic cooperation, investment opportunities, and regional integration. [please refer to note No1. at the end of this paper]
2. **Sector-specific workshops:** Breakout sessions focusing on specific industries or sectors of interest, allowing participants to delve deeper into opportunities, challenges, and best practices. [Please refer to note No. 2 at the end of this paper]
3. **Networking events:** Business matchmaking sessions, B2B meetings, and networking receptions to facilitate interactions, exchange of ideas, and partnership-building among participants. [Please refer to note No. 3 at the end of this paper]

#### **Outcomes and Follow-up Actions:**

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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

1. An opportunity to foster a strong working relationship within the Business Focal Points of the 23 IORA Member States and 12 Dialogue Partners
2. A firm foundation within the IORBF to achieve its objectives with a focus on Trade, Commerce, and Investments facilitation,
3. A framework for establishing a robust operational structure that can be replicated annually and enhanced continuously under the leadership of successive Chairs of IORBF.
4. A centralized venue where multiple national delegates can gather to forge business relationships and stimulate economic growth.
5. An environment to foster business partnerships, which could be tracked and monitored.
6. A unique opportunity for majority of Member States to showcase their position in relevant industry sectors.
7. An opportunity to examine the multifaceted dimensions of sustainability in the IORA region and to propose actionable strategies across diverse sectors.

**Note:** This concept paper which provides a framework for organizing a Business Conclave for IORA region members for the year 2024 in Colombo, is conceptualized, planned, organized and implemented by The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce as the Chair of IORBF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka ie the current Chair of IORA. Further planning and coordination will be necessary to execute the Conclave successfully, including identifying

country specific speakers, developing agendas, and securing participation from key stakeholders.

**Note 1 – Plenary sessions.**

1. The plenary sessions will take place on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May commencing at 9.00 am after registration. This session will encompass all business delegates, focal point representatives, and other registered participants.
2. This session 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

**Note 2 - Sector-specific workshops:**

1. This session, prior to the lunch break will have 4 Break-out sessions with each covering a thematic topic focusing on specific industries or sectors with relevance to IORA region as per its charter allowing participants to delve deeper into opportunities, challenges, and best practices.
2. Participants as per the prior registration made, will segregate and occupy the relevant break out sessions.
3. The identified 4 specific industries / sectors are as follows.
  - Tourism
  - Agriculture
  - Logistics
  - Information and Communication Technology [ITC]
4. These 4 topics will be covered under 2 separate break-out sessions with each topic carrying a time duration of 90 minutes.
5. Each topic will commence with a thematic session of 30 minutes, delivered by a sector specialist of international repute and with good understanding / knowledge, in relevance to the IORA Region.
6. This will be followed by 4 country specific presentations related to the sector topic, of 10 minutes each, covering a total of 40 minutes,
7. These countries have been pre-identified in terms of their relevance to the topic, in an equitable manner.
8. Whilst being mindful of the time constraints in the overall event program, we have been mindful to accommodate member states up to an optimum level, to give the maximum opportunity,
9. Each of these sector sessions will end with a panel discussion of 20 minutes involving all 5 presenters, through a moderator.
10. The above unique structuring has been designed to give the Member States the maximum opportunity to showcase their countries, and with the objective of replicating this event ie “Business Conclave” as an annual event to be organized by the sitting Chair of IORBF.

**Note 3 - Networking events:** Business matchmaking sessions, B2B meetings, and networking receptions to facilitate interactions, exchange of ideas, and partnership-building among participants.

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

2. 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.
3. Total allocated time 3 ½ hours (210 minutes)

# 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.

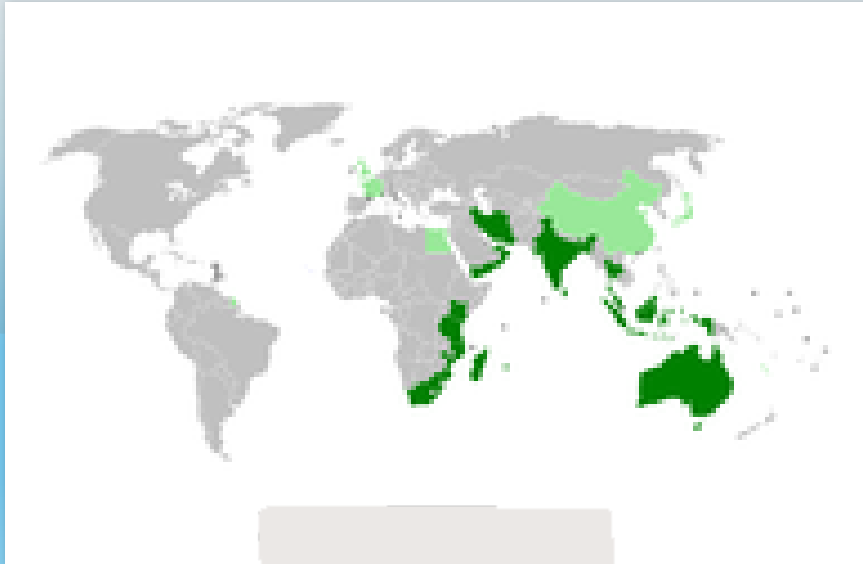


**Objective:** The primary objective of the Business Conclave is to facilitate dialogue, networking, and collaboration among business leaders, policymakers, and other stakeholders from IORA 23 Member States and 12 Dialogue partners. The Conclave aims to identify opportunities for trade and investment, 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.



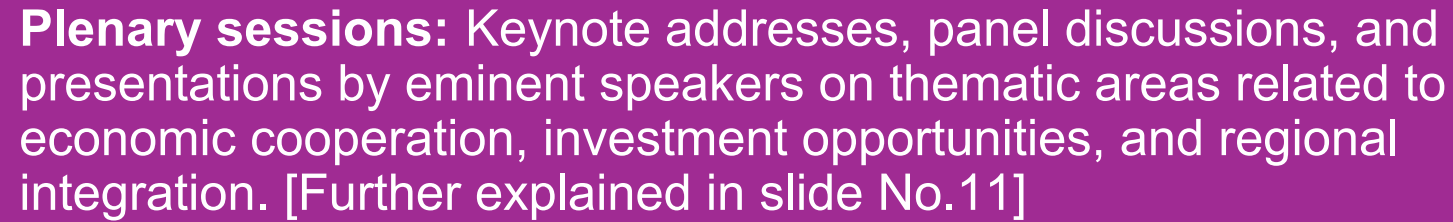
**Innovation and technology transfer**: Highlighting the role of innovation, research, and technology transfer in driving economic diversification, enhancing productivity, and fostering competitiveness within the IORA region.



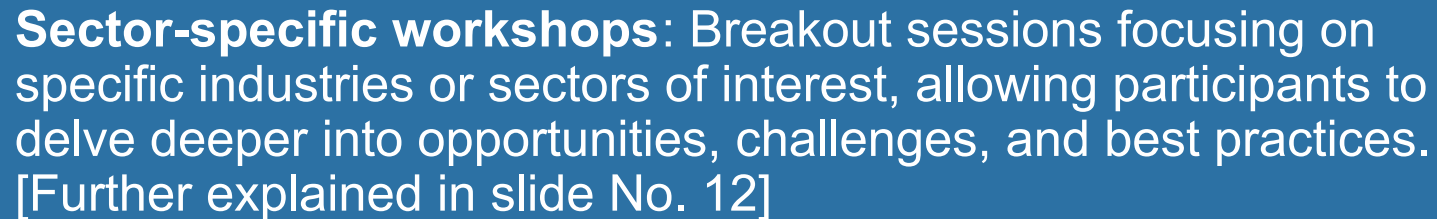
**Sustainable development and inclusive growth**: Addressing the importance of sustainable development goals (SDGs), environmental sustainability, social inclusivity, and corporate social responsibility (CSR) in guiding business practices and investments.

# Format and Structure of the Business Conclave:

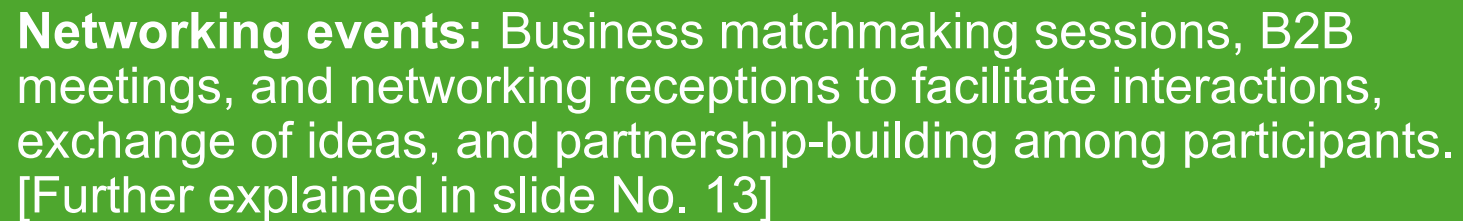
**Plenary sessions:** Keynote addresses, panel discussions, and presentations by eminent speakers on thematic areas related to economic cooperation, investment opportunities, and regional integration. [Further explained in slide No.11]



**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

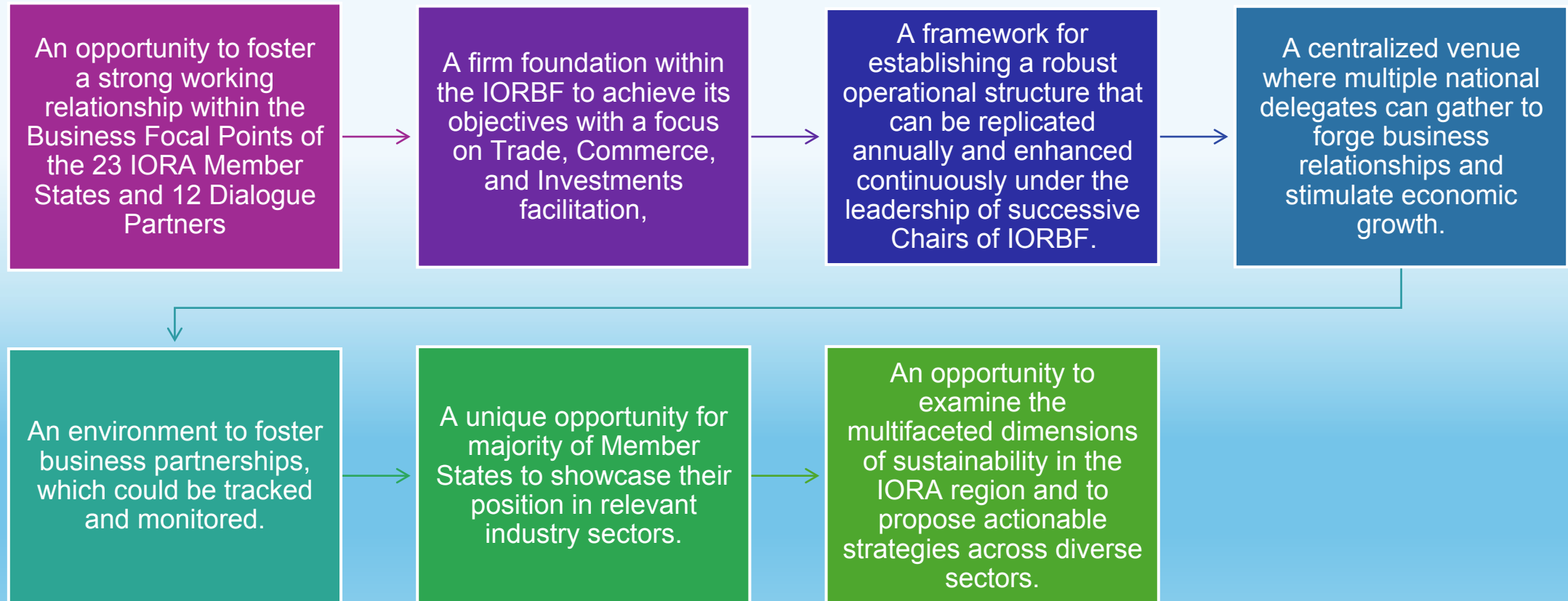
**The Business Conclave for IORA region members presents a unique opportunity to catalyze economic growth, foster business partnerships, and promote sustainable development within the region.**

**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;*



TIME	MINUTES	LOCATION	EVENT	TOPIC				PRESENTER / MODERATOR	LOCATION	EVENT	TOPIC				PRESENTER / 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											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	Spice Room	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											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	Spice Room	Sector 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															

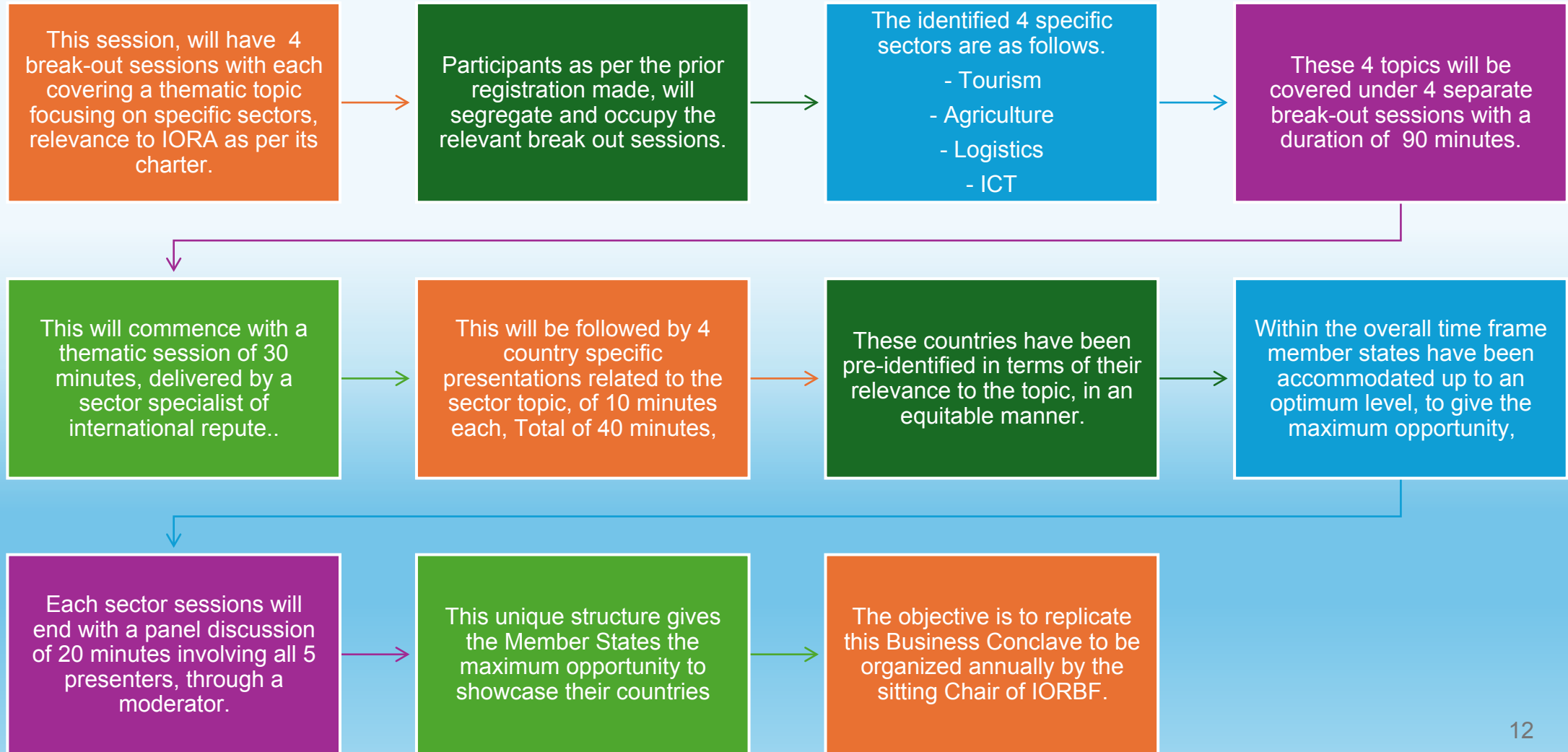


## Plenary sessions.

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.