

Coronation: King Charles III: Commonwealth Leaders Meet: May 6

May 6, 2023

1. May 5, 2023: London: Leaders of Commonwealth member states, met with His Majesty King Charles III at Marlborough House, the Headquarters of the Commonwealth Secretariat. **President Muhammadu Buhari** of Nigeria



After their meeting with the King, leaders from the Commonwealth's 56 member states then met privately to discuss issues of mutual interest, including initiatives to support the empowerment of young people, as this year has been designated the Commonwealth Year of Youth.

The King has described the Commonwealth as a 'cornerstone' of his life, expressing his unwavering support for the values, people and countries of the Commonwealth.



Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland, delivers opening remarks at the Commonwealth Leaders Event

The President of Rwanda, His Excellency Paul Kagame, in his role as Chair-in-Office of the Commonwealth, also addressed the meeting. He welcomed the leaders of the two newest Commonwealth countries, Togo and Gabon, and paid tribute to the new Commonwealth Head.



*President of Rwanda, His Excellency **Paul Kagame** speaking at the Commonwealth Leaders Event*

His Highness **Tuimalealiifano Va'aleto'a Sualauvi II**, the Head of State of Samoa also attended the event as the incoming Commonwealth Chair-in-Office. In 2024, Samoa will succeed Rwanda as chair at the 27th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Apia, the capital city.

The year also marks the **tenth anniversary** of the signing of the **Commonwealth Charter**, which reaffirms the values and principles of the Commonwealth as well as its aspirations. As well as being designated the Year of the Youth, 2023 is also being marked as the Commonwealth Year of Peace.

Earlier in the day, : **Commonwealth leaders had gathered at Buckingham Palace.** There were 42 attendees in total, including UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and prime minister of New Zealand Chris Hipkins. President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria and Jagdeep Dhankar, Vice-President of India also were at the Buckingham Palace.

From the royal family there were the king, the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, the Princess Royal and Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke of Kent.

In the afternoon, there was a realm governors general and prime ministers lunch.



King Charles attending the lunch at Buckingham Palace
