



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

PARLIAMENTARY
STRENGTHENING FOR
COMMONWEALTH
PARLIAMENTS

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The Commonwealth
Parliamentary Association
promotes **democracy, good
governance and human
rights** throughout the
Commonwealth.

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INTRODUCTION

CPA CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to present to you the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Annual Report for 2025. I am delighted to share the strengthening role of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) through its programmes, events and activities and its work in furthering the Association's Strategic Objectives.

On behalf of the Association, I would like to thank the Members of the CPA Coordinating Committee, CPA Executive Committee, all CPA Branches, CPA Regional Secretaries and CPA Secretariat team for what has been achieved in 2025. Three CPA Executive Committee meetings were held in 2025 to address key governance issues with Members representing 9 CPA Regions. The first meeting was held in London in May 2025 and the second and third meetings were held in October 2025 during the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Barbados. Within the pages of this Annual Report, you will find descriptions of the CPA professional development programmes, seminars and activities work held in 2025. CPA is a unique platform of Parliamentarians and

parliamentary staff of the Commonwealth and has great potential to effect innovative changes in addressing common concerns. We continue to see the Association move forward and that all CPA Branches - large and small across the nine CPA Regions – are working together to achieve our common goals. As Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee, I present this 2025 Annual Report to colleagues on behalf of the Association.



Hon. Dr Christopher Kalila, MP
Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee
Member of the National Assembly of Zambia

CPA SECRETARY-GENERAL'S FOREWORD

Looking through this Annual Report for 2025, it is a good time for all of us in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to reflect on an important year for the CPA and the wider Commonwealth.

2025 was again a very busy year for the CPA, and it continues to be an exciting time in the CPA's growth and development. Like any organisation that has stood the test of time, it is important to continually adapt to the changing needs of our membership and to demonstrate relevance, added value and good governance. The progress towards the new international legal status for the CPA in the United Kingdom during 2025 provides a great opportunity to enhance our work in a variety of different ways – for example, strengthening the voices of Commonwealth Parliamentarians in international organisations including the United Nations and the Commonwealth itself.

In 2025, we continued to provide professional development, networking and knowledge sharing for Commonwealth Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. I also had the opportunity to visit several CPA Branches to see for myself the great work that is being done to assist Legislatures in furthering their parliamentary strengthening.

The CPA Parliamentary Academy continued to provide professional development opportunities for Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff through both online courses and in-person Residency programmes.

More than 500 delegates also came together at the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Barbados for impactful discussions and networking.

The CPA has continued to support the three CPA networks - the CPA Small Branches, the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) and the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD).

Through this 2025 CPA Annual Report, which has been approved by the CPA Executive Committee at its virtual meeting in May 2026, it is confirmed that there are currently no known material, staffing or governance-related matters which have the potential to adversely affect the Association's standing and future viability that need to be brought to the attention of the Members. We will continue to build upon the CPA's long history to strengthen and champion the work of Parliaments across the Commonwealth.



Stephen Twigg
CPA Secretary-General



CPA STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2022-2025

01

Strengthen the capacity and maximise the effectiveness of Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff and enable mutual learning.

02

Protect and uphold the independence of Parliaments, the principle of the separation of powers and broader human rights as set out in the Commonwealth Charter through strong, strategic partnerships.

03

Persuade the UK Government to implement legislation recognising the CPA as an international, interparliamentary organisation.

04

Support Parliaments and Parliamentarians to adapt, innovate and recover from crises such as COVID-19 or natural disasters.

05

Support and enable the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP), CPA Small Branches and Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) networks to fulfil their strategic objectives.

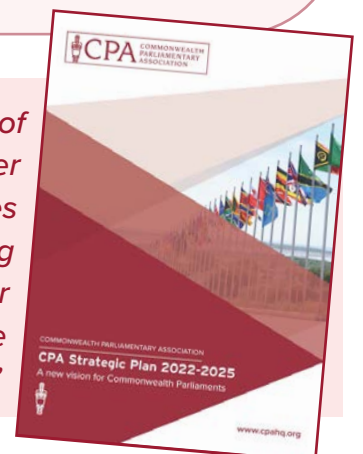
06

Promote the values of the Commonwealth, parliamentary democracy and sustainable development to a wide audience.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

GENDER | SMALL STATES & JURISDICTIONS | TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
DISABILITY | SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE | YOUTH

The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg reflected that: *“At the heart of the Strategic Plan is a pledge to work in partnership with others to deliver our mission. We will strengthen existing partnerships and seek new ones with organisations both within and beyond the Commonwealth. In doing so, we will be guided by our belief in the value of multilateralism and our support for the values enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter and the goals set out by the United Nations in Agenda 2030.”*



3rd LIFAKA LECTURE

BARBADOS PRIME MINISTER HIGHLIGHTS THE COMMONWEALTH'S ROLE IN PROTECTING DEMOCRACY



The Prime Minister of Barbados, Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, SC, MP spoke about Parliaments' role in protecting democracy as well as the ongoing impact of climate change on small islands states at the third CPA Emilia Monjowa Lifaka Lecture. The 3rd Lifaka Lecture took place in the margins of the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Barbados in November 2025 and was attended by delegates and specially invited guests in Bridgetown.

Hon. Mia Mottley also urged the Commonwealth to lead by example and demonstrate that democracy, even in the most trying times, remains the fairest and most effective path to peace, prosperity and human fulfilment.

“Let us move forward hand in hand, with courage and conviction, to build a Commonwealth where democracy is not a privilege of the few, but the birthright of all. This is not simply the work of government but the work of all of our citizens, and those of us who will know better must guide and prepare, to allow those who may not yet be awakened to this reality, the opportunity to join us in this battle that truly will determine whether we progress or whether we regress into the domination of countries and individuals by a few.

It is against this backdrop that we address how we secure the rights and aspirations of our people within the boundaries of our nations. How we protect them from the excessive power of any Executive or any Parliament. How we build democracies that deliver for every resident. We know what we must do. Let us do it together.”

- Watch the 3rd CPA Lifaka Lecture in full via the Barbados Parliament's *YouTube* channel - www.youtube.com/@barbadosparliamentchannel

The CPA Lifaka Lecture was established in 2023 in memory of Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, the late Chairperson of the CPA International Executive Committee and Deputy Speaker of Cameroon. Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka was a passionate champion of the CPA and served as CPA Chairperson from November 2017 until her untimely death in April 2021. The CPA Lifaka Lecture is intended to provide a fitting tribute to her work and usually takes place as part of the CPA's annual conference - the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

68th COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE, BARBADOS

‘The Commonwealth: A Global Partner’



Image credit: Parliament of Barbados/68th CPC

Commonwealth Parliamentarians attended the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) and associated meetings to recognise the Commonwealth’s commitment to democracy and met under the conference theme of ‘*The Commonwealth: A Global Partner*’. The conference, hosted by the Parliament of Barbados from 5 to 12 October 2025 in Bridgetown, Barbados was attended by over 500 Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Clerks representing Parliaments and Legislatures from across the Commonwealth. The CPA Vice-Patron, Her Excellency Dame Sandra Mason, GCMG, SC, the President of Barbados, urged delegates to work together to uphold democratic principles and the values of the Commonwealth as she opened the 68th CPC. The conference was hosted by the CPA President (2024-2025), Senator Hon. Reginald Farley, JP, President of the Senate of Barbados and Hon. Arthur Holder, MP, SC, Speaker of the House of

Assembly of Barbados. The 68th CPC was the second time that the CPA Barbados Branch had hosted the event who previously hosted the 35th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in 1989.

The Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Hon. Dr Christopher Kalila, MP (Zambia) said: “*The Commonwealth is a global leader, and the CPA is at the forefront of this work as the parliamentary wing of the organisation. The CPA offers a platform for Parliamentarians to meet to address global challenges, fostering inter-parliamentary dialogue, peer-to-peer learning and best practice. The CPA ensures that no Parliament stands alone.*”

During the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, there were also a number of additional conferences and meetings including: 41st CPA Small Branches Conference; 9th Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference; meetings of the

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Hon. Shirley Botchwey addressed delegates at the Conference and said: “*Strong, inclusive, accountable Parliaments are the foundation on which all our ambitions rest. Without them, there can be no trust, no legitimacy, and no progress. That is why the CPA’s work is so vital – building capacity, sharing best practice, empowering women and young Parliamentarians, and defending the integrity of our democratic institutions.*”



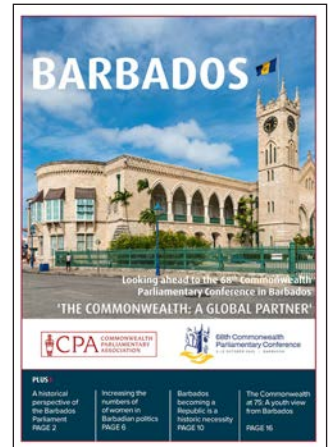


68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

5 - 12 OCTOBER 2025 | BARBADOS

Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) network; the 2025 CPA General Assembly; governance meetings of the CPA Executive Committee; and the 59th Society of Clerks-at-the-Table (SoCATT) meeting.

Key decisions and outcomes from the CPA General Assembly **which was attended by Members from 121 CPA Branches** included updates on CPA Status; CPA Membership Report and future subscriptions; budgets and finance reports. The CPA General Assembly also included a topical debate on *'The Commonwealth – A Global Partner'*. The 2025 CPA General Assembly approved the nomination of Senator Hon. Sue Lines (Australia Federal) as the new CPA Treasurer for a three-year term and approved the Chief Pleas of Sark as a new CPA Branch. The annual conference also explored a wide range of workshop topics including strengthening Parliaments to support democracy, leveraging technology and AI to transform Parliaments, examining the impact of climate change on global health and building trust in Legislatures.



A special supplement to *The Parliamentarian* was published ahead of the 68th CPC featuring articles from Members, parliamentary staff and key stakeholders in Barbados.

Image credits: Parliament of Barbados/68th CPC/CPA Secretariat - Jeffrey Hyland



CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg said to delegates at 68th CPC: *“This conference offers the opportunity to bring together MPs and key stakeholders to share and exchange ideas and best practices, re-enforcing the fact that we live in an inter-connected world and have a shared responsibility to address our common challenges. That is why the CPA’s annual conference in Barbados this week offers an important opportunity for Parliamentarians to benefit from mutual learning and the sharing of best practices with colleagues from across the Commonwealth to become more effective Members.”*



2025 COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

As part of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's mission to strengthen parliamentary democracy through the promotion of good governance and sharing best practice, the awards were launched in 2022 to recognise and highlight inspirational and active Parliamentarians for excelling in their field. CPA Awards are open to nominees who are current Parliamentarians* across the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's unique membership includes almost 180 national, state, provincial and territorial Legislatures. The next awards are open for nominees in 2026. Visit the CPA website www.cpahq.org or email hq.sec@cpahq.org to nominate.

PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM PAKISTAN, ONTARIO, JAMAICA AND WALES WIN COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE YEAR 2025 AWARDS



Hon. Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, MPA, Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab in Pakistan

The Commonwealth Parliamentarian of the Year 2025 Awards were announced at the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Barbados. Hon. Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, MPA, Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab in Pakistan was announced as the recipient of the 2025 *Commonwealth Parliamentarian of the Year Award* in recognition of his transformational leadership and instituting unprecedented reforms that have strengthened transparency, accountability and legislative independence.

Hon. Ted Arnott, the former Speaker of the Ontario Legislature in Canada was awarded the 2025 *Parliamentarian Life-time Achievement Award* after 35 years of parliamentary service and Hon. James Evans, MS from the Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament was awarded the 2025 *New Parliamentarian Award* in recognition of his contribution to promoting parliamentary democracy in his first term and through his work with multiple Parliamentary Committees.



Hon. Olivia Grange, MP, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport - Parliament of Jamaica

Hon. Olivia Grange, MP, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport and the Deputy Leader of the House in the Parliament of Jamaica was awarded the 2025 *Parliamentary Equality and Diversity Award* in recognition of her transformational and inclusive leadership in advancing gender equality and social justice in Jamaica.



Hon. James Evans, MS from the Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament



Hon. Ted Arnott, the former Speaker of the Ontario Legislature in Canada

The awards were presented by the CPA Chairperson, Hon. Dr Christopher Kalila, MP (Zambia) at the conclusion of the 68th CPC in Barbados.

The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg said: "The *Commonwealth Parliamentarian of the Year Awards* aligns with our strategic objective of promoting the Commonwealth values of

parliamentary democracy and sustainable development to a wide audience. Through these annual awards, the CPA recognises and highlights the invaluable contributions that Parliamentarians are making to their local communities within the Commonwealth."

CPA MEMBERSHIP - NEW CPA BRANCH

SARK – ONE OF THE WORLD’S SMALLEST PARLIAMENTS – JOINS THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

One of the **smallest Legislatures in the Commonwealth** has joined the membership of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) – a network of 180 Commonwealth Parliaments around the world. The CPA has a unique role in representing **national, state, provincial and territorial Legislatures in the Commonwealth**.

The Chief Pleas of Sark has received formal confirmation as a CPA Branch by the 2025 CPA General Assembly, held at the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) in Barbados on 10 October 2025. Delegates attend the CPA General Assembly on behalf of all CPA Branches. The proposal was also approved at the Mid-Year Meeting of the CPA International Executive Committee in London in May 2025.

The Speaker of Chief Pleas of Sark, Hon. Paul Armorgie said: *“Sark is proud to take up its place as a member of the CPA and to promote the values of the CPA, working in partnership with our Crown Dependency friends and neighbours.”*

The Speaker also becomes the CPA Sark Branch Chairperson.

The decision to admit Sark to the Association reflects **the CPA’s recognition of the Chief Pleas of Sark as a legislative institution and parliamentary body committed to the principles of good governance, democratic representation, and the rule of law**, which underpin the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association’s mission.

The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg said: *“We are pleased to welcome the Chief Pleas of Sark into the CPA membership and are confident that its inclusion will further enrich the Association’s diversity and the exchange of parliamentary practice among CPA Branches and Members. We look forward to a constructive and collegial relationship with the Sark Legislature.”*

The Chief Pleas of Sark is both the Legislature and Executive for the small island of Sark in the English Channel, part of the archipelago of the Channel Islands. It is a self-governing jurisdiction, part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey and with a direct relationship with the Crown, with its own laws and has a population of about 600 people. The Chief Pleas of Sark comprises 18 Members (known as Conseillers) who are elected for a period of four years (with half facing elections every two years). In addition, the Seigneur of Sark (hereditary role) and a Speaker (who is elected by the Conseillers) are counted as Members of the Chief Pleas but they have no right to vote. Elections are held on the basis of a single multi-member Sark-wide constituency, with the nine candidates receiving most votes being elected. The Greffier is the Clerk of the Legislature.

The CPA Sark Branch joins the **CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIM)** which will consist of 14 Parliaments and Legislatures spread across Europe and the Atlantic Ocean.

Sark also joins the **CPA Small Branches network** which represents the Parliaments in the smallest jurisdictions of the Commonwealth to identify their particular needs and requirements in parliamentary strengthening, development and cooperation. CPA Small Branches are classified as those jurisdictions (national and sub-national) with populations of up to 1 million inhabitants.



COMMONWEALTH SPEAKERS

PARLIAMENTARY SPEAKERS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH ATTEND IPU WORLD SPEAKERS CONFERENCE IN SWITZERLAND

Speakers of Parliament across the world gathered in Geneva, Switzerland from 28 to 31 July 2025 for the 6th World Conference of Speakers. This event, organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and United Nations, gathers Speakers and Deputy-Speakers for workshops, debates and panels on some of the world's most pressing issues. The Conference has taken place every five years since its foundation in 2000.

As well as several current and former CPA Executive Committee Members attending on behalf of their Parliaments, the CPA Secretary-General Stephen Twigg attended and said: *"This Conference points to the crucial role played by Speakers of Parliament from across the world in dealing with some of the most critical issues facing societies today, from the climate crisis to gender equality to peace and prosperity. When meeting with stakeholders this week, I highlighted the commitment of Commonwealth Speakers and the CPA in advancing gender equality and youth participation in politics, and in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030."*

In the Conference sidelines, the CPA delegation held bilateral meetings with Speakers and Parliamentarians from Fiji, Sri Lanka, Zambia, Ghana and South Africa, and several international organisations including Parlatino. Commonwealth Speakers and Deputy Speakers also attended from Australia, Bahamas, Cameroon, Canada, Cyprus, Eswatini, Guyana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Malta, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Tuvalu and UK.



Image credit: Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

SPEAKERS FROM UK AND OVERSEAS TERRITORIES MEET TO DISCUSS TECHNOLOGY AND PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

The 4th Commons and Overseas Territories Speakers' Conference (COTSC) was held in the United Kingdom from 13 to 16 May 2025. The Conference was hosted by the Speaker of the UK House of Commons, Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP in London. Speakers and Clerks attended from Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, St Helena. The delegation of Speakers from the UK and UK Overseas Territories was received in audience by HM King Charles III at Buckingham Palace. The King is also the Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). The Speakers, alongside Parliamentary Clerks and technical experts, examined different aspects of building strong Legislatures and effective parliamentary democracy focusing on Artificial Intelligence and digital technology, sharing best practice and presiding over parliamentary proceedings. The CPA Secretariat's Matthew Salik spoke about

procedural challenges for Speakers and James Pinnell spoke about the CPA's work on Artificial Intelligence. The Secretariat for the COTSC Conference is provided by the UK House of Commons Speaker's Office and the CPA Headquarters and CPA UK Branch are official partners. All the Legislatures attending are CPA Branches across two Regions - CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region and CPA Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic Region.

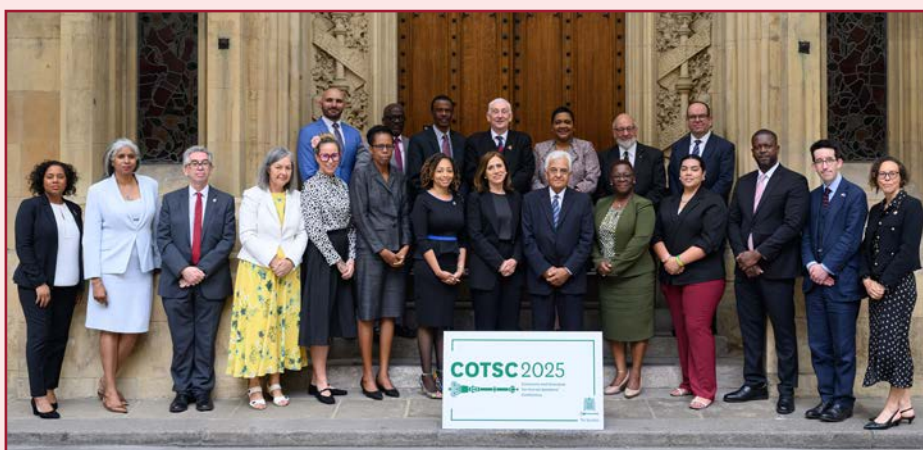


Image credit: UK Parliament/Speaker's Office

COMMONWEALTH SPEAKERS

CALL FOR GLOBAL ACTION ON CLIMATE AND DEBT AT 11th G20 SUMMIT OF PARLIAMENTARY SPEAKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Presiding Officers and Speakers of Parliament and observer organisations from across the Commonwealth met in South Africa for the 11th G20 Summit of Parliamentary Speakers (P20). The South African Parliament hosted the summit in Kleinmond outside Cape Town, from 29 September to 3 October 2025. This gathering of Speakers and Presiding Officers from Group of Twenty (G20) member countries was held under the theme of ‘*Harnessing Parliamentary Diplomacy for the Realisation of Global Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability*’.

The Speaker of the National Assembly of South Africa, Hon. Thokozile Didiza, MP, spoke at the Summit and said:

“Through our core responsibilities of representation, law-making, budgeting and oversight, we are uniquely positioned to advance the shared objectives outlined in the P20 joint statement. We pass the baton to the United States with a clear mandate for continued action.”

The P20 Presidency will now pass from South Africa to the United States.

Presiding Officers from across the Commonwealth attended the Summit, including from G20 countries like Canada, India, South Africa, the UK and Australia, with Nigeria, Botswana and Namibia taking part as observers as well as representatives of the South African Provincial Legislatures. The Summit saw leaders of the world’s most powerful Legislatures commit to a joint statement calling for urgent action on climate change, debt relief for developing nations and a just global energy transition. The P20 Summit also came ahead of South Africa being confirmed as the host Branch for the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference and Western Cape hosting the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities Workshop, both due to take place in 2026.



Image credit: Parliament of South Africa/P20

SPEAKERS AT CSPOC MEETING IN GUERNSEY

The States Assembly of Guernsey hosted the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) from 10 to 11 January 2025. The Bailiff of Guernsey and President of the States of Guernsey, Sir Richard McMahon hosted the visiting delegates in St Peter Port, the capital of the Bailiwick.

The Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha at the Parliament of India, Hon. Shri Om Birla chaired the meeting in his role as the host of the 28th CSPOC due to be held in India in January 2026. The meeting sets the agenda and topics for discussion at the biennial conference. Delegates attended from Australia, Canada, Samoa, Trinidad and Tobago (by video link), Kenya, Tonga, the United Kingdom and Guernsey. CSPOC is a separate independent organisation, although many of its participants are also CPA Branches.



Image credit: Guernsey States Assembly



WHERE WE WORK: CPA BRANCHES ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

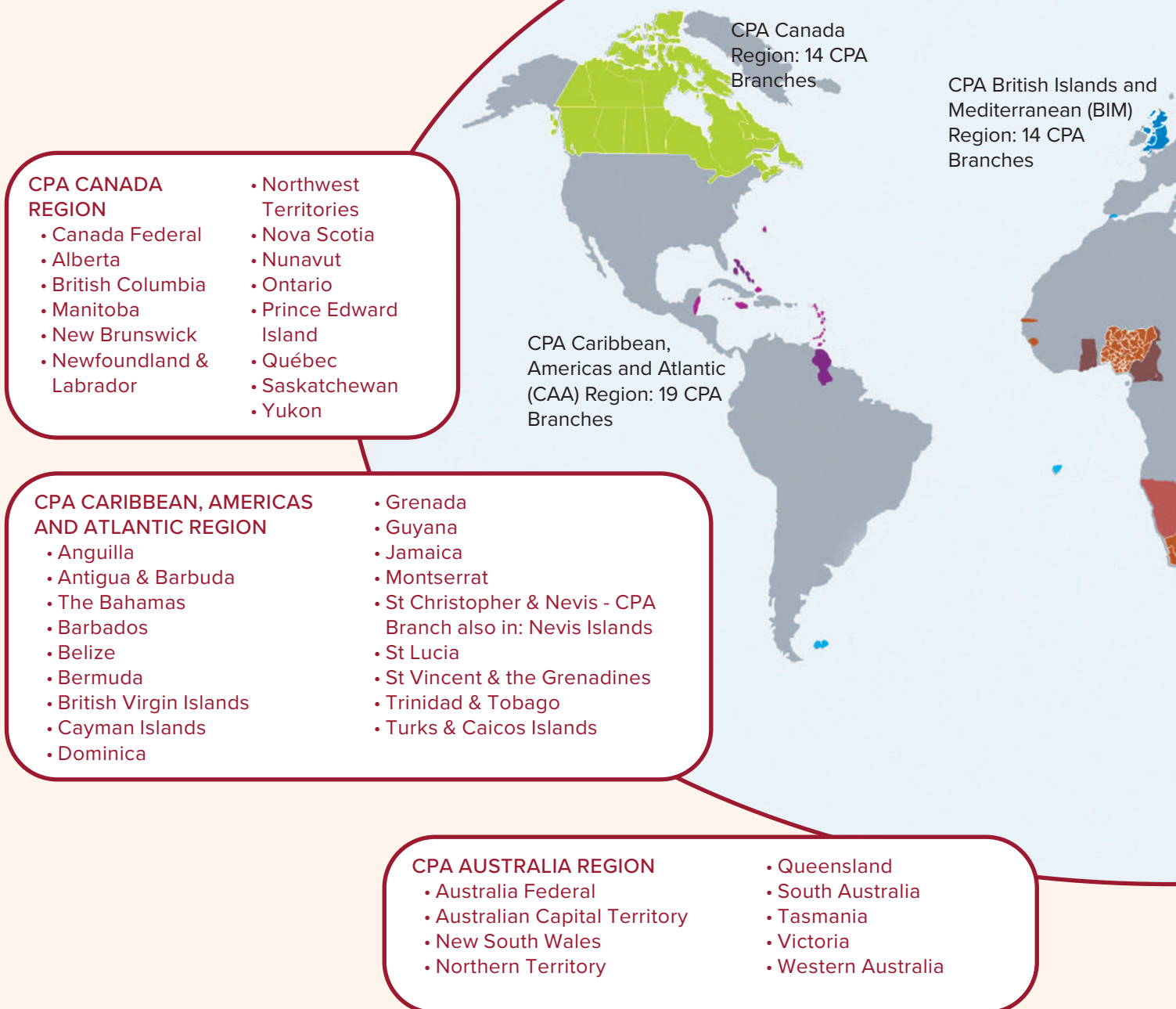
The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) works across the Commonwealth and represents more than 180 Parliaments and Legislatures in 53 out of 56 Commonwealth countries.

The CPA network extends to over 18,000 Parliamentarians and Parliamentary staff.

The CPA is the only Commonwealth organisation to represent national, state, provincial and territorial Parliaments and Legislatures.

At 31 December 2025, there are 189 eligible CPA Branches* distributed across the CPA's nine Regions.

**Please note: The number of eligible CPA Branches includes all recognised Parliaments and Legislatures in the Commonwealth. At the time of this report, some CPA Branches may be suspended or in abeyance and so the number of current CPA Branches fluctuates from time to time.*



CPA INDIA REGION

- India Union - CPA Branches also in: Andhra Pradesh | Arunachal Pradesh | Assam | Bihar | Chhattisgarh | Delhi | Goa | Gujarat | Haryana | Himachal Pradesh | Jammu & Kashmir | Jharkhand | Karnataka | Kerala |

- Madhya Pradesh | Maharashtra | Manipur | Meghalaya | Mizoram | Nagaland | Odisha | Puducherry | Punjab | Rajasthan | Sikkim | Tamil Nadu | Telangana | Tripura | Uttarakhand | Uttar Pradesh | West Bengal

CPA BRITISH ISLANDS AND MEDITERRANEAN REGION

- Alderney
- Cyprus
- Falkland Islands
- Gibraltar
- Guernsey
- Isle of Man
- Jersey
- Malta
- Northern Ireland
- St Helena
- Sark
- Scotland
- United Kingdom
- Wales

CPA PACIFIC REGION

- Cook Islands
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- New Zealand
- Niue

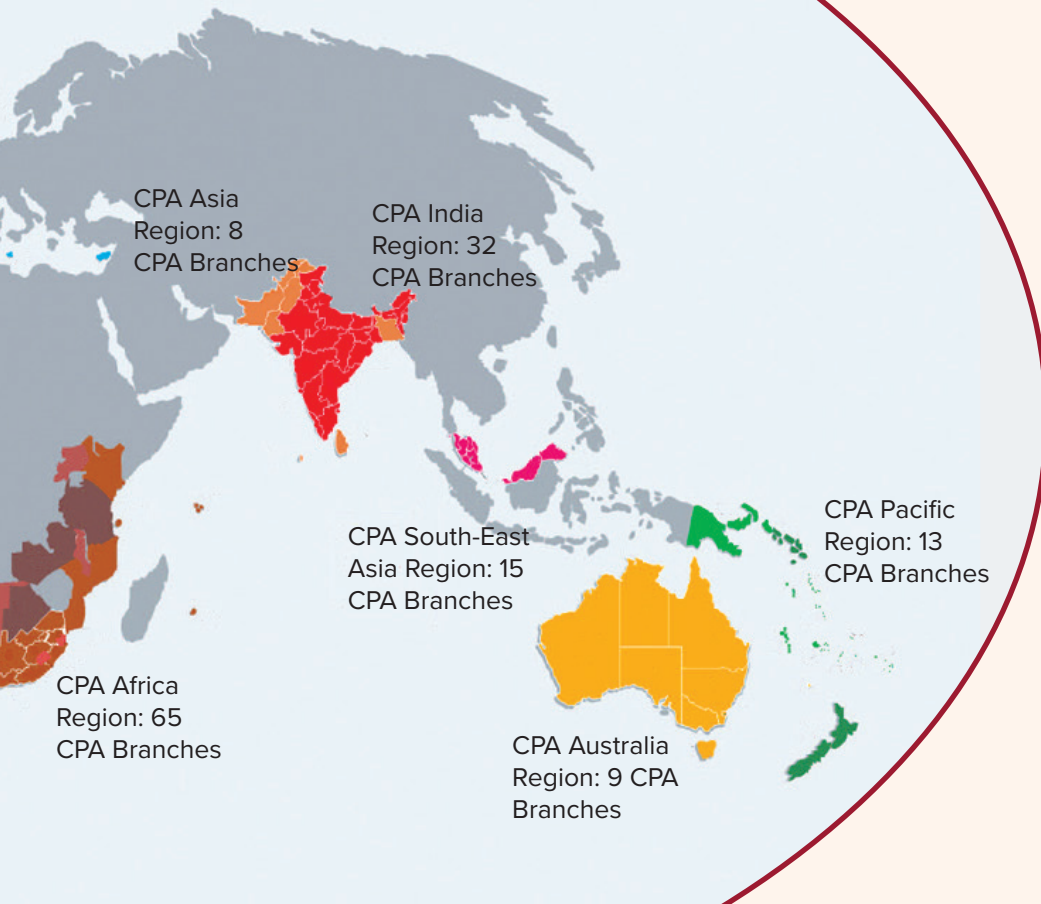
- Papua New Guinea - CPA Branch also in: Bougainville
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

CPA SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

- Malaysia - CPA Branches also in: Johor | Kedah Darulaman | Kelantan | Melaka (Malacca) | Negeri Sembilan | Pahang | Penang | Perak | Perlis | Sabah | Sarawak | Selangor | Terengganu
- Singapore

CPA ASIA REGION

- Bangladesh
- The Maldives
- Pakistan - CPA Branches also in: Balochistan | Khyber Pakhtunkhwa | Punjab | Sindh
- Sri Lanka



CPA AFRICA REGION

- Botswana
- Cameroon
- Eswatini (Swaziland)
- The Gambia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mozambique

- Namibia
- Nigeria - CPA Branches also in: Abia | Akwa-Ibom | Adamawa | Anambra | Bauchi | Bayelsa | Benue | Borno | Cross River | Delta | Ebonyi | Edo | Ekiti | Enugu | Gombe | Imo | Jigawa | Kaduna | Kano | Katsina | Kebbi

- | Kogi | Kwara | Lagos | Nasarawa | Niger | Ogun | Ondo | Osun | Oyo | Plateau | River State | Sokoto | Taraba | Yobe | Zamfara
- Rwanda
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa - CPA Branches also in:

- Eastern Cape | Free State | Gauteng | KwaZulu-Natal | Limpopo | Mpumalanga | North-West | Northern Cape | Western Cape
- Tanzania - CPA Branch also in: Zanzibar
- Uganda
- Zambia

CPA PARLIAMENTARY ACADEMY

The CPA Parliamentary Academy provides online and in-person training opportunities for Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff. The portfolio of parliamentary professional development courses has been developed for the benefit of the CPA's membership with an online learning portal that includes video tutorials and online resources. Members and parliamentary staff can also apply for residency-based workshops each year that complement the online courses. Visit www.cpahq.org/parliamentary-academy to find out more and to register your interest.



IMPACT
3 CPA
Residencies
in 2025

CPA PARLIAMENTARY ACADEMY RESIDENCY PROGRAMME FOR PARLIAMENTARY CLERKS TAKES PLACE IN NEW ZEALAND

Over forty Clerks and parliamentary officials from across the CPA's membership attended the CPA *Advanced Residency Programme for Leadership in Parliament* in Wellington, New Zealand from 7 to 11 July 2025. The five-day programme is specifically designed for parliamentary officials and enhances skills on topics ranging from leadership and strategic thinking to project management and conflict resolution. The Residency course provided attendees with an opportunity to meet in-person and learn from their colleagues in other Parliaments across the Commonwealth in a unique 'training



Image credit: New Zealand Parliament

for trainers' session which embeds sustainability into parliamentary learning and development. Delegates attended from 28 Legislatures including Australian Capital Territory; Australia Federal; Belize; Bihar; Bougainville; Canada Federal; Cook Islands; Eswatini; India Union; Kanataka; Kenya; Manipur; Namibia; New South Wales; New Zealand; Northern Territory; North-West (South Africa); Nova Scotia; Pakistan; Punjab (Pakistan); Queensland; Saint Lucia; South Australia; Tanzania; Trinidad and Tobago; United Kingdom; Western Australia; Western Cape. The delegates were welcomed by the CPA Vice-Chairperson, Hon. Carmel Sepuloni, MP (New Zealand) and Mr Rafael Gonzalez-Montero, Chief Executive, Parliamentary Service at New Zealand Parliament. A traditional Māori welcome ceremony was held with a pōwhiri in the Banquet Hall. The CPA Vice-Chairperson said: "This was a fantastic CPA programme that I was proud to be involved with. The programme offers an opportunity to learn from colleagues across the Commonwealth and develop key leadership skills to manage Parliaments, both large and small." This is the second time that a Residency Programme has been held for Clerks and parliamentary officials with the first in Sri Lanka in 2024.



CPA RESIDENCY COURSES

CPA PARLIAMENTARY ACADEMY IN MALTA

The CPA held an Advanced Parliamentary Development and Skills-building Residency Programme for MPs with the Parliament of Malta from 24 to 28 February 2025. Over 30 Parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth attended the CPA programme which focused on enhancing Parliamentarians' soft skills in communication, planning, time management, people management and creative thinking. The programme was hosted in the Maltese capital of Valletta and was attended by MPs from Commonwealth jurisdictions including Antigua and Barbuda; Arunachal Pradesh (India); Australian Capital Territory; Eswatini; Free State (South Africa); Ghana; Kenya; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Pakistan); Lesotho; Malawi; Malta; Montserrat; New South Wales (Australia); Punjab (Pakistan); Queensland (Australia); Saint Lucia; Sarawak (Malaysia); South Australia; and the United Kingdom.

The Speaker of the Malta House of Representatives, Hon. Angelo Farrugia, said: *"We are excited to start this productive week together, where you will be enhancing your skills as Parliamentarians, and building new relations with your colleagues. The CPA Parliamentary Academy is a valuable tool to foster these relations, while enriching your experience with sharing of good practices and taking an active role to practice what you will be learning throughout the coming week."*

Participants were mentored throughout the programme by current and alumni Parliamentarians and experts from Malta, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Participants identified practical solutions to the challenges they and their jurisdictions face and honed their skills at a higher level through sessions on topics such as strategic thinking, diplomacy, social media, the use of generative AI and speechmaking.



Image credit: Parliament of Malta

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HOSTS CPA RESIDENCY PROGRAMME FOR MPs



Image credit: Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago

The CPA Advanced Parliamentary Development Residency Programme was hosted by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago in Port-of-Spain from 8 to 12 December 2025 and attended by 17 MPs from different Commonwealth jurisdictions including Anguilla, Australian Capital Territory, Cayman Islands, Eswatini, Kenya, The Maldives, Nova Scotia, Pakistan, Tasmania and Trinidad and Tobago.

The President of the Trinidad and Tobago Senate, Senator Hon. Wade Mark, welcomed delegates to the event and said: *"Unlike many professions, there is no defined course of study which prepares us to become Parliamentarians. In state and national Legislatures. CPA Residency Programmes of this kind are essential in providing the perfect forum for advancing the professional capacity of parliamentary practitioners. Carefully embedded into the tailored sessions of this training programme are the tenets of transparency, accountability, adaptability and responsiveness, not only to the dynamic operating environment but also to the needs of our people. All of these are the key ingredients that make for good governance."* Participants were mentored by current and alumni Parliamentarians and Clerks from Saint Lucia, Malta, Alberta and Trinidad and Tobago as well as taking part in 'mock' debate in the Parliamentary Chamber.

Since the launch of the CPA Parliamentary Academy in 2021 there have been six Residency courses for Parliamentarians, hosted by New South Wales (Australia), Western Cape (South Africa), Alberta (Canada), Scotland, Malaysia and Malta.



CPA BENCHMARKS FOR DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATURES

The CPA's Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures provide a framework for excellence in Commonwealth parliamentary and legislative practice. The CPA Benchmarks, which were adopted by the CPA's 180 Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures, provide a minimum standard and a guide on how a Parliament should be constituted and how it should function. They play an important role in developing the effectiveness of parliamentary institutions.

CPA BENCHMARKS ASSESSMENTS FOCUS ON PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTHENING AND REFORM

The CPA's 'Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures' provide a framework for excellence in Commonwealth parliamentary and legislative practice and building on the 2006 and 2018 versions of the Benchmarks, were updated in 2025 to create a set of Benchmarks which meet high levels of good governance and robust parliamentary democracy. The Benchmarks also include the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 16 on strong and sustainable democratic institutions. The Benchmarks were endorsed by 54 Commonwealth Member Countries and the CPA's membership of almost 180 Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures.

In 2025, the CPA continued the Good Governance Project with funding from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to further promote parliamentary democracy and good governance across the Commonwealth. Through the project and via CPA Secretariat core funding, the CPA was able to deliver further CPA Branchmarks assessments in *Jamaica, Seychelles, Barbados, Vanuatu, Eastern Cape, Sri Lanka, Tobago, and Turks and Caicos Islands* in 2025.

By supporting Parliaments to undertake CPA Benchmark assessments to produce outcomes reports and accompanying recommendations, these institutions and their leadership have been able to identify clear roadmaps for effective and targeted reforms. The CPA is able to support these Parliaments to fulfil these recommendations and outcomes through CPA Technical Assistance Programmes, which could involve updating the rules of procedures, training for Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff or developing corporate policies. These project outputs will strengthen parliamentary institutions for improved good governance.

During the CPA Benchmarks assessment, CPA officials hold a series of meetings with the Speaker, Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff, as well as a wide range of other stakeholders including Government officials, the Attorney General, Auditor-General and Electoral officials, trade unions, local media and civil society groups.

Outcomes from recent CPA Benchmarks assessments have included the translation of Standing Orders, the publishing of an e-newsletter to increase public outreach, developing new Codes of Conduct, updating Standing Orders, establishing Women's Parliamentary Caucuses and many more outcomes, demonstrating the valuable use of the CPA Benchmarks across the Commonwealth.

The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg, said: "Effective Parliaments are the cornerstone of good governance and the CPA works to ensure that Legislatures can function to their maximum potential. Self-assessment against to the CPA Benchmarks ensures that Parliaments can vigorously scrutinise their practices and procedures to become better performing Legislatures. In addition, the CPA Benchmarks assessments have strengthened public outreach, engagement and confidence."



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

TONGA PARLIAMENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT

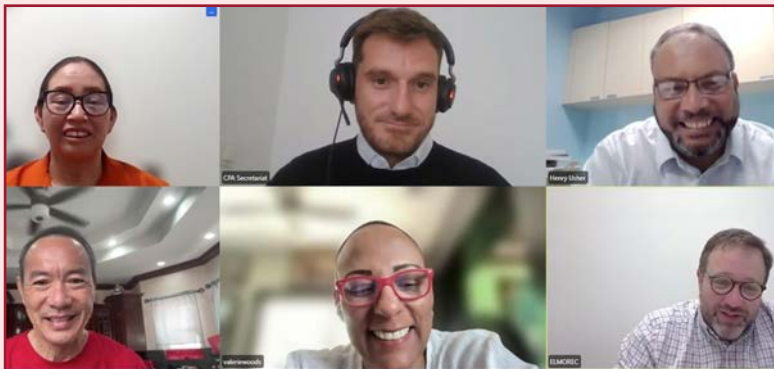
In June 2025, the Clerk of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Legislative Assembly, Tom Duncan visited the Tonga Parliament as part of a Technical Assistance Programme (TAP) activity on behalf of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

The aim of the programme is to assist the Tonga Parliament with the development of a new Code of Conduct for Parliamentarians. During the visit, Tom Duncan met with the Speaker of Tonga's Legislative Assembly Lord Fakafanua, the Tonga Prime Minister Dr 'Aisake Valu Eke, the Minister of Internal Affairs Hon. Sinai Tu'itahi, Members of Parliament and parliamentary officials. This programme is based on recommendations from a CPA Democratic Benchmarking exercise undertaken by the Tonga Parliament in November 2023.



Image credit: Tonga Parliament

PARLIAMENTARY WHIPS TRAINING SESSION FOR BELIZE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



The CPA Secretariat, in partnership with the National Assembly of Belize, organised a virtual

Parliamentary Whip Training Session on 20 August 2025 underscoring the Parliament's commitment to capacity building and fostering effective parliamentary democracy in Belize. The training was aimed at strengthening parliamentary practice and enhancing the roles of the Whips

in the Belize House of Representatives. A Parliamentary Whip is the Member of Parliament responsible for keeping colleagues in their party informed of House business and ensuring their attendance, particularly during key votes on legislation. It is a common feature of Commonwealth Legislatures and so there is huge value in sharing best practice across the CPA network. The training was provided by Hon. Chris Elmore, MP, a long-standing Member of the UK House of Commons and Parliamentary Whip for the current UK Government. Belize undertook a self-assessment against the CPA *Democratic Benchmarks* and following that assessment, the CPA provided support for several institutional reforms – including the development of a draft Members' Code of Conduct and a comprehensive Standing Orders review, and an Administrative Review of the Assembly's operations.



FIJI'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

From 24 to 28 March 2025, Tom Duncan, Clerk at the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Legislative Assembly, was in the Parliament of Fiji for a CPA Technical Assistance programme aimed at assisting with the development of a code of conduct and a declaration of interests scheme. The Secretary-General to Parliament, Mrs Jeanette Emberson thanked him for the work carried out during the week and the discussions he had with Members of the Standing Committees, the Leader of the Opposition, Party Whips and Senior Parliamentary officials.



Image credit: Parliament of Fiji

CPA POST-ELECTION SEMINARS

For over 25 years the CPA have conducted Post-Election Seminars for Parliaments at a national and sub-national level. This long-standing programme introduces newly elected Parliamentarians to differing legislative systems and methods of working. The CPA Post-Election Seminars usually take place a few months after a general election, in either a physical or virtual format, and are delivered by senior, highly experienced current and former Parliamentarians and parliamentary officials from throughout the CPA's membership offering a Pan-Commonwealth perspective.

CPA POST-ELECTION SEMINARS FOCUS ON SCRUTINY AND PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTHENING FOR NEW AND RETURNING MPs

The CPA's Post-Election Seminar are designed to give new and returning Parliamentarians improved knowledge and skills to undertake their parliamentary duties, legislate, scrutinise, provide oversight and represent their communities effectively. The seminar sessions can cover topics such as conduct and ethics, inclusion and participation, the legislative process and Member/Clerk relations. In 2025, the CPA provided Post-Election Seminars in Trinidad and Tobago, Anguilla and Belize.



IMPACT
Seminars in Belize,
Anguilla, Trinidad
and Tobago in
2025

At the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago in Port of Spain in June 2025, the CPA seminar was held in partnership with *ParlAmericas* and followed elections to the 41-seat House of Representatives. The Pan-Commonwealth seminar brought expertise and knowledge from Ontario, Guyana, Barbados, Montserrat and Canada.

From 24 to 26 March 2025, the CPA Post Election Seminar in Anguilla covered topics such as conduct and ethics, public speaking, the role of Parliaments in the 21st century and Ministerial governance with experts from Jersey, Isle of Man, Jamaica, United Kingdom and Anguilla. The Speaker of the Anguilla House of Assembly, Hon. Tara Carter, said: *"The CPA Post-Election Seminar provided an invaluable opportunity for our Parliamentarians to deepen their understanding of democratic governance and parliamentary procedure. The rich exchange of knowledge and experience from across the Commonwealth has equipped our Members with enhanced skills to better serve the people of Anguilla. I was particularly impressed with the balanced focus on both institutional processes and personal development, addressing everything from legislative scrutiny to mental wellbeing. What made this CPA seminar truly exceptional was the authenticity and engaging approach of the facilitators, who created an environment conducive to open dialogue and meaningful learning. This holistic approach to parliamentary capacity building will undoubtedly strengthen our democracy and improve governance outcomes for Anguilla."*

The CPA Post Election Seminar in Belize was held from 4 to 6 June 2025 in partnership with *ParlAmericas* and was designed for the 31-seat Belize National Assembly. The Minister of Public Service and Governance, Henry Charles Usher, said: *"This seminar is very important in terms of being able to properly represent our constituents, do the work and of course be familiar with your Standing Orders. The job as a Parliamentarian, in my opinion, is to make the lives of the people we represent better and so being able to do that better is always a good thing."* Facilitators from across the Commonwealth came from Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, the Isle of Man and Canada.



PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS

The CPA works across a number of cross-cutting themes in our parliamentary strengthening and development work including parliamentary standards, independent Model Law, the separation of powers, the rule of law and human rights.

The CPA is a member of the *Commonwealth Latimer House Principles Working Group* and seeks to champion its principles of the separation of powers between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary to ensure effective governance and democracy. The rule of law is a fundamental principle upon which the Commonwealth is built. On the international stage, it is fundamental to peace and stability. Working to ensure this basic principle is the essence of the work of the CPA to promote the rule of law across all its programmatic work. Mainstreaming the rule of law is, therefore, a key task for the CPA. With the establishment of the *CPA Working Group on Human Rights*, the CPA Headquarters also supports work to progress and strengthen the role of Parliamentarians on human rights.

ANGUILLA HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AGREE NEW CODES OF CONDUCT FOR MPs

On 24 June 2025, the Anguilla House of Assembly passed the *House of Assembly (Procedure) (Amendment) Rules 2025* establishing a Code of Conduct and Register for Members of the House. The reform came about following the 2020 CPA Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures self-assessment and subsequent CPA Technical Assistance Programme. This vitally important development demonstrates the value of Commonwealth collaboration centred on good governance and democratic values. On behalf of the CPA, Tom Duncan, Clerk of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Legislative Assembly supported the Anguilla House of Assembly in drafting the Code of Conduct and providing ongoing advice. This latest outcome builds on the enormous success that Anguilla has made around parliamentary strengthening which includes updating Standing Orders, establishing an Administration Committee and increasing public engagement and outreach. The CPA has worked with the Anguilla House of Assembly as part of a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2021. The CPA has long advocated for Parliaments and Legislatures to institute Codes of Conduct to enhance ethical standards around tackling corruption and improving behaviours. In 2024, the CPA worked with The Gambia National Assembly to develop their Code of Conduct for MPs.

In the same year, the CPA published its *Standards for Codes of Conduct for MPs and the Parliamentary Workplace*. As a result of extensive research and consultation with Parliaments across the world, the Standards provide guidance for Legislatures and address the need for continuous improvement and tackling the additional challenges of harassment, bullying and abuse in the workplace as well as new technology and online harms.

PARLIAMENT OF ESWATINI SIGNS MoU WITH CPA TO CONTINUE ITS PARLIAMENTARY REFORMS

The President of the Senate of Eswatini, Senator Hon. Lindiwe Dlamini signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 2 April 2025 on behalf of the Parliament of Eswatini with CPA Secretary-General Stephen Twigg to continue its parliamentary reforms in line with the CPA's *Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures* and continuing the development of the Parliament.

The CPA Secretary-General said: *"Effective Parliaments are the cornerstone of good governance, and the CPA works to ensure that Legislatures can function to their maximum potential. Self-assessment against the CPA Benchmarks ensures that Parliaments can vigorously scrutinise their practices and procedures to become better performing Legislatures and the ongoing support provided by the CPA through our Technical Assistance Programmes can further strengthen parliamentary processes and confidence."*



Image credit: CPA Secretary-General/Stephen Twigg

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The CPA membership had the opportunity to apply as individual CPA Branches or entire CPA Regions for various funding opportunities in 2025. These opportunities are based around our networks and cover our cross-cutting themes of environmental resilience, ensuring equal representation of women in Commonwealth Legislatures, creating accessible Parliaments and supporting capacity building for small jurisdictions.

CPA ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FUND

The CPA Environmental Impact Fund is committed to financing projects in CPA Branches that adhere to environmental best practices and align with the CPA's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint. A central aim of the Fund is to support Member Branches in their efforts towards achieving net-zero emissions, in line with global sustainability efforts.

The CPA Environmental Impact Fund operates on a merit-based selection process, evaluating projects on their alignment with the CPA's environmental objectives, potential impact and innovative approach.

In 2025, the CPA provided £28,500 to support the Yukon Legislative Assembly in replacing the legislature's lighting with new energy efficient LED lightbulbs. The project sought to reduce energy consumption by 92.5% compared to the old lighting system.



Image credit: National Assembly of Seychelles



CPA SMALL BRANCHES - REGIONAL INITIATIVE FUND

The CPA Small Branches - Regional Initiative Fund (RIF), established in 2019 by the CPA Secretariat, empowers small jurisdictions to enhance their legislative capacity and effectiveness. The fund aligns with the CPA's Strategic Objective to 'Strengthen the capacity and maximise the effectiveness of Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff and enable mutual learning.'

CPA Branches can apply for funding to support capacity-strengthening projects in areas such as parliamentary practice, infrastructure, research services and legislative development.

In 2025, the RIF offered funding for individual project proposals for single CPA Branch initiatives as well as regional collaborations and joint proposals, providing a flexible platform to address specific needs and drive impactful change.



Image credit: Barbados - Senate - DSC - 3533 2



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CWP GENDER STRENGTHENING FUND

In 2025, the CWP Gender Strengthening Fund was launched as a new initiative to replace the previous CWP Regional Strengthening Fund. Similar to the CWP Regional Strengthening, the new CWP Gender Strengthening Fund provides annual grants made available to all 180 CPA Branches and 9 Regions to advance the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network mission to *'promote the representation of women in CPA Branches and women's full and equal participation in political and parliamentary leadership at all levels.'*

Funding opportunities were available under this strand in 2025 to align with the CWP's mission.

Examples of funded projects include Parliamentary Twinning and Mentoring schemes, Leadership Programmes, Gender Sensitivity Assessments, Seminars, Women in Parliament Publications, Communications strategies and websites, election sensitisation campaigns and supporting Young Women Parliamentarians' Networks.



Image credit: Trinidad and Tobago Women Parliamentarians

IMPACT
Promoting gender equality in Parliaments

CPWD CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND

The Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) Capital Investment Fund is a reserve of funding established by the CPA Secretariat in 2021 with the aim of raising the accessibility of CPA member Parliaments to persons with disabilities. The priorities for the Fund include but are not limited to, improving the physical accessibility of Parliaments or the procurement of assistive technology.

In 2025, the Fund continued to support Commonwealth Parliaments to make provisions for persons with disabilities in their jurisdictions. Examples of previous initiatives include installation of ramps giving access to a higher level in a building; transcription or sign language enabling vocal commands, braille persons with visual impairments automated doors making entering a Parliament building easier for persons with mobility impairments.

Funding applications are considered based on suitability and how far they contribute towards the aims and priorities of the CPwD network in enabling the effective and full participation of persons with disabilities in representative democracy.



Image credit: RS4120_Kenya_Sep_2016_Nanai Volunteers_JDK_0122

IMPACT
Making Parliaments more accessible for everyone

interpretation of live parliamentary proceedings; and/or screen readers on computers allowing to use them easily; and the installation of



RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Through its research, publications and knowledge sharing approach, the CPA seeks to capture and disseminate the diverse experiences of parliamentary democracy from across the Commonwealth. Through the sharing of ideas and practices, the CPA is able to expand its comparative knowledge on parliamentary strengthening recognising the diverse challenges that many Commonwealth jurisdictions face. In 2025, the CPA continued to develop its diverse publications and toolkits, which although are primarily intended for Parliamentarians, are also beneficial to policymakers, governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Research Service (CPRS) also offers Parliaments and Parliamentarians a research service to supplement those available to Parliament on a range of specialist subjects. The CPA is able to provide CPA Branches with access to the wider CPA network and collate responses for the original CPA Branch who have made the enquiry.

‘PARLIAMENTARY SECURITY’: NEW CPA HANDBOOK PROVIDES GUIDANCE TO PARLIAMENTS

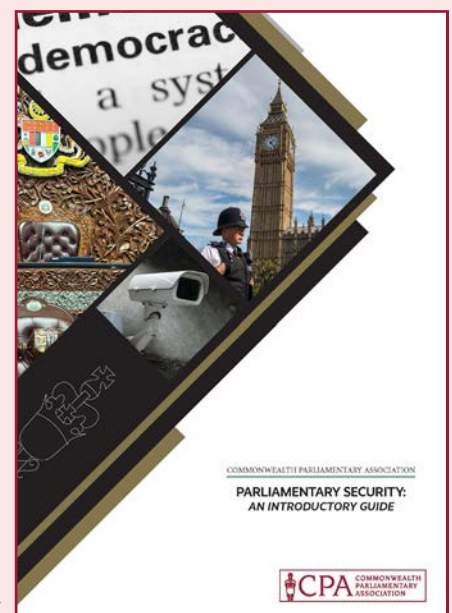
Parliamentary buildings are often seen as the symbolic heart of democracy. Places where elected representatives come together to make laws and shape policy. It is therefore no surprise that such vital institutions can be viewed as tempting targets for attack. Parliamentarians are also the subject of increasing violence and harm which manifests itself both online and in-person. Across the world, governance institutions, political groups and individual Members of Parliament are under constant threat, whether that be cyber, physical or technical in nature.

With these risks in mind, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association developed in 2025, for the first time, a valuable and timely resource. *Parliamentary Security: An Introductory Guide* is intended as a resource to guide best-practice approaches around parliamentary security. Our motivation is to aid Parliaments to meet the highest standards in parliamentary management and governance.

Introducing the Guide, the CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg, said: “*The CPA’s Parliamentary Security: An Introductory Guide is designed to provide a strategic-level overview and identify key considerations and actions that can be taken to minimise the risk to Parliaments and peripheral entities. I offer my appreciation to all the Parliaments and their security experts who offered valuable insight and guidance towards the development of this publication. It once again highlights the shared importance of this issue and the collaborative ethos at the heart of the CPA and the Commonwealth.*”

The Foreword to the CPA Guide was written by the Speaker of the UK House of Commons, Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP, who wrote: “*We are confronted by an ever-evolving set of threat actors: terrorists, extremists, criminals and state actors, all using increasingly sophisticated methods to try and defeat our defences. The challenge can feel overwhelming, particularly when you have, like us, suffered a terrorist attack or if one of your friends and colleagues has been assassinated. This is why it is essential that we work together, and share our knowledge, experiences and best practice.*”

The new CPA *Parliamentary Security: An Introductory Guide* is available to download on the CPA website. For any further enquiries regarding the publication, please contact hq.sec@cpahq.org.



PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) works closely with a wide range of partners to deliver its programme work aimed at **strengthening the institution of Parliament, supporting and promoting parliamentary democracy and the political values of the Commonwealth.**

Working with partner organisations allows for not only greater institutional support (direct support) aimed at supporting Commonwealth Legislatures but also thematic support (issue-based support) for the purpose of promoting specific policy goals, such as **gender equality, environmental protection and climate change reduction, disability rights, education, trade and human rights.**



CPA programmes are delivered in partnership with CPA Branches and international organisations including **international parliamentary associations**, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union; other **international bodies**, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women, as well as Commonwealth organisations and universities.

Partnering with organisations that share similar values, aims and objectives leads to better information sharing, less duplication and lower programme costs as well as **an agenda that extends beyond Parliament to include the wider political system.**

There is however further scope for international partnerships to develop and if you are interested in working with the CPA Headquarters Secretariat then please contact us at hq.sec@cpahq.org



INTERNATIONAL DAYS AND CPA CAMPAIGNS

In 2025, the CPA membership marked a number of International Days including International Day of Parliamentarism (World Parliament Day), International Women's Day, International Day of Democracy, International Education Day, International Day of Disabled Persons and UN Human Rights Day with events and activities in Commonwealth Parliaments and social media campaigns to raise awareness.

PARLIAMENTS CELEBRATE COMMONWEALTH DAY 2025

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) celebrated Commonwealth Day 2025 on Monday 10 March across the CPA's nine Regions and around 180 Parliaments and Legislatures. The theme for Commonwealth Day 2025 was *'Together We Thrive'* celebrating the enduring spirit of the Commonwealth Family – 56 independent member countries united by shared values enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter. Rooted in the principles of family, unity and peace, the theme highlights the importance of fostering strong and connected communities that support and empower their members, enabling meaningful progress.

As the Head of the Commonwealth, His Majesty King Charles III released his message, in which he said:

"The Commonwealth's ability to bring together people from all over the world has stood the test of time and remains as ever-important today. In these uncertain times, where it is all too easy to believe that our differences are problems instead of a source of strength and an opportunity for learning, the Commonwealth's remarkable collection of nations and peoples come together in the spirit of support and, crucially, friendship."

The traditional multi-faith Commonwealth Service was held at Westminster Abbey in London where King Charles and Queen Camilla joined Members of the Royal Family, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, representatives of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, High Commissioners, dignitaries and over 600 schoolchildren.

The Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee, Hon. Dr Christopher Kalila, MP (Zambia) said: *"As we celebrate Commonwealth Day 2025, we recognise the work of Commonwealth Parliaments and Parliamentarians in promoting our democratic values and principles. The Commonwealth family is strongest when connected through friendship and common purpose and our diversity is our greatest strength."*

The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg said: *"'Together we thrive' is the powerful theme for Commonwealth Day 2025. It is a theme which underpins the day-to-day work of the Commonwealth and its diverse range of member countries, organisations and networks – including the CPA. Let us take the opportunity of Commonwealth Day to celebrate our shared achievements and dedicate ourselves once again to meet the many challenges that the Commonwealth will face in 2025 – and beyond."*

The CPA Chairperson and the CPA Secretary-General attended the ceremonial raising of the Commonwealth flag at the UK Parliament along with representatives from across the Commonwealth in attendance. The CPA Chairperson gave a reading from the Bible's First Book of Corinthians as part of the ceremony.

Many CPA Branches used Commonwealth Day as an opportunity to engage with young people through their wider public outreach and have utilised CPA resources like the Commonwealth Day Youth Engagement Handbook and the CPA's Engagement, Education and Outreach Handbook for Commonwealth Parliaments. Commonwealth Day is celebrated annually on the second Monday of March.



Image credit: Commonwealth Secretariat/Royal Commonwealth Society



SMALL STATES AND JURISDICTIONS

The CPA Small Branches network represents small jurisdictions of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to identify their particular requirements



in parliamentary strengthening, development and cooperation. CPA Small Branches are classified as jurisdictions (national and sub-national) with populations of under 1 million inhabitants. In 2025, the network continued to deliver on its strategic priorities including climate change, sustainable economic development, connectivity and innovation, financial scrutiny and human rights.

MPs FROM CPA SMALL BRANCHES EXAMINE 'STRONG AND INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTS' IN ISLE OF MAN

Parliamentary representatives attended the CPA Small Branches Workshop 2025 from 31 March to 4 April 2025, under the theme of '*Strong and Independent Parliaments in Small Jurisdictions*'.



Image credit: Isle of Man Government House_GH25033181

The Speaker of the Tynwald House of Keys who hosted the Workshop, Hon. Juan Watterson, SHK said: "*It was great to see the enthusiasm in such a diverse group of delegates here in the Isle of Man. The Commonwealth, especially our CPA Small Branches network, is a unique forum that brings together Parliamentarians facing similar challenges. Through interactions with experts and each other, we all go away better informed and better equipped to solve problems back home.*" Delegates heard from policy experts in a series of sessions focused on accountability mechanisms, separation of powers, parliamentary financial oversight, the role of Parliament in budgeting and oversight.

41st CPA SMALL BRANCHES CONFERENCE IN BARBADOS

Commonwealth Parliamentarians met at the 41st CPA Small Branches Conference in Barbados from 7 to 8 October 2024 to examine how to shape the future for CPA Small Branches and to strengthen Parliamentary Independence in small jurisdictions. The conference discussed strategies to meet the unique developmental needs of the CPA's smallest Legislatures through key thematic workshops that helped to build parliamentary capacity while also creating greater opportunities for the sharing of knowledge, parliamentary strengthening and cooperation across the network. The CPA Small Branches Vice-Chairperson, Deputy Adrian Gabriel (Guernsey) said: "*The CPA Small Branches have often been at the forefront of adaptability. With limited resources, we've learned how to be creative. With smaller populations, we've remained closely connected to the voices of our citizens. And with shared challenges, we've strengthened one another through partnership and solidarity. This is a time for vision - to imagine what's possible when CPA Small Branches are equipped, empowered and connected. Our goal is not just to react to the future - but to help shape it.*"



Image credit: Parliament of Barbados/65th CPC



GENDER

In 2025, the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network continued to provide capacity building for Parliaments and building awareness for all Parliamentarians, male and female, to include a gender perspective in all aspects of their role. The CWP network also continued to assist Parliaments in becoming gender-sensitive institutions.



THE ROAD AHEAD FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN PARLIAMENTS AT 9th COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS CONFERENCE

Over 100 Women Parliamentarians attended the 9th Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference in Barbados from 7 to 8 October 2025 to discuss women's representation in Parliaments, amongst a wide range of topics. The main theme of the conference was: *'Parliaments since Beijing +30: Progress, challenges and the road ahead for gender equality'* which highlighted 30 years since



Image credit: CPA, Secretariat/Jeffrey Hyland

the United Nations adopted the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on gender. The host Branch of Barbados also held an open debate session where women Members provided contributions from the floor. The CWP Conference was opened by the outgoing CWP Chairperson, Hon. Dr Zainab Gimba, MP (Nigeria). The CWP President (2025), Hon. Marsha K. A. Caddle, MP (Barbados) spoke about her experience as a legislator in the Caribbean Region.

Delegates at the CWP Conference also elected a new Chairperson for the CWP network – Hon. Catherine Fife, MPP (CPA Ontario Branch). It is the first time that a woman from the CPA Canada Region has held the role. Click here for more about the new CWP Chairperson. The CWP Conference was previously triennial (every three years) but in 2023, CWP Members agreed to hold an annual conference to be held in the margins of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.



Image credit: CPA, Secretariat/Jeffrey Hyland

NEW RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS ACTIVITIES RELATING TO WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH

Many Commonwealth jurisdictions are implementing measures to increase women's participation in politics, particularly in Parliament. These measures include reserving seats for women, establishing quotas within political parties, creating women's political networks and enacting electoral reforms. Several factors influence women's political participation, but access to financial resources - both direct and indirect - plays a crucial role in their decision to run for office. Support can come from various sources - including civil society organisations, political parties and academic institutions – and support mechanisms can take different forms, such as training programmes, mentorship opportunities, campaign funding and networking events. In 2025, a new research report *'Promoting women's participation in Politics and Parliament'* was launched by the CPA's Commonwealth Parliamentary Research Service (CPRS).



WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS CONVENE TO EXAMINE THEIR ROLE AS DRIVERS OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AT CWP WORKSHOP IN THE BAHAMAS

Commonwealth Parliamentarians from 27 different jurisdictions came together in The Bahamas to examine their role in promoting women's economic empowerment at the CWP Workshop from 29 April to 2 May 2025 in Nassau, hosted in partnership with the Parliament of The Bahamas. Over four days, participants engaged in high-level discussions and practical sessions focused on gender-responsive budgeting, inclusive and effective lawmaking, legal reform and strategic media engagement to exchange knowledge, advance gender equality and drive women's economic empowerment.



Image credit: Parliament of The Bahamas

Delegates were welcomed by the CWP Vice-Chairperson, Hon. Kate Doust, MLC (Western Australia); the President of the Senate of The Bahamas, Hon. J. LaShell Adderley and the Speaker of The Bahamas House of Assembly, Hon. Patricia Deveaux. Delegates heard from leading organisations in the Caribbean, including UN Women Caribbean, The Bahamas Small Business Development Centre and the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas.

GENDER QUOTAS REPORT LAUNCHED WITH KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

The CPA, through its Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network, held a webinar on 25 November 2025 examining gender quotas and other positive measures to advance gender equality across the Commonwealth. Despite progress, women remain underrepresented in Commonwealth Parliaments, with an average representation of just 25.8%. This is below the 30% target set at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). The online event was held to mark the launch of a new report developed in collaboration with King's Global Institute for Women's Leadership (GIWL) to examine 'Positive Action Measures in Commonwealth Parliaments: Advancing Gender Equality in Politics Across the Commonwealth'. This report also assesses the results of direct interventions for gender equality. The webinar audience heard from the authors of the report, Dr Minna Cowper-Coles and Katherine Shuttleworth who outlined its findings and explored the impact of quotas and other positive action measures in various jurisdictions. A panel discussion followed including MPs from Malta and Pakistan.



FIJI'S GENDER AUDIT



Image credit: Parliament of Fiji

At the start of June 2025, the CPA assisted the Parliament of Fiji in conducting a gender sensitising audit of their parliamentary practices. The initiative is part of the commitment by the Fiji Parliament in their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the CPA Secretariat following a CPA Democratic Benchmarks Assessment in 2023. The CPA, through its Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network, is an active advocate for women's representation in Parliament and seeking to ensure Parliaments are gender-sensitive institutions. The audit process assesses the inclusiveness and representation in Parliament as well as looking at how gender is including in parliamentary processes.



DISABILITY

In 2025, the CPA continued to recognise the need to increase representation of persons with disabilities in political institutions. The Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) network has been established to facilitate activities and programmes to champion and increase the representation of persons with disabilities in Commonwealth Parliaments and to work towards the mainstreaming of disability considerations in all CPA activities and programmes.



MPs HIGHLIGHT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN BARBADOS

The Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) network, led by the CPwD Chairperson, Hon. Laura Kanushu, MP (Uganda), highlighted how Parliaments can engage with local communities on disability inclusion during a town hall event in Barbados in October 2025. The CPwD Regional Champions and delegates attended a town hall event in Bridgetown that examined how Parliaments can engage with civil society and representative organisations in shaping inclusive public policy. The CPwD Chairperson said: *“While many Legislatures express goodwill toward disability inclusion, meaningful engagement with civil society often falls short due to limited resources and poor mechanisms for consultation. This event aims to provide a platform for open dialogue between Parliamentarians and disability advocates, grounded in shared learning and mutual accountability.”*



The CPwD Regional Champions also met during the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Barbados where they elected Senator Hon. Isaiah Jacob (Member of the Senate of Malaysia) as the new CPwD Chairperson for a new three-year term as well as setting the agenda for the year ahead including the CPwD Capital Investment Fund which supports Commonwealth Parliaments to become more accessible.

Delegates at the 68th CPC also joined two workshops promoting disability inclusion. The CPC Workshop C looked ahead to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) due to be hosted in Antigua and Barbuda in 2026 and how Parliamentarians could champion the ‘human factor from a gender and accessibility lens’ with panellists including Richard Rieser, the General Secretary of the Commonwealth Disabled People’s Forum.

Delegates also joined a joint Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) and CPwD Workshop on overcoming the barriers to the involvement of women with disabilities in politics where panellists included Hon. Kerryann Ifill, President of the Barbados Council for the Disabled (BCD) and former President of the Barbados Senate; Roz McCall, MSP (Scotland); and Hon. Liesl Tesch, AM, MP (New South Wales).



Above: Senator Hon. Isaiah Jacob (Malaysia) was elected as the new Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) Chairperson for a new three-year term.



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES CHAIRPERSON ATTENDS 3rd GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT IN BERLIN

Image credit: Global Disability Summit/CPA Secretariat



The International Disability Alliance (IDA), the Government of Germany and the Government of Jordan co-hosted the third Global Disability Summit (GDS25) in Berlin on 2 and 3 April 2025. Among the 3,000 attendees was the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) Chairperson, Hon. Laura Kanushu, MP (Uganda) who highlighted the work of the network and the importance of promoting inclusive Parliaments. Other delegates from across the Commonwealth also attended the summit, including the CPwD Africa Regional Champion, Hon. Timothy Wanyonyi, MP (Kenya) and the Uganda Minister of Disabilities, Hon. Asamo Hellen Grace, MP.

The Global Disability Summit is a forum bringing together a wide variety of high-level stakeholders engaging and discussing the global progress in disability inclusion.

Hon. Laura Kanushu represented the CPwD network at a panel discussion on 'Advancing Disability-inclusive Development Through Intensified Parliamentary Engagement & Networks'. The event looked at issues including strengthening laws, budgets and political will.

UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

In June 2025, the CPwD network attended the 18th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP18) at the UN in New York, USA and to highlight the commitment to establish inclusive accessible spaces for children and youth with disabilities, and to promote their meaningful political participation on matters impacting them in decision making processes. The CPwD highlighted Youth Parliaments as a tool for effective inclusion and policy participation, with a focus on the examples of previous Commonwealth Youth Parliaments and the






WEBINAR

The Role of Parliamentarians in Upholding the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

30 June 2025
10:00 - 11:30 (UTC +1)

REGISTER NOW VIA WWW.CPAHQ.ORG

For questions, contact hq.sec@cpahq.org



CPA Youth Parliament toolkit developed in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Establishing Youth Select Committees or Advisory Committees were also highlighted as best practices across Commonwealth Parliaments.

To mark International Day of Parliamentarism (World Parliament Day) 2025, the CPwD network also held a webinar on 'The Role of Parliamentarians in upholding the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' with insights from organisations for persons with disabilities, experienced Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff who advocate for disability rights.

CPwD NETWORK PLANS ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR LEGISLATURES

As part of its ongoing work in making Legislatures more accessible to persons with disabilities, the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) network is planning to publish guidance on conducting accessibility audits for the benefit of the CPA's membership. Many Parliaments find that an accessibility audit is a crucial step to be taken ahead of making changes to their facilities, ensuring that the right areas are being prioritised to maximise the impact of adjustments to their premises.

The Scottish Parliament invited the CPwD network to observe their first accessibility audit to learn about the measures undertaken in assessing the Parliament's access to persons with disabilities. The accessibility audit was part of a suite of recommendations arising from 'A Parliament for all' – the report of the Scottish Parliament's cross-party Gender Sensitive Audit. The accessibility audit reviewed a wide range of locations incorporating the debating chamber, Committee rooms and other areas. The audit also involved meetings with various stakeholders, including Members and parliamentary staff to learn of the barriers currently facing persons with disabilities in navigating the building.



YOUTH

Youth engagement and education are central to our values. In 2025, our work included planning for the next Commonwealth Youth Parliament (CYP), the development of educational resources and outreach programmes. These programmes aimed to increase awareness of the important work done by the CPA in promoting democratic governance across the Commonwealth and connecting Parliamentarians with young people in schools, colleges and universities to inspire the next generation of young leaders.

YOUTH ROUNDTABLE: EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE TO OVERCOME MODERN CHALLENGES

Young people across the Commonwealth face a wide range of interconnected challenges - from the physical threats of gang violence and exploitation to the digital risks of cyber-bullying, online harassment and misinformation. These pressures can limit their freedom to learn, participate and thrive, often leaving them vulnerable to harm, exclusion or disengagement from society.

The Youth Roundtable at the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Barbados in October 2025 provided a safe and inclusive platform for young people from Barbados to share lived experiences, learn from each other and work with policymakers to co-create practical strategies for safety, resilience and empowerment.

Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from Northern Territories, Guernsey, Limpopo, Selangor, Tonga, Western Australia, Pakistan and the United Kingdom joined the discussion which drew inspiration from Commonwealth commitments to youth development, human rights and digital inclusion, ensuring that young people's voices are central to shaping solutions.



Image credit: Parliament of Barbados/68th CPC

YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN 2025 PROVIDE ENGAGEMENT WITH PARLIAMENTS

The CPA participated in a number of activities in 2025 to engage youth people with their Parliaments and Parliamentarians.

For example, the Anguilla House of Assembly hosted a 'Mentor & Mingle London 2025' on 17 May 2025, a youth leadership forum focused on empowering youth through mentorship and networking opportunities. The event brought together 23 Anguillian students from across the United Kingdom, including participants who travelled from Wales. The Speaker of the Anguilla House of Assembly, Hon. Tara Carter led the mentorship initiative which aimed to foster leadership skills essential for sustainable development. The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg spoke about the critical role of young people in governance and how positive youth engagement translates into sustainable national development.

To mark International Youth Day in 2025, the CPA recorded a Podcast with three young people shaping the future of politics - Hon. Eve Borg Bonello MP, one of the world's youngest elected Legislators from Malta together with Zaria Ingham and Kemuel Pascall who represented Turks and Caicos and Trinidad and Tobago respectively at the 12th Commonwealth Youth Parliament.



Image credit: CPA Anguilla

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The international community has made commitments on sustainable development and tackling climate change. These commitments are important tools for Parliamentarians in their work. In 2025, the CPA has continued to support our Members so that they can be effective advocates for sustainable development in their Parliaments. The CPA re-committed its pledge to ensure CPA operations are more environmentally sustainable including the use of virtual meetings where possible to reduce air travel, a reduction in the number of physical publications and printed materials and a reinforcement of our paperless policy for governance meetings.

CPA LAUNCHES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FUND FOR PARLIAMENTS

In recognition of the critical task of tackling climate change, the CPA launched a new Environmental Impact Fund in 2025. This fund will finance projects in CPA Branches that adhere to environmental best practices and align with the CPA's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint. A central aim of the Fund is to support Commonwealth Parliaments in their efforts towards achieving net-zero emissions, in line with global sustainability efforts.

The Fund operates on a merit-based selection process, evaluating projects on their alignment with the CPA's environmental objectives, potential impact and innovative approach. As part of the launch of this Fund, the CPA created an animated introduction video.

CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg said: *"Tackling climate change and promoting sustainability are critical tasks, and Parliaments must lead by example. That's why I'm delighted to announce the launch of the CPA Environmental Impact Fund for 2025. The Fund will support Commonwealth Parliaments as they undertake green projects, from increases in energy efficiency for Parliament buildings to the installation of solar panels on Parliamentary estates."* Other potential projects for Legislatures could include green infrastructure and water management, waste reduction and recycling or sustainable transport. This Fund builds on the work of the CPA done through our cross-cutting theme of climate and sustainability.



Image credit: Parliament of New Zealand

DELEGATES DISCUSS CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS THREAT TO GLOBAL HEALTH

What can Parliamentarians do to tackle the negative impact of climate change on health from a national and international perspective? At the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Barbados in October 2025, Conference delegates examined the dynamics between climate change and its direct impact on physical and mental health, and what role Parliamentarians can play to tackle this global challenge during a CPC workshop. Panellists examined the profound health impacts of a warming planet across the Commonwealth, from the rising burden of vector-borne diseases to the devastating mental health consequences of extreme weather events. Delegates also had the opportunity to discuss related questions and share what their own Legislatures were doing. This workshop session was chaired by the Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee alongside an expert in climate change from the University of the West Indies.



Image credit: Parliament of Barbados/68th CPC



TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

In 2025, the CPA continued to draw on the lessons learnt in recent years in the development of technology and innovation in order to support our membership and to deliver on our strategic priorities. The CPA Headquarters employs a wide range of innovative techniques and virtual opportunities to share best practice across our programmes, governance and support the membership. However, we also recognise the digital divide within our membership and the wider Commonwealth and therefore provide additional support and technical assistance programmes.

GLOBAL LEGISLATORS CALL FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE GUARDRAILS AT CPA CONFERENCE

MPs from around the world expressed deep concern about the unchecked evolution of artificial intelligence (AI) and the absence of adequate safeguards to prevent irresponsible and potentially dangerous use of the rapidly evolving technology.

Some 200 MPs, parliamentary staff and experts convened in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 28 to 30 November 2025 for the international conference on 'The Role of Parliament in Shaping the Future of Responsible Artificial Intelligence', co-organised by the CPA, the Parliament of Malaysia, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). In their declaration, MPs called for

international cooperation to establish global redlines for the responsible use of AI in the 'common interest of humanity' rather than allow power to be left solely in the hands of technology actors. Legislators warned that without oversight, rapid AI advances could erode public trust in elections and institutions, drive massive worker displacement, amplify existing discrimination against women, accelerate the climate emergency by vastly augmenting energy demands and widen the digital divide within and between nations. The CPA Conference highlighted the many AI initiatives already taking place in Parliaments including legislative reviews, reports, resolutions, inquiries, working groups and policy discussions. Sessions also focused on building national capacity in AI, fostering international cooperation on AI regulation and how AI might affect law-making and oversight.

The CPA Chairperson, Hon. Dr Christopher Kalila, MP said: *"The collaboration between the CPA, IPU, UNDP and the Parliament of Malaysia reflects a shared commitment to ensure that Artificial Intelligence strengthens democracy rather than undermines it. It is only through such cooperation that Parliaments can collectively shape a global framework for responsible, ethical and inclusive AI governance. Let us learn from one another's experiences and harness the diversity of our perspectives to chart a course for the future - one in which Artificial Intelligence empowers, rather than endangers, the principles of parliamentary democracy."*

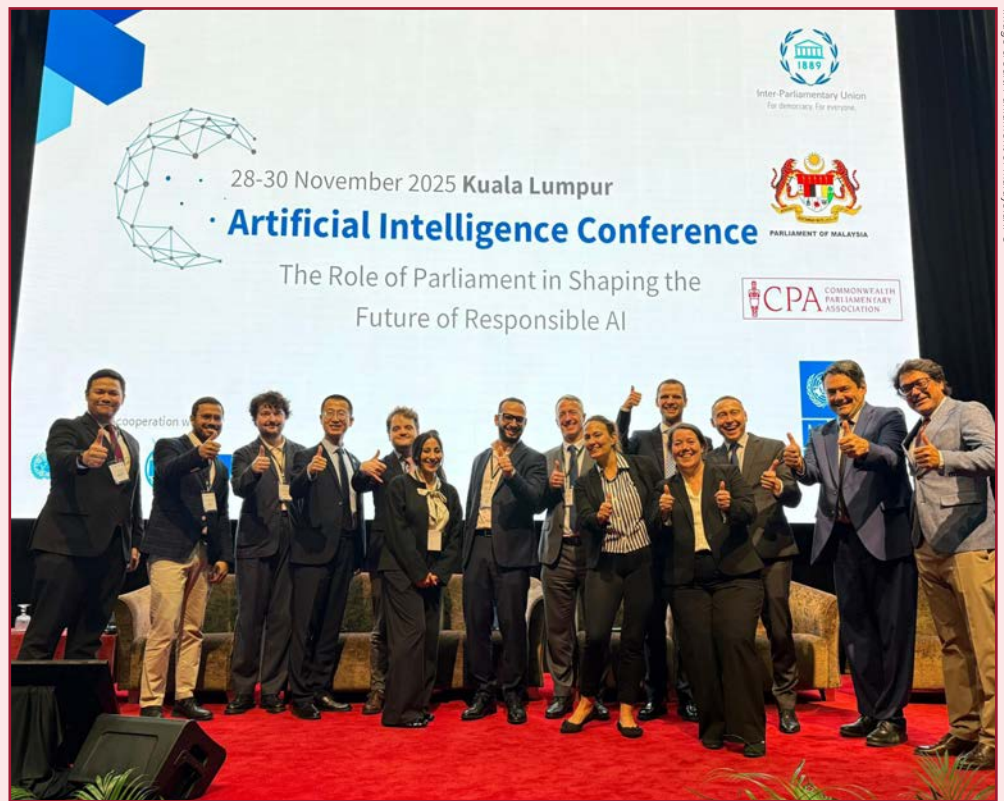


Image credit: Parliament of Malaysia/MPU



CPA BRANCH VISITS IN 2025

VISIT MARKS 50th MEETING OF THE CPA NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH



From 18 to 19 February 2025, the CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg visited the Northern Ireland Assembly in Belfast to celebrate the 50th meeting of the CPA Northern Ireland Branch. The visit began with a courtesy call to the Branch President, Hon. Edwin Poots, MLA, Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly. The CPA Secretary-General then met with Lesley Hogg, the Northern Ireland Assembly Clerk/Chief Executive; Hon. Jonathan Buckley, MLA, Branch Chair and Stephanie Mallon, the CPA Northern Ireland Branch Secretary. As part of the visit, the CPA Secretary-General visited Botanic Primary School,

where he met with pupils and answered their questions about the Commonwealth. He then visited Campbell College Secondary School, where he learnt about students' concerns and the Commonwealth's relevance to them.

CPA CHAIRPERSON VISITS CPA SCOTLAND

The Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee, Hon. Dr Christopher Kalila, MP (Zambia) visited The Scottish Parliament in September 2025 to meet with Members of the CPA Scotland Branch Executive Committee, Sarah Boyack, MSP, Jeremy Balfour, MSP, Roz McCall, MSP and Stuart McMillan, MSP, and a group of MSPs for their AGM. The CPA Chairperson was welcomed by the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, Rt Hon. Alison Johnstone, MSP to the AGM of the CPA Scotland Branch. Dr Kailia also met with Elena Whitham MSP, a Member of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to discuss health initiatives in Scotland and beyond.



CPA VISIT TO SARK – ONE OF THE WORLD'S SMALLEST PARLIAMENTS

A delegation from the CPA visited one of the smallest Legislatures in the world on 23 September 2025. The Chief Pleas of Sark is the Legislature and Executive for the small island of Sark in the English Channel, part of the archipelago of the Channel Islands. The CPA delegation included the CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg; the Vice-Chair of the CPA Small Branches network, Deputy Adrian Gabriel (Guernsey) and the Regional Secretary for the CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIM), Sarah Dickson and they were welcomed by the Speaker of Chief Pleas of Sark, Hon. Paul Armorgie and Deputy Speaker, Hon. Jeremy La Trobe Bateman before the CPA delegation met with Members of the Legislature. The Chief Pleas comprises 18 Members (known as Conseillers) who are elected for a period of four years (with half facing elections every two years).

The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg said: *"I was delighted to travel to the island of Sark with a CPA delegation to meet with Members of the Chief Pleas and to hear about their roles on the island as well as the challenges they face as a small jurisdiction. We look forward to a constructive and collegial relationship with the Legislature in the future."*



CPA REGIONAL CONFERENCES IN 2025

61st CPA CANADA REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN QUÉBEC

Over 100 Commonwealth Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Clerks examined parliamentary democracy and strengthening Legislatures at 61st CPA Canada Regional Conference in Québec City, Québec from 20 to 24 July 2025. Delegates were welcomed by Hon. Nathalie Roy, President of the National Assembly of Québec/Assemblée nationale du Québec. Delegates attended a special session on 'Canada-US Relations' and toured the construction site at the Chamber of the National Assembly of Québec.



Image credit: National Assembly of Québec

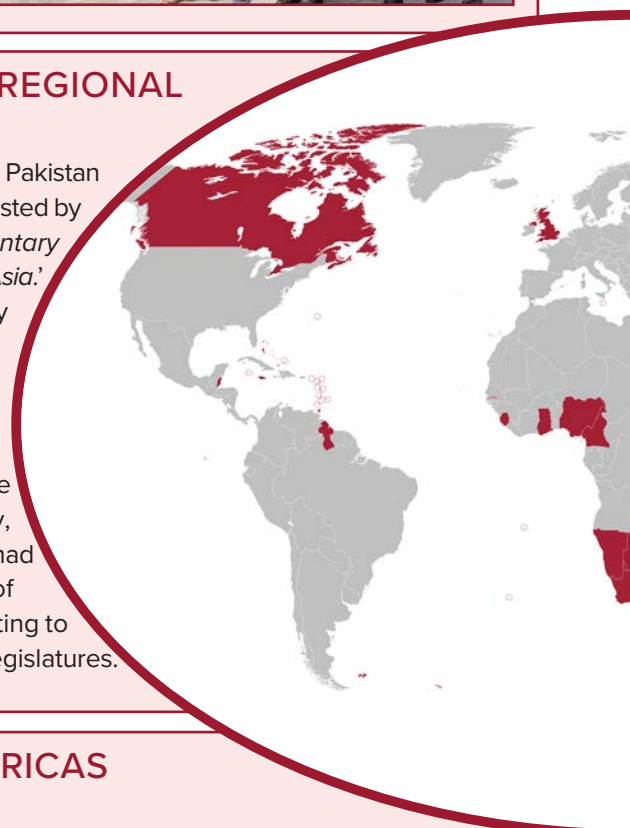
FIRST JOINT CPA ASIA AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN PUNJAB, PAKISTAN

From 6 to 10 February 2025, Commonwealth Parliamentarians met in Lahore, Pakistan to attend the first joint CPA Asia and South-East Asia Regional Conference hosted by the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, Pakistan on the theme of '*Parliamentary Strategies for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Futures in Asia and South-East Asia.*' Over 100 delegates attended including the Speaker of the National Assembly



Image credit: Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, Pakistan

of Pakistan and the Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee, Hon. Dr Christopher Kalila, MP (Zambia). The Speaker of the Punjab Provincial Assembly, Hon. Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan moved the adoption of the Lahore Charter committing to sustainable and inclusive Legislatures.



THE BAHAMAS HOST 47th CPA CARIBBEAN, AMERICAS AND ATLANTIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The CPA Bahamas Branch hosted the 47th CPA Regional Conference of the Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic (CAA) Region on the theme of '*Deepening of Regional Democracy – An Independent Parliament*' which saw over 80 delegates from across the Region participate in the week-long event from 5 to 13 September 2025. The Regional Conference also focused on the pressing issues facing the wider region such as gender sensitive legislation, budgeting and climate



Image credit: Parliament of The Bahamas

change. The President of the Senate of The Bahamas, Senator Hon. Julie Lashell Adderley and the Speaker of the House of Assembly of The Bahamas, Hon. Patricia Deveaux welcomed delegates. During the week, the 15th CAA Regional Conference for Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) and the 18th Caribbean Regional Youth Parliament also took place.

54th CPA AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN THE GAMBIA



From 10 to 16 August 2025, Commonwealth Parliamentarians from across Africa met in Banjul, The Gambia to attend the 54th CPA Africa Regional Conference on the theme of ‘*Strengthening democratic governance and resilience in Africa: tackling conflicts, economic shocks and climate change.*’ The main programme included workshops examining the role of African Parliaments in tackling graft and corruption, boosting industrialisation and economic growth and empowering persons with disabilities to achieve full inclusion with the opportunity to share best practice and ideas from different CPA Branches within the Region. The CPA Regional Conference was attended by over 300 delegates from national and sub-national Parliaments across the CPA Africa Region including Speakers, Members of Parliament, Clerks and observers. In his opening address, the Speaker of the National Assembly of The Gambia and President of the CPA Africa Region, Hon. Fabakary T. Jatta, wished delegates a fruitful conference and a memorable stay in The Gambia. The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Africa Region and the CPA Africa Region Executive Committee also held meetings prior to the opening of the Regional Conference.

11th CPA INDIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN KARNATAKA

Members of Parliament from the federal and state level in India met for the 11th CPA India Regional Conference in Bengaluru, India from 11 to 15 September 2025. Hosted by the Karnataka State Legislature on behalf of the CPA India Region, the Regional Conference brought



together Parliamentarians to share their experiences of parliamentary democracy on a theme of ‘*Debates and Discussions in the Houses of Legislature: Building people’s trust and meeting people’s aspirations.*’ The Chairperson of the CPA India Region, Hon. Om Birla MP, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha of India officially opened the Regional Conference on the iconic steps of the Vidhana Soudha and spoke to delegates of India as the largest functioning democracy in the world.

54th CPA BRITISH ISLANDS AND MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN WALES

MPs and parliamentary staff from CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region attended the annual Regional Conference

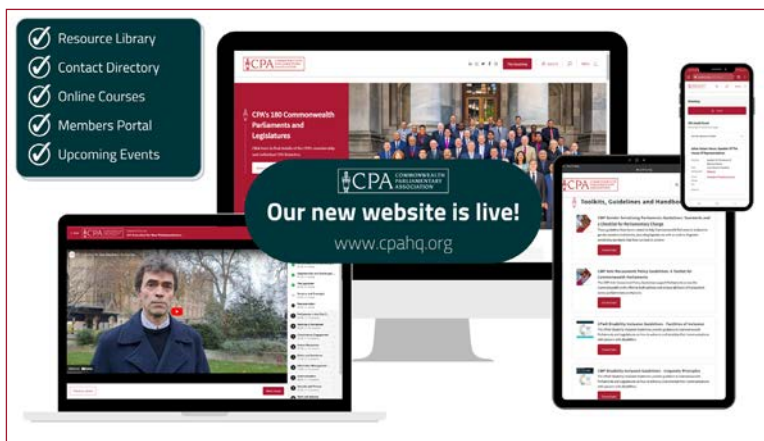


in Cardiff, Wales from 17 to 20 June 2025 focusing on ‘*Addressing the Needs of a Modern Parliament.*’ Delegates shared their own Legislatures’ experiences as they participated in the discussions. Delegates from 13 Parliaments across the CPA BIM Region - plus observers from CPA Western Cape (South Africa) and CPA Québec (Canada) - heard from panellists on a range of topics including utilising Artificial Intelligence in Parliaments and supporting MPs with their mental health. Delegates were welcomed by the CPA Wales Branch President, Hon. Elin Jones MS, Llywydd (Presiding Officer) of the Welsh Parliament (Senedd).

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLISHING

In 2025, our Communications activities continued to enhance the visibility and reach of the CPA, both within our membership, the parliamentary strengthening community and other key stakeholders. We use a wide range of Communications channels and content including e-Comms, print, audio-visual and online.

CPA website and social media



In 2025, the CPA website continued to be the main digital platform for our membership. The website includes a wide range of **resources, information and online learning opportunities** for Commonwealth Parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and the wider public. The website also includes the **CPA's online learning portal** through the CPA Parliamentary Academy. The website offers access to the **online editions of *The Parliamentarian*, blog articles and the CPA library** featuring toolkits, booklets, guides and resources on many different aspects of parliamentary development and research produced by the CPA and its partners. The CPA social media channels (X/Twitter,

Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube for video content) have continued to be a popular source of information for CPA Members and Branches with new CPA accounts added for Bluesky.



In 2025, the CPA Facebook page increased views by 413% and Followers by 21.4%.



The CPA Instagram page increased its reach by 75% and Followers by 30% overall in 2025.



In 2025, CPA X/Twitter page impressions (views) fell by around 30% with Followers increasing by 2.7%.

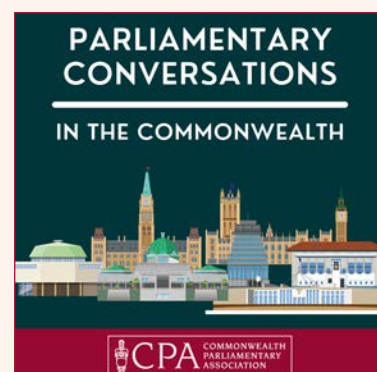


In 2025, the CPA's LinkedIn page increased Followers by 43% and page impressions increased by 11.6%.

CPA Blog and Podcasts

In 2025, we published a series of blog articles on the CPA website. **The blog articles are contributed by Members, parliamentary staff, experts and CPA staff.** The blog creates a **hub of policy examples, resources and information sharing for Members and parliamentary staff.** In this reporting period of 2025, 14 CPA blog articles/series were published on topics including child marriage, remote Parliaments, parliamentary engagement, democratic progression and parliamentary dress codes.

The CPA runs a Podcast series, '*Parliamentary Conversations in the Commonwealth*' with episodes featured on the CPA website, YouTube, BuzzSprout and all major podcast platforms (Soundcloud, Spotify, Apple Podcasts). In 2025, we published **13 different episodes featuring 17 guests** from Pakistan, UK, South Africa, Karnataka, Seychelles, Malta, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Tuvalu, Ontario, KwaZulu-Natal and the Isle of Man.



The Parliamentarian

- 1 *The Parliamentarian* is the **quarterly flagship journal** of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Journal of Commonwealth Parliaments. The Journal is distributed to Members of Parliament, Parliamentary staff and individual subscribers across the Commonwealth and International Organisations.
- 2 2025 saw launch of the new design for the CPA Journal following the Content Review outcomes the previous year. This resulted in a reduction in overall cost of printing and distribution due to a reduced pagination. In 2025, **around 3,500 print copies per issue** were sent to CPA Branches and the digital edition had on **average around 6,000 digital reads per issue**.
- 3 The Editorial Advisory Board for *The Parliamentarian* advises the CPA Secretary-General and the Editor on the publication's future direction and editorial content. Members of Editorial Advisory Board represent the diversity of the Commonwealth, its nine Regions, CWP and youth contributors and the board met several times virtually in 2025.



CPA Order Paper e-newsletter

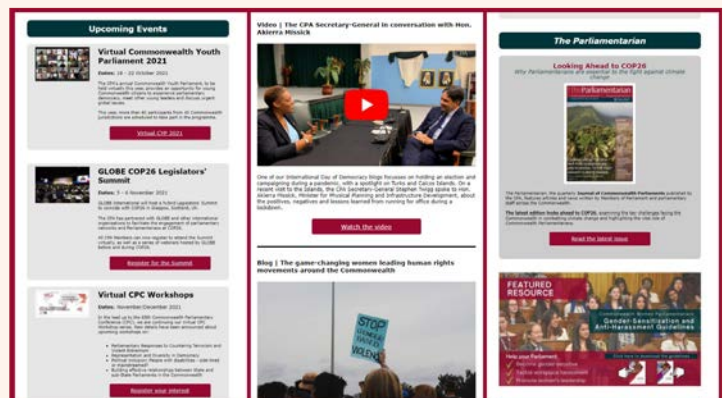
In 2025, the quarterly *CPA Order Paper*, an email newsletter for the CPA membership reached **around 12,000 contacts per issue (over 40,000 emails annually)**. We have significantly increased the number of individual Member contact details on our database with many Parliaments providing details for all of their individual Members.

- The open rate for the CPA Order Paper has risen from an **average of 23.5% in 2021 to 38.4% in 2025**. The industry average is around 25%.

In 2025, we continued to deliver **bi-annual e-newsletters**

for the CPA's networks - the CPA Small Branches, the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) and the Commonwealth Parliamentarians (CPwD) Order Paper - that were sent to connect with key stakeholders and update the membership on the network's activities.

- The CWP e-newsletter was sent to **approx. 3,500 contacts with an average click-through rate of 43.9%**.
- The CPA Small Branches e-newsletter was sent to **approx. 2,200 contacts with an average click-through rate of 39.1%**.
- The CPwD e-newsletter was sent to **approx. 900 contacts with an average click-through rate of 42.3%**.



CPA GOVERNANCE



The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is governed by a CPA Executive Committee which determines its strategy and overall management. Day-to-day management is undertaken by the CPA Secretary-General. The Coordinating Committee is responsible for overseeing urgent decision-making on behalf of the CPA Executive Committee in between meetings. The CPA Executive Committee is responsible for its overall management. Members of the CPA Executive Committee serve a three-year term, with a third of the Members retiring each year and a third of Members nominated must be women. In 2025, the CPA Executive Committee met three times (in-person in London, UK in May 2025 and in-person in Barbados twice in October 2025).

Above: Members of the CPA Executive Committee at their meeting in London, UK in May 2025.

CPA Legal Status and Charitable Funds

In early January 2025, the *Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and International Committee of the Red Cross (Status) Act* was passed by the UK Parliament becoming an Act of Parliament in 2025. The new Act provides the basis for the CPA's new legal status and the CPA Secretariat have continued to work with the UK Government to implement the new legislation. The CPA was previously registered as a UK charity in 1971 and was subject to regulation by the UK Charity Commission. Whilst the main CPA is no longer a charity, it was agreed at the CPA General Assembly in November 2024 to rename the charity as 'CPA Charitable Funds' and for the charity to operate as a grant maker. The charity has its own constitution and Board of Trustees and continues to report to the Charity Commission in the UK.

HOW IS THE CPA ORGANISED?

CPA General Assembly: Representing all CPA Branches at the annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference



CPA Executive Committee: CPA Officers and 30 Regional Representatives from all nine regions



CPA Co-ordinating Committee: CPA Chairperson; Vice-Chairperson; Treasurer; Chairpersons of CPA Small Branches, Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) and Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD).



CPA Secretary-General & CPA Headquarters Secretariat

CPA SECRETARIAT

CPA Headquarters staff

In 2025, the staff at the CPA Headquarters Secretariat continued in their commitment to support the work of Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff across the CPA's membership. Key appointments included the new roles of Head of Fundraising, Programmes Manager for the CPA Parliamentary Academy, Gender Lead and Good Governance Project Lead. An Archives Intern from King's College London worked on research projects at the CPA Secretariat as part of their course during the year.



The CPA Headquarters Secretariat continued to benefit from different Learning and Development (L&D) opportunities and professional development training during the year. A full list of CPA Secretariat staff can be found at www.cpahq.org.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE[™]
We invest in people Silver

Corporate Effectiveness and Efficiency

Risk Management: The CPA Executive Committee, as Trustees, are responsible for risk management. Risks identified by the CPA Headquarters are reviewed, assessed and appropriate action incorporated as part of operational delivery. During 2025, the main risks and uncertainties facing the CPA were:

- restricted opportunities to grow or diversify income.
- significant reliance on membership fees, and the timely payment of subscriptions.
- ensuring that membership remains a worthwhile proposition for the CPA's Branches.
- investment in the infra-structure that helps ensure the CPA Secretariat is run efficiently and is pro-active in communications with its membership.
- new or unexpected pressures on the CPA Secretariat or Programme costs.

Appropriate systems and/or actions have been developed or undertaken to identify and mitigate risk. These systems or actions include:

- expanding the CPA's revenue streams by reviewing its membership categories.
- maximising the CPA's investment returns within an agreed risk appetite framework.
- actively seeking hosts for the CPA's events to achieve a reduced cost burden on reserves.
- financial governance-related policies and a programme of internal audit of the CPA's processes.
- Audit Subcommittee oversight.
- staff handbook detailing HR policies.
- business and financial risk management plan (risk register) which details the nature of risk.
- appropriate insurance cover.



2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Financial Review:

The CPA membership fees formed the bulk of the total revenue for 2025 and amounted to **£3,312,115**. Of this total, the CPA's core funding streams were **91%** from Branch membership fees, **5%** from partnership and engagement activities, and **4%** from investment income, with a small amount from other sources such as subscriptions to *The Parliamentarian*.

Total operating costs for the reporting period of 2025 (12 months from 1 January to 31 December 2025) were **£3,674,384** (after taxation), made up of principal CPA activities providing programmes for Parliaments, Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, organising the annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC - including General Assembly), Benchmarks assessments, seminars and publications.

The deficit for the year ending 31 December 2025 amounted to **£362,269**.

At the end of 2025, the CPA funds amounted to **£2,186,211**, which is held in general funds. This is a healthy balance of funds which is more than sufficient to cover outgoings, whilst the 2026 membership fees are collected during the course of the year.

Summary

The CPA continued to deliver a wide range of programmes and Governance meetings in 2025, not only physically, but also in a hybrid and fully virtual format.

Notwithstanding the fact that the financial outcome of the year to 31 December 2025 was a deficit of **£362,269** - this was due to an unbudgeted in-person meeting of the CPA Executive Committee that took place in London, UK in May 2025. The final outcome was an improvement on the financial forecast provided to the 2025 CPA General Assembly held at the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in October 2025, thanks to various categories of expenditure turning out to be slightly lower than anticipated.

2025 Annual Report and Financial Statements Approval: The CPA Executive Committee approved this annual report at their meeting on 15 May 2026 with the financial statements signed on behalf of the CPA Executive Committee by Hon. Dr Christopher Kalila, MP, Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee and Stephen Twigg, CPA Secretary-General.

An Independent Auditor's Report was conducted by Buzzacott LLP and presented to the CPA Executive Committee.

A copy of the 2025 financial statements and accounts for the CPA is available by request via email to finance@cpahq.org.





Accounts

Governance: The CPA is governed by the Members of the CPA Executive Committee, who are responsible for the annual financial statements. The CPA General Assembly decided to manage the organisation in accordance with the applicable laws of the United Kingdom and to apply United Kingdom Accounting Standards in the preparation of its annual financial statements. The law applicable in England and Wales, requires a governing body to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the finances (income and expenditure) for that period. The CPA General Assembly elects new Members to the CPA Executive Committee on the advice of the nine Regions of the CPA for a three-year period. All Members of the CPA Executive Committee are unpaid. The CPA Headquarters Secretariat organises induction sessions for new Members.

Financial Strategy: The CPA Executive Committee agree on the CPA's Financial Strategy. The Members of the CPA Executive Committee keep the strategy under review to ensure that it meets the wider strategic objectives of the CPA. The CPA Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 has further reinforced and informed the existing Financial Strategy. A new CPA Strategic Plan for 2026-2029 was launched on 24 February 2026.

Professional Advisers in 2025

- **External Auditors** - Buzzacott LLP, 130 Wood Street, London, EC2V 6DL, United Kingdom E: enquiries@buzzacott.co.uk
- **Internal Auditors** - Sayer Vincent LLP, Invicta House, 108-114 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0TL, United Kingdom
- **Bank** - National Westminster Bank plc, Victoria Branch, 169 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5NA, United Kingdom
- **Investment Managers** - Close Brothers Group PLC, 10 Crown Place, London, EC2A 4FT, United Kingdom
- **Legal Advisers** - Russell Cooke LLP, 2 Putney Hill, London SW15 6AB



APPENDIX: CPA OFFICERS, CPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES IN 2025

Patron and Vice-Patron

Patron: His Majesty King Charles III, Head of the Commonwealth

Vice-Patron (2025-2026): Vacant - awaiting nomination from South Africa

CPA Executive Committee Members

The following were Members of the CPA Executive Committee as at 31 December 2025:

Officers:

- **CPA President:** Hon. Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane, Chairperson of National Council of Provinces, Parliament of South Africa, 2025 to date
- **CPA Vice-President:** Vacant, 2025 to date
- **Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee:** Hon. Dr Christopher Kalila, MP, Zambia, 2024 to date
- **CPA Vice-Chairperson:** Hon. Carmel Sepuloni, MP, New Zealand, 2025 to date
- **Treasurer:** Senator Hon. Sue Lines, Senate President, Australia Federal, 2025 to date
- **Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Chairperson:** Hon. Catherine Fife, MPP, Ontario, 2025 to date
- **CPA Small Branches Chairperson:** Hon. Valerie Woods, MNA, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belize, 2024 to date
- **Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) Chairperson:** Senator Hon. Isaiah Jacob, Malaysia Senate, 2025 to date

Regional Representatives:

CPA Africa Region

- Hon. Marwick Khumalo, MP, Eswatini, 2023 to date (*Completing term started by another Member*)
- Hon. Elijah Okupa, MP, Uganda, 2023 to date
- Hon. Tolulope Akande-Sadipe, MP, Nigeria, 2024 to date
- Hon. Mary Muyali Boya, MP, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon, 2024 to date
- Hon. Letlhogonolo Barongwang, MP, Botswana, 2025 to date
- 1 vacant position

CPA Asia Region

- Hon. Farah Azeem Shah, MPA, Balochistan, 2023 to date (*Completing term started by another Member*)
- Hon. Ahmed Nazim, MP, Deputy Speaker, Maldives, 2024 to date
- Hon. Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA, Pakistan, 2025 to date

CPA Australia Region

- Hon. Pat Weir, MP, Speaker of the Queensland Parliament, 2023 to date (*Completing term started by another Member*)
- Senator Hon. Karen Grogan Australia Federal, 2024 to date (*Completing term started by another Member*)
- Hon. Alanna Clohesy, MLC, President of the Legislative Council of Western Australia, 2025 to date

CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region

- Deputy Mary Le Hegarat Jersey, 2023 to date
- Rt Hon. David Mundell, MP, United Kingdom, 2024 to date
- Hon. Natasha Asghar, MS Wales, 2025 to date

CPA Canada Region

- Hon. Raj Chouhan, MLA, Speaker, British Columbia, 2023 to date
- Senator Hon. Rosemary Moodie, Canada Federal, 2024 to date (*Completing term started by another Member*)
- Hon. Sidney MacEwen, MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, 2025 to date

CPA Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic Region

- Senator Hon. Dr Dessima D. Williams, President of the Senate, Grenada, 2023 to date
- Hon. Dennis P. Lister, JP, MP, Speaker of the House of Assembly of Bermuda, 2024 to date
- Hon. Juliet Holness, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Jamaica, 2025 to date

CPA India Region

- Shri Biswajit Daimary, MLA, Speaker, Assam, 2023 to date
- Hon. Shri Vishnu Dutt Sharma, MP, Lok Sabha, India Union, 2024 to date
- 1 vacant position

CPA Pacific Region

- Hon. Dulcie Tei, MP, Tonga, 2023 to date
- Hon. Tina Pupukey Browne, MP, Cook Islands, 2024 to date
- Hon. Carmel Sepuloni, MP, New Zealand, 2025 to date (2nd term)

CPA South-East Asia Region

- Hon. Christopher De Souza, MP, Deputy Speaker, Singapore, 2023 to date (*Completing term started by another Member*)
- Hon. Dr Datuk Noraini Ahmad, MP, Malaysia, 2024 to date (2nd term)
- Hon. Dato' Seri Law Choo Kiang, MLA, Speaker, Penang, 2025 to date (2nd term)





Image credit: CPA Secretariat/Jeffrey Hyland

CPA Executive Committee Members in Barbados ahead of 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in October 2025.

Former Officers and Former Members of the Executive Committee (Regional Representatives) during 2025

The following includes those who served during the year, but their term had ended when the 2025 Annual Report was approved:

- **Vice-Patron (2025):** Her Excellency Dame Sandra Mason, GCMG, SC, The President of Barbados
- **CPA President (2024-2025):** Senator Hon. Reginald Farley, JP, President of the Senate of Barbados
- **CPA Treasurer (2022-2025):** Shri Anurag Sharma, MP, Lok Sabha, India Union
- **Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Chairperson (2022-2025):** Hon. Dr Zainab Gimba, MP, Nigeria
- **Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) Chairperson (2022-2025):** Hon. Laura Kanushu Opori, MP, Uganda

CPA Africa Region

- Hon. Lukas Sinimbo Muha, MP, Chairperson of the National Council of Namibia (2022-2025)
- Hon. Raymond Nkhata, MP, Malawi (2022-2025)
- Hon. Angel Thandeka Mavuso, MP, Eswatini (2023-2025)

CPA Asia Region

- Hon. Bilal Azhar Kayani, MNA, Pakistan (2022-2025)

CPA Australia Region

- Hon. Mark Shelton, MP, Tasmania (2022-2025)

CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region

- Hon. Stuart McMillan, MSP, Scotland (2022-2025)

CPA Canada Region

- Hon. Donna Skelly, MPP, Speaker, Ontario (2022-2025)
- Hon. Alexandra Mendès, MP, Assistant Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, Canada Federal (2024-2025)

CPA Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic Region

- Hon. Arthur Holder, Speaker, Barbados (2022-2025)

CPA India Region

- Smt. Ritu Khanduri Bhushan, MLA, Speaker, Uttarakhand (2022-2025)

CPA South-East Asia Region

- Hon. Mohd Fahmi Aliman, MP, Singapore (2023-2025)



CPA'S MISSION STATEMENT

To promote knowledge of the constitutional, legislative, economic, social and cultural aspects of parliamentary democracy, with particular reference to the countries of the Commonwealth.

CPA'S VISION

That the work of the CPA enables:

- Commonwealth Parliamentarians and officials to uphold and strengthen parliamentary democracy, the rule of law, sustainable development and human rights.
- Mutual learning, dialogue, cooperation and networking across the Commonwealth to build strong, powerful and effective parliamentary institutions able to respond and adapt to the challenges of today and tomorrow.
- Partnerships with others to maximise our impact in line with the shared values which underpin the CPA's mission.

CPA'S VALUES

The CPA's organisational values are:

- The CPA promotes democracy, good governance and human rights throughout the Commonwealth.
- We champion respect, equality, diversity, accountability, transparency and best practice.



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COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 2025



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Annual Report for January to December 2025 provides an overview of the activity of the CPA and highlights the progress of this activity against the CPA Strategic Plan. This report focuses on the programme strands and activities of the CPA Headquarters Secretariat.

In 2025, the CPA Headquarters Secretariat continued to deliver CPA programmes, activities and seminars. This report includes the three CPA networks – Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP); CPA Small Branches; and Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) as well as parliamentary strengthening, partnership work and Communications activities.

The CPA's Annual Report 2025 is composed of reports, images and analysis of the CPA's activities and work strands throughout the year. For any enquiries please contact hq.sec@cpahq.org.

CPA 2025 Annual Report published in June 2026 following approval of audited accounts.