Delegation Report

on the

64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

- Kampala, Uganda

September 22-29, 2019
Table of Contents

BACKGROUND ........................................................................................................................................... 3
  Introduction ........................................................................................................................................ 3
Delegation .............................................................................................................................................. 3

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES .................................................................................................................. 4
  Official Opening Ceremony .............................................................................................................. 4
6th Triennial Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference ..................................... 6
  ....................................................................................................................................................... 9
Conference Workshops ......................................................................................................................... 9

55th General Meeting of the Society-of-Clerks-at-the-Table (SOCATT) in Commonwealth Parliaments .......................................................... 10

APPENDIX I ......................................................................................................................................... 15

APPENDIX II ...................................................................................................................................... 19
BACKGROUND

Introduction

1. The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference hosted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Uganda Branch, was held in Kampala, Uganda from September 22-29, 2019. Over five hundred (500) participants comprising Presiding Officers, and other Members of Parliaments, Clerks of Parliament/Parliamentary and other key decision makers from across the Commonwealth attended this event. The Conference and associated meetings recognised the Commonwealth’s commitment to democracy and met under the main theme of ‘Adaption, engagement, and evolution of Parliaments in a rapidly changing Commonwealth’.

2. The conference was chaired by host and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) President (2018-2019), Rt Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda. This seven day event included meetings of the CPA Executive Committee; the sixth triennial Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference; the 37th CPA Small Branches Conference; the meeting of Society of Clerks at the Table (SOCATT); and the 64th CPA General Assembly. Please see copy of programme at Appendix 1.

3. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has been a voice for parliamentary democracy across the fifty-three (53) commonwealth countries, comprising one hundred and eighty-five (185) parliaments/legislatures with over seventeen thousand Members. At the Association’s annual conference parliamentary issues, and systems and developments are discusses and analysed among parliamentarians representing their respective legislatures.

Delegation

The Trinidad and Tobago delegation attending the 64th CPC comprised the following persons:

- Hon. Bridgid Mary Annisette-George, MP, Speaker (Leader of the Delegation)
- Mr. Adrian Leonce, MP- Delegate
- Sen. Wade Mark -Delegate
- Mr. Brian Caesar – Secretary to the Delegation
CONFERECE ACTIVITIES

Official Opening Ceremony

4. The Opening Ceremony of the conference (CPC) was held on Thursday September 26, 2019. The Chief Guest at the opening, the President of the Republic of Uganda and Vice-Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), His Excellency Yoweri K. Museveni, urged Commonwealth Parliamentarians to uphold the democratic principles and values of the Commonwealth. The President of Uganda spoke of the Commonwealth having great potential through its common languages, and opportunities for cooperation on trade, culture and governance.

5. The CPA President (2018-2019), Rt Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda in her address reminded the audience that “The CPA’s annual conference was last in Uganda in 1967 when the CPA Uganda Branch hosted the 13th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference…” She described the opportunity to host the 64th Conference as a ‘delight, even though the return to Uganda has taken fifty (52) years’.

6. The gathering was also addressed by the Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee, The Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon who referenced some of the aims of the CPA, that is, to connect, to develop, to promotes and support Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff; to identify benchmarks of good governance and the implementation of the enduring values of the Commonwealth.

7. Mr Jarvis Matiya, a senior management in the CPA Secretariat was invited to deliver remarks in the absence of the Secretary General Mr. Akbar Khan. Mr. Matiya described the CPA as an institution that is a force for good democracy, good development and good governance. He stressed that the CPA enables its Members to exchange views and deepen their understanding of their roles and responsibilities as the people’s representatives.”
8. As an introduction to the Opening Ceremony and at appropriate intervals during the ceremony, guests were treated to colourful and energetic expressions of Ugandan culture, which involved dancing, singing and drumming.

CPA Executive Committee

9. The meetings of the CPA Executive Committee ahead of the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference were held September 24 and 25, 2019. The Hon. Bridgid Annisette-George, MP attended these meetings and together with the two other reps from the region, representing the Caribbean Atlantic and America Region.
6th Triennial Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference

10. The theme for the CWP Conference 2019: ‘CWP at 30 years: Achievements and Unfinished Business – Looking forward to the next 30 years’ involved reflecting on the past and projecting into the future of the CWP. In this regard, Women Parliamentarians from across the nine regions of the CPA gathered in Kampala, on September 23 and 24, 2019 to lend their voices and support at the sixth triennial CWP.

11. The CWP Conference was opened by the outgoing Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, the Hon. Dr Dato’ Noraini Ahmad, MP (Malaysia) who in her address to the more that 100 Woman Parliamentarians reminded that ‘the CWP envisions a world where women and men have equal access to opportunities – a world where women’s voices are
recognised and respected’. Dr Dato Noraimi Ahmad urge Parliamentarians, with the support of the CWP network, ‘to pursue the CWPs vision with continued dynamism and enthusiasm’.

12. In recognition of the 30th anniversary of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) in 2019, a special ceremony was held with the current and previous CWP Chairpersons - Hon. Dr Dato’ Noraini Ahmad, MP (Malaysia, CWP Chairperson from 2106-2019); Rt Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, MP, Speaker of Parliament (Uganda, 2013-2016); Hon. Alix Boyd Knights, MHA, Speaker of the House of Assembly (Dominica, 2010-2013); Ms Kashmala Tariq (Pakistan, 2007-2010) and Hon. Lindiwe Maseko (South Africa, 2004-2007).

13. During the two-day CWP conference four workshop sessions for Woman Parliamentarians were held. The topics discussed were:

- Session 1: The Importance of Mentoring for New Parliamentarians;
- Session 2: Promoting Women to Leadership Positions and Senior Portfolios;
The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference - Kampala, Uganda, September 22-29, 2019

- Session 3: Empowering Women as Effective Legislators in the 21st century;
- Session 4: Combatting Bullying and Harassment within Parliaments.

Small Branches Conferences

14. On September 23 & 24, 2019 the 37th CPA Small Branches Conference was held. The Theme of the SBC was: ‘Adaption, engagement, and evolution of Parliaments in a rapidly changing Commonwealth’. During the Small Branches Conferences participants discussed the challenges faced by their respective Parliaments and Legislatures in relation to increased logistical, financial and infrastructure demands. Consequently, counteracting strategies were explored and the consensus was that thematic seminars should be held to assist in building parliamentary capacity and greater sharing of knowledge and cooperation across parliamentary networks.

15. The discussions at the Small Branches Conferences took place under the following captions:

- Session 1: How do Commonwealth countries (CPA Small Branches in particular), that all ostensibly base their Parliamentary procedures and practices on the Westminster model, implement culturally appropriate measures including institutional design?

- Small Branches Session 2: Innovation in Parliament – The possible effects of United Kingdom’s ‘Brexit’ on CPA Small Branches

- Small Branches Session 3: What professional development and training is required to develop focused and talented Parliamentarians?

- Small Branches Session 4: Climate change and the possible effects on CPA Small Branch economies and development.
16. The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference Workshops involved discussions on ten principal topics as follows:

- **Workshop A:** Climate Change: Achievements, Challenges and Efficacy of Parliamentary Interventions.

- **Workshop B:** Innovation in Parliament: the impact of science and technology on how Parliament works today. (Speaker Bridgid Annisette-George was one of the three presenters at Workshop B: Innovation in Parliaments - the impact of science and technology on how Parliament works today.)

- **Workshop C:** The role of Parliament in facilitating persons with disabilities as electors, candidates and legislators.

- **Workshop D** (Youth Related Topic): Youth Roundtable – Strategies to deal with Youth Unemployment.
• Workshop E: Combatting rapid urbanisation and rural decline – A challenge for the Commonwealth.


• Workshop G (Gender Topic): Fostering a Culture of Respect, Fairness and Dignity: Sexual Harassment has no place in Legislatures.

• Workshop H: The Role of Parliament in the doctrine of Separation of Powers; Enhancing Transparency and Accountability.

• Workshop I: Post Legislative Scrutiny (PLS) - a dimension of the oversight function of Parliament. How is this represented within different political systems?

• Workshop J: How the Updated CPA Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures has been used to strengthen the capacity of CPA Legislatures.

17. This workshop focused on how ICT can be integrated in Parliaments as an enabler and tool in the promotion of openness, transparency and parliamentary outreach. Emphasis was placed on the need for Parliaments to avail accurate and timely information to the public so as to address issues such as ‘fake’ news concerning parliamentary business. Other benefits associated with the use of ICT in Parliament included: improved efficiency and reduced costs as Parliaments go ‘paperless’.

55th General Meeting of the Society-of-Clerks-at-the-Table (SOCATT) in Commonwealth Parliaments

18. The Meeting of the Society-of-Clerks-at-the-Table (SOCATT) took place in the margins of the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. The meeting brought together Parliamentary Clerks and parliamentary staff from Commonwealth Parliaments to discuss best practice and to shard updates on legislative practices.

19. Presentations were made on privileges and practice; tackling bullying and harassment in Parliaments; the fourth Industrial Revolution and the core business of Parliament; minority
governments and the challenges to parliamentary clerks; the administrative and financial autonomy of Parliament; the media and the use of IT amongst Members.

20. Representatives from McGill University, Canada and King’s College, London were invited to make presentations on new online professional development course being offered to parliamentary staff. These programmes are intended to assist in capacity building among parliamentary staff and network development. The offer of the programmes at the expense of the CPA further develop the aims of the CPA in advancing parliamentary democracy through the enhancement of knowledge and understanding of democratic governance.

SOCATT Representatives at the 55th General Meeting in Kampala, Uganda

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Meeting of the 64th General Assembly

21. The meeting was called to Order on 28th September 2019 by the President Designate Speaker Rebecca Kadaga. By a resolution moved and carried the President Designate was appointed President of the Conference.
In the absence of the substantive Secretary General a motion was moved and carried to appoint Mr. Jarvis Matiya as acting Secretary to carry out the functions of the Assembly.

Apologies were noted from Belize Manitoba North West Territories and Nova Scotia Branches.

The usual business and reports were considered by the Assembly, the new officers of the CPA were named and recognised and plaques were presented to all retiring officers and Executive Committee members including Speakers Michael Perkins and Terry Harrigan two of the Regional Representatives of our Region.

The New Officers of the Association are:

- John Ajaka - (President of Legislative Council of New South Wales) Vice Chair.
- Niki Rattle - (Speaker Legislative Assembly Cook Islands) Chairperson of Small Branches.
- Shandana Gulzar Khan - (Member of National Assembly Pakistan) CWP Chair.
- Datuku Seri Shmsul Akin, MP - (CPA Chair Malaysia) Treasurer.

Of Note are the following Resolutions:

1. The re-admission of the Gambia Branch;
2. The hosting of the 65th CPC in Canada;
3. The hosting of the mid-year ExCO meeting 2020 in Assam;
4. The hosting of the mid-year ExCO meeting 2021 in Gibraltar;
5. The hosting of the 66th CPC on Accra in September 2021;
6. The recruitment for the post of Secretary General by open advertisement;
7. The empowerment of the ExCO meeting in mid-year 2020 to identify the nominee to be proposed to fill the post of Secretary General;
8. Matters concerning the grievances of and the conduct of the Secretary General to be referred to the new ExCo comprising a 3 man panel;
9. The appointment of Jarvis Matiya as Acting Secretary General.

22. The Official Concluding Statement issued by the CPA is attached at Appendix II.
Trinidad and Tobago Delegates at the 64th Meeting of the General Assembly of the CPA
APPENDIX I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(DAY 1) SUNDAY 22 September</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrival of the CWP Steering Committee, Co-ordinating Committee Members, Executive Committee Members, Small Branches Conference Delegates, CWP Conference Delegates and Regional Advisors and/or Secretaries</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(DAY 2) MONDAY 23 September</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0800 - 1000 Meeting of Regional Secretaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Venue: Acacia Hall</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0900 - 1300 Meeting: CWP Steering Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Venue: Commonwealth Banquet Hall</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting: Small Branches Steering Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Venue: Sheema Hall</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning Tea/Coffee break: Inside the meeting room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning Tea/Coffee break: Inside the meeting room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1300 - 1400 LUNCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Venue: Flag Mast</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400 - 1730 CWP Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Venue: Commonwealth Banquet Hall</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Branches Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Venue: Sheema Hall</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1530 - 1600 Afternoon Tea/Coffee break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Venue: Inside the meeting room</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon Tea/Coffee break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Venue: Inside the meeting room</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600 - 1800 Co-ordinating Committee Meeting followed by the Audit Subcommittee meeting, CPA Hq Premises Working Group Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Venue: Meeza Hall</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800 CLOSE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference - Kampala, Uganda, September 22-29, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(DAY 3)</th>
<th>TUESDAY 24 September</th>
<th>Meetings: CPA Executive Committee/CWP Conference/Small Branches Conference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0900 - 1030</td>
<td>Meeting: Main Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Venue: Meera Hall&lt;br&gt;Group Photograph: Victoria Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CWP Conference</td>
<td>Venue: Commonwealth Banquet Hall&lt;br&gt;Group Photograph: Victoria Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small Branches Conference cont’d</td>
<td>Venue: Sheema Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1030 - 1045</td>
<td>Morning Tea/Coffee break</td>
<td>Venue: Victoria Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1045 - 1300</td>
<td>Finance Subcommittee Meeting</td>
<td>Venue: Meera Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Planning &amp; Review Subcommittee Meeting</td>
<td>Venue: Albert Conference Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CWP Conference cont’d</td>
<td>Venue: Commonwealth Banquet Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small Branches Conference cont’d</td>
<td>Venue: Sheema Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1300 - 1400</td>
<td>BUFFET LUNCH</td>
<td>Venue: Flag Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400 - 1730</td>
<td>Finance Subcommittee Meeting</td>
<td>Venue: Meera Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Planning &amp; Review Subcommittee Meeting</td>
<td>Venue: Albert Conference Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CWP Business Meeting/Elections</td>
<td>Venue: Commonwealth Banquet Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small Business Meeting/Elections</td>
<td>Venue: Sheema Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1530 - 1545</td>
<td>Afternoon Tea/Coffee</td>
<td>Venue: Victoria Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Afternoon Tea/Coffee break</td>
<td>Venue: Colobash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1730</td>
<td>CLOSE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Dinner for Executive Committee Members, Small Branches Steering Committee and conference delegates, CWP Steering Committee and conference delegates, Regional Secretaries – hosted by Chairperson of the Executive Committee</td>
<td>Venue: Lake Victoria Serena Golf Resort and Spa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### (DAY 4) WEDNESDAY 25 September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Optional Tour for all others (Kampala City Tour, The Equator Excursion, and Kagulu Hill/Source of the Nile Excursion)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0900 - 1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1030 - 1045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1300 - 1400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400-1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1530-1545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(DAY 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000-1230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1230-1400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400-1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500-1530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1530-1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1530-1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1830-1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAY &amp; FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 27 September| **0800 - 1045**  
             | CWP Meeting (with new Chair)  
             | **Venue:** Commonwealth Banquet Hall  
             | Small Branches Meeting (with new Chair)  
             | **Venue:** Sheema Hall |
|             | **0910 - 1300**  
             | Workshop C:  
             | Mentoring Session – The role of Parliament in facilitating persons with disabilities as electors, candidates and legislators (Jamaica)  
             | **Venue:** Acacia Hall  
             | Workshop D: (Youth Related Topic)  
             | Youth Roundtable – Strategies to deal with Youth Unemployment (Punjab, Pakistan)  
             | **Venue:** Albert Conference Room  
             | Workshop E:  
             | Talk-show panel – Combating rapid urbanisation and rural decline – A challenge for the Commonwealth. (Punjab, Pakistan)  
             | **Venue:** Jacaranda Hall  
             | Meeting of Society of Clerks at-the-Table  
             | **Venue:** Mahogany Hall  
             | (breakout rooms – Mahogany Hall two groups and Ebony Hall one groups) |
|             | **1100-1130**  
             | Afternoon Tea/Coffee  
             | **Venue:** Speke Garden  
             | Afternoon Tea/Coffee  
             | **Venue:** Speke Garden  
             | Afternoon Tea/Coffee  
             | **Venue:** Speke Garden  
             | Afternoon Tea/Coffee  
             | **Venue:** Speke Garden |
|             | **1130-1300**  
             | Workshop C:  
             | Mentoring Session – The role of Parliament in facilitating persons with disabilities as electors, candidates and legislators (Jamaica)  
             | **Venue:** Acacia Hall  
             | Workshop D: (Youth Related Topic)  
             | Youth Roundtable – Strategies to deal with Youth Unemployment (Punjab, Pakistan)  
             | **Venue:** Albert Conference Room  
             | Workshop E:  
             | Talk-show panel – Combating rapid urbanisation and rural decline – A challenge for the Commonwealth. (Punjab, Pakistan)  
             | **Venue:** Jacaranda Hall  
             | Meeting of Society of Clerks at-the-Table  
             | **Venue:** Mahogany Hall  
             | (breakout rooms – Mahogany Hall two groups and Ebony Hall one groups) |
|             | **1300 – 1430**  
             | **BUFFET LUNCH**  
             | **Venue:** Flag Most  
             | Side Event: Global Forum for Parliamentarians (TBC)  
             | **Venue:** Jacaranda Hall |
|             | **1430-1700**  
             | Workshop F: (Small Branches Topic)  
             | TED talk - Innovation in Parliament – The possible effects of the United Kingdom ‘Brexit’ on Small Branches. (Falkland Islands)  
             | **Venue:** Acacia Hall  
             | Workshop G: (Gender Topic)  
             | Mentoring Session – Fostering a Culture of Respect, Fairness and Dignity: Sexual harassment has no place in legislatures. (Scotland)  
             | **Venue:** Ebony Hall  
             | Workshop H:  
             | The Role of Parliament in the doctrine of Separation of Powers; Enhancing Transparency and Accountability (Indian Union & Gujarat)  
             | **Venue:** Jacaranda Hall  
             | Meeting of Society of Clerks at-the-Table  
             | **Venue:** Mahogany Hall |
|             | **1530-1545**  
             | Afternoon Tea/Coffee  
             | **Venue:** Speke Garden  
             | Afternoon Tea/Coffee  
             | **Venue:** Speke Garden  
             | Afternoon Tea/Coffee  
             | **Venue:** Speke Garden  
             | Afternoon Tea/Coffee  
             | **Venue:** Speke Garden |
64th COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE
KAMPALA, UGANDA
22 to 29 SEPTEMBER 2019

CONFERENCE CONCLUDING STATEMENT

CONFERENCE THEME: ‘ADAPTION, ENGAGEMENT AND EVOLUTION OF PARLIAMENTS IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING COMMONWEALTH’
64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference
Conference Concluding Statement

4 October 2019

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARIANS attending the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference and associated meetings recognized the Commonwealth’s commitment to democracy and met under the conference theme of ‘Adaptation, engagement and evolution of Parliaments in a rapidly changing Commonwealth’.

The conference, hosted by the CPA Uganda Branch and Parliament of Uganda from 22 to 29 September 2019 in Kampala, Uganda was attended by over 500 Parliamentarians and parliamentary officials from across the Commonwealth.

The conference was hosted by the CPA President (2018-2019), Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda. The conference also included the 37th CPA Small Branches Conference and the sixth triennial Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference.

This concluding statement contains:
- The main outcomes of the conference;
- A summary of the workshop discussions, and
- The recommendations that were either endorsed or noted by the Members in attendance.

Alongside the substantive conference workshops and the CPA governance meetings (64th General Assembly and Executive Committee meetings), the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference also included a number of additional events.

The unique conference brings together Speakers, Members of Parliament, and parliamentary staff representing the 53 countries of the Commonwealth as well as national, state, provincial and territorial Parliaments and Legislatures bringing together over 50 CPA Branches of the Association.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA): Email: hjq.sec@cpahq.org
Tel: +44 (0)20 7799 1400 | www.cpahq.org | Twitter @CPA_Secretariat | Facebook.com/CPAHQ

5th COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE, KAMPALA, UGANDA | 1
The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference - Kampala, Uganda, September 22-29, 2019

64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference - Opening Addresses

The Chief Guest at the opening of the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was the President of the Republic of Uganda and Vice-Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, who urged Commonwealth Parliamentarians to uphold democratic principles and the values of the Commonwealth. The President of Uganda spoke of the Commonwealth having great potential through its common language and opportunities for cooperation on trade, culture and governance. The President of Uganda said that one of the Commonwealth's greatest achievements is its democratic institutions and the huge population of the Commonwealth - 2.4 billion people – offers great opportunities to work together on trade, peace and democracy.

The President of Uganda also read the goodwill message to the conference from The Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Head of the Commonwealth. Since 1999, the Vice-Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has traditionally been the Head of State or Government of the CPA Branch hosting the annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

The CPA President (2018-2023), Rt Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda said in the opening ceremony: “The CPA annual conference was last in Uganda in 1998 when the CPA Uganda Branch hosted the 49th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. The fact that it has taken 20 years for this conference to meet in Uganda (hoping democracy flourished in the world) shows that the theme of the conference is timely. We have now started to become one of the leading members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, reasonably and regionally. We want to believe that we can continue to host the CPA branch conference in 2021 and welcome Parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth Parliamentarians are the bridge between the people and the government.”

The Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee, Hon. Emilu Muntija Lufaka, MP, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon said: “The CPA’s activities focus on its commitments to its fundamental political values, including just and honest government, the alleviation of poverty, fundamental human rights, international peace and order, global economic development, the rule of law, equal rights and representation for all citizens, Closer economic integration among the Commonwealth countries and the right to participate in free and democratic political processes.”

Mr Jarvis Matikan, Acting CPA Secretary-General for the 64th CPC said at the opening ceremony of the conference: “The CPA is a force for good democracy, good governance and development. It represents and connects Commonwealth Parliaments, national and provincial, statutory, federal and territorial, large and small. It enables its Members to exchange views and deepen their understanding of their roles and responsibilities as the people’s representatives.”

The vote of thanks on behalf of Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff at the 64th CPC was given by the CPA Africa Region Chairperson, Rt Hon. Justin B. Muriuki, MP, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya.

64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference: CPA Gambia Branch

It is announced that the National Assembly of The Gambia has rejected the membership of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). The 64th CPA General Assembly, meeting in Kampala, Uganda at the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, approved the application from the National Assembly of The Gambia to reconstitute the Gambia Branch of the CPA following their application to re-join.

The Deputy Speaker of the House of the National Assembly of The Gambia, Hon. Momodou Lamin K. Sanneh attended the 64th CPA General Assembly as an observer and said in a statement to delegates: “We are extremely grateful to be invited to the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference after a year of absence. In 2018, The Gambia was removed from its Commonwealth. This passed the way for The Gambia to seek readmission to the various Commonwealth associations including the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Following the change of government in 2018, the CPA UK Branch has been instrumental in our parliamentary reforms. The CPA Gambia Branch is indeed happy to be welcome back to the CPA. We want to thank all CPA members branches, especially the CPA Executive Committee and the CPA President, Hon. Speaker of Uganda for giving due consideration to our application for readmission to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. We are back to where we belong, and we are ready to contribute to the strengthening of the core values of the CPA.”

Future CPA Governance Meetings

During the 64th General Assembly held at the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Uganda, the following future CPA governance meetings and conferences were announced:

- 2020 Mid-Year CPA Executive Committee Meeting – to be hosted by the CPA Assam Branch and the Assam State Legislature, India in April/May 2020 (final dates to be confirmed).
- 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) – to be hosted by the CPA Canada Region in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada from 12 to 18 January 2021.
- 2021 Mid-Year CPA Executive Committee Meeting – an offer was received from the CPA Ghana Branch and Parliament of Ghana to host the 2021 Mid-Year Meeting.
- 66th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) – Discussions at the 64th CPC focused on the possible hosting of the 66th CPC by the CPA Ghana Branch and Parliament of Ghana with further discussions planned.
The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference - Kampala, Uganda, September 22-29, 2019

64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference: CPA Officer Elections

Several elections took place at the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference:

CPA Treasurer: During the 64th CPA General Assembly which took place at the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Uganda, Members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) elected the appointment of Hon. Datuk Seri Shamaluddin Mohd Ali, MP (Malaysia) as the new CPA Treasurer. The Treasurer, who is a Member of the Association nominated by the Executive Committee, is appointed for three years by the General Assembly and works with the CPA Secretary-General and the CPA Headquarters Secretariat to monitor the finances of the Association. The CPA Treasurer also joins the Trustees Board of the Association.

CPA Vice-Chairperson: The 64th CPA General Assembly was followed by a meeting of the new CPA Executive Committee during which Hon. John Ajaka, MLC, President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales was confirmed as a Member of the Executive Committee in the position of Vice-Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee. The position of Vice-Chairperson is for a term of one year and the holder is also a Member of the CPA Coordinating Committee.

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Chairperson: The newly elected Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP), Hon. Shamlal Zubair Khan, MNA of the National Assembly of Pakistan, has pledged to use the opportunity to increase women’s representation and participation in Parliament across the Commonwealth. The new Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians was elected for a three-year term at the CWP Business Meeting held at the sixth triennial conference of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP), that took place in Kampala, Uganda as part of the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

CWP Small Branches Chairperson: The newly elected Chairperson of the CPA Small Branches, Hon. Filda Nambo, Speaker of the Parliament of the Cook Islands, pledged that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) would have a strengthened and renewed focus on assisting Small Branches and their Parliaments and Legislatures. The Members of the CPA attending the 64th CPA Small Branches Conference elected the Speaker of the Parliament of the Cook Islands as the new Chairperson of CPA Small Branches. The role of Chairperson of CPA Small Branches is an Officer role within the CPA governance structure and the new incumbent will sit on the CPA International Executive Committee to bring a voice for Small Branches to the governing body of the CPA.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) | Email: hq@aepcpa.org | Tel: +44 (0)20 7799 1460 | www.cpahq.org | Twitter @CPA_Secretariat | Facebook.com/CPAHQ

64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference: CPA launches new handbook with British Red Cross on International Humanitarian Law for Commonwealth Parliamentarians

The CPA Small Branches Chairperson launched a new online digital resource, the Handbook on International Humanitarian Law for Commonwealth Parliamentarians to complement the CPA’s parliamentary strengthening work and to enhance the performance of Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff across the Commonwealth. The CPA Small Branches Chairperson, Hon. Angela Faria, Speaker of the Parliament of Malta launched the new publication at the CPA Executive Committee, held in Kampala ahead of the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

To access the International Humanitarian Law Handbook for Commonwealth Parliamentarians please visit www.cpahq.org/cpahq/iHL-hanbook.

64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference: CPA launches new online professional development course for parliamentary staff with leading Commonwealth universities

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) launched a new online professional development course for parliamentary staff that has been developed and will be delivered in collaboration with the School of Continuing Studies at McGill University, Canada and the International School for Government at King’s College, London. The CPA launched the new online course as a response for Parliamentary Clerks and officials in the margins of the 64th CPC in Kampala, Uganda. The launch of the new online professional development course for parliamentary staff further develop the aim of the CPA in advancing parliamentary democracy by enhancing knowledge and understanding of democratic governance. The CPA is especially honoured to be working alongside two prestigious Commonwealth universities to provide this online programme for parliamentary staff within the CPA network.

Further information about both online courses will be circulated to all CPA Branches immediately following the 64th CPC in Uganda, with both online courses scheduled to start in January 2020. For further information please email hq@aepcpa.org.
64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference: Commonwealth CPA Lecture

The role of Commonwealth Parliamentarians in maintaining security and stability in society in Eastern Africa was highlighted at the second CPA Africa Region Commonwealth Lecture which took place at the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Kampala, Uganda. Hon. Dr. Cristupi Kyongo highlighted the significant role that Commonwealth Parliamentarians can play in facing the challenges of terrorism with a CPA lecture titled "Maintaining Stability: Evolution, Dynamics and Challenges of Terrorism in Eastern Africa." Dr. Kyongo is a Ugandan physician, politician and diplomat, who has previously served as Uganda’s Ambassadors to China and as the Minister of Defence in the Government of Uganda (2006-2010).

During the CPA Lecture, Dr. Kyongo provided a working definition of terrorism, its geography and impact in the Eastern Africa Region as well as a profile of some terrorist groups operating within the region. Dr. Kyongo spoke about political violence and its objective of installing fear in places where governance is often weak. The lecture examined the effects of terrorism which include threats to state survival, mass loss of life and impediments to economic development.

The CPA Lecture was chaired by Rt. Hon. Jacob O’Korir Okanyin, MP, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda and the chairperson, Kasaply Pasha Apep, Associate Professor at Makerere University in Uganda and Hon. Sirom Malinga, Deputy Head of the Africa Union Mission in Somalia, provided a wide range of policy proposals and interventions that can mitigate the threat of terrorism within Eastern Africa. Participants agreed that Parliament needs to occupy a more central role in counter-terrorism strategy.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Lecture Series offers CPA Members a unique opportunity to hear from distinguished Parliamentarians and experts in the field, who have made an outstanding contribution to their nation’s democracy and to the institution of Parliament. Collectively, this series of lectures will contribute not only to the CPA’s ongoing dialogue within its membership, but also reach out beyond to elected stakeholders such as members of the international community, other parliaments, civil society and the wider public.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) | Email: hq.see@cpahq.org | Tel: +44 (0)20 7799 1460 | www.cpahq.org | Twitter @CPA_Secretariat | Facebook.com/CPAUK

64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference - Workshops:

Main conference theme: "Agitation, engagement, and evolution of Parliaments in a rapidly changing Commonwealth" (hosted by CPA New Zealand Branch)

The main conference workshops and their recommendations were as follows:

Workshop A: Climate Change: Achievements, Challenges and Efficacy of Parliamentary Interventions (Hosted by Uganda SIMI)

This session focused on the impacts of climate change and the interventions that Commonwealth Parliaments are employing to address them. Legislators are key stakeholders in this issue and should leverage their mandate to budget, appropriate, enact legislation and give oversight to the policy implementations required for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The workshop discussed how the impacts of climate change cut across all sectors and responses should therefore be a matter of the Ministries responsible for the environment. All sectors should endeavour to mainstream climate actions into their policies, plans and budgets to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Legislators emphasized the need to allocate resources, monitor and evaluate actions, adopt sustainable methods for development, require a certificate confirming responsiveness to climate change and the creation of a national climate fund. National funding mechanisms would then trigger funding from the international community. The call for action should be gender-sensitive and involve all players, including the private sector.

The following recommendations were proposed but were not explicitly debated in the workshop:

- Climate change should be mainstreamed in all the Ministries’ plans with Parliament requiring a certificate of compliance before budgets are approved.
- The role of Parliamentarians in ensuring cohesive law-making and budgetary oversight of climate-related policies within the context of the SDGs and national development.
- All stakeholders’ efforts should ensure the responsiveness of government to climate change for a climate-resilient economy and society.
- Promote gender and climate change responsive policies and strategies. Establish parliamentary links to networks with non-state actors. Draft a climate change law and establish a Parliamentary Committee.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) | Email: hq.see@cpahq.org | Tel: +44 (0)20 7799 1460 | www.cpahq.org | Twitter @CPA_Secretariat | Facebook.com/CPAUK
The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference - Kampala, Uganda, September 22-29, 2019

- Establish a national climate fund to solve the challenge of financing climate actions and to spur the provision, mobilisation and deployment of climate Finance.
- Commonwealth jurisdictions should launch the 64th CPC Forest Project under the campaign ‘Forest a CPC Forest’.


This workshop focused on how ICT can be integrated in Parliaments as an enabler and tool in the promotion of openness, transparency and parliamentary outreach. This was through sharing of country-specific examples and experiences on the use of ICT in Parliament. Delegates observed that technological engagement increases participation by citizens in the work of Parliament. Therefore, CPA branches are increasingly adopting new technologies. Various information tools used in selected Parliaments to engage stakeholders were shared including HearEye, websites, television, radio, special applications, and social media platforms among others.

Emphasis was made on the need for Parliaments to avail accurate and timely information to the public as a way to deal with ‘fake news’ concerning parliamentary business. This may require regulations on the use of social media in relation to Parliament. Benefits associated with use of ICT in Parliament included efficiency and reduced costs as Parliament’s ‘paperless’. However, a number of challenges associated with embracing the use of ICT included public service policies and knowledge gaps among others, were noted. In addition, increased use of technology is associated with risks such as diminishing ethical values and loss of jobs. Despite the risks, Parliaments must appreciate the changing world of ICT and its role in enhancing their functions.

The following two recommendations at the workshop were endorsed as follows:
- Parliaments should employ ICT to connect with citizens in a more direct and meaningful way, strengthening transparency, accountability, and electricity. Adopting technology promotes political engagement and builds more effective, inclusive and responsive institutions.
- Parliaments must take steps to integrate ICT into their operations to improve efficiency and communication and reach the population via various technological platforms, in an effort to deepen democracy.

The following recommendations were noted as follows (due to associated risks):
- Expanding access to HearEye through social media engagement can lead to greater awareness of and interest in parliamentary process and decision making.

Workshop C: The role of Parliament in facilitating persons with disabilities as electors, candidates and legislators (Chair: Rev. Janet Beshock)

The workshop focused on the role of Parliament in facilitating PWDs as electors, candidates and legislators. Despite constituting approximately 15% of the world’s population, PWDs continue to be disproportionately represented in governance and at all levels of decision making. Inclusive and representative Parliaments are crucial to ensuring a healthy and fair democracy.

The United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is a fundamental instrument in ensuring PWDs participate in political process. Article 29 states “Parties shall guarantee to PWDs political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others, and shall undertake to ensure that PWDs can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for PWDs to vote and be elected.”

Parliaments through their roles of legislation, oversight, and representation should ensure effective and full participation of PWDs in public functions at all levels of government.

The workshop endorsed the following six recommendations:
- Legislative implement Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIP) following consultation with stakeholders, including removing barriers for legislators with disability to effectively perform their duties;
- Parliament must enact laws to eliminate all forms of discrimination against PWDs seeking political offices, besides developing suitable access and other physical infrastructure in Legislatures;
- Parliaments should ensure ratification of CRPD and seek to adopt CRPD’s Optional Protocol to promote transparency and accountability in upholding rights of PWDs;
- Parliament plays a more proactive role in ensuring that the ratification of the CRPD by the State is translated into tangible outcomes;
- Parliaments should promote a legislative agenda that ensures all concerned are aware of and incorporate the rights of citizens living with disabilities;
- The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) should form a disability network fully supported by the Association.
Workshop D (Youth Related Topic). Youth Roundtable - Strategies to deal with Youth Unemployment (sponsored by CPA Punjab, Pakistan)

This workshop was chaired by the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda and featured youth participants from a wide range of youth organizations. The Deputy Speaker highlighted three aspects of unemployment: unemployment, under-employment, and un-employability. The workshop focused on strategies to address the increasing youth unemployment which is a big challenge in most Commonwealth jurisdictions.

A panelist from the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development presented statistics on youth unemployment, the causes and the strategies that the Government of Uganda has employed to address this challenge. In Uganda, youth is defined as anyone between the ages of 18 and 30 years old. Out of the 40 million people in Uganda, youth constitute 22.5% of the population. The Government of Uganda in addressing youth unemployment has focused on: strengthening skills for enhanced labour productivity, promotion of investments in manufacturing and agriculture sector, increasing access to finance for enterprise support, externalization of labour, and streamlining the informal sector.

The second panelist noted that youth unemployment is a global problem. The solution to unemployment should be premised on the principles that “demand for labour is derived demand.” The creation of employment is dependent on the structure and growth rate of both the population and the economy. Therefore, CPA Branches have to increase employment opportunities by addressing economic growth and supporting businesses for easier and faster integration. Emphasis was put on using both fiscal and monetary policies like goring tax rebates and lowering interest rates.

The third panelist spoke about the five types of unemployment namely frictional, structural, cyclical, seasonal and classical unemployment. The strategies to address unemployment need to target specific types of unemployment. The need for legal and policy reforms especially in education, reduction in interest rates, focus on creative industry, and regulation of externalization of labour was underscored.

The eight recommendations at the workshop were endorsed as follows:

- Reforming the education system to provide practical skills and knowledge as well as that include creativity, innovation, mindset change, and business management. Vocational training should be enhanced to address the above.
- Strengthening the externalization of labour to address regulation, monitoring and accountability of peer-to-peer right from country level, i.e. Committees between respective Ministries of countries including Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Labour, Education, Internal Affairs and Justice.

Workshop E: Combating rapid urbanization and rural decline - A challenge for the Commonwealth (sponsored by CPA Punjab, Pakistan)

This session focused on the impact of rapid urbanization and rural decline in various jurisdictions within the Commonwealth. The session aimed to define the shift from a rural to an urban area leading to large concentrations of people into towns and cities. It was highlighted that with over half of the world’s population currently living in urban areas and a further 2.3 billion expected to be added to that population by 2050, urbanization and the resultant rural decline will become an increasingly salient issue for decision-makers and policy makers in the coming years.

The major drivers of urbanization stated at the workshop include search for economic opportunities, population growth, environmental degradation, desire for change of lifestyle, among others. The adverse effects of urbanization include overcrowding and slums which experience major problems such as poverty, poor sanitation, unemployment and high crime rates.

It was further highlighted that urbanization challenges are unique and vary across countries and
The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference - Kampala, Uganda, September 22-29, 2019

therefore, home-based solutions should be adopted. In order to address urbanisation challenges, it is critical that countries develop and adopt integrated plans to guarantee equitable and holistic development for both the rural and urban areas. Lastly, Parliaments should ensure inclusive budgets with a focus on rural development.

The three recommendations at the workshop were endorsed as follows:

- Parliaments should focus on building sustainable livelihoods in urban and rural communities that are unique to their needs and circumstances.

- CPA Parliaments support Commonwealth efforts on sustainable human settlements by partnering with locally elected leaders to frame policy for effective delivery at the local level.

- Rural and urban are complimentary to each other. Parliaments should focus on regulation of urbanisation and development of rural areas such as in the hills.

Workshop F (Small Branches Topic): Innovation in Parliament – The possible effects of United Kingdom’s ‘Brexit’ on CPA Small Branches (facilitated by CPA Falkland Islands Branch)

This workshop was focused on the effects of ‘Brexit’ on the parliamentary procedures in the United Kingdom and how small Parliaments can benefit and learn from the ramifications and strengthen the workings of their Legislatures. A Parliamentary Clerk from the United Kingdom noted that the backbench MPs have taken control of the House of Commons order paper, thus shaping the ‘Brexit’ discussions in the House.

A second panelist from Scotland informed the audience that Scotland’s position to remain in the European Union has not changed. A Member from Guernsey noted that his jurisdiction fully depends on the United Kingdom, so whatever situation that affects the United Kingdom will fully affect Guernsey.

A Member from New Zealand encouraged Commonwealth countries and CPA Branches to support the United Kingdom in the process of exiting the European Union because it is what the British people have voted for.

Four recommendations at the workshop were endorsed as follows:

- Parliaments should consider the interaction between parliamentary rules and statute law, and how for flexible approaches to procedures allows for adaptation to unexpected political circumstances.

- Parliamentary scrutiny and oversight by all United Kingdom Legislatures should play a key role in the development of the United Kingdom’s international relations after ‘Brexit’.

- It is essential that Parliament acts early, considers all possible outcomes and puts in place the necessary legislation whilst ensuring the allocation of adequate resources.

- To support the United Kingdom through their democratic ‘Brexit’ process and establish long-term and sustainable Free Trade Agreements with individual Commonwealth countries.

A further recommendation was developed and endorsed by all of the workshop participants.

- Reflecting the concerns of some of the CPA Small Branches on which ‘Brexit’ has had a profound effect, such Branches must be involved in substantive discussions with the United Kingdom on their international relations.

Workshop G (Gender Topic): Fostering a Culture of Respect, Fairness and Dignity: Sexual Harassment has no place in Legislatures (facilitated by CPA Scotland Branch)

This workshop topic was also discussed earlier at the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference (Attendee) and called for a more in-depth engagement. The first panelist from Scotland called for openness, fairness and equality among Members and parliamentary staff, emphasizing a culture of respect to diversity, inclusiveness and adherence to the code of conduct. There had been an observed increase in reports of sexual harassment by victims because of the embarrassment and den in their careers.

A second panelist from New Zealand argued against the language used in descriptions of sexual harassment as incomplete and limiting. The panelist highlighted a recent inquiry into sexual harassment carried out by the New Zealand Parliament, whose recommendations centered on upholding culture, values and leadership.

The third panelist from Australia federal thanked the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) for championing the issues of women Parliamentarians, paying tribute to those who led pivotal struggles in legislation which has engendered respect and fairness. The panelist advocated for equality in representation by gender in Parliament as is the case in the Federal Parliament of Australia.

The CWP alumni champion spoke about the path for appropriate education, training and a code of conduct in addressing sexual harassment, noting the lack of support to sexual harassment victims, the outlined identified ways of dealing with sexual harassment including: socio-psychos support, counselling and confiding in a mentor with parliamentary experience.
All four recommendations were endorsed by the workshop as follows:

- Respectful language, upholding dignity of people, is fundamental to enhancing the quality of representation for all. Prevention and action on sexual harassment complaints is imperative.

- All Parliaments adopt a zero-tolerance approach to sexual harassment, with robust procedures which take complaints seriously, especially including awareness-raising about what is unacceptable.

- Parliaments should support women MPs and provide confidential counseling services, foster mentoring through programmes such as the CWP Alumni Initiative and support women’s Caucuses.

- In order to create and sustain gender-sensitive cultures within Parliaments, to combat discrimination and sexual harassment we need to support more women into elected Parliamentary positions at all levels.

Workshop H: The Role of Parliament in the doctrine of Separation of Powers, Enhancing Transparency and Accountability (co-sponsored by CPA Asia Pacific Branch and CPA India Gujarat Branch).

Opening the workshop, the participants were given a background highlighting the importance of the doctrine and the efforts of the Commonwealth in popularizing the same. Among others, the development of the Commonwealth Parliament House Principles was noted as critical. The Chairpersons focused on whether there was a need to update the concept and whether legislatures were doing enough to ensure the accountability and transparency of the Executive and Judiciary.

The panel presentations highlighted the historical and philosophical underpinnings of the doctrine, its manifestation at subnational legislatures, examples of the same in the Commonwealth, and the governance challenges faced by legislative chambers in ensuring the implementation of the doctrine among others.

At the close of the workshop, recommendations were proposed and endorsed as follows:

- Through Parliament, people exercise their sovereign power. Parliaments must diligently secure practical and well-executed constitutional separation of powers for greater democratic dividends and good governance.

- Parliaments should seek to replicate Gujarat’s approach to ensure the doctrine of separation of powers is well entrenched in constitutions, and that legislation passed is done so in a transparent manner.

As the stark reality of the authoritarian tendency of the Executive, Parliamentarians must be able to speak their mind in debates, without fear or favour.

The Commonwealth Lawyers (CL) 7th annual gathering was held on September 25, 2019.

The workshop discussion centred on Post Legislative Scrutiny (PLS) as a vital tool in assessing relevance and quality of regulations and laws enacted that relate to the intended objectives. Parliaments across Commonwealth have variations in their approach to the PLS process, with some focusing more on legislation and less on post-legislative activities. However, there is a need to examine the role of PLS.

In their support of post legislative scrutiny, Parliamentary Committees scrutinize sector reports, examine financial audit reports and budgets for statutory agencies, evaluate the implementation of government assurances, consider petitions, review and examine of administrative errors and hold government accountable for any gaps in policy implementation.

The effective oversight function of Parliament and administrative accountability by the government to the legislature is a cornerstone of democracy and an indicator of the principle of good governance. Where budget estimates and other pre-legislative scrutiny and oversight are well undertaken, post-legislative scrutiny and oversight is very weak. There is also a lack of transparency and strategic approaches to reinforcing PLS.

There are other mechanisms that support PLS such as legal challenges against unconstitutional provisions, a model of law on government, and the rule of law. The major challenges are lack of legal framework, capacity gaps within oversight Committees, government reluctance to implement recommendations of Parliament, and resource constraints.

The following recommendations were endorsed by the workshop:

- Post-legislative scrutiny is a valuable oversight tool, part of an end-to-end iterative process, through which Parliament can evaluate efficacy, quality and relevance.

- PLS is a useful tool for providing oversight and accountability in the legislative process.
The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference - Kampala, Uganda, September 22-29, 2019

Parliaments should evaluate the implementation of legislation passed and policy frameworks of Government through well-structured Committee System as well as other mechanisms.

PLS requires resources in designing PLS systems. Parliaments should consider what they can contribute themselves, and what they can ask others to contribute.

Workshop 3: How the Updated CPA Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures has been used to strengthen the capacity of CPA Legislators.

This session focused on Parliaments having a greater self-awareness of their performance based on the updated CPA Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures. The CPA Benchmarks provide a framework for excellence in Commonwealth parliamentary and legislative practice.

The moderator gave a general overview on the importance of the benchmarks linking them to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 5 and D.2). He informed the audience that the workshop aimed to share the experiences of how the Benchmarks can be applied in different contexts.

The external expert provided an overview of the CPA Benchmarks and the evolution journey from 87 Indicators in 2008 to 152 benchmarks in 2018. The CPA Benchmarks have today moved beyond minimum standards to become aspirational in scope.

The second panelist observed that even though our first resolve around what Parliaments do, Parliaments are on genuinely excited about the Benchmarks, but on winning the elections. He emphasized that the CPA Benchmarks provide an opportunity for self-assessment, which is in the best for improving performance.

The third panelist reiterated that the Benchmarks are very critical in helping to talk with challenges like direct and indirect, especially the supremacy of Parliaments. The Benchmarks also ensure that measures are put in place to support new MPs to focus and thrive at first Parliaments especially women.

The final panelist stressed that Governments should start to accomplish the fundamental principles of humanity embed in the CPA Benchmarks: these are democracy, accountability, openness, service, transparency and honesty.

The following recommendations were endorsed by the workshop as follows:

- That consideration be given to developing an abridged version of the CPA Benchmarks in order to ensure the uptake of assessments.

Recommended CPA Benchmarks are imperative and when implemented conjointly will help facilitate the growth of democracy for the betterment of the people of respective Parliamentary jurisdictions.

CPA Benchmarks to review their Parliament’s capacity and performance using the updated CPA Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures and report our results.

37th CPA Small Branches Conference

Conference Theme: Adaptation, Resilience, and Resilience of Parliament to a Rapidly Changing Commonwealth

With the increased logistical, financial and infrastructure demands facing small jurisdictions in the Commonwealth, Parliaments need courageous change challenges they face. The 37th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Small Branches Conference was held in Kampala, Uganda with Members of Parliament and Legislators from CPA Small Branches attending the conference.

The conference discussed strategies to meet the unique developmental needs of the CPA Small Branches Legislators through key thematic sessions and development activities that will build parliamentary capacity for CPA Small Branches and enhance greater opportunities for the sharing of knowledge, parliamentary strengthening and cooperation across the network.

The outgoing CPA Small Branches Chairperson, Hon. Angela Fatagiy, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Malawi said at the opening of the Small Branches Conference: “The CPA Small Branch Conference will help build capacities for the small Parliamentarians and Legislatures in the Commonwealth and ensure greater access to common opportunities for the sharing of knowledge, cooperation across the CPA Network. The CPA Small Branches also to continue to address the concerns of all CPA Committees and their shared experiences.”

During its three-year term as the CPA Small Branches Chairperson, Hon. Angela Fatagiy has highlighted the importance of tackling climate change for the CPA Commonwealth Association, especially its small and developing states which are often the least polluting but the first casualties of climate change and disasters had the opportunity to discuss a newly developed CPA Handbook on climate change during the CPA Small Branches Conference.

In the margin of the conference, the initial cohort of the CPA Small Branches Committee met for the first time, following the election of the CPA Executive Committee at their Mid-Year Meeting in Mauritius 2018 for the formation of this new committee. The CPA Small Branches Committee consists of the CPA Small Branches Chairperson and CPA Commonwealth Parliamentarians who represent the North Region of the CPA with Small Branches Africa, Australia, British Isles and the Mediterranean; Canada, Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic, Pacific and South East Asia.
The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference - Kampala, Uganda, September 22-29, 2019

Small Branches Session 1: How do Commonwealth countries (CPA Small Branches in particular), that all have unique legislative, judicial, and executive characteristics, implement culturally appropriate measures including institutional design? (continue by CPA Valued Trust)

This section focused on discussions around how Commonwealth countries, including small state jurisdictions that base their parliamentary procedures and practices on the Westminster model, implement culturally appropriate measures including institutional design. Delegates were informed that many countries across the world adopted the Westminster model at different time periods. After gaining independence, they negotiated with the United Kingdom through constitutions to ensure that their unique cultural and historical realities. Indeed, it is the cultural adaptability of Westminster model that has shaped its success across the Commonwealth.

One discussion leader gave an example of the uniqueness of the Canadian North Eastern Territorial ( Nunavut), with extreme weather conditions, inaccessible by road, despite the abundant resources available. This territory has no political parties. The challenge was to have procedures and institutions that reflect on the indigenous society. Governance is by consensus through the caucus of the whole house and non-Cabinet Ministers, hence the adaptation and adoption to procedures that deviate from the Westminster model.

The Westminster model is premised on parliamentary sovereignty, an Executive answerable to the people through Parliament, Cabinet decision making and implementation by central civil service and accountability to the Cabinet. However, an apolitical public service in a jurisdiction of less than 100,000 people is unsustainable as an entity. Furthermore, tribes potentially influence society, hence creating the difference. CPA Small Branches ought to examine their own realities and build systems based on their uniqueness.

The two recommendations at the workshop were endorsed as follows:
- Each Parliament should take advantage of Westminster flexible procedures to apply changes that actually work in modern times, cutting cultural and historical realities.
- CPA Small Branches shall develop legislatures that fit their contents and look to the experience of other Small Branches for examples of good practice.

Small Branches Session 2: Innovation in Parliament – The possible effects of United Kingdom's 'Brexit' on CPA Small Branches (contd. by CPA Valued Trust)

This section focused on the possible effects of Brexit on CPA Small Branches. 'Brexit' is not just a matter between the United Kingdom and the European Union but also concerns the CPA Small Branches and perhaps it could extend to large Parliaments that are former colonies of the United Kingdom. The degree of uncertainty will depend on whether the European Union Regulatory Framework will still have direct effect on the United Kingdom. There are concerns about 'Brexit' but the uncertainties are of great concern to CPA Small Branches. 'Brexit' possesses two scenarios: either the Overseas Territories align themselves with the United Kingdom in all circumstances or depart from the agenda and programme of the United Kingdom.

Delegates heard that the implications of 'Brexit' are far reaching. However, CPA Small Branches have a good chance of dealing with the consequence of 'Brexit' by working together through sharing knowledge and extending networks to get their voices and message across clearly. Small states are not powerless if they work together.

CPA Small Branches should have a contingency plan to guard against the uncertainties arising from 'Brexit'. They have an opportunity to minimise the effects of 'Brexit' through the Commonwealth where their legislators can advance their agenda with the United Kingdom.

The three recommendations at the workshop were endorsed as follows:
- CPA Small Branches, especially sub-nationals, should effectively participate in decision making to ensure that they have input in policies that will adversely affect them.
- CPA Small Branches should extend their networks for sharing information and best practice to better tackle major common challenges such as ‘Brexit’ and climate change.
- Legislatures must recalibrate their relationship with the United Kingdom. Although risks and uncertainties predominate, the opportunities ‘Brexit’ presents must not be underestimated.

Small Branches Session 3: What professional development and training is required to develop focused and talented Parliamentarians (contd. by CPA Valued Trust)

This workshop session examined the different professional development and training models available to develop focused and talented Parliamentarians. The mentoring session saw Parliamentarians and parliament staff given the opportunity to meet different experts to fill the gap in parliamentary training.

At the end of the workshop, three recommendations were endorsed as follows:
- That Parliamentarians from CPA Small Branches are actively encouraged to seek professional development and training outside their jurisdiction in order to broaden their knowledge and understanding.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) - Email: hg.sec@cpaq.org | Tel.: +44 (0)20 7791 1460 | www.cpaq.org | Twitter @CPA_Secretariat | Facebook.com/CPAAQ
The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference - Kampala, Uganda, September 22-29, 2019

Small Branches Session 4: Climate change and the possible effects on CPA Small Branch economies and development (hosted by CPA Fijialand Islands Branch)

This workshop was premised on the discussion on climate change and its possible effects on CPA Small Branch economies and development. The discussion centred on the following contextual debate - of how climate change action can be integrated into progress towards sustainable development; with what initiatives can and how CPA Small Branches can be involved in mitigating and adapting to climate change, and what examples of mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and what examples of this action are out there; how can governments, Parliamentarians and civil society in Small Branches work together to influence the global climate change agenda?

CPA Small Branches suffer the effects of climate change the most, even as the effects are caused by the developed states culminated into a failure to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets. They must take collective action so that their voices are heard in a vitally climate change and its after-effects, which have caused great threats to the quality of life, loss of life, property and revenue.

The development of a good working relationship between the CPA and UNEP that was launched in 2014 when UNEP signed an agreement with CPA has played a very imperative role in mitigating the impact of climate change. Parliamentarians have to reach consensus on an agreement and develop appropriate policies in order to address the adverse effects of climate change.

The workshop endorsed the following three recommendations:

- Parliament must foster dialogue which leads to mechanisms for building resilience of Small Island States adapting to climate change, which adversely affect our GDP.
- Parliamentarians have a critical role in raising awareness of climate change, while developing appropriate policies and legislation to protect the environment and human rights.
- Parliamentarians should participate in initiatives and programmes by United Nations bodies that facilitate mitigation and adaptation policies, climate finance and technology in Small Island States.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) | Email: info@cpa.org | Tel: +44 (0) 30 7799 1400 | www.cpa.org | Twitter @CPA_Secretariat | Facebook.com/CPAHQ

6th triennial Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference
Overall theme: "CWP at 30: Achievements and unfinished business - Looking forward to the next 30 years"

Women Parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth gathered in Kampala, Uganda, for the triennial conference of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP), held ahead of the wider 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. The theme of the sixth Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference was "CWP at 30: Achievements and unfinished business - Looking forward to the next 30 years" in recognition of the CWPs 30th anniversary in 2019.

The CWP Conference was opened by the outgoing Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, Hon. Dr Datuk Noniati Ahmad, MP (Malaysia) who has held the office since her election in 2016 and she said: “In 2019, the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) marked its 30th anniversary and can reflect on the many successes of the past three decades. The CWP promises a world where women and men enjoy equal access to opportunities - a world where women's voices are recognized and respected. I urge all Parliamentarians, with the support of the CWP network, to pursue this vision with continued dynamism and enthusiasm.

Together we can and will hold the future we want, working towards a future of equal rights, equal opportunities and progress for all.”

Over 100 Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians attended the conference from across the Commonwealth. The CWP conference saw leading figures in Commonwealth Parliament addressing the conference.

The CWP President, (2018-2019), Hon. Syda Namirambo Bumba, MP (Uganda) spoke to the CWP conference about her experiences as a legislator in the Parliament of Uganda. The CWP Conference also heard from CWP Champion, Dr Lesley Clark, a former Member of Parliament of Queensland about the role of the CWP’s mentoring initiatives and her work with women across the Commonwealth.

In recognition of the 30th anniversary of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) in 2019, a special ceremony was held with the current and previous CWP Chairpersons: Hon. Dr Datuk Noniati Ahmad, MP (Malaysia); CWP Chairperson from 2009-2018; H.E. Rebecca Kadaga, MP; Speaker of Parliament (Uganda, 2011-2016); Hon. Alice Joyce Knights, MHA; Speaker of the House of Assembly (Dominica, 2002-2013); Ms Khuwaida Tariq (Pakistan, 2000-2005) and Hon. Indrani Mahadeo (South Africa, 2004-2010).

Ahead of the CWP Conference, the current CWP Chairperson and CWP Steering Committee met in Uganda representing the nine CPA Regions: Africa, Asia, Australia, British Isles and the Mediterranean; Canada; Caribbean; America and the Atlantic; India; Pacific; and South-East Asia.
The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference - Kampala, Uganda, September 22-29, 2019

Despite these strides, challenges such as poverty, lack of access to education, cultural practices, intimidation and mistrust were identified as factors that impede the active participation of women in politics.

Women were urged to embrace technology to address entrenched cultural and social practices for personal advancement, effectively prepare for leadership positions and cultivate spaces that allow discussions and advocacy for women to be paramount. Legislation was highlighted as key in promoting women to compete fairly for elective offices.

Through the election of women to leadership positions, parliaments become more representative of their societies and there is greater potential for positive and collective outcomes. Consequently, leaders were urged to meaningfully share their experiences, so as to connect with the electorate and leverage their networks as platforms for conversations that result in actions that will create lasting change.

A workshop on mentoring and leadership development was held to address the importance of mentorship and networking. The workshop aimed to provide a platform for experienced female MPs to share their experiences and insights with their younger counterparts.

Despite these challenges, the conference highlighted the importance of mentorship and networking in empowering women in politics. The role of technology was also emphasized as a tool for increasing access to resources and networks. The conference ended with a call for continued efforts to support and empower female MPs in their roles.
The third panel asked Members to develop strategies that put male-dominated political parties on target to implement programmes that advance women’s participation in politics.

The fourth panel asked female MPs to take advantage of the CWP Conferences, through learning from each other’s experiences and implement the lessons to better their legislative skills.

The four recommendations at the session were as follows:

- **Training, Inclusion and Capacity-Building for Female Legislators.** This will make female Members of Parliament ready for any leadership position.
- **Invest continuously and strategically focusing on mentoring women Legislators to enable them and ensure social, political, economic and legal empowerment of women and women with disabilities.**
- **Empower women in effective Legislators including those from minority groups, and ensure political environments free from gender-based discrimination for a democratic governance.**
- **Take opportunities to increase your knowledge and skills in the performance of your parliamentary duties, and to share your expertise with other Commonwealth Women Legislators.**

**CWP Session 4: Combating Bullying and Harassment Within Parliament**

This workshop session focused on the strategies to combat sexual harassment and bullying within Parliaments, which has become common culture and normalised behaviour.

The first discussion leader highlighted that there is no single definition for harassment/bullying but involves the imbalance and misuse of power; repeated and unreasonable use of words or actions that belittle, intimidate, harass, humiliate, embarass, demean and marginalise individuals. This behaviour, if not adequately addressed, has far reaching negative consequences ranging from individual to organisational, namely; the loss of productivity, personnel turnover and alienation. For Parliament, this compromises its ability to attract more women and representatives from diverse backgrounds.

The second discussion leader spoke about the need to have all complaints reported and heard by having policies in place. The idea that zero complaint means no harassment is a misconception. The importance of cultural and behavioural change, which becomes evident with as much as a 30% women representation in Legislative Assemblies, was underscored.

The final discussion leader shared her experiences stressing the need to make Parliament a safe working environment for all. The role of able leadership in breaking barriers was stressed, highlighting the importance of the Prime Minister in handling complaints, and setting up a review committee into the sexual harassment protocol.

At the end of the workshop session, three recommendations were endorsed as follows:

- **CWA Branches identify and report on procedures, policies, and frameworks within their Parliament which promote a workplace that is respectful and free from discrimination, bullying and harassment.**
- **Any country that has human rights codes should see the guidelines to frame their anti-harassment legislations and policies.**
- **Parliament must be a safe workplace for all and a model for other organisations. This requires not only words, but action, championed by the leadership.**
The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference - Kampala, Uganda, September 22-29, 2019

53rd General Meeting of The Society of Clerks-at-the-Table (SOCATT) in Commonwealth Parliament.

The 53rd Meeting of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table (SOCATT) took place in the margins of the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) in Kampala, Uganda. The meeting brought together Parliamentary Clerks and parliamentary staff from Commonwealth Parliaments to discuss the latest legislative practices and to share best practice. Mr Joffre L. Kotting, Clerk to the Parliament of Uganda, opened the Chair of the meeting and presented a paper on the parliamentary system and recent developments in Uganda.

Further presentations were made during the meeting by a number of different Parliamentary Clerks on subjects including parliamentary procedures, privileges and practice, building and heritage in Parliament, the fourth industrial revolution and the core business of Parliament, minority governments and the challenges to parliamentary clerks. The administrative and financial autonomy of Parliament; the media and the use of IT amongst Members.

Parliamentary Clerks at the meeting also heard from McGill University about the International Professional Development Program for Parliamentary Staff and its impact in building capacity. A presentation was given about the CPA launching a new online professional development course for parliamentary staff that has been developed and will be delivered in collaboration with the School of Continuing Studies at McGill University, Canada, and the International School for Government at Kings College, London.

Finally, the SOCATT meeting heard from the CPA Headquarters Secretariat about the updated CPA Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures and the self-assessment and technical assistance programmes available to assist Parliaments.

Issued by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Headquarters Secretariat on 4 October 2019 following the conclusion of the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) in Kampala, Uganda from 22-29 September 2019.