58th CPA Conference, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Opening Ceremony, Vote of Thanks, Hon. Dr. Patrick Herminie
(Seychelles)

H.E. Mr. Chamal Jayantha Rajapaksa, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka and President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association,

Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst, CPA Chairperson,

Dr William F. Shija, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Hon. Juliana O’Connor-Connolly, Small Branches Member on the Executive Committee,

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentleman, all protocol observed, Ayubowan.

I feel privileged and honoured to have been given the opportunity to extend a vote of thanks for this 58th CPA Conference on behalf of the 32nd Small Branches delegates.

I would like, first of all, to express our profound gratitude to the Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr Chamal Jayantha Rajapaksa for hosting this conference. I am particularly impressed by the warm hospitality already extended to us.

I would also like to convey our sincere thanks to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for providing an ideal platform, through the Small Branches Conference, to share our experiences on issues pertinent to small island states.

I am elated by the fact that the Commonwealth appreciates that us, small island states have to grapple with specific problems like piracy and climate change.

I harbour no doubt that given the topic to be discussed, the Conference will provide us with an even more in-depth knowledge of several key issues of extreme relevance to the promotion of parliamentary democracy.
An event of this dimension involving so many countries requires immense planning and preparation. On behalf of the small island states, I would therefore, like to commend all parties involved in its organization. I strongly believe that over the remaining days, delegates will engage in fruitful deliberations and exchanges that will ensure that the Commonwealth is even more relevant for the future.

I am also confident that the amount of effort vested in the organization of the conference will make this event a memorable one for all delegates and be as successful as last year’s.

Once again, ladies and gentlemen, our heartfelt gratitude and May God bless this conference.