

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

PROGRAMMES & PROJECTS

2021/2022

FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS
AND PARLIAMENTARY OFFICIALS



Updated June 2021

**DO YOU WANT TO BECOME AN EXPERT ON PARLIAMENTARY
PRACTICE & PROCEDURE?**

DO YOU WANT TO BE SKILLED IN SCRUTINY & OVERSIGHT?

**DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ISSUES AFFECTING
OUR WORLD AND HOW BEST TO TACKLE THEM?**

**DO YOU WANT TO BECOME AN INFLUENTIAL ADVOCATE TO
EFFECTIVELY CHAMPION YOUR CONSTITUENCY AND COMMUNITY
INTERESTS?**

**DO YOU WANT TO SEE MORE WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT WITH A
STRONG AND POWERFUL VOICE?**

**DO YOU WANT TO SUPPORT NEW MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH TO BECOME AS SKILLED AND
EFFECTIVE AS YOU?**

THEN JOIN US!

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CPA PROGRAMMES

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) seeks to promote knowledge of the constitutional, legislative, economic, social and cultural aspects of parliamentary democracy, with particular reference to the countries of the Commonwealth.

What do we offer?

- Over 110 years of facilitating shared learning between Commonwealth parliamentarians and officials
- Unique access 180 Commonwealth parliaments and over 17,000 parliamentarians.
- An established expertise in parliamentary democracy and good governance revered and respected globally.
- Opportunity for global stakeholders to participate and contribute to the development of best practice and standard-setting for Commonwealth parliaments and parliamentarians.
- IMPACT which is effective, valuable and sustainable for all!

Our approach: In our work to promote parliamentary democracy and good governance, we undertake an extensive range of programmes, project and activities. We use a number of approaches which are specifically targeted at parliamentarians, some of which are: **online courses, workshops, webinars, conferences and the development of publications, toolkits and handbooks.** Our work is focused on parliamentary practice and procedure, but we have a number of cross-cutting themes on subjects ranging from COVID-19 to the Sustainable Development Goals. Our values are Commonwealth centred and seek to uphold the highest values and principles the Commonwealth promote and adhere to.

The CPA seeks to nurture an open and wide-ranging understanding of parliamentary democracy that takes account of the national context and is in line with the Association's non-partisan, non-prescriptive and non-intrusive approach, as well as the priorities set by jurisdictions and parliaments themselves.

Through its programmes, the CPA seeks to capture 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.

The CPA's programme activities for strengthening the functioning of parliaments builds on the Association's convening power and ability to facilitate dialogue at the national, regional and pan-Commonwealth levels.

Where we work: We work with national, state, provincial and territorial legislatures, partner organisations and parliamentary strengthening practitioners all over the world. We have global reach with our Headquarters located in London and over 180 CPA Branches across 54 Commonwealth countries.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT US AND OUR WORK, HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE [HERE](#)
OR READ OUR LATEST [STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2025](#)**



THE CPA PARLIAMENTARY ACADEMY

A Centre of Excellence for Commonwealth Parliamentarians

ONLINE COURSES

Learning and striving for excellence should be a lifelong objective. With this in mind, the CPA has designed a curriculum of online courses specifically for parliamentarians and parliamentary officials. These accessible courses offer an adaptive and flexible learning approach. The courses are intended to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to fulfil their constitutional and statutory obligations as well as to enhance knowledge and understanding of the role of parliament in the democratic governance process. The CPA has brought together over 50 experienced parliamentarians, clerks and external experts from across the Commonwealth to offer their insight and advice on subjects ranging from gender-sensitive budgeting to codes of conduct.

The following online courses will be available in Spring 2021:

CPA Parliamentary Professional Development Certificate *(awarded to those that complete all the courses)*

- Induction for New Parliamentarians
- Legislative Process
- Scrutiny, Accountability and Oversight
- Representation, Advocacy and Education

CPA Parliamentary Service Professional Development Certificate *(awarded to those that complete all the courses)*

- Basic Principles of Parliamentary Procedure
- Committee System
- Administration and Management of Parliaments
- Building Relationships
- Strategy, Business Planning and Monitoring and Evaluation

Additional courses will also be rolled-out in Autumn 2021 aimed specifically at Speakers and members of our various networks.

RESIDENCY COURSES

The CPA will deliver two residency-based workshops for parliamentarians. Both will be run annually and will be an opportunity to complement the online courses.

Advanced Parliamentary Development

This 4-day course will be an opportunity for up to 30 parliamentarians to examine how to be better performing parliamentarians. Based on a mentoring and coaching approach, participants will identify practical solutions to the challenges they face and honing skills to legislate, scrutinise and represent at a higher level. The Workshop will involve simulations, role-play, one-to-one discussions, group activities and exercises to give time for mutual learning and information sharing. - **Scheduled for Spring 2022.**

Advanced Professional Development & Skills-Building

This 4-day course will enable parliamentarians to develop skills on areas like leadership; influencing and negotiation, communication - through speeches and media interviews; managing teams; diplomacy; research skills; managing finances; coping with personal issues and other skills and abilities parliamentarians need to perform at a higher level and have the knowledge and confidence to deal with any situation that arises. - **Scheduled for Autumn/Winter 2022.**

EXTERNALLY DELIVERED COURSES

The CPA, in partnership with leading international universities and professional development training institutions have designed academically rigorous accredited programmes for parliamentarians and clerks to access independently.

- The Professional Development Certificate in Parliamentary Governance and the Professional Development Certificate in Parliamentary Management delivered by the **McGill University's School of Continuing Studies - Scheduled for Autumn 2021**
- The online **King's College, University of London** Advanced Parliamentary Theory and Practice module for parliamentary officials - **Scheduled for June/July 2021.**
- Backbencher to an Effective Minister: From Campaigning to Governing delivered by the **Civil Service College** is aimed at newly appointed Ministers - **Scheduled for April 2022.**
- **Advanced Certified Course on Post-Legislative Scrutiny** is delivered by the **Institute of Advanced Legal Studies of the University of London (IALS-UoL)** and the **Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)** the online course is for one month - **Scheduled for July 2021.**

CPA MASTERCLASSES AND RESOURCE LIBRARY

As well as a range of courses, the Academy also includes a set of Masterclass video-briefings on specialist subjects, such as **gender, trade and parliamentary procedure**. The videos are aimed at building parliamentary capacity and knowledge.

Additionally, the CPA have brought together a repository of **toolkits, handbooks and other specialist publications** in one central virtual location for Members and clerks to access via the new updated CPA website.

To learn more about the Academy, related courses and access to resources, head online [here](#) or contact us at hq.sec@cpahq.org.

PRE-ELECTION SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

The CPA seeks to support newly elected parliamentarians by offering a more holistic, embedded and career-long approach to learning and development. With this in mind, the Pre-Election Planning Assistance Programme has been designed to enable parliamentary officials to assist and effectively plan for the post-election period. The Programme will assist in the development of new-Member induction toolkits, induction training schedules, a new-Members planning group (including all key stakeholders - Whips, political parties, communications teams, procedural offices, etc.) to coordinate planning. As part of this work, in 2020, the CPA assisted the National Assembly of Belize to design a new-Members Handbook.

If your Parliament wishes to have support in advance of an election then contact us at hq.sec@cpahq.org.



POST-ELECTION PROGRAMMES

For over 25 years the CPA have conducted Post-Election Seminars for parliaments at a national or sub-national level. This long-standing programme introduces newly elected parliamentarians to differing legislative systems and methods of working. The 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 Commonwealth.

The objectives are two-fold:

1. To disseminate information on diverse good practices in Commonwealth parliaments as a way of providing options to parliamentarians;
2. Promote an understanding of the way parliamentary procedures and practices can embed good governance into a system.

Over the course of 2020/2021, the CPA delivered Virtual Post-Election Seminars with Anguilla, Dominica, Bermuda, Trinidad & Tobago and provided support to the Parliament of Jamaica and Uganda in their new-Members induction programmes. Participants across all programmes highlight a significant increase in understanding of parliamentary practice and procedure.

If your Parliament is interested in conducting a Post-Election Seminar or keen to learn more about the Seminars visit us [here](#) or contact us at hq.sec@cpahq.org.

FROM
TO THE WORLD

The Commonwealth at 70: From Westminster to the World

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Founded more than a century ago, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has become a force for good governance across the Commonwealth's nations, territories and dependencies

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) traces its origin to a world vastly different from today. When it was founded in 1911 as the Empire Parliamentary Association, the world had scarcely two dozen nations which were parliamentary democracies. The British Empire was composed of one sovereign parliamentary democracy, five handful of tiny protectorates and a vast the United Nations has 193

are inspired by the "Westminster model" of parliamentary democracy.

Continuing education is necessary for all professions, and none more vital than parliamentarians and parliamentary officials who take office without the formal training and supervised practice of other professions. Legislators and staff are required to operate immediately, often in the highest positions in a country, in an unforgiving and exceptionally demanding environment. By helping parliamentarians and parliamentary officials to enhance their knowledge of the many different ways in which their operates throughout the Commonwealth, perspectives on political not alone in

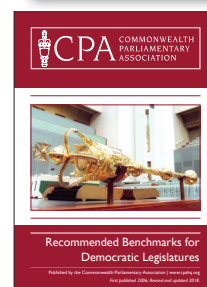
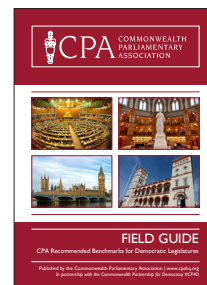


CPA BENCHMARKS FOR DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATURES

In 2018, as part of the **Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy Project (CP4D)**, the CPA relaunched its CPA Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures. These Benchmarks now incorporate **Sustainable Development Goal 16** and the **Commonwealth Charter**. Ratified and approved by Commonwealth parliaments, these minimum standards are a vital tool to strengthen legislative institutions. At a time of increased scrutiny of parliaments and of parliamentarians, the focus on measuring impact and the need to demonstrate the effectiveness of legislatures is critical.

Since 2018, **17 legislatures spanning the Commonwealth have undertaken self-assessments**. Recommendations emanating from the self-assessments have resulted in significant parliamentary reform, ranging from instituting new committees to improved financial accountability and oversight procedures.

The CPA continues to offer financial and logistical support to undertake self-assessments. If your Parliament wishes to undertake a self-assessment, contact us at hq.sec@cpahq.org.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

CPA's long-established **Technical Assistance Programmes** specifically focus on helping parliaments to fully meet the above Benchmarks. The CPA Secretariat will work closely with parliaments and parliamentarians to identify what further technical assistance they require to achieve the highest standards in good governance. These programmes cover a range of topics, from improved parliamentary oversight of trade agreements, to increasing parliamentary transparency.

In 2020/21, the CPA assisted parliaments in amending their Standing Orders and reviewing administrative and governance processes.

If your Parliament has undertaken a Benchmark self-assessment and wishes to implement recommendations and reforms, contact us at hq.sec@cpahq.org.

RESEARCH SERVICES

The CPA continues to support its member parliaments through its Commonwealth Parliaments Research Service (CPRS). The service provides authoritative comparative information on legislative practices and procedures. The Reference Service is uniquely placed to be an authoritative information source. CPRS conducts or commissions research primarily for our members, however the CPA will consider undertaking research for partner agencies on a case by case basis. Our collated research is published for broader consumption. In 2021, the CPA will publish a report on Members Pay and Remuneration which can be read [here](#).

If you would like us to assist you in conducting research, please contact us at hq.sec@cpahq.org.

SEPARATION OF POWERS & THE COMMONWEALTH LATIMER HOUSE PRINCIPLES WORKING GROUP

The Commonwealth Latimer House Principles also known as the **Commonwealth Principles on the Three Branches of Government** highlight the importance of the separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary to ensure effective governance and democracy.

First published in 1988/89, the Principles were further revised and updated in 2003 and again in 2008/09. The CPA developed the Principles in partnership with **the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association (CMJA), the Commonwealth Lawyers Association and the Commonwealth Legal Education Association**. Today these organisations work together as part of the Latimer House Working Group to advocate for the Principles and to support institutions across the Commonwealth to maintain a balanced and independent approach to governance.

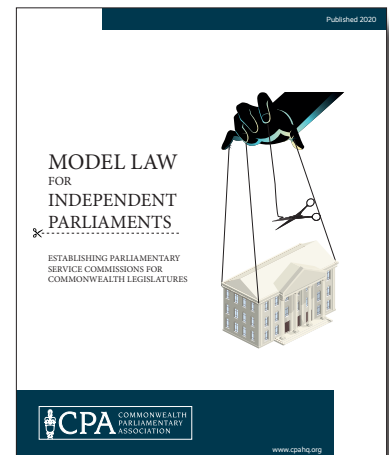
In 2020, as part of its commitment to the Principles, as well as its work in benchmarking parliaments against international standards, the CPA developed a **Model Law for Independent Parliaments**. The Model Law is designed to help empower parliaments to take control away from the executive to ensure it has the administrative, operational and financial resources needed to function effectively.

The CPA developed a number of Webinars for Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth to highlight that parliaments, especially when challenged by COVID-19, must have the resources, powers and autonomy they need to function effectively.

Throughout 2021 and beyond, the CPA will seek to continue to support parliaments in strengthening their independence and powers through a variety of events and activities.

In April 2021, the CPA in partnership with Commonwealth Lawyers Association delivered a Webinar on Lawyers, Parliamentarians and the Rule of Law. The Webinar discussed the respective roles and boundaries between lawyers and parliamentarians in relation to the Latimer House Principles and the Separation of Powers. Specifically on how do they co-operate for the good of all, what are their respective roles in properly holding governments to account and what are the challenges in post pandemic democracies.

If your Parliament wishes to seek support in strengthening its institution, contact us at hq.sec@cpahq.org.





VIRTUAL COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY WORKSHOPS

23 February - 8 March 2021

In advance of the formal [Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference](#) (CPC) which is due to be held in August 2022 in Halifax, Canada, the CPA Headquarters Secretariat have and will be continuing to deliver a set of virtual workshops for Commonwealth parliamentarians and parliamentary officials. The first set of workshops were rolled-out in the lead-up to Commonwealth Day which was marked on 8 March 2021. The workshops bring together leading experts from private, public, academic, political and international backgrounds.

The following virtual workshops took place in spring 2021:

- National Action Towards Climate Change: Role of Parliamentarians and Parliamentarians of the Commonwealth - 23 February
- Promote and Respect for International Humanitarian Law - Placing Humanity First - 25 February
- Social Media - A Curse or a Blessing - 2 March
- Leading the Way: How the Commonwealth can Empower Persons with Disabilities - 4 March
- Youthquakes and Rising Youth Activism in the Commonwealth - 8 March

The next set of workshops are scheduled for October/November 2021 and will be on:

- Parliamentary responses to countering terrorism and violent extremism
- Representation and diversity in democracy
- Relationships between state and sub-state parliaments in the Commonwealth
- Political inclusion: People with disabilities - side-lined or mainstreamed?

If you are interested in attending any or all of these virtual workshops, please contact us at hq.sec@cpahq.org.



110th Anniversary of the CPA: **VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON THE 4TH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION**

5 - 9 JULY 2021

On the 18 July 1911, the Empire Parliamentary Association (now known as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association) was established. In 2021, the CPA will celebrate its 110th Anniversary. As well as looking back at its evolution and achievements, this year will provide a valuable opportunity for the CPA to look forward and consider how the Commonwealth, parliaments and democracy may evolve over the next 10, 50 and even 100 years.

The Anniversary will comprise of a number of activities, publications and events delivered over the course of 2021. We will be delivering the **Virtual Conference on the 4th Industrial Revolution held between the 5 and 9 July 2021**. This Conference will imagine how the Commonwealth and parliaments will change and evolve over time. How will the '4th Industrial Revolution' impact upon the lives of current and future generations within and across the Commonwealth and importantly, how will parliamentarians and parliaments stay ahead of the curve? In the short-term, will technological advancement prove as viable solutions to current challenges, from ending global poverty, climate change and meeting the SDGs, to preventing future global pandemics.

If you are interested in attending this Conference find out more [here](#) or contact us at hq.sec@cpahq.org.



110th Anniversary of the CPA: **YOUTH CREATIVITY COMPETITION**

18 JULY - 10 SEPTEMBER 2021

To commemorate the 110th Anniversary of the CPA, we are also launching a new competition targeted at our Commonwealth youth. The **CPA Youth Creativity Competition** will be officially launched on the 18 July 2021 and will close on the 10 September 2021. The competition will be a chance for those up to the age of 18 to demonstrate **"What will Parliaments look like in the next 110 years?"** Young people will be able to enter the competition using a variety of methods, they could write a short essay, create a video, design a poster, or enter in any other creative format.

If your Branch is interested in supporting young people to participate in the competition find out more [here](#) or contact us at hq.sec@cpahq.org.



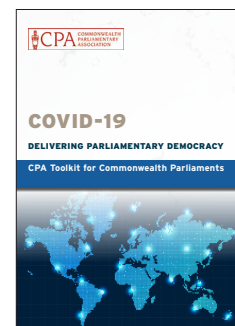
COVID-19 AND BUILDING BACK BETTER PARLIAMENTS 2021 & BEYOND

The outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has had an unprecedented global impact. Its spread has plunged countries across the world into a state of emergency. As of June 2021, nearly 4 million people have died across the world with almost 174 million people being infected. Beyond the devastatingly high death-toll, the pandemic has resulted in a major global economic downturn, burdensome restrictions on international and domestic travel, high levels of unemployment and the suspension of many national public services, from the closure of schools to suspending types of healthcare.

The need for people, behaviours, rules and institutions to rapidly adapt has been essential. Commonwealth parliaments and parliamentarians have had to grapple with many different issues both to implement emergency health measures whilst at the same time looking at new ways to conduct debates, scrutinise and pass legislation, hold parliamentary committees and question the actions of their governments. Many have succeeded, but some still struggle to function effectively.

In 2021, there is optimism in the air. In a number of countries new vaccines have been developed and introduced to their populations. The hope is that some form of normality will return. However attention now needs to be drawn towards post-COVID recovery, and in a parliamentary context, a return to old ways of working. But is that enough? Over the course of 2021 the CPA, alongside partner organisations will look closely at what parliaments and parliamentarians across the Commonwealth should do now. **Should virtual and hybrid parliaments cease? Should greater institutional efforts be made to mitigate future risks to pandemics? Should committees be established to focus on economic recovery and to investigate COVID-19 failures by the executive? Should laws which were introduced to tackle the spread of COVID-19 finally be repealed? And what steps should parliaments take to ensure longer and broader challenges are not further undermined by COVID-19, from climate change to meeting the SDGs?**

Originally published in April 2020, the CPA will update its landmark **CPA Toolkit for Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Delivering Parliamentary Democracy** in 2021 to incorporate the post-COVID period and overcoming the challenges considered above. The CPA will also deliver a number of regional webinars with Commonwealth parliamentarians and international experts to feed into this updated publication.



The CPA will also be working with other partners to examine more broader topics related to COVID.

On 15 April 2021, the CPA collaborated with Malaria No More UK, African Medical and Research Foundation, Action for Global Health and others in delivering a **webinar to examine the impact of health systems across the Commonwealth in light of COVID-19**. From disrupting supplies of essential medicines to changing health seeking behaviours, the impact of the pandemic has huge implications for health programming, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

If you wish to know more about CPA's COVID-19 plans and want to get involved, the please contact us at hq.sec@cpahq.org.



COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS NETWORK (CWP)



"PROMOTING THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN CPA BRANCHES AND WOMEN'S FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL AND PARLIAMENTARY LEADERSHIP AT ALL LEVELS."

Recognising the need to increase women's representation in political institutions, the CPA established in 1989, the [Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians \(CWP\)](#) as an integral part of the CPA. The CWP continues to work towards the furtherance of gender equality across the Commonwealth.

For 30 years, the objectives of the CWP have been to encourage women to stand for election to representative bodies by advocating the removal of barriers to their participation and to facilitate their professional contribution as Members, as well as to bring women's issues to the fore in parliamentary debates. The CWP also works to ensure that gender continues to be mainstreamed across all activities to assist legislatures to exceed the Commonwealth Heads of Government target of having women occupying no less than 30 percent of decision-making positions.

The CWP is led by its **Chairperson** and **guided in its agenda by a Steering Committee**. The **Triennial Conference of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians**, last held in Kampala, Uganda in 2019, is one of the largest gatherings of women parliamentarians globally.

The CWP actively marks **International Women's Day** across the Commonwealth and supports other global initiatives through many different **international organisations including UN Women, The Commonwealth Secretariat and Women Political Leaders**. The CWP continues to champion the **SDGs, specifically through the SDG 5 Working Group** and other international and regional commitments to protect and enhance the rights of women and girls.

The CPA supports the work of the CWP with its **Regional Strengthening Fund**, allocated to the nine CPA regions. The fund provides assistance for regions to undertake projects and events which align with the CWP's strategic objectives.

In late 2021, CWP will be delivering a **workshop to examine ways of engaging with male champions** to strengthen national parliamentary approaches in gender equality, diversity and inclusion.

CWP Alumni Initiative was launched by the CPA Headquarters Secretariat with the objective of providing a framework for former women Parliamentarians to deliver mentoring, coaching and advice to the benefit of sitting women Parliamentarians and to act as a resource for the CPA. Dr Lesley Clark, a former Member of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland in Australia was nominated to the position of **CWP Alumni Champion**.





CWP PROJECT GENDER SENSITIVE PARLIAMENTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The CWP is an active advocate, seeking to ensure parliaments are gender-sensitive institutions. In 2020, the CWP published a new set of guidelines titled **CWP Gender Sensitising Parliaments Guidelines: Standards and a Checklist for Parliamentary Change** to highlight the importance of gender sensitising across all parliaments in the Commonwealth. This work sought to update the previous work developed by the CPA in 2001. The CPA worked with Prof. Sarah Childs, a leading expert in this field in developing this updated resource.

Throughout 2021, the network has built on this initial work by delivering its Gender Sensitive Parliaments in the 21st Century Project. This project commenced in early 2021 with the roll-out of nine regional roundtables. Each roundtable has been an opportunity to introduce parliamentarians (of all genders) to the Guidelines. This will be a prelude to supporting parliaments across the Commonwealth in conducting self-assessment reviews as well as supporting individual parliaments in implementing follow-up recommendations.

Roundtables held so far are:

- **CWP Roundtable (Pacific) - 25 January 2021**
- **CWP Roundtable (Africa) - 17 February 2021**
- **CWP Roundtable (Asia)- 17 March 2021**
- **CWP Roundtable (South-East Asia)- 29 April 2021**
- **CWP Roundtable (Australia)- 27 May 2021**

Forthcoming are:

- **CWP Roundtable (India)- 24 June 2021**

Further Roundtables will be announced in due course, if you wish to participate in this Project or other CWP activities, contact us at hq.sec@cpahq.org.



CPA SMALL BRANCHES NETWORK



"TO EMPOWER SMALL PARLIAMENTS TO OVERCOME NATIONAL AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES THROUGH COOPERATION, ADVOCACY, AND THE STRENGTHENING OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE."

Over 40 CPA Branches are classified as Small Branches, legislatures whose populations are under 500,000. The CPA has recognised the challenges faced by these small legislatures and, since 1981, has facilitated a [Small Branches](#) network to enable parliamentarians from these unique jurisdictions to tackle many of their common issues, from climate change to economic development.

Led by its Chairperson and Steering Committee representing seven of the nine regions of the CPA, the network undertakes a range of programmes and projects to support its membership, namely:

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - In early 2020, the network delivered a Sustainable Economic Development Workshop in Valletta, Malta between 29-31 January. As part of the Workshop a committee was formed to scrutinise and assess SED across the Commonwealth and developed a set of recommendations. The network will continue to pursue these recommendations over the course of 2021 and 2022 through a range of workshops and bilateral programmes.

CLIMATE CHANGE - In 2020, the network produced a Climate Change and Small States a Parliamentarian's Toolkit: A Guide for Effective Climate Change Action. In the lead-up to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) held in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021, the network will continue to pursue a number of activities to embed learning from the publication and to further support small parliaments in adapting and mitigating climate change. The network will work with organisations such as UNESCO and the Commonwealth Small States Centre of Excellence and others to drive this agenda.

REGIONAL INITIATIVE FUND - Launched in 2020, the fund, specifically for small parliaments is intended to facilitate a clerk and parliamentary official exchange programme with a focus on strengthening technical capacity of the host clerk and parliament. This has been offered in 2021 for legislatures to utilise.

PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT - Formed by McGill University and led by Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the network has undertaken research specifically focused on financial oversight conducted by legislatures of small jurisdictions. Research and resources will be published in 2021. In addition, the network continues to work with the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC) in supporting smaller jurisdictions and promoting best practice.

PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE FOR SMALL PARLIAMENTS - On behalf of the network, the CPA Headquarters publishes a range of toolkits aimed specifically at small branches. In October 2020, the CPA published its Handbook on Lay Members for Commonwealth Parliaments.

38TH CPA SMALL BRANCHES CONFERENCE - To be held on the margins of the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in August 2022 in Halifax, Canada. This annual meeting will be one of the largest gatherings of parliamentarians from small states and jurisdictions. The Conference will include a number of learning and development workshops.

If you wish to learn more about the CPA Small Branches network, or see how you can get involved in its activities, contact us at hq.sec@cpahq.org.

SOME KEY INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS THE CPA WILL BE ATTENDING IN 2021-2022



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



WORLD BANK



**CHOGM
RWANDA2020**



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE

الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط



**WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION**



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES NETWORK (CPwD)



"TO ENCOURAGE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTS TO ENABLE EFFECTIVE AND FULL PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AT ALL LEVELS."

Recognising 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 representation of persons with disabilities in Commonwealth parliaments and to work towards the mainstreaming of disability considerations in all CPA activities and programmes.

In 2020, the network established its governing committee of nine regional champions. In November, it elected unanimously its first Chairperson, Hon. Kevin Murphy MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia, Canada. As well as providing strategic leadership, the Chairperson will represent the network at relevant meetings and events.

Over the course of 2021, the CPwD network will be supporting parliaments across the Commonwealth in delivering a range of activities and outputs. These include, but are not limited to the following:

CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUNDS - In August 2020, an investment fund was established to improve the physical accessibility of parliaments such as the procurement of assistive technology, or supporting persons with disabilities to seek higher office. This fund will be available for CPA regions to apply for over the course of 2021 and beyond.

WEBINARS, RESEARCH AND RESOURCES - Throughout 2021, the CPwD network will deliver a range of webinars, research publications and produce and publish a suite of video masterclasses on topics ranging from implementing disability legislation and harmonising domestic law to the use of assistive technology in improving the lives of peoples with disabilities.

To find out more about the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) network, please contact us at hq.sec@cpahq.org.





COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2021

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Young people are of great importance to the future of the world. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the Commonwealth where they form approximately 30% of the population - a demographic of over one billion people. As such, the CPA believes passionately in engaging with young people to ensure they are effective future leaders.

[CPA's youth engagement programmes](#) and interactions include, but are not limited to the following:

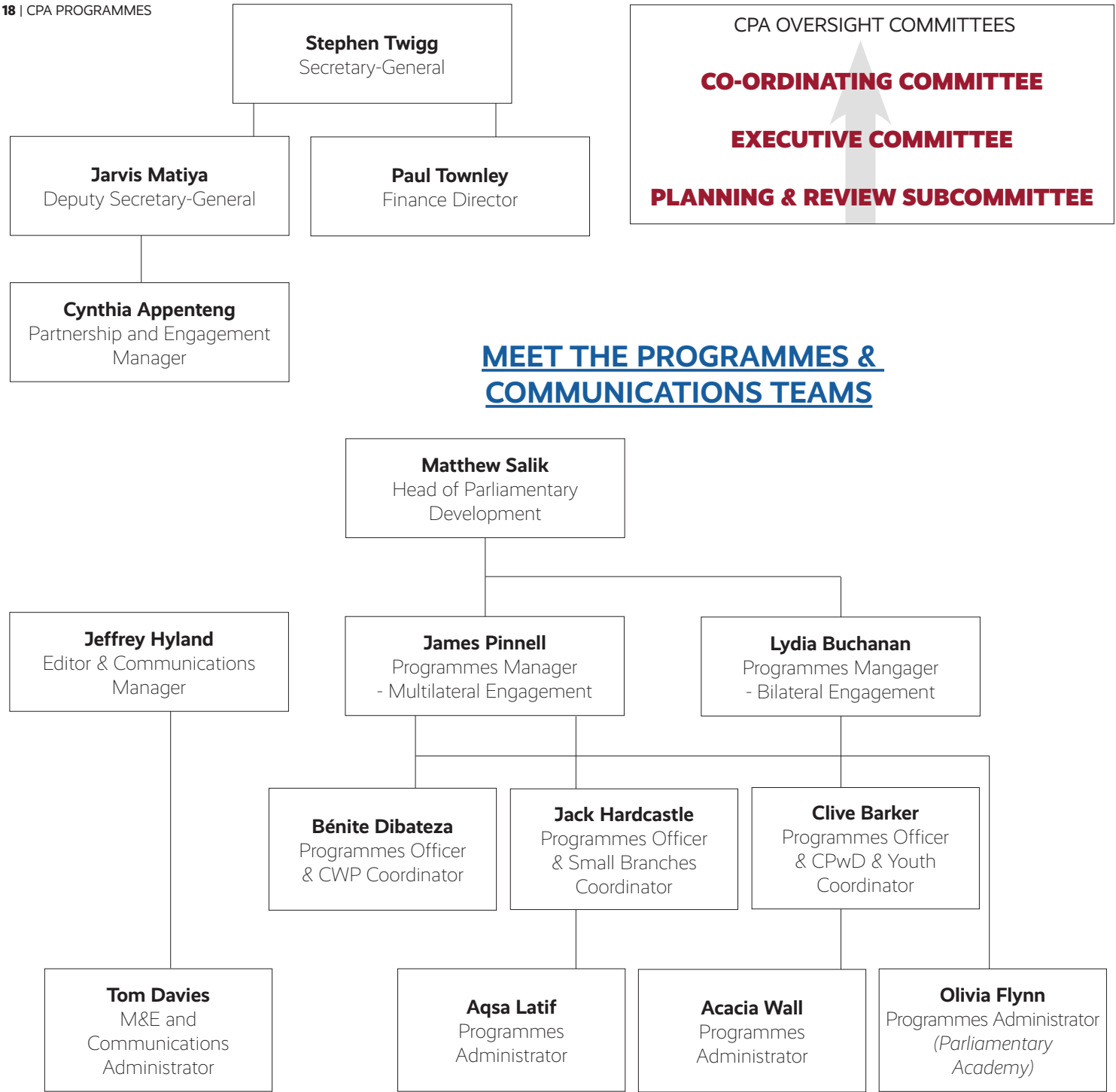
CPA ROADSHOWS - The CPA Roadshows seek to connect Commonwealth parliamentarians with young people in local schools and universities to promote democracy and Commonwealth values. This is an innovative, informal and interactive way of connecting the CPA and parliamentarians with young people in the communities they serve.

COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT (CYP) - Since 1997, the CPA have delivered a number of Commonwealth Youth Parliaments. From 2020, the CYPs are delivered in a physical format biennially, with a virtual one delivered in the intervening years. The next physical version is expected to be held in the Pacific in Autumn/Winter 2021. Over 60 young people will be invited to participate from across the Commonwealth. Taking place over the course of 4 days, participants will have a unique opportunity to represent a fictional jurisdiction as elected representatives, legislating, scrutinising and debating on key issues of the day. Participants will be able to interact with expert parliamentarians and clerks who will play the part of mentors.

The CPA also assist individual parliaments across the Commonwealth who wish to undertake national youth parliaments. In 2021, the CPA will publish an updated CYP Toolkit for parliaments to utilise.

EDUCATION AND LEARNING PACKS - The CPA has developed a number of teaching resource packs for schools in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat and British Council. Packs have also been published to assist parliamentarians to undertake outreach activities with schools and colleges in their local communities.

To learn more about our youth engagement work, please contact us at hq.sec@cpahq.org.





CPA COMMUNICATIONS AND *THE PARLIAMENTARIAN*

The CPA provides parliamentarians and parliamentary officials with access to information on the constitutional, legislative, economic, social and cultural aspects of parliamentary democracy and other issues affecting parliaments. The CPA publishes its flagship quarterly publication, *The Parliamentarian*, the Journal of Commonwealth Parliaments in print and digital formats. The CPA also produces a podcast, blog posts, social media posts, video masterclasses and the CPA Order Paper, an e-Newsletter on upcoming activities for members and external entities.

To access these and other resources, head to the CPA website at www.cpahq.org or for print copies, please contact us at hq.sec@cpahq.org.



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