



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

PARLIAMENTARY
STRENGTHENING FOR
COMMONWEALTH
PARLIAMENTS



www.cpahq.org

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

The 2024 Annual Report
covers a period in which the
name and activities of the
CPA were transferred from a
charity to a non-charity.

INTRODUCTION	1
CPA STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2022-2025	2
NEW CPA PATRON	3
2024 CPA AWARDS	4
COMMONWEALTH SPEAKERS	5
67 th COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE	6-7
WHERE WE WORK: CPA BRANCHES	8-9
PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTHENING	
CPA PARLIAMENTARY ACADEMY	10
CPA RESIDENCY COURSES	11
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES	12
CPA BENCHMARKS	13
PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS	14
RESEARCH AND RESOURCES	15
PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH	16
INTERNATIONAL DAYS & CAMPAIGNS	17
CROSS-CUTTING THEMES	
GENDER	18
DISABILITY	19
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE	20
SMALL STATES AND JURISDICTIONS	21
YOUTH	22
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION	23
2024 EVENTS	
CPA REGIONAL CONFERENCES	24-25
CPA BRANCH VISITS	26-27
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLISHING	28-29
CPA GOVERNANCE	30
CPA SECRETARIAT	31
2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY	32-33
APPENDIX: CPA OFFICERS, CPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES IN 2024	34-35

INTRODUCTION

CPA CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to present to you the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Annual Report for 2024. I am delighted to share the strengthening role of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) through its programmes, events and activities and its work in furthering the Association's Strategic Objectives.

On behalf of the Association, I would like to thank the Members of the CPA Coordinating Committee, CPA Executive Committee, all CPA Branches, CPA Regional Secretaries and CPA Secretariat team for what has been achieved in 2024. In particular, I would like to thank my predecessor as CPA Chairperson, Hon. Ian Liddell-Grainger (United Kingdom) for his leadership during the past year. Three CPA Executive Committee meetings were held in 2024 to address key governance issues with Members representing 9 CPA Regions. The first meeting was held virtually in May 2024 and the second and third meetings were held in November 2024 during the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in New South Wales. Within the pages of this Annual Report, you will find descriptions of the CPA professional development

programmes, seminars and activities work held in 2024. CPA is a unique platform of Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff of the Commonwealth and has great potential to effect innovative changes in addressing common concerns. As I stated following my election as Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee in November 2024, I hope that my election will mark a time to move forward with the Association and that all CPA Branches - large and small across the nine CPA Regions – will work together to achieve our common goals. As Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee, I present this 2024 Annual Report to colleagues on behalf of the Association.



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

CPA SECRETARY-GENERAL'S FOREWORD

Looking through this Annual Report for 2024, it is a good time for all of us in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to reflect on an important year for the CPA and the wider Commonwealth.

In October 2024, I attended the 27th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Samoa. CPA's presence at CHOGM provided opportunities for us to strengthen our partnerships within the wider Commonwealth and to ensure that the role of Parliaments and Parliamentarians is championed, emphasised and reaffirmed. We also highlighted inclusive political leadership, gender equality and disability inclusion at several events during the event.

2024 was again a very busy year for the CPA, and it continues to be an exciting time in the CPA's growth and development. Like any organisation that has stood the test of time, it is important to continually adapt to the changing needs of our membership and to demonstrate relevance, added value and good governance. The progress towards a new international legal status in the United Kingdom during 2024 provides a great opportunity to enhance our work in a variety of different ways – for example, strengthening the voices of Commonwealth Parliamentarians in international organisations including the United Nations and the Commonwealth itself.

In 2024, we continued to provide professional development, networking and knowledge sharing for Commonwealth Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. I

also had the opportunity to visit several CPA Branches to see for myself the great work that is being done to assist Legislatures in furthering their parliamentary strengthening.

The CPA launched more professional development courses through the CPA Parliamentary Academy and more than 700 delegates came together at the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in New South Wales. The CPA has continued to support the three CPA networks - the CPA Small Branches, the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) and the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD).

Through this 2024 CPA Annual Report, which has been approved by the CPA Executive Committee at its meeting in May 2025, it is confirmed that there are currently no known material, staffing or governance-related matters which have the potential to adversely affect the Association's standing and future viability that need to be brought to the attention of the Members. We will continue to build upon the CPA's long history to strengthen and champion the work of Parliaments across the Commonwealth.



Stephen Twigg
CPA Secretary-General

CPA STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2022-2025

01

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

02

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

03

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

04

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

05

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

06

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

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

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

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



CPA PATRON

NEW CPA PATRON ANNOUNCED IN 2024

In 2024, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) welcomed the announcement that His Majesty King Charles III, Head of the Commonwealth, will be the new Patron of the Association.

As Head of the Commonwealth, King Charles reinforces the links by which the Commonwealth joins people together from around the world. The King succeeds the late Queen Elizabeth II as Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Queen Elizabeth supported the organisation from her accession to the throne in 1952 and became Patron in 1989.

The King has also followed in the late Queen's footsteps in visiting many Commonwealth Parliaments and has met with many Commonwealth Speakers and Members of Parliament. Read about the King's many visits to Commonwealth Parliaments.

Founded in 1911, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has a membership of almost 180 Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures at national, state, provincial and territorial level with around 17,000 Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff across nine Regions.

The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg said: *"We are delighted that His Majesty King Charles will be the new Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. His patronage should help to raise the global profile of the CPA's work with Commonwealth Parliaments to promote parliamentary democracy and supporting Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to face the major challenges in their roles as well as our work in youth engagement, human rights, climate change and supporting small states."*



Above: During 2024, King Charles visited a number of Commonwealth Parliaments.

The King visited the Parliament of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia on 20 October 2024 to mark the bicentenary of the New South Wales Legislative Council where he was welcomed by the CPA President (2023-2024), Hon. Ben Franklin, MLC, President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales and the Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, Hon. Greg Piper, MP. The visit took place ahead of the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference hosted by the Parliament of New South Wales later in the year. During his visit, King Charles presented a gift of an hourglass to the Legislative Council of New South Wales.

During 2024, King Charles and Queen Camilla also visited the Australian Federal Parliament, the Welsh Parliament - Senedd Cymru (below right), and the States Assemblies of both Jersey and Guernsey (below left).



2024 COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

As part of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's mission to strengthen parliamentary democracy through the promotion of good governance and sharing best practice, the awards were launched in 2022 to recognise and highlight inspirational and active Parliamentarians for excelling in their field. CPA Awards are open to nominees who are current Parliamentarians* across the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's unique membership includes almost 180 national, state, provincial and territorial Legislatures. The next awards are open for nominees in 2025. Visit the CPA website or email hq.sec@cpahq.org to nominate.

PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM PAKISTAN, JERSEY, GUYANA AND NEW SOUTH WALES WIN COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE YEAR 2024 AWARDS



Hon. Khurram Ijaz Chattha, MPA, a Member of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab in Pakistan

The Commonwealth Parliamentarian of the Year 2024 Awards were announced at the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in New South Wales.

Hon. Khurram Ijaz Chattha, MPA, a Member of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab in Pakistan was announced as the recipient of the 2024 Commonwealth Parliamentarian of the Year Award in recognition of his parliamentary service and promoting good governance.

Hon. Gail Teixeira, MP from the Parliament of Guyana was awarded the 2024 Parliamentarian Life-time Achievement Award after 32 years of parliamentary service and Deputy Raluca Kovacs from the States Assembly in Jersey was awarded the 2024 New Parliamentarian Award in recognition of her contribution to promoting parliamentary democracy after only being elected two years ago.

Hon. Alex Greenwich, MP from the Parliament of New South Wales was awarded the 2024 Parliamentary Equality and Diversity Award in recognition of his commitment to LGBT+ Rights, reproductive rights and marriage equality in Australia.

The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg said: *"The Commonwealth Parliamentarian of the Year Awards aligns with our strategic objective of promoting the Commonwealth values of parliamentary democracy and sustainable development to a wide audience. Through these annual awards, the CPA recognises and highlights the invaluable contributions that Parliamentarians are making to their local communities within the Commonwealth."*



Hon. Gail Teixeira, MP from the Parliament of Guyana



Deputy Raluca Kovacs from the States Assembly in Jersey



Hon. Alex Greenwich, MP from the Parliament of New South Wales

COMMONWEALTH SPEAKERS

27TH CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH IN UGANDA

Speakers and Presiding Officers from across the Commonwealth met in Kampala, Uganda for the 27th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) which took place from 3 to 6 January 2024. Thirty-three Speakers and Presiding Officers from more than 25 Commonwealth Parliaments were hosted by the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Rt Hon. Anita Annet Among and the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Thomas Tayebwa. The Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda said: *“Your presence here at the 27th CSPOC is a testament to our commitment to the continuity and prosperity of the Commonwealth. It humbles us that many of you have travelled from land far and wide, for several hours to come and attend this conference.”*

The President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. Yoweri K. Museveni opened the conference, whose aim is to strengthen parliamentary institutions by bringing together Speakers and Presiding Officers from across the Commonwealth. The biennial conference focused on the topics of the environment and climate change, diverse and inclusive Parliaments, security for Parliaments and the role of Speakers and Presiding Officers. The conference was an opportunity to share best practice on Parliamentarians as effective legislators and representatives. The Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Jarvis Matiya, attended and met with many Speakers and Presiding Officers during the conference, as well as having the opportunity to update Members on recent CPA initiatives, including new courses for the CPA Parliamentary Academy.

CSPOC was created in 1969 by Hon. Lucien Lamoureux, 27th Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons to focus on the role of Speakers within parliamentary institutions and CSPOC is a separate independent organisation, although many of its participants are also members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. CSPOC operates on a two-year cycle, holding a conference every two years. For more information about the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) please visit www.cspoc.org.



SPEAKERS ATTEND COMMONWEALTH DAY SUMMIT IN LONDON

The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Stephen Twigg held a special CPA meeting of Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers in London in March 2024 while they were taking part in the 2024 Commonwealth Day Summit at the UK Parliament. The Speaker of the UK House of Commons, Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP along with more than 20 Commonwealth Speakers attended a special Commonwealth Speakers Summit to coincide with Commonwealth Day with Speakers and Presiding Officers attending from Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Canada, Grenada, Isle of Man, Kenya, Kiribati, Malawi, Malta, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, Tanzania, The Gambia, Tonga, Turks and Caicos Islands, Wales and Zambia.



67th COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE, NEW SOUTH WALES

‘Engage, Empower, Sustain: Charting the Course for Resilient Democracy’



Commonwealth Parliamentarians attended the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) and associated meetings to recognise the Commonwealth’s commitment to democracy and met under the conference theme of ‘Engage, Empower, Sustain: Charting the Course for Resilient Democracy’.

The conference, hosted by the Parliament of New South Wales from 3 to 8 November 2024 in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia was attended by over 700 Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Clerks representing Parliaments and Legislatures from across the Commonwealth. The CPA Vice-Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley, AC KC, Governor of New South Wales, urged delegates to work together to uphold democratic principles and the values of the Commonwealth as she opened the 67th CPC. The conference was hosted by the CPA President (2023-2024), Hon. Ben Franklin, MLC, President of

the Legislative Council of New South Wales. The 67th CPC was the first time that the CPA New South Wales Branch had hosted the event and also the first time that an Australian State or Territory hosted the CPA annual conference.

During the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, there were also a number of additional conferences and meetings including: 40th CPA Small Branches Conference; 8th Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference; meetings of the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) network; the CPA General Assembly; governance meetings of the CPA Executive Committee; and the 58th Society of Clerks-at-the-Table (SoCATT) meeting.

The 67th CPC also included the 2nd CPA Emilia Monjowa Lifaka Lecture by lawyer Hon. Michael Kirby which highlighted the key role for Parliamentarians in promoting and protecting human rights.

CPA President (2023-2024), Hon. Ben Franklin, MLC, President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales said: *“As we mark the bicentenary of the New South Wales Legislative Council this year, one of our biggest celebrations will, of course, be the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) and CPA General Assembly, which the CPA New South Wales Branch is honoured to host. The conference will enable us all to imagine the future of democracy and ensure its resilience in the face of current and future threats.”*



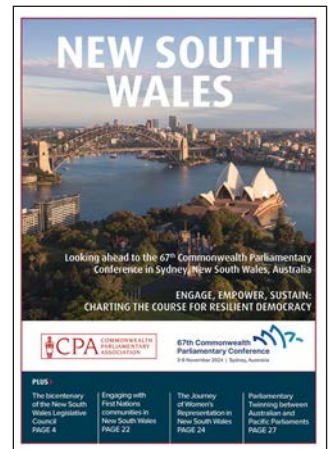
67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

3-8 November 2024 | Sydney, Australia



Key decisions and outcomes from the CPA General Assembly included updates on CPA Status; CPA Membership Report and future subscriptions; budgets and finance reports. The CPA General Assembly also included a topical debate 'Votes vs Likes – the Role of Parliament in Strengthening Democratic Resilience in an Age of Fake News and Synthetic Media'. During the 2024 CPA General Assembly, CPA Members elected Hon. Dr Christopher Kalila, MP (Zambia) as the Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee for a three-year term.

The annual conference also explored a wide range of workshop topics including the use of Artificial Intelligence and technology; the security of MPs; ending human trafficking; combatting discrimination legislation; supporting LGBT+ and people with disabilities to participate in Parliaments and engaging with indigenous peoples.



A special supplement to *The Parliamentarian* was published ahead of the 67th CPC featuring articles from the Members and parliamentary staff at the Parliament of New South Wales.



The Prime Minister of Australia, Hon. Anthony Albanese, MP said to delegates at 67th CPC:

“Democracy is the backbone of our Parliaments. A strength demonstrated in the tremendous diversity and mobilising power of the nations represented at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. But democracy is more than abstract - it’s about making a positive difference, delivering for people, taking on the big challenges. Challenges like tackling climate change and seizing the economic opportunities of clean energy. Challenges we will take on together. Thank you for the contribution you make to life and the strength of Parliaments around the world.”



WHERE WE WORK: CPA BRANCHES ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

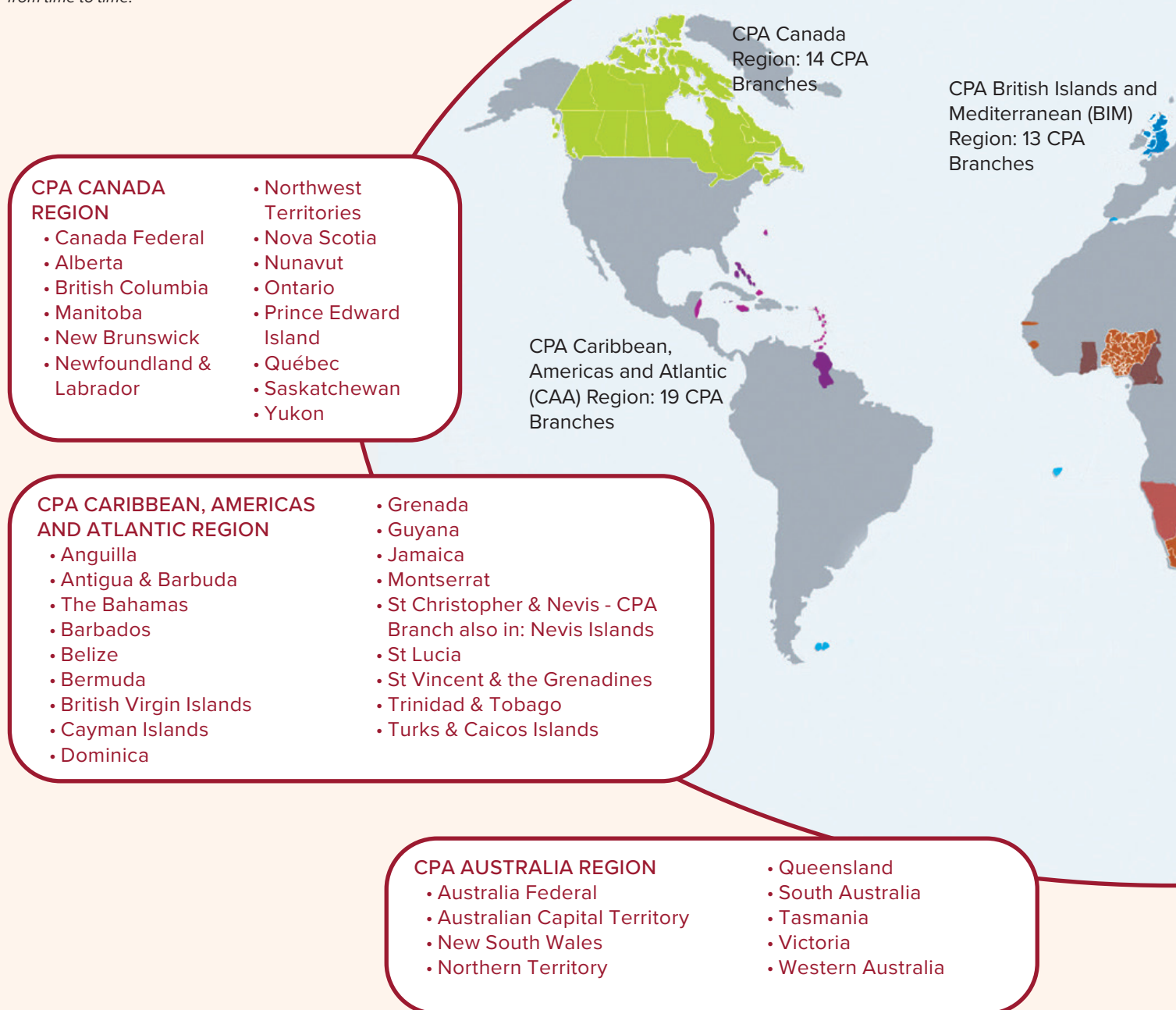
The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) works across the Commonwealth and represents more than 180 Parliaments and Legislatures in 53 out of 56 Commonwealth countries.

The CPA network extends to over 17,000 Parliamentarians and Parliamentary staff.

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

At 31 December 2024, there are 188 eligible CPA Branches* distributed across the CPA's nine Regions.

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



CPA INDIA REGION

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

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

CPA BRITISH ISLANDS AND MEDITERRANEAN REGION

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

CPA PACIFIC REGION

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

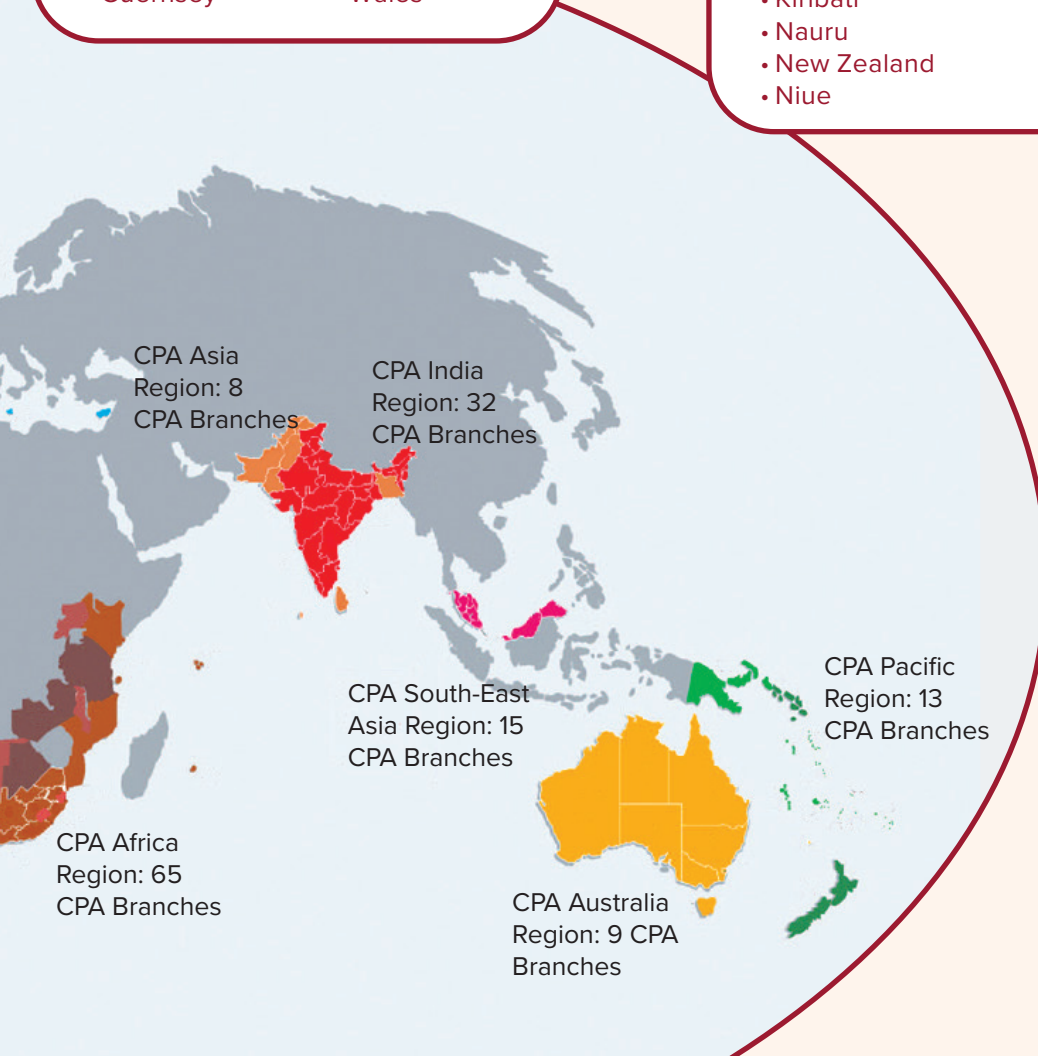
- Papua New Guinea - CPA Branch also in: Bougainville
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

CPA SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

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

CPA ASIA REGION

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



CPA AFRICA REGION

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

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

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

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

CPA PARLIAMENTARY ACADEMY

The CPA Parliamentary Academy provides online and in-person training opportunities for Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff. The portfolio of parliamentary professional development courses has been developed for the benefit of the CPA's membership with an online learning portal that includes video tutorials and online resources. Members and parliamentary staff can also apply for residency-based workshops each year that complement the online courses.

Visit www.cpahq.org/parliamentary-academy to find out more and to register your interest.

CPA LAUNCHES NEW HUMAN RIGHTS COURSE

In 2024, the CPA launched a new online course for its Parliamentary Academy; 'Human Rights: A Parliament's Role'. The CPA Parliamentary Academy has been developed for the benefit of the CPA's membership of 180 Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures. It provides parliamentary professional development courses online and through Academy residency events.

The new human rights course provides Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff with a comprehensive understanding of human rights and the critical role that Parliaments play in their protection and promotion. The material explores parliamentary action at local, national and international levels, examining how Parliaments can develop and implement human rights legislation, conduct oversight and hold governments to account.

The course also looks at how Parliaments can engage with civil society, promote public awareness and address specific human rights challenges such as discrimination and access to justice. Through case studies and best practices, the course will empower participants to champion human rights within their Parliaments and contribute to positive change in their communities and beyond.

This course was developed in partnership with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI). Sneh Aurora, CHRI Director said: *"This course is for those who wish to become familiar with the international human rights framework and to see how Parliamentarians can protect human rights through their work. This course takes a closer look not only at what human rights are, but also their importance in policy development and policy implementation."*

The course allows Legislators to learn from other Parliamentarians and experts in human rights, with video contributions from the Parliaments of South Africa and Canada, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Nigeria's Representative on the UN CEDAW Committee, the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories (Canada) and the Seychelles National Assembly.

All online courses are available to Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff across the CPA's membership as part of the CPA Parliamentary Academy. Visit www.cpahq.org/parliamentary-academy to find out more and to register your interest.



CPA PARLIAMENTARY ACADEMY

HUMAN RIGHTS: A PARLIAMENT'S ROLE



CPA RESIDENCY COURSES

CPA PARLIAMENTARY ACADEMY IN MALAYSIA

The CPA Parliamentary Academy Residency programme was held for 30 Commonwealth Parliamentarians. The CPA programme examined how MPs can be better performing legislators and scrutineers and provided an extension of the CPA's portfolio of online courses specifically for Parliamentarians and parliamentary officials. The CPA Advanced Parliamentary Development Residency Programme was hosted by the Parliament of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur from 22 to 28 September 2024.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives (Dewan Rakyat) at the Parliament of Malaysia, H.E. Tan Sri Dato' Johari bin Abdul said: *"The Parliament of Malaysia was delighted to welcome Commonwealth Parliamentarians for the latest CPA Parliamentary Academy Residency. The provision of training, networking and parliamentary exchange is vital for the professional development of Members of Parliament and the Parliament of Malaysia values these opportunities to work with colleagues from across the Commonwealth. The shared experiences and insights gained here will not only enhance our collective parliamentary practices but will also deepen the mutual understanding that underpins the Commonwealth's enduring spirit of unity. It is through such programs that we continue to build bridges, exchange ideas, and create networks that would last well beyond the duration of this residency."*

Participants were mentored throughout the programme by current and alumni Parliamentarians and Clerks from Seychelles, Western Australia, Malta and Malaysia. Delegates at the Residency programme also visited the Selangor State Legislative Assembly where they were received by the Speaker, Hon. Lau Weng San, met with State Members for a discussion on legislative reform and toured the Parliamentary Chamber.



FIRST ACADEMY RESIDENCY FOR PARLIAMENTARY CLERKS IN SRI LANKA



Over forty Commonwealth Clerks and parliamentary officials from across the CPA's membership attended the CPA Advanced Residency Programme for Leadership in Parliament in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 9 to 15 June 2024. This was the first Residency Programme held for Clerks and parliamentary officials as part of the CPA Parliamentary Academy.

The programme is designed for parliamentary officials and enhances skills ranging from leadership and strategic thinking to project management and conflict resolution. One Clerk

said: *"This was a fantastic CPA programme that brought together different perspectives from around the Commonwealth to learn from each other and to develop our skills in managing Parliaments, both large and small."* The programme was co-hosted with the Parliament of Sri Lanka where the Speaker, Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, MP said that parliamentary officials have a great responsibility to serve their countries by strengthening democracy. The Secretary-General of the Sri Lanka Parliament, Mrs Kushani Rohanadeera added that the aim of this CPA programme is not only to enrich professional skills but also to foster a culture of continuous learning and development within parliamentary institutions.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

CPA BUDGET SEMINAR FOR PARLIAMENT OF MALAWI

The CPA delivered a Seminar on Budget Scrutiny and Oversight for parliamentary staff at the Parliament of Malawi in Lilongwe from 6 to 7 April 2024. The Seminar was designed to equip parliamentary staff with new skills and knowledge in order to provide effective scrutiny and oversight of Government's budget. The seminar was delivered as part of a CPA Technical Assistance Programme (TAP) implemented following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the CPA Headquarters and the Parliament of Malawi in October 2023. The CPA TAP has provided learning and development for upskilling of the Legislature, its Members and parliamentary staff in several areas, including public engagement (Communications and Outreach) and post-legislative scrutiny.



The Budget Seminar was delivered by two experts from The Scottish Parliament and the UK House of Commons Scrutiny Unit and included sessions on Roles and Responsibilities in Oversight, The Budget Process in Malawi, Engaging Stakeholders in the Budget Process, Financial Reporting and Accountability, and Public Reporting in the Budget Process. The First Deputy Speaker of the Malawi Parliament, Hon. Madalitso Kazombo, said that effective scrutiny and implementation of the national budget needs skilled and knowledgeable Members and that the workshop allowed Members of the Budget and Finance Committee to strengthen their knowledge of the budget process and learn best practice from around the Commonwealth. The initiatives being delivered as part of the CPA TAP will support the Parliament of Malawi to build the capacity of Members and parliamentary staff in the key areas of focus identified during the self-assessment process and to implement the report's recommendations.

CPA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GAMBIA'S FIRST CODE OF CONDUCT

The CPA visited The Gambia from 26 to 29 March 2024 to provide technical assistance in the drafting of the National Assembly's first Code of Conduct for Members. Speaking about the project, the CPA Gambia Branch President, Rt Hon. Fabakary Tombong Jatta, MP, Speaker of the National Assembly said: *"Enhancing public trust in our Parliament and its Members is of vital importance and so we are delighted to be working with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in the development of our first Code of Conduct for Members. The CPA has led the way in parliamentary strengthening through the development of the 'Benchmarks for Codes of Conduct' and the updated 'Standards for Codes of Conduct for MPs and the Parliamentary Workplace' and in the implementation the good governance values of the Commonwealth. We look forward to developing these Codes of Conduct for the National Assembly of The Gambia."* Experts from the UK House of Commons and UK House of Lords provided guidance on the drafting of the new Code of Conduct. In recent years, the CPA Gambia Branch has worked closely with the CPA Headquarters on a self-assessment against the CPA's Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures for the National Assembly and the CPA's Model Law for Parliaments was utilised in the revised Standing Orders for the National Assembly.



CPA BENCHMARKS FOR DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATURES

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

CPA BENCHMARKS ASSESSMENTS FOCUS ON PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTHENING AND REFORM

The CPA's 'Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures' provide a framework for excellence in Commonwealth parliamentary and legislative practice and were updated in 2018 to include the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 16 on strong and sustainable democratic institutions. The CPA Benchmarks were endorsed by 54 Commonwealth Member Countries at the time and the CPA's membership of almost 180 Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures.

In 2024, the CPA continued the Good Governance Project with funding from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to further promote parliamentary democracy and good governance across the Commonwealth.

Through the project, the CPA was able to deliver further CPA Benchmarks assessments in Samoa, Eswatini, Niue, Lesotho, The Maldives, Kiribati and the Solomon Islands in 2024. A further CPA Benchmarks took place in St Kitts and Nevis funded through the CPA Headquarters.

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

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

Outcomes from recent CPA Benchmarks assessments have included the National Assembly of Kenya translating their Standing Orders into Kiswahili and the publishing of an e-newsletter to increase public outreach. In Belize, following a

CPA Benchmarks assessment, the House of Representatives developed a new Code of Conduct, updated their Standing Orders and established a Women's Parliamentary Caucus, demonstrating the valuable use of the CPA Benchmarks across the Commonwealth.

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



PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS

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

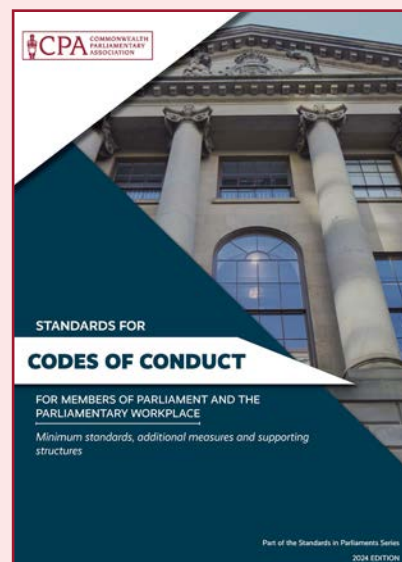
The CPA is a member of the Commonwealth Latimer House Principles Working Group and seeks to champion its principles of the separation of powers between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary to ensure effective governance and democracy. The rule of law is a fundamental principle upon which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

UPDATED CODES OF CONDUCT FOR MPs AND THE PARLIAMENTARY WORKPLACE

Parliamentarians are entrusted with significant power and responsibility in a democratic society and as such must demonstrate the highest ethical standards. As stipulated in the CPA's *Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures*, Parliaments should promote values around ethical governance. Codes of conduct for Members of Parliament help to maintain public trust and establish ethical standards, help to prevent corruption and the abuse of power, and seek to prevent harassment and bullying within the workplace. Guidelines also provide a framework for public officers to uphold the highest standards of good governance.

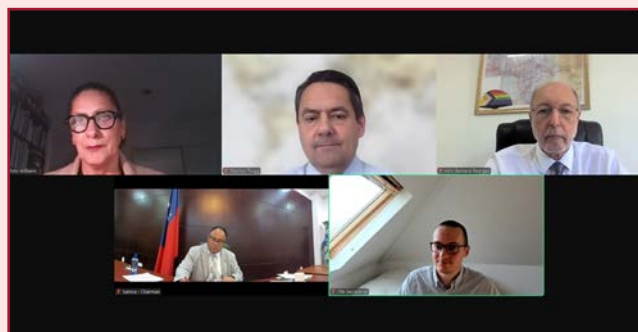
As a result of extensive research and consultation with Parliaments across the world, the CPA published the '*Standards for Codes of Conduct for Members of Parliament and the Parliamentary Workplace*' for use by Parliaments and Legislatures in 2024. Speaking about the updated standards, the CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg said: *"I strongly encourage all Parliamentarians and parliamentary officials to study the CPA's updated 'Standards for Codes of Conduct for Members of Parliament and the Parliamentary Workplace'. The CPA recognises that no single Parliament is a source of 'best practice' in all areas and that all Parliaments are sources of valuable innovations regardless of their size or age and that in fact there are many forms of 'good practice'; which is why the updated Standards for Codes of Conduct are so valuable as they are drawn from good practice across the Commonwealth. The CPA's commitment in championing the highest principles of parliamentary democracy mean that we will continue to work with Commonwealth Parliaments to help them adopt new or updated Codes of Conduct where requested."*

With the need for continuous improvement and tackling the additional challenges of harassment, bullying and abuse in the workplace as well as the challenges of new technology and online harms, the CPA Secretariat worked with Deakin University to develop an updated set of Standards for Codes of Conduct.



CPA HUMAN RIGHTS WEBINAR MARKED 100 DAYS TO CHOGM 2024

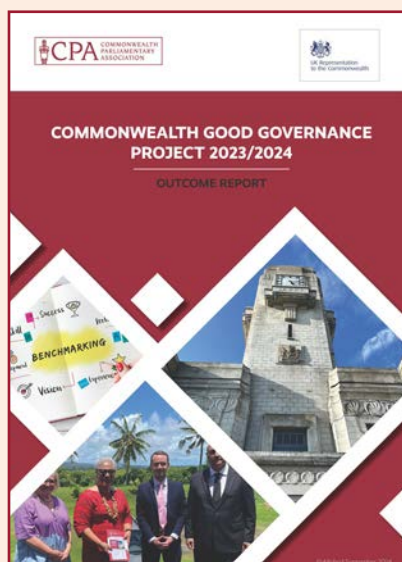
Commonwealth MPs examined the role of democratic institutions in upholding human rights protections in a climate of increasing erosion of citizens' rights during a CPA webinar. The Deputy Speaker of Samoa, Hon. Mulipola Aloitafua Au'uapaau, Hon. Bernard Georges, MNA from the National Assembly of Seychelles, Hon. Munokoa Poto Williams, former Member of Parliament from New Zealand, and the CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg joined the webinar which marked 100 days to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Samoa in October 2024.



RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Through its research, publications and knowledge sharing approach, the CPA seeks to capture and disseminate the diverse experiences of parliamentary democracy from across the Commonwealth. Through the sharing of ideas and practices, the CPA is able to expand its comparative knowledge on parliamentary strengthening recognising the diverse challenges that many Commonwealth jurisdictions face. In 2024, the CPA continued to develop its diverse publications and toolkits, which although are primarily intended for Parliamentarians, are also beneficial to policymakers, governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

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



PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

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

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



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

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

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

INTERNATIONAL DAYS AND CPA CAMPAIGNS

In 2024, the CPA membership marked a number of International Days including International Day of Parliamentarism (World Parliament Day), International Women's Day, International Day of Democracy, International Education Day, International Day of Disabled Persons and UN Human Rights Day with events and activities in Commonwealth Parliaments and social media campaigns to raise awareness.

PARLIAMENTS CELEBRATE COMMONWEALTH DAY 2024

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) celebrated Commonwealth Day 2024 on Monday 11 March across the CPA's nine Regions and around 180 Parliaments and Legislatures. The theme for Commonwealth Day 2024, and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Samoa in October 2024, was *'One Resilient Common Future: Transforming our Common Wealth'*. The theme highlights how the 56 member countries must harness their strengths by **building resilience, unlocking potential, leveraging the 'Commonwealth Advantage' and fostering a connected, digital Commonwealth**. This transformation is vital to ensure a resilient common future where no one is left behind.



As the Head of the Commonwealth, His Majesty King Charles III released a special video message, in which he said: *"The seventy-fifth anniversary of The Commonwealth is a moment to reflect on the remarkable journey that our unique family of free and independent nations has made since 1949. And the Commonwealth's growth, with new members continuing to join our family of nations, demonstrates clearly that whilst we may not all have a shared history, we have common ambitions for a better future – working together to build resilience and respond to global challenges.*

The Commonwealth family is strongest when we are connected, through friendship. We recognise today that our diversity is our greatest strength. The Commonwealth represents a third of humanity, from all regions of the world, with all the different experiences, knowledge, and aspirations that this brings.

I cannot say often enough that it is by coming together that we create the best chances to improve our world and the lives of people everywhere. Indeed, over the years countless people across the Commonwealth have been inspired to form their own Commonwealth Associations, from lawyers and accountants, to business and trade networks, and many more besides. The work they do is absolutely vital, sharing professional knowledge, experience, and expertise across the Continents for the betterment of each one of us."

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

The CPA Secretary-General said: *"As we celebrate Commonwealth Day 2024, we recognise the work of Commonwealth Parliaments and Parliamentarians in promoting our democratic values and principles. 2024 is set to be a busy and important year for the CPA and the wider Commonwealth with the 27th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC). In addition, the CPA will host the 12th Commonwealth Youth Parliament (CYP) which will be an important part of the CPA's contribution to the 'Commonwealth Year of Youth' which continues this year."*

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



GENDER

In 2024, the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network continued to provide capacity building for Parliaments and building awareness for all Parliamentarians, male and female, to include a gender perspective in all aspects of their role. The CWP network also continued to assist Parliaments in becoming gender-sensitive institutions.



WOMEN MPs AIM FOR MORE WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP ROLES IN PARLIAMENTS

Women Parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth held their 8th Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference in Sydney, New South Wales in November 2024 to discuss women's representation in Parliaments, gender sensitisation and quotas amongst a wide range of topics. The main theme of the conference was: 'Engaging, Promoting and Retaining Women in Power' and included a series of four workshops and governance meetings for delegates. The CWP Chairperson, Hon. Dr Zainab Gimba, MP, welcomed delegates alongside the CWP President (2024), Ms Lynda Voltz, MP (New South Wales). The CWP Business meeting updated on the CWP network's activities during the previous year and the plans for the year ahead.



Commonwealth Parliamentarians from 18 jurisdictions came together in Abuja, Nigeria to examine the parliamentary responses to gender-based violence (GBV) and ensuring that gender justice prevails at the CWP Workshop from 20 to 22 August 2024 hosted in partnership with the National Assembly of Nigeria. Delegates looked at the challenges in addressing and changing attitudes to GBV as well as the political commitment to provide much needed transformation.

The CWP Chairperson said: "The CWP aims to empower both male and female Parliamentarians in developing their skills to work towards eliminating all forms of Gender-Based Violence with specific attention to combatting violence against women, addressing global challenges such as violence against women in politics, online or technology-facilitated violence and in examining discriminatory laws."

In December 2024, the first Gender-Sensitive Legislation Workshop was held in Pakistan to encourage gender-sensitive institutions. The Workshop was held under the leadership of the Pakistan Women's Parliamentary Caucus Secretary, Hon.

Dr Shahida Rehmani, MNA in partnership with the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) and was attended by women Members of Parliament from Pakistan (Federal and Provincial Assemblies), The Maldives and Sri Lanka as well as the CWP Chairperson. The CWP aims to help Parliaments to become gender-sensitive institutions and to encourage all Members to include a gender perspective in all aspects of their role - legislation, oversight and representation.

New 2024 data:
Numbers of
Women in
Parliaments
across the
Commonwealth



VISIT WWW.CPAHQ.ORG



DISABILITY

In 2024, the CPA continued to recognise the need to increase representation of persons with disabilities in political institutions. The Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities



(CPwD) network has been established to facilitate activities and programmes to champion and increase the representation of persons with disabilities in Commonwealth Parliaments and to work towards the mainstreaming of disability considerations in all CPA activities and programmes.

MPs HIGHLIGHT REHAB CENTRE WORKING WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

The Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) network, led by the CPwD Chairperson, Hon. Laura Kanushu, MP (Uganda), highlighted the work of a local rehabilitation centre working with persons living with disabilities. The CPwD Chairperson, accompanied by the Regional Champions of the network, went to the Royal Rehab Ryde, a rehabilitation hospital, in



Sydney to see their work and tour the Brain and Spine Injury Units and the Royal Rehab Lifeworks Unit. The visiting CPwD Regional Champions and Members also participated in an interactive demonstration on Wheelchair Basketball and Tennis. The outreach visit was organised through Hon. Liesl Tesch, MP (New South Wales Legislative Assembly) who is the CPwD Regional Champion for the CPA Australia Region.

The CPwD Regional Champions also met for their annual governance meeting to set the agenda of the network for the year ahead and review CPwD activities including the Capital Investment Fund supporting Commonwealth Parliaments to become more accessible. Delegates at the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Sydney also joined a workshop on creating inclusive elections for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) which examined practical examples of inclusion during election campaigns and processes and featured CPwD Regional Champions as guest panellists.



Above: Panellists at the CPC Workshop on creating inclusive elections for persons with disabilities included (left to right) CPwD Chair, Hon. Laura Kanushu, MP (Uganda); Mr Jeremy Balfour, MSP (Scotland); and Senator Hon. Isaiiah Jacob (Malaysia).



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The international community has made commitments on sustainable development and tackling climate change. These commitments are important tools for Parliamentarians in their work. In 2024, the CPA has continued to support our Members so that they can be effective advocates for sustainable development in their Parliaments. We have worked in partnership with international organisations working in this important sphere.

The CPA re-committed its pledge to ensure CPA operations are more environmentally sustainable including the use of virtual meetings where possible to reduce air travel, a reduction in the number of physical publications and printed materials and a reinforcement of our paperless policy for governance meetings.

CPA AT 27TH COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN SAMOA

Every two years, Commonwealth countries and organisations convene for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). In 2024, the 27th CHOGM took place from 21 to 27 October 2024 in Apia, Samoa. This was the first time that a small Pacific Island nation hosted the event and the CPA attended various events represented by Commonwealth Parliamentarians from different jurisdictions and the CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg. Events focused on CPA's cross-cutting themes, including: the importance of inclusive



political leadership; ensuring that the parliamentary voice is heard as the new Commonwealth Secretary-General was appointed; and emphasising the role of small jurisdictions in the fight against climate change, especially considering Samoa's status as the first Pacific small island host nation for CHOGM.

The CPA's keynote side-event on the theme of 'Intersectional Political Leadership: Empowering Underrepresented Voices' took place with with Parliamentarians from Fiji, South Africa and New Zealand and the CPA Secretary-General presented to the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Roundtable. Hon. Priyanca Radhakrishnan, MP (New Zealand) also represented the CPA's Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) network at a panel event entitled 'Developing Disability Inclusion and Equality Across the Commonwealth'. This side-event was organised by the Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum.



SMALL STATES AND JURISDICTIONS

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



in parliamentary strengthening, development and cooperation. CPA Small Branches are classified as jurisdictions (national and sub-national) with populations of under 1 million inhabitants. In 2024, the network continued to deliver on its strategic priorities including climate change, sustainable economic development, connectivity and innovation, financial scrutiny and human rights.

CLIMATE CHANGE EXPERTS EXAMINE ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE IN SMALL JURISDICTIONS

Small jurisdictions in the Commonwealth often face unique environmental challenges due to their size, isolation and vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. Commonwealth Parliamentarians came together with policy experts at a CPA Small Branches Workshop on Legislative Leadership for Environmental Resilience in Hawaii, USA from 23 to 25 July 2024 in partnership with the East-West Center and the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory ASU, both experts in this field of research and policy development. The workshop focused on enhancing capabilities to promote environmental resilience, addressing global challenges like climate change, disaster risk management and sustainable energy transitions. This initiative aligns with the CPA's broader mission to



upskill Parliamentarians, equipping them with the practical tools and knowledge essential for their role as community representatives, legislators and scrutineers. Delegates attended from CPA Branches in Antigua and Barbuda, Australian Capital Territory, British Virgin Islands, Niue, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Tonga, Turks and Caicos Islands and Tuvalu.

FOCUS ON BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE AND INNOVATIVE FUTURE FOR THE SMALLEST JURISDICTIONS

Commonwealth Parliamentarians met at the 40th CPA Small Branches Conference in New South Wales in November 2024 to examine practical solutions for building a sustainable and innovative future for the smallest jurisdictions. The conference discussed strategies to meet the unique developmental needs of the CPA's smallest Legislatures through key thematic workshops that helped to build parliamentary capacity while also creating greater opportunities for the sharing of knowledge, parliamentary strengthening and cooperation across the network. The outgoing



CPA Small Branches Chairperson, Joy Burch, MLA, Speaker of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly said: *"The CPA Small Branches Conference helps to build capacities for the small Parliaments and Legislatures of the Commonwealth and create greater and more constant opportunities for the sharing of knowledge and cooperation across the CPA network. The CPA Small Branches come together to address their common difficulties, common strengths and their shared experiences."* In the margins of the conference, the CPA Small Branches Steering Committee met to discuss the strategic direction for the network.

The CPA Small Branches network's Members also elected Hon. Valerie Woods, MNA, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belize as the new CPA Small Branches Chairperson at the conference.



YOUTH

Youth engagement and education are central to our values. In 2024, our work included the Commonwealth Youth Parliament (CYP), the development of educational resources and outreach programmes. These programmes aimed to increase awareness of the important work done by the CPA in promoting democratic governance across the Commonwealth and connecting Parliamentarians with young people in schools, colleges and universities to inspire the next generation of young leaders.

YOUNG LEADERS DEBATE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE AT 12th COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PARLIAMENT IN NEW ZEALAND

65 young people from 39 Commonwealth jurisdictions took part in a three-day 'mock' Parliament organised by the CPA. The 12th Commonwealth Youth Parliament (CYP) was hosted by the Parliament of New Zealand in Wellington from 2 to 5 September 2024. Participants aged 18 to 29 acted as Members of the 'Parliament of Okifenua', a fictional island nation of 2.5 million people in the South Pacific. They represented four mock political parties, two of which were in a governing coalition and two who represented the opposition.

The CPA President and President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, Hon. Ben Franklin, MLC welcomed the participants, adding: *"This isn't just a chance to observe how a Parliament works - it's your chance to get hands-on experience, to debate, to challenge ideas and to really understand the processes that shape governance."*

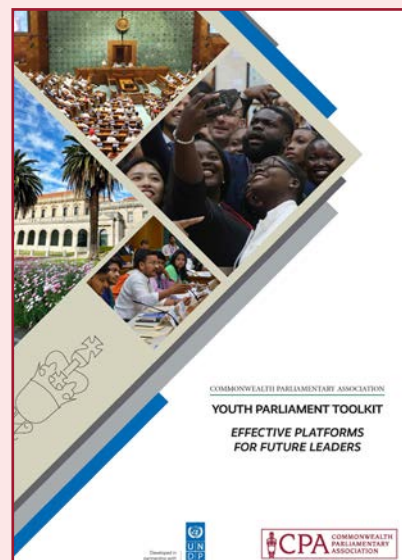
Two New Zealand MPs - Hon. Teanau Tuiono and Hon. Francisco Hernandez - served as the Speaker during their proceedings and youth delegates were supported by experienced political mentors from Victoria and New Zealand.

A delegate from Guyana, Nicholas Sagadaya, was selected for the role of Prime Minister and he said: *"The Commonwealth Youth Parliament allowed everyone the chance to experience a rich culture from New Zealand as well as the parliamentary procedures. Overall, it was a positive experience."*



YOUTH PARLIAMENT TOOLKIT LAUNCHED FOR PARLIAMENTS

Youth engagement has been an important long-term commitment of the CPA and it is with these ideals in mind that the CPA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) developed a new resource on Youth Parliaments in 2024. As the publication highlights, the shape and scope of a Youth Parliament or its equivalent youth engagement programme can vary from place to place, nevertheless whatever approach is taken, its need cannot be underestimated. The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg said: *"The political participation of young people has the potential for tremendous impact. To avoid tokenism, young people's right to participate fully should be taken seriously and the voices of young people heard. Young people have a vital role to play in public discussion about how best to meet the social, economic, technological and political challenges of the future. We hope that this new Toolkit on Youth Parliaments will provide comprehensive advice and support stakeholders in establishing and strengthening Youth Parliaments as effective platforms for young changemakers and future leaders."* The Youth Parliament Toolkit contains expert advice on establishing, planning, running and promoting a Youth Parliament with additional case studies from across the Commonwealth.



TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

In 2024, the CPA continued to draw on the lessons learnt in recent years in the development of technology and innovation in order to support our membership and to deliver on our strategic priorities. The CPA Headquarters employs a wide range of innovative techniques and virtual opportunities to share best practice across our programmes, governance and support the membership. However, we also recognise the digital divide within our membership and the wider Commonwealth and therefore provide additional support and technical assistance programmes.

PARLIAMENTARIANS DISCUSS THE CHALLENGES OF 'DEEPPAKES AND DISINFORMATION' IN SINGAPORE

Recent developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and synthetic media have added new layers of complexity when combating disinformation. These technologies can create highly realistic but entirely fabricated content, making it increasingly difficult for individuals and organisations to distinguish between truth and falsehood.



Commonwealth Parliamentarians joined leading experts to discuss these issues at the CPA and UNDP Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Disinformation held in Singapore from 18 to 20 June 2024. The Conference aimed to raise awareness about the latest developments in Artificial Intelligence and synthetic media and their implications for democracies. Delegates were welcomed by Ms Tin Pei Ling, MP, on behalf of the Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore, who said: *"Whilst advances in AI technologies bring numerous opportunities and benefits in the ways we work, live and interact with each other, it is important that we acknowledge the threats posed by any potential misuses and abuses of these powerful tools. We are delighted that Singapore has been chosen to host this landmark event in the CPA's calendar and that delegates have the opportunity to engage with some of the innovators and experts based here in Singapore."*

NEW HANDBOOK ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND SYNTHETIC MEDIA

Recent developments in Artificial Intelligence and synthetic media have added new layers of complexity when combating disinformation. These technologies can create highly realistic but entirely fabricated content, making it increasingly difficult for individuals and organisations to distinguish between truth and falsehood. In response, the CPA and the Organization of American States (OAS) developed the 'Parliamentary Handbook on Disinformation, AI and Synthetic Media' in 2024. This handbook provides an overview of disinformation, the different forms it can take and the techniques used to spread it. It also covers the basics of AI and synthetic media, including their applications in, and implications for, democracy.

"In today's rapidly transforming information ecosystem, the growth of synthetic media and disinformation underlines the urgent need to protect democratic integrity and free expression," said Cassidy Bereskin, Founder/Director of OxGen AI and lead author of the handbook. *"This handbook outlines how Legislatures can collaborate with governments, tech companies, civil society and the public to navigate the delicate balance between fostering technological innovation and safeguarding democratic values."*



CPA REGIONAL CONFERENCES IN 2024

60th CPA CANADA REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN ONTARIO



Conference also took place chaired by CWP Canada Regional Chair, Hon. Susan Leblanc, MLA (Nova Scotia).

Over 50 Commonwealth MPs and Clerks discussed the challenges facing Legislatures at the 60th CPA Canada Regional Conference, which took place in Toronto, Ontario from 20 to 27 July 2024. Delegates including the Acting CPA Chairperson and Speaker of Barbados, Hon. Arthur Holder, MHA, the Speaker of the Victoria Legislative Assembly, Hon. Maree Edwards, MLA and the CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg were welcomed by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Hon. Ted Arnott, MPP. The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Canada Regional



GUYANA HOST 46th CPA CARIBBEAN, AMERICAS AND ATLANTIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE



The CPA Guyana Branch hosted the 46th CPA Regional Conference of the Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic (CAA) Region on the theme of 'Democracy: Challenges facing modern Parliament' with over 60 delegates from 1 to 7 September 2024 in Georgetown. The Regional Conference focused on the pressing issues facing the wider region such as peace and security, migration and the impact of Artificial Intelligence. The Speaker of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana, Hon. Manzoor Nadir, MP hosted the Regional Conference and underscored the democratic challenges faced by jurisdictions in the Region. The President of Guyana, Hon. Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali and the Prime Minister of Guyana, Brigadier (Retired) Hon. Mark Phillips, MP also addressed delegates who included the CPA Secretary-General. During the week, the 14th CAA Regional Conference for Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) and the 17th Caribbean Regional Youth Parliament also took place.

53rd CPA AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN TANZANIA



From 30 September to 5 October 2024, Commonwealth Parliamentarians from across Africa met in Tanzania to attend the 53rd CPA Africa Regional Conference on the theme of ‘African Parliaments at the forefront of addressing existential global challenges: food, insecurity, climate change and youth unemployment.’ Over 280 Parliamentarians and Parliamentary staff from across the Region were in attendance, including 10 Speakers of African National Assemblies. In his opening address the Vice-President of Tanzania, Hon. Dr Philip Mpango, urged Legislators to take immediate action to address existential global problems and added that Parliaments are one of the key strengths of democracies in the Commonwealth. The Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania, Hon. Dr Tulia Ackson welcomed delegates and said that the CPA is an important platform to promote gender equality, human rights and good governance. The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Africa Region and the African Region of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table (SoCATT) in Commonwealth Parliaments also held meetings in the margins of the Regional Conference.

10th CPA INDIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Members of Parliament from the federal and state level in India met for the 10th CPA India Regional Conference, held in New Delhi, India from 23 to 24 September 2024.

The Regional Conference was hosted by the CPA India Union Branch and brought together MPs from across India. This



was the second time that New Delhi has hosted the CPA India Regional

Conference. Participants shared their experiences of parliamentary democracy and attended panels on the theme of ‘The role of legislative bodies in the attainment of sustainable and inclusive development’. The Chairperson of the CPA India Region, Hon. Om Birla, MP, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha of India said: “Legislative institutions play a crucial role in promoting sustainable development. I urge Legislators to reflect on their contributions to public welfare over the past seven decades since Indian Independence and call for collective efforts to achieve inclusive progress.”

53rd CPA BRITISH ISLANDS AND MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN ST HELENA



MPs and parliamentary staff from CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region attended the annual Regional Conference in St Helena from 18 to 25 May 2024 focusing on ‘Addressing Challenges to Sustainable Development in Times of Global Uncertainty’. Delegates shared their own Legislatures’ experiences as they participated in the discussions. Hon. Cyril Gunnell, Speaker of the Legislative Council and the Chief Minister of St Helena, Hon. Julie Thomas, welcomed delegates, the first of its kind to be held in St Helena. The programme also included the Region’s AGM, a Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians session with local women leaders from St Helena and a Youth Parliament workshop with local youth campaigners and school students.



CPA BRANCH VISITS IN 2024

CPA AFRICA REGIONAL SECRETARIAT AND CPA TANZANIA BRANCH



In March 2024, the CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg met with the CPA Africa Regional Secretary, Ms Nenelwa Joyce Mwiambi, who is also the Clerk of the National Assembly of Tanzania, in Dodoma to discuss the CPA's activities in the CPA Africa Region. The meeting was also attended by the Assistant CPA Africa Regional Secretary, Daniel Eliufoo, Director of Communications at the Parliament of Tanzania and Sharon Moses, Head of Human Resources at the CPA Headquarters Secretariat. The CPA Africa Region is the largest of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's nine Regions, comprising of 63 national and subnational Legislatures, ranging from Tanzania and The Seychelles to South Africa and The Gambia.

CPA VICTORIA BRANCH

The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg visited the Parliament of Victoria in Australia on 8 August 2024. He met with the Joint CPA Victoria Branch Presidents - Hon. Maree Edwards, MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria and Hon. Shaun Leane, MLC, President of the Legislative Council of Victoria.



The CPA Secretary-General briefed Members of the CPA Victoria Branch on the latest activities of the CPA and its work in the CPA Australia Region. He also heard about work by the Victoria Parliament on the implementation of the 'Transitioning to Life After Parliament' recommendations and the establishment of a Parliamentary Workplace and Standards Commission. In addition, the CPA Secretary-General was briefed on the work of the Parliament of Victoria through the Pacific Parliamentary Partnerships Fund which twins Legislatures in the CPA Australia and CPA Pacific Regions. Through this scheme, the Parliament of Victoria is partnered with the Legislatures in Nauru, Tuvalu and Fiji to share best practice, training and equipment.



CPA SAMOA BRANCH

The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg visited the Parliament of Samoa in Apia on 24 October 2024. He met with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa, Hon. Papalii Lio Oloipola Taeu Masipau and briefed Members of the CPA Samoa Branch on the latest activities of the CPA and its work in the CPA Pacific Region. During the CPA Branch visit, the CPA Secretary General and the Speaker of Samoa signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the outcomes of the CPA Democratic Benchmarks Assessment that took place earlier this year and outlining a roadmap for technical assistance for the Parliament of Samoa over the next two years. The CPA delegation was in Samoa for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2024.



CPA MALAYSIA BRANCH

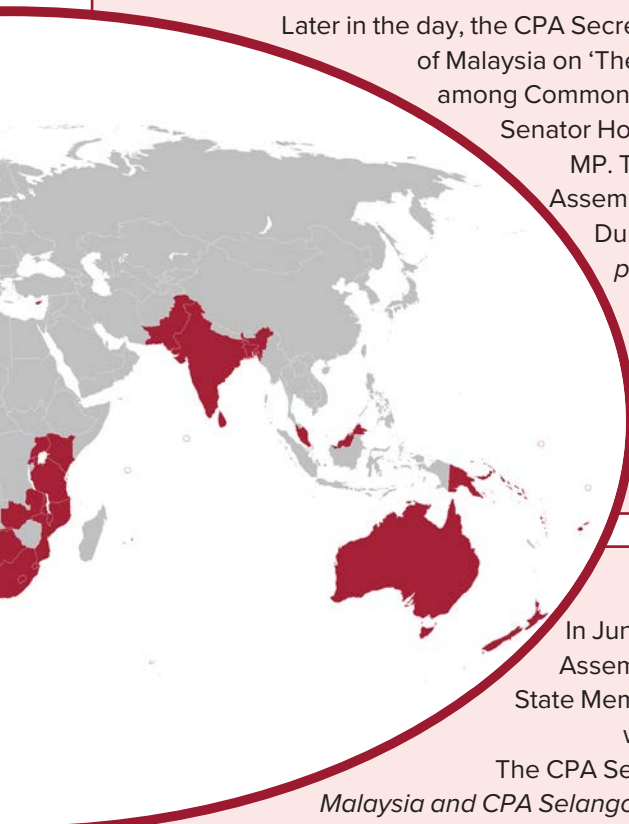


The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg visited the Parliament of Malaysia in June 2024. He met with Speaker of the Malaysia House of Representatives (Dewan Rakyat), Hon Tan Sri Dato' Johari bin Abdul, MP followed by a tour of the Parliament of Malaysia.

The CPA Secretary-General subsequently met with Hon. Datuk Seri Dr Noraini Ahmad, MP, Deputy Minister of Women and former Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Chair (2016-2019). The CPA Secretary-General briefed Members of the CPA Malaysia Branch on the latest activities of the CPA and its work in the CPA South-East Asia Region and also met with Senator Hon. Isaiah Jacob, the Regional Champion for the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) network.

Later in the day, the CPA Secretary-General spoke at a panel discussion and Q&A held at the Parliament of Malaysia on 'The power and purpose of parliamentary diplomacy: Strengthening relations among Commonwealth nations' alongside the Deputy President of the Senate of Malaysia, Senator Hon. Datuk Nur Jazlan bin Tan Sri Mohamed and Hon. Tuan Lee Chuan How, MP. The event was attended by Parliamentarians, Members of State Legislative Assemblies, High Commissioners, academia and international relations students.

During the discussion, the CPA Secretary-General said: *"If Parliaments are to play a role in diplomacy, it can't just be left to individuals. It has to be about having an effective, healthy and functioning parliamentary institution. Parliamentary diplomacy, alongside other forms of diplomacy including citizen diplomacy as well as the more traditional government diplomacy, is more important than ever. The CPA's role in parliamentary diplomacy is about strengthening Parliaments, supporting individual MPs and developing strong international partnerships."*



CPA SELANGOR BRANCH

In June 2024, the CPA Secretary-General visited the Selangor State Legislative Assembly where he was received by the Speaker, Hon. Lau Weng San, met with State Members and toured the Parliamentary Chamber. The CPA Secretary-General was accompanied by Members of the Senate of Malaysia (Dewan Negara).

The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg said: *"I was very pleased to visit the CPA*

Malaysia and CPA Selangor Branches, during my first visit as Secretary-General. There is a great interest in the Association's work from the Legislatures of Malaysia, and we are developing further links and opportunities for networking and professional development for Commonwealth Parliamentarians across the country."

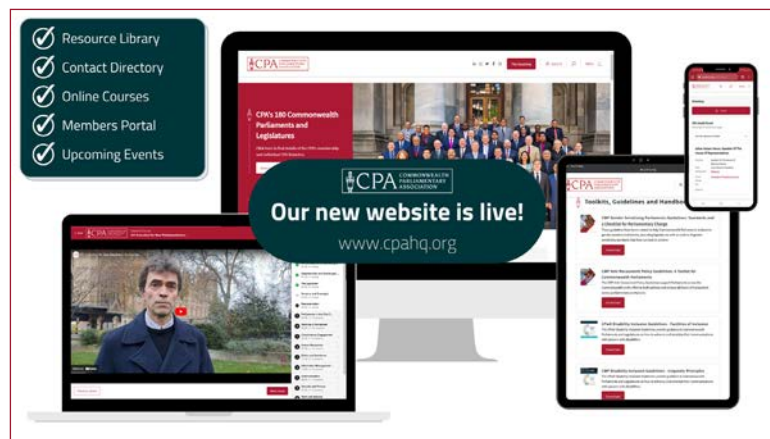
The CPA South-East Asia Region comprises the national Parliaments of Malaysia and Singapore as well as 13 State Legislatures in Malaysia.



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLISHING

In 2024, our Communications activities continued to enhance the visibility and reach of the CPA, both within our membership, the parliamentary strengthening community and other key stakeholders. We use a wide range of Communications channels and content including e-Comms, print, audio-visual and online.

CPA website and social media



In 2024, the CPA website continued to be the main digital platform for our membership. The website includes a wide range of **resources, information and online learning opportunities** for Commonwealth Parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and the wider public. The website also includes the **CPA's online learning portal** through the CPA Parliamentary Academy. The website offers access to the **online editions of *The Parliamentarian*, blog articles and the CPA library** featuring toolkits, booklets, guides and resources on many different aspects of parliamentary development and research produced by the CPA and its partners. The CPA social media channels (X/Twitter,

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



In 2024, CPA Facebook had a 41% decrease in views but a 12.7% increase in Followers.



In 2024, the CPA Instagram account saw a 101.6% increase in reach compared to the previous year with a 41% increase in Followers.



In 2024, the CPA's X/Twitter page impressions fell – following declines in three previous years..



In 2024, the CPA's LinkedIn page has increased new followers by 42% with an increase of 54.3% in page impressions.

CPA Blog

In 2024, we published a series of blog articles on the CPA website. **The blog articles are contributed by Members, parliamentary staff, experts and CPA staff.** The blog creates a **hub of policy examples, resources and information sharing for Members and parliamentary staff.** In this reporting period of 2024, 12 CPA blog articles/series = 17,370 views (3.2% of the total on the CPA website).

- The top three blogs in 2024 were: **human rights blog; three candidates for the next Commonwealth Secretary-General; and blog series on the Commonwealth Latimer House Principles.**
- Feature articles also examined the **75th anniversary of the 'modern' Commonwealth**, the Seychelles National Assembly's efforts to promote inclusivity for hearing-impaired people, the first deaf Youth Parliament held in Queensland and the **constitutional reforms taking place in the Caribbean to promote equality and LGBT+ rights.**
- Signposting to a campaign by the International Parliamentary Network for Education (IPNEd) on school meals for children.



The Parliamentary

1 The *Parliamentarian* is the **quarterly flagship journal** of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Journal of Commonwealth Parliaments. The Journal is distributed to Members of Parliament, Parliamentary staff and individual subscribers across the Commonwealth and International Organisations.

2 In 2024, **around 3,500 print copies per issue** were sent to CPA Branches, Members and subscribers. The digital edition had on **average around 6,000 digital reads per issue**. A Content Review of the CPA Journal was undertaken by an external consultant in 2024 with a new design due to be launched in 2025.

3 The Editorial Advisory Board for *The Parliamentary* advises the CPA Secretary-General and the Editor on the publication's future direction and editorial content. Members of Editorial Advisory Board represent the diversity of the Commonwealth, its nine Regions, CWP and youth contributors and the board met several times virtually in 2024.



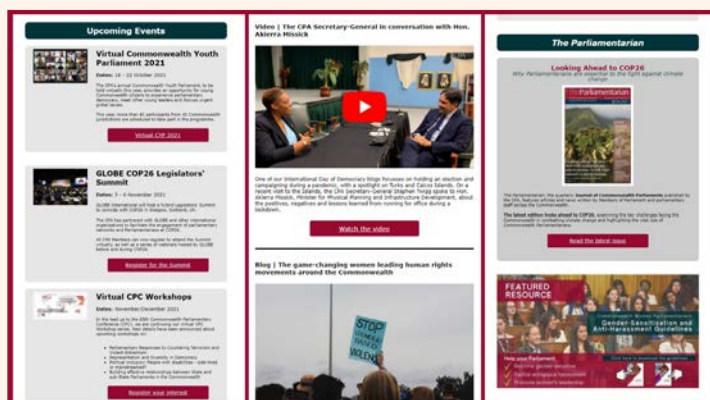
CPA Order Paper e-newsletter

In 2024, the quarterly *CPA Order Paper*, an email newsletter for the CPA membership reached **around 10,000 contacts per issue (41,120 emails annually)**. We have significantly increased the number of individual Member contact details on our database with many Parliaments providing details for all of their individual Members.

- The open rate for the CPA Order Paper has risen from **an average of 23.5% in 2021 to 33.4% in 2024**. The industry average is around 25%.

In 2024, we continued to deliver **bi-annual e-newsletters for the CPA's networks** - the CPA Small Branches, the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) and the Commonwealth Parliamentarians (CPwD) Order Paper - that were sent to connect with key stakeholders and update the membership on the network's activities.

- The CWP e-newsletter was sent to **6,285 emails with an average click-through rate of 41.4%**.
- The CPA Small Branches e-newsletter was sent to **2,450 emails with an average click-through rate of 54.1%**.
- The CPwD E-newsletter was sent to **3,770 emails with an average click-through rate of 44.6%**.



CPA GOVERNANCE

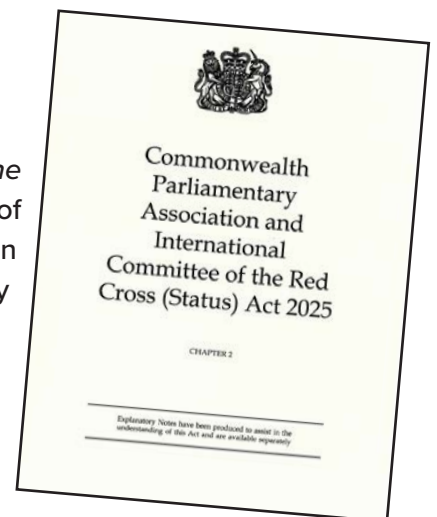


The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is governed by a CPA Executive Committee which determines its strategy and overall management. Day-to-day management is undertaken by the CPA Secretary-General. The Co-ordinating Committee is responsible for overseeing urgent decision-making on behalf of the CPA Executive Committee in between meetings. The CPA Executive Committee is responsible for its overall management. Members of the CPA Executive Committee serve a three-year term, with a third of the Members retiring each year and a third of Members nominated must be

women. In 2024, the CPA Executive Committee met twice (virtually in May 2024 and in-person in New South Wales in November 2024).

CPA Legal Status

In 2024, the CPA achieved its long term goal of UK legislation regarding the CPA's legal status. Following an intensive process during the year, the *Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and International Committee of the Red Cross (Status) Bill* was passed by the UK Parliament and became an Act of Parliament in early January 2025. The new Act provides the basis to confer on the CPA a new legal status separate from the charity. The CPA was previously registered as a UK charity in 1971 and was subject to regulation by the UK Charity Commission and UK legislation on the charities sector. Whilst the main CPA is no longer a charity, it was agreed at the CPA General Assembly in November 2024 to rename the charity as 'CPA Charitable Funds' and for the charity to operate as a grant maker. The charity has its own constitution and Board of Trustees and will continue to report to the Charity Commission in the UK.



HOW IS THE CPA ORGANISED?

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



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



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



CPA Secretary-General & CPA Headquarters Secretariat



CPA SECRETARIAT

CPA Headquarters staff

In 2024, the staff at the CPA Headquarters Secretariat continued in their commitment to support the work of Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff across the CPA's membership.

An Archives Intern from King's College London worked on research projects as part of their course during the year. The CPA Headquarters Secretariat also continued to benefit from

different Learning and Development (L&D) opportunities and professional development training during the year. A full list of staff can be found at www.cpahq.org.



CPA RECOGNISED WITH INVESTORS IN PEOPLE SILVER AWARD

In 2024, the CPA Secretariat received the Investors in People Silver award in recognition of its principles and practices as well as its human resources support for its 22 staff. The accredited award follows a rigorous review process and places the CPA Headquarters Secretariat alongside a wide range of organisations that seek to provide and nurture the best possible working environment for their staff. The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg said: "Receiving the Investors



in People Silver award for the CPA Headquarters Secretariat in recognition of our principles and practices is testament to the hard work of the CPA staff and our belief that the success of any organisation begins and ends with its people. The Silver Award is recognition of the professionalism and dedication of the CPA Secretariat team. The comprehensive report from the IiP assessor provides a road map for us to consider and I look forward to working collaboratively with the staff team to agree and deliver further improvements." The Investors in People accreditation is a community of 15,000 organisations across 75 countries.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™
We invest in people Silver

Corporate Effectiveness and Efficiency

Risk Management: The CPA Executive Committee, as Trustees, are responsible for risk management. Risks identified by the CPA Headquarters are reviewed, assessed and appropriate action incorporated as part of operational delivery. During 2024, the main risks and uncertainties facing the CPA were:

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

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

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



2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Financial Review:

CPA – Non-charity inter-parliamentary organisation assumed operations from CPA Charitable Funds (CPACF) from 7 November 2024

With membership fees being invoiced by and paid into the new CPA entity from 2024, the total revenue for 2024 was **£3,022,537**. Of this total, the CPA's core funding streams were **96%** from Branch Membership fees, **3%** from investment income and a small amount coming from other sources such as partnership income, subscriptions for *The Parliamentarian* and advertising income.

Total operating costs for the reporting period of 2 months (approximately from 7 November to 31 December 2024) were **£474,057**, made up of principal CPA activities providing programmes for Parliaments and Parliamentarians, organising the annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC – including CPA General Assembly), Benchmarks assessments, Seminars and publications.

At the end of 2024, the surplus for CPA amounted to **£2,548,480**, which is held in general funds. This substantial surplus will be deployed to fund the CPA's 2025 activities during the period when next year's income is being gradually collected from Branches.

CPA Charitable Funds (CPACF) – Charity operations from 1 January to 7 November 2024

Because the 2024 membership fees were invoiced by the new CPA entity, total revenue for the CPA Charitable Funds (CPACF) relating to 2024 decreased to **£914,116** (2023: £3,360,869). Of this, **90%** was from investment income and partnership income.

Total operating costs for the reporting period of 10 months were **£3,129,415** (2023: £3,214,698), made up of principal CPA activities providing programmes for Parliaments and Parliamentarians, organising the annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC – including the CPA General Assembly), Benchmarks assessments, Seminars and publications.

The deficit for the year ending 31 December 2024 amounted to **£2,215,299**.

At the end of 2024, the CPACF reserves amounted to **£8,433,153**, with **£7,549,010** restricted under Trust Deeds and **£884,143** of unrestricted funds that can be used for the benefit of the Members and Branches in support of the wider objectives of the Association.

Consolidation summary

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

Total revenue for 2024 was **£3,936,653** (2023: £3,106,893), with total operating costs for the year of **£3,603,472** (2023: £3,214,698). This resulted to a surplus of **£333,181**.

The reserves as at 31 December 2024:

- CPA: **£2,548,480**
- CPACF (restricted by Trust Deeds): **£7,549,010**
- CPACF (unrestricted): **£884,143**



Accounts

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

Financial Strategy: The CPA Executive Committee agreed on the CPA's Financial Strategy in South Africa in August 2013. The Members of the CPA Executive Committee have kept the strategy under review in subsequent years and in particular to ensure that it meets the wider strategic objectives of the CPA. The CPA Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 has further reinforced and informed the existing Financial Strategy.

Investment Policy: The CPA Charitable Funds (CPACF) has investments in two trust funds under the guidance and supervision of the funds' Trustees. Under the constitution of CPACF, five Trustees were appointed by the CPA Executive Committee at the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in New South Wales in November 2024. Trustees must not be a Member of the CPA Executive Committee. Further, it is within the powers of the Trustees themselves to appoint an additional two Trustees. The purposes of the CPACF are to promote knowledge and education about the constitutional Legislatures within a parliamentary democratic framework, arrange study group meetings, seminars and conferences, and provide facilities for the exchange of visits between Members of CPA Branches.

2024 Annual Report and Financial Statements

Approval: The CPA Executive Committee approved this annual report at their meeting on 12 May 2025 with the financial statements signed on behalf of the CPA Executive Committee by Hon. Dr Christopher Kalila, MP, Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee and Stephen Twigg, CPA Secretary-General.

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

A copy of the 2024 financial statements and accounts for the CPA is available by request via email to finance@cpahq.org.

Professional Advisers in 2024

- **External Auditors** - Buzzacott LLP, 130 Wood Street, London, EC2V 6DL, United Kingdom E: enquiries@buzzacott.co.uk
- **Internal Auditors** - Sayer Vincent LLP, Invicta House, 108-114 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0TL, United Kingdom
- **Bank** - National Westminster Bank plc, Victoria Branch, 169 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5NA, United Kingdom
- **Investment Managers** - Close Brothers Asset Management, 10 Exchange Square, Primrose Street, London, EC2AR 2BY, United Kingdom
- **Legal Advisers** - Russell Cooke LLP, 2 Putney Hill, London SW15 6AB



APPENDIX: CPA OFFICERS, CPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES IN 2024

Patron and Vice-Patron

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

Vice-Patron (2024-2025): Vacant - awaiting nomination from Barbados

CPA Executive Committee Members

The following were Members of the CPA Executive Committee as at 31 December 2024:

Officers:

- **CPA President:** Senator Hon. Reginald Farley, JP, President of the Senate of Barbados, 2024 to date
- **CPA Vice-President:** Vacant, 2024 to date
- **Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee:** Hon. Dr Christopher Kalila, MP, Zambia, 2024 to date
- **CPA Vice-Chairperson:** Hon. Carmel Sepuloni, MP, New Zealand, 2024 to date
- **Treasurer:** Shri Anurag Sharma, MP, Lok Sabha, India Union, 2022 to date
- **Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Chairperson:** Hon. Dr Zainab Gimba, MP, Nigeria, 2022 to date
- **CPA Small Branches Chairperson:** Hon. Valerie Woods, MNA, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belize, 2024 to date
- **Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) Chairperson:** Hon. Laura Kanushu Opori, MP, Uganda, 2022 to date

Regional Representatives:

CPA Africa Region

- Hon. Lukas Sinimbo Muha, MP, Chairperson of the National Council of Namibia, 2022 to date (*Completing term started by another Member*)
- Hon. Raymond Nkhata, MP, Malawi, 2022 to date
- Hon. Angel Thandeka Mavuso, MP, Eswatini, 2023 to date (*Completing term started by another Member*)
- Hon. Tolulope Akande-Sadipe, MP, Nigeria, 2024 to date
- Hon. Mary Muyali Boya, MP, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon, 2024 to date
- 1 vacant position

CPA Asia Region

- Hon. Bilal Azhar Kayani, MNA, Pakistan, 2022 to date (*Completing term started by another Member*)
- Hon. Farah Azeem Shah, MPA, Balochistan, 2023 to date (*Completing term started by another Member*)
- Hon. Ahmed Nazim, MP, Deputy Speaker, Maldives, 2024 to date

CPA Australia Region

- Hon. Mark Shelton, MP, Speaker, Tasmania, 2022 to date
- Hon. Pat Weir, MP, Speaker of the Queensland Parliament, 2023 to date (*Completing term started by another Member*)
- Senator Hon. Sue Lines, Senate President, Australia, 2024 to date (2nd term)

CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region

- Hon. Stuart McMillan, MSP, Scotland, 2022 to date
- Deputy Mary Le Hegarat Jersey, 2023 to date
- Rt Hon. David Mundell, MP, United Kingdom, 2024 to date

CPA Canada Region

- Hon. Donna Skelly, MPP, Deputy Speaker, Ontario, 2022 to date (*Completing term started by another Member*)
- Hon. Raj Chouhan, MLA, Speaker, British Columbia, 2023 to date
- Hon. Alexandra Mendès, MP, Assistant Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, Canada Federal, 2024 to date (2nd term)

CPA Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic Region

- Hon. Arthur Holder, Speaker, Barbados, 2022 to date
- Senator Hon. Dr Dessima D. Williams, President of the Senate, Grenada, 2023 to date
- Hon. Dennis P. Lister, JP, MP, Speaker of the House of Assembly of Bermuda, 2024 to date

CPA India Region

- Smt. Ritu Khanduri Bhushan, MLA, Speaker, Uttarakhand, 2022 to date
- Shri Biswajit Daimary, MLA, Speaker, Assam, 2023 to date
- Hon. Shri Vishnu Dutt Sharma, MP, Lok Sabha, India Union, 2024 to date

CPA Pacific Region

- Hon. Carmel Sepuloni, MP, New Zealand, 2022 to date (*Completing term started by another Member*)
- Hon. Dulcie Tei, MP Tonga, 2023 to date
- Hon. Tina Pupuoke Browne, MP, Cook Islands, 2024 to date

CPA South-East Asia Region

- Hon. Dato' Seri Law Choo Kiang, MLA, Speaker, Penang, 2022 to date
- Hon. Mohd Fahmi Aliman, MP, Singapore, 2023 to date
- Hon. Dr Datuk Noraini Ahmad, MP, Malaysia, 2024 to date (2nd term)





CPA Executive Committee Members in New South Wales, ahead of 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in November 2024.

Former Officers and Former Members of the Executive Committee (Regional Representatives) during 2024

The following includes those who served during the year, but their term had ended when the 2024 Annual Report was approved:

- **Vice-Patron (2024):** Her Excellency Hon. Margaret Beazley, AC, Governor of New South Wales
- **CPA President (2023-2024):** Hon. Ben Franklin, MLC, President of the Legislative Council, Parliament of New South Wales
- **Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee (2022-2024):** Hon. Ian Liddell-Grainger, MP, United Kingdom
- **Acting CPA Chairperson (2024):** Hon. Arthur Holder, Speaker of the House of Assembly of Barbados
- **CPA Vice-Chairperson (2023-2024):** Hon. Arthur Holder, Speaker of the House of Assembly of Barbados
- **CPA Small Branches Chairperson (2022-2024):** Joy Burch, MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Australian Capital Territory

CPA Africa Region

- Hon. Osei Kyei Mensah Bonsu, MP, Ghana (2019-2024)
- Hon. Dr Abass Bundu, MP, Speaker, Sierra Leone (2019-2024)
- Hon. Solomon Lechesa Tsenoli, MP, Deputy Speaker, South Africa (2022-2024)
- Hon. Marwick Khumalo, MP (Alternate for Eswatini in 2024) and Hon. Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane, MP (Alternate for Mauritius in 2024)

CPA Asia Region

- Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, MP, Speaker of Sri Lanka (2019-2024)

- Hon. Kazi Nabil Ahmed, MP, Bangladesh (2022-2024)

CPA Australia Region

- Hon. Curtis Pitt, MP, Speaker, Queensland (2023-2024)
- Hon. Terry Stephens, MLC (South Australia - Alternate for Australia Federal in 2024)

CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region

- Hon. Chris Elmore, MP, United Kingdom (2019-2024)

CPA Canada Region

- Hon. Terry Duguid, MP, Canada Federal (2019-2024)
- Senator Hon. Rosemary Moodie (Alternate for Canada Federal in 2024)

CPA Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic Region

- Hon. Gordon J. Burton, MHA, Speaker, Turks and Caicos (2019-2024)

CPA India Region

- Hon. Shri Uday Pratap Singh, MP, Lok Sabha, India Union (2019-2024)

CPA Pacific Region

- Rt Hon. Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, MP, Speaker, Fiji (2019-2024)
- Hon. Sashi Kiran, MP (Fiji - Alternate for Fiji in 2024)

Trustees of CPA Trust Funds in 2024 (up to 7 November 2024)

Hon. Shri Anurag Sharma, MP,
Lok Sabha, Parliament of India
CPA Treasurer

Deputy Lyndon Trott
Guernsey States Assembly
Trustee

Stephen Twigg
CPA Secretary-General

Trustees of CPA Charitable Funds (CPACF) in 2024 (from 7 November 2024)

Deputy Lyndon
Trott (Guernsey) -
Chairperson

Joy Burch (Australian
Capital Territory)

Osei Kyei-Mensah-
Bonsu (Ghana)

Hon. Keshava Sudhakar
(India)

Hon. Syed Naveed
Qamar (Pakistan)



CPA'S MISSION STATEMENT

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

CPA'S VISION

That the work of the CPA enables:

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

CPA'S VALUES

The CPA's organisational values are:

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



Published by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).
Registered Charity Number 263147.

Editor: editor@cpahq.org

Main photography by CPA Headquarters Secretariat
Additional images provided by CPA Branches and partner
organisations including the Commonwealth Secretariat.

CPA Annual Report published in June 2025.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
CPA Headquarters Secretariat
Richmond House
Houses of Parliament
London SW1A 0AA
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7799 1460
Email: hq.sec@cpahq.org
Website: www.cpahq.org

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 2024



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Annual Report for January to December 2024 provides an overview of the activity of the CPA and highlights the progress of this activity against the CPA Strategic Plan. This report focuses on the programme strands and activities of the CPA Headquarters Secretariat. The 2024 Annual Report covers a period in which the name and activities of the CPA were transferred from a charity to a non-charity.

In 2024, the CPA Headquarters Secretariat continued to deliver CPA programmes, activities and seminars. This report includes the three CPA networks – Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP); CPA Small Branches; and Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) as well as parliamentary strengthening, partnership work and Communications activities.

The CPA's Annual Report 2024 is composed of reports, images and analysis of the CPA's activities and work strands throughout the year. For any enquiries please contact hq.sec@cpahq.org.

CPA 2024 Annual Report published in June 2025.