



**7th CPA Asia Regional Conference / 2nd Joint CPA Asia & South-East Asia
Regional Conference- 2026**

*“Parliaments of the Future: Redefining Democracy through Trust, Inclusion, Innovation
and Peace”*

Karachi, Pakistan | 3–7 February 2026

KARACHI DECLARATION

Preamble

We, the Speakers, Presiding Officers, and Delegates of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) branches of Asia and South-East Asia, convened in Karachi from 3 to 7 February 2026 for the 7th CPA Asia Regional Conference and the 2nd Joint CPA Asia & South- East Asia Regional Conference, reaffirm our shared commitment to democratic governance, constitutionalism, parliamentary accountability, inclusivity, responsible innovation, and sustainable peace, in accordance with our respective national constitutional frameworks, CPA principles, and the Charter of the United Nations.

We recognise the indispensable role of parliaments in upholding democratic trust, ensuring executive accountability, protecting fundamental rights, and responding to the evolving aspirations of citizens. We take cognizance of the complex challenges confronting democratic institutions, including declining public confidence, political polarisation, misinformation, climate vulnerability, social exclusion, and the rapid pace of technological change.

We affirm that the future of democracy depends on parliaments that are inclusive, participatory, transparent, and forward-looking, capable of strengthening social cohesion, embracing responsible innovation, and promoting peace and resilience within and across societies.

We recognise multilateralism and parliamentary diplomacy as foundational pillars for building trust, advancing peace, and reinforcing democratic resilience in an increasingly interconnected world, grounded in sustained dialogue, mutual respect, shared democratic values, and adherence to international norms and collective responsibility.

Declarations

1. Democratic Trust and Parliamentary Oversight

Affirm our commitment to democratic norms, constitutional principles, and parliamentary supremacy as the foundation of legitimate and effective governance.

Underscore the critical role of parliamentary oversight in ensuring executive accountability, ethical governance, and public trust.

Support the strengthening of committee systems, including Public Accounts Committees, to promote fiscal discipline, transparency, and responsible management of public resources.

Endorse evidence-based debate, constructive political dialogue, and cross-party cooperation as mechanisms to rebuild democratic credibility.

Promote initiatives that enhance citizen engagement with parliamentary institutions.

2. Inclusive and Participatory Parliaments

Commit to promoting equitable representation and meaningful participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, religious minorities and marginalised communities in parliamentary processes.

Resolve to review and reform parliamentary rules, procedures, and institutional practices to eliminate systemic barriers to inclusion.

Support parliamentary education, civic literacy, and public outreach initiatives to instill democratic values and principles in the hearts and minds of our future generations.

Endorse mentorship, capacity-building, and leadership programs that empower underrepresented groups within parliamentary institutions.

Contribute to national and regional efforts aimed at fostering inclusive governance, social cohesion, and participatory democracy.

3. Innovation and Responsible Use of Technology

Recognise the growing influence of digital technologies and artificial intelligence on governance and parliamentary processes, and underscore the importance of ethical, transparent, and human-centered frameworks.

Affirm the need to counter misinformation, hate speech, deep fakes, and digital manipulation while safeguarding freedom of expression and democratic discourse.

Support the development of Open Parliament initiatives and digital governance tools to enhance digital access to information, transparency and accountability.

Promote capacity-building programmes for parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and citizens to enable informed and responsible digital participation.

Encourage measures to ensure safe and equitable digital engagement, including protection against online harassment.

4. Peace, Climate Resilience, and Social Cohesion

Affirm that peace, justice, and inclusive development are mutually reinforcing and essential for sustainable democratic progress.

Recall that right to self-determination, as recognised under international law, remains essential to democratic legitimacy, peaceful coexistence, and durable political solutions.

Note with concern the evolving challenges to the international order, marked by growing unilateralism and the gradual narrowing of space for mutual respect, sovereign equality, and adherence to international norms.

Recognise the role of parliaments as platforms for dialogue, reconciliation, and peaceful conflict resolution within and across communities.

Support legislative initiatives to strengthen climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and protection of climate-vulnerable regions.

Endorse community empowerment, local governance engagement, and participatory policy-making to enhance social cohesion.

Contribute to regional and national efforts that advance justice, equity, and sustainable development as cornerstones of democratic stability.

5. Regional Parliamentary Cooperation

Affirm the importance of parliamentary diplomacy and collaboration among CPA member parliaments as instruments for trust-building and regional stability.

Support structured capacity-building programs, knowledge-sharing platforms, and best-practice exchanges among regional parliaments.

Endorse partnerships with civil society, academia, and private sectors to advance inclusive, innovative, and sustainable parliamentary development.

Encourage regional initiatives that address shared democratic, social, economic, and environmental challenges.

Recognise that timely CPA regional conferences are central to sustaining parliamentary partnerships, and commend the Provincial Assembly of Sindh, Pakistan, for hosting the 7th CPA Asia Regional Conference within one year of the previous conference.

Conclusion

As we conclude our deliberations in Karachi and adopt this Declaration on February 6, 2026, we reaffirm our shared resolve to strengthen parliaments as trusted, inclusive, innovative, and peace-building institutions. Guided by democratic values, CPA principles, and international commitments, we commit to translating the spirit and intent of this Declaration into concrete legislative and institutional action within our respective jurisdictions, in pursuit of democratic resilience, collective well-being, and a peaceful future for our peoples.
