



**7TH CPA ASIA & 2ND JOINT CPA ASIA
& SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE, 2026**
(February 03 - 07, 2026)
SINDH - PAKISTAN

Bulletin Day-II

The second day of the 7th CPA Asia Regional Conference / 2nd Joint CPA Asia & South-East Asia Regional Conference – 2026 unfolded at PC Hotel, Karachi, bringing together parliamentarians, experts, and practitioners for a full day of rich dialogue and forward-looking deliberations.

The day was structured around four parallel breakout sessions and one plenary session, titled “Gender, Tech and Trust: Protecting Women Leaders from Online Violence and Digital Manipulation.”

PARALLEL BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Session A: “Parliamentary Education --- Inculcating Democratic Principles in Everyday Living” Theme Pillar: Inclusion

Held under the Theme Pillar of Inclusion, addressed Parliamentary Education- Inculcating Democratic Principles in Everyday Living. The session was moderated by Hon. Mr. Taha Ahmed Khan, Member Provincial Assembly of Sindh and the panel included Hon. Dr. Rizvie Salih, Deputy Speaker, Parliament of Sri Lanka, Hon. Mr. Sajjadullah, Member, Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Hon. Mr. Khawaja Izhar ul Hassan, Member, National Assembly of Pakistan, Hon. Ms. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi, Member, National Assembly of Pakistan, Sayed Shamooun Ashraf Hashmi, Special Secretary, National Assembly of Pakistan and Hon Zulfiqar Ali Shah, Member, Provincial Assembly, Punjab

The honorable panelists emphasized that parliamentary education is essential for nurturing tolerance, respect for rules, civic responsibility, and informed participation. Drawing on Sri Lanka’s experience, Dr. Rizvie Salih highlighted compulsory civic education, youth parliaments, outreach initiatives, and transparent parliamentary practices as effective tools for building democratic ownership among citizens. Contributions from Pakistan underscored expanding academic partnerships,

internships, parliamentary broadcasting, and public outreach programs to strengthen institutional trust and youth engagement.

The esteemed speakers stressed that democratic values begin at home and in schools, supported by responsible media use and continuous curriculum development. They highlighted the importance of experiential learning through youth parliaments, debate forums, and internships, alongside inclusive policies reaching women, minorities, rural youth, and persons with disabilities. Digital literacy and ethical media engagement were viewed as more effective than restrictive approaches. It was observed that devolution of power and strong local governments strengthens democratic learning at the grassroots level.

The session concluded that democracy is a continuous social practice requiring education, inclusion, transparency, and empowered local governance to sustain peaceful, participatory, and resilient democratic societies. Shields were distributed to all the panelists and the moderator in recognition of their valuable contributions at the end of the breakout session.



Session B: "Parliaments as Vanguard of Peaceful and Harmonious Societies --- rise of Fake News; AI and Misinformation"

Theme Pillar: Innovation

Held under the Theme Pillar of Innovation, addressed the urgent challenge of misinformation, disinformation, and artificial intelligence and their growing impact on democratic stability, public trust, and social cohesion. The session was moderated by Hon. Dr. Sharmila Sahiba Faruqi Hashaam, Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan, and brought together a diverse panel of parliamentarians and policymakers from across the region.

The panel included Hon. Mr. Ahmad Nazim, Deputy Speaker, People's Majlis, Maldives; Hon. Mr. Sharjeel Inam Memon, Senior Minister, Government of Sindh; Hon. Ms. Farah Azeem Shah, Member, Provincial Assembly of Balochistan; Hon. Ms. Sarah Ahmed, Member, Provincial Assembly of Punjab; Hon. Mr. Arkam Ilyas, Deputy Minister of Power, Sri Lanka; Hon. Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry, Member, National Assembly of Pakistan; and Hon. Mr. Asif Khan, Member, Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Discussions underscored that AI-driven tools, particularly deepfakes, manipulated videos, and synthetic audio have

advanced faster than legislative and institutional safeguards, posing serious risks to electoral integrity, democratic discourse, and public confidence. Speakers emphasised that misinformation is not solely a governmental concern but a collective societal challenge requiring coordinated action by parliaments, governments, media organisations, technology platforms, and citizens.

Particular attention was given to the heightened vulnerability of women, youth, and children in digital spaces, alongside the rise in digital harassment and online manipulation. Panelists stressed the need for balanced, adaptive legal frameworks that counter misinformation while safeguarding freedom of expression and independent journalism. The session concluded with a shared consensus that parliaments must lead ethical, legal, and educational responses to ensure that digital innovation strengthens democratic resilience.

Shields were distributed to all the panelists and the moderator in recognition of their valuable contributions at the end of the breakout session.



Session C: "Legislating for Survival: Climate Resilience and Vulnerable Voices"

Theme Pillars: Peace & Resilience

Held under the Theme Pillar of Peace & Resilience, addressed Legislating for Survival: Climate Resilience and Vulnerable Voices. The session was chaired by Hon. Senator Sherry Rehman, Chairperson Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senate of Pakistan. The panel included Hon. Mr. Tamkeen Akhtar Niazi, Member, National Assembly of Pakistan, Hon. Mr. Qasim Soomro, Member, Provincial Assembly of Sindh, Hon. Mr. Muhammad Ahmad Khan Leghari, Member, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, Hon. Mr. Sujewa Indika Dissanayake, MP, Parliament of Sri Lanka

The esteemed panelists highlighted that climate change, water insecurity, environmental degradation, and plastic pollution are lived realities affecting daily life across Pakistan. Severe water scarcity, pollution of the River Indus, inefficient water management, and repeated climate disasters were identified as urgent national challenges requiring long-term, data-driven solutions. Proposals included a National Water Census, climate

hotspot mapping, early warning systems, improved urban planning, and dedicated climate damage budgets.

The honorable speakers underscored the disproportionate impact of climate shocks on women, especially in agriculture and water access, and called for gender-responsive policies and equitable compensation mechanisms. Plastic pollution was identified as a major environmental and public health crisis, with strong calls to curb single-use plastics and promote safer alternatives such as glass.

The session concluded that effective climate action must move beyond rhetoric to practical legislation, local governance, citizen engagement, and industry accountability to build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable societies. Shields were distributed to all the panelists and the moderator in recognition of their valuable contributions at the end of the breakout session.



Session D: "Making Parliaments Powerful --- Ensuring Responsible Executive through Vigilant Parliamentary Accountability" Theme Pillar: Trust

The session was chaired by Syed Naveed Qamar, Member of National Assembly of Pakistan, who guided a focused and structured discussion on strengthening parliamentary authority and ensuring a responsible executive through vigilant accountability. The session brought together senior parliamentarians from Pakistan's National and Provincial assemblies, including Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan, Senate of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Mobeen Arif, Member, National Assembly of Pakistan, Syed Ali Haider Gilani, Member, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, Mr. Ahmad Iqbal Chaudhary, Member, Provincial Assembly of Punjab, and Mr. Asif Khan, Member, Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Discussions centred on restoring Parliament's constitutional role as the primary forum for oversight and democratic decision-making. Participants highlighted the long-standing imbalance between the legislature and executive, exacerbated by historical disruptions to democratic continuity. Particular concern was expressed over weakened financial oversight, where budget processes have become procedural rather than

substantive, resulting in audit backlogs and reduced fiscal transparency.

Speakers emphasized the critical role of parliamentary committees—especially Public Accounts Committees as the backbone of accountability. Strengthening pre- and post-budget scrutiny, ensuring clause-by-clause review of financial legislation, improving audit quality, and shifting toward performance-based oversight were identified as key priorities. The discussion also underscored the need for meaningful devolution, empowered local governance, cross-party collaboration, and sustained citizen engagement.

The session concluded that effective accountability requires empowered committees, robust audit mechanisms, substantive legislative scrutiny, and continuous institutional learning, reaffirming Parliament's central role in democratic stability, public trust, and good governance. Shields were distributed to all the panelists and the moderator in recognition of their valuable contributions at the end of the breakout session.



PLENARY SESSION-II

"Gender, Tech and Trust: Protecting Women Leaders from Online Violence and Digital Manipulation" Theme Pillars: • Innovation • Inclusion • Trust



The plenary session examined the escalating impact of online violence and digital manipulation on women leaders and its implications for democratic trust and participation. Moderated by Sumeta Afzal Syed and Nida Khuhro, Members of Provincial Assembly of Sindh. The session brought together distinguished panelist comprising of Professor Jane Roscoe President & Vice-Chancellor UCA UK, Ms. Asma Ehtisham-ul-Haq Member Provincial Assembly Punjab, Mr. Jamshed M. Kazi, Country Representative, UN Women, Dr. Fauzia Hameed, Member Provincial Assembly Sindh, Ms. Shazia Marri, Member National Assembly of Pakistan and Senator Farooq H. Naek, Former Chairman Senate.

The speakers highlighted evidence showing that nearly 60% of women parliamentarians experience online abuse, including hate speech, disinformation, doxing, and psychological harassment often normalized as the "Cost of public life." The discussion emphasized that digital violence is increasingly gendered, organized, and algorithmically amplified, with deepfakes and coordinated campaigns aimed at silencing and delegitimizing women in public office. Regional evidence from Pakistan and the Asia-Pacific confirmed that such abuse erodes public trust, discourages political participation, and weakens democratic governance.

Panelists stressed that this is not solely a women's issue but a democratic emergency. Key priorities included recognizing digital violence against women in politics as a human rights violation; strengthening legislation and enforcement; holding technology platforms accountable; improving reporting and protection mechanisms; and investing in digital safety training, leadership development, peer networks, and male allyship. The session concluded with a call for collective action to ensure technology strengthens rather than undermines democracy, inclusion, and public trust. Shields were distributed to all the panelists and the moderators in recognition of their valuable contributions at the end of the plenary session.



Moderators



Plenary Speakers

OFFICIAL DINNER HOSTED BY HON. CHIEF MINISTER SINDH

