



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

Bulletin Day-1

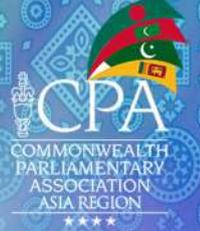
PRE CONFERENCE MEETINGS

**MEETING OF THE BRANCH SECRETARIES &
MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The conference started with the meetings of Branch Secretaries held in the Committee Room 01, 1st Floor, Old Sindh Assembly Building. The Branch Secretaries' Meeting, chaired by Mr. Syed Shamoan Hashmi, Special Secretary, National Assembly, reviewed and approved the previous meeting's minutes, noted Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly's offer to host the next meeting, and discussed key initiatives including the Democracy Award and Short Parliament Exchange Programme proposed by the Sindh Assembly, which were unanimously recommended for submission to the CPA Executive Committee. Participants also agreed to pursue the proposal for a unified regional grouping with Singapore and Malaysia, reaffirming their commitment to regional cooperation and democratic development.

Following the Branch Secretary Meeting, The Executive Committee Meeting was held at Committee Room 02, Ground Floor, Old Sindh Assembly Building. The meeting was chaired by the Honourable Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, as Acting Chair, and co-chaired by the Honourable Speaker Sindh Assembly, Syed Awais Qadir Shah. The Committee acknowledged the absence and good wishes of the Chairperson from Maldives, appreciated the hospitality of the Sindh Assembly, and approved the Conference Programme, Draft Karachi Declaration, and minutes of the previous meeting. Members reviewed regional institutional strengthening initiatives, discussed capacity-building workshops, noted the status of the CPA Asia Regional Fund, and deliberated on and approved the Democracy Award proposed by Sindh Assembly. The meeting concluded with a reaffirmed commitment to enhancing regional parliamentary cooperation and democratic institutions





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

Bulletin Day-1

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

The Inaugural Ceremony of the conference on “*Parliaments of the Future: Redefining Democracy through Trust, Inclusion, Innovation and Peace*” was held with due solemnity and decorum. The ceremony set the tone for the conference, which is structured around the four thematic pillars of **Trust, Inclusion, Innovation, and Peace**, reflecting the evolving role of parliaments in strengthening democratic governance.

Proceedings commenced with the **recitation from the Holy Quran**, followed by the **National Anthem**, underscoring the spirit of reflection and national unity. A **documentary highlighting the history of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh** was subsequently screened, offering participants an overview of the Assembly’s institutional journey and its contribution to democratic development.

**Topic: Parliaments of the Future:
Redefining Democracy through Trust, Inclusion, Innovation and Peace"**
Theme Pillars: Trust | Inclusion | Innovation | Peace



Welcome remarks were delivered by **Hon. Syed Awais Qadir Shah, Speaker, Provincial Assembly of Sindh**, in which participants and distinguished guests were formally welcomed. The importance of parliamentary institutions as platforms for dialogue, representation, and public trust was emphasized, along with the relevance of hosting the conference at a historic legislative forum.

Highlighting Sindh’s rich heritage, he reflected on its legacy as the cradle of the Indus Valley Civilization, the land of Sufis, and the home of iconic leaders Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, the world’s first Muslim woman Prime Minister. He also acknowledged the successful efforts of Banyan ul Masoor and expressed appreciation for the unwavering role of the armed forces.

Addressing contemporary global challenges, the Speaker observed that the world today is confronted with cultural onslaughts, climate chaos, devastating floods, rapidly evolving technologies, artificial intelligence, the overwhelming influence of social media, and a shrinking space for multilateralism. In this context, he emphasized the urgent need to uphold democratic values—calling upon democracies to stand together rather than compete against one another—and to keep the dialogue alive in order to redefine democracy through trust, inclusion, innovation, and peace.

He further commended the conference as a praiseworthy initiative for advancing regional cooperation and safeguarding women against cyber violence, reaffirming Sindh Assembly’s commitment to progressive legislation, democratic resilience, and inclusive governance.





In his opening remarks, **Hon. Dr. Christopher Kalila, Chairperson, CPA Executive Committee** expressed sincere appreciation to the Government of Sindh and the Provincial Assembly of Sindh for hosting the Conference and facilitating meaningful regional parliamentary dialogue. He reflected on the profound implications of rapid technological change for democratic legitimacy, electoral integrity, and the evolving role of parliaments.

He urged Commonwealth parliaments to strengthen public trust through ethical leadership, mutual respect, and sustained citizen engagement, emphasising that democratic resilience rests on inclusive, transparent, and credible institutions. Particular emphasis was placed on the meaningful participation of youth, ethnic and religious minorities, women parliamentarians, and persons with disabilities.

Advocating the responsible and strategic use of digital technologies, he highlighted their potential to enhance parliamentary transparency, operational efficiency, and citizen engagement. He concluded by reaffirming parliaments' role not only as legislative bodies, but as custodians of democratic values, peace, and social cohesion.



Welcoming delegates to Sindh, **Hon. Mr. Sharjeel Inam Memon, Senior Minister, Government of Sindh** described the Conference as a historic milestone, marking the first CPA Asia Regional Conference hosted by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh in fourteen years. He underscored the relevance of the theme “Parliaments of the Future: Redefining Democratic Values” in addressing contemporary parliamentary challenges and opportunities.

Highlighting the nexus between digital transformation and institutional resilience, he emphasised the need for legislative bodies to adapt to rapid technological change while firmly safeguarding democratic norms and constitutional principles. He identified women's leadership, inclusive governance, enhanced public engagement, and climate resilience as key priorities, drawing attention to Sindh's lived experience of climate-induced disasters and the governance lessons emerging from them.

Calling for the ethical alignment of artificial intelligence with democratic values, the Senior Minister referred to the Karachi Charter as a guiding framework for peace, cooperation, and regional solidarity. He reaffirmed the vital role of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in sustaining constructive parliamentary dialogue amid shrinking multilateral space and growing global fragmentation.





Addressing the Inaugural Session, **Hon. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan** underscored the urgent need for democratic renewal grounded in inter-provincial cooperation and harmonised parliamentary procedures. He noted that greater alignment among provincial legislatures has enhanced coordination, trust, and national cohesion.

Placing his remarks in a global context, he cautioned against an emerging democratic deficit driven by unequal access to technology and innovation. He identified Trust, Inclusion, Innovation, and Peace as the foundational pillars of future democracies and emphasised the responsibility of parliaments to uphold these values through open data governance, AI-enabled research, transparency, and evidence-based legislation.

Reaffirming the constitutional balance between the Federation and the Provinces through cooperative governance, the Chief Guest stressed youth participation, inclusion of persons with disabilities, integrity in public office, and accountability as non-negotiable democratic principles. He reiterated Pakistan's principled stance on Jammu and Kashmir, expressed concern over the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and formally declared the Conference open, reaffirming cooperation, peace, and justice as enduring democratic ideals.



PLENARY SESSION-I

Topic: "Peace and Democratic Trust: Parliaments as Engines of Reconciliation"

Theme Pillars: Trust | Peace



Hon. Mr. Ahmed Nazim, Deputy Speaker, People's Majlis of Maldives, highlighted the challenges confronting democracies across Asia and South Asia, including political polarisation, social fragmentation, declining public trust, and fragile democratic transitions. He stressed that sustainable peace depends on citizens' confidence in democratic institutions and called for inclusive, transparent, and accountable parliaments through strengthened dialogue, rights protection, robust oversight, empowered independent bodies, and decentralisation to enhance local governance and citizen participation.



Hon. (Dr.) Rizvie Salih, MP, Deputy Speaker Parliament of Sri Lanka emphasised that the future of parliaments requires a fundamental shift in mindset beyond technology, through procedural reform, evidence-based policymaking, and adaptation of parliamentary traditions to contemporary realities while safeguarding democratic values. He urged responsible adoption of digital innovation, stronger dialogue and conflict-resolution mechanisms, and institutionalised participation of youth, women, and marginalised groups, drawing on Commonwealth experiences to advance climate justice and democratic participation.



Hon. Paul Yaw Boateng, Member of Parliament and former civil rights lawyer, highlighted the critical link between peace, democratic trust, and effective parliamentary functioning. He noted that economic crises, political polarisation, social exclusion, post-conflict fragility, and declining public confidence threaten stability across South Asia. He stressed that parliaments must act as engines of reconciliation through strong committees, robust oversight, consultative law-making, and engagement with civil society, minorities, and youth, while promoting transparency, accountability, and responsible use of emerging technologies.



Hon. Mr. Babar Saleem Swati, Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, cautioned against the erosion of public trust caused by unaccountable governance and weak legislatures. Warning against parliaments being reduced to symbolic "rubber stamps," he called for fully empowered legislatures capable of independent law-making, transparent debate, robust oversight, and protection of democratic voices through dialogue and consensus-building under the rule of law.



Hon. Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan Speaker, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, reaffirmed that parliaments remain the cornerstone of democracy, while cautioning against the erosion of their dignity through performative politics and declining quality of discourse. He warned of the risks posed by executive dominance and populist leadership, questioned the marginalisation of parliamentary oversight, and stressed the urgency of regulatory preparedness for artificial intelligence. He commended the Sindh Assembly's legislation on workplace protection for women and strongly endorsed sustained regional dialogue through CPA platforms.



Hon. Lau Weng San Speaker, Selangor State Legislative Assembly, reflected on inter-parliamentary learning and reform exchange, emphasising that Speakers exercise authority with responsibility and institutional accountability. He described the Speaker's role as a real-time arbiter of fairness and highlighted the right to information as a critical safeguard against misinformation. He concluded that modern parliaments must stand as defenders of truth, transparency, and public trust.



Hon. Dato' Sri Amar D'raja Dr Haji Mohd Amar Bin Abdullah, Speaker, Kelantan State Legislative Assembly, framed parliaments as the moral conscience of the nation, stressing that democratic legitimacy flows from fairness, impartiality, and integrity. Drawing parallels between judicial and parliamentary authority, he highlighted that restraint, neutrality, and ethical conduct strengthen debate and public trust, and reaffirmed his support for continued regional cooperation through CPA platforms.



Hon. Dato' Sri Haji Mohd Sharkar Bin Haji Shamsudin, Speaker, Pahang State Legislative Assembly, positioned parliaments as bridges of trust, reconciliation, and peace. He defined peace not merely as the absence of conflict, but as the presence of justice, inclusion, and accountability, warning that erosion of democratic trust fuels polarisation and instability. He reaffirmed the CPA's role as a forum privileging dialogue over confrontation and advocated a renewed commitment to people over politics, peace over power, and shared humanity.





Keynote address by Plenary Chair / Chief Guest: Honourable Mian Raza Rabbani Former Chairman, Senate of Pakistan. In his keynote address, Hon. Mian Raza Rabbani highlighted the complex challenges confronting legislators amid rapid technological transformation, climate change, political activism, and deepening ideological polarisation. He reflected on shifts in the global order and the disruptive consequences of post-ideological uncertainty, populist movements, and the rise of hybrid regimes and authoritarianism.

He cautioned that while technology, including artificial intelligence, can support governance, it cannot replace political wisdom. Defining democracy as keeping people at the centre of governance, he emphasised the reciprocal trust between parliaments and citizens. Drawing on historical experience, he noted that parliaments have traditionally advanced reconciliation and negotiation to minimise social divisions and extremism. He identified trust, inclusion, innovation, peace, and stability as central to equality and equitable wealth distribution through strong parliaments, stressing that national cohesion is best fostered through reform and dialogue rather than polarisation. Empowering women and youth, protecting minority rights, and ensuring media transparency were highlighted as essential pillars for sustainable democratic development.



Hon. Mr. Qasim Soomro, Member Provincial Assembly Sindh, moderated the plenary session “Peace and Democratic Trust: Parliaments as Engines of Reconciliation”. He emphasized dialogue, tolerance, and inclusive policymaking to rebuild public confidence.

Speakers discussed parliamentary diplomacy, community engagement, and transparent governance as vital tools for sustainable peace, national harmony, and strengthening democratic institutions across diverse societies.



Official Dinner Hosted by the Sindh Assembly

An official dinner was hosted by the Sindh Assembly at the Pakistan Maritime Museum, PNS Karsaz, Karachi, in honour of the CPA delegation. The event fostered parliamentary goodwill, dialogue and cultural exchange. Distinguished guests appreciated Sindh's hospitality, maritime heritage and commitment to cooperation and democratic partnership for regional friendship building.



Day-1 in Pictures

