

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

Bulletin Day-III

CLOSING CEREMONY

The Closing 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 commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by the National Anthem, underscoring the spirit of reflection and national unity.

**Topic: “Way Forward: Strengthening Democratic
Trust Through Regional Parliamentary Cooperation”**
Theme: Trust



The **Honourable Speaker, Mr. Sayed Awais Qadir Shah, Speaker of the Sindh Assembly**, welcomed His Excellency Ahmed Nazim, Deputy Speaker of the Republic of Maldives; His Excellency Dr. Rizvi Saleh, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka; Mr. Stephen Twigg, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association; and all Honourable Speakers, Deputy Speakers, Heads of Delegations, Parliamentarians, and Parliamentary Officials.

On behalf of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh, he warmly welcomed delegates to the closing ceremony of the 7th CPA Asia Regional Conference and the 2nd Joint CPA Asia & South-East Asia Regional Conference 2026, held in the new Assembly building.

He stated that the hosting of this conference was not merely ceremonial but a historic milestone for the Provincial Assembly of Sindh, reflecting a strong message of openness, trust, and institutional confidence. He acknowledged that the journey had been challenging, describing it as a “rollercoaster ride,” yet commended members, officers, and staff for their tireless efforts and sleepless nights in transforming both the old and new Assembly buildings into a fully functional international conference venue.

He credited the success of the conference to the delegates, stating, “We invited you and you honoured us by coming.” He emphasized that their presence, engagement, and contributions made the conference meaningful. He further noted that over the past days, delegates participated in candid and forward-looking deliberations under the theme “Parliaments of the Future – Redefining Democracy through Trust, Inclusion, Innovation, and Peace.” He stressed that discussions were not abstract, but focused on real societal challenges—strengthening parliamentary accountability, embracing responsible innovation, ensuring inclusion of youth, women and marginalized communities, and reaffirming parliaments as instruments of peace and democratic stability.



Hon. Mr. Stephen Twigg, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), noted that parliaments across the Commonwealth are operating in an increasingly complex global environment. He highlighted declining public trust, democratic backsliding, misinformation, climate change, conflict and insecurity, and growing social exclusion as interconnected challenges requiring a collective response. Mr. Twigg emphasized that stronger and more resilient parliaments are essential to restoring public confidence and safeguarding stability, guided by the principles of trust, inclusion, innovation, and peace.

He stated that this vision is embedded in the CPA Strategic Plan to 2030, which prioritizes parliamentary capacity-building, professional development, and promotion of Commonwealth values. He highlighted key initiatives, including the CPA Parliamentary Academy (free online training), the Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures, and responsible innovation through AI governance under the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Artificial Intelligence. He concluded by outlining that the CPA Strategic Plan focuses on three objectives and six priority themes, further strengthened by the CPA’s new international legal status.



Hon. Dr. Rizvie Salih, Deputy Speaker, Parliament of Sri Lanka, termed the conference “very meaningful, active, and memorable,” and praised Pakistan’s commitment to parliamentary democracy. He thanked Hon. Syed Awais Qadir Shah, Speaker, Provincial Assembly of Sindh, for his “dynamic, vibrant, and deeply hands-on leadership,” and appreciated the Sindh Government’s hospitality, including the dinner hosted by the Chief Minister of Sindh. He acknowledged Mr. Stephen Twigg, Secretary-General, CPA, the Malaysian National Assembly, and Commonwealth delegations for enriching discussions. Referring to Sri Lanka hosting the next conference, he light-heartedly remarked on his excitement and fondly recalled his stay in Multan in 1980.



Hon. Mr. Ahmed Nazim, Deputy Speaker of the People’s Majlis of Maldives, acknowledged that the Maldives Parliament Building is a generous donation from the people of Pakistan, inaugurated in 1991, symbolizing Pakistan’s commitment to parliamentary democracy and the strengthening of democratic institutions abroad. He expressed his gratitude to the host country, Pakistan, and the Provincial Assembly of Sindh for their warm hospitality, which made the conference productive and memorable. He appreciated the speakers, panelists, and moderators for their valuable insights over the past two days and thanked all delegates for their active participation, reflecting the strength of the CPA Asia community.



Hon. Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah, Member, National Assembly of Punjab expressed regret over the absence of the Speaker of the Punjab Assembly and acknowledged the significance of the CPA Conference. He highlighted the importance of good governance and sound diplomatic practices. In conclusion, he thanked the conference organisers and the Speaker of Provincial Assembly of Sindh for hosting a productive and fruitful conference.



Hon. Dato’ Sri Muhammad Zahir bin Abdul Khalid, Speaker of the Perak Assembly, opened by expressing appreciation to the Sindh Assembly, particularly the Speaker of the Sindh Assembly, and commended all stakeholders for successfully organizing the conference. He highlighted the evolving role of modern parliaments in responding to complex global challenges, stressing the need to strengthen democratic systems through inclusivity, innovation, and sustained peacebuilding. Mr. Khalid noted that public trust is declining due to marginalization, misinformation, and the growing influence of digital technologies, emphasizing that strong, responsible, and accountable parliamentary institutions are essential for peace, democracy, and reconciliation.

He encouraged the active participation of Malaysian delegates from different regions and underscored the importance of education, good governance, accountability, climate resilience, and protecting democratic spaces. He concluded by calling for enhanced inter-parliamentary cooperation, ethical use of technology and AI, and unity through dialogue and shared democratic values.



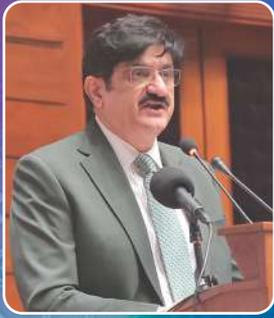
Hon. Mr. Ali Khurshidi, Leader of the Opposition, Provincial Assembly of Sindh, welcomed distinguished guests and delegates from over 17 parliaments at the closing ceremony of the 7th CPA Asia Regional Conference and the 2nd Joint CPA Asia & South-East Asia Regional Conference 2026. On behalf of the opposition, he congratulated the Speaker, Sindh Assembly, and organizing team for successfully hosting the conference, appreciating the planning, teamwork, and hospitality. He reflected on key discussions on inclusion, innovation, accountability, democratic institutions, parliamentary education, and climate change, emphasizing that all participants share a common mission of serving the people and strengthening democracy.

Mr. Khurshidi stressed the importance of mutual respect between government and opposition for democratic stability. He thanked international delegates and paid tribute to staff, volunteers, security personnel, and youth for their dedication.



Hon. Ms. Farah Azeem Shah, Member, Provincial Assembly of Balochistan, appreciated the Honorable Speaker Sindh Assembly for his wisdom, leadership, and team spirit. Delegates were welcomed as friends from the Commonwealth, united by humanity and peace. The acceptance of the peace proposal reflected shared family values. Despite suffering, Balochistan stands for peace, hospitality, and opportunity, with gratitude to the Speaker of Sindh.





The **Chief Guest, Hon. Syed Murad Ali Shah, Chief Minister Government of Sindh** delivered the concluding address of the Conference, acknowledging the presence of distinguished guests, delegates, and parliamentary representatives. He welcomed participants to Sindh, describing the province as a land of resilience, ambition, and an enduring commitment to democratic continuity and justice.

He commended the Honourable Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh and the organizing team for hosting the Conference with dignity and professionalism, noting that convening diverse political voices in the current global context requires institutional maturity, patience, and political resolve. The Chief Minister emphasized that the Conference represented not merely a formal gathering, but a critical dialogue on the future of democracy in the region.

Highlighting the Conference theme: Trust, Inclusion, Innovation and Peace, he observed that democracy is under strain not because citizens desire less democratic governance, but because they demand better outcomes, fairness, and responsive institutions. He stressed that democracy weakens when institutions fail to answer public scrutiny and that trust can only be restored through transparency, accountability, and effective systems rather than rhetoric.

The Chief Minister outlined Sindh's governance approach, centered on reforms over slogans and delivery over display. He highlighted initiatives in public financial management, digitization, service delivery monitoring, women's participation, youth development, and protection of minorities and vulnerable communities. He reiterated that exclusion weakens democratic stability and that inclusion is a practical expression of democracy.

He further noted that innovation extends beyond technology to institutional thinking and decision-making, cautioning that technological reforms must bring citizens closer to the state. Addressing peace, he underscored its linkage with social and climate justice, citing Sindh's frontline experience with climate change and the need for legislative action on resilience and disaster preparedness.

The Chief Minister emphasized the value of regional parliamentary cooperation as a tool for practical governance improvement and warned against polarization that undermines institutions. Referring to the adoption of the Karachi declaration, he urged delegates to treat it as a shared responsibility for implementation. In his closing remarks, he expressed appreciation for the delegates' participation and hospitality exchanges.

Adoption of the Karachi Declaration

The Speakers, Presiding Officers, and Delegates of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Asia and South-East Asia Regions, meeting in Karachi (3–7 February 2026), adopted the Karachi Declaration, reaffirming a collective commitment to democratic trust, inclusive governance, responsible innovation, and sustainable peace.

SALIENT FEATURES

1. STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC TRUST

- Reaffirmed parliamentary supremacy, constitutionalism, and democratic norms.
- Emphasised stronger oversight mechanisms, including enhanced committee systems and Public Accounts Committees.
- Encouraged evidence-based debate, cross-party cooperation, and deeper citizen engagement.

2. ADVANCING INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION

- Committed to meaningful representation of women, youth, differently abled persons, religious minorities, and marginalised groups.
- Called for reforms to remove systemic barriers in parliamentary rules and procedures.
- Endorsed civic literacy, public outreach, and leadership programmes for underrepresented communities.

3. RESPONSIBLE INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

- Recognised the growing role of digital governance and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in parliamentary systems.
- Urged ethical, transparent, and human-centred frameworks.
- Highlighted the need to counter misinformation, deepfakes, and digital manipulation while protecting democratic freedoms.

4. PEACE, CLIMATE RESILIENCE, AND SOCIAL COHESION

- Affirmed that peace, justice, and inclusive development are mutually reinforcing.
- Supported legislative action on climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and community empowerment.
- Recognised parliaments as platforms for dialogue, reconciliation, and conflict resolution.

5. DEEPENING REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

- Strengthened commitment to parliamentary diplomacy and regional collaboration.
- Encouraged structured capacity-building, knowledge-sharing, and partnerships with civil society, academia, and the private sector

CONCLUSION

The Declaration reaffirms the shared resolve of CPA Asia and South-East Asia parliaments to strengthen democratic resilience through trust, inclusion, innovation, and peace-building, and commits members to translate its principles into concrete legislative and institutional action.

The **Chief Guest Hon. Syed Murad Ali Shah Chief Minister, Government of Sindh**, formally declared the Conference closed.

Sindh Cultural Bazaar

Sindh Cultural Bazaar offered a curated experience of traditional crafts, music, cuisine, and heritage, fostering cultural exchange and regional camaraderie to the attendees of the three-day conference.



Cultural Night Dinner at Mohatta Palace, Karachi

