

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA



THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT

(SECOND SESSION)

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14/2/24*

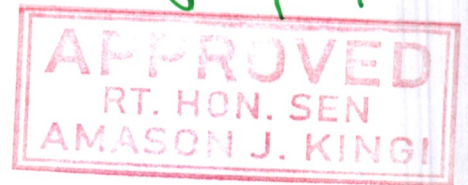
**Rt. Hon. Speaker**  
You may approve for tabling  
J. M. Nyegenye, C.B.S.,  
Clerk of the senate/secretary, PSC  
Date: 14/02/24

REPORT OF THE 66<sup>TH</sup> COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY  
CONFERENCE  
HELD IN ACCRA, GHANA  
30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER TO 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2023



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Clerks Chambers,  
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**NAIROBI.**

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DATE	15.02.2024
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November, 2023

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## PREFACE

Honourable Speaker,

1. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is an organization established in 1911 with the overarching objective of bringing Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff together to exchange ideas among themselves and with experts in various fields, to identify benchmarks of good practices and new policy options that can be adopted in the governance of the people.
2. The CPA Africa Region is one of the nine (9) regional associations of the CPA International comprising of sixty-three (63) national and subnational legislatures. It is made up of National Parliaments and Provincial/State/Territorial Legislatures of member countries of the Commonwealth in Africa. The CPA Africa Region aims to promote and protect interests of African Parliaments and Countries in the Commonwealth, and to promote, irrespective of gender, race, and religion, the democratic ideals of the CPA including women empowerment, respect for human rights and freedoms, representative government and good governance. The region undertakes a number of programmes including its Annual Regional Conference geared towards deliberating and arriving at a consensus on pertinent issues.
3. The 66<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) took place from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, in Accra, Ghana. The Conference was held *under the theme of 'The Commonwealth Charter 10 years on: Values and Principles for Parliaments to Uphold'*.
4. The 66<sup>th</sup> CPC inaugural ceremony took place at the Accra International Conference Centre, on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2023 at 9.00 am. with the Vice-Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the President of the Republic of Ghana and Vice Patron of the CPA President (2022-2023); Rt Hon. Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana and President of the CPA; Mr. Stephen Twigg, CPA Secretary-General; Hon. Ian Liddell-Grainer, MP (United Kingdom), MP, House of Commons, UK and Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee; CPA Chairperson; Hon. Osei Kyei-Mensah Bonsu, MP, Majority Leader in the Parliament of Ghana and Vice Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee; and Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration in attendance.

5. In his remarks, the Vice-Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the President of Ghana, welcomed the delegates to the 66<sup>th</sup> CPC. While highlighting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which compelled the Commonwealth to work together to survive, he averred that the world had been hit again with a series of geo-political crises, including the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the recent coup d'états in some parts of Africa. He stated that these crises were a great threat to the foundation of democratic values and institutions, and called for the Commonwealth to work together to address this new challenge. He urged the Commonwealth Parliamentarians to reflect deeply on the goal of the values and principles in the Commonwealth Charter and focus the discussions on the goal of attaining and maintaining the democratic ethos of a noble Commonwealth community.
6. The CPA President (2022-2023), Rt Hon. Alban Bagbin, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana on behalf of the Parliament of Ghana, welcomed the Commonwealth Parliamentarians to Accra for the 66<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. He stated that democracy would remain elusive if the parliamentarians are not deliberate in their efforts to ensure the independence of Parliaments. Further, the Speaker noted that Parliaments can be strengthened if oversight Committees are empowered to effectively review government actions, budgets and policies. Additionally, he stated that Parliaments can also be strengthened through civic education programs that inform citizens about their rights and the need to protect parliamentary democracy.
7. The CPA Secretary-General, Mr. Stephen Twigg also made his remarks. He welcomed the delegates to the 66<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, in Accra, and thanked the CPA Ghana Branch and Parliament of Ghana for hosting the Conference. He indicated that the Conference offered an invaluable opportunity to come together and share best practice in addressing common issues and strengthening Commonwealth values, as the theme on the Commonwealth Charter attests.

**Honourable Speaker,**

8. The Conference brought together Speakers, Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff representing the nine regions of the CPA – Africa; Asia; Australia; British Islands and Mediterranean; Canada; Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic; India; Pacific; and South East Asia.

9. Honourable Speaker, the Kenyan delegation to the 66<sup>th</sup> CPC comprised the following-
- i. The Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses M. Wetang'ula, EGH, MP, Speaker of the National Assembly and Leader of the Delegation
  - ii. The Hon. (Dr.) Makali Mulu, MP, Snr Regional Representative, CPA Africa Region/Member, CPA International Executive Committee
  - iii. The Hon. Timothy Wanyonyi, MP, CPwD Regional Champion
  - iv. The Hon. Beatrice Adagala, MP, Chairperson, CWP Kenya Chapter
  - v. The Hon. John Paul Mwirigi, MP, Branch Representative, CPA Kenya Branch
  - vi. The Hon. Beatrice Elachi, MP
  - vii. The Hon. Ronald Karauri, MP
  - viii. The Hon. Patrick Simiyu, MP
  - ix. The Hon. Zaheer Jhanda, MP
  - x. The Hon. Badi Twalib Badi, MP
  - xi. Sen. (Prof.) Margaret Kamar, MP
  - xii. Sen. Mwinyihaji Faki Mohamed, MP
  - xiii. Sen. Wahome Wamatinga, MP
  - xiv. Mr. Samuel Njoroge, Clerk of the National Assembly and Member, SoCATT
  - xv. Ms. Eunice Gichangi, Deputy Clerk, Senate and Member, SoCATT
  - xvi. Mr. Stephen Apopo, Director, Speaker's Office
  - xvii. Ms. Anna Musandu, Senior Clerk Assistant, Delegation Secretary (National Assembly)
  - xviii. Mr. Peter Atsiaya, Media Relations Officer, Speaker's Office
  - xix. Ms. Angela W. Gathuru, First Clerk Assistant, Delegation Secretary (Senate)
  - xx. Mr. Moses Lomale, Third Clerk Assistant, Assistant Delegation Secretary
  - xxi. Ms. Faith Nthenge, Protocol Officer, Speaker's Office
  - xxii. Mr. Sosytine Kituyi (Carer/Aide to the Hon. Timothy Wanyonyi, MP)
  - xxiii. Mr. Ricky Obuya (Carer/Aide to the Hon. Timothy Wanyonyi, MP)
10. During the Assembly and its related meetings, members of the Kenya delegation were actively involved in the deliberations that greatly enriched the resolutions. Speaking at the meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentarians, Africa Region, the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, the Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses M. Wetang'ula, MP emphasized the fundamental need to change the status of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association from a charitable body to an inter-parliamentary organ and urged the United Kingdom government to enact the appropriate legislation to facilitate the change of status of the CPA. He further stated that that the Africa Region was ready to host the Association's headquarters after the anticipated reforms had taken effect.

During the General Assembly, while contributing to the topical debate on Food Security and Sustainability in the Commonwealth, the Speaker stated that food security and sustainability are pressing issues that required concerted efforts and innovative strategies to address. He observed that the process of harvesting remained integral to food security and sustainability. He said that it was essential to strike a balance between meeting the immediate food needs of the people and safeguarding the resources and ecosystems in order to provide for those needs in the long term. He noted that sustainable harvesting practices are key components of achieving this balance. In conclusion, the Speaker stated that achieving food security and sustainability requires a multifaceted approach that considers environmental, social, and economic factors.

Honourable Speaker,

11. On behalf of the delegation, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in ensuring that Kenya was well represented during the 66<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

I further take this opportunity to thank H. E. Eliphaz Barine, Kenya's High Commissioner to Ghana for welcoming the delegation and the support accorded for the duration of the Conference.

Honourable Speaker,

12. It is my pleasure and humble duty to submit this report, highlighting the proceedings and recommendations of the 66<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamenatry Conference to Parliament for noting and necessary action.



.....  
SEN. (PROF.) MARGARET KAMAR, EGH, MP.

DATE.....12/2/2024.....

## REPORT OF THE 66TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE HELD IN ACCRA, GHANA 30TH SEPTEMBER TO 6TH OCTOBER, 2023

### A. BACKGROUND: ABOUT THE CPA

1. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is an organization established in 1911 with the overarching objective of bringing Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff together to exchange ideas among themselves and with experts in various fields, to identify benchmarks of good practices and new policy options that can be adopted in the governance of the people.
2. The CPA Africa Region is one of the nine (9) regional associations of the CPA International comprising of sixty-three (63) national and subnational legislatures. It is made up of National Parliaments and Provincial/State/Territorial Legislatures of member countries of the Commonwealth in Africa. The CPA Africa Region aims to promote and protect interests of African Parliaments and Countries in the Commonwealth, and to promote, irrespective of gender, race, and religion, the democratic ideals of the CPA including women empowerment, respect for human rights and freedoms, representative government and good governance. The region undertakes a number of programmes including its Annual Regional Conference geared towards deliberating and arriving at a consensus on pertinent issues.

### B. INTRODUCTION: THE 66<sup>TH</sup> CPC

3. The 66<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) took place from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, in Accra, Ghana. The Conference was held under the theme of *'The Commonwealth Charter 10 years on: Values and Principles for Parliaments to Uphold'*.
4. The Conference brought together parliamentarians, government officials, experts, parliamentary officers and stakeholders from Commonwealth member countries, fostering a diverse and inclusive dialogue. Further, the Conference provided a platform for parliamentarians to discuss and deliberate on issues related to democracy, governance, and the rule of law in Commonwealth countries. Workshops and sessions aimed to enhance the capacity of parliamentarians in the suggested areas were also held during the Conference.

## C. AGENDA OF THE 66<sup>TH</sup> CPC

5. The following outlines the Agenda of the 66<sup>th</sup> CPC -
  - i. **CPA Officer Elections:** to fill the position of the Vice Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee
  - ii. **The 66th CPA General Assembly:** pursuant to Article 11 of the Constitution of the CPA, the General Assembly shall have ultimate authority to determine the policy and management of the Association.
  - iii. Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities Network meetings
  - iv. Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Meetings
  - v. **Workshops** held during the 66<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference:
    - Workshop A - The Threat of Terrorism to Statehood – *the Role of Parliaments*
    - Workshop B - Gender Quotas in Parliament – *A Means to an End?*
    - Workshop C – What does Sustainable Trade and Economic Development mean for Small Jurisdictions?
    - Workshop D – Youth Roundtable – *Role of Commonwealth in International Security and Peacebuilding*
    - Workshop E – Environmental Approaches to Tackling Energy Poverty
    - Workshop F – 20 Years of the Latimer House Principles on the Separation of Powers: *Is it Working?*
    - Workshop G – The Commonwealth Charter: *A Charter for all Human Rights, or Just Some?*
    - Workshop H - E-Parliaments: *An Effective Mechanism for Intersectional Diversity and Equitable Public Engagement?*
  - vi. **The 57<sup>th</sup> General Meeting Of the Society-Of-Clerks-At-The-Table (SoCATT)** in Commonwealth Parliaments
  - vii. **The Inaugural Emilia Monjowa Lifaka Lecture:** held in memory of the late CPA Chairperson and highlighted the key role for Commonwealth Parliamentarians in promoting global education



- viii. **Commonwealth Parliamentarian of the Year Awards 2023:** This initiative, as approved by the CPA Executive Committee at their 2022 Mid-Year Meeting, hosted in Assam, India, will look to award one parliamentarian from within our CPA family with the Commonwealth Parliamentarian of the Year Award. Three additional awards based on various subcategories were also awarded.

#### D. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE 66<sup>TH</sup> CPC

6. During the 66th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) in Ghana, Commonwealth Parliamentarians attended the CPA General Assembly on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The CPA General Assembly was presided over by the CPA President (2022-2023), Rt Hon. Alban Bagbin, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana and was attended by Members from 102 CPA Branches. The CPA General Assembly, the Association's supreme authority, is constituted by delegates to the annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.
7. The General Assembly included a topical debate on Food Security and Sustainability in the Commonwealth, with presenters from CPA Branches including Queensland, Tanzania, Canada, Isle of Man and Turks and Caicos Islands.

#### Key Decisions and Outcomes

8. The following are the key decisions and outcomes of the 66<sup>th</sup> General Assembly-
- i. **CPA Status:** The Chairperson provided an update on the progress made in achieving a new international, inter-parliamentary status for the CPA. The Chairperson indicated that the legal and financial advice provided had demonstrated that it would be possible to change the CPA Status to an inter-parliamentary organization. It was agreed that the necessary steps, starting with persuading the UK Government to agree to legislate to recognise the CPA as an international, interparliamentary organisation. Further, the Assembly agreed to the pre-assessment stage of the benchmark for relocation and instructed the CPA Secretariat to write out to all CPA Branches following the 66<sup>th</sup> CPC to convey this decision. This communication would then be required to seek potential expressions of interest from Branches and include the assessment framework and methodology and a series of FAQs. Thereafter, a conclusive decision would be made at the meeting of the CPA Executive Committee in the MidYear in the year 2024.

During deliberations on the change of the status of the CPA, the Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses M. Wetang'ula, EGH, MP, the Speaker of the National Assembly raised concerns with regard to the creation of an interim structure to run the affairs of CPA pending the conclusion of the process towards the change of status. The Honourable Speaker underscored the need to have a time limit for the conclusion of the process.

- ii. **Annual Report for the period January to December, 2022:** The CPA President gave an update on the annual report for the period between January to December, 2022. The report detailed the activities undertaken by the Trustees in pursuance of the Associations's constitutional overall mandate of promoting knowledge of the constitutional, legislative, economic, social and cultural aspects of parliamentary democracy, with particular reference to the countries and territories of the Commonwealth. The report also contained the CPA's audited financial statements for the year 2022. The Assembly noted the Annual Report for the reporting period of January to December, 2022.
- iii. **CPA Secretary, General's annual appraisal and application for a second and final term:** A report was presented indicating that the Secretary General had successfully completed his annual performance review with the CPA Chairperson, which was carried out on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2023. For this performance review, the Secretary General had received an exceptional performance rating. It was further reported that the financial impact to his re-appointment for a second term had been accommodated within the existing staffing salary budgets. The Assembly approved the recommendation of the CPA Executive Committee that the CPA Secretary General be appointed for a second and final term, with this commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 and ending on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2028.
- iv. **CPA Membership Report:** The CPA Membership report was presented highlighting the CPA Membership, branches in abeyance, branches in suspension since 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, branches with suspensions rescinded, branches with payment fees arrears for the years 2021 and 2022, branches with payment fees udes for the year 2023, applications to form branches, applications to change delegate entitlement, applications to join or re-join CPA and update on the support to be provided to branches in financial difficulties. The Assembly noted the suspended CPA Branches, and that Regional Representatives and CPA Branch and Regional Secretaries continue to be encouraged to engage with defaulting Branches in their respective Regions to settle outstanding Branch fees or to agree a payment plan as soon as possible. The Assembly further noted the outstanding

subscription fees and agreed to the proposals for handling those Branches with arrears and for support to be provided to Branches as required. Furthermore, the Assembly acknowledged the progress made in respect of reinstating previously suspended CPA Branches together with further action outlined during the meeting.

- v. **CPA Future Membership Subscriptions:** An update on the proposals for the membership fees for the forthcoming years and suggestions for the future was provided. It was noted that membership fees continue to be the CPA's primary source of funding and subscriptions continue to fall in real terms with the last increase being in the year 2022. In this regard, the Assembly approved the proposal for membership fees to be increased in line with the revised budget and as per the recommendation from the CPA Executive Committee, to increase the fee by 4% for the years 2024 and 2025.
- vi. **Audited Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022:** The Audited report and financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022 were presented for approval. The Assembly was informed that the accounts had been audited, approved and signed off in April, by the Trustees at the Executive Committee meeting in Gibraltar. Further that, the accounts had been consolidated to incorporate the financial results of CPA Headquarters Secretariat and the two associated Trusts Conference Assistance Fund (CAF) and Working Capital Fund (WCF). The Assembly received the approved and signed CPA Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year to 31 December 2022.
- vii. **Budgets and Financial Management Reports:** A paper on the financial performance for the period between January, 2023 to June, 2023 together with the forecast for the year and a commentary on major variances from the budget was presented before the Assembly. With regard to the Conference Assistance Fund, the meeting also noted the increased subventions for 2025 onwards. The Assembly received and approved the result for the period and the forecast financial result for the year and the year-end financial position at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 in respect of the following reports and budgets-
  - a. CPA Secretariat Financial Report: period ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
  - b. CPA Secretariat Forecast 2023, Budget 2024 and Projection for 2025.
  - c. Working Capital Fund Financial Report: period ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Forecast 2023 and Budget 2024.
  - d. Conference Assistance Fund Financial Report: period ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Forecast 2023 and Budget 2024.
  - e. 2024 CPA Headquarters Budget and provisional budget for 2025.

- viii. **Internal Auditors:** The CPA Treasurer updated Members on progress relating to the planning of future internal audits as agreed by the Executive Committee. The Assembly agreed to reappoint internal auditors Sayer Vincent Auditors.
- ix. **Report of the Working Group on CPC Modalities:** A report of the Working Group on Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) Modalities which was established to review the current modalities for organizing the CPC was presented. The report highlighted some recommendations for consideration and adoption by the 66th General Assembly. This report had been considered by the Executive Committee at their meeting held in Gibraltar from 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023, and the Committee agreed to recommend the report to the General Assembly for consideration and adoption. The General Assembly approved and adopted the recommendations of the Working Group on CPC Modalities as endorsed by the Executive Committee in April 2023
- x. **Matters Submitted by CPA Branches to the 66th CPA General Assembly:** The Assembly endorsed the motion submitted by the CPA Isle of Man Branch, noting the work of the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC) and calling for strong and independent Public Accounts or equivalent Committees to sustain and promote the highest standards of public financial oversight, and encouraging Public Accounts Committees in the CPA to avail themselves of free membership of CAPAC in order to pursue these aims and to share best practice.
- xi. **Network Reports:** The Assembly received and endorsed reports of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Chairperson, Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) Chairperson and the CPA Small Branches Chairperson.
- xii. **Future CPC Conferences:** The Assembly was apprised on venues and dates for future CPA governance meetings which included the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences and Mid-Year meetings of the Executive Committee. The General Assembly noted the future venues and dates for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference and the Mid-Year Executive Committee as outlined in the paper. Branches were also encouraged to put forward offers to host future Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences in 2025 and subsequent years. To this end, the Assembly was informed that the Executive Committee at its meeting in April 2023, agreed that the 2024 Mid-Year Executive Committee meeting and subsequent Mid-Year Executive Committee meetings will be held virtually. Further, the Assembly agreed that

67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference would be hosted by the CPA New South Wales Branch in Sydney, from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024 as approved by the 65th General Assembly.

- xiii. **Election of new Regional Representatives on the CPA Executive Committee:** The Assembly was apprised on the election of new Regional Representatives as provided by the CPA Constitution. The General Assembly elected the Regional Representatives for each Region of the Association based on valid nomination from Regions. It is noteworthy that the term for the **Hon. (Dr) Makali Mulu, MP** as a Regional Representative, CPA Africa Region/Member, CPA International Executive Committee came to an end during the occasion of the 66<sup>th</sup> CPC.

#### **General Assembly Debate: Food Security and Sustainability in the Commonwealth**

9. The given topic for debate at the sitting of the Assembly was on Food security and sustainability in the Commonwealth. It was noted that food security and sustainability are critical issues that affect not only individual Commonwealth member states but the entire global community. The Commonwealth, with its diverse membership and shared commitment to values and principles, play a vital role in addressing these challenges. The following key aspects of food security and sustainability in the Commonwealth were highlighted-
- i. Many Commonwealth countries are vulnerable to the effects of climate change, such as extreme weather events, droughts, and rising sea levels. These has impacted on food production and access to resources.
  - ii. Parliaments have played a central role in formulating food security and sustainability policies and enacting legislation to address these issues including establishment of legal frameworks that promote sustainable agricultural practices, and regulate food safety and quality. Additionally, Parliaments have endeavoured to allocate funds to support food security and sustainability initiatives to enhance food production and distribution.
  - iii. In his contribution, the **Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses M. Wetang'ula, EGH, MP**, Speaker of the National Assembly stated that food security and sustainability is a pressing issue that requires concerted efforts and innovative strategies to address. The Speaker stated that the process of harvesting was integral to food security and sustainability. He noted that it was essential to strike a balance between meeting the immediate food needs of the people and safeguarding the resources and

ecosystems that will continue to provide for those needs in the long term. He further noted that sustainable harvesting practices are key components of achieving this balance.



*The Rt. (Dr.) Hon. Moses M. Wetang'ula, MP, Speaker of the National Assembly contributing to the debate on food security and sustainability in the Commonwealth*

In concluding the debate, it was noted that achieving food security and sustainability requires a multifaceted approach that considers environmental, social, and economic factors.

## **E. COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES (CPwD) NETWORK**

10. The Regional Champions of the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) Network met on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 during the 66<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. During the meeting, the CPwD Regional Champions set the agenda for the network for the year ahead. At the meeting, the Secretariat reported on its recent CPwD activities, including its Capital Investment Fund supporting Parliaments to become more accessible. Further, the Champions were briefed on the projects planned for the year 2024, including an update to the CPA's Disability Inclusive Communications Guidelines and the CPwD Capital Investment Fund 2024.

During the meeting, the Hon. Timothy Wanyonyi, MP reported that Kenya Branch had written to CPA expressing interest in applying for the CPwD Capital Investment Fund for 2024. The meeting was informed that the deadline for application was had been slated for December 2024.

11. The Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) Network, led by the CPwD Chairperson, the Hon. Laura Kanushu, MP (Uganda), highlighted the work of local projects, helping persons with disabilities during the 66<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. The CPwD Chairperson, accompanied by the Regional Champions of the Network and the CPA Secretary-General, Mr. Stephen Twigg, made a visit to the Accra Rehabilitation Centre in the West Ridge area of Ghana's capital city, Accra. The Accra Rehabilitation Centre runs vocational courses in visual art, leatherwork, masonry, carpentry, cosmetology, tailoring, needle work and rural craft in order to provide people with disabilities with employable skills. This activity provided an excellent opportunity for the CPwD's board to learn more about the efforts being made by Ghana to support persons with disabilities.

## F. COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS (CWP)

### Steering Committee

12. The CWP Steering Committee met during the 66<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, representing the seven of the nine CPA Regions: Africa; Asia; Australia; British Isles and the Mediterranean; Canada; Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic; and Pacific.
13. At this meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023, the delegates debated the time and format of future CWP Business meetings and conferences as well as the methods for reporting of CWP activities through the Regional Secretariats. The debate was guided by a motion passed by delegates containing recommendations for the CWP Steering Committee, which was passed by the delegates accordingly.
14. Further, the Committee elected Hon. Kate Doust, MLC from the Parliament of Western Australia as the new CWP Vice-Chairperson for a one-year term and agreed on the establishment of a new Subcommittee to examine a future work programme for the network.

## Business Meeting

15. Women Parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth met during the 66<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023. The meeting was updated on the CWP activities delivered since the 65<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada in August 2022. The CWP Chairperson also pledged to renew the effort to increase women's representation and political participation in Parliaments across the Commonwealth.

## UN Women event: 'Ending Discrimination in Law: Celebrating the Gains'

16. In the sidelines of the 66<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, delegates also attended a CWP and UN Women event. The discussions held during the event revolved around the support available to achieve gender-responsive legislation and advance state commitments around global goals pertaining to gender equality. Parliamentarians and experts gave key highlights from legal assessments across the Commonwealth, concrete actions that have been taken and the elements of successful reform efforts.

17. The CWP President (2023), Hon. Patricia Appiagyei, MP from the Parliament of Ghana spoke to delegates about her experience as a legislator and stated that it is an indictable fact that women across the globe face various forms of discrimination in their everyday activities. Millions of women worldwide are denied access to education, health services, and economic opportunities due to their gender. According to the United Nations, women around the world between the ages of 24 and 35 are 25% more likely than men to live in extreme poverty. This unequal treatment of people based on their gender has serious lifelong and generational effects.

18. Panellists also included Hon. Donatille Mukabalisa, Speaker of the Parliament of Rwanda and Ms Marsha Caddle, MP, House of Assembly of Barbados. The Speaker of Rwanda spoke about gender discrimination and reflected on the impact of the Rwanda 1994 genocide on women such as exclusion from education, employment and property rights. She stated that Rwanda has since implemented gender mainstreaming policies, strategies and programmes resulting in the amendment of a number of discriminatory laws and the introduction of laws that promote gender equality. The Member from Barbados shared an update on significant reforms involving government, the private sector and labour to collaborate in the enactment of legislation and workshops on gender-based violence. Dr Beatrice Duncan, Senior Policy Advisor, Rule of Law and Maureen Shonge, Policy Specialist WPP from UN Women



spoke about the recent trends in discriminatory laws, successful reforms and how they were achieved.

## G. WORKSHOPS HELD DURING THE 66TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

19. During the occasion of the 66<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, delegates took part in eight learning and development workshops. The workshops provided a space for delegates to share their experiences as Parliamentarians and discuss various issues.

The eight main conference workshops were as follows-

- i. **Workshop on the threat of terrorism to statehood: the Role of Parliament**

This workshop provided a platform for in-depth discussions and knowledge sharing among panellists and participants, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the capacity of the participants in effectively addressing the threat of terrorism to statehood while upholding democratic values and principles.

During the discussions, participants explored the threats of terrorist extremism to democracies and statehood, while shedding light on the multifaceted challenges it poses across West Africa and their implications for security and stability. Participants underscored the role that Parliaments must play in combatting these threats by promoting good governance; ensuring accountability; sensitising the public through awareness campaigns and education; fostering national cohesion and unity; improving the quality of investigative mechanisms by funding security institutions; enacting laws to protect citizens; promoting collaborative endeavours between governments and civil society organisations; allocating adequate resources to security organisations to counter terrorism; and driving accountability by ensuring efficient use of resources by security agencies.

At the end of the workshop, participants agreed that Parliaments should collaborate with stakeholders to improve governance architecture and ensure equitable distribution of resources; benchmark best practices for the involvement of Parliaments in combatting terrorism; perform their oversight responsibilities to ensure accountability; make appropriate legislation to combat cross-border terrorism; and address the root causes of terrorism.

ii. **Workshop on Gender Quotas in Parliament - a means to an end?**

The workshop provided a platform where panellists and participants explored the multifaceted nature of gender quotas in parliamentary representation, recognizing their potential to address gender disparities in politics, while also acknowledging the challenges and the importance of a broader, more inclusive approach to promoting gender equality in government.

The participants evaluated the effectiveness of gender quotas in Parliaments. Observations were made that despite progress made in many areas, women's representation in Parliaments remains inadequate. Efforts made by Parliaments to achieve gender equality including constitutional amendments and proportional representation were also outlined. Participants agreed that the journey to achieving gender equality requires dedication, funding, legislative support and political goodwill. The UN Women representative noted that women's representation is far from equal and stated that there are several instances where a quota system may be passed, yet not implemented due to certain barriers. Participants further observed that, at the current rate of progress, gender parity in Parliaments would not be reached in national Legislatures before 2063 globally if further action was not taken.

At the end of the workshop, the recommendation that that Parliaments of the Commonwealth, with less than 30% women Members, should implement a percentage of gender quotas through legislative means or via political party candidate selections was unanimously endorsed by the workshop participants.

iii. **Workshop on Youth Roundtable: Role of the Commonwealth in international security and peacebuilding**

This workshop provided a platform for young leaders and stakeholders to engage in discussions related to global security and peace efforts, with a specific focus on the Commonwealth's role. Participants exchanged ideas, shared experiences, with a view to contribute to the broader conversation on global security and peace efforts, as well as the Commonwealth's part in promoting these goals.

With 1.2 billion of the world's population made up of youth aged between 15 and 24 years, it was acknowledged that the youth are often ignored in decision-making and policy formulation, yet they bear the brunt of the effects of climate change and insecurity. It was also recognised that the growth of information technology in the world coupled with more people turning to social media platforms, many young people need more protection online and measures

should be in place to tackle cyberbullying. The representative from the Ghana National Peace Council explained that Ghana has a peacebuilding mechanism that helps resolve conflict and encouraged its adoption by other countries. Many youth participants expressed frustration with youth unemployment levels and the sidelining of youth in decision making.

At the end of the the workshop, delegates unanimously endorsed the recommendation that the Commonwealth Parliamentarians should champion peacebuilding initiatives, advocate for youth involvement in decision making and collaboration across the Commonwealth network, in order to bolster the Commonwealth's role in international security for a more peaceful and secure future.

**iv. Workshop on Environmental approaches in tackling energy poverty**

This workshop provided a platform for panelists and participants to discuss and explore various strategies and solutions for addressing the challenge of energy poverty while also promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly practices. It also served as a forum for knowledge exchange, the sharing of innovative solutions, and the development of strategies to ensure that clean and affordable energy access becomes a reality for marginalized communities, while addressing the environmental challenges posed by energy poverty.

**Sen. (Prof.) Margert Kamar, MP**, participated as a panelist having been invited by the CPA. While making her contribution, the Senator averred tackling energy poverty is a combined effort from the government and its citizens. She stated that the major challenge has been the unwillingness of communities in rural areas to transition from fossil fuel to clean energy as charcoal continues to be a cheaper option. She pointed out some of the solutions that have been initiated to contain energy poverty includes rural electrification, diversification of electricity sources, creation of a National Energy Policy, compulsory use of solar for water heating systems, and community sensitisation.



*Sen. (Prof.) Margaret Kamar, MP, speaking as a panelist at the Workshop on tackling energy poverty.*

The panelist from India stated that India is in the process of developing policies based on five key enablers namely; energy availability, accessibility, affordability, sustainability and efficiency.

At the end of the workshop, participants endorsed the recommendation that Parliamentarians across the Commonwealth must seek to ensure there is secure, reliable, efficient, affordable and environmentally sustainable energy provision available to all.

v. **Workshop on 20 Years of the Latimer House Principles on the Separation of Powers: Is it working?**

This workshop served as an opportunity for the participants to engage in discussions about the implementation and effectiveness of the Latimer House Principles, which promote the separation of powers in democratic systems.

The participants and panelists discussed the significance of the separation of powers as a fundamental pillar of democratic governance, emphasizing its role in preventing the abuse of power. Further, participants deliberated on the extent to which the Latimer House Principles have been adopted and implemented in different countries and regions with a view to share experiences and best practices.

The participants and panelists also discussed the challenges and obstacles to the effective separation of powers, including issues related to executive dominance, politicization of institutions, and the erosion of checks and balances. The discussions also revolved around the role of parliamentary institutions in ensuring that the legislative branch functions independently and effectively.

vi. **Workshop on the Commonwealth Charter: A Charter for all Human Rights, or just some?**

This workshop provided a platform for in-depth discussions among participants on various aspects of the Commonwealth Charter and its role in promoting and protecting human rights.

The panelists and participants engaged in discussions on the human rights framework within the Charter, emphasizing the principles of equality, non-discrimination, and universality. Further, there were deliberations and emphasis on gender equality and women's rights, in the Charter. Furthermore, discussing how it addresses gender-based discrimination and violence. Participants the need for the Charter to include the protection LGBTQ+ rights and issues of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

There were also discussions revolving around the importance of civil society organizations and human rights advocacy in promoting the principles of the Charter. Participants also acknowledged the challenges and controversies related to the interpretation and implementation of the Charter's human rights provisions.

At the end of the workshop, the participants endorsed the recommendation that the Commonwealth Charter should apply to all Commonwealth citizens irrespective of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or political views and that Parliaments should actively work towards the advocacy of human right for individuals.

vii. **Workshop on E-Parliaments: An effective mechanism for intersectional diversity and equitable public engagement?**

This workshop provided a platform for discussions and valuable insights on how digital and online parliamentary mechanisms have helped promote diversity, inclusivity, and public participation.

The panelists and participants discussed the digital transformation of parliamentary processes and how e-parliaments have evolved over time particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, participants delved into discussions on how e-parliaments facilitate greater public engagement and how this can lead to more diverse voices being heard in decision-making processes.

The participants also discussed the significance of ensuring that e-parliament platforms are accessible to individuals with disabilities and the measures required to achieve this. Further discussions arose on the challenges of ensuring digital inclusion, particularly for marginalized communities and individuals with limited access to the internet. Additionally, the challenge digital divide, data protection and privacy rights were discussed and participants agreed that it was essential for Parliaments address these challenges to ensure that e-parliaments effectively promote intersectional diversity and equitable public engagement while safeguarding the rights and privacy of individuals.

At the end of the workshop delegates unanimously endorsed the recommendation that Parliaments should embrace their representative function, both in the diversity of its membership and through engaging with the public, including via appropriate and innovative approaches for diversity and public engagement.

## **H. OTHER MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE OCCASION OF THE 66<sup>TH</sup> CPC**

### **i. MEETING OF THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM THE AFRICA REGION**

A meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentarians from the Africa Region was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 at the sidelines of the 66<sup>th</sup> CPC. The highlights of the meeting are as follows-

- a. The meeting held discussions on the change of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association from a charitable organization to an

international inter-parliamentary organization. While making his contribution, the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses M. Wetang'ula, MP raised concerns on the slow pace by the United Kingdom Government in enacting a legislation to facilitate the change in status of the CPA. He gave the indication of the overall willingness of the Kenya to host the CPA Headquarters.

- b. The meeting considered and deemed appropriate the recommendation by the Working Group on Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) Modalities, a group which was established to review the current modalities for organizing the CPC, to include the pre-assessment stage of the benchmarks for prospective host country of the CPC.
- c. The meeting was informed that during that during the CWP Business meeting held virtually on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023, the Hon. Ndingiza Madina, MP (Rwanda) was elected Chairperson of CWP Africa for the period 2023 - 2026. She took over from Hon. Zainab Gimba, MP (Nigeria). The meeting was further informed that the Hon. Talita Monnakgotla, MP (Botswana) was elected Vice Chairperson taking over from Hon. Baroda Kayanga, MP (Uganda).

ii. **57th GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY-OF-CLERKS-AT-THE-TABLE (SoCATT) IN COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTS**

The 57th Meeting of the Society of-Clerks-at-the-Table (SoCATT) took place in the sidelines of the 66<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The meeting brought together Parliamentary Clerks and parliamentary staff from Commonwealth Parliaments.

The presentations made during the meetings were as follows-

a. **Parliamentary system and developments in the Parliament of Ghana**

Participants were informed that the Parliamentary system in Ghana is characterized by a unicameral legislature, known as the Parliament of Ghana, which plays a pivotal role in the country's democratic governance.

b. **Parliamentary diplomacy in the Canadian Federal Parliament**

Participants were informed that Parliamentary diplomacy in the Canadian Federal Parliament plays a significant role in advancing Canada's foreign policy and international relations. Canadian

parliamentarians, particularly members of the House of Commons and the Senate, engage in diplomatic efforts through various means, including inter-parliamentary exchanges, parliamentary committees, and interactions with foreign counterparts.

**c. Ministerial accountability and privilege in the United Kingdom Parliament**

Participants were informed that Ministerial accountability and privilege are fundamental principles in the United Kingdom Parliament, underpinning the relationship between the government and Parliament. Government ministers, including members of the Cabinet, are answerable to Parliament for their actions, decisions, and the policies they oversee. Ministers are expected to provide explanations and justifications for their conduct, both collectively and individually, through parliamentary questions and debates.

**d. Cybersecurity in an E-Parliament: A case study from Western Cape**

Participants were informed that the Western Cape's had adopted the e-parliamentary tools and platforms which has not only facilitated efficient and accessible engagement with the public but has also raised concerns about potential cyber threats. Through the case study, participants noted that there is need for robust cybersecurity measures, including firewalls, encryption, and intrusion detection systems, to safeguard sensitive data and ensure the integrity of the digital parliamentary space.

**e. Gender sensitive audits in the Scottish Parliament**

Participants were informed that gender-sensitive audits in the Scottish Parliament represent a proactive approach to assessing and enhancing gender equality within the parliamentary processes and policies. By examining the impact of legislative and administrative decisions on different genders, these audits contribute to a more inclusive and equitable parliamentary environment.

**f. Ratification of treaties and conventions: National Assembly of Kenya**

The Clerk of the National Assembly of Kenya, Mr. Samuel Njoroge made a presentation on ratification of treaties and conventions, the case of Kenya. The highlights of his presentation are as follows-



- i. Approval and ratification of treaties in Kenya is governed by the Constitution of Kenya, the Treaty Making and Ratification Act of 2012 (TMRA), and the National Assembly Standing Orders. Parliament enacted the TMRA in 2012 to provide for the procedure for making and ratifying treaties.
- ii. The TMRA applies to multilateral and bilateral treaties concluded by Kenya after its commencement. However, the Act limits its application on bilateral treaties to only those dealing with the security of Kenya, the rights and duties of Kenyan citizens, the status of Kenya under international law, the relationship between Kenya and international organizations, the environment and natural resources, government business, and technical, administrative or executive matters.
- iii. The Constitution of Kenya assigns the national executive the authority to negotiate and sign treaties. However, a treaty signed by the national executive does not automatically bind the country internationally or become law in Kenya. For Kenya to be legally bound by treaty obligations, Parliament must, by a resolution, approve a treaty. Once approved by Parliament and upon deposit of the instruments of ratification, the treaty automatically becomes part of Kenyan law to the extent that they are relevant and not in conflict with the Constitution and other Acts of Parliament.
- iv. The Act further provides that a treaty relating to the adjustment, alteration, or variation of the present position of Kenya on matters of sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity must be approved in a referendum under Article 255 of the Constitution.
- v. Standing Order 216(5) (fa) of the National Assembly Standing Orders places the 'examination of treaties, agreements and conventions' under the purview of Departmental Committees. Before the amendment, the Departmental Committee on Defence and Foreign Relations examined agreements, treaties, and conventions.
- vi. The relocation of this mandate from the Departmental Committee on Defence and Foreign Relations to the various Departmental Committees sought to facilitate adequate consideration of treaties, agreements, and conventions. Review of treaties to do with, for example, education or energy agreements, by the Departmental Committee on Defence and Foreign Relations was seen as less effective because such matters fell within the general portfolio of

other Committees (in this case, the Departmental Committees on Education and Energy, respectively).

- vii. Once the Cabinet approves the ratification of a treaty, the responsible Cabinet Secretary submits the treaty and an explanatory memorandum on the treaty to the Speaker of the National Assembly. The memorandum must outline, among others, the objects and subject matter of the treaty, any constitutional implications, the affected national interests, obligations it imposes on Kenya, and the policy, legislative, and financial implications.
- viii. Standing Order 170A provides that a treaty submitted to the National Assembly for ratification shall be laid on the Table of the House and stand committed to the relevant Committee for consideration. The Committee considers the treaty and conducts public participation in the ratification process in accordance with parliamentary procedures. Section 8(3) of the TMRA mandates the Committee to ensure public participation in the ratification process in line with the constitutional requirement for Parliament to facilitate the involvement of the public in legislative affairs under Article 118 of the Constitution.
- ix. The National Assembly may approve the ratification of a treaty with or without reservations to specific treaty provisions. The report of the Committee to the House must include information on the views of the people on the ratification of the treaty emanating from public participation; the findings on the treaty and any other information the committee may deem necessary; recommendations that the House either approves the ratification of the treaty with or without reservations; or rejects the ratification of the treaty.
- x. The Clerk of the National Assembly is required to convey the resolution of the House on a treaty to the relevant Cabinet Secretary within fourteen days of the decision of the House. If the House approves the ratification of a treaty, the relevant Cabinet Secretary shall request the Cabinet Secretary responsible for foreign affairs to prepare the instruments of ratification of the treaty. In case of approval with reservations, the Treaty may only be ratified with the reservations. After that, the Cabinet Secretary responsible for foreign affairs must sign, seal, and deposit the instruments of ratification with the relevant international body and file a copy with the Registrar of Treaties.

- xi. The National Assembly is precluded from approving a treaty's ratification if the treaty or any of its provisions are contrary to the Constitution. The government shall not ratify the Treaty if the National Assembly rejects ratification. The Clerk of the National Assembly is required to transmit the resolution refusing approval to the relevant Cabinet Secretary within fourteen days of the resolution.
  - xii. In case of future amendment, addition of a protocol, or any other modification to a ratified treaty, section 10 of the TMRA requires such amendments, protocols, or modifications to be ratified before they become applicable to Kenya. It is an offence under the Act to ratify a treaty on behalf of Kenya without consideration and approval by the Cabinet and the Parliament. Further, the TMRA promotes public awareness by requiring the Cabinet Secretary responsible for foreign affairs to lay before the National Assembly a report containing the records of all treaties ratified by Kenya that bind Kenya to specific actions.
  - xiii. The challenges that have been noted in the approval of the ratification of treaties include, lack of Parliamentary involvement in treaty initiation and negotiations; treaties with lop-sided and unconscionable provisions; non-participation of the Senate; low interest by the public, and treaties with cross-cutting subject matters.
- g. Developments in procedure and practice in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly**

Participants were informed that the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly has embraced digitalization, introducing e-proceedings, live streaming of sessions, and online access to legislative documents, enabling greater transparency and public participation.

**h. Delegated Legislation: The shifting balance of power between the Legislature and the Executive in the United Kingdom**

Participants were informed that, while the UK Parliament retains its legislative authority, the increasing delegation of lawmaking powers to government ministers and administrative bodies has raised questions about the extent of parliamentary oversight and accountability. This shift has enabled the Executive to address technical and administrative matters more efficiently but also demands vigilant scrutiny to ensure that it remains within the bounds of the authority granted by Parliament. The

United Kingdom's evolving approach to delegated legislation exemplifies the delicate balance between expediency and preserving the integrity of the democratic system, emphasizing the need for robust mechanisms of checks and balances to uphold the core principles of legislative accountability and sovereignty.

**i. Benchmarking against the CPA's Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures**

Participants were informed that benchmarking against the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's (CPA) benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures provides an essential framework for evaluating and improving the performance and effectiveness of parliamentary institutions. These benchmarks serve as a valuable yardstick for assessing key aspects of democratic governance, including transparency, inclusivity, accountability, and the protection of human rights. Ultimately, benchmarking against the CPA's standards plays a crucial role in advancing the quality of democratic legislatures and reinforcing their role as essential pillars of representative governance.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the SoCATT Secretary (United Kingdom) outlined a number of SoCATT reports and decisions, and proposals for the agenda for the 58<sup>th</sup> SoCATT General Meeting were agreed.

**iii. EMILIA MONJOWA LIFAKA LECTURE**

The inaugural Emilia Monjowa Lifaka Lecture took place in the sidelines of the 66<sup>th</sup> CPC. The Emilia Monjowa Lifaka Lecture was conducted in memory of Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, the late Chairperson of the CPA International Executive Committee and Deputy Speaker of Cameroon. Hon. Monjowa Lifaka was a passionate champion of the CPA and served as CPA Chairperson from November 2017 until her death in April 2021. The lecture was based on the key role of Commonwealth Parliamentarians in global education.

The keynote address was given by Betty Abeng, Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Education Trust, who spoke about the importance of education for all Commonwealth citizens and the key objective of achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all.

**iv. CPA OFFICER ELECTIONS**

The CPA Executive Committee confirmed the Hon. Arthur Holder, Speaker of the House of Assembly of Barbados to the position of Vice-Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee. The position of Vice-Chairperson is for a term of one year and the holder is also a Member of the CPA Co-ordinating Committee.

**v. COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2023**

The Commonwealth Parliamentarian of the Year 2023 Awards were announced at the 66<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. The 2023 Awards were presented by the Hon. Kate Doust, MLC, from the Parliament of Western Australia, who was the recipient of the first CPA Parliamentarian of the Year Award in 2022, and the CPA Chairperson, the Hon. Ian Liddell-Grainger, MP (United Kingdom). Other awards were given as follows-

- a. The Hon. Nelly Mutti, MP, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia was awarded the 2023 Commonwealth Parliamentarian of the Year Award in recognition of her parliamentary service and her commitment to transparency in parliamentary processes. This nomination also emphasized the Speaker's contributions to upholding the rule of law and her dedication to ensuring the citizens of Zambia have quick and easy access to information.
- b. The Hon. Ntombi Lentheng Mekgwe, MPL, Speaker of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature in South Africa was awarded the 2023 Parliamentary Equality and Diversity Award in recognition of her parliamentary service and her commitment to gender mainstreaming and the promotion of women's empowerment, the work of the Multi-Party Women's Caucus in Gauteng, and the sector Parliaments (including youth, LGBTQIA+, elderly citizens and women).
- c. The Hon. Myrna Driedger, MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in Canada was awarded the 2023 Parliamentarian Life-time Achievement Award in recognition of her parliamentary service and her commitment and contributions to the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network, particularly in the CPA Canada Region, as well as her work encouraging young women and girls to become active in politics and her 25 years of promoting the education of youth around the work of Parliament.

- d. The Hon. Tanya August-Hanson, MLC, Member of the Isle of Man Legislative Council was awarded the 2023 New Parliamentarian Award in recognition of her contributions to promoting parliamentary democracy and engagement amongst young people, her role as an ambassador for the CPA, and her pioneering of the concept of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between Parliamentarians and the Government.

## I. RECOMENDATIONS BY THE KENYA DELEGATION TO THE 66<sup>TH</sup> CPC

Thereupon, the Kenya delegation to the 66<sup>th</sup> CPA made the following recommendations;

- (i) **Cognisant that**, the CPA at its 65<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Halifax, Canada from 20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022, noted with great concern the delay by the British Government to change the legal status of the Association from a charitable organization registered under British law to an international parliamentary organization;
- (ii) **Aware that**, the 65<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference proposed the relocation of the Headquarters of the Association from London, UK to any capital city of a member Branch willing to accord the Association the status of an international organization should the UK not expedite the change of status;
- (iii) **Further aware that**, as resolved during the 65<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, the CPA developed, considered and approved Benchmarks to guide the selection of a potential host for the relocated Headquarters;
- (iv) **Noting**, the undertaking by the UK Parliament underscored during the 66<sup>th</sup> CPC, to expedite consideration of the relevant legislation and conclude the process to change the legal status of the CPA from a charitable organization to an international parliamentary organization;
- (v) Thereupon, the Parliament of Kenya notes this Report and;
  - (a) resolves to support the continued effort to change the legal status of the CPA from a charitable organization registered under British law to an international parliamentary organization; and
  - (b) further resolves to support the relocation of the CPA Headquarters to another member Branch willing to accord the Association the status of an international organization should the relevant legislation not be passed by the UK Parliament.

The Kenya Parliament Delegation to the 66<sup>th</sup> CPC urges the two Houses of Parliament to note this Report.



*From right to left: Hon. Ronald Karauri, MP, H.E. Eliphaz M Barine, Ambassador of Kenya in Ghana, Hon. Beatrice Elachi, MP, Hon. (Dr.) Makali Mulu MP, Sen. Mohamed Faki, MP, Sen. (Prof.) Margaret Kamar, MP, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses Wetang'ula, EGH, MP, Speaker of the National Assembly and Head of the delegation, Sen. Wahome Wamatinga, MP, Hon. Timothy Wanyonyi, MP (foreground), Hon. Beatrice Adagala, MP, Hon. Patrick Simiyu, MP, Hon. Badi Twalib Badi, MP, Hon. Zaheer Jhanda, MP, Hon. John Paul Mwirigi, MP and Mr. Samuel Njoroge, Clerk of the National Assembly.*

