

REPORT

ON

THE PARTICIPATION OF
INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

AT THE

56TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

IN NAIROBI (KENYA)

10 – 19 SEPTEMBER, 2010

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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PREFACE

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is an Association of Commonwealth Parliamentarians. CPA enjoys the status of a charitable organization under the Charities Act of the United Kingdom. At present 175 National, State, Provincial and Territorial Parliaments and Legislatures with about 17,000 Parliamentarians are the Members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

2. The Association's mission is to promote the advancement of parliamentary democracy, enhancing knowledge and understanding of democratic governance.

3. The CPA's annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference provides an annual forum for discussions by bringing together Parliamentarians from across the globe, fostering co-operation and understanding and promoting the study in respect of good parliamentary practice. It is a platform where the Commonwealth countries interact and dwell on relevant related issues.

4. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha attended the 56th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya from 10 to 19 September, 2010.

5. The report brings out the details of India's participation at the above Conference.

6. I hope the information contained in the report will be of use to Members as and when the related issues come up for discussion in Parliament.

T.K. Vishwanathan
Secretary-General

New Delhi
December, 2011
Agrahayana, 1933 (Saka)

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56TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE, NAIROBI,**KENYA, 10-19 SEPTEMBER, 2010****REPORT****1. Introduction**

1.1 The CPA was founded in 1911 as the Empire Parliamentary Association and its affairs were administered by the United Kingdom Branch. Evolving with the Commonwealth, the CPA in 1948 adopted its present name, changed its rules to enable all member Branches to participate in the Association's management, and established a separate Secretariat to manage its affairs. The CPA is an Association of Commonwealth Parliamentarians who, irrespective of gender, race, religion or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy. Global political issues and developments in the parliamentary system are analyzed in conference debates among leading Parliamentarians representing Parliaments and Legislatures throughout the Commonwealth. These plenary conferences were biennial from 1948 to 1959 and annual since 1961. A summary of the main views expressed in conference debates is sent to Members, Commonwealth governments and international agencies. The conference period also encompasses meetings of the General Assembly, the Executive Committee, Small Branches Members, Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Clerks and Secretaries.

The 56th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was hosted by the Parliament of Kenya at Nairobi from 10 to 19 September, 2010. The Indian Delegation to the Conference was led by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar and comprised the following Members from India Union CPA Branch (Parliament of India):-

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | Smt. Meira Kumar
Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha | Leader of the Delegation and Regional Representative from CPA India Region |
|----|--|--|

Delegates

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 2. | Ms. Sushila Tiriya, MP | Rajya Sabha |
| 3. | Shri Harin Pathak, MP | Lok Sabha |
| 4. | Shri Moinul Hassan, MP | Rajya Sabha |
| 5. | Smt. Ingrid Mcleod, MP | Lok Sabha |
| 6. | Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, MP | Lok Sabha |
| 7. | Shri P.D.T. Achary,
Secretary-General, Lok Sabha | Regional Secretary
Of CPA India Region and
Member, Society of the Clerks-at-the
Table |
| 8. | Shri Amitabh Mukhopadhyay,
Joint Secretary,
Lok Sabha Secretariat | Secretary to the Delegation |

Observers

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 9. | Dr. V.K. Agnihotri,
Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha | Member of the Society of the Clerks-at-the-Table |
| 10. | Shri Dina Nath Pandey,
Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Speaker,
Lok Sabha | |
| 11. | Shri N.S. Walia, Director,
Rajya Sabha Secretariat | |
| 12. | Smt. Abha Singh Yaduvanshi, Director
Lok Sabha Secretariat | |
| 13. | Shri Gurnam Singh, Joint Director,
Rajya Sabha Secretariat | |

14. Shri S.R. Mishra, Deputy Secretary,
Lok Sabha Secretariat
15. Shri Krishan Pal Balyan,
OSD to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha
16. Shri Pankaj Kumar Sharma,
Sr. Protocol Assistant, Lok Sabha Secretariat

Delegates from the Indian State CPA Branches also attended the Conference as per details given at Annexure (i).

- 1.2 The delegates from India Union CPA Branch travelled to Nairobi in groups. The Hon'ble Speaker, accompanied *inter-alia* by the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and the Principal Secretary to HS and other officials left Delhi for Kenya via Dubai on 09 September, 2010. After attending the conference, Hon'ble Speaker and the accompanying officers returned to Delhi, via. Dubai on 21 September, 2010. Smt. Sushila Tiriya, MP (RS) & Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, MP(LS) left Delhi via Dubai for Nairobi on 11 September, 2010. The other members of the delegation departed for Nairobi on 12 September, 2010 from Delhi.
- 1.3 Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha was accompanied by her spouse. Smt. Ingrid Mcleod, MP, Lok Sabha was also accompanied by her spouse.

2. Meetings of the CPA Executive Committee

- 2.1 The meetings of the Executive Committee were chaired by Hon'ble Dato' Seri Mohd. Shafie Apdal, Chairman of the CPA Executive Committee and Minister of Rural and Regional Development, Malaysia.
- 2.2 Smt. Meira Kumar, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Hashim Abdul Halim, Hon'ble Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly and Treasurer of the CPA. Shri Tanka

Bahadur Rai, Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly and Shri Harmohinder Singh Chattha, Hon'ble Speaker, Haryana Legislative Assembly alternate to Shri Uday Narain Chauduary, Hon'ble Speaker, Bihar Legislative Assembly attended the meetings of the CPA Executive Committee held at Nairobi on 11 and 12 September, 2010. The decision of the Executive Committee were put before the General Assembly held on 18 September, 2010 at Tsavo Ballroom, KICC. The members of the Executive Committee attended the CPA Plenary Conference also.

2.3 . Later, a meeting of the New Executive Committee was held on 18 September, 2010 at 1500 hours in VIP lounge, KICC on 18 September, 2010. The Chairperson welcomed the new members to the Executive Committee. From India the meeting was attended by Smt. Meira Kumar, Hon'ble Speaker Lok Sabha and Chairman of India Region CPA, Shri Harmohinder Singh Chattha, Hon'ble Speaker, Haryana Legislative Assembly and Shri Wanglin Lowandong, Hon'ble Speaker Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly as alternate to Shri Tanka Bahadur Rai, Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly (who left early in the day).

2.4 Hon. Marwick T. Khumalo, MP, Swaziland was elected unopposed by the New Executive Committee as Vice-Chairperson of CPA for the period 2010-11.

3. Meetings of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians

3.1 Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) were held on 10 September, 2010. No member from India Region participated in the meeting, however, a report on developments in India relating to gender matters, highlighting the institutional structures and constitutional provision in India to safeguard the rights of women and steps being taken to ameliorate their condition was sent to CPA for record.

3.2 **The 2nd CWP Conference** was held on 13 September, 2010 at 900 hours at Aberdares Room KICC.

The theme of the CWP Conference was **“The Status of Women in 2010”**

Plenary Sessions:

1. Strategies to increase women’s representation in Parliament
2. Enhancing participation of women in decision-making processes
3. Women as migrant workers
4. Reform of Political Parties – Working towards Democracy

3.3 CWP Business Meeting

CWP Business Meeting was to be held in Amphithreatre of Kenya International Conference Centre (KICC) on Friday 17th September, 2010 at 0800 hours. However, the venue was changed to Aberdares Room KICC. The meeting was Presided Over by Hon’ble Amina Abdallah, MP from Kenya. **Hon’ble Kashmala Tariq, MNA, Chairperson CWP and Dr. William F. Shija, Secretary-General, CPA were also on dais.**

- I. The **apologies** from the CWP Steering Committee Meeting were read out to the Business Meeting. The apologies were read out *inter-alia* for Hon’ble Kumari Selja, MP and Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.
- II. **CWP Report:** The CWP Chairperson Ms. Kashmala Tariq, MNA read out the CWP Steering Committee Report. **The same was adopted.**
- III. **Anthem:** A proposal from Cameroon came that the CWP may have a women’s anthem (the text of which is enclosed). It was seconded by Smt. Bharati Mukherjee, MLA from West Bengal Legislative Assembly. **The same was then adopted** by the Assembly as the Women’s anthem **by voice vote.**
- IV. **Declaration of Vice-Chairperson:** **Hon’ble Rebecca Kadaga, MP** and Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda was elected the Vice-Chairperson of CWP at the CWP Steering Committee Meeting held on 10 September. She is the CWP Steering Committee Member from Africa Region. **She was declared elected as Vice-Chairperson for the year 2010-11.**
- V. **Election for the CWP Chairperson:** The term of the Chairperson is for a period of three years. This is the third election which is taking place for the CWP Chairperson. The term of the Chairperson elected for this post would be 2010-13. At the final stage there were **two candidates** in the fray for the post of CWP Chairperson. The candidates were:-

(i) **Hon. Alix Boyd Knights, MHA and Speaker, House of Assembly
Dominica &**

(ii) **Ms Charlotte L'Écuyer, MNA, from Quebec, Canada.**

It was decided and agreed upon in the CWP Steering Committee meeting held on 10th September, 2010 and also at CWP Conference held on 13 September, 2010 that the final electoral roll may be put up for information 10 hours before the elections were to be held rather than 24 hours (as mentioned in the rules) **as per Rule 5C:**

“Delegates and secretaries shall advise the CPA Secretariat of any errors or omissions in the preliminary roll prior to the closure of the roll 24 hours prior to the scheduled start of the General Assembly session/Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Business Meeting at which the vote will take place”

Because of the tours and excursions of the delegates/CPA Secretariat Staff/Host Staff in different groups. The preliminary rolls were removed from each of the hotels designated for the Conference and the final electoral roll were put up.

VI. On 16 September 2010 when the CPA Secretariat staff came back from the tour/excursion they received **letter from South Africa to switch some of their registered observers to the delegates.** This issue was raised before the agenda for the CWP Business Meeting. It may be mentioned here that the name of Smt. Ingrid Mcleod, MP (earlier Observer) was sent to the CPA Secretariat to be included as delegate in place of Smt. Mausam Noor, MP. The name of all the Members attending the Conference was in the electoral roll. Therefore, India did not have any issue in this regard.

As per the electoral rules observers are not included in the final electoral roll as they are not entitled to vote as substitutes for delegates until intimated before the commencement of the Conference.

Now, the issue before the Assembly was whether to **waive the Rule 5F** which states **“Observers may not substitute for absent delegates during voting”** which was argued upon by many delegates from African countries as well as from Canada, and Australia. **Smt. Bharati Mukherjee, MLA, West Bengal, India said “All delegates and observers who are representatives of the people, should be allowed to vote”.**

After long discussion **it was decided that the Rules be waived and the observers, as per the letter from South Africa be included as delegate for the**

voting purposes. It was then decided to amend the rule by voice vote to re work and add the names on the electoral roll. A break of 15 minutes was taken

Break for 15 Minutes

After the break the rolls were distributed to the Members (copy enclosed) when the rolls were distributed the representatives from **Sierra Leone** mentioned that their branch was earlier suspended but during the Conference they had come out of suspension and so they may be treated as delegates and they have the right to vote. The Assembly at CWP Business Meeting agreed to include their names in the electoral list. **Their names were then written by hand** as they were not available in the revised typed list. Subsequently, **they were allowed to vote.**

The Secretary-General, CPA took out the chit for the first candidate to speak before the Assembly. Ms. Charlotte L'Ecuyer from Quebec, Canada spoke for 10 minutes before the Assembly and Hon. Alix Boyd Knights, MHA from Dominica, the other contender went out of the room. Thereafter, Hon. Alix Boyd Knights, spoke for 10 minutes while Ms Charlotte L'Écuyer went out of the room.

There were two ballot boxes brought for the ballot, however, the CWP Business Meeting requested that there be a call out of the names of each women delegate region-wise. **From India Region Hon'ble Speaker Smt. Meira Kumar, Ms. Sushila Tiriya, MP, Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, MP, Smt. Ingrid Mcleod, MP Mrs. Pranatee Phukan, MLA from Assam and Ms. Bharati Mukherjee, MLA from West Bengal were called out.** Each Member as called out came and voted.

As per rule 6 (c) of the Constitution of CPA Tellers are nominated by the Returning Officer to count votes. Such Tellers so far as possible shall not be from the same region as any of the candidates and each candidate shall be entitled to have one representative present at the counting of the votes. **Hon. Dr. Perpetua S. Fernandopulle, MP from Sri Lanka and Ms. Moana Mackey, MP from New Zealand were appointed as Tellers.** Secretary-General, CPA as per the request from the CWP Business Meeting counted the votes in front of the entire CWP Business Meeting instead of counting in a separate room . The Assembly wanted the Secretary-General to count the votes loudly. Each vote was then counted aloud before the Assembly.

The results were then declared by the Secretary-General.

Total votes	-	74
Hon. Alix Boyd Knights, MHA and Speaker, House of Assembly Dominica	-	54
Ms. Charlotte L'Ecuyer	-	18
spoiled votes	-	02

**Hon. Alix Boyd Knights, MHA and Speaker, House of Assembly
Dominica** was declared elected. She took the Chair of the CWP for three years
i.e. 2010-13.

The CWP Business Meeting then adjourned

Plenary Conference

The Plenary Conference was held at KICC from 14-18 September, 2010. The theme of the Conference was "Parliament and Development in 21st Century thus Far and Beyond".

4. **Opening of the Conference**

4.1 The Conference was inaugurated by H.E. Hon. Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander -in-Chief of Defence Forces, at 10 A.M. on 14 September, 2010 at the Tsavo Ballroom, Kenyatta International Conference Centre. The theme of the Conference was "Parliament and Development in the 21st Century: Thus Far and Beyond". He emphasized that it is the most appropriate theme. He mentioned that **discussion under the theme comprise the key development challenges facing our countries. He stressed in particular, the issues of**

climate change and energy, status of women migrant workers as well as peace and security are relevant developmental challenges which the countries are confronted with and requires immediate attention. He stressed the utmost need for achieving sustainable development by making enough and effective development options of environment friendly technology. He brought to the fore the role of parliamentarians in protection of migrant workers which is presently a very important issue and many countries are facing difficulties. He emphasized the obligation on countries to cut down on the use of fossil fuels through conscious investments in low carbon renewable energies which are environment friendly.

4.2 Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst, alternate to the Vice-President of CPA Rt. Hon. John Bercow, MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, U.K. proposed a vote of Thanks.

4.3 The Inaugural Function was attended by Smt. Meira Kumar, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and President of CPA India Region and the other Members of the Indian Delegation. After the Inaugural Function official photograph of the Delegates and observers was taken Regionwise.

4.4 Thereafter, separate briefings were held for delegates, observers, Workshop Moderators, Discussion leaders, Rapporteurs and Session Secretaries which were attended by the other members of the Indian Delegation.

5.1 During the Conference eight workshops and two plenary sessions were held.

The first Plenary Session held on Tuesday, the 14 September, 2010 at Tsavo Ballroom was addresses by Secretaries General of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Commonwealth followed by question- answer session.

Plenary-I

Addresses by the CPA Secretary-General and the Commonwealth Secretary-General – Plenary-I

5.1 In the afternoon session which began at 1530 hrs. on 14 September, 2010 Hon'ble Shri Kamallesh Sharma, Secretary-General of Commonwealth and Dr. William F. Shija, Secretary-General of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association addressed the delegates followed by Question-Answer Session at Tsavo Ballroom, KICC.

5.2 **Secretary-General, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association** in his address inter-alia mentioned the following:

"I am delighted to join you all in thanking the host, the CPA Kenya Branch, the Government and people of Kenya, for the warm reception and wonderful hospitality extended to us since we first arrived in Nairobi. I join you in expressing our gratitude to His Excellency, Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces for his words of wisdom, advice and encouragement when he officially opened the conference this morning.

We express condolences and sympathy for the people of Pakistan, for the loss of lives and property due to the floods that hit that country recently, affecting millions of people to this day.

The Association originally assisted in the political struggles for independence and the removal of discriminatory systems. In recent years, it has also assisted thousands of Parliamentarians, staff and individual Parliaments to standardize parliamentary practice and improve skills. These activities have largely been facilitated through numerous discussions, exchange of professional information and actual in-house training. The CPA conferences therefore, contrary to critics, are not 'talking shops'. They are serious parliamentary training sessions.

The CPA, as mentioned before, is now nearly a century old. We plan to celebrate its centenary in July next year. Since its establishment in 1911, the CPA membership, as is the case for the

entire Commonwealth, has increased, with a corresponding change in character and the manner in which the Association carries its mandate. This means that the character of the Association has been determined by the winds of change. This factor has led the Executive Committee to approve a new CPA logo to conform to the concept of the century old activities through the winds of change, which again, will be witnessed in the future.

We at the Secretariat will always continue to proactively propose programmes we believe will benefit members and parliamentary staff.”

5.3 **Secretary-General, Commonwealth** in his address inter-alia stated that the Commonwealth of values; the Commonwealth that moves with its times; the Commonwealth of the vulnerable; the Commonwealth of partnership: this Commonwealth has been true to its core, yet it has always evolved. And I do believe that it has fulfilled the implausibly prescient hope of King George-VI, who in 1949 reconstituted the Association. He further mentioned “we are here today because the Commonwealth is a mighty cause, and a “great global good”. Yet it has no inherent right to think that it can and will remain so, without constant questioning and constant renewal. There are very real areas of expectation from the inter-governmental Commonwealth, and we are the first to acknowledge them. The CPA is one of the oldest Commonwealth Organisations. It is older, as we have seen, than the modern inter-governmental Commonwealth itself. Yet it, too, like any other body, has to keep its credentials burnished. It too, is tasked with maximizing its impact, its networks, and its profile. The potential we see in this room-in which an organization with 16000 members has assembled representatives of its 175 national, state, provincial and territorial Parliaments – is formidable. The fact that it is bound by the same democratic values makes this community one of huge potential, another “global good”. So the challenge for the Commonwealth Parliamentary community in its 100th year – just as the challenge already issued to the wider Commonwealth in

its 61st – is to define how that potential can best be realized. Invaluable though it is, especially as a chance for peer-to-peer exchange and support, this Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference is but one small part of the power and potential of your own networks. Your strength is your numbers, and the quality of the experience you bring and share, about the things which matter to you most. Whether a Parliament sits for 100 days of the year, or 200, whether it is the 700 – plus MPs in the two houses of the Indian Parliament, or the 10 members in the single chamber in Tuvalu, whether it is a national assembly in a Caribbean State or a regional one like the East African Legislative Assembly, whether half of its members are women (as they are in Rwanda), or a third, or a quarter, whether there is a sizeable majority in a country like Mozambique, or a majority of one in our most recently elected parliament in Australia. In each, it is essentially the same in spirit. So democracy is always recognizable and the journey of democracy pushes onwards. I cannot but reflect that in some of the Commonwealth's oldest and strongest democracies – take Australia, Canada, India and the U.K. – no single party has won a majority at the last election. Yet the business of democracy and government continues. Coalitions – and political give and take are themselves and increasingly important and evolving feature of the democratic culture. The Commonwealth remains a partner for all and the foundations of our Principles should be held firm. Our Principles should be held sacrosanct. The culture of parliamentary democracy defines this Commonwealth and at every turn we reaffirm it. We are tenacious in defending it, but so too are we affirmative in supporting our members' efforts to strengthen it, and indeed sometimes to return to the democratic path when they have strayed from it. Trinidad CHOGM in 2009 established an Eminent Persons Group to examine how to increase the involvement of the Commonwealth family in a more coherent partnership to enhance Commonwealth understanding CHOGM must agree any changes to its relations with other organizations; but peer to peer support is seen as an essential part of Commonwealth co-operation.

5.4 Following their addresses the Secretaries-General responded to a series of questions and comments from members on the role of the Commonwealth and the CPA in election observation, relations between inter-parliamentarian and inter-governmental commonwealth, flood relief in Pakistan and support for democratic development.

5.5 The delegates from India Union Branch attended all the other Workshops and Plenary Sessions and got opportunities to participate in the deliberations as follows:-

Sl. No.	Name of Delegate	Workshop/Plenary
1.	Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, MP, Lok Sabha	Workshop 'A': The Role of Parliament in Peace Building: The Case of Kenya in Addressing Post-Election Violence in 2008.
2.	Shri Ishwar Das Rohani, Hon'ble Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha	Workshop 'B': The Role of Parliamentarians in Natural Disaster Management.
3.	Shri Harin Pathak, MP Lok Sabha, (Lead Speaker)	Workshop 'C': Energy and Environment: Achieving Sustainable Development
4.	Shri Moinul Hassan, MP, Rajya Sabha	Workshop 'D': Parliament, Accountability and Role of Internet Governance in Strengthening Oversight.
5.	Shri R.C. Debnath, Hon'ble Speaker, Tripura Vidhan Sabha	Workshop 'E': The Role of Parliamentarians in Facilitating Grassroots Projects

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| 6. | Shri Harin Pathak, MP Lok Sabha | Workshop 'F': The Role of Parliamentarians in the Protection of Migrant Workers |
| 7. | Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, MP Lok Sabha | Workshop 'G': The Global Water and Food Crisis |
| 8. | Smt. Meira Kumar, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha | Workshop 'H': How prepared is the Commonwealth for the emerging New World Economic Order? |
| 9. | Shri Moinul Hassan, MP Rajya Sabha | Final Plenary: Commonwealth Initiatives in Handling Migration Issues. |

5.6 Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Executive Committee Member from India Region Smt. Meira Kumar was the Lead Speaker in Workshop 'H' on 'How prepared is the Commonwealth for the emerging New World Economic Order?' held on 17 September, 2010

Smt. Meira Kumar articulated the contributory factors upon which the development of emerging new world economic order (ENWEO) was anchored. She emphasized that after global crisis, which was less severely felt by Less Developed Countries, more successful developing countries particularly in Latin America and Asia buoyed by the rapid growth in their workforce and technology gained higher levels of economic performance that have led to a considerable shift in the balance in economic powers. She made the following suggestions on how prepared the Commonwealth was in responding to this new alignment:

1. The Commonwealth countries need to consider assessing their degree of preparedness. This exercise should be country-specific;
2. We should redesign our development planning strategies to ensure they give priority to addressing the socio-economic problems;

3. Provide enabling environments, formulate and legislate social policies which will create desirable conditions for continuous human development;
4. Plan with the reality that national economies are getting increasingly inter-dependent, and also affect the performance of local economies; and
5. Developing countries should emphasize on boosting the people's earning capacities and promoting appropriate economic activities which would give entrepreneurs comparative advantage, particularly: increasing government spending in supporting exporters; credit facilities to micro and medium enterprises; enhance safety nets to the rural poor, review salaries of public service employees; strengthen financial regulatory systems for banks and improve flow of funds from the private sector to productive sectors.

Participants agreed to focus on achieving the Millennium Development Goals MDGs, stemming human trafficking and enforcing peer-review mechanism as benchmarks for promoting democracy. The need to increase Canada's presence in Africa, embracing competition, creativity and networking was imperative for mutual benefits.

While concluding, Hon. Keith Flax reiterated that the G20 bloc had the potential to facilitate trade in the Commonwealth. The task ahead was how to overcome WTO's challenges. He called on the Commonwealth countries to position themselves to benefit from the ENWEO.

5.7 In **Workshop 'A'** on the subject **The Role of Parliament in Peace Building: The Case of Kenya in Addressing Post-Election Violence in 2008**. Primarily addressed their post election violence which led to property destruction and claimed 1300 lives. There was consensus that inter-ethnic conflicts were universal phenomena that was neither new to Kenya nor to other democracies. The Kenyan Parliament earned an admirable achievement by playing a dynamic

role of passing several laws to bring about peace and political stability during the 2008 post-election violence.

5.8 In **Workshop 'B'** on the subject **The Role of Parliamentarians in Natural Disaster Management** the Hon'ble Shri Ishwar Das Rohani, MLA, Speaker of Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly, questioned the role of Parliamentarians towards the preparation for managing disasters. He said that although we could not totally eliminate disasters, we could still reduce its devastation to a greater extent. He reiterated that a Parliamentarian's first and foremost duty was to look after the wellbeing of their constituency in and outside the Parliament. He added that the policies and programme of the Parliamentarians would always focus on the legislation related to placing an embankment between the potential disasters and its precautions. Hon. Shri Dharam Lal Kaushik, Speaker of the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly, informed the group that India had always been vulnerable to natural disasters like floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes and landslides. The earthquake in 1993, the super cyclone in Orissa in 1999, the earthquake in Gujarat, Bhuj, and the Tsunami in the southern part of India in 2004 resulted in hundreds of deaths, injuries, damage of infrastructure and assets causing substantial economic losses.

5.9 In **Workshop 'C'** on the subject **Energy and Environment: Achieving Sustainable Development** Shri Harin Pathak, MP, said that climate change was a serious environmental problem facing the world today and scientific evidence showed that it was a consequence of reckless human economic activities involving the burning of fossil fuels resulting into global warming. It was time for the international community to find effective methods of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in order to reduce their concentration in the atmosphere and stabilize global warming. Developing countries were mentioned to have the burden of poverty and socio-economic underdevelopment and with the responsibility of poverty

alleviation and economic development to raise the standard of living; the emission level of developing countries was bound to rise. This could however change by strategizing development efforts to consume less energy options and clean technology. He also reported that an important component of the strategy for clean development at the international level was said to be the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol that created a viable way of financing renewable energy projects.

5.10 In **Workshop 'D'** on the subject **Parliament, Accountability and Role of Internet Governance in Strengthening Oversight** most speakers including shri Moinul Hassan, MP, Rajya Sabha emphasized the importance of information technology as a means to enhance transparency and act as a deterrent to corruption. Speakers in the Workshop also discussed the challenges of use of the internet in overseeing policies and programmes related to poverty, infrastructure issues, age and low access.

5.11 In **Workshop 'E'** on the subject **The Role of Parliamentarians in Facilitating Grassroots Projects** participants including Hon'ble Shri R.C. Debnath, Speaker, Tripura Legislative Assembly hailed the role played by Parliamentarians in facilitating grassroots projects. They urged the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to publish information on the best practices in the use of constituency development funds in various countries. It should share knowledge to create Benchmarks on the subject. Participants argued that, although grassroots projects may be seen as political tools and may be unpopular with some aid donors, their significance in creating equity amongst all Members of Parliament in representation was enormous.

5.12 In **Workshop 'F'** on the subject **The Role of Parliamentarians in the Protection of Migrant Workers** Shri Harin Pathak, MP, Lok Sabha stated that migrant workers was not a topic but a critical issue. He was concerned that even with numerous conventions, problems faced by migrant workers still existed and governments and MPs had to look deeper into the problems of

migrant workers. Even with masses of rules and regulations, the focus of MPs had to be on humanitarian grounds and migrant workers must be treated fairly and respected. He felt that even illegal migrants had to be resettled and rehabilitated but not mishandled.

5.13 Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, MP, Lok Sabha participated in **Workshop 'G'** on the subject **The Global Water and Food Crisis**. There was therefore a general consensus that there was no substitute for water – the very substance of life itself and it was central to any programme that had the objective of reducing poverty. Finally, there was also a consensus on the need to set up a task force to come up with a strategy on the way forward and implementing the resolutions arrived at during the CPA conference. This was imperative in order to avoid the issues raised from being just a mere talk show.

Plenary Session-II: Commonwealth initiatives in Handling Migration Issues

5.14 Arguments for and against free migration, both legal and illegal, were voiced by lead speakers as some focused on the protection of the rights of migrant workers while others expressed concerns about the effects of migrants on small communities and on each society's culture and values. There was agreement, however, on the need for international co-operation and collaboration to ensure that migration is managed properly in a globalized world where the movement of people is posing problems for all states. Migration was seen as beneficial by providing needed labour and exposing people to new culture which enrich societies. But it was also seen as a threat to the resources, cultures and values of the receiving countries, and it was acknowledged that a brain drain to the developed world could hinder development in poorer countries. Helping all countries to develop was seen as a long term solution which would reduce the need for people to migrate to improve their lives. International and bilateral strategies, with the Commonwealth in a key role, were seen by all speakers as the most effective short term way to manage migration, including containing the illegal movement and trafficking of people,

protecting migrants from exploitation, protecting small states, examining the reasons for domestic controls on migration and harmonizing all domestic laws.

Shri Moinul Hassan, MP, Rajya Sabha and several other delegates from State CPA Branches of India Region also participated in various Workshops and Plenary sessions besides those mentioned above.

6. CPA General Assembly

6.1 The CPA General Assembly meeting was held at Tsavo Ballroom at KICC on 18 September, 2010 from 9.00 hours onwards. Dignitaries on the dais were ;

- (i) Hon. Kenneth Marende, EGH, MP, President of CPA and Speaker of the National Assembly, Kenya;
- (ii) Rt. Hon. John Bercow, MP, Vice-President of CPA and Speaker of the House of Commons, United Kingdom;
- (iii) Y.B. Dato' Seri Mohd. Shafie bin Apdal, MP & Chairperson, CPA Executive Committee and Minister of Rural and Regional development, Malaysia;
- (iv) Hon. Kathleen Casey, MLA and Vice Chairperson of CPA Executive Committee and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Prince Edward Island;
- (v) Hon. Hashim Abdul Halim, MLA, Treasurer of CPA and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of West Bengal, India;
- (vi) Hon. Amina Abdallah, MP, Kenya & President of CWP.
- (vii) Ms. Kashmala Tariq, MNA, Pakistan & Chairperson of CWP;
- (viii) Dr. William F. Shija, Secretary-General, CPA and
- (ix) Mr. David Broom, Director of Finance and Accounts, CPA

Agenda of the meeting is placed below. (Annexure- ii). The General Assembly approved/noted/disposed of various items of the agenda.

6.2 The General Assembly elected Sardar Harmohinder Singh Chattha, Speaker, Haryana Vidhan Sabha as Regional Representative in the CPA Executive Committee on expiration of term of Shri Uday Narayan Choudhary, Speaker, Bihar Vidhan Sabha.

6.3 As Sri Lanka is to host the 58th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in 2012. Hon'ble Chamal Rajapakasa, Speaker, Parliament of Sri Lanka was elected, vice-president of CPA.

6.4 Another important event of the General Assembly was the extension of the term of current Secretary General of CPA, Dr. William F. Shija for 2012-2016. The proposal for appointing him for the second term in the office was brought before the Executive Committee in Swaziland where his extension was agreed upon and recommended to the General Assembly. The General Assembly accordingly approved the extension of Secretary General CPA for another term 2012-2016.

6.5 General Assembly also agreed unanimously that Rwanda should join the CPA as of 1 January, 2011. It may be mentioned that Rwanda became the 54th Member of the Commonwealth at the November CHOGM in Trinidad & Tobago. The CPA General Assembly accepted the Rwanda Parliament resolution to join the CPA which had been passed on 24th March, 2009 at a joint sitting of the Country's Senate and Chamber of deputies.

7. Closing Ceremony

Closing Ceremony was held soon after the Plenary Session-II which began at 1130 hours onwards on 18 September, 2010 in Tsavo Ballroom, KICC.

8. Meetings of the Indian Delegation

Meeting of the Executive Committee of India Region and **India** Region group meeting was held at Aberdares Room, KICC, Nairobi, Kenya on Tuesday, 14th September, 2010 during the 56th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha chaired the meeting. Hon'ble Speaker briefed the delegates inter-alia about the programme and procedures for participation in the Conference and also about the regional events to be held in India. Minutes of both the meetings were prepared and have been placed in the Branch after due approval.

9. Society of Clerks at the Table

The meeting of the Society of Clerks at the Table was held on 17 and 18 September, 2010 at Tsavo A Leuana, KICC. Useful discussions were held on various organizational and procedural matters. In the Meeting Shri P.D.T. Achary, the then Secretary-General, Lok Sabha presented a paper on 'Recent Changes in India Region since September, 2009'. Dr. V.K. Agnihotri, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha made a presentation on 'Question Time: Making it Efficient & Effective'. Breakfast meeting of the Regional Secretaries was held at 730 hours on 14 September, 2010. The then Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and Regional Secretary, CPA India Region Shri P.D.T. Achary attended the meeting and apprised the other regional Secretaries about the CPA activities in the CPA India Region.

10. Conference Tour

Two day long pre-conference tour on 15-16 September, 2010 were held to various tourist destinations. Overnight stay in respective lodges and hotels were made.

11. Social Functions

Lunches/Dinners were hosted by the following dignitaries:

11 September, 2010: Dinner hosted by the Deputy Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, Hon. Farah Maalim, EGH, MP.

13 September, 2010: Reception and Dinner hosted by the CWP President hon. Amina Abdallah, MP

17 September, 2010:

- Reception and Dinner hosted by Hon. Kenneth Marende, EGH, MP, Speaker of the National Assembly and CPA President for Speakers and Presiding Officers and Leaders of the Delegations and their spouses.
- Dinner hosted by Mr. Patrick Gichohi, CBS, Clerk of the National Assembly for Clerks, Secretaries and Secretaries to the Delegations and their spouses.

19 September, 2010: Farewell Reception and Dinner hosted by the Chairman of the National Organising Committee, Hon. David Musila, MGH, MP, Assistant Minister for Defence.

12. Conclusion

All the delegates from India participated and contributed to the Conference. Documentation and logistics associated with the visit of Kenya and the work of the Indian Delegation there were meticulously planned and executed by the officers in the office of Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats. It was well coordinated by the Officers of the Ministry of External Affairs and the High Commission of India in Kenya.

T.K. Vishwanathan
Secretary-General,
Lok Sabha

New Delhi
December, 2011
Agrahayana, 1933 (Saka)

56th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Nairobi, Kenya
10 – 19 September, 2010

LIST OF DELEGATES FROM STATE CPA BRANCHES

Sl. No.	Name of CPA Branch/Delegates
1.	Andhra Pradesh Branch Dr. A Chakrapani, Chairman, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council
2.	Arunachal Pradesh Mr. Wanglin Lowangdong <u>Speaker,</u> Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly
3.	Assam Branch Shri Tanka Bahadur Rai, Speaker & Regional Representative CPA India Region Smt. Pranatee Phukan, Deputy Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly
4.	Bihar Branch <p align="center">Not attended</p>
5.	Chhattisgarh Branch Shri Dharam Lal Kaushik Speaker, Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly
6.	Goa Branch Shri Pratapsingh Raoji Rane, Speaker, Goa Legislative Assembly
7.	Gujarat Branch <p align="center">Not attended</p>
8.	Haryana Branch Sardar Harmohinder Singh Chattha, Speaker, Haryana Legislative Assembly

9.	<p>Himachal Pradesh Branch</p> <p>Shri Tulsi Ram Sharma, Speaker, Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly</p>
10.	<p>Jammu and Kashmir Branch</p> <p>Shri S. Arvinder Singh Micky, Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council</p>
11.	<p>Jharkhand Branch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Not attended</p>
12.	<p>Karnataka Branch</p> <p>Shri K. G. Bopaiah,, Speaker , Karnataka Legislative Assembly</p>
13.	<p>Kerala Branch</p> <p>Shti K. Radhakrishnan, Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly</p>
14.	<p>Madhya Pradesh Branch</p> <p>Shri Ishwar Das Rohani, Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly</p>
15.	<p>Maharashtra Branch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Not attended</p>
16.	<p>Manipur Bran</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Not attended</p>
17.	<p>Meghalaya Branch</p> <p>Shri Charles Pyngrope, Speaker, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly</p>
18.	<p>Mizoram Branch</p> <p>Mr. John Rotluangliana, Deputy Speaker, Mizoram Legislative Assembly</p>

19.	Nagaland Branch Shri Kiyanielie Peseyie, Speaker, Nagaland Legislative Assembly
20.	Orissa Branch Shri Pradip Kumar Amat, Speaker, Orissa Legislative Assembly
21.	Punjab Branch Sardar Nirmal Singh Kahlon, Speaker, Punjab Legislative Assembly
22.	Rajasthan Branch Shri Deependra Singh Shekhawat, Speaker, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly
23.	Sikkim Branch Shri M.B. Dahal Deputy Speaker , Sikkim Legislative Assembly
24.	Tamil Nadu Branch Shri Ramiah Thevar Avudaiappan Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly
25.	Tripura Branch Shri Ramendra Chandra Debnath, Speaker, Tripura Legislative Assembly
26.	Uttarakhand Branch Shri Harbans Kapoor, Speaker, Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly
27.	Uttar Pradesh Branch Not attended

28	West Bengal Branch Shri H.A. Halim Speaker & Treasurer, CPA Smt. Bharati Mukherjee, MLA, West Bengal Legislative Assembly
29	Delhi Branch Dr. Yoganand Shastri, Speaker, Delhi Legislative Assembly
30	Puducherry Branch Not attended

Secretary to the delegation from State CPA Branches
(Invited as part of Indian Delegation)

1. Shri S.B. Patil
Secretary,
Karnataka Legislative Assembly
 2. Shri A E Lotha
Secretary,
Nagaland Legislative Assembly
 3. Shri Jadablal Chakraborty,
Secretary,
West Bengal Legislative Assembly
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Society of Clerks-at-the table meeting

1. Shri Goverdhan Singh
Secretary,
Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha
2. Shri H.R. Kuri
Secretary,
Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha
3. Shri Devendra Verma,
Secretary,
Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
Kenyatta International Conference Centre
Nairobi, Kenya
18 September, 2010

AGENDA

(Documents to be numbered to match agenda items)

Sl. No.	DRAFT AGENDA	DOCUMENT No. *
1	Welcome and Opening Remarks by the President	
2	Apologies for Absence	
3	Minutes of the Last Meeting held in Nairobi	GA3
4	Matters arising from the Minutes	GA 4
5	Reports of the Executive Committee	
	i) Annual Report for 2009 (as printed)	GA5 (i)
	ii) Interim Report for the period 1 January to 30 June, 2010	GA5 (ii)
6	Membership Report	GA6
7	Audited Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 2009 to - receive	GA7
8	Membership fees for 2011 and 2012	GA 8
9	Budget, Estimate and Projection for 2010-12 and financial Management Reports:	
	i) CPA Secretariat Income and expenditure Accounts: 2010 (Updated budget); 2011 (Budgeted) and 2012 (estimated) – to receive	GA9(i)

	ii) CPA Secretariat Financial Management Report showing the Budgeted, Actual Income and Expenditure variances and Balance sheet up to 31st July, 2010 – to receive	GA9(ii)
	iii) CPA Working Capital Fund Income and Expenditure Accounts ; 2010 (Budgeted); 2011 (estimated) and 2012 (Projected – to Note	GA9(iii)
	iv) CPA Working Capital Fund Financial Management Report showing the budgeted, Actual Income and Expenditure, variances and Balance Sheet upto to 31st July, 2010 – to Note	GA9(iv)
	v) CPA Conference Assistance Fund Income & Expenditure Accounts; 2010 (Budgeted); 2011(estimated) and 2012 (Projected) – to note	GA9(v)
	vi) CPA Conference Assistance Fund Financial Management Report showing the Budgeted, Actual Income and Expenditure, variances and Balance sheet upto 31st July, 2010 – to Note	GA9(vi)
10	Appointment of External Auditors	GA10
11	Recommendations from the Executive Committee to the General Assembly	GA11
	(i) UK CPC 2011 Proposal	GA 11(i)
	(ii) Constitutional Amendments regarding the CWP	GA 11(ii)
12	Proposals to Amend the Rules for Conducting Contested Elections	GA12
13	Matters Submitted by Branches	GA13
14	Election due at General Assembly	GA14
15	Report of the 30th Conference of Members from Small Branches	Oral
	Report of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians	Oral
17	Report on Future Venues	GA17
18	Presentation of Plaques to Retiring Members of the Executive Committee	Oral
19	Any other Business	