



Concept Note

7th CPA Asia Regional Conference / 2nd Joint CPA Asia & South-East Asia Regional Conference – 2026

3–7 February 2026 | Karachi, Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Hosted by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh

Theme: “Parliaments of the Future: Redefining Democracy through Trust, Inclusion, Innovation and Peace”

Background and Rationale

Across the Commonwealth, legislatures are navigating an increasingly complex governance landscape—marked by evolving public expectations, growing political polarisation, rapid technological change, climate-related pressures, and the continuing need to strengthen the meaningful participation of women, youth, and marginalised communities in democratic decision-making. As parliaments navigate these interconnected pressures, there is an urgent imperative to reimagine their role—not only as law-making bodies, but as institutions that actively foster trust, inclusion, innovation, and peace.

It is within this context that the Provincial Assembly of Sindh will host the 7th CPA Asia Regional Conference / 2nd Joint CPA Asia & South-East Asia Regional Conference, to be held from 3 to 7 February 2026 in Karachi, Pakistan, under the theme “*Parliaments of the Future: Redefining Democracy through Trust, Inclusion, Innovation and Peace.*” The Conference will bring together Presiding Officers, parliamentarians, and parliamentary officials from across Asia and South-East Asia to engage in structured dialogue, share legislative experiences, and strengthen regional parliamentary cooperation.

The Provincial Assembly of Sindh, one of South Asia’s oldest and most historically significant legislative institutions, is honoured to convene this landmark regional gathering in Karachi, Pakistan’s historic gateway city. Long recognised for its pluralism, political activism, and constitutional significance, Karachi provides a fitting setting for deliberations on the future of parliamentary democracy. By hosting the Conference, the Sindh Assembly reaffirms its commitment to parliamentary diplomacy, democratic resilience, and strengthened regional solidarity within the Commonwealth.

Conference Objectives

The Conference aims to:

- Strengthen democratic trust between citizens and parliamentary institutions through accountability, transparency, and inclusive practices;



- Promote peaceful and harmonious societies by positioning parliaments as engines of dialogue, reconciliation, and conflict prevention;
- Examine the impact of innovation, artificial intelligence, and digital transformation on democracy, including misinformation, deepfakes, and online harm;
- Advance gender-responsive parliamentary action, particularly to protect women leaders from online violence and digital manipulation;
- Elevate inclusive governance, ensuring participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and vulnerable communities;
- Foster regional parliamentary cooperation and adopt a shared forward agenda through the Karachi Charter.

These objectives are fully aligned with the CPA Asia Region's constitutional mandate to promote knowledge exchange, democratic development, and regional collaboration through conferences and inter-parliamentary engagement.

Thematic Framework

The Conference is structured around four interlinked pillars:

● Trust ● Inclusion ● Innovation ● Peace

Trust

Rebuilding citizens' confidence in democratic institutions through effective oversight, accountable governance, and credible parliamentary processes.

Inclusion

Ensuring parliaments reflect society's diversity and actively include women, youth, minorities, and marginalised voices in political life.

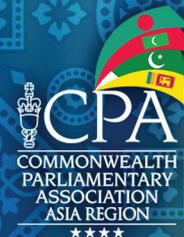
Thematic Framework

Harnessing technology to strengthen democracy while countering misinformation, AI-driven manipulation, and digital threats.

Positioning legislatures as custodians of social cohesion, dialogue, climate resilience, and long-term human security.

Innovation

Peace



Conference Structure and Key Sessions

Session	Description	
Inaugural Ceremony	The opening session sets the tone for the Conference by framing the future of parliaments within the four thematic pillars, reaffirming shared democratic values across Asia and South-East Asia	
Plenary Session I: Peace and Democratic Trust: Parliaments as Engines of Reconciliation	Explores how parliaments can function as forums for reconciliation, manage political conflict, and counter polarisation through cross-party cooperation and inclusive parliamentary culture.	
Parallel Breakout Sessions	<i>Session A: Parliamentary Education - Inculcating Democratic Principles in Everyday Living</i>	Parliamentary Education and Democratic Culture – embedding democratic values through civic education and parliamentary outreach
	<i>Session B: Parliaments as Vanguard of Peaceful and Harmonious Societies - rise of Fake News; AI and Misinformation</i>	Fake News, AI and Misinformation – addressing digital threats to democracy while safeguarding freedom of expression.
	<i>Session C: Legislating for Survival: Climate Resilience and Vulnerable Voices</i>	Climate Resilience and Vulnerable Voices – legislating for inclusive climate action and community-centred preparedness.
	<i>Session D: Making Parliaments Powerful - Ensuring Responsible Executive through Vigilant Parliamentary Accountability</i>	Parliamentary Accountability and Executive Oversight – strengthening watchdog roles, Public Accounts Committees, and evidence-based debate.
Plenary Session II: Gender, Tech and Trust	Focuses on protecting women leaders from online harassment, deepfakes, and digital violence, strengthening legal frameworks, parliamentary protocols, and cross-party solidarity mechanisms.	
Closing Ceremony and Karachi Charter	The Conference concludes with the adoption of the Karachi Charter, articulating a collective regional commitment to trust-based, inclusive, innovative, and peace-oriented parliamentary democracy.	



Expected Outcomes

- Adoption of the Karachi Charter as a regional roadmap for parliamentary action;
- Strengthened regional cooperation between CPA Asia and CPA South-East Asia legislatures;
- Policy-oriented recommendations on misinformation, AI governance, climate resilience, and gender-responsive parliaments;
- Enhanced visibility of women's parliamentary leadership and protection mechanisms;
- Reinforced role of parliaments as democratic anchors in times of rapid change.

Host Assembly and Institutional Leadership

The Provincial Assembly of Sindh, under the leadership of the Honourable Speaker, is committed to delivering a Conference that reflects the highest traditions of parliamentary dialogue, hospitality, and democratic engagement. Hosting this Conference in Karachi symbolises Pakistan's and Sindh's enduring contribution to Commonwealth parliamentary values and regional democratic cooperation.

