

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB



Minutes of the Regional Executive Committee Meeting

Date: Friday, February 7, 2025
Time: 1000-1040 hrs
Venue: Committee Room # 3, New Assembly Building,
Provincial Assembly of the Punjab
Co-Chair: Hon. Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan,
Speaker – Punjab Assembly / Conference President
and
Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Wickramaratne,
Speaker – Parliament of Sri Lanka / Regional Chairperson, CPA Asia

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran.

Hon. Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, Speaker – Punjab Assembly / Conference President welcomed the distinguished participants, (list of participants at **Annex-A**) to the Regional Executive Committee (ExCo) Meeting of the 1st Joint CPA Asia and South-East Asia Regional Conference.

He emphasized the significance of this meeting in enhancing regional parliamentary cooperation and strengthening CPA in the Asia and South-East Asia Region. He highlighted the productive discussions in the Branch Secretaries' Meeting and underscored the need for decisive actions on governance and structural matters within the CPA Asia Region.

Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Wickramaratne, Speaker – Parliament of Sri Lanka / Regional Chairperson, CPA Asia acknowledged the importance of the agenda, which included constitutional amendments, governance structures, and future activities. He encouraged active participation in shaping the future of the CPA Asia Region.

The Formal Agenda (**Annex-B**) of the meeting was then taken up.

2. Approval of the Conference Programme

The agenda for the 1st Joint CPA Asia & South-East Asia Regional Conference, 2025, had been circulated in advance. The Chair invited comments or modifications, if any.

Decision: With no objections, the agenda was unanimously approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last Regional Executive Committee Meeting held during the 5th CPA Asia Regional Conference, 2019 in Islamabad (**Annex-C**), were presented for approval.

Decision: The minutes were formally approved without any amendments.

4. Amendments to the Constitution of the CPA Asia Region

The Chair introduced the proposed amendments, which included:

- Change in nomenclature of NWFP to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to align with the official renaming of the province.
- Fixation of term limits for regional representatives at the CPA International Executive Committee from three years to three annual CPA conferences to match International CPA Constitution's Article 24(2).

Following discussion, the members agreed that these amendments were necessary for consistency and clarity.

Decision: The amendments were approved and adopted by the Regional ExCo.

5. Adoption of Ancillary Procedures

The committee discussed the following key procedures:

- **Ancillary Procedure to Article 5(a)(ii):**
- Alphabetical Rotation Criteria of three-annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) term for Provincial Assemblies in the Regional Executive Committee to ensure rotational participation. This would coincide with the change in Chair of CPA Asia Region in Oct 2025.
- **Ancillary Procedure to Article 5(d):**
- Inclusion of Virtual Meetings to ensure uninterrupted decision-making in the event of delays in physical meetings.
- **Ancillary Procedure to Article 6(a):**
- Formalization of Islamabad as the Permanent Headquarters of CPA Asia, whereas,
 - the Chair of the Regional Executive Committee, alongwith
 - the Regional Secretaryship and
 - the Regional Secretariatshall rotate with each National Parliament for a three-CPC term on alphabetical basis.

- **Ancillary Procedure to Article 7(e):**
- Establishment of Observer Criteria for CPA Asia Regional Conferences to regulate participation.

The members agreed that these measures would enhance governance and streamline operations.

Decision: The proposals were formally approved and adopted.

6. Election of Provincial Member to the Regional Executive Committee

The committee discussed the need for a Provincial Representative in the CPA Asia Regional Executive Committee.

The Provincial Assembly of the Punjab was proposed as the next provincial representative for a 3-CPC tenure, beginning at the conclusion of the 68th CPC in Barbados (October 2025).

Decision: The Provincial Assembly of the Punjab was elected as the provincial representative.

7. Establishment of a Regional Fund

The Chair initiated discussions on establishing a Regional Fund to support CPA activities, including training programs, conferences, and collaborative initiatives. Key points included:

- A revised financial contribution model: \$5,000 per year for national branches and \$2,000 for provincial assemblies.
- Transfer of existing CPA Asia funds from Sri Lanka to Islamabad following its formalization as the headquarters.
- The CPA Sri Lanka branch confirmed the availability of funds amounting to Sri Lankan Rupees 5,531,237.75 which would be transferred to the new Secretariat in Islamabad.
- Ensuring financial transparency and proper governance mechanisms for fund utilization.

After discussion, the members endorsed the financial contribution structure and approved the transfer of Sri Lanka's funds to Islamabad.

Decision: The proposal for the establishment of the Regional Fund and the amount of annual financial contributions were approved in principle with concurrence awaited from Parliament of Bangladesh.

8. Calendar of Activities for 2025

The following key activities were proposed for 2025:

- **Host for the next CPA Asia Regional Conference:** The Provincial Assembly of Sindh had expressed its intent of hosting the upcoming CPA Asia Conference.
- **Election/Rotation of Regional Representatives at the CPA International Executive Committee:** The remaining tenure of Bangladesh representative (being filled in by a Member National Assembly of Pakistan due to the dissolution of the Parliament of Bangladesh) was set to end, with a new representative from the Federal Parliament of Pakistan, next in line.
- Article 24 (2) of the Constitution of the CPA defines the term of the Regional Representatives from the conclusion of the General Assembly at which they are elected until the conclusion of the General Assembly of the third Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference after their election.

S. No.	Branch	Nature	Name	Tenure Starts	Tenure Ends	Legislature - Next in line
1.	Provincial Assembly of Balochistan	Provincial Legislature	Ms. Farah Azeem Shah, MPA	67 th CPC	70 th CPC	
2.	Parliament of Maldives	National Legislature	Mr. Ahmed Nazim, Deputy Speaker	67 th CPC	70 th CPC	
3.	Parliament of Bangladesh	National Legislature	Mr. Bilal Azhar Kayani, MNA Pakistan <i>completing Bangladesh's remaining term</i>	65 th CPC	68 th CPC	Federal Parliament of Pakistan 68 th CPC to 71 st CPC

- **Rotation of the Chair of the CPA Asia Region:** Parliament of Bangladesh is next in line after the Parliament of Sri Lanka to hold the Chairpersonship of the CPA Asia Region at the conclusion of the 68th CPC. However, if Bangladesh is unable to assume the Chair by then, the responsibility would shift to the Parliament of Maldives, as per alphabetical order.

Branch	Tenure Starts	3 CPC Tenure Ends	Legislature - Next in line	Tenure Starts	3 CPC Tenure Ends
Parliament of Sri Lanka	From conclusion of 65 th CPC	65 th CPC – 68 th CPC	Parliament of Bangladesh or Parliament of Maldives	From conclusion of 68 th CPC	68 th CPC – 71 st CPC

- **Scheduling the Next Regional ExCo Meeting:** Proposed to take place in October 2025 on the sidelines of the 68th CPC in Barbados, in order to finalize the implementation of key decisions taken in this Conference.

Additionally, Mr. Bilal Azhar Kayani, MNA Pakistan and Member Asia Region in CPA International ExCo proposed **two additional virtual pre-meetings** for CPA Asia Regional ExCo:

1. **Mid-April 2025** – To prepare regional proposals for the mid-year International ExCo meeting to be held in 12-13 May, 2025.
2. **Start-September / before annual CPC, 2025** – To coordinate regional priorities before the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) to be held from the 6th October, 2025 in Barbados.

Decision: The activities were approved, including two additional virtual ExCo meetings to enhance coordination.

9. Any Other Item

- **Proposal for a CPA Asia Region Website:** The Punjab Assembly proposed the establishment of a dedicated CPA Asia Region website for centralized documentation and event updates. Being officially declared as the headquarter of the CPA Asia Region, the National Assembly of Pakistan was decided to be the managing entity.
- **Strengthening Communication Among ExCo Members:** A proposal was made to create a WhatsApp group or virtual meeting platform for CPA Asia Regional ExCo members to maintain real-time coordination.
- **Dedicated Workshop for State Legislatures:** A proposal was endorsed to request the CPA to introduce an annual workshop for provincial / state legislatures on the sidelines of the annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) and to make it a permanent feature.

Decision: All proposals were endorsed and adopted.

10. Conclusion

Hon. Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan thanked the participants for their valuable contributions. He congratulated the Speakers of the Legislative Assemblies of GB and AJ&K on qualifying the status of permanent observers in the CPA Asia Region. He concluded by emphasizing on the need for continued collaboration and engagement to ensure the long-term success of CPA Asia.

With no further items to discuss, the meeting was formally concluded.