

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN/CPA ASIA REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

## Contribution for CPA Asia Region Monthly E-Circular

February - March 2026

During the period of February to March 2026, the National Assembly of Pakistan, in its capacity as the CPA Asia Regional Headquarters, actively advanced its parliamentary diplomacy objectives through the organization of the following key programs and activities:

### i. **A bilateral visit by the Pakistan Parliamentary delegation, led by the Honorable Speaker to the Kingdom of Morocco (February 14-18, 2026);**

At the invitation of the Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco, the Honorable Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan led a parliamentary delegation to the Kingdom of Morocco from February 14 to 18, 2026. The visit served as a valuable opportunity to explore avenues for strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries. Notably, it contributed significantly to fostering enhanced parliamentary cooperation, including the pursuit of a coordinated approach on key issues of mutual and global importance. A key outcome of the visit was the agreement between both sides to collaborate on the digitalization of their respective Parliaments through the exchange of best practices and mutual learning from each other's experiences.





**ii. Observance of International Women’s Day (March 8, 2026);**

**International Women’s Day 2026** was observed on 8 March as a significant occasion to highlight the role and contributions of women in parliamentary processes. The observance reaffirmed the National Assembly of Pakistan / CPA Asia Regional Headquarters’ commitment to gender equality, inclusive governance, and women’s empowerment.

In this regard, the **Women’s Parliamentary Caucus (WPC)** of the National Assembly, under the convenorship of its Secretary, Dr. Shahida Rehmani, MNA, commemorated the occasion by launching a series of policy dialogues at Parliament House focused on strengthening the parliamentary quota system to ensure more equitable and meaningful representation of women in legislative bodies. The initiative reaffirmed that women’s political participation is a constitutional and democratic right, while emphasizing the importance of enhancing women’s role in legislative processes and addressing existing gaps in representation and participation.





**iii. Observance of Commonwealth Day (March 9, 2026), and Participation in the 74th Westminster Seminar on Effective Parliaments (March 9–13, 2026);**

**Commonwealth Day 2026** was prominently observed by the National Assembly of Pakistan, in its capacity as **CPA Asia Regional Headquarters**, on 9 March 2026, reaffirming its dedication to the shared principles of the Commonwealth, including democracy, unity, and cooperation among member states. During the **74th Westminster Seminar on Effective Parliaments**, held from 9 to 13 March 2026 in London, United Kingdom. Ms. Sehar Kamran, MNA, and Syed Waseem Hussain, MNA, represented the Assembly at this important forum, which brought together parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth to deliberate on strengthening parliamentary practices, governance, and institutional effectiveness. The seminar coincided with Commonwealth Day celebrations, a delegation from the National Assembly participated in the Flag Raising Ceremony at the UK Parliament and attended the Commonwealth Day Service at Westminster Abbey, London, alongside parliamentarians and representatives from across the Commonwealth. These engagements highlighted the Assembly's active international outreach and its commitment to strengthening parliamentary diplomacy. The 2026 theme, *"Unlocking opportunities together for a prosperous Commonwealth,"* underscored the importance of fostering inclusive growth, collaboration, and collective progress across member countries and further reinforce the shared values and principles of the Commonwealth and providing an opportunity for deeper engagement with international parliamentary counterparts.





#### iv. Austerity Measures

In light of the prevailing global economic challenges, including fuel and LNG shortages, the National Assembly has adopted comprehensive austerity measures to ensure prudent and efficient use of public resources.

These measures include:

- Rationalization and reduction of operational and administrative expenditures;
- Curtailment or deferment of non-essential activities, including official visits and engagements;
- Adoption of cost-effective practices while ensuring continuity of core parliamentary functions.

The National Assembly remains committed to financial discipline, responsible governance, and transparency, while responding effectively to the broader economic constraints.

As the CPA Asia Regional Headquarters, the National Assembly of Pakistan playing a proactive and enhanced role in strengthening regional parliamentary cooperation. The Assembly remained actively engaged in harmonizing regional activities and fostering closer coordination among Member Branches. Key engagements included facilitating communication and collaboration across the Asia Region, supporting the implementation of decisions taken during the 7th CPA Asia Regional Executive Committee Meeting, and promoting a unified and coordinated approach to regional parliamentary initiatives.

Notably, the National Assembly of Pakistan, as **CPA Asia Regional Headquarters**, successfully organized the **7th CPA Asia Regional Conference**, where it extended full support to the host Branch, ensuring the smooth conduct and overall success of the Conference. This engagement further reinforced the Assembly's leadership role in advancing the objectives of the CPA Asia Region.

The National Assembly of Pakistan / CPA Asia Regional Headquarters also maintained close engagement with CPA Headquarters through participation in various programmes, seminars, and working groups, thereby contributing to ongoing dialogue and knowledge-sharing within the Commonwealth parliamentary community.

**Important announcements regarding upcoming CPA activities include:**

- 27–29 April 2026: CPA Small Branches Workshop 2026, Maldives
- 26–28 May 2026: Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) Forum 2026, Cape Town, South Africa
- 22 June 2026: CPA Parliamentary Academy Residency Programme for Members (Skill-Building), Darwin, Australia
- 26–31 July 2026: 13th Commonwealth Youth Parliament, Sydney, Australia
- 13–18 September 2026: 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Cape Town, South Africa

In terms of legislative business, the National Assembly of Pakistan, as **CPA Asia Regional Headquarters**, continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to public-interest and reform-oriented legislation. Notable developments include the active consideration of the **Federal Gender-Based Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill 2026** and the **Pakistan Digital Governance and Transparency (Amendment) Bill 2026**. These legislative initiatives underscore the Assembly's focus on strengthening constitutional governance, enhancing institutional transparency, and promoting social equity.

Through these diverse engagements, the National Assembly of Pakistan / CPA Asia Regional Headquarters continues to project a dynamic institutional profile grounded in legislative effectiveness, regional leadership, parliamentary diplomacy, and inclusive governance, in alignment with the broader objectives and spirit of the CPA Asia Region.