

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN/CPA ASIA REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Contribution for CPA Asia Region Monthly E-Circular

April, 2026

During the period of April, 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:

1. **Hon. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq's Engagement with Canadian High Commissioner on Strengthening Bilateral Relations**

The High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan, Tarik Ali Khan, called on the Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, at Parliament House on April 2, 2026.

The meeting focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Canada across key sectors including trade, investment, education, and institutional capacity building. Hon. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to its longstanding and friendly relations with Canada, emphasizing the importance of expanding parliamentary diplomacy and institutional linkages.

Both sides also discussed opportunities to further strengthen economic collaboration, particularly in agriculture, mining, and human resource development. The Speaker highlighted Pakistan's investment potential and stressed the importance of facilitating greater private sector engagement to promote sustainable economic growth.

In addition, the importance of enhancing people-to-people contacts, academic exchanges, and training programs was underscored as a means to deepen mutual understanding and reinforce long-term bilateral ties.



2. **Message of Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on the occasion of World Health Day, 6th April, 2026:**

Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on the occasion of World Health Day, emphasized that a healthy nation forms the foundation of a developed and stable state. He stated that World Health Day serves as a reminder that providing quality, timely, and equitable healthcare to all citizens is a fundamental responsibility of the state. Speaker National Assembly highlighted that Pakistan faces

multiple challenges in the health sector, including limited access to services, shortage of resources, and a rapidly growing population. He stressed that addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive strategy, sustainable policymaking, and practical measures to ensure that every citizen can access basic healthcare without discrimination. He further noted that while the government and relevant institutions are taking steps to improve the sector, more coordinated and effective efforts are needed, particularly in remote and underdeveloped areas. He underscored that disease prevention can be promoted through precautionary measures, healthy lifestyles, and awareness campaigns. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq urged citizens and authorities alike to renew their commitment to building a healthy society and strengthening the nation's healthcare system on this World Health Day.

3. **Hon. Syed Naveed Qamar Re-elected as President of Parliamentarians for Global Action (2026–2027)**

Following the successful convening of the 46th Annual Forum and the 46th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for Oceans (4th CAP-Oceans), held on 26–27 March 2026 in Mexico City, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) convened a meeting of its International Council to elect the Executive Committee for the 2026–2027 term.

The PGA International Council, comprising legislative leaders from 18 countries and serving as Chairs of their respective national groups, plays a pivotal role in advancing coordinated parliamentary action on global issues. These cross-party caucuses enable parliamentarians to collaborate on domestic legislative agendas while contributing to PGA's broader international advocacy efforts.

During the session, the International Council elected a new Chairperson and Treasurer, while re-electing **Hon. Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA (Pakistan)**, as President of PGA unopposed, reflecting the continued confidence of the global parliamentary community in his leadership.

Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, extended his heartfelt congratulations to Hon. Syed Naveed Qamar on this achievement. He expressed optimism that the re-election would further strengthen Pakistan's parliamentary standing and enhance its representation at international forums.



4. Hon. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq lauds Pakistan's leadership role for diplomatic success and welcomes Middle East ceasefire:

Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, has welcomed the positive development of a ceasefire in the Middle East, announced by the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has expressed gratitude for the willingness shown by the leadership of both sides to engage in negotiations, emphasizing that dialogue and diplomacy remain the only viable path toward sustainable peace and stability. The Speaker stated that Pakistan is proud of the constructive role it has played in facilitating this significant achievement. He appreciated the commendable efforts of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, and Chief of Army Staff/Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, for their leadership and commitment to peace. He also lauded the professionalism, dedication, and tireless efforts of Pakistan's diplomatic team in advancing the cause of regional and global stability. Reiterating Pakistan's consistent stance, the Speaker noted that from the outset of the conflict, Pakistan has advocated dialogue and peaceful resolution of disputes. He emphasized that prolonged conflict adversely impacts the interests and prosperity of the Muslim Ummah, calling upon Muslim countries to unite in efforts to end suffering and promote harmony. The Speaker expressed hope that, with the cooperation of all concerned parties and brotherly nations, lasting peace, stability, and prosperity can be achieved in the region and beyond. He also urged the continued support of the international community for these peace efforts and expressed optimism regarding the success of the upcoming Islamabad talks.

5. Parliamentary Leadership Reaffirms Commitment to Constitution and Democratic Values

On the occasion of Constitution Day, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, underscored the centrality of the Constitution as the foundation of Pakistan's democracy, institutional stability, and protection of citizens' rights.

Marking the historic adoption of the Constitution on April 10, 1973, he highlighted its significance in fostering national unity, strengthening democratic governance, and ensuring rule of law. The Speaker emphasized that adherence to constitutional principles, continuity of democratic practices, and collective political cooperation remain essential for sustainable national progress. He also reaffirmed Parliament's commitment to effective legislation, transparency, and good governance.

Additionally, the Deputy Speaker, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, extended his felicitations, noting that the 1973 Constitution—introduced under the leadership of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto—continues to symbolize democratic sovereignty, federalism, and national unity. He reiterated that national development and the protection of citizens' rights are intrinsically linked to steadfast adherence to constitutional and democratic principles.

6. National Assembly of Pakistan's Active Engagement at 152nd IPU Assembly

The 152nd Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly, held in Istanbul from April 15–19, 2026, brought together parliamentary leaders under the theme of promoting peace, justice, and hope for future generations. The Assembly concluded with the adoption of the Istanbul Declaration, reaffirming global commitment to human rights and peaceful cooperation.

Key outcomes included the election of Anda Filip as the first female Secretary General and the adoption of the IPU Strategy 2027–2031, aimed at fostering inclusive and digitally resilient parliaments. Resolutions were also adopted on post-conflict governance and building a fair global economic system.

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, actively participated, highlighting humanitarian concerns and advocating for regional stability. He reiterated Pakistan's principled positions on Palestine and Jammu & Kashmir, and engaged in bilateral meetings to strengthen parliamentary cooperation and diplomatic engagement.



7. National Assembly Budget Officials Contribute to OECD Parliamentary Forum

The OECD meeting of Asian Parliamentary Budget Officials, held in Seoul from April 15–17, 2026, focused on enhancing fiscal oversight and resilience amid global economic challenges. Organized under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development framework, the discussions emphasized performance-based budgeting, transparency in public spending, and the integration of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence in parliamentary financial analysis.

The delegation from the National Assembly of Pakistan, representing the Budget Research Unit, shared Pakistan’s experience in managing public debt and navigating fiscal federalism. Key interventions highlighted strategies for equitable resource distribution between federal and provincial governments, particularly in social sectors such as health and education.

The delegation also underscored the importance of transparency initiatives and data-driven oversight to strengthen public trust. In the context of climate challenges, Pakistan advocated for the adoption of standardized green budgeting practices to effectively track climate-related expenditures and support sustainable financial planning.



8. WPC Conducts Focus Group Discussion for Gender Analysis of the National Assembly

The Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) of the National Assembly Secretariat convened a virtual Focus Group Discussion (FGD) in collaboration with UN Women as part of its ongoing Gender Analysis of the National Assembly.

Chaired by Secretary WPC, Dr. Shahida Rehmani, the online session brought together Members of Parliament for a constructive dialogue on gender equality, participation, and institutional practices within Parliament. The FGD constitutes a key component of a broader gender analysis aimed at evaluating the National Assembly's structures, policies, and processes through a gender lens.

The initiative seeks to identify both barriers and enabling factors influencing women's meaningful participation in legislative and decision-making roles, while generating evidence-based recommendations to strengthen gender-responsive governance.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Shahida Rehmani underscored the importance of inclusive parliamentary practices and collective responsibility in advancing gender equality. While acknowledging progress in women's representation, she noted that structural and cultural challenges continue to hinder full participation, highlighting the need for sustained institutional reforms.

Participants shared cross-party perspectives on key issues, including women's representation in leadership positions, integration of gender perspectives in legislative processes, workplace environment, and the role of political parties in promoting inclusivity. The discussion provided valuable insights into existing gaps as well as opportunities for strengthening gender mainstreaming within parliamentary functions.

The Gender Analysis of the National Assembly aligns with international commitments, including CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5 on Gender Equality. The findings from this FGD will contribute to a comprehensive assessment and inform actionable recommendations to enhance gender-responsive legislation, oversight, and institutional practices.

The Women's Parliamentary Caucus reaffirmed its commitment to fostering an inclusive, representative, and responsive parliamentary environment that advances women's empowerment and equitable participation in governance.

9. YPF Representation at UN ECOSOC Youth Forum 2026

A high-level session at the UN ECOSOC Youth Forum 2026 featured active representation from Pakistan's Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF), with Makhdoom Zain Hussain Qureshi, Vice President YPF and Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan, presiding over proceedings.

The session, organized in collaboration with the Youth Parliament of Pakistan, focused on the Climate–Water–Peace Nexus, emphasizing the importance of transboundary water cooperation and climate resilience for regional stability. Discussions highlighted the critical role of youth engagement and legislative institutions in advancing sustainable development goals and addressing interconnected global challenges.





10. YPF-PILDAT Engagement on Youth Empowerment

Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, President YPF and Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan, along with Kiran Imran Dar, held a meeting with Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President of the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency, to explore strategic collaboration on youth inclusion in democratic processes.

The engagement focused on strengthening youth participation, promoting evidence-based policymaking, and enhancing leadership development. Both sides agreed to pursue joint initiatives including youth leadership training, civic education, policy dialogue, and capacity-building programs aimed at fostering informed political engagement and institutional strengthening.





11. PNG-CPA Secretariat Convenes Online Meeting

The Pakistan National Group–Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (PNG-CPA) Secretariat, based in the National Assembly of Pakistan, convened an online meeting on April 24, 2026 under the chairmanship of Syed Naveed Qamar to review key institutional and conference-related matters.

Significant decisions included directions to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Branch to expedite its nomination for the upcoming vacancy in the Asia Regional Executive Committee (ExCo), and finalization of delegation arrangements for the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Cape Town, with enhanced representation allocated to Balochistan and Sindh. It was also agreed that, in the absence of consensus, the Conference Secretary will be nominated through alphabetical rotation among subnational branches.

The meeting further noted Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's proposal to host the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Regional Seminar in October 2026, with emphasis on early outreach during the CPC. Addressing operational matters, the Chair directed the development of a formal mechanism to facilitate payment of international membership dues amid foreign currency constraints.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for early September 2026.

12. National Assembly of Pakistan Drives Digital Transformation of Parliamentary Nomination System

A consultative meeting with the National Information Technology Board was held in coordination with the National Assembly of Pakistan to develop an Automated Parliamentary Delegation Nomination Module (APDNM) for the International Relations (IR) Directorate.

The initiative aims to transition from a manual, document-heavy nomination process to an integrated digital platform, enabling centralized and real-time profiling of Members of the National Assembly. The proposed system will feature an intelligent Nomination Wizard with automated filters, thematic matching, and mechanisms to ensure equitable participation, including a “Zero-Visit” functionality.

The module will also incorporate API-based integration for real-time updates of members’ professional profiles, along with a secure, Role-Based Access Control interface to ensure transparency, data integrity, and auditability of all nomination processes.

Following multiple rounds of consultation, the project has entered an advanced stage involving data standardization and system architecture design. A functional prototype from NITB is currently awaited to guide final customization and implementation within the National Assembly framework.

13. National Assembly of Pakistan Advances Industrial Modernization through SEZ Legislative Reforms

The introduction of the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2026 in the National Assembly of Pakistan marks a significant step toward institutionalizing economic stability through formal legislation. The bill seeks to replace temporary executive ordinances with a permanent, deliberative legal framework aimed at attracting high-value investment.

Key features include streamlining the business environment by harmonizing fiscal incentives, strengthening regulatory oversight, and expanding the scope of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to include emerging sectors such as technology and energy-intensive industries.

Beyond economic reform, the legislation reinforces parliamentary supremacy and constitutional governance by ensuring that major industrial policy decisions are subjected to legislative debate and scrutiny. This approach enhances transparency, predictability, and investor confidence, thereby supporting Pakistan’s long-term industrial growth and economic development.