

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN/CPA ASIA REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS Contribution for CPA Asia Region Monthly E-Circular

May, 2026

During the period of February to May 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. National Assembly Honors 75 Years of Pakistan-China Ties

The National Assembly of Pakistan unanimously adopted a historic resolution titled "Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the People's Republic of China." Witnessed by a visiting Chinese Parliamentary Delegation led by Mr. Cai Dafeng, Vice Chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC), the resolution marks a major milestone in the iron-clad alliance between the two nations, setting a firm resolve for an even stronger partnership over the next 75 years.

National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq warmly welcomed the delegation, expressing profound satisfaction with their time-tested friendship. Supported by both treasury and opposition benches, the assembly reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership." Both sides emphasized that bilateral relations are built on mutual trust, strategic consistency, and shared aspirations, playing a vital role in regional peace and stability.

The resolution strongly backed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as the cornerstone of Pakistan's development agenda, vital for regional connectivity and industrial growth. To further consolidate ties, both nations pledged to expand parliamentary diplomacy and grass-roots collaboration across diverse fields, including trade, agriculture, technology, and education. Highlighting this deep cooperation, Vice Chairman Cai Dafeng noted that China recently trained two Pakistani astronauts, marking a significant milestone in their expanding bilateral space collaboration.



Speaker Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with Chinese Parliamentary delegation headed by Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China Mr. Cai Dafeng at Parliament House.

2. Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, meets Bangladesh Civil Servants' delegation:

National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq met a delegation of civil servants from Bangladesh at Parliament House today. Welcoming the delegation, the Speaker highlighted the deep-rooted historical, cultural, and people-to-people relations linking both nations. He recalled his recent visit to Bangladesh to attend the funeral of former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, where he extended condolences on behalf of Pakistan, noting that the warmth he received reflected a mutual desire for stronger diplomatic ties.

Speaker Sadiq emphasized his commitment to modernizing parliament, stating that the National Assembly is transitioning to a fully digital, paperless institution. Members have been provided iPads to access legislation and agendas, an initiative aimed at boosting efficiency, saving public resources, and promoting environmental sustainability. He added that integrating artificial intelligence and modern technology is crucial for modern governance and enhanced research capacity.

Furthermore, the Speaker underscored Parliament's vital role in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on education, climate action, and poverty alleviation. He also praised the Women's Parliamentary Caucus for driving gender-sensitive legislation. The Bangladeshi delegation commended these digital reforms and expressed strong interest in expanding parliamentary cooperation and sharing bilateral experiences.



Islamabad 19.05.2026: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with delegation of civil servants from Bangladesh at Parliament House.

3. Speaker Provincial Assembly Balochistan calls on NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq:

Balochistan Assembly Speaker Captain (R) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai met National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq to discuss inter-provincial parliamentary relations, the country's overall situation, and the law and order situation in Balochistan. Their discussion focused closely on boosting cooperation, strengthening institutions, and enhancing coordination between federal and provincial legislatures.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq emphasized that robust inter-provincial parliamentary cooperation is essential for democratic stability and improved governance. He noted that regular interaction between legislatures encourages the exchange of valuable experiences while fostering harmony and mutual trust across federating units.

Highlighting Balochistan's immense geographical and economic importance, the National Assembly Speaker stressed that the province's development and sustainable peace are vital to Pakistan's collective progress. He shared that the federal government is prioritizing Balochistan's growth through targeted infrastructure improvements and public welfare projects. Furthermore, special attention is being directed toward providing education, skills training, and employment opportunities for the youth to secure a prosperous future.



4. Inaugural Ceremony of SDG Youth Campaign/Training – “Hum Hain Pakistan”

The Parliamentary Task Force on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in collaboration with the International Governance and Sustainability Institute (IG-SI), successfully launched the SDG Youth Campaign/Training – “Hum Hain Pakistan” through an inaugural ceremony held at Parliament House on 21st May 2026. The launch marked the culmination of over a month of extensive consultations, planning meetings, stakeholder engagements, and conceptual discussions led by the Parliamentary SDGs Secretariat. During the preparatory phase, multiple coordination meetings were held with Members of Parliament, education sector representatives, and development practitioners to refine the campaign framework, identify pilot institutions, and develop an implementation model focused on youth engagement, volunteerism, and practical SDG action.

The ceremony was presided over by the Honourable Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, who emphasized the importance of empowering youth through stronger linkages between Parliament and educational institutions. He highlighted the role of the Parliamentary SDGs Secretariat in promoting sustainable development and encouraged students to actively contribute to Pakistan’s development agenda.

Ms. Shaista Pervaiz, Convenor, Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs, stated that the initiative aims to transform students from passive learners into active contributors to national development by promoting awareness, leadership, civic responsibility, and community engagement. She underscored the importance of collaboration among Parliamentarians, educational institutions, and communities to ensure meaningful SDG ownership.

During the interactive discussion, Members of Parliament and stakeholders highlighted the need to strengthen teacher capacity, institutionalize SDG education, promote volunteerism, leverage social media for outreach, establish measurable impact indicators, and ensure active engagement of Parliamentarians as mentors and facilitators. Participants also emphasized the importance of expanding the initiative beyond Islamabad following successful pilot implementation.

The ceremony concluded with a collective commitment from Parliamentarians, educational institutions, and partner organizations to support the implementation of the campaign and work towards establishing a sustainable national model for youth participation in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



5. **Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights (PCCR) introduced the Bill on the floor of the House:**

On 12th May 2026, the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights introduced the bill “Polio Eradication and Rehabilitation Act 2026”. The legislation seeks to ensure a safer and healthier future for children through strengthening the national response mechanism for polio eradication. This Bill seeks to strengthen the national legal framework for polio eradication by prescribing compulsory immunization standards, proportionate legal measures to address persistent refusal while safeguarding fundamental rights, enhanced protection and welfare for the frontline workers, prioritisation of water and sanitation in high-risk areas, guaranteed rehabilitation and social inclusion for polio-affected children.



6. Meeting between Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights (PCCR) and the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC)

A meeting between the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights (PCCR) and the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) was held on 13th May 2026 under the chairpersonship of Convenor, Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan. The discussion focused on child rights issues, particularly child health, education, and the growing impact of tobacco and electronic nicotine products on children. The Convenor highlighted the importance of protecting children from the harmful effects of tobacco use and emphasized the need for awareness initiatives in connection with World No Tobacco Day 2026. SPARC representatives also shared concerns regarding the increasing use of electronic nicotine devices among children and their implications for public health.

The meeting further discussed challenges related to out-of-school children and explored the role of non-formal education in expanding learning opportunities. SPARC briefed the participants on its ongoing initiatives in Umerkot and Tharparkar, where non-formal education equipment is being utilized to support children outside the formal education system. Both sides agreed to collaborate on awareness activities for World No Tobacco Day, facilitate a field visit for PCCR members to observe non-formal education initiatives, and develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen future cooperation on child rights and protection issues.



7. Meeting Between Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights (PCCR) and Save the Children

A meeting between the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights (PCCR) and Save the Children was held on 18th May 2026 under the chairpersonship of the Honourable Convenor, Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan. The discussion focused on strengthening collaboration on child rights issues, particularly digital protection and child safeguarding. The Convenor emphasized the need for coordinated efforts and highlighted the importance of initiating preparations for the Citizen Internship Program 2026. Representatives from Save the Children outlined their work on the rights to protection, survival, and education, and proposed a long-term strategic partnership with the Child Caucus to advance shared objectives.

The meeting also explored initiatives to promote digital safety for children, including the establishment of a Child Advisory Board, child-friendly reporting mechanisms for online abuse and bullying, and awareness campaigns in collaboration with relevant government institutions. Both sides discussed the role of public-private partnerships in advancing child rights and considered engaging private sector stakeholders to support future initiatives. It was agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would be signed between PCCR and Save the Children to formalize collaboration and strengthen joint efforts on child rights and protection.



8. Meeting Between Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights (PCCR) and United Global Organisation of Development (UGOOD)

The Convenor, Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights (PCCR), Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan, met with Mr. Ishtiaq Gilani, CEO of United Global Organisation of Development (UGOOD), on 18th May 2026 at the Directorate of Parliamentary Forums (DPF) to discuss key child protection issues in Pakistan. Discussions focused on digital safety, school safeguarding, juvenile delinquency, corporal punishment, and child begging. The Convenor emphasized the importance of evidence-based policymaking, stronger child protection mechanisms, and coordinated efforts to safeguard children from abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

Both sides agreed that addressing child protection challenges requires a collaborative and multi-sectoral approach involving Parliament, government institutions, and civil society organizations. As an outcome of the meeting, it was agreed that UGOOD would organize a briefing session for Members of the Child Caucus on children's digital safety, while PCCR and UGOOD would jointly collaborate on a School Safeguarding Course. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to promoting the safety, dignity, and well-being of children in Pakistan.

9. Gender-Responsive Budgeting and Planning (GRBP) Session for the Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Federal

The Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), in collaboration with UN Women, organized a Gender-Responsive Budgeting and Planning (GRBP) session on 19th May 2026 at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS), Islamabad. The session brought together women parliamentarians and technical experts to strengthen the capacity of Members of the National Assembly on gender-responsive budgeting and governance. The session focused on enhancing participants' understanding of the federal budget cycle, conducting gender analysis of public expenditure, and clarifying the role of parliamentarians in ensuring equitable resource allocation and effective oversight. Members of the WPC emphasized the need for stronger parliamentary engagement in the budget process to ensure that public resources adequately address the needs of women and marginalized groups.

Participants called for more effective gender-responsive budgeting practices, increased accountability of line ministries, improved use of sex-disaggregated data, regular pre-budget consultations, and strengthened parliamentary oversight mechanisms to ensure transparent, inclusive, and equitable allocation of public resources across all sectors. During the session, participants reviewed gender-related allocations in previous federal budgets and identified key challenges, including limited parliamentary involvement in budget formulation, weak gender-targeted spending, insufficient sex-disaggregated data, and gaps in accountability mechanisms.

The discussions underscored the importance of institutionalizing gender-responsive budgeting, strengthening gender budget tagging systems, and increasing investments in women's empowerment, health, education, economic participation, and protection. The session concluded with recommendations to establish structured pre-budget consultations, enhance parliamentary oversight, and improve monitoring and evaluation systems.



10. Meeting Sub-Committee on Legal Reforms and Legislative Scrutiny, Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC)

The meeting of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus Sub-Committee on Legal Reforms and Legislative Scrutiny was held on Wednesday, 20th May 2026, at the Women's Parliamentary Caucus under the chairpersonship of Ms. Sofia Saeed Shah, MNA. The meeting discussed key legislative oversight matters, particularly laws related to honour killings and harassment. Members reviewed the existing legal framework and highlighted implementation gaps, enforcement challenges, and the need to ensure effective access to justice. The Committee emphasized evidence-based legislative scrutiny and the importance of strengthening protections for women and other vulnerable groups. A presentation by UN Women on Post-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS) introduced a gender-responsive methodology for assessing legislative intent, implementation effectiveness, institutional performance, resource allocation, data collection, and impact evaluation.

The Sub-Committee also stressed the need for a comparative analysis of overlapping legal and institutional frameworks, particularly involving the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), to address duplication, overlap, and inconsistencies. It was agreed that future legislative reviews should adopt a gender-sensitive, evidence-based approach supported by stakeholder consultations. The Committee recommended applying the PLS framework to relevant laws and ensuring regular oversight meetings at least once in each parliamentary session to strengthen continuity, monitoring, and follow-up on legislative recommendations.

11. YPF President Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar Visits Pakistan National Library

On 20th May, President of the Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF) of the National Assembly and Chairperson of the Standing Committee on National Heritage and Culture Division, Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, MNA, visited the National Library of Pakistan today. During the visit, she was briefed on the National Library's operations, specialised services, archival collections, research facilities, and ongoing initiatives aimed at preserving and promoting Pakistan's literary, intellectual, and cultural heritage.

Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar toured various sections of the Library, including its archival and research wings, and appreciated the institution's efforts towards the preservation of rare manuscripts, historical records, and scholarly resources. She also underscored the importance of digitising archival material and expanding public access to knowledge through modern and technology-driven library services. Speaking on the occasion, the President of the Young Parliamentarians Forum stated that the YPF is committed to fostering book-reading and library-going habits among the youth to promote intellectual development, critical thinking, academic engagement, and a stronger culture of learning and research.

She observed that libraries serve as vital centres of knowledge, enlightenment, and cultural continuity, playing a pivotal role in shaping informed, responsible, and intellectually empowered generations.

Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar further reaffirmed the commitment of the Young Parliamentarians Forum to extending full institutional support to the National Library of Pakistan in strengthening its capacity, upgrading facilities, modernising services, and advancing initiatives aimed at preserving the country's cultural and intellectual legacy.



12. Training of the Young Parliamentarians on Digital Empowerment – Orientation and Practicum”

From 20th to 21st May, Members of the Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF) of the National Assembly of Pakistan received structured training under the “Digital Empowerment – Orientation and Practicum”. This programme was conducted at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS), Islamabad. The training is part of the vision of the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, aimed at strengthening digital competencies among parliamentarians and promoting modern, technology-driven parliamentary practices. It was conducted under the leadership of the President of the Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF) of the National Assembly, Syed Nosheen Iftikhar, for its members.

The initiative was undertaken to enable Members of the National Assembly to utilize the first AI-enabled Parliamentary System, facilitating the digital conduct of House proceedings and legislative affairs for improved efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness.

The session focused on enhancing basic digital skills, responsible use of official communication tools, and safe handling of digital platforms required for parliamentary work. Practical demonstrations were also conducted to familiarize participants with key digital workflows relevant to legislative functions.

Members of the Young Parliamentarians Forum appreciated the initiative, noting that such training is essential for improving legislative effectiveness and strengthening public service delivery. The following Members of YPF attended the session: Syed Ali Qasim Gillani, Ms. Ghazala Anjum, Ms. Kiran Imran Dar, Ms. Shahista Khan, Ms. Mah Jabeen Khan Abbasi and Ms. Akhtar Bibi, Mr. Danyal Chaudry, Syed Abdul Qadir Gillani, Mr. Salahuddin Junejo.



Important announcements regarding upcoming CPA activities include:

- 26 to 28 May 2026: Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) Forum 2026, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 22 to 26 June 2026, CPA Parliamentary Academy Residency Programme for Members (Skills-Building), Darwin, Australia.
- 30 June 2026: International Day of Parliamentarism / World Parliament Day 2026.
- 26 to 31 July 2026: 13th Commonwealth Youth Parliament, Sydney, Australia.
- 13 to 18 September 2026: 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 9 to 13 November 2026: Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Workshop, Nadi, Fiji.
- Commonwealth Parliamentary of the Year Awards (http://cpahq.org/what-we-do/parliamentarian-of-the-year/#msdynmkt_trackingcontext=8626dfd1-2e08-4148-925c-cfce36f40300)

In May 2026, the National Assembly of Pakistan passed two major reform bills aimed at strengthening institutional governance. The Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) (Amendment) Bill, 2026 reinforces the legal framework for recovering bank finances and enforcing mortgage rights. It introduces procedural reforms to expedite recovery proceedings in Banking Courts, limits the misuse of injunctive remedies, and allows financial institutions to seek authority assistance to claim mortgaged properties. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Airport Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2026 aligns the aviation framework with the merger of the Aviation Division into the Defence Division. It updates board structures, relaxes rules to allow qualified private-sector candidates to be appointed as Director General, and introduces a swift, circulation-based emergency decision-making mechanism for the board.

These modernization efforts tie directly into Pakistan's active role within the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), where the National Assembly serves as the CPA Asia Regional Headquarters. By legislating institutional transparency, efficiency, and public-sector restructuring, Pakistan aligns its governance with the CPA's core principles of democratic development and effective parliamentary practice. This legislative push directly mirrors regional objectives championed by Pakistan during recent CPA events—such as the Joint CPA Asia and South-East Asia Regional Conference in Karachi—which heavily emphasized using legal innovation, robust institutional frameworks, and technological adaptation to build resilient "Parliaments of the Future."

Additionally, following the explicit directions of the Prime Minister to enforce strict austerity measures across all state institutions, the National Assembly Secretariat has formally surrendered an unspent budget exceeding twenty million rupees to the national exchequer. This substantial return of public funds reflects a rigorous internal audit and a conscious effort to eliminate unnecessary operational expenses, protocol luxuries, and administrative waste within the parliament. By tightening its fiscal belt, the Secretariat aims to set a transparent, accountable precedent for other government departments during challenging economic times. The surrendered capital will be redirected toward vital public welfare sectors, aligning closely with the federal administration's overarching strategy to reduce the national deficit, curb non-essential state expenditures, and ensure that taxpayer money is utilized with maximum efficiency and financial discipline.