

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

June, 2026

During the period of February to June 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. **St Petersburg International Economic Forum from 03-06 June,2026 St. Petersburg, Russia:**

St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), held from June 3–6, 2026, at the Expo-forum in Russia, brought together over 20,000 global leaders under the theme "Pragmatic Dialogue: The Path to a Stable Future." Featuring 170 panel discussions and parallel BRICS and SCO forums, the event was anchored by a keynote from Russian President Vladimir Putin emphasizing multipolar cooperation outside traditional Western frameworks. Crucially, Pakistan's parliamentary leadership actively leveraged this platform to advance robust parliamentary diplomacy. National Assembly delegation engaged in dedicated legislative tracks to align governance frameworks with evolving geopolitical realities. A primary achievement of this legislative delegation was securing consensus on bilateral frameworks to streamline inter-parliamentary cooperation, specifically focusing on energy security and trade regulations. Furthermore, their proactive engagement helped solidify cross-border legislative backing for major infrastructure initiatives. By fostering institutional dialogue, Pakistan's parliamentarians ensured the critical legal, regulatory, and operational synchronization necessary to successfully link the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) with Pakistan's Gwadar Port, reinforcing regional connectivity and trade resilience.

2. **CAPAC Conference, 2026 on 10 June,2026, Parliamentary Complex, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago:**

The 5th Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC) Conference, hosted from June 9–10, 2026, at the Parliamentary Complex in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, focused on the theme "Advancing Accountability: Strengthening the Independence, Capacity and Impact of Public Accounts Committees (PACs) across the Commonwealth". The primary aim was to examine oversight practices, address legal and procedural safeguards for PAC independence, and build technical capacity for effective public financial oversight. Maximizing the event's hybrid format, a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan actively participated online, ensuring Pakistan's legislative perspective was represented in critical discussions on reinforcing institutional oversight frameworks. Key achievements from the conference included a historic, unanimous decision by delegates to transfer the CAPAC Secretariat to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), aiming to maximize institutional support and relevance across member states. Additionally, the event concluded with the election of a new CAPAC Executive leadership, paving the way for synchronized, real-world tracking of public account recommendations and bolstering inter-parliamentary collaboration to combat governance challenges across the Commonwealth network.



3. Empowerment Series Briefing for Young Parliament on 17 June 2026:

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) organized the Empowerment Series Briefing for Young Parliamentarians on June 17, 2026, as a virtual "Masterclass on using AI in day-to-day work". The primary aim of the event was to address how artificial intelligence is transforming legislative landscapes and to equip young legislators under 40 with the technical capacity, practical tools, and ethical frameworks necessary to harness AI in their daily operations. By focusing on automated legislative assistance, speech preparation, and data-driven constituent research, the session sought to modernize parliamentary practices and bridge the digital divide in governance. Participating virtually, members of the National Assembly of Pakistan achieved crucial insights into deploying AI safely and productively within the legislature. The Pakistani delegation gained actionable strategies to integrate digital modules into parliamentary research and legislative drafting processes. Furthermore, their participation strengthened Pakistan's institutional readiness to counter emerging regional challenges, such as AI-generated misinformation and deepfakes, while building vital cross-border networks with other young global leaders dedicated to establishing robust, international digital governance frameworks.

4. Parliamentary Academy Residency Programme for MPs from 21 to 27 June 2026, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia:

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Advanced Parliamentary Development Residency Course is an intensive, five-day professional development programme held from 21 to 27 June 2026 in Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia. Co-hosted by the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory, this high-level residency is specifically engineered to enhance the core institutional capacities of Commonwealth Parliamentarians. The curriculum focused heavily on refining the practical skills required for MPs to become more effective, high-performing legislators, community representatives, and government scrutineers. Rather than serving as a standard introductory seminar, the advanced syllabus challenges participants through rigorous, interactive modules centered on policy analysis, budget oversight, strategic leadership, and sophisticated media communication. Given the demanding nature of the curriculum, the residency operates under an exhaustive, fast-paced schedule. It is absolutely essential that all nominating branches and proposed registrants thoroughly review the detailed agenda and daily timetable prior to arrival. Participants were fully prepared to commit to the entire duration of the programme, engaging dynamically in all workshops, simulations, and collaborative peer-to-peer sessions. Passive attendance is not permitted; full-time, active dedication is mandatory to achieve the strategic governance outcomes intended by the academy.

5. During the month of June, the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights (PCCR) actively advanced its child rights agenda through policy advocacy, strategic engagement, and collaboration with development partners. The Caucus contributed to the preparation of the budget speech of the Honourable Convenor, PCCR, highlighting the growing concern of tobacco use among children aged 5 to 16 years, and also organized a briefing session on "Budget through Children's Lens: Post-Budget Analysis 2026–2027." The session, attended by Members of the Child Rights Caucus and development Partners that, emphasized the importance of child-responsive budgeting to improve outcomes in education, health, and child protection, while reaffirming that children's rights and welfare must remain at the centre of national budget priorities.



6. During the month of June, the SDGs Secretariat provided technical, research, and parliamentary support to Members of Parliament during the Federal Budget 2026–27 process through an SDGs lens. SDG-focused budget briefs, analytical notes, and research inputs were prepared to support budget speeches, parliamentary interventions, and evidence-based scrutiny of sectoral allocations and development priorities.

The National Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs convened a cross-party briefing on Post-Budget Analysis through the SDGs Lens. The session examined the Federal Budget's alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals and strengthened Members' capacity for budget oversight and parliamentary debate.

The Secretariat also advanced its water governance agenda through consultations with development partners, particularly UNDP, in preparation for a national summit on water security. In parallel, it contributed to discussions on reviewing water policy frameworks to promote improved water governance and sustainable solutions in support of SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). These activities reinforced the Secretariat's role in supporting evidence-based policymaking, parliamentary oversight, and Pakistan's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.



7. During the month of June, the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) advanced its work on gender equality and women's empowerment through legislative, policy, and diplomatic engagements. The WPC convened its 12th General Assembly meeting to discuss honour-based violence and gender-based violence, including a briefing by the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) on key challenges and policy responses. The WPC also strengthened parliamentary diplomacy through a meeting with the Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan and participated in a consultative session on Gender Responsive Budgeting for Gender-Based Violence and Child Marriage Response. These activities reinforced the WPC's commitment to gender-responsive policymaking, institutional collaboration, and the advancement of women's rights and inclusion.



8. During the month of June, the Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF) advanced preparations for its flagship Youth Ambassador Programme through a planning meeting between President YPF, Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, MNA, and the Executive Director, Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS), Mr. Asim Khan Goraya. Discussions focused on finalizing the programme's objectives, curriculum, implementation strategy, participant selection criteria, and monitoring framework. Particular emphasis was placed on promoting gender inclusivity and ensuring representation from underserved and remote regions.

The Forum also continued preparations for a Post-Legislative Scrutiny Workshop for Parliamentarians, scheduled for 3rd–5th July, 2026, in collaboration with a development partner. The workshop aims to strengthen parliamentary oversight, enhance Members' capacity to assess the implementation and effectiveness of enacted legislation, and promote more accountable and responsive governance. These activities reflected the YPF's commitment to strengthening parliamentary capacity, fostering youth engagement, and promoting effective democratic governance.



Important announcements regarding upcoming CPA activities include:

- 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 Parliamentarian of the Year Awards (http://cpahq.org/what-we-do/parliamentarian-of-the-year/#msdynmkt_trackingcontext=8626dfd1-2e08-4148-925c-cf36f40300)

In June 2026, the National Assembly of Pakistan passed following major bills:

The Pakistan International Airlines Corporation (Conversion) (Repeal) Act, 2026

The primary aim of this legislation is to legally facilitate the comprehensive restructuring and privatization of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) by dismantling its rigid, state-controlled statutory framework. By repealing the 2016 Conversion Act, the Parliament has removed the legacy legal constraints that previously barred the transfer of majority ownership and management control to the private sector. The ultimate objective is to relieve the national exchequer from billions of rupees in annual financial losses and liabilities while revitalizing the carrier through private-sector capital, modern corporate governance, and enhanced operational efficiency.

The Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council Act, 2026

This act aims to completely overhaul the regulatory, administrative, and educational framework governing the nursing and midwifery sectors across Pakistan to resolve longstanding institutional deficits. The main objective is to establish an empowered, modernized governing council capable of enforcing strict quality controls, auditing medical institutions, and eradicating substandard educational practices. By standardizing training curricula and tightening professional registration protocols, the legislation seeks to elevate local healthcare support systems to meet global healthcare benchmarks and ensure the delivery of high-quality patient care.

The Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation (Amendment) Act, 2026

The objective of this amendment is to structurally modernize and strengthen the Debt Management Office (DMO) under the Ministry of Finance to better navigate Pakistan's sovereign debt challenges. The law aims to eliminate bureaucratic constraints by expanding the DMO's administrative capacity, allowing it to recruit top-tier financial directors and risk analysts directly from the market on a flexible, contract basis. By legally mandating strict professional qualifications and market expertise for these roles, the act intends to institutionalize sophisticated debt-modeling techniques, optimize national borrowing costs, and strictly enforce compliance with state debt-to-GDP limits.

The Pakistan Airports Authority (Amendment) Act, 2026

Enacted in response to the administrative merger of the Aviation Division into the Defence Division, this act aims to optimize the management, security, and development of the nation's aviation infrastructure. A key objective of this legislation is to update the board's composition to reflect the new ministerial hierarchy while structurally opening top leadership opportunities to the private sector. By relaxing the appointment criteria for the Director-General, the amendment explicitly aims to inject corporate agility, commercial investment strategies, and modern airport management techniques into Pakistan's major transit hubs.

The Finance Act, 2026

The core aim of the Finance Act 2026 is to expand the national tax base, drive economic documentation through digital transition, and meet stringent domestic fiscal targets. Its primary objective is to bring untaxed sectors into the formal economy, notably by implementing strict withholding tax mechanisms under Section 6A for online marketplaces, cash-on-delivery couriers, and digital payment gateways. While the act restructures direct income tax slabs to provide progressive relief to the lower-and-middle-income salaried classes, it aggressively aims to maximize revenue by eliminating legacy tax exemptions—such as the 25% rebate for full-time researchers and teachers—and capping high-value pension tax breaks.