

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN/CPA ASIA REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Contribution for CPA Asia Region Monthly E-Circular

August, 2026

During the month of August, 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. **UNITE Global Summit 2026 on 3rd & 4th August Manila Philippines**

The UNITE Global Summit 2026 concluded as a monumental event for health policy, gathering over 160 parliamentarians, health officials, and development experts from 42 countries. Hosted by the UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health at the Manila Marriott Hotel in Newport World Resorts, Philippines, the summit operated under the compelling theme, "Bridging the Health Divide: Political Courage to Invest." Over the course of two intensive days, global leaders engaged in critical policy dialogues focused on securing sustainable financing for public health systems, reinforcing pandemic preparedness, and advancing global equity in medical access. A major highlight of the summit included specialized co-hosted sessions with global health authorities like the WHO FCTC Secretariat, which tackled urgent legislative strategies regarding tobacco control and non-communicable diseases. Legislators shared regional strategies to bridge localized health deficits and navigate global health challenges collectively. The forum reached its pinnacle with the signing of a historic Political Declaration and a milestone memorandum of understanding (MOU) aimed at turning high-level political commitments into concrete, science-based legislative action worldwide. This collective accord underscores a unified global legislative drive to prioritize health equity, scale up regional immunization frameworks, and secure resilient infrastructure capable of managing future health emergencies effectively.

2. **Global Changemaker Academy for Parliamentarians (G-CAP) and the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the UNCCD, (22–28 August 2026), Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

Ms. Shaista Pervaiz, Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan, participated in the Global Changemaker Academy for Parliamentarians (G-CAP 2026) and the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP17) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Her participation provided an opportunity to represent Pakistan in an important international parliamentary and environmental forum and to engage with parliamentarians and stakeholders on sustainable land management, climate resilience and environmental governance. Her current membership of the National Assembly is also reflected in the official National Assembly profile. The G-CAP 2026 was the fourth edition of the Global Changemaker Academy and brought together 27 parliamentarians from 26 countries during COP17. Organised in collaboration with the G20 Global Land Initiative, UNCCD and United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC), the five-day Academy focused on strengthening parliamentary leadership for sustainable land management, land restoration, drought resilience and environmental governance. The programme included expert masterclasses, interactive policy workshops, peer-to-peer exchanges, field visits and engagements with the Mongolian Parliament.

During her participation, Ms. Shaista Pervaiz engaged with fellow parliamentarians and international stakeholders on the legislative and policy dimensions of land degradation and environmental sustainability. Publicly available event-related posts also document her presence at UNCCD COP17 in Mongolia, including her engagement with Azerbaijani parliamentarian. The wider UNCCD COP17 was held in Ulaanbaatar from 17–28 August 2026 under the overarching message "Restoring Land, Restoring Hope." The Conference brought together Parties and stakeholders to address land degradation, desertification, drought, sustainable land management and related development challenges.

3. 2nd Inter-Parliamentary Speaker Conference from 26-28 August, 2026 Phnom Penh Kingdom of Cambodia

Ms. Shamaila Rana, Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan, participated in the 2nd Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC-2) held in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, from 26–28 August 2026. The Conference was jointly hosted by the Senate and National Assembly of Cambodia and was held at the General Department of Taxation (GDT) Convention Centre. The Conference brought together parliamentary leaders and representatives from different regions of the world to deliberate on peace, international law, parliamentary diplomacy and shared prosperity. The Conference was convened under the theme "Solidarity for Peace and Shared Prosperity: Strengthening International Law and Resolving Conflicts Peacefully." It provided an important platform for parliamentarians to exchange views on contemporary global and regional challenges, strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation and explore the role of legislatures in conflict prevention and peaceful dispute resolution. The Conference brought together participants from 26 countries and five international organisations, providing a diverse forum for parliamentary dialogue and diplomatic engagement.

A key component of Ms. Shamaila Rana's participation was her address during the General Debate of ISC-2, where she represented Pakistan's parliamentary perspective on the Conference theme. The National Assembly of Pakistan officially documented and publicised her intervention, confirming her active participation in the proceedings. Her contribution provided an opportunity to highlight Pakistan's commitment to parliamentary diplomacy, peaceful settlement of disputes, international cooperation and the strengthening of multilateral mechanisms. Ms. Shamaila Rana's participation was also particularly relevant to Pakistan–Cambodia parliamentary relations. She serves as the Convenor of the Pakistan–Cambodia Parliamentary Friendship Group in the National Assembly. The National Assembly's official listing confirms her role in the Friendship Group, reflecting her continuing engagement in strengthening parliamentary relations between Pakistan and Cambodia.

The Conference concluded on 28 August 2026 with the adoption of the Phnom Penh Declaration, reaffirming the participating parliaments' commitment to international law, parliamentary diplomacy, peaceful settlement of disputes and stronger international cooperation. The Declaration also emphasised the role of parliaments in promoting peace, sustainable development, climate resilience and inclusive cooperation.





Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights, August 2026

During the month of August, the Child Rights Caucus continued its efforts to promote child rights, protection and well-being through parliamentary and institutional engagements. The Child Rights Caucus held a meeting with the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) to discuss measures for strengthening tobacco control and protecting children from tobacco and emerging nicotine products, particularly vaping and nicotine pouches. The discussion focused on strengthening health warnings, regulating the sale and display of tobacco products around educational institutions, increasing tobacco taxation, addressing tobacco smuggling, improving enforcement of existing laws and raising awareness among children, parents and teachers. The Child Rights Caucus also agreed to facilitate greater parliamentary engagement on tobacco control through the sharing of awareness materials and regional analysis and the organization of a briefing session for Parliamentarians.



The Child Rights Caucus organized the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Assembly Secretariat and Save the Children International, aimed at strengthening institutional cooperation and fostering joint efforts to promote, protect, and realize child rights. The MoU provides a framework for enhanced collaboration on child rights-related initiatives, advocacy, capacity building and coordinated efforts to address issues affecting children.



Furthermore, the Child Rights Caucus expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic deaths of infant children in the fire incident at the Nursery of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad. The Caucus extended its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and emphasized the importance of ensuring effective safety and child protection measures in healthcare facilities. These engagements reaffirmed the Caucus's commitment to safeguarding the rights, protection, safety and well-being of children through strengthened institutional coordination and effective measures.

SDGs Secretariat, August 2026

During August, the Parliamentary Task Force on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), National Assembly of Pakistan, in collaboration with UNDP Pakistan, convened a Parliamentary Seminar on **Water Governance** at Parliament House, Islamabad, under the theme "Evidence from Local, Low-Cost Solutions for Water Security and Flood Resilience." The seminar brought together parliamentary leadership, federal institutions, Capital Development Authority (CDA), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), the Federal Flood Commission, development partners, and water-sector experts to deliberate on water scarcity, groundwater depletion, water quality, urban flooding, and inadequate storage capacity. The discussion emphasized practical solutions, including rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, decentralized water storage, improved drainage and sewerage, strengthened early-warning systems, and enhanced water-quality and quantity monitoring, with particular focus on Islamabad's growing water deficit, unregulated urban expansion, groundwater dependence and water and wastewater management gaps. Participants noted that although relevant policies and institutional frameworks exist, implementation, coordination, financing and accountability remain key challenges. The seminar called for a structured parliamentary follow-up mechanism, including operationalization of identified water-storage sites, strengthened rainwater-harvesting requirements for new construction, improved water accounting and monitoring, an integrated Islamabad water-security and urban-flood resilience strategy, and enhanced parliamentary oversight of water-related policies and budgets. The Task Force will continue engagement with relevant federal and provincial institutions and development partners to advance these recommendations into concrete legislative, policy, and constituency-level interventions.



The Phase-II Training of SDG Focal Persons under the SDG Youth Campaign/Training “Hum Hain Pakistan” was held on 20 August 2026 at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS), Islamabad, organized by the Parliamentary SDGs Secretariat in collaboration with the International Governance and Sustainability Institute (IG-SI), with participation of 19 designated focal persons from educational institutions. The training aimed to strengthen the capacity of focal persons to introduce SDG awareness within their institutions and facilitate meaningful student engagement, with a focus on their roles and responsibilities, institutional SDG engagement, student mobilization, volunteerism, and implementation of student-led Quick Impact Projects (QIPs). Participants were oriented on translating SDG concepts into practical school-level activities and developing initiatives addressing challenges in their communities. At the same time, emphasis was placed on sustained student engagement, monitoring of activities, and establishing a structured link between educational institutions, Parliament and the SDGs to ensure tangible, measurable, and community-level impact of the campaign.



Women's Parliamentary Caucus, August 2026

During the month of August, the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) continued its efforts to advance women's rights, gender equality, legislative reform, parliamentary oversight, and institutional coordination through a range of legislative, policy, and consultative activities.

In order to strengthen Parliamentary oversight and promote coordinated action on women's safety and rights, the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) convened the 13th General Assembly Meeting. The meeting focused on honour killings, gender-based violence (GBV), femicide and premeditated murders in Pakistan. The Members emphasized stronger legal and institutional mechanisms, effective implementation and prosecution, improved gender-disaggregated data, and sustained Parliamentary oversight. The need for coordinated measures for prevention, protection and accountability was underscored. The Members also highlighted the need for safe and affordable hostels for girls and working women, preventive measures against drug use among young women and students, and greater focus on cervical cancer prevention and vaccination.



The Women's Parliamentary Caucus convened a focused consultation on Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB), aimed at strengthening parliamentary oversight of gender-responsive financing and ensuring that gender-tagged allocations are not only reflected in budget documents but are also released, utilized, and effectively implemented to deliver measurable outcomes for women. The consultation reaffirmed the WPC's commitment to promoting gender-responsive budgeting as an effective instrument for accountability, women's empowerment, and results-oriented public financing.



In response to the tragic murder of Ms. Hina Javed, the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) took immediate action by issuing a press release condemning the incident and visiting the bereaved family to express solidarity and support. During the 29th Session of the National Assembly, the Honourable Speaker appreciated the Women's Parliamentary Caucus's efforts for taking up the matter. He also referred the matter to the Standing Committee on Interior with instructions to the Women's Parliamentary Caucus to regularly monitor and follow up the case to ensure timely dispensation of justice.



The Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) delegation led by the Secretary WPC, Dr. Shahida Rehmani, MNA, visited the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and held discussions on the implementation of women-related legislation, gender-disaggregated data, outreach to underserved women, the impact of climate-related disasters on women, gender equality education, and stronger institutional coordination. These engagements reaffirmed the WPC's continued commitment to protecting women's rights, strengthening parliamentary oversight, and promoting gender-responsive legislation and policies.



In a gesture of solidarity and support, Chief Technical Advisor arranged a visit of a delegation of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), led by the Secretary WPC, Dr. Shahida Rehmani, MNA, to the family of late Hina Javed. The delegation expressed its deepest condolences and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and for strength and patience for the family during this difficult time.



Young Parliamentarians Forum, August 2026

During August 2026, the Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF), under the leadership of its President, **Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, MNA**, held a meeting with representatives of the **Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC)** to deliberate upon the growing use, availability and promotion of tobacco, nicotine pouches, vapes, heated tobacco products and other emerging nicotine products among young people.



The meeting provided a platform to discuss the increasing exposure of youth to such products and the factors contributing to their growing popularity and accessibility. Participants expressed concerns about the easy availability of these products, particularly through online platforms and other channels, as well as their promotion via digital media, celebrities, influencers, and youth icons, which may contribute to their appeal among young people. The discussion also highlighted the need to examine existing laws and regulatory mechanisms governing tobacco and emerging nicotine products, identify potential gaps and strengthen measures aimed at protecting young people from exposure to and uptake of these products. The engagement reaffirmed the YPF's commitment to raising awareness on issues affecting young people and promoting coordinated efforts with relevant stakeholders to support stronger policy, regulatory and preventive measures.



A youth engagement initiative was organized at Parliament House, providing an opportunity for meaningful interaction between young participants and the leadership of the Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF). During the engagement, the President, YPF, **Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, MNA**, and General Secretary, YPF, **Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani, MNA**, interacted with participants of the **Dastoor Civic Labs**, organized by partner organization **Edlytica**, representing Bahria University Islamabad, IMSciences Peshawar and Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad. The session provided a platform for young participants to enhance their understanding of Pakistan's constitutional and democratic framework and to engage directly with parliamentarians on matters relating to democratic governance and civic participation. The participants



were briefed on the Constitution of Pakistan, the functioning and role of Parliament, Fundamental Rights, democratic governance, parliamentary processes and the role and mandate of Parliamentary Forums, including the YPF. The interaction also enabled the participants to gain practical insights into the functioning of Parliament and the legislative and oversight processes, while encouraging greater awareness among youth regarding their constitutional rights, civic responsibilities and meaningful participation in democratic institutions.

Important announcements regarding upcoming CPA activities include:

- 30 August to 5 September 2026: 48th CPA Regional Conference and 19th Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference of the Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic (CAA) Region, Kingston, Jamaica
- 15 September: International Day of Democracy
- 13 to 18 September 2026: 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Cape Town, South Africa
- 12 to 16 October 2026: CPA Parliamentary Academy Residency Programme for Members (Practice & Procedure), Guernsey
- 9 to 13 November 2026: Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Workshop, Nadi, Fiji

Parliamentary and Legislative Developments under the Leadership of Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq – August 2026:

During August 2026, the National Assembly of Pakistan continued to play an active legislative, representative and oversight role under the leadership of Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan. His stewardship has focused on ensuring the smooth and orderly conduct of parliamentary proceedings, facilitating legislative business, upholding the dignity and sanctity of the House, and strengthening Parliament's institutional effectiveness.

The August 2026 legislative programme reflected continued parliamentary activity during the Third Parliamentary Year of the 16th National Assembly. During the month, the National Assembly passed two Government Bills, both on 20 August 2026: the Defense Forces of Pakistan Bill, 2026 and the National Command Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2026. These measures formed part of the legislative business undertaken by the House during the August session.

The House also considered and laid a number of Government Bills during August. On 19 August 2026, the following Bills were laid before the National Assembly: the Hyderabad Institute for Technology and Management Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2026; the Seed (Amendment) Bill, 2026; the Employees' Old-Age Benefits (Amendment) Bill, 2026; the Natural Gas (Development Surcharge) (Amendment) Bill, 2026; the National University of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill, 2026; the Gas Infrastructure Development Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2026; and the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) (Repeal) Bill, 2026. On 20 August, the Defense Forces of Pakistan Bill, 2026 and the National Command Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2026 were also laid and subsequently passed by the House.

Parliamentary proceedings in August also reflected a strong focus on public accountability, child rights and institutional responsibility. On 28 August 2026, the National Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution expressing profound grief and sorrow over the tragic loss of innocent infant lives in the fire incident at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad. The resolution called upon the Government to ascertain the facts, fix responsibility for negligence or safety lapses and take appropriate legal action against those found responsible.

Child rights remained another significant area of parliamentary engagement during the month. On 27 August 2026, the National Assembly Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Save the Children International to strengthen institutional collaboration in support of the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights. The cooperation covers areas including the Children's Citizens Internship Programme, digital protection of children and other initiatives aimed at promoting and protecting child rights.



The Speaker also continued to use Parliament as a platform for promoting democratic values, constitutionalism, social cohesion and parliamentary traditions. In his message marking the 79th anniversary of the establishment of the Constituent Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq emphasized the importance of parliamentary democracy, the supremacy of the Constitution and the rule of law as foundations for national unity, stability and sustainable development. During August, his parliamentary and public engagements also included meetings with national and international parliamentary representatives, reflecting the continuing role of the National Assembly in parliamentary diplomacy and inter-parliamentary cooperation.

The month also witnessed initiatives reflecting Parliament's wider social and cultural responsibilities. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq participated in activities connected with the commemoration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi ﷺ, including the inauguration of a calligraphy exhibition at Parliament House. The National Assembly also adopted a resolution on 25 August concerning celebrations of Eid Milad-un-Nabi ﷺ.

Overall, August 2026 demonstrated the continued functioning of the National Assembly as an active institution of legislation, representation, oversight and parliamentary engagement. Under the leadership of Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the House advanced important legislative measures, including the Defense Forces of Pakistan Bill, 2026 and the National Command Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2026, while also addressing matters of public accountability, child protection, institutional responsibility and national importance. The month further reflected the Speaker's continuing emphasis on orderly parliamentary proceedings, the dignity of the House, democratic values, constitutionalism and the strengthening of Parliament's institutional and representative role.