



**COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION UK  
(CPA UK)  
STRATEGY 2018 - 2022**

## CPA UK STRATEGY 2018 - 2022



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### INTRODUCTION

CPA UK is the largest and most active of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's branches. Located in and funded by the UK Parliament it supports and strengthens parliamentary democracy throughout the Commonwealth. CPA UK has a distinctive ability and capacity in this area given the origins of CPA since its formation in 1911, and the UK Parliament's propensity to evolve, develop, learn and inform. Peer to peer learning is central to CPA UK's methodology; it designs bespoke interactions between UK and Commonwealth parliamentarians and officials enabling and facilitating knowledge-sharing to achieve improved parliamentary oversight, scrutiny and representation.

### VISION

Inclusive, representative and transparent Commonwealth Parliaments; fully effective in enforcing the accountability of the executive and representing the interests and concerns of the electorate

### PURPOSE

To learn from and strengthen Commonwealth parliaments to deliver effective oversight, scrutiny and representation

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

### **Objective 1:** To strengthen parliamentary democracy

Being responsive to the complex challenges of Parliaments and facilitating access to information and skills

We will:

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- *provide opportunities for UK parliamentarians to learn from Commonwealth peers*
- *convene Commonwealth parliamentarians to increase their capacity to hold governments to account and to effectively represent their electorates*
- *build knowledge within the Commonwealth parliamentary community on issues of common interest and concern*

### **Objective 2:** To link Westminster with the Commonwealth

Promoting collaboration, understanding and cooperation, emphasising its continuing relevance to future generations

We will:

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- *play a leading role in CPA*
- *establish and strengthen networks across parliaments, and beyond*
- *engage young people in our work and vision*

### **Objective 3:** To set and demonstrate high performance standards

Increasing the positive impact of all we do

We will:

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- *achieve value for money in the organisation and delivery of our activities*
- *set and uphold high standards of behaviour*
- *use evidence-based learning to improve what we do and how we do it*

## SCOPE

CPA UK's inter-parliamentary work is broadly categorised under two headings:

### **Bilateral**

*led by the International Outreach Team*

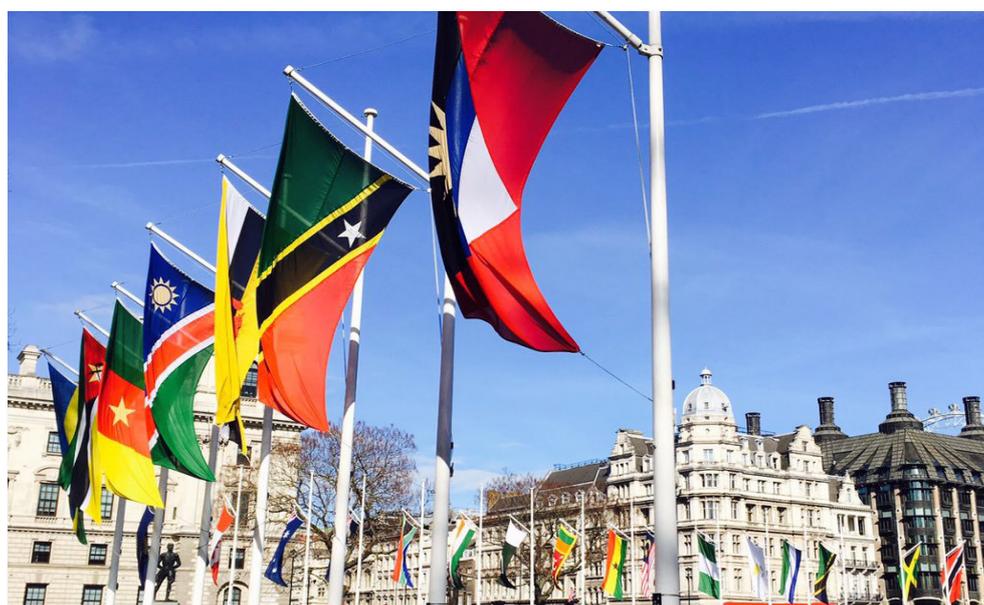
*Inward:* Including tailored programmes in Westminster and the UK for parliamentary delegations from partner countries

*Outward:* Overseas programmes resourced by delegations from the UK Parliament. These include parliamentary strengthening-focused visits facilitating access to information and skills, parliamentary diplomacy visits with a fact-finding and information-sharing agenda and election assessment and observation missions

### **Multilateral**

*led by the Multilateral Projects Team*

CPA UK runs a series of themed events and projects attended by small delegations from a range of partner parliaments. Some programmes are held annually such as the Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure and the Westminster Workshop; and others are devised to address priority issues. CPA UK's themed international parliamentary conferences and workshops are run in the UK Parliament and abroad. The programmes bring together international speakers of note from politics, academia, civil society and governments across the world to provide perspectives, opinions and case-studies suitable for the variety of contexts to stimulate thought, dialogue and constructive debate



## PRIORITISING PARTNERSHIPS

In order to have clear outcomes and productive relationships CPA UK will prioritise where and with whom it works. Based on a range of criteria each Commonwealth country is assigned to one of four levels of priority, as a guide to decision making. Categorisation is not fixed and is reviewed annually – or in response to new or additional information.

1. **Top priority** – Close parliamentary partner | Long term, strategic programme of work | Inward and outward engagements more than once per year | 35% of resources (time and money)
2. **High priority** – Valued partner | Some longer term support programmes | Inward and outward exchanges two or more times per parliament | 35% of resources
3. **Medium priority** – Occasional engagement | No ongoing work. Plan to engage after elections | Engage once per parliament and responsive inward visits | 25% of resources
4. **Low priority** – No proactive engagement | No or limited work unless there is a significant change | Occasional, responsive inward programmes in Westminster | 5% of resources

## PRIORITISING THEMES

The shape and focus of CPA UK's work is guided by priority themes. Based on past work, activities within the wider parliamentary strengthening community and current international and domestic affairs, the following five themes will be prioritised for the expected life of the current parliament:

**Women in Parliament:** gender equality, women's empowerment & EVAW

**Modern Slavery:** human trafficking and forced labour

**Public Accounts Committees:** including public financial management

**Security:** including cyber-security

**Trade:** parliamentary scrutiny of international trade arrangements

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Parliamentary practice and procedure, including constituency work, remains central to all CPA UK's work.

CPA UK continues to support oversight of implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals**.



## MONITORING & EVALUATION

Delegates participating in CPA UK programmes are asked to take part in evaluation assessments. These inform CPA UK's monitoring process to ensure continuous improvement of programmes, insight into their value and, where possible, tracking of related post-programme activity by delegates.

## FINANCE

CPA UK's core work is financed through its grant-in-aid from Parliament, made up 70% from the House of Commons and 30% from the House of Lords, broadly reflecting participation in its activities from the two Houses of Parliament.

CPA UK also bids for additional funding, from HMG and from other reputable national, supranational and international governments and institutions, as agreed by its Executive Committee.

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

CPA UK looks to work with other organisations whose strategic objectives are in alignment with its own and where there is added value for programme beneficiaries, CPA UK and the other partner. These may include other parliamentary strengthening actors, civil society organisations and NGOs, international organisations, Commonwealth bodies, academic institutions and All-Party Parliamentary Groups.



# CPA UK

*Advancing parliamentary democracy  
from the heart of Westminster*

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