



CPA SMALL BRANCHES

“To empower small Parliaments to overcome national and global challenges through cooperation, advocacy and the strengthening of parliamentary democracy and good governance.” **Our Mission**

Find out more here: www.cpahq.org



The **CPA Small Branches** network represents the smallest jurisdictions in all regions of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) to identify their particular needs and requirements in parliamentary strengthening, development and cooperation. The CPA has a long history of working with its Small Branches and since 1981, has held an annual CPA Small Branches Conference for Parliamentarians from some of the world’s smallest Parliaments and Legislatures to promote cooperation and share best practice.

**Empowering
small parliaments
to tackle big
challenges.**



THE NETWORK IN FIGURES

1,000+

PARLIAMENTARY
MEMBERS (APPROX.)

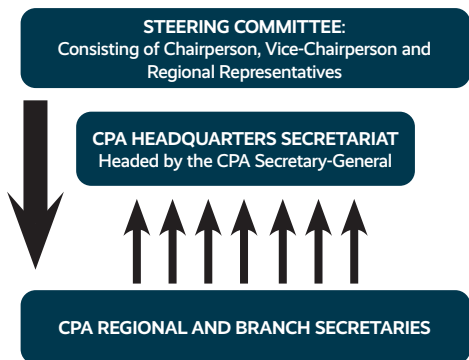
40+

LEGISLATURES/
PARLIAMENTS (MAKE UP
THE NETWORK)

41

NUMBER OF YEARS THE
ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN
WORKING

How is the Small Branches network organised?



- The network is governed by the CPA's **Constitution** established in 1993 and the Small Branches Terms of Reference agreed in 2022.
- The **Steering Committee** of eight Members usually meets twice a year and is made up of the Chairperson and seven Regional Representatives.
- The **CPA Headquarters Secretariat**, headed by the **Secretary-General**, administers the Small Branches network with the support of the Network Coordinator. Support also emanates from **Regional and Branch Secretaries**, usually senior parliamentary staff who mobilise the resources of their Parliaments in pursuit of the aims and activities of the CPA and by extension the network.

What are CPA Branches?

The Small Branches network within the CPA

- The CPA represents more than **180** Parliaments and Legislatures in **56** Commonwealth countries.
- The CPA network extends to over **17,000** Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff.
- The CPA is the only Commonwealth organisation to represent **national, state, provincial and territorial Parliaments and Legislatures**.
- CPA members are democratic, law-making Parliaments and Legislatures.
- All CPA Branches are autonomous and regarded as equal.
- There are nine regions of the CPA: **Africa; Asia; Australia; British Islands and Mediterranean; Canada; Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic; India; Pacific; South-East Asia**.

History of CPA Small Branches

Since 1981, the Small Branches has held its Annual Conference as part of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. Initially as a means to boost cooperation between small jurisdictions within the CPA, the network has continued to grow. In addition to its original remit, the network now delivers a number of programmes in parliamentary strengthening and a range of relevant thematic areas, all towards strengthening the development and resilience in small jurisdictions across the Commonwealth.

In 2016, its elected Chairperson became part of the CPA Executive Committee.

Previous Chairpersons include:

- Hon. Niki Rattle, Former Speaker of the Parliament of the Cook Islands - 2019-2021
- Hon. Angelo Farrugia, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Malta - 2016-2019



What does the network do?

Regional Initiative Funds

Funding for Regional Initiatives is approved in the Small Branches Work Programme annually. Funding is provided specifically to facilitate a clerk exchange, with a focus on strengthening technical capacity of the host clerk and parliament. This is in line with the fund's priority issue areas, identified at the previous Steering Committee meeting. Funding is available for two regions per year.

Sustainable Economic Development

In early 2020, the network delivered a Sustainable Economic Development Workshop in Valletta, Malta between 29-31 January. As part of the Workshop a committee was formed to scrutinise and assess SED across the Commonwealth and developed a set of recommendations. The network pursues these recommendations through a range of workshops and bilateral programmes.

Climate Change

The network is leading the way in pushing the climate change agenda. Over the last few years it has delivered a number of activities and publications for the benefit of its members. In 2020, the **Small States a Parliamentarian's Toolkit: A Guide for Effective Climate Change Action** was published and in November 2021, the network actively took part in the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) held



in Glasgow. Most recently, the network, in partnership with UNDP delivered a workshop on Multilateral Climate Negotiations in June 2022, and a CPA Parliamentary Academy Course has been produced on Parliamentary Action on Climate Change in Small Jurisdictions. The network will continue to pursue a number of activities to further support small parliaments in adapting and mitigating climate change. The network will work with organisations such as UNESCO and the Commonwealth Small States Centre of Excellence and others to drive this agenda.

Public Financial Management

Formed by McGill University and led by Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the network has undertaken research specifically focused on financial oversight conducted by legislatures of small jurisdictions. Research and resources will be published in 2022. In addition, the network continues to work with the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC) in supporting smaller jurisdictions and promoting best practice.

Scholarship Award Scheme

Also part of the network's partnership with McGill University's School of Continuing Studies is the CPA's scholarship scheme which supports clerks and officials from Small Branches to undertake the annual Professional Development Certificate in

Parliamentary Management. Since 2021, eight individuals have participated in the programme.

CPA Small Branches Conference

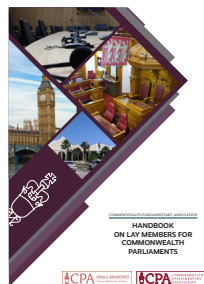
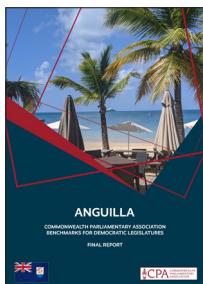
Taking place in advance of the CPA Annual Conference, the Small Branches Conference is an opportunity for Parliamentarians from small jurisdictions to examine and discuss strategies to meet the unique developmental needs of the CPA's smallest Legislatures. The Conference includes four workshops which seek to build parliamentary capacity and create greater opportunities for the sharing of knowledge, parliamentary strengthening and cooperation across the network.



Who do we work with?

The CPA Small Branches network partners with a wide range of organisations in achieving its aims, these include: **inter-governmental organisations; regional organisations; academic institutions; non-governmental organisations; professional training bodies; private businesses; think tanks** and **other research bodies.**

SOME OF OUR RECENT RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS



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INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
We invest in people Standard

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