

THE LAHORE CHARTER

1st Joint CPA Asia & South-East Asia Regional Conference-2025

Adopted on February 8, 2025

We, the Speakers, Presiding Officers, and Delegates from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) branches of Asia and South-East Asia, gathered in Lahore for the **1st Joint CPA Asia and South-East Asia Regional Conference**, *solemnly adopt* the **Lahore Charter** as a testament to our collective resolve to uphold parliamentary democracy, foster inclusive growth, and advance sustainable development across the region.

Recognising the indispensable role of parliaments in fostering inclusive governance, ensuring accountability, and advancing the rights and aspirations of all citizens;

Further recognising that regional challenges such as climate change, socio-economic disparities, and rapid technological transformation require collective legislative efforts, innovative policymaking, and inter-parliamentary collaboration;

Reaffirming the importance of parliamentary diplomacy as a cornerstone for regional cooperation, mutual understanding, and lasting peace;

Acknowledging the need to empower local governance structures to ensure equitable development and the efficient delivery of public services;

Noting with concern the detrimental impacts of misinformation, hate speech, and digital manipulation on public trust and the democratic fabric of societies;

Highlighting the shared responsibility of parliaments to address socio-economic inequalities, ensure universal access to healthcare and education, and advance Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

Emphasising the critical need for equitable representation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and minorities in legislative processes to build inclusive and just societies;

Appreciating the initiative of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab in hosting this historic conference, providing a vital platform for dialogue, cooperation, and legislative innovation between both CPA branches of Asia and South-East Asia.

Solemnly declare as follows:

1. **Reaffirm** our commitment to uphold democratic norms, constitutional principles, and the supremacy of parliaments as the voice of the people.
2. **Enhance** parliamentary oversight, accountability, and transparency to rebuild public trust in institutions.

3. **Promote** constructive dialogue, mutual respect, and inclusivity in parliamentary discourse to strengthen democratic practices.
4. **Pursue** legislative frameworks that enable local governments to deliver effective services, allocate resources equitably, and maintain accountability.
5. **Share** knowledge and best practices in decentralised governance to address regional challenges and foster sustainable development.
6. **Advocate** for capacity-building programs that empower local institutions and leadership.
7. **Strengthen** legislative measures to combat climate change, reduce air pollution, and enhance urban resilience.
8. **Promote** green infrastructure, sustainable public transportation, and climate-adaptive urban planning.
9. **Advocate** for cross-border cooperation to develop and implement regional climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.
10. **Promote** ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technologies in governance.
11. **Address** misinformation, hate speech, and the spread of fake news, while safeguarding freedom of expression.
12. **Promote** regional collaboration to establish standards for digital governance and transparency.
13. **Address** disparities in healthcare and education through targeted legislative interventions, prioritising marginalised communities.
14. **Strengthen** public health systems and combat malnutrition, child labor, and educational inequities through legislations.
15. **Promote** regional initiatives to improve access to quality education and healthcare while advancing SDG-aligned reforms.
16. **Enhance** the representation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and minorities in legislative bodies and policymaking processes.
17. **Address** systemic barriers to participation and foster inclusive policymaking environments.
18. **Advocate** for policies that promote diversity, equity, and social justice.
19. **Utilise** parliamentary diplomacy to address shared regional challenges and strengthen inter-parliamentary relationships.
20. **Foster** dialogue and knowledge exchange to promote peace, stability, and prosperity across Asia and South-East Asia.

21. **Encourage** participation in joint initiatives that advance regional development and legislative innovation.
 22. **Congratulate** the National Assembly of Pakistan for being declared the Regional Secretariat and Permanent Headquarter of the CPA Asia Region.
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We, the Speakers, Presiding Officers, and Delegates of CPA Asia and South-East Asia Regional Branches, *solemnly declare* to:

- **Uphold** the principles outlined in this Charter and endeavour towards integrating these principles into our legislative agendas;
 - **Encourage** continuous reviews and progress assessments of these principles;
 - **Foster** partnerships with civil society, academia, and private sectors to enhance inclusivity, transparency, and innovation in governance;
 - **Engage** in collaborative capacity-building initiatives to strengthen parliamentary institutions, ensuring resilience and adaptability to emerging challenges.
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Adopted with unity and mutual respect in Lahore on this 8th day of February, 2025, the **Lahore Charter** represents the collective resolve of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Asia and South-East Asia branches to build a future of inclusive growth, sustainable development, and regional harmony.