

30TH COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS (CWP) BUSINESS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Room C4.5
International Convention Centre Sydney
Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

4 NOVEMBER 2024

CWP Research Report – Pathways into Politics for Women

(I) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper provides the CWP Membership with an overview of the CWP's Research Report on Pathways into Politics for Women. This report forms part of an activity that was approved by the CWP Steering Committee under the CWP Work Plan for 2024. A draft has been annexed to this paper.

(II) BACKGROUND

In alignment with the activities agreed under the CWP Work Plan for 2024, on 13 May 2024, the CPA Headquarters Secretariat, via the Commonwealth Parliamentary Research Service (CPRS), invited Branches to contribute to the CWP Network's efforts to produce a document titled '*Promoting women's participation in politics and Parliament*' which aims to gather information and resources for women who are interested in politics, wish to run, who are running and/or who have been elected.

This project is pursuant to Objective 4 of the 2024 CWP Work Plan which aims to develop the CPA/CWP's role in supporting women to access information or programmes by "*exploring programmes and information currently available for women to support their political participation in politics*".

Branches were given until 28 June 2024 to submit the relevant information to support the research project. Branches were invited to answer the following questions:

- 1) What kind of programmes, workshops, training sessions, and events are offered by various organisations to support women in their political journey, from international to local levels?

- 2) Is there funding and campaign support accessible for women candidates, provided by international organisations, governments, political parties, or local charities and groups?
- 3) Are there any available resources, research materials, manuals, or guides focusing on women's pathways to politics, their political participation, as well as funding and campaigning efforts?

Following the deadline, the CPA Headquarters Secretariat received responses from only 20 parliaments from 7 Regions to the CPRS inquiry. A draft of this report has been annexed to this paper (*see below*).

In an effort to create a more comprehensive report, the CPA Headquarters proposes to continue work on this research project to produce a more in-depth and detailed document. It is anticipated that the research report will highlight case studies that will build on the Steering Committee's original areas of interest:

- Activities undertaken within jurisdictions to support women getting into politics at all levels;
- Funding and campaign support for women who wish to run;
- Production and availability of research, reports, and resources that focus on pathways into politics.

The CPA Headquarters Secretariat will continue to work on this project and invites Branches to provide information that can be included in the final report.

It is anticipated that this project will be completed and launched in March 2025 to mark International Women's Day.