

**Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Steering Committee Meeting,  
Sydney, Australia, 3 November 2024**

**CWP Template for Reports on Developments in Branches and Regions  
Please continue on separate sheets where need be**

	<b>CPA Asia Region (Sri Lanka/ Maldives)</b>											
<p><b>1. Data on the number of women representatives</b></p> <p>Including:</p> <p>Statistics in legislatures, executive, company boards</p> <p>Changes in representation following elections</p> <p>Affirmative Action policies, as they relate to quotas, constitutional, legislative, electoral changes</p> <p>Political Party Reforms and appointments</p>	<p>Sri Lanka</p> <p><b><u>Statistics in Legislatures (from 1947 to date)</u></b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>Legislature</b></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><b>No</b></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><b>Percentage</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9<sup>th</sup> DSR 2020-2024</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5.33 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prime Minister (9<sup>th</sup> DSR) (23 Sep 2024 - todate)</td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Dr. Harini Amarasuriya</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Maldives</p> <p>The 20<sup>th</sup> People's Majlis of Maldives currently has 3 female Members of Parliament. This is a smaller representation compared to the 19<sup>th</sup> Majlis, which had 4 female Members.</p>			<b>Legislature</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> DSR 2020-2024	12	5.33 %	Prime Minister (9 <sup>th</sup> DSR) (23 Sep 2024 - todate)	Dr. Harini Amarasuriya	
<b>Legislature</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Percentage</b>										
9 <sup>th</sup> DSR 2020-2024	12	5.33 %										
Prime Minister (9 <sup>th</sup> DSR) (23 Sep 2024 - todate)	Dr. Harini Amarasuriya											

<p>of women within the Party Structures</p>	
<p><b>2. Information on elections that were held this year</b></p> <p><b>Including:</b> Data on women Members that won and/or lost seats or appointed to new positions</p>	<p>Sri Lanka</p> <p>General Election of Sri Lanka will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024.</p> <p>Maldives</p> <p>The 2024 parliamentary elections had 41 female candidates competing, within a total of 368 candidates. Of the 41, 3 candidates were elected to become members of the 20<sup>th</sup> Peoples Majlis.</p>
<p><b>3. Status of the CWP in regional constitutions</b></p> <p>Including:</p> <p>Updates in Regional Constitutional changes and/or challenges where applicable</p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>4. CWP Regional Structure</b></p> <p>Including:</p> <p>Updates on changes and/or challenges to</p>	

<p>Regional CWP Structures</p>	
<p><b>5. Regional Budget for CWP Activities</b></p> <p>Including:</p> <p>Updates on changes and/or challenges to Regional CPA Budgets where applicable</p>	<p>The CPA Regional Strengthening Fund has granted support to the CPA Pakistan Branch for the organization of a workshop on Gender-Sensitive Legislative Drafting, scheduled for December 2024.</p>
<p><b>6. Regional Conference – What role did CWP play?</b></p> <p>Including:</p> <p>Updates on changes and/or challenges to holding a regular CWP meeting at CPA Regional Conferences</p> <p>Updates on Regional CWP activities</p>	<p>No Asia Regional Conference was held in 2024.</p>
<p><b>7. CPA International Executive Committee – does your region have a female Member?</b></p> <p>Including:</p>	<p>Hon. Aprajitha Haque, MP, from the CPA Bangladesh branch, represented the CWP Steering Committee for the Asia Region. In the absence of representation from the CPA Bangladesh branch, the CPA Maldives branch will serve as an alternative member and attend the CWP Steering Committee at 67th CPC 2024.</p>

<p>Updates on changes to Regional Representatives to the CPA International Executive Committee</p>	
<p>8. <b>Initiatives linked to CWP Thematic Priorities undertaken by Parliaments and/or Regions</b></p> <p>Including:</p> <p>Legislation, resources, Inter-organizational strategies, Intra-Ministerial and Civil Society Cooperation and all other strategies related to the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(i) Women in leadership;</i></li> <li><i>(ii) Elimination of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in all of its forms;</i></li> <li><i>(iii) Economic Empowerment of Women;</i></li> <li><i>(iv) Equal access to national resources</i></li> </ul>	<p>The Maldives currently does not have any legislation that dictates a quota for female parliamentarians. However, there are also no rules or legislations preventing women’s participation in the legislative process or competing in elections.</p>
<p>9. <b>The Contribution of women parliamentarians to The Parliamentarian journal article</b></p>	

<p><b>10. Other</b></p> <p>Including, for example:</p> <p><b>Strategies to Overcome Gender Inequality</b></p> <p>Education Gender Quotas Leadership programmes Childcare Mechanisms to prevent political violence Equal access to Party resources Coordination with other like-minded Women's organizations</p>	<p>Sri Lanka</p> <p>The news on alleged sexual harassment was initially reported in print media in August 2023. Since this incident relates to workplace harassment, the Secretary General of Parliament took immediate measures to commence a preliminary investigation based on the allegations reported on those newspaper articles. Accordingly, a three-member committee consisting of female high-ranking officials in Parliament of Sri Lanka was appointed to receive the complaints.</p> <p>The above committee submitted a report and having gone through the findings of the report, the Parliament Secretariat unanimously decided that there's a prima facie element in this case. The preliminary investigation into the incident is concluded and two parallel legal proceedings were commenced, to ascertain the veracity of the allegations against three male accused-employees.</p> <p>Currently, the legal proceedings before the courts under the general criminal law of the land is independently underway. Furthermore, the Parliament secretariat has commenced a parallel disciplinary inquiry against the three male accused-employees under three different charge sheets under the "Parliament Staff (General Conduct and Discipline) Regulations". Meantime, the Parliament Secretariat took measures with the support of the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus and the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Children, Women and Gender in the ninth Parliament in spreading awareness on workplace harassments and mitigate sexual harassment.</p>