



REPORT

**42nd Conference of the Caribbean, the Americas
and the Atlantic Region of the Commonwealth
Parliamentary Association (CPA), Basseterre, St.
Kitts and Nevis, June 16 to 24, 2017**

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Introduction

Delegation to Report to the Houses of Parliament

1. Standing Order 22 (6) of the House of Representatives and 21 (6) of the Senate prescribes that:
Within twenty-one (21) days of the return to Trinidad and Tobago of an officially recognized parliamentary delegation composed in any part of Members of the House, the head of the delegation, or a Member acting on his behalf, shall present a report to the House on the activities of the delegation.

CPA- Caribbean, the Americas and the Atlantic Region (CAA)

2. The *Association of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Branches of the Caribbean, the Americas and the Atlantic Region (CAA)* is a forum made up of the active Member Parliaments of the various territories within the CAA.

Objectives of the Association

3. The *Association* seeks to promote knowledge of the respective Constitutions, as well as the legislative, economic, social and cultural aspects of parliamentary democracy, with particular reference to the Commonwealth countries of the Region. In pursuit of this overriding objective, the *Association* engages in a number of activities, including:
 - (a) holding regional conferences in Member Countries as decided by the Regional Executive Committee in consultation with the branches;
 - (b) arranging meetings, seminars and study groups on a regional or inter-regional basis;
 - (c) arranging exchanges of visits to study matters of common interest within the region;
 - (d) publishing reports and other papers relevant to the aims and objectives of the Association.

Regional Conference of the Association

4. The Constitution of the Caribbean, the Americas and the Atlantic Region of the CPA states in section 9 (1) that -

“There shall be a Regional Conference of the Association to be hosted ordinarily each year by a Branch of the Association...”

5. Section 10 prescribes *inter alia* that:

“The final authority for the policy and management of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in the Annual General Meeting, which shall comprise the Association's Executive

Committee and all delegates who are entitled to attend and vote...

(a) An Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held on the occasion of every Regional Conference....”

6. The 42nd Conference of the Caribbean, the Americas and the Atlantic Region was held at the St. Kitts Marriot Resort, Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis from June 16 to 24th, 2017. The Invitation Letter received from the Parliament of St. Kitts and Nevis is attached at **Appendix I**.

7. The Trinidad and Tobago delegation comprised the following persons:
 - i. Mr. Nigel De Freitas, Vice-President of the Senate (Head of the Delegation)
 - ii. Mrs. Glenda Jennings-Smith, MP- Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of National Security
 - iii. Mrs. Vidia Gayadeen-Gopeesingh, MP- Member for Oropouche West
 - iv. Sen. Dr. Dhanayshar Mahabir-Independent Senator
 - v. Miss. Vivian Wall- Youth Parliamentarian
 - vi. Mr. Noor-ud-din Mohammed- Youth Parliamentarian
 - vii. Mrs. Sharon Irvine Combie- Clerk, Assembly Legislature, Tobago House of Assembly (Observer)
 - viii. Ms. Sophia Copper- Assembly Legislature Secretariat (Observer)
 - ix. Mr. Julien Ogilvie- Procedural Clerk Secretary (Secretary to the Delegation)
 - x. Mrs. Shayna De Freitas- Spouse



R to L: Sen. Nigel De Freitas, Vice- President of the Senate; Ms. Sophia Copper, Special Programmes Coordinator, Assembly Legislature, THA; Sen. Dr. Dhanayshar Mahabir (Independent Senator), Mr. Julien Ogilvie, Secretary to the Delegation; Mrs. Vidya Gayadeen-Gopeesingh, MP (Member for Oropouche West); Mrs. Sharon Irvine Combie (Clerk, Assembly Legislature, THA); Mrs. Glenda Jennings-Smith, MP- Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of National Security.

8. The theme of the Conference was *“Enhancing Democracy through the use of the Parliamentary System and the Media.”*

Coinciding events and activities

9. Other events coincided with the regional conference. These events and the respective dates on which they were held are outlined below:

	Events	Date
1.	Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, 11th Annual Meeting and Conference	Friday, July 16th - Sunday, July 18th, 2017
2.	Regional Executive Committee Meeting	Sunday June 18, 2017 and Tuesday June 20, 2017
3.	Annual General Meeting	Wednesday June 21, 2017
4.	13 th Regional Youth Parliament	Friday June 23, 2017

10. The Programme of Activities for the Conference is at **Appendix II.**



R to L: Sen. Nigel De Freitas, Vice- President of the Senate; Mrs. Vidia Gayadeen-Gopeesingh, MP (Member for Oropouche West); Sen. Dr. Dhanayshar Mahabir (Independent Senator); Mrs. Glenda Jennings-Smith, MP-Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of National Security.

11th Annual Meeting and Conference of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CCA Region)

11. The 11th Meeting of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) (CCA Region) was held from Friday, July 16th to Sunday, July 18th, 2017 at the St. Kitts Marriot Resort.
12. The Trinidad and Tobago Branch was represented by Mrs. Vidia Gayadeen-Gopeesingh, MP and Mrs. Glenda Jennings-Smith, MP. In addition, Mrs. Sharon Irvine-Combie and Ms. Sophia Copper attended as observers.
13. The following are the main issues which were highlighted during this session:

- i. The lack of a Constitution of the CWP which ought to be used as a guide in the operations of the CWP;
 - ii. The high crime rate in member countries;
 - iii. The adoption of orphan children;
 - iv. Human Trafficking in the region;
 - v. The unique challenges confronting female parliamentarians including:
 - a. the uttering of sexist remarks towards women during Parliamentary proceedings;
 - b. dealing with motherhood and family life whilst attempting to sustain a political career.
 - vi. The role of the CWP in encouraging a higher level of participation by women in politics and in the affairs of Parliament;
 - vii. The high rate of teenage pregnancy in countries of the region;
 - viii. The need to enhance the level of communication among Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians;
 - ix. The need to reactivate subcommittees of the CWP including the subcommittees on Education, Communication and Mentorship;
14. The delegates from the Trinidad and Tobago branch expressed particular concern regarding the lack of systems, structures and procedures in the operations of the CWP. Some of the apparent shortcomings which were highlighted include:
- i. The absence of records and documentary evidence of the activities of the organization;
 - ii. The lack of continuity in the work of the organization;
 - iii. The absence of effective communication channels with the CWP network;
 - iv. The absence of a CWP Secretariat to administer the affairs of the organization.
15. The Programme of Activities for the Conference is at **Appendix IV**.

Summary of conference sessions

16. The following were the themes of the conference sessions:
- **Session 1:** The importance of engendering positive perceptions of Parliaments and Parliamentarians;
 - **Session 2:** Establishing the parameters of a respectful and productive relationship between Parliament and the Media;
 - **Session 3:** Enhancing Caribbean Parliamentary Democracy via public and media participation;
 - **Session 4:** Social Media: It's potential to complement or undermine the democracy process;

- **Session 5:** The need for parliamentary independence.

Opening Ceremony

17. The Opening Ceremony commenced at 9.50 am.
18. Welcome remarks were given by the host Speaker, Hon. A. Michael Perkins, Speaker of the National Assembly of St. Kitts and Nevis.
19. The feature address was delivered by Hon. Shawn Richards, MP, Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Education (Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis)
20. The opening ceremony was concluded at 11.15am. Following the Ceremony, the Official Photograph was taken.

Summary of proceedings of Conference Sessions

Session 1: The importance of engendering positive perceptions of Parliaments and Parliamentarians.

14. The session commenced at 11:50am and was moderated by: Sen Nigel De Freitas, Vice-President of the Senate (Trinidad and Tobago).
15. **Presenters included:** Hon. Shirley Osborne, Speaker (Montserrat) and Hon. Lt. Col. Jeffrey Bostic – Barbados
16. The following are the main issues which were highlighted during this session:
 - i. The citizenry of several territories is disconnected from the activities of Parliament;
 - ii. The distinctions between Parliaments and Parliamentarians;
 - iii. What shapes positive perceptions of politicians? The implementation of promises/assurances;
 - iv. The average number of hours spent by Parliamentarians directly engaging their constituents or the public sharpens public perception of Parliamentarians;
 - v. Parliamentarians in small island developing states inherently interacts with constituents more regularly due to the small intimate nature of the Caribbean countries/states.
17. The session was concluded at 12:13p.m.

Session 2: Establishing the parameters of a respectful and productive relationship between Parliament and the Media.

18. The session commenced at 2.15pm

19. **Presenters included:** Hon. Pearnel Charles (Speaker) – Jamaica, Hon. Sir Gerald Watt, QC, Speaker-(Antigua Barbuda), Hon. Shawn Richards, Prime Minister and Acting Minister of Education– (St. Kitts and Nevis) and Hon. Annette Ferguson-(Guyana)

20. The following issues were raised:

- i. Robust interaction between parliament and the media fosters stronger public awareness about the operations of Parliament and the Government;
- ii. An effective relationship between parliament and media can help reduce the stigma of exclusion;
- iii. There must be focus on the “representative role” of the media;
- iv. A key issue affecting the relationship between parliament and the media is the unfavourable and degrading reporting of Parliamentarians by the media.
- v. Parliament by its very nature is news worthy;
- vi. The media is sometimes considered intrusive;
- vii. The media has a duty to report on Parliamentary affairs in a fair and honest;
- viii. The need to properly train young journalists before they commence working in the media;
- ix. The need for a media Code of Conduct or licensing requirements.



Mrs. Glenda Jennings-Smith, MP- Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of National Security, Sen. Dr. Dhanayshar Mahabir (Independent Senator) and Sen. Nigel De Freitas, Vice- President of the Senate;

Session 3: Enhancing Caribbean Parliamentary Democracy via public and media participation

21. The Session commenced at 4:20pm and was moderated by the Hon. Kerryan Ifill, President of the Senate of Barbados.
22. **Presenters included:** Sen. Dr. Dhanayshar Mahabir (Trinidad and Tobago), Hon. Randy Horton, Speaker (Bermuda), Hon. Dwayne Taylor, Speaker (Turks and Caicos)
 - i. Strategies for effective use of the media as an ally in advancing the work of the Parliament. (in particular, Parliamentary committees);
 - ii. Select Committees should seek to examine issues of the day which are relevant/important to the public/society. As a consequence, the media would be persuaded to cover the proceedings of Select Committees
 - iii. How can the democracy be advanced with low interest in participating in the electoral process? Example, there was a 50% voter turnout in Jamaica at the last General Elections.
23. The Session was concluded at 5:30 pm

Social Event

24. Delegates attended a reception hosted by the Governor-General of St. Christopher and Nevis, His Excellency, Sir S.W. Tapley Seaton, GCMG, CVO, QC, JP, at Government House, Springfield, Basseterre.

DAY 2: Tuesday June 20th, 2017

Session 4: Social Media: It's potential to complement or undermine the democracy process.

25. The session commenced at 9.30 am and was moderated by Hon. Pauline Sukhai, MP (Guyana)

26. **Presenters included:** Hon. Senator Akilah Byron-Nisbett (St. Kitts and Nevis), Hon. Mark Brantley – Nevis Island Administration (Minister of Foreign Affairs), Mr. Azard Gumbs-President of the St. Kitts National Youth Parliament

27. The following issues were highlighted:

- i. Given the size of Facebook's membership it may be considered the 3 largest "country" in the world;
- ii. The growth in "fake news" and alternative facts;
- iii. Information available on Facebook may contribute to citizens awareness and thus contribute to a more informed electorate;
- iv. Social media may pressure the Government or leaders to respond irrationally based on public hype driven by the manner in which "issues-of -the-day" are portrayed on social media;
- v. Political leaders must guard against the hype created by popular social media personalities who may act as character assassins;
- vi. Social media can be used as a means of keeping politicians in check/accountable to the public;
- vii. Social media may be considered as a stand-off method of interacting with constituents;
- viii. The need for Parliamentarians to think innovatively in terms of infusing social media into their political activities inclusive of representation.

28. The Session was concluded at 10:40 a.m.

Session 5: The need for parliamentary independence

29. The Session commenced at: 10.45 a.m. and was moderated by: Hon. Bernie Bush, Speaker (Cayman Islands)

30. **Presenters included:** Hon. Alix Boyd-Knights, Speaker (Dominica), Hon. Ingrid Moses – Scatliffe, Speaker (British Virgin Islands) and Hon. Juliana O’Connor Connolly- (Cayman Islands)

31. The following issues were highlighted:

- i. The treatment of the institution of Parliament as “just another department of government” as opposed to an organization with unique needs;
- ii. The need for greater Parliamentary autonomy;
- iii. The lengthy time it takes to make appointments to certain parliamentary offices such as Clerk of the Parliament;
- iv. Parliament being used as rubber stamp by the executive;
- v. The need for more respect for the Separation of Powers;
- vi. The need for the Speaker's/ Presiding Officers of the Parliament to be afforded the same level of status and respect as the Prime Minister (Head of the Executive) and the Judiciary (Head of the judiciary);
- vii. The need for Presiding Officers to facilitate greater dialogue among legislatures to solve issues

Social Event

32. Delegates were transported to Nevis Island where they visited a few notable sites and attended a cocktail reception hosted by the Premier of Nevis Island. The reception was held at the Four Seasons Hotel.

DAY 3: Wednesday June 21st, 2017

Annual General Meeting

33. The meeting commenced at 10:15 am.

34. The following issues/matters were raised and discussed:

- i. Consideration should be given to locating the headquarters of the CPA in countries outside of the U.K.
- ii. The Speaker of the National Assembly of Dominica explained that the continued location of the CPA secretariat in the UK was partly due to the costs associated with operating the Secretariat. She submitted that the CPA has attained charitable status in the UK and therefore the Association is granted special concessions. She further advised that such a status has certain limitations.
- iii. Whether the Regional Secretary seeks assistance from the Government or the branch to resource the Regional Secretariat.

- iv. Senator Dr. Dhanayshar Mahabir suggested that the Association consider formulating a budget to estimate the cost of operating a Regional Secretariat as a means of promoting greater efficiency.
- v. The Speaker of the Cayman Islands Branch confirmed his branch's offer to host the next regional conference in May 2018. It was noted that Trinidad and Tobago has proposed to host the 44th regional conference in 2019. Offers to host the 45th conference in 2020 were still being accepted.
- vi. It was also noted that the Biennial Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference of the region would be held in Trinidad and Tobago in 2017 and thereafter in St. Lucia.

Election of Chairman

35. The Chairman put the question that Cayman Islands assumed the Chairmanship of the Regional CPA
36. The nomination was proposed by Bermuda and seconded by BVIs

Election Vice-Chairman

37. The Chairman proposed that Trinidad and Tobago assume the Vice-Chairmanship of the Association. Question put and agreed to in like manner as indicated above.
38. The AGM was adjourned at 12: 15 pm
39. The Agenda for the AGM is at **Appendix III**.

Hot Topics Forum Topic

40. A panel discussion with the theme entitled “**Seeking to Increase Women’s Political Participation-Part II**” was convened at 1.30 pm. These discussions were a continuation of discussions with commenced during the 62nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held from 11-17 December 2017 in London, UK.
41. The discussion panel comprised the following persons:
 - i. Prof. Verene Sheperd (Gender and Development), UWI, Mona, Jamaica;
 - ii. Dr. Yvonne Weeks (Education and Theatre Arts), UWI (Cave Hill), Barbados;
 - iii. Dr. Wendy Grenade (Political Science) UWI (Cave Hill), Barbados;
 - iv. Sen. Akila Bryon-Nisbett, St. Kitts and Nevis Parliament.



Sen. Dr. Dhanayshar Mahabir makes a contribution during the “Q and A” period of the Hot Topics Discussion

42. See **Appendix V** for the Programme of the “Hot Topics” Forum

Social Event

43. Delegates attended a dinner hosted by His Honour the Speaker A. Michael Perkins at the Carambola Beach Club, Friars Bay, South East Peninsula. (7.00 pm – 10.00 pm)

DAY 4: Thursday June 22nd, 2017

44. Delegates were treated to a tour of the island. The tour involved visits to Caribelle Batik, Brimstone Hill Fortress (UNESCO World Heritage Site), Boat ride to Basseterre, shopping and tour time in capital city Basseterre.

DAY 5: Friday June 23rd, 2017

45. The 13th Regional Youth Parliamentary Debate was convened at approximately 9:30 am in the Ballroom of the St. Kitts Marriot Resort. The topic of debate was “*The Protection of Migrant Workers and their Families.*”

46. Trinidad and Tobago was represented by two Youth Parliamentarians. Namely:

- Miss. Vivian Wall- Holy Name Convent (Port of Spain)
- Mr. Noor-ud-din Mohammed- Northern Eastern College

47. At the conclusion of the debate, both Youth Parliamentarian from Trinidad and Tobago received “Honourable Mentions”



Mr. Noor-ud-din Mohammed, Youth Parliamentarian (TT) is presented with a Certificate of Participation by Senator Akilah Byron-Nisbett- St. Kitts and Nevis



Miss. Vivian Wall, Youth Parliamentarian (TT) is presented with a Certificate of Participation by Senator Akilah Byron-Nisbett- St. Kitts and Nevis

Departures: Saturday 24th June, 2017

48. Remaining delegates departed for Trinidad. The return arrangements involved traveling from St. Kitts to St. Maarten and thereafter to Trinidad. The delegation arrived in Trinidad at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sen. Nigel De Freitas
Vice- President of the Senate and Head of the Delegation

September 05, 2017

Appendix I

Invitation Letter from St. Kitts and Nevis Branch



The Office of the Speaker

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Saint Christopher (St. Kitts) and Nevis

Tel: (869)467-1185
Fax: (869)465-5040
Email: sknparliament@gov.kn

Government Headquarters
Church Street, Basseterre, P.O. Box 164
St. Kitts, West Indies

INVITATION LETTER

March 31, 2017

Re: 42nd Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the Caribbean, the Americas and the Atlantic Region, Basseterre, St. Kitts June 16 to 24, 2017

**TO: ALL PRESIDING OFFICERS
THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY
ASSOCIATION BRANCHES OF THE CARIBBEAN, THE AMERICAS AND
THE ATLANTIC REGION**

Dear Presiding Officer:

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the 42nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference of the Caribbean, the Americas and the Atlantic Region, which is slated to be held in Basseterre, St. Kitts, during the period June 16 to 24, 2017.

The theme chosen for **Conference 42** is **"ENHANCING DEMOCRACY THROUGH THE USE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM AND THE MEDIA"**. In this regard, we are inviting suggestions for suitable discussion topics and are also inviting members to volunteer as presenters.

The proposed Conference Programme is as follows:

1. The 10th Regional Conference of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians – Saturday, June 17 and Sunday, June 18.
2. Regional Executive Committee Meeting - Sunday, June 18.
3. The 42nd Regional CPA Conference – Monday, June 19 and Tuesday, June 20.
4. Annual General Meeting of the 42nd Regional Conference - Wednesday, June 21 (PM).
5. “Hot Topics” Forum – Wednesday, June 21 (PM)
6. Open Day - Thursday, June 22.
7. The 13th Regional Youth Parliament and Closing Ceremony - Friday, June 23.

Please be advised that other documentation, including the Information Circular, Acceptance Forms, Biographical Details Form and Travel Itinerary Form will be sent out shortly.

It is also important for me to advise that the 21st Annual St. Kitts Music Festival will be taking place from June 22 to 24, and as such I cannot over emphasize the need for delegates to secure hotel and flight reservations as a matter of priority.

Additionally, please send all correspondence relating to Conference 42 to the attention of:

Ms. Sonia Boddie

Conference Coordinator

Tel: 1869 467 1159

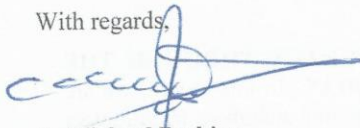
Email: sknparliament@gov.kn

It is my hope that you would find the Conference a success and also enjoy our Music Festival and our lovely Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

The Members of the Saint Christopher and Nevis Branch look forward to welcoming you to our shores.

Thank you.

With regards,



A. Michael Perkins,
Speaker of the National Assembly
(Conference Chairman)

Appendix II

Programme of Activities

42nd Regional CPA Conference



**42nd Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
(CPA), the Caribbean, the Americas and the Atlantic Region,
St. Kitts Marriott Resort Royal Ballroom
Frigate Bay
St. Kitts
June 16 to 24, 2017**

Sunday 18th June, 2017

Executive Committee Meeting- 2.30pm- 3.30 pm

Monday 19th June, 2017

Opening Ceremony – 9.00 am – 10.15 am.

Official Photograph 10.15 am

Session 1

Monday 10.30 – 12.00 pm

Topic: “*The importance of engendering positive perceptions of Parliaments and Parliamentarians.*”

Presenters: Hon. Shirley Osborne (Speaker) – Montserrat

Hon. Lt. Col. Jeffrey Bostic – Barbados

Delegate from Antigua and Barbuda or The Bahamas

Session 2

Monday 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm

Topic: “*Establishing the parameters of a respectful and productive relationship between Parliament and the Media.*”

Presenters: Hon. Parnel Charles (Speaker) – Jamaica

Hon. Shawn Richards – St. Kitts and Nevis

Delegate from Guyana

Session 3

Monday 3.30 pm- 5pm

Topic: “Enhancing Caribbean Parliamentary Democracy via public and media participation”

Presenters: Hon. Dr. Dhanayshar Mahabir- Trinidad and Tobago

Hon. Randy Horton (Speaker) – Bermuda

Hon. Dwayne Taylor (Speaker) - Turks and Caicos

Monday 7.00 pm -9.00 pm (Departure from Hotel at 6.30 pm)

Reception hosted by the Governor –General of St. Christopher and Nevis, His Excellency, Sir S.W. Tapley Seaton, GCMG, CVO, QC, JP, at Government House, Springfield, Basseterre.

Tuesday 20th, 2017

Session 4

Tuesday 9.00 am- 10.30 am

Topic: “Social Media: It’s potential to complement or undermine the democracy process.”

Presenters: Hon. Senator Akilah Byron-Nisbett- St. Kitts and Nevis

Hon. Mark Brantley – Nevis Island Administration

Mr. Azard Gumbs- President of the St. Kitts National Youth Parliament

Session 5

Tuesday 10.45- 12.00

Topic: “The need for parliamentary independence.”

Presenters: Hon. Alix Boyd-Knights (Speaker) - Dominica

Hon. Ingrid Moses –Scatliffe (Speaker) British Virgin Islands

Hon. Juliana O’Connor Connolly- Cayman Islands

Tuesday PM (2.00 pm -7pm) Trip to Nevis

Wednesday 21st, June 2017

Wednesday 21st June, 2017

10.00 am – 12.00 pm – Annual General Meeting

1.30 pm – 5pm- Hot Topics Forums Topic: **“Seeking to Increase Women’s Political Participation-Part II”**

7.00 pm – 10.00 pm (Departure from the hotel 6.30 pm)

Dinner hosted by His Honour the Speaker A. Michael Perkins at the Carambola Beach Club, Friars Bay, South East Peninsula.

Thursday 22nd June, 2017

8.45 am – 5.00pm Tour Day (Departure from the hotel 8.30 am)

Visit to Caribelle Batik, Brimstone Hill Fortress (UNESCO World Heritage Site), Boat ride to Basseterre, Shopping and tour time in capital city Basseterre.

8.00pm until.

NB. This is the first night of St. Kitts Music Festival. Delegates interested in participating are free to purchase tickets to attend and transportation will be provided to take delegates to and from the venue, at a time to be determined. The festival usually begins at 8pm and ends at around 3am. More info on the festival can be found at <http://www.stkittsmusicfestival.net/>

Regular tickets can be purchased at <https://www.stkittsmusicfestival.net/tickets.asp> and VIP tickets for a more luxurious experience can be purchased at <https://www.stkittsmusicfestival.net/viptickets.asp>

Friday 23rd June, 2017

9.00 am – 12.00 pm- Regional Youth Parliament, Topic: “*The Protection of Migrant Workers and their Families*”

Saturday 24th June, 2017- All Day Departures

Appendix III

Agenda: Annual General Meeting of the CAA Region (2017)



**THE CARIBBEAN,
THE AMERICAS &
THE ATLANTIC REGION**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Caribbean, the Americas and the Atlantic Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort, Basseterre, St. Christopher & Nevis

AGENDA

1. Call to Order & Prayer
2. Welcome and Opening Remarks; Apologies for Absence
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, July 27, 2016 at the Coral Towers of the Atlantis, Paradise Island, Nassau, The Bahamas
5. Matters arising from the Minutes
6. Consideration of the Report of the Regional Executive Committee
7. Statement by the Secretary/Treasurer on the Management and Financial Position of the Regional Secretariat and presentation of the audited financial statements
8. Consideration of Business proposed by the Executive Committee
9. Consideration of Future Venues for Regional Conferences and Seminars
 - o Annual Regional Conference
 - o Biennial Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference
10. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Association
11. Election of Executive Committee
- 11A. Nomination of Regional Representative for Group A
12. Any other Business

Appendix IV

Programme of Activities

11th Meeting of the CWP (CAA Region)

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians

11th Annual Meeting and Conference

at the

42nd Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA),

The Caribbean, Americas, and Atlantic Region

St. Kitt's & Nevis

July 16 – 24, 2017

Programme for Friday, July 16th - Sunday, July 18th, 2017

Friday, July 16th

7:30 – 10:30 p.m. - CWP pre-conference Dinner meeting and Check in –
Introduction of CWP Conference Theme: Next Steps in Strategising for
Women's Leadership in the Caribbean Political Space

Saturday, July 17th

CWP Steering Committee meeting

9:30 – 12:30 Review and reporting in of Working Groups established in
Bahamas in July 2016

Next Steps in Strategising for Women's Leadership in the
Caribbean Political Space

12:30 – 2:00 Lunch

11th Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference

2:00 – 3:00 Opening Remarks (MC)

Keynote Address:

CWP Chair's Address:

3:00 – 3:30 Discussions on the Addresses

3:30 – 5:30 Planning Session:

7:00 Dinner

Sunday, July 18th

9:00 – 9:15 Arrival of Members and Opening of Day's agenda

9:15 – 10:00 Report on the CWP Steering Committee Meeting of July 17th

10:00 – 11:00 Address and discussion

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 - 12:00 Address and discussion

12:00 – 12:30 Wrap up

12:30 – 1:00 Official Close of 10th CWP Conference and acknowledgments

Appendix V

Programme of Activities “Hot Topics” Forum



**THE CARIBBEAN,
THE AMERICAS &
THE ATLANTIC REGION**

CPA Regional 'Hot Topic' Forum

**St. Kitts Marriott Resort
Basseterre, St. Kitts & Nevis
Wednesday, June 21, 2017**

*'Seeking to Increase Women's Political Participation -
Part II'*



Programme

*Master of Ceremonies: Ambassador Her Excellency Constance V.
Mitcham*

Opening Remarks

H.E. Constance V.
Mitcham

Welcome

Hon. A. Michael Perkins,
MP
Speaker of the House of
the National Assembly
(St. Kitts & Nevis) &
Chairperson, CPA CAA
Region

Regional Hot Topic Forum Part I

Hon. Shirley M. Osborne,
MLA
Speaker of the Legislative
Assembly (Montserrat) &
Commonwealth Women
Parliamentarians
Regional Representative

Lightning Talks

Dr. Wendy Grenade
Lecturer, Political
Science, UWI, (Cave Hill)

Dr. Yvonne Weekes
Lecturer, Education and
Theatre Arts, UWI
(Cave Hill)

Panel Discussion

Professor Verene
Shepherd (Moderator)

Question & Answer Session

Wrap Up & Closing Statement

Senator Akila Byron-
Nisbett
St. Kitts & Nevis National
Assembly

Closing Remarks