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**REPORT OF THE UGANDA DELEGATION  
TO THE 54<sup>TH</sup> CPA AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE  
HELD IN BANJUL, THE GAMBIA  
10<sup>TH</sup> TO 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025**



**AUGUST 2025**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Regional Conference is an annual platform that convenes Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from across Africa to deliberate on pressing governance issues.

CPA Africa Region aims to promote and protect the interests of its member parliaments through Strengthening parliamentary democracy, advancing good governance and upholding human rights which objectives are vital to building inclusive societies and resilient institutions across Africa.

The 54<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Regional Conference was hosted by the CPA The Gambia Branch from 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

### Participation

The conference attracted over 500 delegates from 16 African Countries, including Members of Parliament, parliamentary staff, and governance experts.

The CPA Uganda Branch was represented by the following Honorable Members of Parliament and staff:

S/N	Name	Constituency/ Department	Affiliation
1	Hon. Okupa Elijah, MP/Leader of Delegation	Kasilo County	Independent
2	Hon. Asiimwe K. Enos, MP	Kabula Constituency	NRM
3	Hon. Kayanga Baroda, MP	Kamuli Municipality	Independent



4	Hon. Lukyamuzi David Kalwanga, MP	Busujju County	NUP
5	Hon. Odoi Benard Onen Mutusa, MP	Youth Eastern Uganda	NRM
6	Mr. Waiswa Y. Henry	Deputy Clerk, Corporate Affairs, Office of the Clerk	Staff
7	Dr. Robert Tumukwasibwe	Assistant Director, Clerks	Staff
8	Mr. James Mukaga	Assistant Director, Clerks	Staff
9	Ms. Geria Beatrice Gladys	Senior Principal Administrative Assistant, Administration and Transport Logistics	Staff

Rule 33 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament requires the Leader of a Parliamentary delegation or any other Member acting on behalf of the leader to lay on Table a report about the activities of the delegation upon return to Uganda within 14 days of a Parliamentary Sitting.

This report therefore, is being laid on Table, in compliance with the above rule.

## **2.0 Official Opening of the 54<sup>th</sup> CPA Africa Regional Conference**

### **2.1 Statement by the Host Speaker**

The Rt. Hon. Fabakary Tombong Jatta welcomed delegates to the Conference and emphasized on the challenges facing Africa, among others; which demand robust parliamentary engagement:

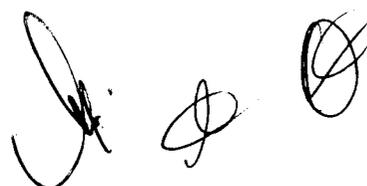
- i) **Conflict:** Political instability, extremism, and communal tensions undermine development and human security.
- ii) **Economic Vulnerability:** Inflation, debt burdens, and global volatility strain our economies.
- iii) **Climate Crisis:** Droughts, floods, and coastal erosion threaten livelihoods and fuel displacement.

## **2.2 Key note Address by His Excellency the President of the Republic of The Gambia**

Her Excellency Adama Barrow, President of the Republic of The Gambia, officially opened the 54th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Africa Regional Conference with a keynote address centered on the conference theme: **“Strengthening Democratic Governance and Resilience in Africa: Tackling Conflicts, Economic Shocks, and Climate Risks.”**

He highlighted:

- i) The need for **collective action** to confront Africa’s persistent challenges: conflict, economic vulnerability, and climate threats.
- ii) The **African paradox**—rich in resources, yet burdened by poverty and instability.
- iii) The **role of Parliaments** as pillars of democracy, accountability, and inclusive development.
- iv) The Gambia’s commitment to **parliamentary independence, economic diversification, and climate resilience.**
- v) The need for **Regional and National Dialogue sessions** to foster consensus and cohesion.
- vi) The urgent need for parliamentarians to **translate policy into action**, advocate for their constituents, and uphold the values of the Commonwealth.



The President urged delegates to engage in thoughtful dialogue and forge partnerships that will strengthen democratic governance across Africa.

### **3.0 The 53<sup>rd</sup> CPA Africa Region Conference Theme and workshop topics**

#### **31. Conference Theme:**

**The theme of the conference was: *STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND RESILIENCE IN AFRICA: TACKLING CONFLICTS, ECONOMIC SHOCKS AND CLIMATE RISKS.***

#### **3.2. Conference workshop topics**

The 54<sup>th</sup> CPA Africa Regional Conference provided an opportunity for the commonwealth parliamentarians to share experiences on the following six thematic topics:

1. *Governance, Peace and Security: The Role of African Parliaments in Fighting Graft and Promoting Good Governance* moved by Sierra Leone, seconded by Uganda (**Hon. Benard Onen Odoi Mutusa, MP, Youth Eastern**) and chaired by Lesotho.
2. *Economic Growth, Trade and Development: The Role of African Legislatures in Boosting Industrialisation through Value Addition and Local Manufacturing* Moved by South Africa, and seconded by Uganda, and chaired by Ghana
3. *Climate Change, Energy and Environmental Sustainability: Exploring Innovative Legislative and Policy Solutions to Finance Climate Adaption in Africa* moved by Zambia, and seconded by Cameroon and chaired by Kenya.



4. *Youth, Women and Social Inclusion: Strengthening Legislative Efforts for Full Inclusion in Society to Empower Persons with Disabilities* moved by Botswana, seconded by Nigeria and chaired by Malawi.
5. *Education, Health and Social Protection: The Role of Parliaments in Ensuring Accessible and Affordable Healthcare in the Context of Universal Health Coverage* moved by The Gambia, seconded by Rwanda and Chaired by Namibia.
6. *Artificial Intelligence, Innovation and Digital Governance: Leveraging AI in Parliamentary Processes and Legislative Oversight* moved by Eswatini, seconded by South Africa and Chaired by Mozambique.

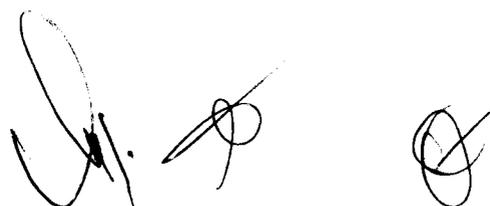
**4.0. Resolutions adopted during the 54<sup>th</sup> Conference of the CPA Africa Region in Banjul, The Gambia 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025 arising from the discussions on the Conference workshops**

**PREAMBLE**

The 54<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Africa Region) Annual General Conference, held at the Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Conference Center, Banjul, The Gambia, from 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2025, under the theme “**Strengthening Democratic Governance and Resilience in Africa: Tackling Conflicts, Economic Shocks, and Climate Risks**”, and comprising Parliamentarians from National and Sub-National branches of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Africa Region):

**Recalling** the ideals and principles of the African Union and the Commonwealth, which promote democracy, good governance, peace, and sustainable development;

**Recognizing** that conflicts, economic volatility, and climate risks threaten the



stability, prosperity, and well-being of African citizens, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized communities.

**Acknowledging** the sacrifices of visionaries and activists whose struggles for self-determination laid the foundations for Africa's democratic heritage;

**Reaffirming** the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as guiding frameworks for an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful continent;

**Recognizing** the inherent dignity, and the equal and inalienable rights and freedoms of all persons, including persons with disabilities, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa, and other relevant regional and international human rights instruments;

**Noting** that the Conference theme calls upon Parliaments to act as steadfast guardians of transparency, accountability, and inclusivity;

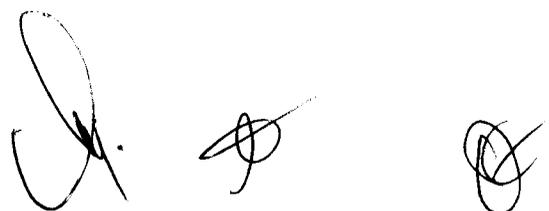
**Determined** to strengthen legislative, oversight, and representative functions to address corruption, promote industrialisation, advance climate adaptation, ensure social inclusion, expand healthcare access, and harness emerging technologies;

**Convinced** that stronger inter-parliamentary cooperation, public-private partnerships, and civil-society engagement are essential to achieving a resilient, equitable, and thriving Africa;

## **RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

### **On Fighting Graft and Promoting Good Governance**

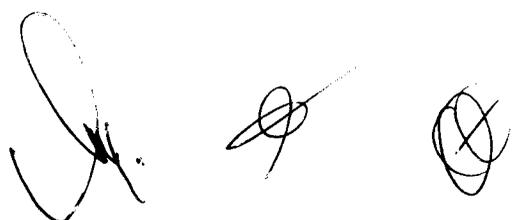
- 1. Advises** African Parliaments to take measures to compel their respective Governments to maintain comprehensive and up-to-date case logs for courts and corruption investigations, ensure such records are made publicly accessible, and take effective steps to expedite the hearing and determination of pending corruption cases, thereby promoting transparency, accountability, and the timely delivery of justice in Africa.



2. **Further Advises** African Parliaments to enact comprehensive asset-disclosure statutes requiring annual public declarations by officials, with protected channels for whistle-blowers.
3. **Encourages** African Governments to establish independent anti-corruption commissions with full authority to investigate, subpoena, and prosecute wrongdoing.
4. **Calls upon** African Governments to implement open-data initiatives to disclose budgets, procurements, and contracts, and to integrate such measures into comprehensive strategies aimed at combating graft, enhancing transparency, ensuring accountability, and strengthening public trust in governance, including the modernization of outdated tendering systems and the close monitoring of procurement processes to prevent misuse of public resources.
5. **Urges** African Parliaments to adopt, strengthen, and enforce comprehensive ethical codes and standards of conduct for Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff, incorporating clear accountability mechanisms to safeguard integrity, impartiality, and public trust.
6. **further Emphasizes** the need for African Parliaments to demonstrate unwavering political will by leading through example ensuring that anti-corruption commitments are not only enshrined in legislation but are actively practiced and embedded in the daily operations, decision-making processes, and culture of parliamentary institutions.
7. **Recommends** that African Parliaments create an inter-parliamentary coalition against graft to share best practices and coordinate cross-border investigations.

#### **On Boosting Industrialization through Value Addition and Local Manufacturing**

8. **Calls for** African Parliaments to enshrine local-content requirements in agriculture, mining, and manufacturing, supported by fiscal incentives for value-adding enterprises.
9. **Encourages** African Governments to designate special economic zones and vocational training hubs to support industry growth, and to foster collaboration with the private sector, academia, and research institutions to

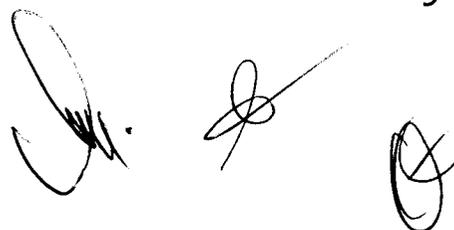


stimulate innovation, enhance skill development, and promote knowledge transfer in manufacturing.

- 10. Recommends** that African Parliaments establish Standing Committees on Industrialization and Trade to produce annual competitiveness reports.
- 11. Further Recommends** African Parliaments to enact transparent public-private partnership laws to facilitate technology transfer and SME financing and to strengthen both inter- and intra-continental trade by removing trade barriers, legislating on trade routes, and improving connectivity to enhance intra-African commerce.
- 12. Calls on** African governments to invest in infrastructure, skills development, and technology transfer to enhance competitiveness and create employment opportunities through industrialization.

#### **On Financing Climate Adaptation in Africa**

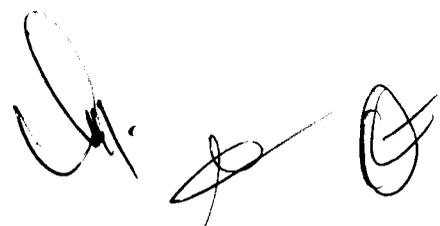
- 13. Urges** African Governments to authorize sovereign green bonds and establish a statutory Climate Adaptation Fund under parliamentary oversight, ensuring that resources are ring-fenced to guarantee consistent and reliable financing for climate adaptation projects.
- 14. Further urges** African Governments to define eligibility criteria for adaptation projects in renewable energy, water resilience, and coastal defence.
- 15. Encourages** African Parliaments to enforce the “polluter pays” principle, incorporating specific provisions targeting large industries operating within their jurisdictions, and requiring them to bear the full cost of environmental damage. Such provisions shall include the imposition of environmental levies, mandatory remediation and restoration obligations, penalties for non-compliance, and contributions to environmental trust funds to support affected communities and ecosystems.
- 16. Further encourages** African Parliaments to mandate the integration of climate change education into national curricula from an early age, ensuring that learners acquire the awareness, knowledge, and practical skills necessary to address climate-related challenges and actively contribute to sustainable development throughout their lives.



- 17. Recommends** African Parliaments to amend public-financial management legislation to require climate-proof assessments for major infrastructure projects.
- 18. Calls on** African Government to start Publishing “Climate Resilience Scores” alongside quarterly fiscal reviews.
- 19. Urges** African Parliaments to create joint parliamentary civil society monitoring bodies with public impact audits.

#### **On Inclusion and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**

- 20. Appeals** to African Governments to ratify or domesticate the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, embedding mandatory accessibility standards in legislation.
- 21. Adopts** that African Parliaments shall mandate the collection and maintenance of aggregated, up-to-date data on persons with disabilities, recognizing that effective policy formulation and program management require accurate quantification and evidence-based decision making.
- 22. Resolves** that African Legislatures shall review and eliminate outdated laws, ensuring that legal frameworks adequately protect the rights of persons with disabilities and promote their integration across all policies and programs.
- 23. Calls upon** African Parliaments to allocate quotas and reserved seats for persons with disabilities to guarantee their meaningful representation in legislative bodies, decision-making processes, and governance structures.
- 24. Urges** African Parliaments to legislate for the full accessibility of public spaces, facilities, and services to persons with disabilities, removing physical, social, and institutional barriers to their participation in society.
- 25. Encourages** African Parliaments to establish dedicated offices or units within legislatures to handle issues affecting persons with disabilities, ensuring focused oversight, policy development, and advocacy for their rights and inclusion.
- 26. Further Encourages** African Parliaments to provide mandatory inclusion and assistive technology training for Members of Parliament and



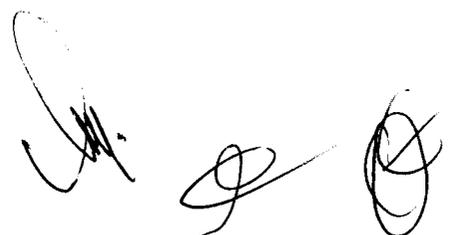
parliamentary staff to strengthen capacity and promote effective disability-inclusive governance.

### **On Accessible and Affordable Healthcare in the Context of Universal Health Coverage**

- 27. Request** African Parliaments to enact laws that firmly entrench health rights, guaranteeing access to quality, affordable, and equitable healthcare for all citizens, and ensuring accountability for government delivery in the health sector.
- 28. Advises** African Parliaments to study and adopt best practices from successful models, such as Rwanda's community health initiatives, legislating policies that strengthen primary healthcare, expand community-based health services, and ensure inclusive access for all citizens.
- 29. Encourages** African Parliaments to institutionalize partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs) and patients' associations to drive innovation in the health sector, strengthen accountability, and expand access to quality healthcare services for all communities.
- 30. Recommends** that African Parliaments enact and strengthen policies to create conducive working environments, competitive remuneration packages, and professional development opportunities for health workers, to minimize brain drain and ensure that trained professionals remain in the country to serve their communities.
- 31. Calls upon** African Parliaments to legislate for targeted subsidies in the health sector, ensuring that poor and vulnerable populations have access to essential healthcare services without financial hardship.
- 32. Also calls** upon African Governments Develop contingency plans to respond to crises affecting healthcare access.

### **On Leveraging Artificial Intelligence in Parliamentary Processes and Legislative Oversight**

- 33. Urges** African Parliaments to adopt a Code of Practice for the use of Artificial



Intelligence, ensuring transparency, data privacy, and ethical safeguards, and shall enact comprehensive AI regulations that define risk tiers, establish penalties for misuse, and promote responsible, accountable, and innovative applications of AI in legislative and parliamentary processes.

**34. Encourages** African Parliaments to digitalize parliamentary infrastructure by adopting modern information and communication technologies that enhance efficiency in legislative work, improve records management, and promote transparency and accessibility of parliamentary proceedings to the public.

**35. Appeals** African Parliaments to establish Digital Governance Units to develop secure e-parliament systems.

**36. Calls upon** African Parliaments to establish robust structures and programs to internalize AI knowledge for both parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, ensuring they are equipped to understand, oversee, and leverage AI technologies effectively in legislative and oversight functions.

### **General Resolutions**

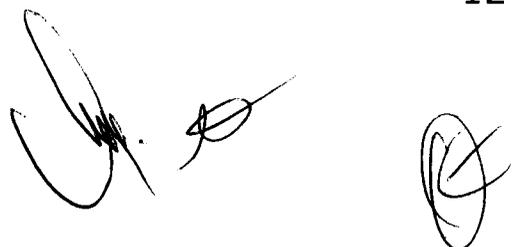
1. The 54<sup>th</sup> Conference of the CPA formally endorsed the candidature of Hon. Nontembeko Nothemba Boyce, MPL (KwaZulu-Natal), as the sole nominee for the position of CWP-International Chairperson. Furthermore, the AGM emphasized the importance of lobbying within the African alliance to secure support for her election to this position.

In addition, an African lobbying team will be constituted, comprising the CWP Chairperson for the Africa Region and the CWP Subregional Representatives, to spearhead advocacy efforts and consolidate support across the continent.

2. The Conference further instructed the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Treasurer, to develop a payment plan with all branches in arrears to ensure that outstanding balances are fully settled before the 55th AGM.

### **5.0. Election of CPA Africa Region Office Bearers**

At the Annual General Meeting of the CPA Africa Region held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025, elections were conducted for the positions of Vice Chairperson, Executive Committee and Vice Regional Treasurer. To this



end, Hon. Beatrice Adagala, MP, CPA Kenya Branch was elected Vice Chairperson of the Executive Committee for a period of 1 (One) year whereas Sen. Linda Nxumalo from CPA Eswatini Branch was elected Vice Treasurer for a period of 3 (Three) years.

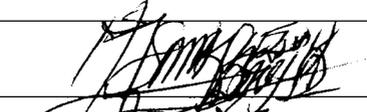
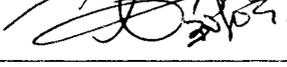
#### **6.0 Expression of gratitude and Recommendation**

The delegation expresses its gratitude to the Speaker of Parliament and the Clerk to Parliament for enabling their participation in the 54<sup>th</sup> CPA Africa Region Annual Conference.

The delegation members recommend that this report be adopted, and urge the relevant Committees and Ministers to carefully consider the resolutions detailed above, with the aim of adapting them to enhance service delivery.

This report is presented under the provisions of Rule 33 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

#### **Endorsement of the Report by the Delegation Members**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
1	Hon. Elijah Okupa	
2	Hon. Enos K. Asimwe	
3	Hon. Baroda Kayanga	
4	Hon. David L. Kalwanga	
5	Hon. Benard Onen Odoi Mutusa	