



**Office of The Speaker
Mauritius National Assembly**

**Conclusion of the 66th Conference of the
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association**

The 66th Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPA) concluded in Accra, Ghana on 5th October 2023. Mauritius was represented by Hon Sooroojdev PHOKEER, GCSK, GOSK, Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon Teenah JUTTON, MP, PPS and Hon John Michael Tzoun Sao Yeung SIK YUEN, MP.

The flagship event, which was hosted under the theme, '*The Commonwealth Charter 10 years on: Values and Principles for Parliaments to Uphold*', brought together over 500 delegates – Speakers/Presiding Officers, parliamentary staff and decision makers from across the Commonwealth countries – to address critical issues facing today's Parliaments.

One of the key issues evoked during the General Assembly of the Conference was the change of the status of the CPA to an International Parliamentary non-charitable organization.

Commonwealth countries are expecting to hear about the passing of new legislation in the UK Parliament during the King's speech in November this year.

Significant progress has been made so far where it is recognised that amendment to legislation is the only possibility to be canvassed by the UK Government. At this stage, it is noticed that the General Assembly is very favourable to the idea from a Private Member's Bill to a Public Bill and it is up to the Government of the UK to decide.



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In the event, no decision is taken this year, the only possible resort for the CPA is to go for the relocation of the CPA Headquarters from the United Kingdom to another jurisdiction, thus creating a new non-charitable organisation to allow the CPA to properly exercise its functions. This decision will be taken by the Executive Committee which is scheduled to be held in April 2024.

Over the past three decades, the CPA has been engaging the UK Government to change its status to an international, inter-parliamentary organization and supporting this change. Several Bills have been introduced by Members in the UK Parliament and currently, a Private Member Bill to that effect is before the UK Parliament.

To recall that the CPA, originally established in 1911 as the Empire Parliamentary Association, was renamed as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in 1948. The Association is registered as a charity since October 1971 under the laws of the United Kingdom and its principal office is located at the CPA Headquarters Secretariat, Richmond House, Houses of Parliament, London, in the United Kingdom. It is made up of over 180 Legislatures and divided up between nine geographic regions of the Commonwealth which are united by community interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms.

The General Assembly concluded with the election of Regional Representatives and on the topical Debate – Food Security and Sustainability in the Commonwealth.

6th October 2023
Mauritius National Assembly
Parliament House
Port Louis