



# **CPA UK STRATEGY**

2022-2025

## INTRODUCTION

CPA UK is the largest and most active of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's branches. Located in and funded by the UK Parliament it supports and strengthens parliamentary democracy throughout the Commonwealth. Peer to peer learning is central to CPA UK's methodology. It designs and delivers bespoke opportunities for knowledge-sharing between UK and Commonwealth parliamentarians and officials, to achieve improved parliamentary oversight, scrutiny and representation.

## **VISION**

Inclusive, representative and transparent Commonwealth Parliaments; fully effective in enforcing the accountability of the executive and representing the interests and concerns of the electorate.

## **PURPOSE**

To learn from and strengthen Commonwealth parliaments to deliver effective oversight, scrutiny and representation.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

# Objective 1: To strengthen parliamentary democracy



Being responsive to the complex challenges of Parliaments and facilitating access to information and skills.

#### We will:

- provide opportunities for UK and other Commonwealth parliamentarians to learn from each other, especially how to be more effective in holding governments to account and representing their electorates
- build knowledge, skills and experience within the Commonwealth parliamentary community on priority themes and other issues of common interest and concern
- support stronger electoral processes through observation missions.

# Objective 2: To link Westminster with other Commonwealth Parliaments



Promoting collaboration, understanding and cooperation, emphasising its continuing relevance to future generations.

#### We will:

- play a leading role in CPA, especially in and through British Islands and Mediterranean Region
- establish and strengthen networks across parliaments and relevant parts of civil society
- engage young people in our work and vision .

# Objective 3: To use our Values to ensure we are a leader in our field



Delivering to a high standard.

#### We will:

- consistently act according to our Values
- achieve value for money in the organisation and delivery of our activities
- set and uphold high standards of behaviour, diversity and inclusion
- use evidence-based learning to improve what we do and how we do it
- make our work as environmentally sustainable as possible
- invest in our people to ensure their empowerment, wellbeing and development.

### **SCOPE**

Parliamentary practice and procedure, including constituency work, remains central to all CPA UK's work.

CPA UK's peer-to-peer approach until recently relied entirely on face-to-face contact. The Covid pandemic helped us discover the possibilities of "virtual" activities and formats and despite some limitations, these will remain part of our approach.

CPA UK's interparliamentary work continues to be broadly categorised under two headings:

#### **Bilateral**

#### led by the International Partnerships Team

<u>Inward</u>: Including tailored programmes in Westminster and the UK for parliamentary delegations from partner countries and territories including Crown Dependencies and UK Overseas Territories.

<u>Outward</u>: Overseas programmes resourced by delegations from the UK Parliament. These include parliamentary strengthening-focused visits facilitating access to information and skills, parliamentary diplomacy visits with a fact-finding and information-sharing agenda and election assessment and observation missions.

We will use virtual activities to complement these in-person programmes.

#### **Multilateral**

#### led by the Multilateral Projects Team

CPA UK runs a series of themed events and projects attended by small delegations from a range of partner parliaments. These include workshops and conferences designed around CPA UK's priority themes, as well as the annual Westminster Seminar, which explores approaches to parliamentary democracy, practice and procedure in the context of the Westminster System. The programmes are designed in consultation with our partners and bring together international speakers of note from politics, academia, civil society and governments across the world to provide perspectives, opinions and case-studies suitable for the variety of contexts to stimulate thought, dialogue and constructive debate. We hold these in-person when possible. We use virtual platforms when this is the most effective way to deliver some or all of the intended outcomes.

# PRIORITISING PARTNERSHIPS

In order to have clear outcomes and productive relationships, CPA UK prioritises where and with whom it works. Regional Programme Managers devise forward plans based on a range of criteria. These include the appetite, absorption capacity and electoral cycles of partner parliaments, the existence of clear learning opportunities for UK and/or partner parliaments, the strength of the existing relationship, our evaluation of previous programmes and of course the priorities of the Executive Committee and the UK Parliament more broadly. These factors are always changing so priorities are reviewed and refreshed regularly.

## **PRIORITISING THEMES**

The shape and focus of CPA UK's work is guided by priority themes. Based on past work, and current international and domestic concerns, especially the relevant Sustainable

Development Goals, the following five themes will be prioritised for the expected life of the current parliament:



<u>Women in Parliament:</u> representation, gender-sensitivity, ending violence against women and girls.



Modern Slavery: human trafficking and forced labour.



Public Accounts Committees: including public financial management.



Security: including climate.



<u>Trade:</u> parliamentary scrutiny of international trade arrangements.

# MONITORING & EVALUATION

Feedback from participants in CPA UK's activities is analysed and used to inform future work to ensure activities remain relevant to our stakeholders and respond to their needs. Key Performance Indicators are designed to monitor how well CPA UK supports the development of long-term and productive parliamentary partnerships, delivers programmes in accordance with its priority themes and informs the work of a diverse and representative cohort of active members.

## **FINANCE**

CPA UK's core work is financed through its grant-in-aid from Parliament, made up 70% from the House of Commons and 30% from the House of Lords.

CPA UK also bids for additional funding, from HMG and from other reputable national and international institutions, as agreed by its Executive Committee.

# WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

CPA UK looks to work with other organisations whose strategic objectives and values are in alignment with its own and where there is added value for programme beneficiaries, CPA UK and the other partner. These may include other parliamentary strengthening actors, civil society organisations and NGOs, international organisations, Commonwealth bodies, academic institutions and All-Party Parliamentary Groups.

