60TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE: INVITATION TO PROPOSE A THEME AND TOPICS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

1. The purpose of this paper is to ask members of the Branch Executive to consider if the Scotland Branch wishes to suggest a theme and propose topics for possible inclusion at the 60th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference which will be held in Cameroon, from 2 to 10 October 2014. If so, Members are asked to provide suggestions which will be conveyed to the CPA Secretariat.

Background

2. The Secretary-General of the CPA has written to all Branch Secretaries asking for suggestions for the theme and discussion topics for the 60th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference will include Plenary and Workshop sessions with subjects chosen by the International Executive Committee.

3. The Secretariat has requested suggestions for the following categories:
   - The overall theme of the 2014 Conference;
   - The Workshops; and
   - Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians - Plenary Session

4. Copies of the last five agendas for Parliamentary Conferences are attached at Annex A to provide an overview of the topics which have been considered in recent years.

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COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCES
AGENDAS 2012-2009

59TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, 28 AUGUST – 6 SEPTEMBER 2013

Theme: Effective Solutions to Commonwealth Developmental Challenges.

Workshops:

A. Land Access and Ownership: Progress and Challenges Experienced by Rural Communities in Accessing Land. What could be the Role and Intervention of Parliamentarians? *(Host Branch topic)*

B. Should there be Parliamentary Intervention in the Informal Economy and Entrepreneurship Sectors? *(Gender Topic)*

C. The Challenges of Attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

D. Inequitable Resource-Sharing: A Threat to Democratic Governance.

E. Role of Parliamentarians in Transfer of Technology and Research to Boost Agricultural Productivity.


G. Separation of Powers and Good Governance. *(Small Branches Topic)*

H. Policy solutions for Caring of an Ageing Population

Final Plenary: A Parliamentary Response to the Commonwealth Charter.

58TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA, 7 – 15 SEPTEMBER 2012

Theme: Ensuring a Relevant Commonwealth for the Future.

Opening Plenary: Addresses by CPA Secretary-General and the Commonwealth Secretary-General
Workshops:

A. Empowering Future Generations Through Access to Health and Education and Vocational Training. *(Host Branch topic)*

B. Should the Commonwealth Establish a Commissioner for Democracy, the Rule of Law and Human Rights?

C. The Politics of Constitution-Making, the Role of Parliaments in Relation to the People.

D. Ensuring Adequate Parliamentary Scrutiny of Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. *(Small Branches Topic)*

E. The Role of Parliamentarians in Conflict Resolution and Peace-Building.

F. Engaging Political Parties to Improve Gender-responsive Governance.

G. Terrorism – The Threat to Democracy, Peace and Security.

H. Tackling Youth Unemployment.

**First Plenary:** The Role of Social Media in Modern-day Politics.

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**57th COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE**

**LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, 21 - 28 JULY 2011**

**Theme:** Reinforcing Democracy

**Opening Plenary:** Addresses by CPA Secretary-General and the Commonwealth Secretary-General

**Workshops:**

A. Climate Change *(Host Branch topic)*

B. Parliament and Reforms – Raising the Benchmarks.

C. Commonwealth Initiatives in Handling Migration Issues

D. Enhancing Good Governance and Accountability: Improving Standards of Probity and Performance.
E. The World Economy and Obstacles Facing the Commonwealth.

F. Women as Agents of Change: Where Are We Now? The Way Forward


H. The Role of Parliamentarians in Advancing the Transfer of Agricultural Technology

**Final Plenary:** Commonwealth Parliaments: Progress and Challenges.

**56th COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE**
**NAIROBI, KENYA, 10 – 19 SEPTEMBER 2010**

**Theme:** Parliament and Development in the 21st Century: Thus Far and Beyond

**Opening Plenary:** Addresses by CPA Secretary-General and the Commonwealth Secretary-General

**Workshops:**


B. The Global Water and Food Crisis

C. Energy and Environment: Achieving Sustainable Development

D. Parliament, Accountability and the Role of Internet Governance in Strengthening Oversight

E. The Role of Parliamentarians in Facilitating Grassroots Projects

F. The Role of Parliamentarians in the Protection of Migrant Workers *(Gender Related Topic from CWP Steering Committee)*

G. The Role of Parliamentarians in Natural Disaster Management

H. How prepared is the Commonwealth for the Emerging New World Economic Order?

**Final Plenary:** Commonwealth Initiatives in Handling Migration Issues
55th COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE
ARUSHA, TANZANIA, 28 SEPTEMBER – 6 OCTOBER 2009

Theme: The Commonwealth and the CPA: Meeting Future Global Challenges.

Opening Plenary: Addresses by CPA Secretary-General and a representative of the Commonwealth Secretary-General

Workshops:

A. Coalition Governments: Parliamentary Democracy in Dilemma?
B. Policy Responses to the Global Financial Crisis.
C. Role of Commonwealth Parliaments in Combating Terrorism.
E. The Role of Parliamentarians in the Elimination of Violence Against Women with Particular Reference to Domestic Violence. (Gender Related Topic selected from CWP Steering Committee submissions)
F. Climate Change – Are Policy Solutions Working?
G. Developing Mechanisms to Remedy Root Causes of Political, Economic and Social Conflicts
H. The Commonwealth and Youth – How to Engage Future Generations in Representative Democracy.

Final Plenary: Can Trade Liberalisation Benefit the Commonwealth in the Current Economic Climate?

Gender related themes since 2013 - 2009:

South Africa 2013

Engaging Political Parties to Improve Gender-responsive Governance.
Sri Lanka 2012

Engaging Political Parties to Improve Gender-responsive Governance.

United Kingdom 2011

Women as Agents of Change: Where Are We Now? The Way Forward.

Kenya 2010

The Role of Parliamentarians in the Protection of Migrant Workers.

Tanzania 2009

The Role of Parliamentarians in the Elimination of Violence Against Women with Particular Reference to Domestic Violence.