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## **PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER**

### ***Speaker Anglu Farrugia opens the 10<sup>th</sup> British Islands and Mediterranean Region, Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference organised by the Parliament of Malta***

Speaker of the House of Representatives Anglu Farrugia opened the 10th edition of the Conference of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's (CPA) and welcomed around 30 women parliamentarians for a conference covering the British Isles and Mediterranean Region on 7 and 8 March 2024.

The theme chosen for the two-day programme is “Resilient Women: Moulding Girls into Strong Women” and the aim is to look at how women are impacted by an array of circumstances, which calls for greater resilience. The Speaker explained that the conference intends to discuss how to empower our young girls to be prepared for the world as we know it today.

In his opening remarks, Speaker Farrugia stressed on the importance of raising awareness and shedding light on the fact that since global events of the past years have changed the roles of women and girls significantly, stereotypes have been challenged and roles have been reversed. Women and girls are being moulded to become stronger, naturally and indirectly. Climate change, global instability, gender disproportionality, and a pandemic were some of the challenges that the world has had to face in a short period of time, and studies show that women have been naturally conditioned to become the stronger pillar, juggling motherhood, being an employee, a manager, and most importantly, a citizen. Speaker Farrugia stated that the role of women globally, has increased, and we have to adapt to these societal changes sooner, rather than later.

The conference will also discuss issues and challenges affecting women across the Commonwealth; the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, cultural and societal inequality and discrimination; challenges of being a woman Member of Parliament. As part of the commemoration of International Women's Day on 8 March, the Parliament of Malta will host a discussion among Maltese Women experienced in the political scene, and young parliamentarians and aspiring women who would like to enter the political world, for a discussion on how to build a successful political career with all the successes and challenges this may bring about.

The conference will be held in the Parliament Building and will welcome representatives from the branches of the British Isles and Mediterranean and include Cyprus, Gibraltar, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, Jersey, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the UK. Various female Maltese MPs will participate in the conference to share their views and discuss good practices.