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

### ***The Speaker of the House of Representatives attends a meeting hosted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association***

Upon the invitation of the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Mr Stephen Twigg, Speaker of the House of Representatives Anġlu Farrugia attended a meeting for Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers held 12 March 2024 in London, United Kingdom.

The meeting was hosted in the UK Parliament in Westminster and focused on CPA-related matters, including the CPA's legal status, governance, and programmatic activities. The event also gave the opportunity for a full discussion between attendees on key CPA issues.

During the event, Speaker Farrugia focused on two particular agenda items, namely the forthcoming 67<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) to be hosted by the New South Wales and the CPA New South Wales Branch in Sydney, Australia in November 2024 and, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting to be held in Samoa in October 2024.

Speaking of the CPC, the Speaker stated this serves as a crucial form for parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth to engage in dialogue, exchange ideas, and address key issues facing respective countries and the wider Commonwealth community. It also helps to promote parliamentary diplomacy aimed at fostering cooperation on shared challenges like climate change, economic development, and security.

Referring to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting scheduled for October 2024 in Samoa with the theme 'One Resilient Common Future: Transforming our Common Wealth', Speaker Anġlu Farrugia stressed that this meeting provides an opportunity to celebrate the unity and diversity of the Commonwealth family and brings together leaders from across regions, cultures, and economies to discuss common challenges and opportunities.

CHOGM 2024 in Samoa presents an invaluable opportunity for Commonwealth Leaders to come together, reaffirm shared values, and chart a collective course towards a more prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future for all Commonwealth countries.

During the celebrations marking the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Commonwealth of Nations, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia had the opportunity to meet with the Queen of the United Kingdom, Her Majesty Queen Camilla.