



PR251789

11.10.2025

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Deputy Speaker addresses the General Assembly during the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

“The Commonwealth should today be the voice of peace and stability in Gaza, in Ukraine and in other parts of the world inflicted by devastating wars and conflicts”

In a speech delivered during the debate in the General Assembly of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association being held in Barbados as part of the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Deputy Speaker David Agius made a direct reference to what is happening in Gaza. He emphasised that the latest developments of reaching an agreement on a ceasefire and the return of hostages are positive developments that should be supported by all. He thanked all those who are trying to reach a solution and commended their efforts. He remarked that this should be a first step towards a lasting and sustainable peace in Gaza and the Middle East.

The Deputy Speaker stated, however, that the latest development happened following two years of killing innocent children and people, with a total disregard to human rights of citizens and total disregard to international humanitarian law.

Deputy Speaker Agius appealed to parliamentarians in the Commonwealth, who represent one third of the world’s population, to stand up and be counted when faced with such challenging events. The Commonwealth should today be the voice of peace and stability in Gaza, in Ukraine and in other parts of the world inflicted by devastating wars and conflicts.

The Deputy Speaker emphasised that solidarity should be shown not only among the Commonwealth states but even beyond. He concluded by encouraging everyone to support the peace process in Gaza that should lead towards a two-state solution, where Palestinians and Israelis live side by side in peace.

At the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association General Assembly, Parliamentarians discussed governance matters, constitutional amendments, CPA membership, financial statements and motions raised by CPA Branches. The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians elected a new Chair, Catherine Fife (Canada – Ontario Branch).

The Maltese Parliamentary delegation included also Davina Sammut Hili and Graziella Attard Previ.