



---

# Press Release

---

PR 172483

06.11.2017

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

### *Opening of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference*

The delegation of the Maltese Parliament, led by Speaker Anglu Farrugia, attended the official opening ceremony of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference being held in the Parliament of Bangladesh. The ceremony was addressed by CPA President and Speaker of the House of the Bangladesh Parliament Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Secretary General of the CPA Akbar Khan, and Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina.

Parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth have gathered in Dhaka, Bangladesh this week for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, with the theme of ‘Continuing to enhance high standards of performance of Parliamentarians’. The conference discussions will focus on the importance of development for Parliamentarians, and in turn parliament’s performance as a guarantor of democracy and an independent pillar in the separation of powers.

The 63<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference is the annual conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). This conference provides a unique platform for inter-parliamentary dialogue, bringing together Speakers, members of parliament and parliamentary staff representing the nine regions of the CPA, 52 countries of the Commonwealth, and over 180 national, state, provincial and territorial parliaments and legislatures. Workshops and debates will be held during the conference on a wide range of related topics including the role of parliament in addressing the challenges of democracy; the role of trade in building stronger ties within the Commonwealth; climate change in the Commonwealth context; and giving a voice to the youth of the Commonwealth. As part of the programme, a briefing on the Rohingya issue, which is a pressing challenge in this region, was made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Bangladesh Government A. H. Mahmood Ali. In his briefing, Minister Ali gave an overview of the situation that Bangladesh is currently facing. To date, more than 600,000 Rohingyas have taken shelter in Bangladesh. This generated a considerable interest among the participants at the conference. Consequent to this interest, Anglu Farrugia proposed that a resolution be put forward and adopted in the General Assembly to be held on Tuesday and eventually presented to the Secretary General of the United Nations. The rest of the participants welcomed this proposal, and expressed their intention to give it their due consideration during the General Assembly.

The Maltese delegation to this conference includes MPs Byron Camilleri, Alex Muscat and Ryan Callus.