



Press Release

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Speaker Anġlu Farrugia addresses the CPA Small Branches Climate Change Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Small Branches, chaired the first session of the CPA Small Branches Climate Change Workshop and delivered a speech at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

Parliamentarians from the smallest parliamentary jurisdictions in the Commonwealth together with UN experts, convened in Nairobi for a three-day workshop on climate change to examine how they can work together to mitigate against the impacts of climate change.

Referring to the Blue Charter - launched by CHOGM in London last April - Speaker Farrugia said that, “the Blue Charter seeks to protect the health of the world’s oceans and promote the growth of blue economies. The Blue Charter serves as a platform of co-operation, connection, and exchange to guide nations in sustainable ocean development. Workshops such as this are a true example of the collaborative spirit of the Blue Charter in action”.

He noted that, “Climate change is already acutely impacting many states of our Commonwealth Small Island Developing States (SIDS). According to the United Nations Development Programme, despite contributing less than 1 per cent to the world’s greenhouse gas emissions, SIDS are among the first to experience the worst impacts of climate change. Climate change affects the development of all nations, regardless of location or size of economy. Yet, no other group of nations is more vulnerable to its devastating effects than the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with one-third of the populations of these states residing on land that is less than five meters below sea level.” He emphasised that “the CPA should take the opportunity to learn from the initiatives organised by the EU so that we can achieve tangible results as an Association and work together with the Commonwealth as a whole.” He concluded, “that this workshop fosters the spirit of solidarity and a mutuality of learning that is the heartbeat of the Commonwealth, the CPA and the CPA Small Branches Network”.