



Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia participates in the launch of the updated Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia, in his capacity as Chairperson of the CPA Small Branches, delivered a speech at the launching of the updated CPA Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures, which was held at the Houses of Parliament, London.

In his address, entitled ‘The Process of Updating the Benchmarks and the Importance for CPA Small Branches’, Speaker Farrugia said

“We also now have a set of benchmarks that are fit for the future, aligned with the Commonwealth Charter and United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16. The benchmarks are a tool with the potential to transform parliamentary governance across the Commonwealth and improve the lives of millions.

Before closing, I would also like to mention the involvement of the Parliament of Malta in the work to develop a field guide to assist parliaments to assess themselves against the benchmarks. As the Speaker of the Maltese Parliament, I welcome this opportunity to further implement the benchmarks and I would encourage other presiding officers who are here today to consider assessing their Parliaments against the CPA Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures.”

The CPA EXCO members were also addressed by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, UK Commonwealth Minister; Emilia Lifaka M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon and Chairperson of the CPA; Thomas Hughes, Board Member Westminster Foundation for Democracy and Executive Director at Article 19, and Roberta Blackman-Woods M.P., CPA UK Executive Committee Member. Anthony Smith, Chief Executive of Westminster Foundation for Democracy, delivered the opening remarks and introduction as well as the closing remarks.

The address by Speaker Farrugia is herewith attached.