



THE CARIBBEAN, THE AMERICAS & THE ATLANTIC REGION

Theme: Promoting Democracy and Good Governance: A Unified Approach

The 40th Conference of the Caribbean, the Americas and the Atlantic Region was hosted by the British Virgin Islands Branch, July 25 to August 1, 2015 and chaired by the Honourable Ingrid Moses Scatliffe, Speaker of the House of Assembly.

Participating Countries

The following Member Branches participated in different aspects of the conference programme: Anguilla; Barbados; Bermuda; British Virgin Islands; Cayman Islands; Dominica; Jamaica; Montserrat; Nevis Island; Trinidad & Tobago; Turks & Caicos Islands.

Meetings & Events

The 8th Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Regional Conference was convened on July 25 under the main conference theme, complemented by four main session topics; namely:

- *The Role of Political Parties in Female Representation – Making It Happen*
- *Women’s Political Participation and Economic Empowerment: An Activated Agenda*
- *Gender Ideology, Structural and Political Factors as Predictors of Women’s Political Representation in the Parliamentary Process*
- *Changing the World Through our Participation: Overview of Sustainable Development Goals*

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee convened on July 26, 2015. Agenda items included:

- Succession in the Regional Chapter of the CWP and presentation of a Constitution for ratification by the Annual General Meeting
- Address to the Executive Committee by Acting CPA Secretary-General
- Regional Secretary/Treasurer’s Report
- Proposal for a Regional Association of Clerks-at-the- Table
- Proposal for the temporary deferral of inactive Branches in respect of the Rotation System.

40th Regional Conference

Conference sessions, considered the following topics:

- *Losing Confidence in the Motion of No Confidence*
- *Promoting Democracy and Realizing Good Governance; Giving the Public a Wider Say in the Policy Making Process*
- *Challenges to Parliamentary Privilege – Where do we Draw the Line?*
- *Strategies to increase Women’s Representation in Parliaments*
- *Strengthening Democracy in Small States: Youth Leadership Training, Citizen Involvement and Parliamentary Reform*
- *Parliamentarians and Public Trust: Do Codes of Conduct help?*
- *The Realization of Good Governance and Democracy Necessitates the Full and Effective Integration of Persons with Disabilities into our Societies*

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on July 29. Nominations were made for the Regional Representative for Group B and the CWP, and a proposal was made for the staging of Regional Seminars.

Social Programme

After intense conference sessions, participants had the opportunity to relax and interact with their colleagues in various social events and activities, including a Cultural Evening and a Day Tour of the British Virgin Islands.