

Resolutions taken at the 16th Biennial Regional Conference of Presiding Officers and Clerks of the Caribbean, the Americas and the Atlantic Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Resolution No. 1

1st Resolution moved by Hon. Wade Mark, MP - Speaker of the House, Trinidad and Tobago Parliament. (seconded by Hon. Raphael G.C. Trotman - Speaker of the National Assembly of Guyana):

WHEREAS the participating branches at the 16th Biennial Regional Conference of Presiding Officers and Clerks of the Caribbean, the Americas and the Atlantic Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) have recognized the need for establishing an Executive Steering Committee the guide the Biennial Conference of Presiding Officers and Clerks;

BE IT RESOLVED that an Executive Steering Committee of the Biennial Conference of Presiding Officers and Clerks of the Caribbean, the Americas and the Atlantic Region of the CPA be established, comprising of the current host branch (as Chair), the immediate past host branch, the incoming host branch and five (5) further member branches; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CPA Regional Secretary be the Secretary to this Executive Steering Committee, with the Clerk of the Parliament of the host branch as Assistant Secretary.

(The motion was put and approved)

Resolution No. 2

2nd Resolution moved by Hon. Wade Mark, MP - Speaker of the House of Representatives, Trinidad and Tobago Parliament. (seconded by Hon. Barbara Webster-Bourne, MP - Speaker of the Parliament of Anguilla):

WHEREAS the participating branches have recognized the need for greater intra-regional co-operation and support amongst the member branches of the Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA);

BE IT RESOLVED that member branches consider the following initiatives:

- 1) The establishment of a Regional Youth Parliament;
- 2) Parliamentary Outreach Programmes aimed at youth education being established in each branch; and
- 3) The establishment of a Regional Parliamentary Week at the national level within all member branches at the earliest opportunity.

(The Motion was put and approved).

Resolution No. 3

3rd Resolution moved by Hon. Floyd Morris - President of the Senate, Parliament of Jamaica.
(seconded by Hon. Dr. Kendall Major - Speaker of the Parliament of Bahamas).

WHEREAS Speakers and Presiding Officers are responsible for ensuring that parliaments function effectively for all peoples; and

WHEREAS over the years parliaments within the region have not placed much attention to the rights and needs of persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS there is need for mainstreaming of persons with disabilities in all societies; and

WHEREAS the United Nations has established the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to assist in the process of mainstreaming; and

WHEREAS a number of countries within the region have not ratified this Convention:

BE IT RESOLVED that:

- 1) The member branches of the Caribbean, the Americas and the Atlantic Region of the CPA, pledge to encourage their governments to ratify the CRPD:
- 2) The Speakers/Presiding Officers use their office to make the services of Parliament to be more inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities.

(The Motion was put and approved.)