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(1) British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference

CPA Secretary-General Dr William F. Shija will attend the British Islands and Mediterranean Regional in Belfast, Northern Ireland, from 13 to 17 May. The theme of the Conference is "Equality" with sessions on the Northern Ireland experience, gender, multiculturalism, disability and education. Also in attendance will be Hon. Lindiwe Maseko, MPL, Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians.

(2) CPA-IPU Consultation and Visit to Malaysia and Singapore

The Inter-Parliamentary Union's Assembly in Bali, Indonesia, from 29 April to 4 May provided the opportunity for CPA Secretary-General Dr William F. Shija, to discuss relations between the institutions and potential areas for future collaboration. Dr Shija attended the Assembly as an observer and was invited by IPU Secretary General Mr Anders B. Johnsson to the Union's headquarters in Geneva later this year for further discussions. Dr Shija then visited the South-East Asia Region of the CPA and had meetings at the Parliaments of Malaysia and Singapore, as well as at the Legislative Assembly of the Malaysian state of Sarawak. The aim was to meet Speakers and Members to discuss how to strengthen the CPA.

(3) CPA-WTO Workshop for African Parliamentarians

The latest in the series of Regional Workshops on the multilateral trade system organized by the CPA and the World Trade Organization will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 29 to 31 May. The previous Workshop for the Africa Region was held in Tanzania in 2005. This will provide Members an overview of the multilateral trading system, introduce them to the basic principles of the WTO and update them on the negotiations for the Doha Development Agenda. Building a parliamentary dimension in trade and the WTO will also be discussed. Members will be able to debate the specific challenges and opportunities for Africa's development in the context of world trade. The CPA Secretariat will be represented by Mr Nicolas Bouchet.

(4) Donor Consultation on Parliamentary Development and Financial Accountability

CPA Secretary-General Dr William F. Shija will attend the international Donor Consultation on Parliamentary Development and Financial Accountability in Brussels, Belgium on 21 and 22 May. This meeting is organized by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank Institute, and hosted by the Belgian government. It will give the CPA an opportunity to interact and share experiences with major partners in parliamentary development. There will be discussions on how institutions can co-ordinate and harmonize their efforts, aligning them with country priorities.

(5) Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting and Working Party Meeting

The Mid-Year Meeting of the CPA Executive Committee agreed that the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, to be held in New Delhi, India, from 21 to 30 September, will discuss environmental and accountability issues under the theme Delivering Democracy and Sustainable Development. The Conference will also include a day-long Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference. The Working Party also met for two days before the ExCo meeting and deliberated on the CPA Strategic Plan, 2007-2012, which will now be forwarded to the General Assembly for approval.

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