



National Assembly of Belize

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Parliamentarians join Regional Leaders at 47th Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in The Bahamas

Parliamentarians from across the Caribbean, the Americas, and the Atlantic convened in Nassau, The Bahamas, from September 5th to 13th, 2025, for the **47th Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Caribbean, Americas, and Atlantic (CAA) Region**. The week-long event brought together Speakers, Members of Parliament, Senators, Clerks, and delegates for high-level dialogue on strengthening democracy, gender equality, and good governance across the region.

Belize was represented at the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network, which was held as part of the 47th Regional Conference of the CPA - CAA by **Honourable Dolores Balderamos Garcia, Senior Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister** on September 6th and 7th which held a series of strategic meetings addressing women and youth participation in democratic leadership, gender-responsive budgeting, empowering women in politics through caucus-building and leadership development, and legislative scrutiny from a gender perspective. Honourable Balderamos Garcia returned to Belize on Tuesday, September 9th.

Honourable Thea Garcia-Ramirez, Minister of Human Development, Family Support, and Gender Affairs, Senator Linsford Castillo, Vice President of the Senate, and Ms. Eudice Gibson, Senior Clerk Assistant, National Assembly joined the opening of the 47th Regional Conference on Monday, September 8th, where an official ceremony was held, followed by plenary sessions that focused on regional parliamentary cooperation to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, and on safeguarding the principle of separation of powers through independent parliaments. Also examined were urgent regional challenges such as parliaments' role in recovery and resilience following COVID-19 and climate change, addressing sexism, harassment, and violence against women in political spaces, countering misinformation and regulating emerging digital technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, and financing parliaments under budgetary restraints.

The parliamentarians participated in discussions and knowledge-sharing sessions alongside regional counterparts. The team is scheduled to return to Belize on **Friday, September 12th, 2025**.

The 47th Regional Conference reaffirmed the CPA's mission to strengthen democratic governance, promote parliamentary cooperation, and advance gender equity across member states of the Caribbean, the Americas, and the Atlantic.

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