

Society of Clerks-at-the-Table in Commonwealth Parliaments

www.societyofclerks.org

**47th GENERAL MEETING, 17 and 18 September 2010
(Nairobi, Kenya)**

DRAFT AGENDA

Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 September

Arrival

Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 September

Pre-Conference Tours

Friday 17 September

**Morning:
9 am**

- 1. Election of Chairman**
- 2. Self-introductions**
- 3. Apologies for Absence**
- 4. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 5. Parliamentary developments (and topical issues) in Kenya presented by Patrick Gichohi, Clerk, National Assembly, Kenya**
- 6. Topical issues from the regions**
A Clerk from each region (nominated by the region) will make a short presentation (maximum 5 minutes) on recent changes in their region since August 2009—
 - Deaths, resignations and appointments of Society members
 - General elections and new Speakers or Presiding Officers
 - Major constitutional changes
 - Significant cases touching on parliamentary privilege
 - Important procedural innovations
 - Interesting developments in parliamentary corporate governance

Other Clerks may request the floor from the Chairman to make short interventions (maximum 3 minutes) on a significant issue in their Parliament.

Regional Members of SOCATT Advisory Committee:
Africa: - *Dr Thomas Kashillah (Tanzania)*
Asia: -*tbc*

Australia: *Robyn McClelland (House of Representatives, Australia)*
British Isles and Mediterranean: *Steve Farrell (Scotland)*
Canada: *David McNeil (Alberta, Canada)*
Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic: *tbc*
India: *P D T Achary (Lok Sabha, India)*
Pacific: - *tbc* [see email from Amy Briers]
South East Asia: *Bernard Dalinting (Sabah, Malaysia)*

7. “The Table”: Feedback from readers and authors.

8. **Website update:** Report and feedback on www.societyofclerks.org

9. **Report and Accounts of the Society for 2008 and 2009**

10.45 Refreshments

11am

10. **Presentation of papers on parliamentary privilege, procedure and practice:**

- *The relationship between the Speaker and the Clerks at the Table: Craig James (British Columbia, Canada)*
- *A recent privilege case: Audrey O’Brien (House of Commons, Canada)*
- *Parliamentary privilege: the Kenyan experience: Jeremiah Nyegenye (Principal Legal counsel, National Assembly, Kenya)*
- *Parliamentary procedure to amend the budget - the South African experience: Masibulele Xaso (National Assembly, South Africa)*
- *Question time: making it efficient and effective: Dr V K Agnihotri (Rajya Sabha, India)*

12 noon

11. **Presentation of papers on parliamentary administration and management**

- *Risk management as a governance issue: Robyn McClelland (House of Representatives, Australia)*
- *Capacity Building of Parliamentarians : Importance of orientation and training programmes: Shri P D T Achary (Lok Sabha, India)*
- *Providing common services in a bicameral Parliament: Russell Grove (New South Wales)*

[At the end of the morning session, a group photograph to be taken.]

1.30 pm Lunch

2.30 pm

12. **Break out groups** [about four groups each discussing different issues raised by the morning’s papers]

4 pm

13. **Report back from Break out groups and discussion**

5pm Close

Saturday 18 September

Morning

14. **Attend CPA General Assembly with delegates**

3 pm [this is an earlier start than suggested in the conference programme]

15. **Briefing from CPA Headquarters** (NB the new Executive Committee, which Dr Shija will attend meets at 4pm).

16. **Partnership between Parliament and Development Partners: the Kenya experience:** presentation by Mr. Fred Matiangi, Country Director, State University of New York (SUNY) Kenya

17. **Staff Professional Development**

18. **Proposals for the Agenda for the 48th General Meeting (London)**

19. **Any Other Business**

Sunday 19 September

Departure