



APA/Political/Rep/2009/01

8 December 2009

Report of the APA Standing Committee On Political Affairs

Rapporteur:

Honorable Dr. Abdulaziz bin Abdurahman Annasrullah,
Head of the Saudi Arabian Delegations

The Standing Committee on Political Affairs held its meeting on 8 December 2009 in Bandung, Indonesia. Honorable, Mr. Abutorabi Fard, the Vice-Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran chaired the meeting. Honorable Mr. Datuk Wira Ahmad Hamzah, the Head of the Malaysian delegation was elected as the Vice-Chairperson and the Honorable Dr. Abdulaziz bin Abdurahman Annasrullah, was elected as the Rapporteur of the Standing Committee. The Chair was assisted by APA Assistant Secretary-General, H. E. Mr. Masoud Islami.

1. The documents before the Standing Committee included:
 - a. Resolution on Major Issues of Peace and Security in Asia. (APA/Res/2008/06, 29 November 2008)
 - b. Resolution on the Pursuing Implementation of the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2008/09, 29 November 2008)
 - c. Resolution on Enhancing Cooperation between APA Member Parliaments and their Governments for Implementation of APA Decisions (APA/Res/2008/10, 29 November 2008)

- d. Draft Resolution on Promoting the Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue: The Roles of Asian Parliaments in Preventing Terrorism, proposed by the Parliament of Indonesia.
- e. Draft Resolution on Violations of International Humanitarian Law in Palestine and the War Crimes Committed by the Zionist Regime in Gaza proposed by the Parliament of Palestine.

2. The Standing Committee took note of the significance of the first three documents which had been adopted by the Third APA Plenary in 2008. However, given the fact that the respective sub-committees did not have a chance to convene in the past year, the Committee unanimously decided to recommend to the Fourth APA Plenary that the mandates of all the three Resolutions continue to carry on in the coming year. The Secretary-General should also be requested to pursue the fulfillment of the mandates as stated in the Resolutions through further communication with all the APA Member Parliaments and coordinate the necessary meetings in this respect.

- 3. The Standing Committee welcomed the draft Resolution on promoting the interfaith and intercultural dialogue: the roles of Asian Parliaments in preventing terrorism which had been proposed by the Parliament of Indonesia. The Committee also appreciated the initiative of Indonesia for drawing the attention of the APA the role of Parliaments in combating terrorism.

The importance of addressing the root causes of terrorism and various aspects of the problem was recognized by all the delegates. However, the dynamic deliberations of the delegates convinced the Committee that addressing such an important subject would need further examination. Condemning all acts of terrorism unequivocally, many delegates raised the necessity of providing a definition for terrorism so that the resolution would avoid misinterpretation. All the delegates were concerned that the word “terrorism” is sometimes misused to justify foreign occupation, state terrorism and violations of human rights.

Many delegates, including Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Palestine, Iran, Syria, Bahrain, and Indonesia, stressed the need for clear differentiation between acts of terrorism and the acts of self-defense conducted by individuals and nations confronting foreign occupation in fulfillment of their rights to self-determination. In light of the deliberations took place in the Committee, the Indonesian delegation expressed its willingness to revise the draft resolution so that it would reflect ideas and concerns of other delegates and submit it to the Executive Council for

consideration in its next meeting. The APA Secretary-General was requested to provide all required assistance.

4. With respect to the draft Resolution on violations of international humanitarian law in Palestine and the war crimes committed by the Zionist regime in Gaza proposed by the Parliament of Palestine, many delegates expressed their viewpoints. While almost all of the delegates participating in the Standing Committee expressed their support for the Draft Resolution, the distinguished delegations of Russian Federation and Singapore decided to dissociate themselves from supporting the draft Resolution. The Committee decided to recommend the draft resolution, with certain addition, to the APA Plenary for its adoption. The addition made in operative paragraph 5 after “*Call upon* the Zionist regime, the occupying power” was the following phrase: “to withdraw from all the occupied territories including Al-Guds Al-Sharif, Gaza Strip and the West Bank, the Golan Highs, and Shabaa Farms.”
5. The Draft Resolution is issued under APA/Political/Res/2009/01 and recommended for adoption at the Fourth Plenary.
6. The Chairman informed the Standing Committee that the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran shall host the sub-committees under the Standing Committee on Political Affairs in the fourth week of May 2010. The exact date of the meetings will be communicated to all Member Parliaments by the APA Secretariat in due time.