



Asian Parliamentary Assembly
The 12th Plenary Session
13-18 December 2019
Antalya, Turkey

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**APA12Plenary/Rep/2019/12
16 December 2019**

Final Report

12th APA Plenary Session

Inaugural Session:

The Inaugural Session of APA 12th was held on 14 December 2019 in Antalya, Republic of Turkey.

Parliamentary delegations from following member countries participated in the meeting: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Iran, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Laos, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Turkey and Yemen.

Observer states: Majlis Shura of Oman

Observer Organizations: IPU, AIPU, PUIC, PABSEC

The following dignitaries presented their statements and remarks at the Inaugural Session ([Attachment I](#)):

H.E. Dr. Mohammad Reza MAJIDI APA Secretary General

H.E. Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, President of the IPU.

H.E. Dr. Ali LARIJANI, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran.

H.E. Ahmed BIN ABDULLAH AL MAHMOUD, Speaker of the Shura Council of Qatar.

H.E. Mustafa SENTOP, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and President of the APA.

Photo Session:

At the end of Inaugural Session, head of delegations gathered to take APA family photo.

H.E. Sultan Saeed ALBAREKANI Speaker of Parliament, Yemen

12th Plenary Session

The 12th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly was held on 15 and 16 December 2019 in Antalya, Republic of Turkey.

1. Adoption of Agenda:

Agenda of the 12th Plenary Session was adopted unanimously. Agenda and Program of Work are attached ([Attachment II](#)).

2. Election of the Bureau

The following members of the Bureau were elected by acclamation:

Chairperson: H.E. Mrs. Asuman ERDOGAN, Representative of APA President and Head of Turkish APA Group.

Vice Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Ahmad SABAH SALMAN ALSALLOOM, Member of the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain and APA Vice President.

Rapporteur: H.E. Mr. Charles HONORIS, Member of House of Representatives of Indonesia.

3. Report of the Chairperson of the 2nd Executive Council Meeting

H.E. Mrs. Asuman ERDOGAN, Chairperson of the Second Executive Council Meeting presented her report ([Attachment III](#)).

4. Report of the Secretary General on the Work of the Organization:

The following are the main points raised by APA Secretary General:

- Under the presidency of the Republic of Turkey and leadership of four APA vice presidents, APA succeed to hold four Standing Committee and two Executive Council Meetings during the year 2019.
- The importance of the establishing of the Working Group on APA Statutory Documents. He assured member parliaments that the Secretariat, for its part, follows this process enthusiastically and will play its role actively.
- The importance of finalization of deliberation on the “model of payment for planning of the budget of the APA Permanent Secretariat” in year 2020 is of utmost important. He mentioned that after several years of discussion we could not yet succeed to adopt a model of payment satisfying all member parliaments and get their full support for implementation.
- The issue of APA sponsored academic and scientific seminars in 2020.

[\(Attachment IV\)](#)

5. Consideration of Recommendation for the APA Full Membership of Shura Council of Qatar and National Parliament of Timor Leste:

Full Membership of Shura Council of Qatar and National Parliament of Timor Leste were adopted by acclamation.

6. General Debate:

The Head of Delegations of the following member Parliaments and Observers presented Statements on *“The Role of Multilateral Cooperation among Asian Parliaments”*:

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Iran, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Qatar, Russia and Yemen ([Attachment V](#)).

7. Meeting of the Standing Committees:

The Meeting of Standing Committees on Social and Cultural Affairs, Economic and Sustainable Development, Political Affairs and Budget and Planning were held on 15 and 16 December parallel with the Plenary Session.

The Standing Committees Adopted the Agenda, reviewed the work of the meeting and considered the latest developments regarding different draft resolutions and other matters related to their meetings.

The report of each Standing Committee was Presented to the Plenary for final approval of its content.

8. Presentation and Adoption of Reports by the Chairpersons of Standing Committees:

- Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

The report of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs is attached ([Attachment VI](#)).

- Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

The report of the Standing Committee on Economic is attached ([Attachment VII](#)).

- Standing Committee on Political Affairs

The report of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs is attached ([Attachment VIII](#)).

- Standing Committee on Budget and Planning

The report of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning is attached ([Attachment IX](#)).

9. Meeting of Drafting Committee on Antalya Declaration

Meeting of Drafting Committee on Antalya Declaration was held on 16 December, on the sideline of the Plenary Session. The Declaration is attached ([Attachment X](#)).

10. Reconfirmation of the next APA President for 2021

The APA Presidency of Turkey for the year 2020-2021 is confirmed by the 12th Plenary.

The nomination of the following member parliaments to host and Chair the Standing Committees as APA Vice Presidents for 2020 were also confirmed:

- 1- Bahrain for Economic and Sustainable Development
- 2- Iraq for Political Affairs
- 3- Russian Federation for Budget and Planning

The generosity of the APA President and Vice-Presidents in contributing to the APA expenses by hosting Standing Committee meetings is hereby registered.

11. Nomination of the APA President for 2022-2023

The chairperson encouraged and requested member countries to nominate for the APA Presidency for this period.

12. Adoption of the Final Report of 12th Plenary Session

The final report was adopted by acclamation.

13. Any other matter

- Delegation of Iran registered its reservation on any reference to “Israel” in APA documents.
- Congratulatory message to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey on the centenary of the Parliament to be marked by solemn meeting that will be held on 23 April 2020 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.

14. Closing Ceremony

Attachment I



Opening Remarks
by His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi
Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
At the APA12th Plenary

December 13-18, 2019
Antalya– Republic of Turkey

In the Name of God

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor for me to have the privilege of addressing this august Meeting of 12th APAPlenary in my capacity as APA Secretary General. I also would like to seize this valuable opportunity to sincerely welcome you the honorable guests of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey to the magnificent resort city of Antalya.

On behalf of all the participating delegations, myself and my colleagues at APA Permanent Secretariat, allow me once again to express my heartfelt gratitude to H.E. Mustafa SENTAP, the APA President and Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey for his kind invitation of APA delegations to this meeting, state officials and most particularly H.E. Mrs. Asuman ERDOĞAN, the Head of APA Turkish delegation for their excellent organization of this event and generous hospitality extended to us at this beautiful city.

During the past two years, APA, under the leadership of its President from the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, and the Vice-Presidents from different member parliaments, has spared no efforts to uphold solidarity among its members in the course of numerous APA meetings held on different occasions. Therefore, we succeeded in moving toward further realization of parliamentary democracy, as part of our mission by reliance on our collective endeavors and

coherence to tackle political, economic and cultural challenges facing our world today.

As regards the new term of APA Presidency, I avail myself of this occasion to express my deep appreciation to the leadership of Grand National Assembly of Turkey for its appropriate decision at the First Executive Council Meeting in Rize, accepting to continue APA presidency for the next two-year term and to hold the 12th Plenary accordingly. In fact, Turkey can be considered as one of the APA members, which has devoted unceasing efforts for the success of our Organization. Therefore, at this juncture, we can rest assured that APA has been accorded with this welcome opportunity to further rejuvenate itself during the next two year under the extended term of leadership of Turkey to face and overcome growing challenges ahead.

**Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Considering the theme placed for general debate in the agenda of the 12th Plenary Meeting entitled “*The role of multilateral cooperation among Asian parliaments*”, I would like to underline that the choice of this theme is timely and of vital importance as an integral part of the inspiration pursued by the APA Founders to introduce a framework of unity for regional cooperation.

In fact, APA, as a regional parliamentary organization should put into practice all its potentials in order to be able to play a leading role in coping with the challenges facing it at regional and global arena. Realization of this objective, within the framework of multilateral strategy, is extensively geared to the concerted efforts of all the APA members, despite pervasiveness of diverse cultural, social and religious visions in this vast continent.

In a nutshell, multilateral cooperation among Asian Parliaments will definitely lead the APA to gain new impetus for further solidarity among its members, thus paving the ground to invigorate parliamentary diplomacy within our region under multilateral mechanism.

Furthermore, I would like to assure you all that my colleagues join me at the APA Secretariat to do our utmost efforts to pursue the APA objectives under the auspices of the APA President and its Vice Presidents in cooperation with all other member parliaments. Against this backdrop, we welcome any comments

and suggestions raised by the members for placing in the agenda of various APA Meetings. At the same time, I call on all members to help us in this respect with their active participation and fruitful contribution in different APA meetings.

As you are well aware, the Working Group tasked with the amendment of APA statutory document will convene its first session in the coming month of February in Kuwait. This is a timely decision intended to discuss restructuring of our organization. In fact, we are at a crossroads that calls for extensive contribution of all the members, if our Organization is to maintain the standing that it really deserves within the framework of its regional and global cooperation.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Islamic Parliament of Iran and specifically to honorable Dr. Ali LARIJANI, who has rendered full support to the work of APA Secretariat through past 12 years. We are indeed indebted to such valuable commitment toward APA activities.

Thank you for your attention

Speech by Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Asian Parliamentary Assembly
The 12th Plenary Session

“The role of multilateral cooperation among Asian parliaments”

Turkey, 14 December 2019

Dear Hon. Mustafa ŞENTOP, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and President of APA;

Dear Dr. Mohammad Reza MAJIDI, Secretary-General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly;

Dear Mr. Yavuz Selim KIRAN, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Foreign Affairs *(tbc)*;

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

First of all, I would like to sincerely thank the Asian Parliamentary Assembly for the invitation and the warm welcome here in Antalya.

Multilateralism is and has always been at the heart of the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Before the United Nations, before the League of Nations, before current regional organizations, there was the IPU. In a context of growing tension between States at the end of the 19th century, visionary parliamentarians came together to seek peaceful solutions to issues of international security, promoting political dialogue to build confidence and mutual understanding among peoples and nations.

I am extremely pleased to see that during this 12th Plenary session of APA you will be discussing the role of multilateral cooperation among Asian parliaments. As IPU President, I cannot but applaud this initiative and invite you to take this

opportunity to devise concrete avenues for parliamentary action in this relevant domain.

As acknowledged by the global parliamentary community during the most recent IPU Assembly, held in Belgrade in October 2019, today, it is our duty, as parliamentarians, to continue strengthening international law, multilateralism and regional cooperation.

As parliamentarians, we are guarantors of peace and harmony. We have the mandate, and the huge responsibility, of promoting multilateralism and friendship instead of hate.

It is our responsibility to do our utmost to promote dialogue, to build understanding.

Dear colleagues,

I sincerely hope that during this plenary session, we will be able to learn more about existing good practices of co-operation and identify better ways to translate our international and regional commitments into national realities.

I hope that our debates will help Asian parliaments, individually, and also as a regional bloc, to better deliver on priority areas such as:

- Robustly tackling the climate emergency, ratifying and implementing the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Redoubling efforts to achieve gender equality and the political empowerment of women.
- Respecting our commitments in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and securing the abolition of weapons of mass destruction.
- Ensuring the ratification and effective implementation at national level of international humanitarian law and human rights instruments as a critical step in ensuring that those entitled to protection actually benefit from it.

- Establishing an effective institutional infrastructure to ensure compliance with international human rights standards, including by setting up national human rights institutions and strengthening cooperation between those institutions and our respective parliaments.
- Making sure that the voice of young people is heard in decision-making, including by creating the necessary platforms and adopting concrete measure for youth participation.
- Combating impunity for international crimes, including through cooperation with international tribunals and the International Criminal Court, in keeping with national law.

Regional cooperation is without a doubt an essential component of multilateralism and contributes to strengthening the international legal order and advancing sustainable peace. APA has a key role to play in this region, including by:

- Actively supporting regional initiatives that aim to promote political dialogue.
- Making use of the tools provided by parliamentary diplomacy to tackle unresolved issues and help build bridges in times of crisis.
- Identifying and disseminating good practices for regional cooperation and formulating proposals for concrete joint action.
- Putting in place mechanisms to help monitor implementation of regional and international commitments.
- Reviewing and strengthening transparency and accountability mechanisms at the regional level.
- Building strategic partnerships at the regional and sub-regional levels to enhance the observance of universal values and norms, while also taking into consideration regional specificities.
- Sharing good practices and enhancing dialogue and cooperation with other regional parliamentary organizations and with the world organization of national parliaments, the IPU.

- Supporting the IPU as the global umbrella of parliamentary organizations in its efforts to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of inter-parliamentary cooperation, including in the context of preparations for the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in 2020.

Dear colleagues,

Let's work together and assume our responsibilities. Our duty is to deliver, to achieve concrete results, to turn words into action and definitely to respond to the needs and aspirations of the people. By working together we become stronger.

Thank you.

Speech by H.E. Dr. Ali LARIJANI
Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

His Excellency Mustafa Sentop

Honorable Speakers of Parliaments

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to have participated in the 12th APA plenary meeting hosted by the friendly and brotherly country of the Republic of Turkey. I would like to sincerely appreciate the efforts and initiatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Turkey, particularly the efforts of my dear brother, His Excellency Mustafa Sentop, the Honorable Speaker of the Grand National Parliament and his colleagues. I hope that this event introduces precious achievements in various economic, political and cultural fields.

Mr. Chairman

In terms of geography, Asia is the biggest and the vastest continent while from a historical perspective, it is the birthplace of the most ancient cultures and civilizations in the world. Hosting more than half of the world's population and 48 countries, Asia truly epitomizes diversity and plurality. It seems that after a great deal of peaks and troughs in its history, this continent has made distinctive progress in the last four decades.

In the first place, Asian countries have taken successful steps in fields of science and technology. In the second place and in terms of economy, the whole Asia has experienced an exponential growth which could be perceived as stunning in some respects. Notably, Asia in some cases have managed to re-shape the recognized formats of development theories.

In the third place, Asia has arrived at a profounder democratic maturity. Although political changes and shift in Asia have been bruised in some cases, particularly as a result of a number of Western countries' adventurist inflictions, its diplomatic capacity has grown on balance.

Finally, today the Asia diplomacy possesses one of the most dynamic capacities in the international arena. Emergence of Asian diplomacy is one of the characteristics of the recent four decades. Iran- Russia- Turkey's role in resolution of Syrian crisis which foiled US and terrorists' adventures in Syria is a prime example here.

Dear colleagues

The aforementioned characteristics showcase the cultural strength and rich civilizational roots of this old continent. It should be noted that a number of mechanisms have been developed in the recent years, at both governmental and parliamentary levels, that contributed to stronger, more efficacious Asian links and cooperation platforms. APA and SCO are notable examples in this regard with considerable success in fulfillment of their mission of Asian integration.

On this path and considering their cultural and civilizational backgrounds, Asian countries have never perceived themselves as confronting the West. This is because economic, cultural and political cooperation would serve the various interests of the parties and at the same time greatly contribute to sustainable security and global peace if rooted in mutual respect. However, the question is: did some of the Western powers not attempt to confront Asia?

Unfortunately, we occasionally have directly witnessed the hostile behaviors of the West. There is no shortage of examples. Waging a tariff war against China, sanctioning Russia, sanctioning Iran, creation of issues for Turkey and blackmailing some a number of regional countries reveal that Western countries with the prime example of the US can't tolerate to see that Asia has found its genuine standing. But, will they come out successful in this confrontation?

Excellencies,

A look at the past trends of such stone-walling conducts indicate that while these adventurist efforts to push back the other parties may be intrusive and create nuisances on a temporary basis, they help the target parties realize their shortcomings to have stronger rebounds. For example, they have been rambling on Iran's nuclear program for 2 decades. But have they managed to arrest the development of nuclear science by Iranians? The answer is a big no. Today, in spite of the US spiteful economic pressures, Iranian experts have achieved a new generation of nuclear technology. Russia is another example. Have they managed to downgrade Russian role in international arena? On the same note, have they managed to restrict China's role in the global power structure via playing the

game of tariffs? These examples clearly demonstrate that in the face of all organized confrontations, Asia is going to play a leading role in developments of the modern world.

Mr. Chairman

We can ill afford ignoring one point. Terrorist operations in the region were primarily born out of the US supports. Creation of intrusive diversions for Asian states was the first act. In the past, the courageous people of Iraq and the people and government of Syria have effectively and bravely dealt with ISIS and other terrorist incarnations. It is certain other countries will help each other in tackling terrorism and averting their resurgence. The second act of US confrontational approach to Asia lies in unsettling the region in a different manner to sap the Asian countries of their development-oriented energy. Creation of a fake dualism atmosphere (either with us (the US and the West) or turbulence) is solely for the purpose of overwhelming the wills of Asian countries to help the West recover its dominance on oil resources and other assets of such countries, something that was the case in past centuries. Moreover, to create breathing room for the Zionist regime when there is a growing hatred of this regime on a consistent basis and to undermine the support for this wronged nation, parallel fronts of internal conflicts and engagements are opened in other countries. This requires Asian countries to arrange more proactive mechanisms if they wish to take stronger steps. In this regard, creation of structures for Asian trade, Asian monetary exchanges, Asian security-military conventions and Asian science & technology cooperation gains paramount importance.

Mr. Chairman,

In light of our past experience and informed by the past trends, I believe that this assembly could demand the respective governments to follow up more active mechanisms. The plenary session can undoubtedly draft the required documents for such cooperation arrangements.

In this regard, the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran has exercised efforts to strengthen multilateral cooperation at APA. The case in point is presenting the draft resolution of “increased cooperation among the APA members to preserve and maintain multilateralism” during the session of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs in Isfahan and this year’s meeting of the Executive Committee in Turkish Rize. Through consensual adoption of this resolution, I hope that the parliaments of member states convey this clear message

to the region and even to the world that APA strongly supports a discourse based on understanding, cooperation and common interests to further boost and disseminate multilateralism.

I again avail myself of the opportunity to express my gratitude to Turkish Parliament and particularly to my brother, His Excellency Mustafa Sentop for their hospitality and efforts.

كلمة

سعادة السيد أحمد بن عبد الله بن زيد آل محمود
رئيس مجلس الشورى في دولة قطر

في افتتاح

الاجتماع الثاني للمجلس التنفيذي والجلسة العامة الثانية عشرة
للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية

أنطاليا - جمهورية تركيا

١٣-١٨ ديسمبر ٢٠١٩

(١)

معالي الدكتور/ مصطفى شنطوب، رئيس الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية
رئيس مجلس الأمة التركي الكبير في جمهورية تركيا ،،
معالي السيدة غابريلا كويغاس بارون، رئيسة الإتحاد البرلماني الدولي،،
سعادة الدكتور/ محمد رضا مجيدي ، الأمين العام للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية،،
أصحاب المعالي والسعادة رؤساء البرلمانات والوفود،،
الحضور الكرام ،،

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله،،،

إنه لمن دواعي سروري أن أخاطبكم اليوم
في مستهل اجتماعات المجلس التنفيذي للجمعية
البرلمانية الآسيوية وجمعيتها العامة الثانية عشرة،
ويسرني أن أعرب بإسمي وبإسم أعضاء وفد مجلس
الشورى في دولة قطر المشارك في هذه الاجتماعات
عن تقديرنا وشكرنا لأخينا معالي الأستاذ الدكتور
مصطفى شنطوب ، رئيس مجلس الأمة التركي الكبير
في جمهورية تركيا ، والمسؤولين في حكومة
جمهورية تركيا الذين رتبوا أحسن ترتيب وبكرم تركي
مشهود اجتماعاتنا اليوم ولعدة أيام قادمة.

٢/..

أخاطبكم للمرة الثانية بعد اجتماع مجلسكم التنفيذي الأول الذي عُقد في ريزا والذي أوصى بمنح مجلس الشورى في دولة قطر العضوية الكاملة في الجمعية ، ونتطلع أن يعتمد اجتماعكم اليوم هذه التوصية لنخرط في أعمال الجمعية وأنشطتها كأعضاء فاعلين فيها بوصفها المنظومة البرلمانية الهامة التي تمثل أصوات شعوب القارة الآسيوية وتعمل بجد على تحقيق أهدافها السامية والطموحة خدمة لمصالحها .

إن إنضمامنا للجمعية ينبع من حرص دولة قطر بقيادة حضرة صاحب السمو الشيخ تميم بن حمد آل ثاني أمير البلاد المفدى "حفظه الله" على دعم العمل المشترك داخل المنظمات الاقليمية والدولية والتي أصبحت دولة قطر عضواً فيها تماشياً مع أهداف رؤية قطر الوطنية ٢٠٣٠ ، وكذلك حرص مجلس الشورى في قطر على ترجمة هذا التوجه في إطار التعاون البرلماني مع المنظمات البرلمانية الاقليمية والدولية .

(٣)

ويسعدنا أن نتدارس في هذا الاجتماع معاً سبل تعزيز العمل الآسيوي المشترك من خلال التعاون البرلماني ووفقاً لجدول الأعمال المعروض .

وتبرز أهمية جمعيتنا هذه وأعمالها لما تشهده بعض مناطق القارة الآسيوية أكبر قارة في العالم من أوضاع أمنية مضطربة من مظاهر الإرهاب والتطرف والفساد والجريمة المنظمة العابرة للحدود وتغير المناخ وانتشار أسلحة الدمار الشامل وغيرها من التحديات . ولمجابهة هذه التحديات الجسام كان لزاماً وجود منصة برلمانية آسيوية للتشاور حول هذه المهيدات والوصول إلى حلول مرضية لها .

ولزاماً علينا أن نقر بوجود مثل هذه المشكلات الكبيرة في القارة الآسيوية ولكنها ليست مستعصية ويمكن إيجاد حلول لها . ووجود هذه المشاكل ينبغي أن لا يكون سبباً لليأس ولكن يجب أن تمثل دافعاً لبذل مزيد من الجهود المشتركة لحلها .

٤/..

إن مهمتنا كبرلمانيين أن نساهم في إيجاد خطاب برلماني إنساني جامع يركز على المشتركات الجماعية العابرة للدول الآسيوية وهي هموم الناس في العيش بكرامة وأمن واكتفاء، وهموم في التصالح مع الطبيعة والتعايش مع كوارثها ، وهموم أيضاً في تأمين مستقبل كريم لهم ولأبنائهم .

إن الأعمال التي سيتم تناولها وتدارسها خلال أعمال اللجنة التنفيذية والجمعية العامة في اجتماعاتنا هذه من شأنها أن تثري العمل البرلماني وتساعد على تقريب وجهات النظر والتصورات تجاه العديد من القضايا ذات الاهتمام المشترك بين الدول والبرلمانات الأعضاء . ونحن في مجلس الشورى القطري نعتقد بأن التعددية الفعالة هي المفتاح للعديد من المشاكل العالمية التي يعاني منها عالم اليوم . ويجب أن تحتل الجهود الرامية إلى منع نشوب النزاعات وتسويتها بالوسائل السلمية ، مرتبةً عاليةً بين أولوياتنا ، وأن يستمر دعم الجمعية لنضال الشعب الفلسطيني ضد الاحتلال الإسرائيلي في كل جوانبه لتحرير أرضه وإقامة دولته الفلسطينية المستقلة وعاصمتها القدس الشرقية .

°/..

إننا لم نكن في يوم من الأيام أحوج إلى التعاون والتعاقد من يومنا هذا ، فبعد أكثر من عقد من الزمان على ولادة الجمعية تزداد التحديات صعوبة وتنتشر الفوضى ويتفشى الفساد والفقر الأمر الذي يتطلب منا دعم الجهود الكبيرة التي تبذلها جمعيتنا في سبيل تطوير التعاون بين دول آسيا وسعيها لتقوية أو اصر الصداقة البرلمانية لدعم فرص السلام وتعزيز الأمن والاستقرار في المنطقة والعالم .

وأود أن أتقدم بالشكر لكم ممثلي المجموعة الآسيوية البرلمانية على اشتغال جدول أعمال هذا الاجتماع من مواضيع مهمة ومن أهمها محاربة الفساد الذي هو أساس المشاكل للدول والشعوب . وهنا أود إفادتكم بأننا في قطر قد استضيفنا قبل يومين الاجتماع السابع للمنظمة العالمية للبرلمانيين ضد الفساد . وأؤكد لكم بعد انتخابي رئيساً للمنظمة العالمية للبرلمانيين ضد الفساد باسم هذه المنظمة بأننا معكم وسنعمل كل جهد بالتعاون مع الجمعية لمحاربة الفساد وهي آفة

(٦)

الأمم والشعوب . بمحاربة الفساد سننتصر على أمور كثيرة وبوجود الفساد هناك مشاكل كثيرة .

الحضور الكرام ،،،

لقد ظلت دولة قطر ملتزمة بضرورة التعاون والعمل المشترك في مواجهة التحديات العابرة للحدود وفي هذا الإطار أقامت دولة قطر شراكات مع العديد من أجهزة الأمم المتحدة. وتعد دولة قطر من الدول السبّاقة في تقديم المساعدات الإنمائية والإغاثية ، فعلى سبيل المثال مؤل صندوق قطر للتنمية خلال عام ٢٠١٨ مشاريع في قطاعات التعليم والصحة والتمكين الاقتصادي وتوفير فرص العمل في أكثر من ٧٠ دولة حول العالم معظمها في القارة الآسيوية . كما أنشأت قطر مؤسسة أيادي الخير نحو آسيا ، وتعمل في كمبوديا واندونيسيا وأفغانستان وباكستان وبنغلاديش والأراضي الفلسطينية ولبنان والهدف الأساسي منها هو تحسين نوعية التعليم والرعاية الصحية في البلدان الآسيوية من خلال بناء القدرات وتشجيع التعليم

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وتوفير التوعية المهمة من أجل تنمية الإنسان وإطلاق قدراته . هذا إلى جانب العديد من المبادرات التي أطلقها حضرة صاحب السمو أمير دولة قطر لدعم الجهود الدولية لمواجهة التحديات المشتركة كالإرهاب والهجرة والأمن السيبراني .

وفي الختام أجدد شكري وتقديري لجمهورية تركيا الشقيقة رئيساً وحكومة وشعباً على دعمهم للجمعية من خلال استضافة هذه الاجتماعات ومن قبلها اجتماع المجلس التنفيذي الأول في مدينة ريزا الجميلة. سائلاً المولى القدير أن يوفقنا جميعاً في تحقيق أهداف هذه الجمعية بما يعود بالنفع والخير والازدهار لشعوبنا . ونشكر لمعالي أئينا مصطفى شنتوب رئيس مجلس الأمة التركي الكبير دعوتنا للاحتفال بالذكرى المائة لإنشاء البرلمان في تركيا مؤكداً مشاركتنا وتمنياتنا لتركيا دائماً بالتقدم والنجاح .

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله ،،،

OPENING SPEECH
OF
OUR ESTEEMED SPEAKER OF THE GNAT
AT
THE 12TH PLENARY SESSION
OF
ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)
DECEMBER 14, 2019

**Esteemed Speakers of Parliament,
Esteemed Parliamentarians,
Distinguished Guests,
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure for me to host you, our distinguished participants at the 12th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly here in Antalya.

As you might know, we also hosted the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Plenary Session in both 2017 and 2018. Being the host of the last three Plenary Sessions and organizing the First Executive Council Meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in Rize on October 25-28, 2019, are the indication of the great importance that we attribute to this Assembly.

As the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, we have put great efforts into strengthening our inter-parliamentary relations. Hereby, I would like to extend my gratitude to our Members of the Turkish Group to Asian Parliamentary Assembly and to everyone who have labored in the organization of these meetings.

As the members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, we shall discuss important issues in line with our goals of increasing stability and prosperity in the Asian continent throughout our plenary sessions. It is my personal belief that we shall conduct fruitful meetings and that the consultations that we make here shall prove important contributions to the construction of a new world in which our countries and our people can live in peace and comfort.

Distinguished Guests,

As the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, our fundamental purpose is to strengthen the inter-parliamentary collaboration in the subjects of economy and social relations, along with peace and prosperity. Through the cooperation that we shall realize, we must show our determination in providing additional power to traditional diplomacy and having an important role in solving the problems of the Asian continent. Within this context, we must shoulder an important responsibility.

Along with positive developments, our continent faces many issues and challenges. Sadly, not order, but chaos prevails in the contemporary world.

As it is so in many other parts of the world, a portion of Asia still has to face many hardships such as starvation, contagious diseases and natural disasters, along with new ecological problems. On the other hand, each day, with growing intensity, we have to face issues with severe humane outcomes such as wars, conflicts, proxy wars and terrorism.

As Turkey, our efforts are spent to shape the dynamics that surround us in line with peace, prosperity and stability.

We spend the greatest efforts in ensuring that the civil war in our neighbor Syria comes to an end and the stability is renewed. According to the July 2019 data of the *UN Refugee Agency*, we are currently hosting almost 3.6 million Syrians in our country. Our fight against the terrorist organizations of DAESH, PKK and YPG that threaten the future of Syria continues without interruption. Accordingly, our efforts to return our Syrian siblings to the

regions where we have wiped out the terrorist organizations in the most secure and healthy manner shall ultimately provide fruitful.

Today, terrorism is the common scourge of the world, regardless of geography. Many countries present here in this Assembly had close experiences with the brutal examples of this truth. With the consciousness of this truth, we as Turkey are on the front lines of fight against international terrorism. In order to mobilize the international community, we take concrete steps in the fight against the diseased understandings that threaten the world peace and the peace of the peoples, such as terrorism, xenophobia, racism and Islamophobia.

The fight against terrorism can succeed only if it employs a sincere and comprehensive approach. As a country that fights many terrorist organizations and that gives no respite to them, we would like to share our experiences with you and to establish strong cooperation.

We are aware that the FETÖ terrorist organization that attempted a coup d'état in our country in 2016 is operational in many of your countries disguised as educational organizations, NGOs etc. I would like to especially remind you that this organization is a threat to your countries as much as it is for Turkey.

No terrorist organization is different from the other. What is DAESH, so the FETÖ and PKK/PYD/YPG are. All pursue dishonorable and cursed intentions that shall prevent people from living as humans.

At this point, we totally reject the discrimination between the terrorists as “that are of use and that are not”. And we expect all of our friends to act with the awareness of this truth. We believe that the voices that rise when DAESH is at stake, should also rise for PKK, FETÖ and others.

In another bleeding wound of our region, the issue of Palestine, we exhibit an active stance. Occupation, oppression and injustice are not the destiny set for Palestine. We see it as the requisite of human dignity to be

always by the side of the nations of the world that have been subjected to injustice. And thus, we invite all countries to respect the resolutions of the United Nations and to respect the historical and legal status of Jerusalem.

As it has always been so, we shall continue to support the efforts to establish peace and cease violence in Afghanistan.

We support the solution of the Kashmir issue through dialogue between Pakistan and India and on the basis of the United Nations resolutions, as well as in line with the expectations of the People of Kashmir. We closely follow the situation in which the Rohingya people are in, and wish that this human drama ended as soon as possible.

Of course, the humanitarian issues and conflicts in our continent are not limited with these. We act and shall continue to act with the understanding that such conflicts should be prevented primarily in Asia, our home and in the wholly wide world and they should be solved with peaceful methods. In addition, we shall ensure that humans, the most honorable of the created, live in the most dignified and decent manner.

As a manifestation of this understanding, we currently hold the co-presidency of the mediation groups within the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

As I have underscored in the P20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit, it is my personal belief that the understanding of “Let Humans Live So the World May Live” shall be the remedy for the peace and salvation of all humanity and it can stop the blood and tears in our geography.

Distinguished Participants,

The center of geopolitics and economics in the world is rapidly shifting to Asia. In every region of the Asia continent, there is a remarkable process of development and advancement. Consequently, since the Asian continent is a

rising power in the global politics and economy, some call the 21st century as the “Asian Century”.

Turkey, an inseparable part of both the Asian and European continents, has recently given start to a new initiative called “Asia Anew” as it befits to the ongoing comprehensive transformation within Turkey and the bigger Eurasian geography.

With this initiative, Turkey aims to benefit from the multifaceted dynamism that has appeared throughout Asia in a better and more productive manner, and in turn, to contribute to it.

In essence, we observe the “Asian Parliamentary Assembly” as one of the multilateral parliamentary dimensions of our new initiative and consider it extreme importance.

Turkey, within the framework of its increasing opportunities and capabilities, is implementing its foreign policy in line with the principle of “Peace at Home, Peace in Country” and with an “Enterprising and Humanitarian” approach to ensure security, stability and prosperity both at its close surroundings and at an international level.

In accordance with our “Enterprising and Humanitarian Foreign Policy” understanding, we take initiatives and spend efforts to provide solutions to the problems in our region and in the world. Our purpose is to make contributions to strengthen peace, stability and prosperity.

With this understanding, we have pushed our bilateral relations with many countries to advanced levels. And with so many countries, we have established High Level Cooperation Council mechanisms, including some of our guests that are attending this meeting. With our “Asia Anew” initiative, we shall increase this number.

It is our belief that regional ownership understanding is of importance in order to provide definite solutions to the conflicts in our immediate surroundings.

Within this framework, we are leading trilateral and quadrilateral cooperation processes and regional initiatives. We assume active role and provide contributions to international organizations and platforms.

As Turkey, we are not solely observing Asia from angle of politics and security. We place extreme importance in strengthening economic, cultural and social relations.

It is our wish to increase cooperation with all countries lying on the routes that connect Asia and Europe in the fields of infrastructure, customs and logistics.

Without a doubt, reviving the Modern Silk Road will provide significant acceleration to the prosperity and development of our region. Our Trans-Caspian East-West-Middle Corridor Initiative that we are leading for a long time is a manifestation of this understanding.

East-West-Middle Corridor Initiative is naturally synergistic with the Belt and Road Initiative put forth by People's Republic of China. Thus, one of the routes within the Belt and Road Initiative lies on Turkey. Therefore, these initiatives are not alternatives of each other, but they are complementary.

Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railroad Project that began in October 2017 forms the backbone of our Middle Corridor initiative. When this route reaches its full capacity, it will have an indispensable quality in reviving the Silk Road.

Again, within this scope and in line with Turkey's long-term infrastructure development strategy, our other megaprojects are to be either completed or currently in implementation. Along with "Marmaray," Istanbul Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge, Osmangazi Tunnel, Istanbul Airport that will be the

world's biggest airport when all of its stages are completed became operational last year on October 29.

In addition to all of these projects, other megaprojects currently in works such as the three-level tunnel under Bosphorus Strait, the Çanakkale Bridge, Edirne- Kars High Speed Railway Projects, the construction of Filyos, Çandarlı and Mersin ports will ensure that the vast geography surrounding Turkey is accessed more easily and productively.

Our humanitarian foreign policy is revealed in the opportunities that we provide to more than 3.6 million Syrians who took refuge in our country. Our country that hosts the biggest number of refugees in the world and ranking in the first place in humanitarian aid is the world's most generous country in the world from the aspect of the ratio of the assistance that we provide with respect to our national income. We take pride in this.

However, it is sadly a fact that the contribution of the international community in this field is way below the expectations. Within this context, I believe all countries must take responsibility and share the burden with a humane sensibility.

My Dear Friends,

Contemporary problems require active multilateralism, regional connectivity and mutual efforts for coming up with solutions. The issues that we face are impossible to fight alone at a national, regional and global scale.

Regrettably, some of the international organizations today, and especially the United Nations are very far from realizing their mission foreseen in their purpose of establishment. As a matter of fact, His Excellency, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, our President of the Republic expresses this situation with his protest, "The World is Bigger than Five" and this protest justly resonates with many.

Just at this point, I would like to submit to your attention once again the necessity to review the international platforms' and organizations' reasons of existence.

Therefore, it is the most rational way to consider the international politics and global balances with dynamic and real institutions, not with the antiquated organizations of a world that is no longer in existence. Therefore, I believe that it is of significance and crucial to evaluate the parliamentary diplomacy processes and inter-parliamentary summits that have recently gained momentum from this perspective.

The intensity of the search in the parliamentary diplomacy field shows the need for not only the governments, but also for the people and the public to become actors in the field of diplomacy.

Really, it is no longer possible to conduct international relationships only by the conventional means in a globalizing world.

Parliamentary diplomacy offers a new opportunity for our countries and peoples. Parliamentary diplomacy gives us a much more flexible and broader range of action. I believe that we should conduct our relations with respect, dialogue and cooperation by means of parliamentary diplomacy. I think that parliamentary diplomacy also contributes to strengthening the relations between our countries and resolving conflicts with its positive agenda.

Today, a new language and understanding of diplomacy is needed for a new world. As parliaments, we have to play a much more important role in this understanding.

At this point, I would like to draw your attention to a fact. We see that even the oldest of the organizations that we have founded as the institutional actors of international relations and established for the conduct of traditional diplomacy have left their seventieth years behind. Unfortunately, there is no intergovernmental organization that has survived the first and second world wars, perhaps the bloodiest periods in world history.

On the other hand, there is the Inter-Parliamentary Union that celebrates its hundred and thirtieth anniversary this year, somehow surviving the difficult times I mentioned and contributing to the reconstruction of the collapsed order each time. This shows that if peace and justice are to be ensured in the world, this can be achieved by us, parliamentarians who are the representatives of their peoples. We all have to take on responsibility to create a new language of diplomacy by adapting to the changing world.

Dear Speakers of Parliament,

Dear Parliamentarians,

Dear Guests,

Before I finish my speech, I would like to say in this Asian Parliamentary Assembly, before you, dear parliamentarians that we disapprove the decision that the US Senate made about the Armenian allegations by ignoring international law and distorting historical facts.

This decision, which has no legal value and will not bind the Senate after the next election period, is obviously part of a dirty political game. This is a worthless effort of reading history based on the simple interests of arbitrary and everyday politics.

Our country does not refrain from confronting history. On the contrary, the truth must be revealed with all its presence. The imposition of a party's opinion as absolute truth does not reveal the truth.

It is a duty of humanity to respect the memory of all people who lost their lives in the period leading up to World War I. Right lessons should be learned from these events. To achieve this, historical facts need to be presented by impartial, independent and respected historians.

Turkey has opened its rich archive to all researchers, including Armenian researchers. Unfortunately, Armenia has not shown the same level of sincerity in this regard. It is not worthy of any parliament, including the US Senate, to

obey the black propaganda and racist approaches by hiding information and documents.

It should be noted that Turkey will resolutely continue to protect its national interests in its region and world security, without considering this decision of the US Senate and similar means of pressure under any circumstances.

Dear Guests,

Next year is the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, which is of great importance for our nation and state.

We want to organize celebrations on a wider scale to make sure that the spirit of hundred years ago is understood better.

In near future, our invitation will be delivered to you through official channels. However, I would like to express also in here that we would be so glad to welcome Your Excellencies and your delegates in the celebrations to be organized in Turkey on 23rd of April as an indication of our brotherhood.

With these feelings and thoughts, as the President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, I hope that the meetings, consultations and debates will open up new horizons for us and give us good luck.

I welcome you all again and greet you with my best wishes.

Attachment II

Ver: 12/13/2019



Asian Parliamentary Assembly The 12th Plenary Session



13-18 December 2019
Antalya, TURKEY

“The Role of Multilateral Cooperation Among Asian Parliaments”

12th Plenary Session

Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Report of the Chairperson of the 2nd Executive Council Meeting
4. Report of the Secretary General on the work of the Organization
5. Consideration of Recommendation for the APA Full Membership of Shura Council of Qatar and National Parliament of Timor Leste
6. General Debate: Statements and Presentations by Head of Delegations on ***“The Role of Multilateral Cooperation Among Asian Parliaments”***
7. Meeting of the Standing Committees
8. Presentation and Adoption of Reports by the Chairpersons of:
 - Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
 - Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development
 - Standing Committee on Political Affairs
 - Standing Committee on Budget and Planning
9. Meeting of Drafting Committee on Antalya Declaration
10. Reconfirmation of the next APA president for 2021
11. Nomination of the APA President for 2022-2023
12. Adoption of the Final Report of 12th Plenary Session
13. Any other matter
14. Closing



Asian Parliamentary Assembly

The 12th Plenary Session

13-18 December 2019

Antalya, Turkey

**EC2/Rep/2019/07
14 December 2019**

Report of the Second Executive Council Meeting

The Second Executive Council Meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly was held on 14 December 2019 in Antalya, Republic of Turkey. Parliamentary delegations from following member countries participated in the meeting: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Iran, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Laos, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippine, Qatar, Russia and Turkey, Yemen.

1. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda of the Second Executive Council meeting was adopted unanimously (Attachment I).

2. Election of the Bureau:

The following members of the Bureau were elected by acclamation: Chairperson: H.E. Mrs. Asuman ERDOĞAN, Head of the Turkish APA Delegation.

Vice-Chair: H.E. Dr. Nguon Nhel, Deputy Speaker of Cambodia.

Rapporteur: H.E. Mr. Charles HONORIS, Head of Delegation Indonesia APA.

3. Report by H.E. Mrs. Asuman ERDOĞAN Chairperson of the First Executive Council:

The Chairperson briefed the meeting on the work and deliberations during the First Executive Council meeting held in Rize, Turkey on 25-28 October 2019. She mentioned that:

- The request for full APA membership of Qatar and Timor-Leste were unanimously adopted.
- On the issue of Nomination of APA President/Vice President for 2020-21 Turkey accepted the request to host the 12th APA Plenary.
- For the Vice-Presidents for 2020-21, the member of Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain announced the willingness of his parliament to host the next Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Developments as Vice-President of APA.
- The membership of APA to the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UN AOC) was adopted.
- The Working Group on Statutory Documents was established with Kuwait as its chair will host the first meeting in Feb. 2020.
- All Draft Resolutions which were considered by four APA Standing Committees were adopted with minor editorial/corrections.

4. Remarks by H.E. Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi Secretary General of APA:

APA Secretary General pointed out the following topics in his remarks:

- Request for Announcement of candidacy to fill three remaining vice presidency for Standing Committees on: Social and Cultural Affairs, Political Affairs and Budget and Planning.
- Issue of nomination of APA President for 2022-23.
- The importance of establishment of the Working Group on Statutory Documents and of Kuwait for hosting the first WG meeting on Feb. 2020.
- It is necessary to promote the international status of the APA Permanent Secretariat and therefore, we have to choose a pragmatic and constructive approach in our deliberation in this regard during the 12th Plenary.

5. Consideration of Draft Resolutions of Standing Committees to be Recommended for adoption by Plenary:

The representative of the Secretariat introduced the various draft resolutions of Standing Committees.

- **The Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs:**

1. Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia
2. Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology
3. Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia
4. Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia (Differed)
5. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption
6. Draft Resolution of APA Women Parliamentarians
7. Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions
8. Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia
9. Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia
10. Draft Resolution on Humanitarian Aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar on the Verge of the Humanitarian Catastrophe
11. Draft Resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia (New)
12. Draft Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia (New)
13. Draft Resolution on “Human Development in Asia” (New)

The resolution on “Rights of Migrant Workers” was deferred to the next Standing Committee by decision of the First Executive Council meeting in Rize, Turkey. Three new resolutions on Quality Child, Aging Society and Human Development will be addressed during the next Standing Committee meeting.

- **Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development:**
 1. Draft Resolution on the Establishment of an Asian Energy Market
 2. Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues
 3. Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth
 4. Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication
 5. Draft Resolution on “The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”
 6. Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All (Deferred)
 7. Draft Resolution on Adopting a Road Map Providing for Measures to Stimulate Green Finance

There are seven draft resolutions in this committee. The Draft Resolution on “Asian Integrated Energy Market” as a merged document will be discussed in future Standing Committee. On draft Resolution titled “Water and Sanitation in Asia for All” few delegations proposed that the draft resolution be discussed in future Standing Committee as was deferred. Views were expressed that next Standing Committee should consider the draft resolution adopted by 11th Plenary of 2018 as original text.

- **Standing Committee on political Affairs:**
 1. Draft Resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament” (Deferred)
 2. Draft Resolution on Good Governance
 3. Draft Resolution on the Rule of Law and Judicial Empowerment
 4. Draft Resolution on Good Parliamentary Practices
 5. Draft Resolution on Building Prosperity in Asia through Friendship and Cooperation
 6. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia
 7. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments’ Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People
 8. Draft Resolution on Harmonious Development through Democracy

9. Draft Resolution on Enhancing Cooperation among the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to Protect and Promote Multilateralism (New)

There are nine resolutions on the agenda of this Committee. Resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament” was deferred to the next Standing Committee. Iran has tabled a new resolution on “Enhancing Cooperation among the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to Protect and Promote Multilateralism”. On resolution concerning “Unwavering Support for Palestinian People”, delegation of Palestine informed the meeting of the declaration of U.S. Secretary of state on 18 November 2019 that Israeli settlement in the occupied Palestinian territories is not inconsistent with the international law. The Palestinian delegation requested APA to reject this position and offered an agreed text with the Chairperson on this issue. The text was adopted by the meeting to be incorporated into the said resolution. Many delegations supported the Palestinian cause and condemned Israeli atrocities as well as U.S. position in this regard.

Delegation of India criticized the previous adopted document by First Executive Council meeting in Rize on the issue of Kashmir Black Day presented by delegation of Pakistan. She requested the deletion of Attachment No. 7 of the Final Report. Delegation of Pakistan responded by defending his national position. The chairperson ruled that the meeting should continue with its adopted Agenda.

- **Standing Committee on Budget and Planning:**
 1. Draft Resolution on “Planning APA Budget”

The only draft resolution of this Standing Committee titled “Planning APA Budget” which was adopted in Baghdad was subjected to exchanges of views by several delegations. A delegation stressed that Operative Para 6 of the said resolution should be dropped due to the fact that a Working Group on Statutory Documents is already established. A number of delegations argued that the resolution should be updated by the outcome of the work of the said Working Group. A view was expressed that under present circumstances this resolution is redundant. The Chairperson called on Participants to continue debating on this important resolution during 12th Plenary.

6. Nomination and Adoption of Vice Presidents of APA for 2020:

Delegation of Bahrain appreciated the support of APA members and reconfirmed the willingness of his parliament to host the next Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Developments as APA Vice-President.

Delegation of Iraq expressed his readiness to host the Standing Committee on Political Affairs as APA Vice-President.

Delegation of Pakistan express its readiness to stand for the APA Vice-Presidency for one of the Standing Committees.

7. Nomination of APA President for 2022-23:

The chair informed the meeting that this item will be on the Agenda of the 12th Plenary and will be discussed there.

8. Considerations of the Draft Agenda of the 12th APA Plenary Session

The Draft Agenda of the 12th Plenary was unanimously adopted.

9. Any other matters:

No topic was Discussion here under this item.



Asian Parliamentary Assembly The 12th Plenary Session



13-18 December 2019
Antalya, TURKEY

“The Role of Multilateral Cooperation Among Asian Parliaments”

12th Plenary Session

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Attachment IV



Asian Parliamentary Assembly

APA 12th Plenary Meeting

13-18 December 2019

Antalya, Turkey

Report of the Secretary General on the work of the Organization

Madam Chairperson,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor and privilege for me as Secretary General, to address APA 12th Plenary Meeting, and presenting my report on the latest activities and outcomes of the APA Standing Committees and Executive Council meetings during the year 2019.

At the outset, let me congratulate you Madam Chairperson and the Grand National Assembly of Turkey for presiding over this important meeting of 12th APA Plenary Session. I am confident that through your strong leadership and wisdom, we will accomplish objectives set for this meeting.

Allow me once again to take this opportunity to express on behalf of myself and my colleagues in the APA Permanent Secretariat, our deepest appreciation to the state officials and the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, who took the burden of hosting our meeting through excellent organization and unique hospitality at the magnificent province of Antalya.

Madam Chairperson,

Distinguished Delegates,

In year 2019, under the presidency of the Republic of Turkey and leadership of four APA vice presidents, we succeed to hold the following Standing Committees and Executive Council Meetings:

1-The Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs was held in Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand, from 12 to 15 February. The Committee adopted 13 draft resolutions. Ten draft resolutions were discussed and adopted by the Committee and three new draft resolutions presented by Thailand and Kuwait, were adopted by the Committee in principal and its discussion deferred to the next Standing Committee meeting in year 2020.

In Bangkok, we held also the first meeting of the Working Group on Asian Parliament with participation of all interested APA members. Iran as vice president and the Chairman of Standing Committee on Political Affairs chaired the meeting.

2- The Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development was held in Nareyan-Mar, the Russian Federation, from 18 to 21 April. In this Committee, we have seven draft resolutions. Five resolutions were discussed and adopted by the committee and consideration of the draft resolution on “Water and Sanitation in Asia for All” was deferred to the next standing Committee meeting. Kuwait as chair of the Working Group on Energy Market was tasked to merge two draft resolutions on Energy.

Working groups on Green Finance, Energy Market and Water Crisis, hold also their meetings in Nareyan-Mar.

3- The Standing Committee on Political Affairs was held in Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 25-28 June 2019. At this Committee, we have 9-draft resolution. Seven draft resolution, were discussed and adopted by consensus and a new draft resolution was introduced by the Iranian delegation. This draft resolution was welcomed by member parliaments and the chair stated that amendments to this resolution would be considered during next meeting of the Standing Committee. On draft resolution, “Towards an Asian Parliament” delegation of Pakistan introduced substantive amendments and several delegations debated different aspects of the Asian Parliament in general. The chairperson concluded that what emerges from expressed views is that we need

AP but there are divergent of views, which need more time to focus on, during future meetings. Therefore, consideration of this draft resolution deferred to the next Standing Committee meeting.

In Isfahan, we had the Second Session of the Working Group on Asian Parliament. At the meeting of WG on AP, the chair and several delegation presented their remarks. The chair concluded it is important that the WG-AP under auspicious of Standing Committee on Political Affairs and with APA Secretariat functioning as its Secretariat, reach a consensus on the roadmap and move toward AP.

4- The Standing Committee on Budget and Planning was held in Baghdad, Republic of Iraq, from 3 to 5 September. In this Committee, we have “draft Resolution on Planning APA Budget”. At this meeting, I as Secretary-General briefed the Standing Committee on the latest decisions and developments regarding the issues of planning budget of the APA Permanent Secretariat, under supervision of the Committee. I stated even if all active member parliaments pay their contribution based on the current agreed model of payment, the Secretariat hardly could survive and I appealed to all delegations to choose a pragmatic and constructive approach in this regard.

5-The First APA Executive Council meeting was held in Rize, Republic of Turkey, from 25 to 28 October. At this meeting, Turkey generously accepts the request to host the 12th APA Plenary meeting and Presidency of 2020-2021.

At this meeting, membership of Parliament of Qatar and Timor-Leste were considered and unanimously adopted by the Council and recommended to the 12th Plenary for the final approval.

On the issue of Vice-Presidents for 2020, Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain announced the willingness to host the next Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Developments as Vice-President. The meeting welcomed and adopted the offer.

Membership of APA to the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UN AOC) was also adopted at this meeting and the Secretariat was task to follows up the procedure for membership with UNAOC.

Finally, in Rize, we establish the Working Group on Statutory Documents initiated by the Russian Federation and supported by all member parliaments. The purpose of this Working Group is to update the Statutory Documents of APA in

order to turn its work into a more orderly and effective system. The Working Group on Statutory Documents comprised of 8 selected member parliaments and Kuwait as chairman will host the first meeting in February 2020.

Madam Chairperson,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I reported to this august Assembly, main achievements and activities of the APA during the year 2019. I would like also to use this opportunity and highlight dynamic of our Organization in year 2020.

As I reported to you, after more than one decade APA member parliaments in Rize decided to update APA Statutory Documents by establishing the Working Group on APA Statutory Documents. I believe it is a very important step forward and it is a great opportunity for the APA to streamline and revitalize its Statutory Documents and makes them more effective in a way to enable us to play a more active role in inter parliamentary diplomacy of Asia and in the world in years to come. During the last decade, APA confronted some challenges that we hope by updating the Statutory Documents and turning it to a more orderly and effective system, we could overcome them. Thus, I invite and encourage all APA members in particular members of the Working Group to vigorously participate in WG meeting in February 2020 in Kuwait and contribute their share of wisdom to the job of the WG. I would like to assure you that the Secretariat, for its part, follows this process enthusiastically and will play its role actively.

Another important issue in our agenda of year 2020 is the finalization of our deliberation on the “model of payment for planning of the budget of the APA Permanent Secretariat”. The fact is that after several years of discussion we could not yet succeed to adopt a model of payment satisfying all member parliaments and get their full support for implementation. I, as Secretary General and head of the Permanent Secretariat, sincerely believe if we determine to promote the international status of the APA and if we want to have a more effective and a more efficient APA Secretariat, we have to choose a more pragmatic and constructive approach in our deliberation in this regard. As you are aware, we discussed this issue from 2014 and we had some progress on this issue, but we were not able to implement our agreement due to lack of support by all member

parliaments. Therefore, I firmly believe it is necessary that in 2020, we finalize our deliberation on this issue and without any further delay, implement it.

In conclusion, I wish to raise an important issue of APA sponsored academic and scientific seminars in 2020. I, as Secretary General and an academic person, from the beginning of my tenure tried to organize academic and scientific seminars within the APA framework. In my opinion, in vast continent of Asia and in APA Agenda, there are many economic, political, social and cultural issues of common interest that we could focus on and share our knowledge and experience on them. Thus, I would like to invite all APA member parliaments who are in a position to sponsor and host an academic or scientific seminar under the APA auspices in year 2020, announce their readiness during the course of 12th Plenary. APA Secretariat is ready to play its role and facilitates the achievements of such important goal.

Thank very much for your attention

Attachment V



Statement

HON. DR. NGUON NHEL

First Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Head of the Cambodian Parliamentary Delegation

12th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Antalya, Turkey

13–18 December, 2019

-
- Honorable Mustafa Sentop, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey
 - Honorable Heads and Members of Delegations of APA Member Parliaments, Observer Countries and Partner Organizations
 - Your Excellency Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi, Secretary General of APA, and colleagues from the Secretariat
 - Distinguished Delegates and Friends

1. It is my great pleasure and privilege to be with you here today for the 12th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. Taking this opportunity, I wish to express my deep and heartfelt thanks to the government, people and Grand National Assembly of Turkey, in particular the Organizing Committee, for the excellent arrangements and great hospitality extended to the Cambodian delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of Antalya.

2. I also wish to thank the APA Secretary General and his colleagues for their utmost efforts with great responsibility to facilitate, communicate and prepare documents for the Assembly in an outstanding and professional manner. The success and progress of this Assembly reflects their active contribution as well as the priceless efforts made by APA members, observers and partners in driving this Assembly in a more closely integrated, effective and dynamic manner to address common political, economic and socio-cultural issues in the region,

3. Today, the world faces numerous challenges. These include escalating trade wars, protectionism, unilateralism and increasing geopolitical tensions between major powers which threaten global peace, security, development and people's well-being with especially adverse impacts on emerging economies. At the same time, we witness grave breaches of international humanitarian law as well as repeated violations of the basic rules, principles and fundamental tenets of international law such as respect for the territorial integrity and political independence of states, non-interference in their internal affairs and the duty of states to uphold international human rights law.

Honorable Speaker, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

4. Today's gathering is crucial, relevant and timely for us to discuss, exert greater effort and seek solutions and common positions to address these issues to maintain and strengthen peace and security which are foundations and preconditions for the development and well-being of the people in our region and the world as a whole.

5. Multilateral cooperation is very important, especially among Asian countries where parliamentary diplomacy is an important tool to promote, strengthen and expand our ties under both regional and global frameworks.

6. In recent decades, parliaments have played an increasingly crucial role in diplomacy which is becoming more dynamic. Parliamentary diplomacy was a powerful instrument during the Cold War. In this role, parliaments can help break impasses when governments are unable to make progress. Parliamentary diplomacy can also foster political dialogue during conflicts between countries.

7. Cambodia has used parliamentary diplomacy to promote and enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation under both legislative and executive frameworks. The Cambodian Parliament has actively participated in and contributed to protecting and maintaining peace, security and economic well-being through membership of international parliamentary organizations. We have hosted various AIPA, APA, APPF and APF meetings in the past and will be chairing the 11th Meeting of Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership with the aim of strengthening multilateralism and partnership for sustainable and shared growth. On behalf of the President of the Cambodian National Assembly we would like to extend our cordial invitation to relevant parliaments to take part in this important event.

8. I strongly believe that we need to encourage and promote our roles more actively and dynamically—particularly in the field of parliamentary diplomacy—to demonstrate global governance and international cooperation to ensure sustainable peace and shared prosperity.

9. With peace, political stability and support from friendly countries, Cambodia has achieved significant progress and rapid development in many fields. Over the past two decades, average annual growth has been strong and resilient at around 7 percent. With this remarkable achievement, the poverty rate has declined to well below 10 percent, down sharply from more than 50 percent in 2004. Further declines are expected over the coming years. In such an environment, Cambodia is no longer a low-income country but a lower-middle income country and we aim to have middle-income status by 2030 and be a high-income country by 2050.

Honorable Speaker, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman

10. Cambodia has always strictly complied with open, inclusive and effective multilateralism based on rules-based principles. Under the current legislature, Cambodian foreign policy clearly highlights “reforming at home and making friends abroad on the basis of independence.” In this regard, I encourage all APA members to redouble their efforts for mutual understanding with frank and productive discussions

Intervention by Hon. Dr. Nguon Nhel at 12th APA Plenary Session, Antalya, 2019

Page 3

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as well as to enhance multilateral actions to achieve a world with sustained peace, prosperity and equity. We need to abide by rules-based multilateral cooperation to protect and maintain peace and sustainable development.

11. On behalf of the Cambodian delegation, I wish to thank once again the Grand National Assembly of Turkey for its excellent arrangements and great contribution to the progress of APA. With the strong and active engagement of APA members, I strongly believe that this assembly will be even more active, lively and dynamic with new achievements to build an Asia region with peace, prosperity and progress. I would also like to thank the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially its parliament, for its generous financial and technical support for APA operations and work since its inception.
12. Finally, I wish to convey my best wishes to the Honorable Speaker, the organizing committee and especially the government and people of Turkey as well as all Honorable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen for good health and success in your noble mission to serve your nations and peoples.

Thank you for your kind attention.

**12th ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY PLENARY
SESSION**

**Anatalya, Turkey
December 13-18, 2019**

SPEECH

**Dr Mohammed Ali Saif,
Head of Delegation
PARLIAMENT OF PAKISTAN**



- **Honourable Speakers, Presiding Officers and Representatives of APA Member and Observer countries,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen!**

It is a great privilege to address this gathering of parliamentary leaders, colleagues and friends from Asia and beyond here in the beautiful city of Antalya.

I am thankful to Turkish National Assembly, especially **His Excellency the Speaker**, for warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for this 12th Plenary session.

I am pleased to note that APA, which gained great momentum during Pakistan's presidency, continues to progress under Turkish leadership.

Pakistan's efforts resulted in two key initiatives. Firstly, the creation of Special Committee on Creation of Asian Parliament, and, secondly, the Working Group on Asian Parliament formed at APA meeting in Gwadar last year.

Keeping in view this plenary's theme of "***The Role of Multilateral Cooperation Among Asian Parliaments***", I like to recall that Pakistan, during its two-year APA presidency always made great efforts to build both multilateral and inter-parliamentary partnerships.

It is our collective responsibility to promote cooperation between Member Parliaments to achieve common legislations reflecting existing political, cultural and economic diversities.

Multilateral cooperation among Asian parliaments is a must to ensure democratic, peaceful and integrated solutions. We have no shortage of resources, or quality human capital and determination. Inter-parliamentary connectivity, therefore, can help to use these valued assets to our advantage.

I strongly urge the Asian Parliamentary leadership present here to promote and encourage strong inter-parliamentary cooperation and partnerships for the wellbeing and prosperity of our nations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Realizing the Asian Century dream depends upon first resolving regional conflicts and hurdles to peace and progress like Kashmir; Palestine and Rohingya issues.

Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir is a nuclear flash point and a source of instability and unrest in the region. One of the oldest unresolved issues on the UN agenda, Kashmir is a global issue that requires attention and prompt solution as per UNSC resolutions and universal principles of fundamental human rights, freedom, justice and fair play.

In this regard; it is necessary to make reference to certain facts which have further aggravated these human rights violations. On 5th August, 2019, India imposed curfew and in a unilateral attempt, declared the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir as part of India. Thus For last four months, people of the Held Valley

have been facing a brutal curfew and communications lockdown, grave human rights violations, murder, torture, arrests and restrictions on personal freedoms. While India profess religious tolerance, there is a complete ban on holding religious ceremonies in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, so much and so, that Kashmiris are not allowed to bury their dead and hold funeral prayers for the departed ones. The Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir has been isolated from the world to suppress the voice of Kashmiri people and keep the world in dark regarding the atrocities being committed in the area. 10 lac army personnel have been deputed to control 80 lac Kashmiri people making it a ratio of one soldier for 10 innocent Kashmiris. India has not only violated the UNSC resolutions but also blatantly desecrated all norms of humanity and human rights. UNSC, OIC and other International Organizations have strongly condemned the brutality being carried out by India specially the unilateral imposition of curfew. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and other international Human Rights Organizations have time and again protested against the human rights violations in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. United National Human Rights Council in its reports of 2018 and 2019 has strongly condemned the human rights violations by India. These reports are available on the United Nation's website and I urge you to please go through these reports. Indian terms this issue as a bilateral issue whereas the entire world as well as the UN resolutions have identified this issues as an international issue and offered mediation and plebiscite as a solution. The magnitude of this issue is no less than the Palestine and Rohingya issues and please remember that brutality on one human is a brutality against the whole humanity. Cruelty and injustice anywhere is cruelty and injustice everywhere. India is committing blatant violation of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, United Nations Convention against Torture, United Nations Convention against racial discrimination, Genocide Conventions, Conventions against enforced disappearances and other related conventions. India claims that it has taken the 5th August, 2019, step for

development and progress of the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is an established fact that there can be no development and progress without free consent. This used to happen in the era of colonization, Prime Minister Modi has adopted the model of colonization which is a failed attempt to suppress the right of self-determination and a sheer violation of the fundamental rights.

Why I am narrating these facts informant of you because I want to clear certain misconception being propagated by India. My colleague from India claimed about religious tolerance, religious diversity, religious and cultural pluralism, however, on ground realities are completely different and horrible. Centuries old Babri Mosque was destroyed, recently a Citizenship Act has been passed by the Indian Parliament, which has deprived millions of Muslims from claiming Indian citizenship, and this is the true face of India which we want to show to the world. I have not fabricated these laws; these are available on the websites and many countries have already made observations on these laws and we have also seen condemnations coming from all quarters.

Distinguish Delegates,

It is very easy to state that don't speak about my crimes because you are criminals. This may be right in India but it's not applicable in the world. Moreover, Pakistan itself is the victim of terrorism. Seventy thousand Pakistanis have been killed in the war against terrorism. Secondly, what about the attack on Sikh Gurdwaras in 1980s when you disintegrated Sikh temples and killed thousands of Sikhs when former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinate? Was it religious freedom? What about Babri Mosque? What about the killer of Gujrat your Prime Minister Narendra Modi who was declared the butcher of Gujrat by the whole world? Your Supreme Court has given judgment on his atrocities as well.

So do not blame us. Look into your own house. You call us a rogue state? No. Your Prime Minister is a rouge person who is a Dracula of these times. He is the killer of Gujrat. He has not only killed but personally responsible for killings. He is the epitome of Draconian actions which speaks of his character. The whole country should throw him out and put him in the Arabian Sea rather than you defending him here. I am very sorry that you are speaking of cultural atmosphere and cultural strength of India but here you are defending a terrorist.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I strongly urge the APA Members to play their due role in resolving Kashmir issue as per UNSC resolutions for the sake of regional peace, stability and progress.

We are not here to defend the policies of our respective Governments; we are Parliamentarians, hence representatives people and their aspirations. Public interest is different from that of interest of the Government. Any violations of interest of public anywhere should be condemned everywhere. I am raising voice for all such people, either be it Palestinian, Rohingya or any person anywhere in the world. Asian Parliamentary Assembly stands for peace and tolerance and we must respect that mandate. Let's take solid steps toward achieving its objectives.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan believes that there is a dire need to reform and strengthen APA by revisiting its internal administrative and financial structures, rules and mechanisms.

Reforms are the need of the hour to make APA more representative and dynamic. It will also enable it to broaden its role and work more effectively with Member Parliaments in realizing common ideals of democracy, durable peace, rule of law, inclusive development, respect for human rights, and effective conflict resolution.

I appreciate and welcome Kuwait for assuming the important portfolio as Chair of the Working Group on Statutory Documents during the first Executive Council Meeting held in Turkey in October. We support, in principle, the amendments proposed by Russia, and I am confident that through our joint efforts and input, the Working Group will be able to thoroughly review the document and create consensus in this regard.

Hopefully, this plenary session will guide us to seek viable solutions to all matters placed on its agenda, through consensus and understanding.

Thank You!

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Palestine National Council

Speaker Office

Ref.

Date



المجلس الوطني الفلسطيني

مكتب الرئيس

الرقم :

التاريخ :

The Speech of Father Constantine Qarmash
Deputy Speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC)
Head of the Palestinian Delegation to
12th Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)
Antalya - Turkey
13-18 Dec. 2019

Your Excellency, Mr. Prof. Mustafa ŞENTOP

The Speaker of the Grand National Assembly – Turkey,
President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Your Excellency, Mr. Muhammad Majeedi

Secretary-General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Your Excellencies, Honorable Speakers of Parliaments,

Your Excellencies, distinguished heads of delegations,

Your Excellencies, Members,

First of all, on behalf of the Speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), Mr. Saleem Al-Za'anoun,, and members of the Palestinian delegation, I extend my sincere thanks to His Excellency Mr. Prof. Mustafa ŞENTOP, Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly / President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly for his kind invitation, and for the generous hospitality, and thanks also to Mr. Muhammed Majeedi, Secretary-General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

Our session is taking place in this beautiful city, under the title "The Role of, Multilateral Cooperation between Asian Parliaments", which is a very important topic, and cooperation has interests for all. Asian parliaments have a great responsibility to set the necessary mechanisms to enhance cooperation between them, and to initiate a general framework for it, in order to play an effective role in removing obstacles. Asia deserves to make us spend exceptional efforts, it is the largest continent in size (44 million km2), and the most populated (about 4.5 billion people), and it is also the home of the world's first great ancient civilizations and the cradle of religions.

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ص.ب ٩١٠٢٤٤
عمان ١١١٩١ الأردن
تلفون : ٥٨٥٧٢٠٨/٩ (٦) ٠٠٩٦٢
فاكس : ٥٨٥٥٧١١ (٦) ٠٠٩٦٢

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Ladies & Gentlemen,

The occupied State of Palestine is an integral part of our extended large continent, but unfortunately it remains under a criminal racist Israeli occupation, which continues the daily terror against children, women and the elderly. This reminds us of what Herodos, the juaidaization ruler in Jerusalem, who responded to the birth of Christ by killing the children of Bethlehem, who are two years of age and under, to get rid of this child, the Christ, he killed 14 thousand children, but the message of this child spread throughout the world, and its roots are cultivated in all the holy Palestinian lands. We, the Palestinians, are the guardians of it.

In spite of this, we certainty believe that the star of birth will rise again, and the path of the independent Palestinian state with its capital, the city of Jerusalem, will shine for us again, despite the oppression of the new Herodos and his servants, where they continue to kill, arrest and destroy homes, besiege Gaza Strip, steal lands and settle in, and they intend to attack Islamic and Christianity sanctities, and violate the holy places of worship, especially the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque.

For all of this, we desperately need you, the peoples and countries of Asia to stop the series of oppression and injustice to which our people are subjected, and get rid of this criminal Israeli occupation that Trump Administration is supporting and protecting.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

We are subjected to an open war and unprecedented attack by the Trump Administration and his Zionist team, who assaulted our rights, international law and international resolutions. Trump Administration moved its embassy to occupied Jerusalem, after recognizing it as the capital of the Israeli occupation, then supported it with a set of other decisions and steps, including closing the Palestine Representative Office in Washington, and stopped USA support for "UNRWA", with the intention of canceling the refugees' right to return, but USA failed, then USA stopped its financial support to Palestine, to force Palestinians to accept the so-called "Deal of the Century", and also failed to achieve its goal.

Trump Administration was not satisfied with that, it tried to impose an economic solution in exchange for rights, but again failed greatly, and announced the deletion of any reference to the Palestinian territories from the correspondence of the US State Department, then recognized the sovereignty of the Israeli occupation over the Syrian Arab Golan. But the whole world rejected that.

In a confrontation to all these pressures, blackmail, and injustice by the strongest country in the world, Palestine, its people and its leadership headed by President Mahmoud Abbas has withstood, and has faced all these decisions with consistency, pride, and dignity. We will continue to defend our rights and our dignity.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

At a time when the whole world is celebrating - next week - the birthday of the Messenger of Love and Peace - Jesus Christ - in the Palestinian city of Bethlehem, where I am proud that I was born in Beit Jala, the adjacent town to Bethlehem, the prime minister of settlers government, Netanyahu, practices his terror against our people, our land and our holy sites, and continues his colonial policy, with entire protection and support of Trump Administration, while US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced on 18th of Nov. 2019 that "Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is not inconsistent with the international law".

On behalf of the Palestinian people, we call on you to reject this declaration, which flagrantly violates international law and international resolutions, violates the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, violates the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 2004 on the wall and settlement, and violates the Rome Statute of 1998, which considered settlement and its consequences a war crime.

We also invite you to condemn the USA recognition and any other party or country that may recognize the results of the occupation and settlement, because that constitutes a threat to international peace and security, and an unacceptable attempt to change the legal rules upon which the international system was established.

We also welcome the decision of the European Court of Justice on Israeli settlements and the prohibition of their products. We call on the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mrs. Michel Bachelet, to expedite the publication of the "black list" of Israeli and foreign companies that deal or work in Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, as a necessary step to isolate settlements and protect human rights.

The world has responded to the American-Israeli violations of international law. 170 countries voted in the United Nations in favor of extending the mandate of the "UNRWA" Agency, and 14 members of the UN Security Council rejected the legitimization of settlements, and the US House of Representatives approved a resolution a few days ago to support the two-state solution as the sole solution of the conflict, and acknowledges the aspirations of our people to establish their own state, and rejects the policy of annexation and settlement. We deem the UN 170 countries votes and Security Council decision a positive response to the US Administration, which continued its violations of international law and the rights of the Palestinian people.

Dear beloved, the wise people of the world, heads and members of parliamentary delegations, we appeal to you to affirm supporting the right word to stop Israel hegemony. We appeal to you to provide more support to Palestinian people, to defend the freedom of peoples, and to join the effort to isolating and trapping all voices that try to come above the principles of freedom, justice, values, and human rights worldwide, and to avoid further chaos, bloodshed and suffering.

Dear beloved, respond to the truth, and do not let the forces of darkness wreak havoc in Palestine, the land of peace, and do not allow them to repeat the criminal act again, as happened in 1450 B.C., Joshua bin Nun annihilated the city of Jericho and other Palestinian cities, including the people, trees and stone (the book of Joshua bin Noun Chapter 7.6).

In conclusion, we in Palestine - despite the injustice, historical ternary and painful concession on our part in favor of peace - affirm our adherence to a just peace that guarantees us the right to self-determination and right of return to our land, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with its capital, the city of Jerusalem, in accordance with relevant international legitimacy resolutions.

Until we achieve this, we will remain steadfast in our land, defend it, and will not leave it.

Thank you for your kind attention



Asian Parliamentary Assembly

The 12th Plenary Session

13-18 December 2019

Antalya, Turkey

**SC-Social&Cultural/Rep/2019/08
15 December 2019**

Report of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

The Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs was held on 15 December 2019. The member parliaments attending the 12th Plenary participated in the deliberations of this Committee.

1. Adoption of the Agenda:

The Draft Agenda was adopted unanimously ([Attachment I](#)).

2. Election of the Bureau:

In absence of Thai delegation who hosted the Standing Committee in Bangkok on February 2019, H.E. Senator CHHIT Kim Yeat of Cambodia chaired the meeting.

H.E. Mr. Rahimi Jahani Abadi, M.P. from Parliament of Iran was elected as the Vice-Chair of the meeting.

3. Opening Remarks by Chairperson:

Chairperson informed the meeting on the 13 resolutions to be considered by the committee and requested the representative of the Secretariat to briefly introduce

them. The chairperson reminded the participants of the APA Decision on 1 December 2016 which states that:

Any technical comments or editorial corrections in the draft resolutions during Executive Council meetings or Plenary sessions are permitted.

4. Report of the Secretariat:

The representative of Secretariat mentioned that out of 13 resolutions in this committee there were 3 new draft resolutions tabled by Thailand (Quality Child and Aging Society) and Kuwait (Human Development). On the resolution concerning “Migrant Workers” the meeting decided to defer it to the next Standing Committee.

5. Consideration of the situation of Women Parliamentarians in Asia:

Based on APA /Res/2014/16 to establish Special Committee of APA women parliamentarians under the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, the following member parliaments presented their views: India, Palestine, Indonesia, Iran, The Philippines, Bahrain and Qatar.

Delegation of Bahrain proposed a special conference for women parliamentarians to be held by APA.

6. Consideration of Draft Resolutions on Social and Cultural Affairs recommended by the 2nd Executive Council:

The following draft resolutions were considered by the Committee:

1. Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia
2. Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology
3. Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia
4. Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia (*Deferred*)
5. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption
6. Draft Resolution of APA Women Parliamentarians
7. Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions

8. Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia
9. Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia
10. Draft Resolution on Humanitarian Aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar on the Verge of the Humanitarian Catastrophe
11. Draft Resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia (*New*)
12. Draft Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia (*New*)
13. Draft Resolution on “Human Development in Asia” (*New*)

Except the draft resolution on “Migrant Workers” which is deferred and 3 new draft resolutions, the other 9 draft resolutions were adopted. The draft resolution on “Humanitarian Aid to Syria...” was slightly amended and adopted. Delegation of Turkey registered her reservation on China’s amendment.

The following delegations during consideration of draft resolutions presented their comments and amendments. The chair requested that all such amendments should be drafted in a written form and be submitted to the Secretariat for further elaboration in the next Standing Committee:

- Indonesia: Draft resolution on Information and Communication
- Qatar: Draft resolution on Against Corruption
- Indonesia: Draft resolution on Women Parliamentarian
- Philippines: On several Draft resolution
- China: Draft resolution on Humanitarian Aid (adopted with reservation)
- Turkey: Draft resolution on Combating Drug Trafficking (adopted)

7- Any other matter:

No issue was raised.

Attachment I



Asian Parliamentary Assembly
The 12th Plenary Session



13-18 December 2019
Antalya, TURKEY

Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

Draft Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda,
- 2- Election of the Bureau,
- 3- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 4- Report of the Secretariat
- 5- Consideration of the situation of Women Parliamentarians in Asia
- 6- Consideration of Draft Resolutions on Social and Cultural Affairs recommended by the 2nd Executive Council
- 7- Any other matters.



Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

1.	Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia	6
2.	Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology	9
3.	Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia	12
4.	Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption	16
5.	Resolution of APA Women Parliamentarians	18
6.	Resolution on Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions	21
7.	Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia.....	24
8.	Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia.....	27
9.	Resolution on Humanitarian Aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar on the Verge of the Humanitarian Catastrophe	31
10.	Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia (Deferred)	33
11.	Draft Resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia (New).....	37
12.	Draft Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia (New)	39
13.	Draft Resolution on “Human Development in Asia” (New)	41



Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia

APA/Plenary/SC- Social/Res/2019/01
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions, APA/Res/2013/05; APA/Res/2010/05; APA/Res/2009/05; APA/Res/2008/17; and APA/Res/2007/02; on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia;

Considering the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, 1954, and its protocols;

Recognizing the significant role of parliaments both in safeguarding their respective national cultural heritage and in harmonizing Asian approach in respect of cultural diversity;

Emphasizing that cultural diversity is dependent on protection of cultural heritage, and the existence of common grounds among Asian ancient civilizations provide solid grounds for co-existence and co-operation among nations in the region;

Re-affirming that cultural heritage is a fundamental component of the cultural identity of a people and their social cohesion, and its disrespect, damage or destruction may have adverse consequences for human dignity and human rights; particularly the rights of marginalized communities;

Recognizing that tolerance is one of the fundamental values of humanity, which entails promotion of cultural diversity, culture of peace, and dialogue among civilizations;

Recognizing the increasing importance of culture, as an integral part of development plans of all nations in Asia and beyond;

Promoting greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures and religions by means of concrete projects in the priority areas of youth, education, and media, in collaboration with governments, international and regional organizations, in line with the outcome of the first World Cultural Forum, in Bali, Indonesia in November 2013 and document entitled “Bali Declaration on the Alliance of Civilizations”, held in Bali, Indonesia, in 29 and 30 August 2014;

Reiterating that multicultural dynamism in Asia provides as an indispensable asset for making a strong Asian community based on mutual respect and recognition of all Asian cultures and civilizations;

Acknowledging that Cultural heritage has always been considered as an important resource for tourism, an indispensable element for many travel tours;

Noting the exploitation of cultural heritage in tourism activities should not make any negative consequences on the local culture and environment;

Noting that globalization creates opportunities for greater interaction among cultures and civilizations while bringing about challenges in preserving and celebrating the rich intellectual and cultural diversity in Asia

Noting that the establishment of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) under the framework of the International Conference of the Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) shall serve as an important platform for culture of peace, sustainable development, human connectivity and innovation at the Siem Reap Declaration;

Recalling the UNESCO convention on Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, 1970 to protect the cultural heritage in Asia;

Considering the smuggling of cultural objects from Asia a threat to the richness of Asian cultural heritage, and underline the important role of parliaments to both raise public awareness about this challenge and to strengthen, where necessary;

Deploring the un-repairable damage brought to cultural and religious heritage by terrorism and organized crimes, especially damages to all religious and historical sites and holy shrines by indiscriminate bombing and shelling in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan;

Condemning Israeli attacks on the Al-Aqsa mosque and the excavation and infringements on all Islamic and Christian holy sites in the 1961 occupied Palestinian territories and refuse Israel's failure to comply with UNESCO resolutions concerning East Jerusalem;

Expressing grave concerns regarding theft, damage, or destruction to any place of worship of any religion, cultural, religious, or historical heritage in Asia;

1. **Determine** to encourage and promote further intercultural dialogue and inter-religious exchanges throughout Asia;
2. **Resolve** to appreciate and promote the benefits of diversity and good governance among Asian nations, and encourage values such as justice, human rights, non-discrimination, democracy and respect within and among communities and nations;
3. **Reject** all manifestations of discrimination that are based on racism, xenophobia and all other related forms of intolerance;
4. **Remain Committed** to the protection of the rights of all communities, where applicable, so as to ensure the fulfillment of community rights

5. **Urge** relevant governmental agencies to further facilitate consular services as appropriate for citizens of Asian countries to allow for greater people-to-people interaction;
6. **Acknowledge** that illegal import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property and artifacts is responsible for the impoverishment of the cultural identity of the countries of origin of such property;
7. **Decide** to remain cognizant of damages to religious holy places and historical sites by ISIS and other terrorist organizations in our home continent;
8. **Resolve** to cooperate to prevent illegal import, export or transfer of cultural property and artifacts among Asian countries and beyond;
9. **Urge** Member Parliaments to consider ratifying the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
10. **Call Upon** all Member Parliaments to promote tolerance and empathy among Asian nations with a view to diminish distrust, misunderstanding, and conflict among religious communities;
11. **Strongly Recommend** APA Member Parliaments to promote tourism in association with conservation and protection of cultural heritage;
12. **Reiterate** that during armed conflict, states should adopt measures to safeguard the cultural and natural heritage of a nation in conformity with international law and the principles and objectives of international agreements and UNESCO recommendations concerning the protection of such heritage during hostilities;
13. **Reiterate** that Member Parliaments should adopt measures to safeguard and restore the cultural and natural heritage of nations in conformity with International law and the principles of objectives of international agreements and UNESCO recommendations concerning the protection of such heritage during hostilities, including those caused by conflicts and violent extremism;
14. **Request** the APA Secretary General to uphold cooperation between APA and international and regional organizations such as UNESCO, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), ISESCO and relevant Asian NGOs active in promoting cultural diversity and dialogue among civilizations;
15. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to support establishing an award to be presented annually to outstanding Asian artists; authors, poets, film makers, painters, etc. who best convey the APA's commitment to cultural diversity in Asia;
16. **Request** the APA Secretary General to work with the Universities and research institutions in the Asian region to do researches and studies on the identification and promotion of common cultural aspects of the Asian countries.



Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology

APA/Plenary/SC- Social/Res/2019/02
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Reaffirming that right to access to information is an integral part of the fundamental right of freedom of expression, as recognized by Resolution 59 of the UN General Assembly adopted in 1946, as well as by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966);

Recalling para.5 of article 3 of the Charter of the APA;

Recalling WSIS¹ outcomes of 2003, 2005 held under UN aegis to build a people centered, inclusive and development oriented information society and UN resolution 125 of the UN General Assembly adopted in its 70th session in 2016 on High level review of WSIS+10 on global ICTs development and measures to facilitate accomplishment of SDGs;

Recalling APA Resolution, APA/ Res/ 2014/11, and APA/Res/2014/13;

Underlining that Asian integration can be achieved through further dialogue, interaction, and communication among Asian people, parliamentarians, government officials, academic and educational institutions, and media for the promotion of peace, liberty, equality, human rights, and welfare in Asia;

Concerned with negative impact of globalization on widening the gap between the rich and poor in Asia, and the further marginalization of developing countries in the world;

Recognizing the fact that today Asia encompasses the biggest market in the world, the highest number of population; the largest amount of foreign currency reserves; and dynamic economic growth;

Re-affirming the deep-rooted ties of history, geography, economics, culture, and civilization that bind Asian peoples together and the common interests pointing to the need for further cooperation;

¹ World Summit on Information Society held under the aegis of UN and ITU in 2003 and 2005

Emphasizing the principle of free flow of information, on privacy protection, equitable access to communication, and access to new technologies at the national, regional and global levels;

Deeply concerned by the proliferation of fake and fabricated news, misinformation and disinformation as the negative result of development in digital technology which can generate sentiments, hostility and disintegration among community;

Underlining the fundamental role of information and communication technology as an indispensable factor in all areas of national; regional, and global development;

Stressing the view that global networking provides opportunities for APA Member Parliaments to share experiences and engage in fruitful dialogue on significant issues in Asia and facilitates further cooperation and coordination, on the way of Asian integration process;

Underlining that the Asian Virtual Parliament will pave the way for sharing information, harmonizing legislation and raising people's awareness about the activities of the legislative body and ensure a more profound feedback between society, power and individuals, and thus contribute to strengthening peace in Asia;

Emphasizing that, the role of parties, civil society, non- governmental organizations (NGOs) and other democratic structures in public sphere, provide opportunities in Asian countries for exchange of views, interactions and synergy to promote regional and global cooperation in order to reinforce the long term process for Asian Integration;

1. **Call upon** and emphasis APA Member Parliaments to volunteer for providing knowledge and know-how, technical assistance, financial support, human resources; and other form of assistance in creating a "Virtual Asian Parliament" based on the report by the APA Secretary General on the subject matter in order to enhance collaboration and interaction among parliaments and parliamentarians in Asia and as a prelude to establishing a model of Asian Parliament;
2. **Determine** all the modern and traditional ways to help complete the plan to promote, publicize and disseminate information amongst citizens within the APA region; including the use of social media;
3. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to support vocational and knowledge-based education in Asia in order to enhance people's life-skills and competitiveness in coping with the challenges of globalization;
4. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to share best practices and exchange experiences with a view to inspiring a common approach toward Asian integration through holding special workshops and forums among Asian Member Parliaments;
5. **Call upon** the UN and its specialized agencies affiliated organizations, particularly ITU, the UN Specialized agency in ICTs, to support the Members of this Assembly

through collaboration in the development of digital connectivity and services in the region in partnership with regional organizations in particular Asia Pacific Telecommunity in bridging the digital divide and UNESCO, to support the Members of this Assembly to surmount the hurdles, identified by research centers, think tanks and intellectuals, hampering circulation of ideas through available means for free flow of communication and information;

6. **Exhort** APA Member Parliamentarians to collaborate and take necessary measures to promote the development of ICT infrastructure through enabling policies, capacity building, building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, inter alia;
7. **Also Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to promote parliamentary action to address the proliferation of fake and fabricated news, misinformation and disinformation caused by the digitalization of information, including but not limited to, information awareness, fact-checking collaboration and the establishment of complaint procedure mechanism, where necessary, without limiting the Asian Citizen's fundamental rights to know and freedom to access information as well as freedom of expression;
8. **Request** the APA Secretary-General to seek possible technical and financial assistance from Member Parliaments and other institutions to facilitate the implementation of this resolution and prepare a report with comprehensive approach to accelerate the process of Asian Integration.



Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia

APA/Plenary/SC- Social/Res/2019/03
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions, APA/Res/2013/07; APA/Res/2010/02; and APA/Res/2009/06;

Recalling the advises in the report of the Secretary-General on Achieving Health Equity in Asia, SG/Rep/2011/02 Dated 22 August 2011, submitted to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 13-14 September, 2011;

Welcoming the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/Rep/2014/02 dated 10 August, 2014;

Underlining the WHO report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health for addressing the impact of socio-economic inequalities on health at global, regional and national levels;

Recalling Alma Ata Declaration adopted on 6-12 September 1978 defined differences in health as a common concern of all countries and invited all to work on the fullest attainment of health for all and to reduce the gap between health status, and Astana Declaration adopted on 25-26 October 2018 reaffirming the commitments expressed in Alma Ata Declaration;

Taking note of difference of health equity status among countries in Asia;

Welcoming the Sustainable Development Goals adopted on 25 September 2015 and reaffirming its pivotal role in enhancement of the health equity;

Welcoming the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, adopted on 19 September 2011, reaffirming the political will to effectively implement the commitments contained therein and referring to the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

Recalling United Nation General Assembly resolution 66/288 on “The future we want”, which recognized health as a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development;

Recalling the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health endorsed by the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly in resolution WHA65.8 in May 2012;

Welcoming United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/138 proclaiming 12 December as International Universal Health Coverage Day and calling upon APA Member Parliaments to benefit from this day to raise awareness and promote Universal Health Coverage in their policies;

Appreciating United Nations' decision to hold a high level meeting on Universal Health Coverage during its 74th General Assembly which will take place in September 2019;

Recognizing that access to medicines is one of the fundamental elements in achieving progressively the full realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

Recalling the importance of placing equity and people-centered policies in the core of health agenda and noting central role of enabling Universal Health Coverage to provide equitable access to quality health services without financial hardship and access to quality affordable medicine and medical technologies;

Recognizing that health inequities arise from social determinants of health, that is, the societal conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age and gender that these determinants include experiences in their early years, education, economic status, employment and decent work, housing and environment, and effective systems of preventing and treating ill health;

Emphasizing the need to comprehensively deal with social and health related problems emanating from illegal drugs, psychotropic, alcohol and tobacco products, and promote policies to prevent and control their use, abuse and addiction;

Expressing concern about the existing socio-economic inequalities and their impact on the poor, marginalized and vulnerable groups, as well as the remote geographical areas and underserved urban areas;

Expressing concern on deteriorating health effects of wars and armed conflicts by hindering provision and quality of health service and causing depravation from fundamental human rights prospective to health, due to the inequalities in access and utilization of qualified health services;

Stressing the view that global net-working provides opportunities for Member Parliaments to engage in fruitful dialogue and exchange of best practices on health equity;

Reaffirming the significant role of parliaments both in advocating and promoting national policies and legislative measures for achieving health equity;

Having in mind that access to basic health services and medicine is a universally accepted norm arising from fundamental elements of human rights;

1. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to incorporate Social Determinants of Health (SDH) more intensively in other APA themes and activities;
2. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to strengthen collaboration with a view to formulating a coherent approach with regard to social determinants of health in Asia, especially education, housing, and employment;
3. **Invite** the APA Member Parliaments to promote health equity in Asia through sharing experiences and best practices on identifying vulnerability and inequity and actively advocate the inclusion of social determinants of health in national policies and programs;
4. **Invite** APA member Parliaments to develop a cross-sectoral collaboration for the advancement of health equity in Asia through comprehensive training and study exchanges on social determination of health among policy makers and related stake holders;
5. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt policies and measures to improve service provision, primary care and health financing system including social protection system as well as health insurance plans for a more equitable resource distribution;
6. **Call on** Member Parliaments of APA to encourage their respective governments in order to establish networking among major governmental and non-governmental institutions dealing with health issues in Asia, and expand cooperation with academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups and the media with adequate safeguard in order to identify the main social determinants of health;
7. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to take action in their countries to increase health literacy and awareness;
8. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to persuade their respective governments to create and implement more sharpened and targeted policies, activities, and programs to ensure a success in the achievement of SDGs including universal health coverage with regard to health policies; and promoting access to quality, efficacious, safe and affordable medicines and medical technologies;
9. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to take necessary actions and to encourage their respective governments to ensure child nutrition needs and to tackle malnutrition with a focus on equity for a healthier generation;

10. **Determine** to accelerate the achievement of SDG 2030 health targets and to take active part on the discussion of 2030 development agenda by delivering Asian views in the international arena to drive the global agenda;
11. **Encourage** the APA Member Parliaments to actively participate in the process of arriving at common objectives which could form the basis of national legislations promoting health equity in Asia, with due attention to equitable social protection policies for health care, long term disability, and protection during unemployment and old age, as appropriate in the national context and priorities;
12. **Call upon** the international community to continue support and assist developing countries in Asia and avoid all politically motivated measures aimed at hampering their access in this regard;
13. **Invite** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt relevant legislation to support universal access of all population in Asia to basic health services and pharmaceutical products;
14. **Request** Member Parliaments to inform the Secretary-General on the progress made on the implementation of this resolution in their respective countries in order to share them with all Member Parliaments.



Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption

APA/Plenary/SC- Social/Res/2019/04
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2013/09, December 2013; APA/Res/2010/01; APA/Res/2009/03; APA/Res/2008/18; as well as the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05/Annex;

Taking note of the importance of the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted by the General Assembly on October 31, 2003 and other anti-corruption conventions and relevant binding legal instruments;

Recognizing that fighting corruption at all levels and in all its forms is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication and sustainable development;

Bearing in mind that corruption is a transnational phenomenon, that prevention and eradication of corruption is a responsibility of all States and that they must cooperate with one another;

Reaffirming the importance of respect for human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and democracy in the fight against corruption;

Recognizing the important role of parliaments to promote transparency, participation, accountability and integrity as some of the principles of anti-corruption strategy;

Acknowledging that the fight against all forms of corruption requires comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach including anti-corruption frameworks and strong institutions at all levels;

Expressing concern about the laundering and transfer of stolen assets and proceeds of corruption, and stressing the need to address this concern in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

1. **Condemn** corruption at all levels and in all its forms, including bribery; money laundering; and abuse of power;
2. **Express** determination to prevent and combat corrupt practices in all forms and collaborate on facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to their

legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

3. **Welcome** the significant number of Member States that have already ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and in this regard urges all APA Member Parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption as a matter of priority, and urges all States Parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures ensuring its full and effective implementation;
4. **Resolve** to promote exchange of good practices and experiences regarding the role of Parliaments in preventing and countering corruption, including by raising awareness among public, reviewing and strengthening anti-corruption legislation, exercising parliamentary oversight, fostering a culture of transparency and accountability, promoting rule of law and strengthening institutions at national level;
5. **Invite** the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to consider holding thematic discussion on strengthening the role of national parliaments in fighting corruption, including promoting the implementation of this Convention;
6. **Decide** to set up a working group under the auspices of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs to further consider the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05/ Annex with a view to taking effective measures for enhancing synergy and interactions among Asian Parliamentarians in fighting corruption;
7. **Consider** to improve and expand working relations with important Asian organizations such as ARPAC, SEAPAC, SAPAC, and GOPAC Chapter in order to enhance synergy and areas for cooperation and joint initiatives;
8. **Urge** States Parties to United Nations Convention against Corruption that have not already done so to designate a central authority that shall have the responsibility and power to receive requests for mutual legal assistance and either to execute them or to transmit them to the competent authorities for execution;
9. **Request** the Secretary-General to prepare in consultation with interested APA Delegations, particularly APA delegates with interest and experience in anti-corruption efforts, the required draft documents for consideration by the working group set up in this respect;
10. **Request** also the APA Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on implementation of this resolution.



Resolution of APA Women Parliamentarians

APA/Plenary/SC- Social/Res/2019/05
16 December 2019

We, members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the APA Plenary Resolution (APA/Res/2010/06, 30 November, 2010) on the establishment of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians and the APA Resolution on Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians (APA/Res/2014/16) superseding the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians, as well as other relevant resolutions;

Mindful of the fact that despite all efforts made for the promotion of women's rights, gender inequality and injustice still persists between women and men both in the extent of power at decision-making and in mechanisms to promote the advancement of women;

Aware of the importance of promoting the participation of women in scientific, social, political, cultural and economic affairs, and peace dialogue;

Reaffirming that inclusion of women in positions of power and elected bodies, and also their involvement in the decision making process, strengthens the development of democratic principles in public life and increases the economic development;

Noting that the main obstacles women face in entering Parliaments in Asia including political, socio-economic, cultural prejudices;

Mindful of the necessity to put on the agenda of APA meetings matters of importance to women such as combating violence against women, empowerment of women in society, participation of women in political and economic life, and prevention of all kinds of harassments, sexual violence against women and girls, trafficking, and other types of exploitation including in situation of armed conflict areas;

Considering women's issues, including women's empowerment, combating violence and discrimination against them and engaging women in political, economic and social aspects of life;

Stressing our resolve to participate and contribute actively in the deliberation of issues relating to women's rights, women's empowerment and women's representatives participation in APA meetings;

Noting that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) established a broad legal framework for the protection of women and girls;

Underlining the need to facilitate networking between women parliamentarians of Asia;

1. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to ensure the inclusion and effective participation of women in social, cultural, economic, political, and sustainable development affairs in Asia, at national, regional, and international levels as appropriate;
2. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to adopt legislative regulations to facilitate women's representations in Asian Parliaments;
3. **Encourage** APA Women Parliamentarians to lead by example and place the interest of women at the heart of policy and decision making as an endeavor to engage more women into politics;
4. **Recommend** the importance of information and awareness campaigns to promote the integration of women into political participation and decision – making with a view to reaching national and international parliamentary institutions;
5. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize the concerns of women, and to effectively implement the relevant provisions of United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which promote gender equality and empowerment of women with respect for national and cultural particularities of the Member States;
6. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize that gender equality and empowerment of women as a stand-alone goal with clear targets and indications that must be achieved through implementation of goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with respect to national and cultural particularities of the Member States; with goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); with respect for national and cultural particularities of the Member States;
7. **Determine** to enhance the activities of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarian through more effective exchange of views and close interaction;
8. **Request** the Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians to expand the scope of its activities under the auspices of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs and to take appropriate measures to facilitate networking among women parliamentarians in Asia;
9. **Request** the APA Secretariat to assign one part of the website of the Assembly to facilitate networking among women parliamentarians of Asia covering updated information on the activities of the APA Women Parliamentarians;

10. **Express** grave concern at the dire situation of millions of women in all war-torn and conflict-ridden areas such as Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Myanmar, and Afghanistan who are inevitably in danger of and impacted by mortality and morbidity of themselves and their family members particularly their children, violence, discrimination, insecurity, poverty, hunger and so forth;
11. **Express** support of APA Member Parliaments in advancing women, peace and security agenda, particularly by enhancing women's role in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace operations.



Resolution on Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions

APA/Plenary/SC- Social/Res/2019/06
16 December 2019

We, the members of Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recognizing the valuable role of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in working towards a more peaceful, more socially inclusive world, by promoting greater understanding, tolerance and respect among civilizations, cultures and beliefs;

Recalling with appreciation various global, regional and sub-regional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony including the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/65/PV.34, and also resolution 57/6 of 4 November 2002 concerning the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, the International Conference on Environment, Peace and the Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures, held in Tehran on 9 and 10 May 2005, the Asia- Europe Meeting Interfaith Dialogue on the theme "Building Interfaith Harmony within the International Community", held in Bali, on 21 and 22 July 2005, the High Level Conference on International and Inter-Religious Dialogue, held in Saint Petersburg, Russia on 3 and 4 July 2014, and the seventh global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 26 and 27 April 2016, the VI Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, held in Astana on 10-11 October 2018;

Mindful of the fact that, Inter-Faith harmony between the different religions of the world in general and Asia, in particular, is of utmost importance for the survival of mankind and the promotion of the culture of peace, security and tolerance;

Recognizing the essential role of dialogue among different faiths and religions in enhancing mutual collaboration, harmony and cooperation among their followers;

Expressing the need to explore ways and means to intensify Inter-Faith Harmony and resultant cooperation to strengthen the international peace and security to make the world a better place to live;

Acknowledging that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding;

1. **Decide** to apply for Asian Parliamentary Assembly's membership to the Group of Friends of the UN Alliance of Civilizations as proposed by Turkey during the 11th

General Assembly with a view to contribute the efforts of providing lasting solutions to the rising trends of discrimination, xenophobia and extremism;

2. **Maintain** that a regular dialogue between the APA Member Parliaments become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international ongoing conflicts based on religious differences and discrepancies;
3. **Denounce** the negative stereotyping of any religious, national or ethnic group and condemn any intentional and unintentional activity that leads towards the division between the followers of different faiths;
4. **Urge** all Member Parliaments to harmonize their efforts in promulgating laws and legislations in Asia for improved standards of cooperation between the nations to enhance the patience for the religious beliefs of others;
5. **Declare** that extremism and terrorism can not be attributed or accredited to any religion or nationality as these are common enemy of all humanity;
6. **Consider** any form of xenophobia based on belief, faith or ethnic adherence contrary to the merits of inter-faith dialogue has no place in the community of civilized nations;
7. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to consider to provide a respective national legal instrument, with aim of creating a conducive atmosphere for inter-faith dialogue and cooperation as well harmony among world religions;
8. **Deplore**, in the strongest terms, all atrocities and acts of violence, committed by extremist and terrorist groups under the guise of religions which hold no authentic reference to religious principles and legitimacy in the world, and call upon all states to refrain from providing any support to such groups;
9. **Condemn** the misuse and distortion of religious beliefs, by extremist groups and their followers, which inflame intra-faith as well as inter-faith hatred and hold them accountable for instigation of ill-judgment, violence, and brutality against other faithful people;
10. **Call upon** the international community to be cognizant of humanitarian situations in Asia;
11. **Urge** all APA Member Parliaments to intensify their efforts in utilizing parliamentary diplomacy for the development of international and regional frameworks to promote best practices which leads towards the inter faith harmony and collaboration;

12. **Request** the APA Secretary-General to seek the views as well as measures taken by APA Member Parliaments to implement this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia

APA/Plenary/SC- Social/Res/2019/07
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA/Resolution/2013/05 of 9 December 2013 on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia;

Recalling the relevant provisions where applicable on the protection of cultural heritage including the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its related protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (1972), the New Delhi UNESCO Recommendation of 1956 concerning excavations undertaken in occupied territories, the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls at the request of Jordan on the World Heritage List (1981) and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (1982) and related recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO, (UNESCO, the World Heritage Committee, Decision: 42 COM 7A.21, Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan, C 148 rev);

Underlining the obligation for all States Parties to urgently implement the provisions in paragraphs 15 to 17 of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 (2015), in reference to the cultural heritage at risk in Iraq and Syria;

Taking into account the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 (2017) which aims at mainstreaming the protection of cultural heritage at the global level;

Recalling the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 14 May 1954 and its Protocols of 14 May 1954 and 26 March 1999, and the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property of 14 November 1970;

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/180 of 19 December 2011 on “Strengthening Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses to Protect Cultural Property, especially with regard to its Trafficking”, in which the Assembly urged Member States and relevant institutions, as appropriate, to reinforce and fully implement mechanisms to strengthen international cooperation, including mutual legal assistance, in order to combat all forms and

aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, such as the theft, looting, damage, removal, pillage and destruction of cultural property, and to facilitate the recovery and return of stolen and looted cultural property, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions 68/186 of 18 December 2013 on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking 69/196 of 18 December 2014, entitled “International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences ,” and 70/76 of 9 December 2015 on return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin;

Welcoming the important and active role that the UN and other relevant agencies play in countering money laundering and terrorist financing linked to trade in smuggled artifacts, in particular, in Asia;

Expressing deep concern about the growing problem of smuggling of cultural items in Asia;

Affirming the important role of parliaments prevailing upon the governments to develop a national strategy including a legal framework to combat smuggling of cultural items;

Considering the smuggling of cultural property from Asia a threat to the richness of Asian cultural heritage;

Recognizing the role of parliaments to enhance public awareness about the threat to national identity and heritage of states from which cultural items are smuggled abroad;

Recognizing also the need to enhance national capacities, including parliamentary capacity to reinforce national strategy to combat smuggling of cultural items;

1. **Urge** all APA Member Parliaments to utilize their legislative role to prevent and punish the smuggling of cultural objects in Asia and facilitate concerted efforts to return the stolen items back to their original locations without any cost to the original owner country;
2. **Call on** all APA member parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954), UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), and the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage; (2003);
3. **Request** all APA Member Parliaments to strengthen their national legislation on protecting cultural properties and combatting all forms of smuggling in cultural property and related offences to be enacted on the basis of the common principles prepared by APA Secretariat and annexed to this resolution, and in accordance with their own internal legislative procedures;

4. **Recommend** the formation of a separate Corps Unit from APA Member Parliaments to protect and safeguard historical cultural properties from the perils of unlawful excavations, theft and smuggling;
5. **Express** support for the further strengthening of the system of management to protect movable cultural heritage from theft and smuggling of cultural properties;
6. **Request** the Secretary General to provide assistance to APA Member States who are in need of revising their legislation;
 - A separate Corps Unit should be formed from Group of all APA Member Parliaments to protect and safeguard historical cultural properties from the perils of clandestine excavation, theft and smuggling.



Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia

APA/Plenary/SC- Social/Res/2019/08
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the report of the Standing Committee meeting on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 13-14 September 2011;

Mindful of the fact that illicit drug trafficking and its negative impact on health, safety, public order, governance, economic development and social health constitutes a prime concern in Asia and deserves a comprehensive consideration by the APA;

Stressing the need to continue to take concentrated measures within the framework of the Paris Pact in order to strengthen cross-border cooperation and information exchanged with a view to countering illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs in Asia;

Emphasizing that the danger of illicit drug trafficking is pervasive so there is an urgent need to mobilize efforts of all countries to curb the production of opium and heroin in the Asian continent and to dismantle networks of illicit drug trafficking from all over Asia;

Acknowledging that the States most affected by the transit of drugs, especially the developing countries among them, have made important contributions to and sacrifices in countering illicit drug trafficking and preventing illicitly trafficked substances from region and markets;

Emphasizing afresh the continuing need to provide concrete, sufficient and sustainable technical and capacity-building support to the States most affected by the transit of drugs, especially the developing countries among them, in their efforts to curb illicit drug trafficking and deal with associated challenges;

Recognizing that production and illicit trafficking of narcotics drugs can be utilized for financing of other organized crimes, including terrorism;

Expressing the need to explore ways and means to intensify regional coordination among legislators to combat drug trafficking and make anti-drug policies a priority in programs of co-operation with, and of assistance to, the Asian countries which are affected by illicit drug trafficking;

Recognizing the interconnected challenges facing Asian countries, including continued illegal cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs that pose a serious threat to the region;

Expressing the need to increase international and regional support for the capacity building of law-enforcement agencies in the areas most affected by the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs in Asia, and to intensify training programs for their law-enforcement staff;

Further recognizing the importance of “Alternative Development” program as an approach to reducing the cultivation of plants containing drug substances through rural development measures that has been strongly endorsed by UN Commission on Narcotic Drug;

Stressing the need to enhance joint operations with the relevant law-enforcement agencies of APA Member Parliaments focusing on clandestine heroin-producing laboratories and organized criminal groups involved in the illicit drugs trade, emphasizing the urgent need to increase efforts by the relevant UN Stakeholders aimed at integrated rural development, building infrastructure and supporting farmers engaged in alternative production;

Recognizing the need for more cooperation and intelligence sharing with a result-oriented approach between the law enforcement agencies of the Member States in and including customs and border authorities in order to better tackle smuggling of narcotics and psychotropic substances within the region and beyond;

Supporting regional and international efforts to improve law enforcement in combating the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and curtailing drug related financial activities;

Emphasizing the need to assist countries most affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops in developing its economy and diversifying agriculture so as to reduce people’s dependence on revenues from the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops and trafficking, of narcotic drugs, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and in line with national legislation;

Reaffirming that Alternative Development is crucial, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, that it is an effective measure and one of the key components of policies and programs to counter illicit drug production and other drug-related crime challenges, and stressing that the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Stressing the need to share best practices and take adequate measures in preventing, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts;

Expressing the need for more active and efficient international cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking in Asia;

Attaching great importance to the efforts made by international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN), office of drugs and crimes (UNODC) and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) to combat the threats of international terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activity;

1. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to coordinate among themselves to review relevant legislation to address different aspects of combating illicit drug trafficking by harmonizing laws and making minimum punishment stronger;
2. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to adopt laws on extradition of convicted persons on terrorism and illicit drug trafficking to their countries of origin for fair trial based on national legislations;
3. **Stress** the need to exchange information and best practices within APA Member Parliaments on combating illicit drug trafficking;
4. **Remain vigilant** to the new modes of operations through the digital world and also the availability of the new substances of drug which are not yet listed in the respective national illicit drug lists and call for strong cooperation between APA Member Countries on these issues;
5. **Reiterate** the need to coordinate and improve law enforcement activities to combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and curtailing the flow of illicit drug more effectively;
6. **Encourage** the APA Member Parliaments to consider adopting relevant legislation regulations to strengthen international cooperation to support comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, as an essential elements of successful crop control strategies, especially in areas affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of crops, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and Member Parliaments with extensive relevant expertise to continue to share best practices, upon request;
7. **Underline** the importance of effectively using international financial assistance for the creation of alternative economic opportunities in order to ensure a sustainable anti-drug policy;
8. **Call upon** APA Asian Parliaments to enable civil society as an effective partner of parliaments and to enhance the role of mass media in combating drug trafficking in Asia;
9. **Encourage** all APA Member Parliaments to support their respective governments in order to coordinate with international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN) to combat the threats of international terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activities;

10. **Urge** that a regular dialogue on supporting joint actions of Asian governments against abovementioned threats within APA could become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in the region;
11. **Express** our commitment to encourage and enhance cooperation with all relevant states and international and regional organizations, on matters of common interest in the spirit of this resolution on rendering assistance to combat illicit drug trafficking;
12. **Encourage** networking of the relevant national agencies or organizations in Asia dealing with transnational crimes to further enhance information dissemination and intelligence exchange;
13. **Request** the APA Secretary General to seek the views of all Member Parliaments on ways and means for effective implementation of this resolution.



Resolution on Humanitarian Aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar on the Verge of the Humanitarian Catastrophe

APA/Plenary/SC- Social/Res/2019/09
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Welcoming the establishment of ceasefire regime in SAR ON 30 December 2016 and the Memorandum on the de-escalating zones in the SAR, signed in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, on 4 May 2017;

Recalling UN Security Council resolutions 2139 and 2165;

Appreciating the renewal of UN Security Council Resolution 2165 on 13 December 2018 and the ability to enable cross border assistance in Syria;

Being concerned about the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar and about deprivations inflicted upon the internally displaced persons and refugees or any other affected in those countries;

Welcoming the achievements of the Astana format since January 2017, in particular, the progress made in reducing violence across the Syrian Arab Republic and contributing to peace, security and stability in the country;

Reaffirming their determination to continue joint efforts aimed at protecting civilians and improving their humanitarian situation via facilitating rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to the nations of Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Myanmar;

Acknowledging that the international organizations, including parliamentary ones and NGOs and individual countries shall support delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians trapped in a humanitarian crisis across the globe;

Welcoming all measures taken by APA Members Parliaments' governments to assist Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni and Myanmar displaced persons and² refugees including, inter alia, through providing them with humanitarian aids, safe border crossing and temporary settlement;

Welcoming APA countries who have announced opening their international borders to refugees;

² Delegation of Turkey expressed reservation on "displaced persons and" in this paragraph.

Call upon APA member-states to:

1. **Deliver** humanitarian support to Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni and Myanmar civilians across conflict lines and border crossings both multilaterally and bilaterally in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 46/182;
2. **Support** efforts of countries that host refugees and provide humanitarian aid and recommend to take every effort to facilitate aid delivery in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar;
3. **Encourage** all relevant parties to further allow UN humanitarian agencies and their partners to utilize routes across conflict lines and border crossings in Syria in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 46/182 and UN Security Council resolutions 2139 and 2165;
4. **Provide** assistance to Iraq, Syrian, Yemeni, Gaza and Myanmar internally displaced persons and refugees, deprived of basic needs and desperate in search of shelter;
5. **Stress** that humanitarian aid delivery in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar should be carried on in accordance with International Law and National Legislations of these States and condemn any attempt to violate those laws;
6. **Assist** in creating conditions for the safe and voluntary return as well as their unconditional repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their original places of residence in Syria and Iraq, Myanmar and Yemen;
7. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to closely monitor the safe, voluntary and unconditional repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons in order to ensure the sustainability of the process and the safety of the refugees.



Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia

(Deferred)
EC1/SC- Social/ Draft Res/2019/10
16 December 2019

Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly representing signatory states who are parties to the relevant international conventions and agreements;

Acknowledging that the development of migrant workers and the protection of their rights are in line with the principles of human rights and contribute to the development and promotion of friendly relations among countries;

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international instruments to which the States members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly are parties;

Noting that the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 97 concerning Migration for Employment, ILO Convention 143 concerning Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provision), established a broad legal framework for the protection of migrant workers if applicable;

Taking note of the importance of the 2016 New York Declaration on Refugee and Migrants and ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers³;

Acknowledging the significance of ILO Conventions concerning the protection of the rights of migrant workers as well as United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and Protocols Thereto 'Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children' and 'Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air in promoting human rights of Asian migrant workers without prejudice to their sex, race, language, religion, nationality, or ethnic origin;

³ Adopted with reservations from Thailand.

Noting the adoption of ILO Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers at the 100th International Labor Organization (ILO) Conference in Geneva, 2011 as a global recognition of the rights of domestic workers where many of them are migrants;

Underlining the importance of establishing a national legal framework as well as a broad legal framework for the protection of the rights of migrant workers and noting the legal and illegal status of different cases;

Deeply concerned with the precarious conditions faced by migrant workers such as violating of their human rights including through harassment and violence, discrimination, low pay and low status jobs, unpaid jobs, and overwork;

Underlining the challenges that women migrant workers are facing such as forced confinement, low pay, non-payment, excessive working hours, physically strenuous activities and sexual harassment and abuse, human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and prostitution;

Recognizing that unsettled status of immigrants prevents the establishment of conditions for full scale and comprehensive protection of their right by governments of the countries of destination or transit;

Emphasizing that adaptation of labor immigrants to local conditions and working activity in destination states as well as integration into recipient society are important factors which contribute to effective exercise of the rights of labor immigrants;

Acknowledging the contribution of migrant workers to the society and economy of both receiving and sending states and their input to the development and prosperity of the region;

Bearing in mind the importance of friendly relationships and cooperation among governments, parliaments and the peoples of Asia in solving the problems relating to Asian migrant workers; and in particular, providing repatriation assistance services such as coordination with families, airport assistance, domestic transport, temporary shelter, medical and rehabilitation services;

Recognizing the significant role of parliaments both in strengthening social and human rights policies, and in harmonizing an Asian approach on protecting the rights of migrant workers in Asia;

Confirming that providing adequate measures on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers in Asia is part of a shared responsibility among Asian Countries toward a common vision for security and prosperity, which focused on the improvement of the quality of life of its people;

Concerned with the exodus of people who have tried to flee from their homelands in Asia to some European countries, due to lack or deficiency of security, food, health service, accommodation, employment and so forth; many of whom are young migrant workers;

Noting with great concern that ethnic and other forms of intolerance are the major causes of forced migration;

1. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to consider accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families to stress Asian commitment on the protection of the rights of migrant workers and humanitarian issues in Asia;
2. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to enhance and harmonize their actions towards a better protection of migrant workers' rights, especially the cases of women and children;
3. **Also Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to urge their respective Government to integrate visions, principles, objectives and commitments enshrined under the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration adopted at the UN Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration held in Morocco, December 2018 into their migrant-related national policies;
4. **Request** APA sending countries to provide migrant workers with adequate skills and knowledge in order to be able to fulfill their task and understand the culture, prevailing laws and regulation in the receiving countries;
5. **Emphasizing** that Urge the APA Member States should to facilitate vocational training for migrant labor forces so that those migrant workers can integrate into the receiving country, ensuring their life and contributing to socio-economic development, stability and security in every country;
6. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to ensure that, in case of violation of domestic laws, such laws should be applied in a fair and just manner to both migrant workers and citizens;
7. **Encourage** the promotion of bilateral and regional cooperation among countries in all areas and issues of migrant workers to maximize the potential benefits and minimize the negative impacts of migration;
8. **Encourage** the respective States of the APA Member Parliaments to consider bilateral, or regional agreements including Mandatory Consular Notification Agreement under the spirit of Vienna Convention on Consular Relations; whereby the sending countries are well informed on the legal problems faced by their migrant workers;
9. **Emphasize** the importance of involving United Nations system, international organizations, civil society, and non-government organizations, and increasing participation and interaction with all stakeholders to enable government to develop

better policies and supervise the implementation of regulations on migrant workers issues;

10. **Recommend** APA Member Parliaments to provide adequate information on regulation, legislation and policies related to migrant workers in their respective countries, and to share information and best practices as well as opportunities and challenges encountered by Asian countries in relation to the protection and promotion of migrant workers' rights and welfare;
11. **Urge** the APA relevant member countries to promote fair and proper working conditions, proper minimum wages, and adequate access to decent living conditions and health for migrant workers;
12. **Request** the Secretary-General to coordinate with APA Member Parliaments on the progress to implement this resolution and submit a report thereon to the meeting of the Standing committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



Draft Resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia

New
EC1/SC- Social/ Draft Res/2019/11
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling UN General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, during which the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognized children and youth as agents of change;

Recognizing the role of parliaments in promoting the human rights and empowerment of children and youth in Asia;

Stressing the commitment of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 4, 5, 8, 16, as the basis for building sustainable and inclusive societies in Asia;

Recognizing that the cooperation between APA Member Parliaments can be instrumental in promoting quality child and youth development in the region;

Reaffirming that the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development, provide the framework for actions concerning children; to ensure children are protected in their rights;

1. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to recognize the importance of the quality child and youth development and to consider, with participation of children and youth, the provision of quality social welfare, including access to health care, quality education and training and other services to empower children and youth as productive members of society;
2. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to take appropriate measures to enhance cooperation among Member Parliaments to promote quality child and youth development, care and assistance, as well as to protect all children and youth from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination;
3. **Also encourage** APA Member Parliaments to strengthen and, where necessary, enact or amend legislations to ensure that all children and youth are protected against all forms of violence, as well as to improve child and youth development schemes;

4. **Request** the APA Secretary-General to submit, in collaboration with APA Member Parliaments, a report to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs Parliaments on the implementation of this resolution.



Draft Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia

New
EC1/SC- Social/ Draft Res/2019/12
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2017/12 Resolution on The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and resolution 2017/17 on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia;

Recalling UN General Assembly resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and subsequent resolutions on the Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing;

Welcoming UN General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, in which the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and stressing the need to ensure that issues of relevance to older persons are taken into account in its implementation in order to ensure that no one is left behind, including older persons;

Recognizing that the ageing population in many countries in Asia is rapidly growing whereas the fertility rates in those respective countries are significantly declining;

Acknowledging that the older persons in Asia are expected to account for over 17 percent by 2030, due to higher life expectancy;

Concerned that misconception and prejudice remains a challenge to opportunity for and engagement of older persons in some countries, taking into account the unique culture of respect towards older persons in Asia;

Mindful that public adaptation and preparedness through a life-course, multifaceted approach are keys to help society effectively respond to the burdens as commonly regarded in aged society;

Acknowledging that older persons have made significant contribution to national social and economic gains and, therefore, enactment of innovative legislation should be encouraged to remove barriers in realizing full potential of older persons;

1. **Calls upon** APA Member Parliaments to consider developing and adopting legislations on social protection, health-care services, and employment opportunities for older persons, as well as exploring innovative legislations such as phased-retirement, job sharing and part-time works;

2. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to monitor the implementation of their respective governments' ageing policies and to accord priority to the availability of evidence-based, accurate, reliable and up-to-date data and information in order to ensure effective, efficient and sustainable implementation;
3. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to exercise its constituent authority to maximize opportunities for older persons, including through promoting flexible work and alternative employability arrangements, such as voluntarily flexible jobs;
4. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to work with their relevant constituencies and community-based mechanisms to promote an enabling volunteer environment for older persons, taking into account different social contexts and norms.



Draft Resolution on “Human Development in Asia”

New
EC1/SC- Social/ Draft Res/2019/13
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling our commitment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for the years 2015-2030, which includes poverty eradication and focuses on providing good health, welfare, appropriate education and work, and economy growth;

Reaffirming on APA Goals to harness cooperation to use enormous human and natural resources, and to ensure the interests of all member states;

Reminding parliament members of APA to take collective procedures for supporting governments and other active parties in the region, and to promote the exchange of opinions and expertise with parliaments from other regions, in the context of poverty eradication and promoting equality;

Recognizing that human development is an extensive and accumulative process that, does not only it care for the financial and economic aspects, but it also covers social, cultural, health, and political aspects, as its ultimate goal is human;

Affirming on the need to train Asian manpower and human resources to realize one of the most important feature of economic globalization by enhancing their competitive capabilities in the world market while utilizing the dynamics of globalization in which the balance of economic power keeps changing;

Therefore, we the APA Members,

1. **Suggest** creating a technical and professional training center under the umbrella of the APA to provide joint efforts to push sustainable development forward.
2. **Encourage** setting a unified criterion for national capacity building.
3. **Promote** coordination based on professional standards that are set by professionals in the work market.
4. **Urge** rich countries in Asia to support the proposed training center project and encourage their parliaments to take steps towards the realization of this goal in compliance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



Asian Parliamentary Assembly

The 12th Plenary Session

13-18 December 2019

Antalya, Turkey

**SC-Economic/Rep/2019/09
15 December 2019**

Report of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

The Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development was held on 15 December 2019, in Antalya, Republic of Turkey. The member parliaments attending the 12th Plenary participated in the deliberations of this Committee.

1. Adoption of the Agenda:

The Agenda of the meeting was adopted unanimously ([Attachment I](#)).

2. Election of the Bureau:

- H.E. Mr. Alexey Lyaschenko, MP from Russian Federation Duma and APA Vice-President for 2019 was elected as the chairman.

3. Opening Remarks by Chairperson:

The chairman stated the following: The Standing Committee held its meeting in 2019 in Naryan-Mar, Russian Federation. There were two Working Group meetings on Energy and Green Finance as well as seven draft resolutions. Five of these resolutions were adopted. Kuwait delegation was tasked to merge the two draft resolutions and later on the new merged draft resolution was adopted in Rize, Turkey. He proposed the adoption of the new merged draft resolution. He also indicated that the Draft resolution on “Water and sanitation in Asia for All” is deferred.

4. Report of the Secretariat:

The representative of the Secretariat took the floor and briefed the meeting on the developments and deliberations during the Standing Committee meeting in Naryan-Mar and indicated that the final report was prepared by the host country Secretariat.

5. Consideration of Draft Resolutions recommended by the 2nd Executive Council:

The following draft resolutions were considered by the Committee:

1. Draft Resolution on the Establishment of an Asian Energy Market (*Merged*)
2. Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues
3. Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth
4. Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication
5. Draft Resolution on “The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”
6. Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All (*Deferred*)
7. Draft Resolution on Adopting a Road Map Providing for Measures to Stimulate Green Finance

The chairperson informed the meeting about the seven draft resolutions and added that the Draft Resolution on “Asian Integrated Energy Market” was reproduced by delegation of Kuwait as a merged document for future considerations of the Standing Committee. He also stated that the Draft Resolution on “Water and Sanitation in Asia for All” is deferred to the next Standing Committee.

Delegations from India and Indonesia presented few amendments to the above draft resolutions. The Chairman requested them to forward their written views to the Secretariat to be considered in next Committee meeting.

A view was expressed as to the need for a new coding system for registering draft resolutions by Secretariat which was seconded by the Chair.

The Chairman adopted six draft resolutions and concluded that the initial version of the Draft resolution on “Water and Sanitation in Asia for All” is accepted as the basis for the future work of the Committee in Bahrain. Secretariat will collect the amendments to this draft resolution and distribute them to member parliaments.

6. Any Other Matter:

No issue was raised.

Attachment I



Asian Parliamentary Assembly The 12th Plenary Session



13-18 December 2019
Antalya, TURKEY

Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

Draft Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Election of the Bureau
- 3- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 4- Report of the Secretariat
- 5- Consideration of Draft Resolutions recommended by the 2nd Executive Council
- 6- Any other matters.



Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

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Resolution on the Establishment of an Asian Energy Market

APA/Plenary/SC-Economic/Res/2019/01
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations' 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders in September 2015 for a more prosperous future, and that is through the promotion of prosperity, increase of social welfare, and protection of the planet

Calling upon Asian parliaments to fulfill their commitments on reducing the effects of climate change, to adopt effective policies to improve the use of natural resources in Asia and to promote economic growth.

Suggesting the establishment of clean energy markets that will enable Asian countries make optimal utilization of their natural resources and export the surplus to other Asian countries.

Stressing on the importance of protecting and developing this important sector which plays an integral role in the prosperity of Asian societies,

Believing that an Asian Energy Market will contribute in creating energy production projects, in particular renewable energy projects, which will provide for investment partnership opportunities for the establishment of alternative energy projects between the public and private sector, and among countries of the Asian continent.

Aiming to realize four of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) 2030 by the use of green energy instead of traditional energy sources, achieve economic growth, and reduce poverty through job creation and the creation of partnerships among Asian countries,

Supporting the reduction in the use of fossil fuels as they produce the highest greenhouse emissions, and the creation of competitive markets for sustainable energy,

Stressing the importance of joint efforts by Asian countries to provide energy at reasonable prices for the Asian energy market,

Accordingly, we members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

1. **Call for** the liberation of production and service in the energy sector in Asia, in order to support the international measures for combating climate change, and to move forward in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations for the year 2030.
2. **Encourage** cooperation among Asian countries to achieve the SDG's by establishing a Joint Energy Market, and coordinate between the government and private sectors

in a bid to create partnerships that may become means for the promotion of economic prosperity in Asia.

3. **Support** the comprehensive green and blue development for sustainable development, and promote the investment in infrastructure and the use of technology that helps in improving alternative energy resources and reduce climate change,
4. **Keen** to establish a specialized platform to facilitate the creation of an energy market in Asia, and encourage innovation in the field of alternative energy,
5. **Call also** for emphasizing the importance of renewable energy in achieving sustainable development and the protection of environment by the use of environment-friendly substances for future generations.
6. **Welcome** the assistance provided for the least developed Asian countries in the use of alternative energy, and the assistance in the optimal utilization of their natural resources, in order to improve their economy and create a sustainable work environment.
7. **Urge** member parliaments on the importance of legislation and enactment of laws of renewable energy to activate the role of Asian parliaments in the future of renewable energy.



Resolution on Environmental Issues

APA/Plenary/SC-Economic/Res/2019/02
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change, and Planting Billions of Trees Throughout Asia (APA/Res/2015/07) adopted at the 8th APA Plenary in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 2015, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other relevant APA resolutions;

Welcoming the Report of the Secretary-General on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia, contained in document SG/Rep/2016/03-2 dated 20 July 2016;

Adhering to the important role of environment in the sustainable development and meeting needs of increasing world population particularly countries of Asia which are facing dire consequences of climate change;

Recognizing the need to pursue the sustainable development namely the economic growth, social development and environmental protection in a balanced and mutually supportive manner;

Highlighting the link between sustainable development and other relevant ongoing processes such as that the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UN Convention Biological Diversity (UNCBD), UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development among others is linked with global sustainable development agenda;

Emphasizing the natural capital such as forests, biodiversity, freshwater, and coastal and marine ecosystems as being essential to making “green economies” a reality; and we shall maintain and protect these capitals from any threats that might harm it or any of its elements;

Recognizing that climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet and thus requires the widest possible cooperation by all countries, and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the mitigation efforts including through enhanced adaptation measures as well as accelerating provision of Means of Implementation (MOI);

Underlining the necessity of a comprehensive and long-term strategy to combat drought, forest fire, air pollution, desertification land degradation and marine life deterioration, thus improving the living conditions of the people living in arid, semi-arid and coastal areas;

Recognizing the significance of exchanging information on environmental issues among Asian countries and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in particular scientific, capacity building and technical assistance, from those states with high capabilities in the area of sustainable development to less developed countries in Asia;

Recognizing the urgent need to enhance the provision of finance, technology and capacity-building support by developed country Parties, in a predictable manner, to enable enhanced pre-2020 action by developing country Parties;

Concerned about the negative environmental impact of unbridled energy consumption on a global scale and particularly in Asia;

Encouraging Asian parliaments of the countries which supported the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to speed up their acceptance of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, in order to provide further momentum for global climate action for the years leading up to 2020;

Calling up on developed countries and international institutions to assist Asian developing countries, in their efforts to deal with negative consequences of environmental degradation effectively and *reiterating* the importance of devising a proper mechanism for technology transfer and financing from developed to developing countries;

Emphasizing that substantive involvement of APA in the latest state of affairs as regards the ongoing negotiations within the context of UNFCCC, exchange of views among Member Parliaments and striving for bringing as much coordination and collaboration as possible in relevant negotiating for a view to serving and improving the common regional interest of Asia is a compelling imperative;

Acknowledging the role of civil society, NGOs, policy think tanks, business and academia in the protection of environment through their inputs to the environmental policy formulation as well as implementation at the local, national and regional levels;

Emphasizing the importance of cooperation among Member Parliaments with regard to efforts to combat drought, desertification, land degradation, forest fire, air pollution, and non-biodegradable marine debris.

Recognizing the success by Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in raising global awareness and international collaboration in the economic and environmental fields and the promotion of transparency;

Recalling the role of United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in strengthening and building national capacity to promote sustainable management of the environment and in the implementation of programs that take into account environmental considerations;

Agreeing to uphold and promote regional and international cooperation in order to mobilize stronger and more ambitious climate action by all Parties and non-Party stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, cities and other sub-national authorities, local communities and indigenous peoples, as applicable;

Stressing that all parties as well as all the stakeholders, including the business sectors have responsibility to preserve and conserve environment and that any ecological and environmental damage should be held responsible, according to the prevailing laws and regulations;

Stressing the central role of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in providing for collective international response to the challenge of the global climate change;

1. **Welcome** the adoption of Paris Agreement at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties of UNFCCC in December 2015;

Also welcome the adoption of the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP) at the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in December 2018 for operationalization of the Paris Agreement, 2015.

2. **Invite** Members of APA parliaments to be mindful of the right to an ecologically-balanced environment;
3. **Urge** Member Parliaments to modify, or enact, laws according to their respective needs to enforce strict protection of natural habitats and environment, as well as people, threatened by environmental deterioration;
4. **Call** upon all Member Parliaments to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of targeted development programs through coordination efforts, including by UNDP;
5. **Call** upon APA Member countries to take more concrete steps for public awareness concerning environmental protection and facilitating implementation of a global-scale system of interconnected collective and national efforts to mitigate negative anthropogenic impact on climate with a view to achieve sustainable development;
6. **Urge** APA Parliaments to support Sustainable Development Goals more actively with regard to environmental issues by adopting appropriate legislation;
7. **Call on** APA member countries to uphold rule of law on environmental issues and to share good practices on that matters;

8. **Invite** the APA Member Parliaments to proceed with legislation and other legal actions deemed appropriate and instrumental in encouraging the governments to formulate and implement legislations, policies and measures with regard to the following:
 - Integrating climate policies in broader development policies with a view to making implementation and overcoming barriers easier;
 - Financing and encouraging R&D for low carbon or cleaner technologies with a view to stimulating technological advances, reduce costs, and enable progress toward stabilization;
 - Legalizing the necessity of observing the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) as a step towards bringing a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development namely: economic growth, social development and environmental protection;
 - Encouraging the maximum possible interaction, coordination, integrity and solidarity among Asian delegations involved in climate change negotiations with a view to providing for a collective wisdom by Asia as their common interests which in turn shall strengthen Asian regionalism and contribute to the cause of an Asian integration;
 - Interacting with and make collective attempts with other Asian States Parties for pushing the environmental priorities and urgencies of Asia within the agenda of financial and technological mechanisms of environment related instruments such as Global Environmental Facility(GEF), those operating within UNEP and the established technological and financial mechanisms in Durban in 2011;
9. **Invite** APA Member Parliaments to exchange experiences and best practices on environmental issues and provide, the data and information concerning issues related to sustainable development, climate change and other environment related major issues to the Secretariat to be compiled in a data base for the reference and use by all Member Parliaments;
10. **Invite** also APA Member Parliaments, who are in a position to do so, to provide material and technical support to APA members in their efforts to combat climate change and drought, desertification, land degradation forest fire, and air pollution;
11. **Call** on parliamentarians from APA to urge their respective governments to implement projects and programmes in line with their contribution/commitments as mentioned in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); in line with the Paris Agreement as appropriate; and intensifying qualitative environmental

campaigns with the development of preventive and remedial environmental plans .

12. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to support the objectives of the Paris Agreement on mitigation, adaptation, finance support, technology transfer and capacity building, early complete the system of law and policy in line with international commitment in response to climate change as appropriate;
13. **Note** with concern that the estimated aggregate greenhouse gas emission levels in 2025 and 2030 resulting from the intended nationally determined contributions do not fall within least-cost 2°C scenarios;
14. **Recommend** action be taken by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) within existing framework to assist the Asian region and especially its developing nations on the basis of equity with mitigating the effects of climate change and protecting natural resources in order to ensure a healthy environment for future generations to promote mitigation, as appropriate and adapt to the increasing effects of climate change and the protection of natural resources;
15. **Call** upon APA to expand partnerships with countries and partners outside the region, particularly the European Union, to exchange information on climate change, and natural disaster, mobilized financial resources to invest in project related to clean and energy saving technologies, and establish a research center in Asia to provide aid to the developing Asian countries in support for national policy programs with regards to sustainable Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
16. **Recommend** APA Members to deliberate the mechanism for an Asia wide response in times of natural disasters and calamities to provide timely aid and rescue to those in need of help;
17. **Request** APA Member Parliaments in a position to do so to offer advice and support to the other members on how to acquire and effectively utilize the tools to combat economic shocks resulting from climate change, such as damage to property and infrastructure, lost productivity, mass migration, and coping costs through the preparation of sustainable policies pertaining to disaster preparation programs with special attention given to the needs of the rural population; rain water harvesting; green roofs; river embankment strengthening; food silos; early warning systems; and information and communication technology to facilitate information sharing;
18. **Request** the Secretary General to seek the views of APA Member Parliaments on the implementation of the present resolution and report there on to the next session of the Standing-Committee in 2018;



Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth

APA/Plenary/SC-Economic/Res/2019/03
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA resolution on the ramification of International Financial Crisis for the Economies of Countries of APA Member Parliaments, APA/Res/2015/13 and other relevant APA resolutions;

Expressing concern with the repercussions of the sovereign defaults and financial markets volatility to the economic growth in APA countries;

Expressing concern about the adverse impact of the continuing fragility of the global economy, the slow pace of the restoration of global growth and trade, increasing protectionism and inward-looking policies, with increasing systemic risks that threaten financial stability, including in developing countries.

Noting that a social order based on justice and egalitarianism is of critical importance to accelerate social and economic progress everywhere, help in achieving international peace and harmony;

Appreciating the measures that have already been taken by Asian Parliaments and their governments to contain the negative impacts of economic crisis in their economies, and expect them to take further steps to stimulate their respective economies;

Noting that the economic growth in Asian Economies has not been shared equally in the society whereby the Gini Coefficient, as reported by the Asian Development Bank, had grown significantly over the last decades and that regional cooperation which have already existed in Asia could serve as a platform for enhancing cooperation among sub regional economic organization that would improve welfare for all in Asia;

Noting that peace and stability in the region is an important contributor to economic growth and that occupation, violence and political instability act as inhibitors for economic development and that maintaining regional collaboration on political stability is crucial;

Recognizing also the necessity to effectively reform the current global financial architecture so as to achieve a more balanced world economic and financial order;

Encouraging parliaments to adopt policies through the enact of law and legislations their legislative and scrutiny roles aiming to enhance the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the

role of the private sector and increasing its contribution to economic integration, in order to create the appropriate jobs and jobs opportunities to achieve a comprehensive economic development on human and financial levels in Asia;

Emphasizing that the international financial system should bolster sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, sustainable development and job creation, promote financial inclusion and support efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and hunger, in particular in developing countries, while allowing for the coherent mobilization of all sources of financing for development.

Emphasizing parliaments on the role of the private sector by influencing national expenditure policies through the roles of parliaments, particularly with regard to discussions and approval of budgets and final accounts, as well as the adoption of investment laws and the provision of incentives and guarantees for private sector growth;

1. **Call** upon Asian governments to take new policy approaches to develop a more comprehensive and innovative growth strategies needed to sustain a more resilient, balanced, sustainable and inclusive economic growth that is necessary means to create decent jobs and reduce inequalities to promote the formation of a regional SME's network;
2. **Stress** upon Member Parliaments to remove all obstacles to socio-economic progress and all forms of discriminations,
3. **Call upon** APA Parliaments to ensure by all means respect for the dignity and value of all human beings and ensure adherence to human rights and social justice by legislative and oversight means, ensuring equality of opportunity for all;
4. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to work on an informal debate at APA platform on the potential benefits of social justice in their respective countries and promote greater cooperation for equitable economic development in Asia;
5. **Call upon** APA member parliaments to support the development of Asian-led multilateral bank and its capacity to promote equitable economic growth, improve national and trans-boundary connectivity and to seek possible establishment of a regional stabilization fund in times of economic crisis;
6. **Encourage** APA member governments to create a protocol to enhance resilience to economic crisis which regulates the allocation for some budget reserves for economic crisis mitigation;
7. **Also encourage** governments in Asia to promote cross-border private investments while ensuring an institutional capacity and prudent regulatory frame work to

enable countries to absorb large capital flows, while at the same time using bilateral swap arrangement to promote the role of local currency in financing cross-border trade;

8. **Urge** Parliamentarians of Member Legislatures to promote social justice and development in their respective policies as a common interest of all nations of Asia by encouraging, promoting and endorsing national and regional efforts (and execute developmental plans and strategies) to raise the living standards of peoples;
9. **Recommend** APA member parliaments to promote the adoption of Basel III to improve supervision on financial sector governance; and to fill any financial gap in case of any monetary crises.
10. **Encourage** parliaments in APA member countries to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development and focus on policies that alleviate poverty, including improving access to health, education, capital, employment and social protection to help close income inequalities;
11. **Call** on APA member parliaments to consider reviewing their respective legislations, where appropriate, to give more support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by giving access to low interest credit loan and to provide capacity building and regional networking to integrate SMEs into regional and global value chains;
12. **Encourage** parliaments to support financial inclusion for the poor and other vulnerable segments of society in each respective country and to share best practices of financial inclusion in the region;
13. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to support the conduct of comprehensive studies, with regional and global coordination regarding weak community groups, in the support of the need for the financial integration of the underprivileged.
14. **Stress** the importance to invest in human development (and activate the concept of partnership among member states in) and to provide sufficient public funding for education and health for everyone, without discrimination, to face the future global and Asian economic demands;
15. **Stress** the critical importance of a stable, inclusive and enabling global economic environment for the advancement of sustainable development, for the reliable and effective financing of development and for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, mobilizing public and private, as well as domestic and international resources.
16. **Request** the governments in respective countries to channel more funds in joint research and development (R&D) activities as a means to spur innovation and viable economic growth strategies to sustain a more resilient economic growth;

17. **Also request** the governments in respective Asian countries to promote the implementation of low carbon economy despite the global economy deceleration;
18. **Call** upon the APA Member Parliaments to continuously promote the need for reform in global financial institutions and architecture, financial technology regulation, with the view for a balanced world economic and financial order;
19. **Call Upon** APA member countries to strive to create an enabling institutional and business environment that can promote financial stability, financial inclusion, and efficient mobilization and utilization of the available resources;
20. **Recommend** to establish a Technical Working Group so as to study the terminology issues related to green funding, classification of relevant financial instruments, methodology for standardizing such instruments and their subsequent certification;
21. **Call Upon** APA member countries to facilitate investing their sovereign funds and encourage their private investors to invest more in Asia and to create an appropriate and attractive environment for Asian investment.
22. **Express Concern very strongly** to the use of sanctions or any mechanisms of financial and economic pressure on APA Member States applied for political purposes;
23. **Request** the Secretary General to seek the views of APA Member Parliaments on the implementation of the present resolution and report there on to the next session of the Standing-Committee in 2018;



Resolution on Poverty Eradication

APA/Plenary/SC-Economic/Res/2019/04
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution on Alleviating Poverty in Asia (APA/Res/2015/08) adopted at the 8th APA Plenary in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 2015 and other relevant APA resolutions;

Underlining the significance of the role of Parliaments both in advocating and oversight of achievements of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially on Poverty Eradication;

Welcoming the High-level Plenary meeting of the U.N. General-Assembly on the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015 and its outcome; entitled as “Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development”, in particular referring to goal 2 of sustainable development to eradicate hunger, enhance food security and improve nutrition by promoting sustainable agriculture

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized in the poverty eradication; articulating that SDGs are interconnected and the role of economic growth is fundamental to poverty eradication, so much as investing in health and education;

Welcoming bilateral, triangular, regional and multilateral cooperation to eradicate poverty, create jobs, address the consequences of international financial crises, promote sustainable development, and advance market-based industrial transformation and economic diversification;

Underlining the fact that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an ethical, social, political, environmental and economic imperative of all humankind, and in this regard recognizing that there is a need to better understand and address the multidimensional nature of development and poverty in a multifaceted and integrated approach.

Emphasizing that the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development depends crucially on the transformation of rural areas, where most of the poor and hungry live.

Recalling that nearly 80 per cent of the extreme poor live in rural areas and work in agriculture, and that devoting resources to the development of rural areas and sustainable agriculture and supporting smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, is key to ending poverty in all its

forms and dimensions, by, inter alia, improving the welfare of farmers.

Stressing at the same time the need for enhanced international cooperation on poverty eradication, and the obligation of developed countries to provide financial, technical and capacity building assistance along with support in the form of trade, investment and technological transfer to developing countries;

Noting that poverty alleviation is important to combat international terrorism, abuse of women & children and drug trafficking, arms smuggling, human trafficking, sea piracy and transnational crimes;

Acknowledging that any constraint on the political and economic development of any country would undermine the effort to poverty eradication and hamper the realization of other SDG's;

Recognizing that the SDGs balance all the three crucial dimensions of sustainable development the economic, the social and the environmental;

Reaffirming that poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and its alleviation and, eventually, its eradication, is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development;

Supporting also a publicity campaign to raise awareness in the society about SDG utilizing the potentials of mass media;

Emphasizing that achieving food security requires efforts and coordination at both national and international level;

Recognizing the important role of agriculture in meeting needs of increasing world population, underlining that sustainable agriculture practices and rural development are key approaches to increase food security;

We therefore,

1. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to work closely with their governments in the formulation and implementation of the measures which are outlined in the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development;
2. **Determine** to be more ambitious in our efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, ensure food security, access to healthcare and education;
3. **Develop** a developmental strategic vision in cooperation with Member Parliaments and their governments regarding poverty eradication, provided that developed vision shall contain plans with measurable and assessable indicators.

4. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to redouble their efforts in supporting activities of poverty eradication and encourage their respective governments to facilitate the implementation of effective policies to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
5. **Urge** Member Parliaments to create awareness among general public about the importance of sustainable food consumption and production and take possible steps to ensure it and harness all parliamentary efforts to enact laws that work for the interest of food security.
6. **Invite** Member Parliaments to adopt necessary legislation to
 - a) improve labor market regulations,
 - b) support the informal sector and offering increased security to it,
 - c) establish legal savings and loan associations that can help to reduce the reliance on moneylenders,
 - d) promote modern agriculture which contributes essentially to reduction of poverty in urban and rural areas,
 - e) empower the poor to improve their living conditions and participate in decision-making which affects their lives,
 - f) help to upgrade the infrastructure and services in areas where the poor live and work with emphasis on creating better opportunities for the poor especially girls, which will contribute to increased female labor force participation.
 - g) improve disaster preparedness, disaster relief as well as post-disaster economic recovery;
7. **Stress** the necessity to adopt strategies to improve lift quality, offer higher levels of welfare, by developing necessary policies and laws to force establishments to comply with environmental regulations; to support the development of local technology, research and innovation, taking into consideration the obligations highlighted by the 21st Century Agenda, the Global Summit on SDGs, and UN Environment Program.
8. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to support investment in climate resilient agriculture and to adopt a unified approach to combat hunger by promoting public and private investments, increased access to inputs, lands and technologies;
9. **Invite** APA Member Parliaments to take appropriate legislative measures for poverty alleviation including providing social safety nets to the poor and the vulnerable;
10. **Recommend** Member Parliaments to support and strengthen the capacities of government and communities to prepare for and respond to acute hunger arising from disasters through community based on adaptation;

11. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to take joint action to organize aid campaigns, on a voluntary basis upon the request of a Member Parliament, for assistance in the context of alleviating poverty including to enhance domestic production of food by participating in agricultural technologies and training programs;
12. **Urge** APA Member States to give significance to development of sustainable agriculture practices while making national policies, to achieve Sustainable Development Goals;
13. **Call** for increased cooperation between developed and developing member countries for improving food security by means of bilateral, regional and multilateral information sharing, especially in an area of sustainable agricultural technology;
14. **Stress** the significance of women participation and contribution in agriculture sector for improving productivity food security and eliminating poverty;
15. **Stress** the need to enhance and expand access by developing countries to appropriate technologies that are pro-poor and raise productivity, and underlines the need for measures to increase investment in agriculture, including modern technologies, as well as in natural resources management and capacity-building of the developing countries.
16. **Stress** that the achievement of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty also hinge on the ability and readiness of countries to effectively mobilize domestic resources, attract foreign direct investment, fulfil official development assistance commitments and use official development assistance effectively, and facilitate the transfer of technology to developing countries, on mutually agreed terms;
17. **Request** the Secretary General to request in his turn the Member Parliaments to offer their views regarding the efforts exerted for the implementation of this Resolution, and submit their reports before the next meeting of the Permanent Committee 2019.



Resolution on “The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”

APA/Plenary/SC-Economic/Res/2019/05
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Acknowledging the outcome document of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda entitled “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,” adopted in September 2015;

Referring to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Hanoi Declaration on The Sustainable Development Goals: Turning Words into Action, adopted at its 132nd Assembly, held in Hanoi, Vietnam, March 2015; and other relevant inter-parliamentary organizations resolutions;

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business.

Being convinced that the SDGs are integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable, upholding the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, taking into account different national capacities, levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities;

Underlining that strong political will and leadership of the parliaments and governments are essential for the achievement of the SDGs,

Emphasizing the need for a consensus between governments, parliaments and the people to recognize the importance of the development particularly in the areas of health, education, housing, food security, nutrition and environmental sustainability;

Noting the significant progress made by countries in strengthening their public-private partnership readiness and institutional capacities through legislation and establishment of public-private partnership units in relevant government departments;

Welcoming the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals Commission in some Asian parliaments as the best practices to pursue the objectives of the SDGs at national level;

1. **Endorse** the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the outcome document of the UN Summit which adopted the SDGs as the new development frame work for 2015- 2030. The list of the SDGs is annexed;
2. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to uphold Parliamentary Diplomacy as an instrument to improve the implementation of SDG's in general and APA priorities including environmental protection, poverty eradication, protection of the safety of energy market in Asia, economic growth of APA Member States and preventing of Water crisis in particular;
3. **Invite** APA Members States to review and assess opportunities and legislative gaps to engage the private sector to invest in infrastructure on a sustainable basis ;
4. **Call upon** Member Parliaments to develop strategies in support of government efforts regarding SDGs, and how to expand the use of clean and renewable energy such as solar, hydro and wind energy;
5. **Decide** to be actively involved in the integration of SDGs into national development programs and the formulation of national policies to support the mainstreaming and implementation of SDGs;
6. **Invite** APA members to involve all actors in sustainable development consideration to ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation process;
7. **Urge** the Asian Parliaments to contribute to the national efforts towards achieving the SDGs including through the establishment of the appropriate mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda at national level;
8. **Recommend** to Asian Parliaments and Governments to consider establishing an Asian information center in order to provide independent, scientific and reliable data and analytical information in reference to sustainable development indicators;
9. **Call upon** APA Members to provide adequate budgetary resources and adopt legislations which are relevant to support and monitor the successful implementation of the SDGs;
10. **Resolve** to strengthen the role of national parliaments in the advocacy of SDGs so that people understand that the SDGs are relevant to their lives;
11. **Request** the Standing Committees of APA to deliberate in a comprehensive manner issues of SDGs which are relevant to the work of their committees;
12. **Recognize** Parliaments role in the private sector, by promoting national expenditure policies, through parliament's regulatory roles, particularly regarding

the discussion and adoption of budgets and final accounts, and for the endorsement of investment laws, supply of sufficient incentives and securities for private sector growth.

13. **Stress** the importance to develop data and indicators to setup a proper follow-up mechanism on the implementation of SDGs and the need to strengthen statistical capacities of all countries to support the progress;
14. **Call upon** parliaments to contribution, through its roles, to highlight the priority to the enhancement of sustainable agriculture as food security, will constitute the most insisting problem of future sustainable development objectives;
15. **Urge** Asian governments to engage in bilateral, regional or multilateral partnerships in order to build infrastructures and sustainable development projects, using governmental and sovereign funds;
16. **Circulate and exchange** the experiences, procedures and measures that represent successful models in the field of sustainable development among all members of the association in order to benefit, replicate, build upon and be guided by them;
17. **Call Upon** APA member states to strengthen regional economic cooperation and integration to enhance regional connectivity in supporting the implementation of the SDGs;
18. **Request** all APA Member Parliaments to report their achievements in the implementation of the SDGs to the APA Secretariat in order to provide information for further discussion in the next Economic and Sustainable Development Standing Committee.

Sustainable Development Goals

- Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms every where
- Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promotes sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10 Reduce in equality within and among countries
- Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
- Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institution sat all levels
- Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

*acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change



Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All

(INITIAL VERSION)

APA/Plenary/SC-Economic/Draft Res/2019/06
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recognizing the outcome document of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda entitled “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,” adopted in September 2015;

Recalling United Nations’ General Assembly resolution (A/64/292) adopted on 28th July 2010, which formally recognized water and sanitation as human rights and UN Human Rights Council resolution (A/HRC/RES/18/1) adopted on the 28 September 2011, recognizing that the right to water and sanitation are part of the right to an adequate standard of living;

Welcoming the SDG goal 6 on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, including universal and equitable access to drinking water, sustainable water resources management and wastewater treatment, providing a further anchor for sustainability in the water governance field;

Noting with interest relevant commitments and initiatives promoting the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, including the Abuja Declaration, adopted at the first Africa-South America Summit, in 2006, the Delhi Declaration, adopted at the third South Asian Conference on Sanitation, in 2008, the Sharm el-Sheikh Final Document, adopted at the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, in 2009, and the Colombo Declaration, adopted at the fourth South Asian Conference on Sanitation, in 2011;

Deeply concerned that approximately one billion people across Asia could face severe water shortage by 2050;

Stress upon the need for Asian Governments to focus in national policies on water and sanitation issues and contribute towards international efforts in resolving these issues;

1. **Welcome** the inclusion of water and sanitation in Post-2015 Development Agenda and the acceptance of human right to safe drinking water and sanitation by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council;
2. **Consider** the role of Parliamentarian critical in the implementation of human rights approach to water and sanitation in Asia, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures in the implementation of their human rights obligations;

3. **Reaffirm** that APA Member States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full realization of SDGs including Goal 6, and must take steps, nationally and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the sanitation by all appropriate means;
4. **Request** Member Parliaments to urge their respective governments to cooperate with their regions to discuss the water scarcity challenge all over Asian countries and to study in depth the causes of the water scarcity and to provide appropriate solutions and strategies to overcome this challenge;
5. **Request** the APA Member States to ensure financing according to the available resources for the provision of affordable water and sanitation, and to develop indicators and data collection mechanisms to monitor progress and to identify shortcomings;
6. **Encourage** integrated water resource planning and management¹ for reducing widespread scarcity and pollution of freshwater resources in many regions and give priority to the fulfillment of basic needs and safeguarding of ecosystems in developing and using water resources;
7. **Urge** APA Parliamentarians to vigorously engage with their governments' executives on building inclusive frameworks between States for reduction of climate change impacts. These climate change impacts have severe consequences in the shape of water scarcity and flooding;
8. **Ask** APA Members to support advance technology transfers from developed countries to the developing countries of Asia and sharing of good practices for efficient allocation of water;
9. **Underline** the important role of the international cooperation provided by the United Nations, international development partners, as well as by donor agencies, in the achievement of the SDGs, and urges development partners to harmonize their strategies with the national initiatives and plans of APA Members related to safe drinking water and sanitation;
10. **Adopt** awareness programs by Member States parliaments to inform their citizens about the problem of water scarcity in order to reduce their wastefulness, prevent pollution or waste, and limit their use to the necessary human needs without any other uses;
11. **Propose to establish** an open ended group in the context of this Resolution to discuss continuously the different dimensions of Water Crisis in Asia and use the Parliamentary Diplomacy among APA States in this region to properly address the disastrous life of the peoples of this region and protect the safety of the environment;
12. **Request** the Secretary-General to report, the achievement of APA Member

¹ **Integrated water resources management (IWRM)** has been defined by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) as "a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems".

Parliaments on this resolution, to the next Standing Committee on Sustainable Development.



Resolution on Adopting a Road Map Providing for Measures to Stimulate Green Finance

APA/Plenary/SC-Economic/Res/2019/07
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the decisions taken by the Working Group on Green Finance (19 April 2019, Naryan-Mar Russia), Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development (26 June 2018, Pissouri, Cyprus), as well as the final results of development and consideration of a Road Map providing for measures to stimulate Green Finance that is prepared in pursuit of implementing the mentioned decisions,

Recommend

1. To approve and adopt for implementation a Road Map providing for measures to stimulate Green Finance within the APA member-countries contour.
2. To establish the **Asian Climate Financial Initiative (ACFI)**, an international information and methodology center, in order to build and further the process of information and methodological support for developing the Green Finance system within the APA member-countries contour and to arrange the works on verification, certification and introduction of a combined register of the Green Finance instruments.
3. To establish the APA Supervisory Board to involve organization's members for coordinating and monitoring the **ACFI** activity and strategic development.

Call on the APA member-parliaments and governments to contribute to engaging in the joint work within the **Asian Climate Financial Initiative** the national agencies working in the field of Green Finance and central banks, ministries of ecology and other government institutions jointly with professional community empowered with the matters of Green Finance.



Asian Parliamentary Assembly

The 12th Plenary Session

13-18 December 2019

Antalya, Turkey

**SC-Political Affairs/Rep/2019/10
15 December 2019**

Report of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs

The Standing Committee on Political Affairs was held on 15 December 2019 in Antalya, Republic of Turkey. The member parliaments attending the 12th Plenary participated in the deliberations of this Committee.

1. Adoption of the Agenda:

The Agenda of the meeting was adopted unanimously ([Attachment I](#)).

2. Election of the Bureau:

H.E. Mrs. Chenarani member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran and APA Vice-President for 2019 was elected as the Chairperson.

3. Opening Remarks by Chairperson:

The Chairperson referred to the meeting in Isfahan, Iran where 8 draft resolutions after incorporating amendments were adopted. Draft resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament” was deferred to the next Standing Committee meeting after an extensive exchanges of views. Iran presented a new draft resolution on Promotion of Multilateralism.

4. Report of the Secretariat:

The representative of the Secretariat briefly informed the meeting on the past work of the committee concerning the relevant draft resolutions.

5. Report of the Chairman of Working Group on Asian Parliament:

The Chairman of the said Working Group presented his report as attached ([Attachment II](#)).

6. Consideration of Draft Resolutions recommended by 2nd Executive Council:

The following draft resolutions were considered by the Committee:

1. Draft Resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament” (*Deferred*)
2. Draft Resolution on Good Governance
3. Draft Resolution on the Rule of Law and Judicial Empowerment
4. Draft Resolution on Good Parliamentary Practices
5. Draft Resolution on Building Prosperity in Asia through Friendship and Cooperation
6. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia
7. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments’ Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People
8. Draft Resolution on Harmonious Development through Democracy
9. Draft Resolution on Enhancing Cooperation among the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to Protect and Promote Multilateralism (New)

The delegation of China presented an amendment on Draft Resolution on “Rule of Law” which was deferred to the next Standing Committee.

The representative of the Secretariat stated that the Agreed Text on rejection of the recent declaration by U.S. State Department on the Israeli settlements has been incorporated into the relevant Draft Resolution.

7. Any other matters:

No issue was raised.

Attachment I



Asian Parliamentary Assembly
The 12th Plenary Session



13-18 December 2019
Antalya, TURKEY

Standing Committee on Political Affairs

Draft Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Election of the Bureau
- 3- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 4- Report of the Secretariat
- 5- Report of the Chairman of Working Group on Asian Parliament
- 6- Consideration of Draft Resolution recommended by 2nd Executive Council
- 7- Any other matters

Attachment II

بِسْمِ تَعَالَى

Asian Parliament Working Group 12th APA Plenary

Mr. Chair,

The Iran's Islamic Parliament has been one of the main sponsors of establishment of the Asian Parliament (AP).

This support has been done by focusing on previous experiences in parliamentary integration in Asia as well as gradual promotion and evolution of the APA to an inclusive regional parliamentary institution.

In this regards, Iran's Parliament has spent considerable human and financial resources for realizing this supreme goal.

However, this goal would not turn into reality as long as lack of attention to the political, economic, ethnic, religious, cultural and social grounds of Asia and lessons learnt from other regions.

Iran believes that the idea of the AP belongs to all Asian states and Asian parliaments; therefore, their viewpoints and observations about the AP need to be taken into account.

At the same time, the AP is a subdivision to the major objective of Asian integration on which governments need to decide.

Therefore, pursuing this objective must be in line with regional integration agreements among the Asian states. Given various differences and contrasts among the Asian nations, this objective has been facing with numerous challenges so far.

All in all, discussing the establishment of an inclusive AP without attention to the theoretical, political, economic and security contexts as well as its operational requirements including diverse national rules and procedures, will remain in an abstract condition with no hope to its realization.

Mr. Chair,

We believe that exchange of views about the AP establishment needs to be done first and foremost within national and sub-regional level and these discussions to be forwarded to the APA Secretariat for further deliberation. Then, member parliaments to give their feedbacks on different ideas in order to find out whether the current time is apt for raising such idea or not.

Quite obvious that as this extensive scheme will not materialize without relying on a support by an active and efficient regional parliamentary institution, the APA Secretariat, in the next step, will need to consult with intra- and extra-regional academic forums and other regional

parliamentary institutions beyond Asia such as the European Union with the purpose of exploring this idea, identifying the obstacles, challenges, opportunities and requirements for its realization.

At the end, it is on us to propose a theoretical-practical blueprint aimed at turning the APA to the AP.

I need to stress on this point that any activity about the AP must be under supervision and leadership of the APA's Standing Committee on Political Affairs and this Working Group, as an ad hoc group, needs to present its action reports to the Political Committee for consideration and adoption.

The Iran's Parliament is endorsing past efforts and actions within this Working Group and firmly believes that its future activities need to be resumed within the same conditions and observations.

We believe that as there are considerable sensitivities and impacting factors about political, economic, security, cultural, ethnic and religious issues in Asia, the idea of establishing the AP requires extensive research and then requires complex, comprehensive, prospective and realistic negotiations about this idea. Also, there are many questions and concerns that need to be logically and realistically addressed within this framework.

Mr. Chair,

To conclude, allow me just to forward the Iranian delegation's perspectives about how to address the concept of the Asian Parliament:

1. The historical development of Asia is among key issues of post-cold war international relations. End of the Cold War opened a new horizon in the contemporary history of Asia and paved the way for gradual return of Asia to the global economic, political and cultural orbit. This trend got further accelerated and deepened at the turn of the century. As enjoying unique historical, geopolitical, civilizational, cultural, economic and social factors and features, Asia will become gradually and steadily to the focal point of the international relations. In this direction, the Asian integration including harmonization of the parliamentary activities in Asia, as an effective complementarity for inter-governmental activities is of utmost importance.

2. The ethnic, racial and religious fragmentations, different and conflicting national interests and serious political, economic and security rivalries and sensitivities are among noticeable features of the contemporary Asian community. Therefore, the Asian parliamentary integration is facing numerous challenges and obstacles thanks to geographical, historical, political, cultural and inter-relational requirements. The reality is that power in Asia is an intersection of various and conflicting political prospects. That is why structure for political cooperation and convergence is yet fragile. The diversity of national and subnational institutions as well as various types of cooperation rooted from different political and religious ideologies along with the extension of diverse Asian actors and powers are among main reasons for the impossibility of the political integration and accordingly, the realization of the Asian Parliament. On the other hand, the type of linkages between some Asian states with trans-regional powers is another challenge to the Asian integration. So, given different ideological, cultural and religious perspectives, the continental and trans-continental powers follow different narratives and approaches about regionalism and parliamentarism in Asia. Despite some over-lapping

issues, these narratives and approaches have competing goals and prospects that reaching to a shared viewpoint is difficult.

3. Given the novelty of the Asian Parliament as well as the considerably complex political, security, economic, cultural, religious and ethnic conditions of the Asian states with different levels of democracy, any precipitance in exploring such key issues will lead to the deviation of goals and realistic and practical solutions. The Iran's Parliament believes that achieving this grand objective will be done by a consensus among APA's members.

Thank you.



Standing Committee on Political Affairs

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Draft Resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament”

Deferred
APA/Plenary/SC-Political/Draft Res/2019/01
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the document titled “Foundations of an Asian Parliament” prepared by the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Permanent Secretariat in May, 2014;

Further recalling the Lahore Declaration adopted on 3rd Dec, 2014 by APA Plenary that established the Special Committee on the Creation of the Asian Parliament (SCCAP), to consult with Member Parliaments in order to formulate a road map for Asian Parliament, reflecting the emergence of the Asian Century;

Emphasizing that the creation of an Asian Parliament is a long term objective, various aspects of which need to be explored as stipulated in the report of APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs held on 2 June 2016 in Jordan;

Welcoming the decision made in the meeting of the SCCAP convened in Jordan in June 2016 and approved by the 9th APA Plenary meeting in 2016, that the SCCAP will function under the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs;

Recalling the discussion of the SCCAP meeting held on 29 November 2016, Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia;

Therefore,

1. **Reiterate** our resolve to continue efforts and support the fulfilment of SCCAP’s objectives;
2. **Support** the step by step and inclusive efforts of the SCCAP in promoting cooperation through consultation with Member Parliaments on common issues such as environment, poverty alleviation, trade and regional connectivity amongst others;
3. **Support** the creation of Working Group in the APA for providing input to the APA Secretariat. The Working Group for the purpose of the Asian Parliaments shall submit their input through the APA secretariat which will place a report containing proposals to the Standing Committee on Political Affairs before every plenary;



Resolution on Good Governance

APA/Plenary/SC-Political/Res/2019/02
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Realizing that good governance is inextricably linked to sustainable development, *which* leads to stability and prosperity;

Taking in to account all characteristic of Good Governance and their effects on achievement of SDGs and prosperity of human being;

Recognizing the importance of good governance in the achievement of SDGs as one of means to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies;

1. **Reiterate** that good governance is a key to achieving inclusive economic, social and institutional development;
2. **Recognizes** that transparency in all its forms and manifestations, free, responsible media, popular participation in government, and a vibrant civil society are the pillars of good governance;
3. **Stresses** upon the Member Parliaments to identify gaps in governance which may lead to poverty, injustice and inequality;
4. **Calls upon** Member Parliaments to ensure as appropriate enhanced participation of women, youth and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in the national political process;



Resolution on the Rule of Law and Judicial Empowerment

APA/Plenary/SC-Political/Res/2019/03
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Reaffirms the universal realization of the right of peoples under colonial, foreign and alien dominations, to self-determination is a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights;

Recalling the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including those of sovereign equality and independence of all States, which are indispensable foundations for a more peaceful, prosperous and a conflict free world;

Recognizing that the rule of law at national and international levels is essential for all states equally, and respect for and promotion of the rule of law and justice are the guiding principles for every state;

Further recognizing that all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, have a right to be accorded equal protection of the law and to be treated in accordance with the law, without any discrimination;

Reaffirming the duty of all Member States to settle their international disputes through peaceful means, including, negotiation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and judicial settlement;

Further reaffirming that the rule of law is essential for independence of judiciary and the protection of human rights can be realized through the empowerment of the judiciary;

Convinced that the rule of law and sustainable development are inextricably linked and mutually reinforcing and contribute to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Supporting the principles of sovereign equality of states, non-intervention in the internal or external affairs of states and condemning as a violation of this principle any interference by states in the internal affairs of other states with the aim of forging change of legitimate governments;

Stressing that the key role in maintaining of the rule of law belongs to states and those international efforts to strengthen the rule of law should complement national efforts, but not substitute them;

1. **Stress** the importance of capacity development through rule of law;
2. **Emphasize** the importance of institutional strengthening by maintaining the rule of law;
3. **Stress** also the necessity for strengthening the international judicial cooperation among judicial authorities of all Member States.
4. **Urge** Member Parliaments to ensure compliance with internationally agreed human rights and humanitarian laws.
5. **Encourage** the promotion of a system of justice which incorporates the full range of judicial measures to ensure accountability, justice, provide remedies to victims, reconciliation, and establish independent oversight;
6. **Reiterate** our strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism, extremism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to the rule of Law; and
7. **Emphasize** the importance of our continued efforts for promotion of the rule of law in all its aspects, and to take steps to strengthen the rule of law for realization of peace and security, human rights and development.



Resolution on Good Parliamentary Practices

APA/Plenary/SC-Political/Res/2019/04
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Noting the ever increasing and assertive role of parliaments in public affairs and in the promotion of democratization for ensuring good governance;

Taking into account the fact that 181 states have adopted parliamentary systems for managing their national affairs;

Taking into account the cultural diversity, role of minorities, diversity of religions, faith and ethnics in all societies of Asia.

Noting the cardinal role that parliaments play in a democratic polity and in addressing issues of public importance;

Recognizing that parliaments must be truly representative, transparent, accessible, accountable and effective in its functions;

1. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to adopt transparent modes of public communications, through ensuring access to their administrative system and to develop their own websites and broadcasting channels;
2. Further **urge** APA Member Parliaments to devise effective outreach mechanisms for engagement with public, including, civil society, with a view to ensure their meaningful contribution in the legislative processes;
3. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to adopt measures for ensuring public confidence in the integrity of parliamentarians, through enforceable codes of conduct and transparency in managing the affairs of political parties and their funding;
4. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to streamline their legislative process by encouraging public hearing in respective constituencies;
5. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to ensure their effective participation at regional and international forums with a view to promote transnational collaboration amongst Member Parliaments, and to devise a strategy towards this end by the APA;

6. **Also call upon** APA Member Parliaments to ensure their oversight of the executive, particularly, in the formulation of international policy, and to make recommendations to their respective governments towards a peaceful settlement of international disputes;
7. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to adopt positive measures for ensuring a meaningful participation of women, minorities and marginalized communities in their working;
8. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to promote inter-parliamentary cooperation through formation of friendship groups and working groups on issues of common interest;
9. **Further Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to encourage developing democracies through sharing their experiences and best parliamentary practices and provide technical and other required support with a view to facilitate their process of democratization.



Resolution on Building Prosperity in Asia through Friendship and Cooperation

APA/Plenary/SC-Political/Res/2019/05
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling relevant APA resolutions on Advancing the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2015/01—11 December 2015); Resolution on Measures and Methods of Materialization of Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2014/01— 3 December 2014); Resolution on Consolidation of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2013/01-- 9 December 2013); Resolution on Reinforcing the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2010/09—30 November 2010); Resolution on Pursuing Implementation of the Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2008/09, 29 November 2008) and Resolution on the Friendship Pact in Asia; (APA/Res/2007/06, dated 19 November 2007); Text of the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2007/06/Annex, 19 November 2007);

Relying on deep-rooted ties of history, geography, culture, economy, politics, and civilization which bind Asian nations together;

Recognizing the amity and the friendly relations among the Asian Nations, Parliaments, and States as an indispensable asset which need to be further strengthened by all kinds of inter-governmental; inter-parliamentary as well as inter-national interaction and cooperation;

Deploring the current widespread war and violence in West Asia which undermine peace and security and entail massive killing and indiscriminate targeting of innocent people;

Offering in Good Faith all our capacities and capabilities in parliamentary diplomacy for mediation, reconciliation, and supporting dialogue with a view to promoting friendship and cooperation and contribute to peaceful resolution of conflicts in Asia;

Emphasizing the fundamental role of the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, the territorial integrity of States, the non-use of force or of the threat of use of force in international relations and non-interference in internal affairs of States in the promotion of friendship and cooperation in Asia and calling upon all Member Parliaments and their respective Governments to ensure equal and non-discriminatory access of their citizens to civil political, economic, social and cultural rights;

Reiterating the importance of the Declaration on the Principles of Friendly Relations in Asia as a proper framework for promoting peace and prosperity in Asia;

Encourage all member states to enhance public relations among nations of different countries in order to better understand of each other and to strengthen the friendly relations among nations;

Encouraging further expansion of friendly relations including cultural, diplomatic, scientific, and commercial relations among all Asian States and further interaction among Asian Parliaments and Nations in pursuance of the purposes of the Declaration;

1. Call upon all Member States to focus on exchanging cultural experiences and deepening social communication through holding forums and events under the umbrella of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, for the positive objectives that benefit the Member States;
2. **Urge** collective and concerted efforts by all Asian States whose parliaments are APA Members to provide humanitarian assistance of all kinds to the vulnerable people in war- torn countries;
3. **Call Upon** all Asian States to direct their diplomatic efforts at reducing political tensions and utilize all ways and means within their power to avoid and de-escalate controversies which have potential to undermine principles of friendship and cooperation in Asia;
4. **Welcome** the initiative of the Inter-Parliamentary Union supported by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 72/278 to organize a world conference on interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue with the participation of Heads of State, parliaments and world religions.
5. **Urge** Asian Parliaments to disseminate information about the APA Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia by all available means including parliamentary and state publications, parliamentary friendship groups, public programs, etc.
6. **Decide** that every Member Parliament would motivate public and private media networks, websites and the like at local and national levels to engage in promoting and spreading the word about the content, importance and positive results of the adoption and implementation of the APA Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia;
7. **Encourage** Asian academic institutions, think-tanks and research centers, universities and educational institutions, as well as professional associations throughout Asia to take part in promoting and adhering to the tenets and guidelines enshrined in the APA Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia,

8. **Call upon** all APA Member Parliaments to inform the APA Secretariat of measures they have taken in promoting the APA Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia,
9. **Request** the Secretary-General to continue his consultations and coordination with the APA Member Parliaments as well as interested Asian organizations and academic institutions for promoting further activities and joint initiatives pertaining to Friendship and Cooperation in Asia.



Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia

APA/Plenary/SC-Political/Res/2019/06
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA resolutions on Mobilizing Interactions Between APA and Asian Governments (APA/Res/2015/02—11 December 2015); Engaging APA with Asian Governments and Inter-Governmental Organizations (APA/Res/2014/02); Asian Parliaments and Governments: Together for Solidarity and Prosperity in Asia (APA/Res/2013/02 –9 December 2013); Measures for Enhancing Cooperation Between APA and Asian Governments (APA/Res/2010/11, 30 November 2010) and resolution on Enhancing Cooperation Between Asian Parliamentary Assembly Member Parliaments and Their Governments for Implementation of APA Decisions (APA/Res/2008/10, 29 November 2008);

Emphasizing the need to foster closer coordination and cooperation between APA and Governments of APA Member Parliaments;

Taking note of the necessity of smooth cooperation and coordination between Parliaments and Governments in order to pass relevant enactments;

Encouraging Member Parliaments to consider endorsing and adopting common legislations on issues of mutual interest to both APA and Asian Governments;

1. **Urge** all Member Parliaments to inform relevant high-ranking officials of their respective governments of the great potentials, activities, and achievements of the APA as the largest inter-parliamentary organization in Asia and report thereon to the Secretariat for circulation;
2. **Decide** to form APA parliamentary groups comprising nominated delegates from volunteer Member Parliaments under the supervision of the APA Vice-President for Political Affairs and in full coordination with the APA Secretariat, to hold contacts and meetings with relevant inter-parliamentary and inter-governmental organizations, with a view to converging points of view and considering possible joint initiatives pertaining to regional and global issues, including the creation of an Asian Parliament;
3. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to seek the views of their respective Governments on the subject of Asian Parliament and to contribute to the work of the APA Special Committee on the Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) by providing their points of views and analyses of the subject matter;

4. **Request** APA Member Parliaments to identify and describe their priority desirable topics for receiving training, as well their capabilities to offer training and best practices, and share them with other Parliaments through the APA Secretariat, in order to organize training programs on exchanging best practices and learning from each other;
5. **Request** the Vice-President for Political Affairs to report to the Executive Council and the Plenary Sessions on his/her activities pertaining to the formation of working groups from interested Member Parliaments to focus on the implementation of APA decisions on political affairs;
6. **Request** the Secretary-General to expand the scope of its contacts and communications with inter-governmental as well as inter-parliamentary organizations who work on issues relevant to the items on the APA agenda in order to facilitate further interaction and joint efforts on common grounds with a view to enhancing cooperation between Asian Parliaments and Governments and report thereon to the next session of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs and the Executive Council.



Resolution on Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People

APA/Plenary/SC-Political/Res/2019/07
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions on Supporting Palestinian State and Protecting Rights of Palestinian People, (APA/Res/2013/03, 9 December 2013); Violations of International Humanitarian Law in the Palestine and the War Crimes Committed By the Zionist Regime in Gaza (APA/Res/2009/01, 8 December 2009); and Humanitarian Crisis in Palestine Particularly in the Gaza Strip (APA/Res/2008/08, 29 November 2008); and the catastrophic humanitarian impact of the aggressive war on the Gaza Strip in July 2014.

Also recalling the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, including resolutions 242 (1967), 252 (1968), 267 (1969), 298 (1971), 446 (1979), 465, 474, 478 (1980), 468 (1980) and 1322 (2000), 2334 (2016), and resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and other relevant international documents.

Inspired by the Principles and objectives enshrined in the APA Charter and the relevant APA resolutions;

Committed to contribute to the promotion of peace and security at regional and global levels on the basis of justice and the rule of law;

Affirming the responsibility of the international community to support implementation of resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations Security Council; the UN General Assembly; the Human Rights Council; and the APA pertinent to the situation in Palestine, particularly in Al-Quds;

Supporting the struggle of Palestinian people against Israeli occupation by its all means to liberate its land and establish an independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds city as its capital;

Denouncing the transfer of the American Embassy from Tel-Aviv to the occupied city of Jerusalem in disregard of the principles and rules of international legitimacy and UNSC Resolutions;

Expressing serious concerns on Israel's lack of commitment to abide by resolutions and recommendations of the UN Security Council, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the APA regarding the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly in Al-Quds;

Reaffirming the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Palestinian territories, including Al-Quds;

Recognizing that Israel's severe violations of international humanitarian law and of the human rights of Palestinian people undermine international efforts towards achieving a just and lasting peace in the region;

Affirming that the road to peace, stability and prosperity in the Middle East comes first by ending the Israeli occupation of Palestine in implementation of the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy, and not to replace the political solution with economic solution through economic conferences aimed at legitimizing the Palestinian lands occupation and coexistence, and prolongs the occupation tenure.

Emphasizing that the practice of worship, prayers and all Islamic religious rituals in Al-Aqsa Mosque is a natural and guaranteed right for only Muslims. The Israeli occupation has no right to intimidate and prevent them from carrying out their duties, while Israeli occupation allows settlers and extremists to break into the sanctity of islamic sacred places, especially Al-Aqsa Mosque.

1. **Urge** all Members of the APA to support and treat the State of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations.
2. **Reject** and strongly condemn the statements made by the Israeli Prime Minister on 10th of September 2019, in which he announced his intention to annex the entire Palestinian Jordan Valley, the northern Dead Sea and settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, in a massive and flagrant violation of the rules of international law and the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and its resolutions, particularly Security Council resolution 2334 for 2016. We call upon the United Nations to defend its resolutions that end the Israeli occupation and enable the Palestinian people to self-determination on their land.
3. **Affirm** our adherence to the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy as the sole reference to the resolution of the Palestinian issue, and we confirm our absolute rejection of all plans and deals of the so-called "American Deal of the Century" and conferences that do not abide by those resolutions. We affirm that there is no peace, no security or stability in the Middle East without ending the Israeli occupation, and establishing of an independent Palestinian state with

Jerusalem as its capital on the borders of 4th of June 1967, and the resolution of the refugees issue in accordance with Resolution 194.

4. **Condemn** all violations of international law that threaten international peace and security, including all acts of terrorism and organized crime, and human rights violations by Israeli occupying forces and settlers in Palestine, and call for international protection of the Palestinian people in accordance with General Assembly resolution A / Es-10 / L. 23 of 11 June 2018, and the relevant Geneva Conventions.
5. **Encourage** all members of the international community to take up with the pressure on Israel to immediately release all the Palestinian prisoners including the Members of the Palestinian Parliament and condemns the Israeli Knesset's failure to respond to the fact-finding and investigation committees established by the Inter-Parliamentary Union on prisoners in Israeli jails as evident in to International Parliamentary meetings in St. Petersburg and Geneva in March 2018, and dismantle all illegal settlements as well as the entire separating wall and put an end to confiscating Palestinian lands.
6. **Declare** all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, including expropriation of land and properties which tend to change the legal status of Jerusalem as invalid and bearing no legal effect on their original status.
7. **Condemn** Israel's continuation of building settlements defying applicable international law particularly Security Council resolution 2334 of December 2016; disregarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian People including their right to resist and protest against foreign occupation of their lands; and hampering international efforts towards achieving a just and lasting peace in the region;
8. **Express** grave concerns on the suppression and injustice, as well as continuing violence practiced against the Palestinian people, particularly women and children, in the occupied Palestinian territories under the Israeli occupation including East Jerusalem, and in the Syrian Golan occupied by Israel;
9. **Call Upon** all members of the APA and the United Nations as well as all regional and international organizations concerned, particularly the United Nations Security Council and the International Criminal Court to address, under the UN Charter and the Rome Statute, the crimes against humanity and the war crimes committed by Israel in Palestine which threaten the international peace and security;
10. **Condemn** the closure of the PLO diplomatic mission in Washington in retaliation for the membership of Palestine to the International Criminal Court;
11. **Praise** the decision taken by the European Union not to purchase any products produced in the settlements based in the occupied territories and call on states of

the APA Member Parliaments to act in a similar way and affirm the full support for international boycott movement against Israeli occupation;

12. **Reject** the occupation policies and measures contrary to international law and the international legitimacy resolutions practiced by the Zionist entity to change the historical, cultural, religious and demographic features of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially the city of Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian sanctities in general, and Al-Aqsa Mosque in particular, and also reject the Knesset law aimed at splitting the Al-Aqsa Mosque temporally and spatially; This constitutes a blatant attack on the freedom of worship and the practice of religious rites, as stipulated in human rights charters, and the First Geneva Protocol of 1977, Article 53 of which prohibits hostilities directed against places of worship.
13. **Reject** the illegal decisions taken by the Israeli Knesset, such as the Judaization of Jerusalem, the Law of Loyalty to Citizenship, the Denial of the Palestinian State and the rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories, the Law of Jewish Nationalism, and / withholding the Financing of the State of Palestine, and the theft of clearing funds that belong to the State of Palestine under the pretext of Palestinian caring for the families of the martyrs and wounded and the families of prisoners and detainees, who are victims of the occupation, in violation of Articles 89 and 98 of the Geneva Convention.
14. **Reject** and condemn the US Administration's decision to suspend its financial contributions to UNRWA, and all attempts, resolutions and alternatives that affect the status and role of UNRWA established by UN Resolution 302 of 1949. We call on all countries in the world, especially the members of this Assembly, to support and protect UNRWA's budget so that it can fulfill its obligations to about 6 million Palestinian refugees until their case is resolved in accordance with UN Resolution 194.
15. **Call upon** the international community to fulfill its pledges to rebuild infrastructure and rehabilitate people in Gaza, which have been destroyed by Israeli forces, and to support the Palestinian economy in the occupied Palestine.
16. **Call upon** countries that have established embassies, offices or diplomatic missions in occupied Jerusalem, to draw back the decisions in compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions referred to in the preamble to the resolution, in particular resolution 478 of August 1980, and UN General Assembly Resolution: A / ES-10 / L. 22 of December 2017, which considered the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital as null and void, and calling on all APA member states to refrain from establishing diplomatic missions in occupied Jerusalem.
17. **Affirm** that development, investment and improvement of the standard of living are rights denied to the Palestinian people for 52 years now, due to the continuation of the Israeli occupation. It's a must first to end the occupation, in order to liberate

the Palestinian economy, and enable the Palestinian people to control their natural resources and economic wealth, and invest to live a decent life away from blackmail and bargaining.

18. **Reaffirms** its rejection of US Secretary of State declaration on 18th of Nov 2019 that Israeli settlement in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is not inconsistent with the international law and considers the declaration a flagrant violation of international law and UN resolutions in particular UN Security Council resolution 2334.
19. **Invites** the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to expedite the publication of the “Black List” of Israeli and foreign companies dealing and/or working in Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories as a necessary step to isolate settlements and protect human rights.



Draft Resolution on Harmonious Development through Democracy

APA/Plenary/SC-Political/Res/2019/08
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, which reaffirms the dignity and worth of human beings, in the equal rights of nations large and small and the principle of the sovereign equality of the UN Members;

Recalling also the United Nations Member commitment stipulated in the UN Charter to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all people;

Reiterating that democracy, dignity of human beings, rule of law and justice are universal, interconnected, mutually reinforcing and crucial for development;

Recognizing that the eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and in this regard, stressing on the importance of an enabling environment based on principals of democracy for the promotion of higher living standards, decent employment, and conditions for economic and social progress and development;

Mindful of the need for leading role of Parliaments towards the full realization of SDGs;

1. **Acknowledge** the core role of Parliaments in the socio-economic development by involving the will of the people through transparent, accessible, accountable and effective institutions at all levels;
2. **Consider** democracy, transparency and accountability among the important means to sustainably end poverty, promote shared prosperity and the basic social and economic needs;
3. **Commit** to remove and eradicate all obstacles in the administration of socio-economic polices and all forms of discriminations, including, but not limited to race, color, creed, cast, sex, language, religion, nationality, and ethnicity;

4. **Recognize** the need for active engagement with civil society organization and youth at all tiers of governance to ensure equitable development;
5. **Urge** that APA Members Parliaments shall continue to encourage sustainable human development through social security programs for marginalized segments of the society;
6. **Acknowledge** that regional disparities in economic development are amongst the leading causes of marginalization of efficacy and efficiency of democratic setups. Requiring affirmative actions to bring equitable and judicious development across the region;
7. **Emphasize** to improve regional and inter-regional connectivity to promote socio-economic development of the people of Asia and
8. **Urge** APA Members to generate an informed debate and share experiences at APA platform on the democratic process leading to development.



Draft Resolution on Enhancing Cooperation among the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to Protect and Promote Multilateralism

New
APA/Plenary/SC-Political/Draft Res/2019/09
16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the relevant principles set forth in the Charter of the Assembly and the Charter of the United Nations;

Mindful of the existence of mutual interests and common problems among the Member Parliaments and *convinced* of the need to further strengthen the existing cooperation;

Recognizing the serious danger and threats posed by the actions and measures which seek to undermine international law and international legal instruments;

Recalling paragraph 4 of the report of Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled “Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization” contained in document A/72/1 wherein it states that “now more than ever, multilateral action is needed to find effective solutions to this mix of challenges”. *Sharing* his concern expressed in paragraph 140 of the same report that “multilateralism is being questioned at a time when we most need coherent global responses to these interconnected events”;

Underscoring the need to strengthen cooperation between APA and other regional and international inter-parliamentary organizations and forums on matters related to Asia;

Expressing opposition to all unilateral coercive measures, with certain destructive effects on the foundation of multilateralism, including those measures used as tools for imposition of unjust political or economic and financial pressure against any country;

Continuing to maintain, strengthen and manifest the unity and solidarity among the members of APA, particularly with those whose nations are suffering from the negative consequences of unilateral coercive measures at political, cultural and economic levels;

Reaffirming that each State has full sovereignty over the totality of its wealth, natural resources and economic activity, exercising it freely;

Gravely concerned that the use of unilateral coercive economic measures adversely affects the economies and the development efforts of all nations, and have a serious

general negative impact on international economic cooperation and on worldwide efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory and open multilateral trading system;

Determined, for the sake of peace and stability and promoting friendly and mutually beneficial relations among all nations in the world through, including, contribution to international cooperation aimed at strengthening multilateralism and curbing the negative effects of unilateralism, we, the Member Parliaments of APA, *agree* to undertake the following measures, among others;

1. **Reaffirm** our commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and universally recognized norms and principles of international law and the objectives and principles enshrined in the Charter of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly;
2. **Reaffirm** our commitment to effective multilateralism with the United Nations at its center;
3. **Assert** on behalf of the parliamentarian community of Asia to work in line with the expectation that the world will become more committed to promote multilateralism in all aspects of world affairs;
4. **Call upon** all Parliamentarians in Asia to redouble their efforts at all possible levels to adopt measures aimed at preventing and curbing the negative effects of illegal unilateral measures undermining free, open and transparent relations among members of the Asian community;
5. **Welcome** all initiatives of the Member Parliaments to promote and strengthen cooperation in various fields including economy, finance, transport and trade within the geography of APA at bilateral and multilateral levels;
6. **Reaffirm** the willingness of the Asian parliamentarians to closely cooperate and collaborate with other branches of their respective governments in formulating proper and effective national plans to help promote multilateral cooperation in all spheres of regional and international relations;
7. **Reject** unilateral coercive measures with all their extraterritorial effects as tools for political and economic pressure against any country in particular against developing countries. *Underscore* the need for all states to avoid politicization of the UN Security Council sanctions regime, particularly with those Member States whose nations are suffering from negative consequences of unilateral coercive measures at political, cultural and economic levels;
8. **Urge** all Member Parliaments to facilitate the adoption of urgent and effective measures to impede the use of unilateral coercive measures against any country that are inconsistent with the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and that contravene the basic principles of the

multilateral trading system. *Request* States applying these measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately;

9. ***Reiterate*** unwavering support to JCPOA, which remains a significant achievement of multilateral diplomacy endorsed unanimously by the UN Security Council through Resolution 2231 dated 2015 and underscore that JCPOA proved to be effective and has no alternative and welcome the full implementation by Iran of its nuclear-related commitments, as repeatedly confirmed by the IAEA, and call upon all other parties to fulfill in total their own obligations stemming from JCPOA and the UNSCR 2231 so that overarching goals which induced the conclusion of the accord are achieved in due course and in a timely fashion;
10. ***Reaffirm*** sovereign right of our people to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain all economic goods required to ensure an acceptable standard of living and a sustainable development for them, and *emphasizes* that no undue restrictive measure should be taken against any country in this regard;
11. ***Emphasize*** that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development and development and stress that no illegal restrictive measures should be taken against any Member State in this regard. *Reiterate* that food and basic goods should not be used as an instrument for unilateral political and economic pressure. *Stress* the importance of international cooperation and solidarity, especially within the framework of APA, to prevent such unilateral coercive measures that affect the trade related to food and basic goods and would endanger food security impacting specially groups in vulnerable situations;
12. ***Request*** the Secretary-General to submit a report to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs containing initiatives, including those introduced by the Member Parliaments, to promote the role of parliamentarians, especially within the framework of APA, in furthering multilateralism.



Asian Parliamentary Assembly

The 12th Plenary Session

13-18 December 2019

Antalya, Turkey

**SC-Budget and Planning /Rep/2019/11
16 December 2019**

Report of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning

The Standing Committee on Budget and Planning was held on 16 December 2019. The member parliaments attending the 12th Plenary participated in the deliberations of this Committee.

1. Adoption of the Agenda:

The Agenda was adopted unanimously ([Attachment I](#)).

2. Election of the Bureau:

H.E. Mr. Rami Jabbar AL-SUKAINY Chaired the meeting as APA Vice-President for 2019.

3. Opening Remarks by Chairperson:

The chairman briefed the meeting on the achievements of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning which was held in Baghdad, Republic of Iraq on 3-5 September 2019. He expressed his support for the only Draft Resolution under consideration of the committee due to the importance of issues involved.

4. Report of the Secretariat:

The representative of the Secretariat informed the meeting on the previous work of the committee as well as views expressed on the Draft Resolution during the 2nd Executive Council. It was indicated that on one hand we have the Draft Resolution to consider and on the other hand the effect of the results of the upcoming Working Group on Statutory Documents in Kuwait on this Draft Resolution should also be considered.

5. Consideration of Draft Resolution recommended by the 2nd Executive Council:

The following draft resolution was considered by the Committee:

Draft Resolution on Planning APA Budget.

Delegates expressed their appreciation for provision of financial and logistical support to the APA Secretariat by the Islamic Parliament of Iran ever since 2007.

Under this agenda item, member countries engaged in an extensive exchange of views on the above Draft Resolution. Three following trends were detected during debates:

- 1- Adoption of the Draft Resolution as it is.
- 2- Deletion of Operative Paragraph 6 and amending Operative Paragraph 1.
- 3- Deferment of the Draft Resolution to the next Standing Committee meeting.

The Chair concluded that the third option seems to emerge and thus the Draft Resolution on Planning APA Budget is deferred to the next Standing Committee meeting in 2020.

6. Any Other Matter:

No issue was raised.

Attachment I



Asian Parliamentary Assembly
The 12th Plenary Session



13-18 December 2019
Antalya, TURKEY

Standing Committee on Budget & Planning

Draft Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Election of the Bureau
- 3- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 4- Report of the Secretariat
- 5- Consideration of Draft Resolution recommended by the 2nd Executive Council
- 6- Any other matters.



Standing Committee on Budget and Planning

- 1. Draft Resolution on Planning APA Budget (Deferred).....5**



Draft Resolution on Planning APA Budget

Deferred

APA/Plenary/SC-Budget and Planning /Draft Res/2019/01

16 December 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA/Res/2008/04 and APA/ Res/2014/09 and other relevant APA documents;

Determined to enhance the efficiency and organizational capacity of the APA to achieve its goals and objectives enshrined in its Charter;

Underscoring the importance of participation by all Member Parliaments in sharing the financial needs of the APA and its Secretariat;

Emphasizing the principles of transparency, accountability, and efficient management of financial resources in APA budgeting and spending;

We, the participants of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning;

1. **Request** all APA Member Parliaments to take required measures, according to their respective internal budget planning procedures, to secure budgetary resources required for the payment of their contribution;
2. **Encourage** willing APA Member Parliaments, to make voluntary financial contributions over and above the assessed contribution to the APA budget and decisions;
3. **Appreciate** the provision of financial and logistical support to the APA Secretariat by the Islamic Parliament of Iran since 2007, and request the generous continuation of its supports pending the full implementation of Financial Regulations and until the regular payments of assessed contributions by all Member Parliaments are securely made; tentatively for APA budget of 2020;
4. **Acknowledge** the generosity of the APA President and Vice-Presidents in contributing to the APA expenses by hosting the events and complying with the

APA Decision on Modalities for Effective Organization of the APA Meetings adopted by the 7th Plenary on 10 December 2013 through supporting APA Secretariat expenses;

5. **Request** the Secretary General to prepare the APA Annual Budget draft based on the (Program & Performance Budget model), that requires programs, projects and expenses estimation based on the Assembly objectives, and on the policies and plans approved by the standing committee, and then to be presented to the Executive Council of the APA for final approval by the Plenary Session.
6. **Consider** the consequential bearing and impact of the APA Staff Regulations and the APA Financial Regulations on the Charter of APA, suggest the Plenary and Executive Council of APA for an immediate revisit of Charter and Rules of Procedure and consider proposed amendments to the Charter, Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations during Executive Council meeting for adoption in the 12th Plenary session in 2019.
7. Allocate the APA Budget financial funds through the following three Items, the Secretary General shall specify the principles, objectives & rules for the Budget preparation and present it to the Standing Committee on budget and planning;
 - I. Operational and Strategic Budget Item: expenses allocated initially upon the Budget approval and attestation.
 - II. Additional Budget Item: amounts decided to be added to cover APA new projects and programs.
 - III. Emergency Budget Item: which shall be decided via a decision to be taken by the Executive Council to cover emergency events or incidents.
8. **Request** the Executive Council to direct the General Secretariat to communicate with all members to give their approval on their commitment to the contribution to the Asian Parliamentary Assembly budget. In addition, each parliament should state their choice on how the Asian Parliamentary Assembly should calculate the contribution; either by contributing equally or based on the percentage of the GDP.
9. **Recommend** to exempt Palestine from the assessed contribution until the end of occupation, and the establishment of its independent state.



Attachment X

Asian Parliamentary Assembly

12th Plenary Session

ANTALYA DECLARATION

(16 December 2019)

We, Members of Parliaments of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) who attended the 12th Plenary Session of APA in Antalya from 14 December to 16 December 2019, upon the invitation of H.E. Mustafa ŞENTOP, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and President of APA,

Representing the nations in Asia having deep rooted bonds of history, culture, economy, politics and civilizations which gain strength from respecting their rich diversities;

Expressing our satisfaction that countries of APA have about 60 % of world population and have competence to play a decent role in addressing current issues in world politics;

Guided by the system of international relations that is based on the principles of equality, dialogue, cooperation, respect for international law, respect for the sovereignty of states and noninterference in their internal affairs;

Stressing the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in maintaining peace, security, stability and development through mutual understanding, dialogue, cooperation and solidarity;

Emphasizing the need to further expand parliamentary support for more active involvement of young people in the process of developing and making decisions on social, economic and political issues of national and global development;

Desiring to boost mutually beneficial political, economic, commercial, social and cultural cooperation among the countries;

Mindful of the fact that the establishment of a true economic convergence among the Asian nations will enhance interconnectivity among our countries and will result in improvement of our overall economic and social welfare;

Deeply convinced that inter-parliamentary cooperation establishes dialogue channels that advance interstate relations, contributes to rapprochement between countries;

Reaffirming the negative and unacceptable impacts of unilateral sanctions in pursuit of political gains on economic growth and trade expansion in the APA Geography;

Concerned by the ongoing challenges and conflicts in parts of Asia, particularly the menace of violent extremism, the threat of terrorism and the suffering of people, which particularly affected women and children;

Draw attention to women empowerment and action of raising the status of women through education, raising awareness, literacy, and training;

Emphasizing that violent extremism and terrorism should not be associated with any culture, civilization, religion or ethnicity and should be neither tolerated nor condoned;

Reminding that the connection between organized crime and terrorism becoming more intertwined and complex with the emergence of new technologies and tools;

Commended the positive outcomes following the 7th Conference of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption held in The State of Qatar between 9 and 10 December 2019, and **welcome** the election of H.E. Mr. Ahmad Bin Abdulla Bin Zaid ALMAHMOUD, Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar as President of this global organization.

DO HEREBY EXPRESS OUR COMMITMENT TO:

Reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations (UN) in particular those concerning the maintenance of international peace and security,

Reaffirm also our adherence to the principles and norms of the international law, as well as the international obligations under the treaties and other international instruments which our countries have ratified in order to strengthen cooperation;

Reiterate our commitment to UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and the principle of “Leaving No One Behind”;

Reaffirm parliaments and parliamentarians commitment as agreed on Bali Declaration, Bali Commitment, and Bali Roadmap which become the foundations for parliamentary involvement toward the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals;

Support the strengthening of multilateralism, making international organizations more efficient and transparent, global governance and the international rules-based order;

Repeat the utmost importance of inter-parliamentary relations to develop multidimensional, comprehensive and intensive cooperation and promote common interests and values in the international arena,

Propose enhancing partnerships within the framework of other regional and international parliamentary mechanisms to which we belong, in order to generate synergies that address the political, economic, social and cultural issues;

Strongly encourage the efforts of the Parliaments with a view to resolving disputes through inter-parliamentary relations to promote common interests and values as well as the multi-dimensional cooperation of our governments;

Recommend to deepen interaction between legislative authorities and exchange experience in order to further improve lawmaking and supervisory processes as well as parliamentary diplomatic relations;

Underline the importance of fostering economic relations and trade channels to strengthen regional connectivity;

Promote the search for joint responses to modern challenges and threats, as well as the harmonization of the geo-economic interests and ensuring greater connectivity of Asian countries, as the main elements in the formation of a common growth space in Asia, realizing a free, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment;

Reaffirm obligations of all States to abide by the Charter of the UN and the universally recognized norms and principles of international law in implementing the UN Security Council resolutions. We **consider** that any politicization of the UN Security Council sanctions architecture undermines the UN Security Council sanctions regime and principles and purposes of the Charter of the UN. We **reject** any unlawful political and economic pressure against any Member State in this regard, particularly with those Member States, whose nations are suffering from negative consequences of unilateral coercive measures at political, cultural and economic levels, taking into consideration the Charter of the UN and the universally recognized norms and principles of international law. With regard to Member States we **reiterate** the principles of international law, including inadmissibility of extraterritorial application of national law inconsistent with the principles of international law.

Emphasize that economic viability and long-term social and environmentally sustainable growth should be based on mutual benefits, inclusiveness and transparent and nondiscriminatory procurement processes;

Underscore the regional interconnectivity projects to revive the ancient “Silk Road” which will constitute another link bonding the people of Asia for the benefit of all;

Reiterate the spread of terrorist organizations and significant rise in acts of terrorism directly undermine the maintenance of international peace and security as well as endanger the regional and global economy and sustainable growth and development;

Recall the Siem Reap Declaration of the 9th Plenary Session of APA, between 28 November-1 December 2016, reiterates its full solidarity with Turkey in its fight against the Fetullah Gülen Terrorist Organization (FETÖ);

Reaffirm our strong condemnation of violent extremism, xenophobia and terrorism in all their forms and manifestations as one of the major threats to the humanity; with a special focus on the suffering and outcrying mothers of Diyarbakır and mothers of the world who endlessly search for their beloved children manipulated and forcibly recruited by loathed terrorist organizations such as PKK/YPG.

Support an Afghan owned and Afghan led peace and reconciliation process, encourage all sides to refrain from violence and seek negotiated political solution to the war in Afghanistan through a transparent inter-Afghan dialogue with the participation of the Afghan Government with a view to bringing sustainable and lasting peace to Afghanistan.

Remain united in combatting terrorism and to further strengthen and develop inter-parliamentary cooperation without political motives and double standards, respecting sovereignty and independence of the states of the continent and the whole world;

Express that the ongoing refugee crisis is of global concern with major political, social, economic and, especially, humanitarian consequences; **underline** the responsibility of the international community to take joint actions to address the root causes and **call** for more effective, concerted efforts of the international community in jointly addressing this problem.

Reaffirm our support for an independent, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine based on 1967 borders as outlined in the relevant UN Resolutions with al Quds (Jerusalem) as its Capital; **strongly condemn** the illegal settlement activities, demolitions and other grave violations of international law and human rights by the Israeli occupation forces; **recognize** the importance of al Quds (Jerusalem) for all three monotheistic religions and **reject** any attempt to alter its legal status and historical character;

Call upon the Government of Myanmar and Bangladesh to actively coordinate the returning of the Rohingya refugees to Rakhine and live there with safety and human dignity; **encourage** the Government of Myanmar to find long-term solutions to Rohingya crisis and **continue**

implementing recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission within the framework of reasonable timetable; **urge** the international community to maintain and increase humanitarian assistance to Rohingya refugees;

Advise Pakistan and India to resolve escalating tensions in the region through negotiations and peaceful dialogue;

Urge unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid to Yemen in light of the alarming deterioration of the humanitarian situation;

Stress the importance of the legislative functions of the parliaments while **affirming** that parliaments are not the right venue to make judgment on qualification of historic events, which should be under the auspices of historians, and politicization of the parliaments through such resolutions as a means of unilateral sanction is unacceptable.

Declare our readiness to expand the exchange of legislative experience in the key areas in order to create a favorable legal environment and eliminate obstacles to build a comprehensive, mutually beneficial partnership and making Asia a prosperous and secure continent;

Consider sharing ideas and experiences as a way to find innovative and breakthrough strategies for the strengthening of bilateral and multilateral international relations;

Thank Turkey for its warm, gracious and efficient hospitality in hosting the Twelfth Plenary Session in Antalya.

Congratulate the Grand National Assembly of Turkey on the centenary of the parliament to be marked by solemn meeting that will be held on 23 April 2020 in Ankara.

Footnote: Delegation of India registered its dissociation/reservation to Antalya Declaration.