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## **Report of the APA Eleventh Plenary Session**

*“Promoting Economic Prosperity in Asia”*

29 November – 2 December 2018  
Istanbul, Republic of Turkey

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## SECOND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

- 1) The Second Executive Council meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 29 November 2018.
- 2) APA parliamentary delegations from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Russia, , Thailand, Turkey, UAE and Vietnam participated in this meeting.
- 3) At the beginning, the Agenda of the Meeting was adopted. H.E. Mrs. Asuman Erdogan, Representative of APA President elected as the Chairperson by acclamation based on APA customary precedent, Cambodia as Vice-Chair and Pakistan as Rapporteur were also elected by acclamation.
- 4) The APA Secretariat delivered the Report of the First Executive Council and informed the Member Parliaments that in the First Executive Council, 6 Resolutions of Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development and 9 Resolutions of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs were adopted. Therefore, in the Second Executive Council, we have to adopt 9 Resolutions of political Standing Committee and one Resolution on Budget & Planning Standing Committee.
- 5) H.E. Dr. Majidi, Secretary General of APA expressed that a glance through provisions of resolutions formulated in the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development is a testament to the fact that APA has been vigilant and alerted through all its years of activities over the vital and important issues such as: The environment, Implementation of UN-SDGs, Water resource management, Eradication of Poverty, Energy Resources, Integration of Asia's Energy Market etc. These and many other topics are high on our countries agendas and the fact that we are dealing with them on constant basis indicates the contribution parliamentary economic diplomacy can have in supporting such measures.
- 6) In the context of item 5 of Agenda, Dr. Khorram presented the Report of Budget and Planning Standing Committee. In the first part, he mentioned that due to political fluctuations in Iraq and the postponement of the election, this parliament was not able to hold the Budget & Planning

Standing Committee in 2018 but would like to fulfill its commitment in 2019. Dr Khorram recommended that we respect the desire of Parliament of Iraq and at the same time, we have two alternatives as Chairperson for the Standing Committee, namely, Cambodia and Pakistan.

- 7) Dr Khorram said APA Secretariat has received several amendments from Russian delegation on the documents of this Standing Committee like Staff Regulations, Charter and Rules of Procedure. Such amendments should be firstly discussed and deliberated in the Standing Committee then the outcome as usual comes to the Executive Council.
- 8) With regard to Draft Resolution of Standing Committee on Budget and Planning, Dr Khorram said, as mentioned above, the Standing Committee was not held in 2018 so the draft Resolution has not been changed and the text is the same as the draft Resolution of 2017 Plenary although items 5, 7 and 8 of this Resolution have been implemented.
- 9) The third part of Deputy Secretary-General's Report was about the Model of Payment. He mentioned that upon the instruction of the Executive Council in Phnom Penh dated 3 October 2017 (Resolution on Planning APA Budget, Item 8, APA/Res/2017/14), APA Secretary-General communicated with all APA Member Parliaments on 8 October 2017 and offered them three Models of Payment to choose one of them. The Models of Payment for Assessed Contribution were based on GDP, on Equality and Mixture of both. Dr Khorram elaborated that since October 2017, majority of active APA Member Parliaments have responded and more than 60% of them are in favor of GDP Model and less than 40% in favor of Equality Model. In this case, it seems that the third Model means mixture of two Models of Equality and GDP can satisfy every Member Parliaments. He asked the Chairperson to adopt this proposal as the decision.
- 10) The fourth part of Dr Khorram's Report was about the APA Budget Estimate for 2019 and mentioned that upon the instruction of items 5 and 7 of the Resolution on Planning APA Budget, APA Secretariat has provided the draft Budget of 2019 based on the draft Budget for 2018, which was adopted in the 10th Plenary. This Budget will be realized whenever all APA Member Parliaments pay their Assessed Contributions. He suggested approving this draft Budget as usual.

- 11) The delegation of Pakistan supported the payment of equal amount of \$20,000 by member Parliaments (as recommended by SG report) to the APA budget and added that it can be lessened provided that the Plenary permission is obtained. The same delegation requested its position as Chairman of Political Standing Committee be relinquished.
- 12) Russian Member of Parliament stated that his Parliament would support any Model of Payment and requested his amendments be considered in the Standing Committee prior to that.
- 13) Madam Asuman Erdogan, the Chairperson of the Executive Council asked for the adoption of the Resolutions of two Standing Committees and the Budget Estimate for 2019. Member Parliaments adopted them unanimously.
- 14) On item 7 of the Agenda, Dr Khorram informed the Executive Council about Vice Presidents of APA in 2019 as follows:
  1. H. E. General Nipat Thonglek, MP from Thailand as Vice President and Chairman of Social and Cultural Standing Committee.
  2. H. E. Senator Chhit Kim Yeat from Cambodia as Vice President and Chairman of Political Standing Committee (Parliament of Iran as alternative).
  3. H.E. Mr. Alexey Lyaschenko, Member of Russian Duma as Vice President and Chairman of Economic & Sustainable Development Standing Committee.
  4. H.E. Ms Talebani, Member of Parliament of Iraq as Vice President and Chairman of Budget and Planning Standing Committee (Parliaments of Cambodia and Pakistan as Alternatives).
- 15) With regard to item 8 of the Agenda, Dr Khorram reconfirmed the Senate of Pakistan as the next APA President for 2020-2021.
- 16) The Draft Agenda of the 11th APA Plenary Session was presented and without any change adopted.
- 17) The Second Executive Council meeting concluded its work after fully addressing all Agenda items and adopting its Resolutions.

## INAUGURAL SESSION

The 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly was inaugurated by playing National Anthem of Republic of Turkey.

Delegations Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Russia, , Thailand, Turkey, UAE and Vietnam as full Members and East Timor, Oman, Samoa, Arab Parliamentary Union and PUIC as Observers participated in this meeting.

APA Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Mohamad Reza Majidi, in his opening remarks stated that: ... I wish also to embark upon the main theme of the conference as it is decided to be: “Promoting Economic Prosperity in Asia”. A glance through provisions of resolutions formulated in the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development is a testament to the fact that APA has been vigilant and alerted through all its years of activities over the vital and important issues such as: The environment, Implementation of UN-SDGs, Water resource management, Eradication of Poverty, Energy Resources, Integration of Asia’s Energy Market etc. These and many other topics are high on our countries agendas and the fact that we are dealing with them on constant basis indicates the contribution parliamentary economic diplomacy can have in supporting such measures.

I am confident that through your substantial deliberations addressing the main theme of the conference which is the common concerns of people in Asia, many challenges and obstacles will be raised and solutions will be offered. What remains as an important lesson to be taken on route to our native land is that elements uniting us are much more than those dividing us, thus collective action based on common principles and noble objectives would be the only option if we are to prosper socially and economically in the long run.

H.E. Mr. SAIF, Senator from Senate of Pakistan, on behalf of Chairman Senate, Honorable SANJRANI, stated that: As per the main theme of this assembly, our GWADAR meeting proved path-defining because it crystalized the possibilities of economic cooperation which lies at the very core of modern bilateral and international relations discourse.

In the present age of globalization, the key to economic prosperity and progress in Asia lies in multilateral Intra and inter-regional connectivity. Chairman Senate

of Pakistan has conveyed that APA will have to intensify multilateral cooperation by developing a realistic strategic paradigm for the region.

H.E. Mr. SAMAY, Senator, Secretary of the Upper House of Afghanistan in his statement referred to the 40 years old conflict in his country. He indicated that Parliaments should be in center of collaborations and called on APA to render its political as well as economic support to fight against poverty, insecurity and corruption.

Honorable Dr. Ali LARIJANI, Speaker of the Iranian Islamic Assembly during his opening remarks stated that: the international scene has become more transparent than the past...Asian bloc should shape its own channels of transactions so a country like US does not rudely withdraw from Paris Climate Change Agreement, abandons the regulations of global trade, pulls put of nuclear deal which was endorsed by UNSC etc. The requirement of maintaining Asian identity is first coming to this understanding that we are in the same boat in this sea of international remissness. Creation of phony conflicts and driving a wedge among Asian countries is the subterfuge employed by those powers who would not wish to see Asia ia gaining its real position on the path of progress.

Honorable Binali YILDIRIM, Speaker of Grand National Assembly of Turkey in his opening statement mentioned that:

Economy withers where security is but a shadow. Not to mention welfare.

We must crate solutions to now-global problems that we are facing.

Which brings us to fight against terrorism as a threat to entire humanity.

We must wage this fight against terrorism, and all together so, regardless of religion, tongue, belief, but also, never parsing good terrorists and the bad.

It is not only us, nor our neighbors but many countries of the world are face to face with the terrorist threat.

This terrorist organization -FETÖ- is not a threat only to Turkey but also to those countries into which their assets have infiltrated .

Each country that provides a theater for FETÖ activities must look and learn from Turkey's experience.

Terrorist organizations and the problem erupting from them, namely Foreign Terrorist Fighters, is an unfathomable danger both for Europe and Asia.

The Syrian crisis, after 8 years, has now evolved into a regional security concern. Turkey strives to eradicate this problem -strives on the field as well as in political processes.

As APA parliaments, we should make it our dream; our dream to make Asia a magnet destination... and to do so, we need one another. But why we need to achieve this? We need to achieve this to leave no one out or behind in Asia.

These meetings that we hold are the outcome of our sincerity in looking for common solutions to common problems.

This Executive Council meeting here today is but a step towards those sincere aspirations.

We will exchange views and ideas for the better of Asia and to bring about peace and welfare to Asia and it is my hope and expectation that this event will culminate in tangible, practical, beneficial outcomes for the immediate future.

I extend to you my gratitude for your participation and wish you a fruitful one.



## PLENARY SESSION

On the morning of November 30th, 2018 the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session was opened.

After the adoption of Agenda, Members of the Bureau were elected. H.E. Mrs. Asuman Erdogan, representative of APA President as Chairperson; H.E. Mr. Binh of Vietnam as Vice-chair and H.E. Mrs. N. Sediq, Senator from Pakistan as rapporteur of the meeting.

Senator N. Sediq of Pakistan Senate presented the report of the Second Executive Council to the Plenary. (Annex IX).

The general debate of the Plenary Session on the topic of “Promoting Economic prosperity in Asia” started by Member Parliaments.

H.E. Mr. BINH, MP of Vietnam: the fourth industrial revolution is changing our societies thus in order to make APA an effective organization, the following issues are proposes: To strengthen organizational structure- To reform the Agenda- To strengthen relationship with APA governments- To enhance exchanges among APA at all levels in all forms to contribute to improving relations and deepen friendship among people.

H.E. Mr. LYASCHENKO, MP of Russian Federation: the serious threats is international terrorism...ISIS is back into their territories...it is necessary to have a reserved attitude towards the concept of “countering violent extremism” actively promoted by the west. I believe that it provide “levers” for interfering in internal affairs of states, destabilizing “undesirable regimes”...building an adequate, modern, reliable and open architecture of equal and indivisible security is possible only through collective efforts.

H.E. Mr. GUANGYA MP of China: We believe in,1- maintenance of peace and tranquility- ensuring equality and mutual respect- abide by U.N. Charter principles-resolving peaceful resolution of disputes 2- promote development and prosperity in Asia- Free trade and cooperation- inclusiveness, interconnected and motivated society- increase openness and coordination for our economic strategy 3- consolidate Asia strategy and partnership, shared benefit of development 4- mutual learning among different civilizations.

H.E. Mr. THONGLEK, MP of Thailand: promoting policies that encourage entrepreneurship and job creation are key to SDGs, as they are effective measures

to eradicate forced labor, slavery and human trafficking. With these targets in mind, the goal is to achieve full and productive employment, and decent work for all women and men by 2030.

H.E. Mr. Kumar JHA, MP of India: the economic prosperity will effectively fulfill the other development needs of people of Asia. Equal access to educational opportunities, health services and access to other basic requirements of electricity, water resources and sanitation would be an automatic realization. We believe that the role of APA is certainly going to be central in our overall efforts in this direction.

H.E. Mr. NGUON NHEL, first V.P. of the National Assembly of Cambodia: though we have seen impressive growth reduction across our region, inequality is on the rise and the benefits of the growth are not equally shared and even increasingly going to the top. To achieve sustainable and inclusive economic prosperity, we should: Maintain peace and Security- Support rule-based international system- Urge advance economies to share their best practices- To promote free trade and investment- To strengthen and support SME enterprises.

H.E. Mrs. CORTUNA, MP of Philippines: to accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region are needed through joint endeavors in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community.

H.E. Mr. ADIANTO MP of Indonesia: Economic growth should benefit all levels of society. In this sense, parliament is central in the efforts to promote policies that can lead to the prosperity of its citizens. The south south cooperation as well as global partnership including transfer of technology will boost the development in each country.

The following observer states/international organizations addressed the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary session:

- H.E. Mr. M.K.NIASS, Secretary General of Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States.

During the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary session, the following parliamentary delegations took the floor and presented their views on the theme of the meeting:

Vietnam, Russia, China, Lebanon, Thailand, India, Cambodia, Philippines, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine.

## **Report of the Meeting of the APA Women Parliamentarians and the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs**

**(30 November 2018)**

The APA Women Parliamentarians meeting and Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held its meeting on 30 November 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey with participation by representatives from Afghanistan – Cambodia – Indonesia – Iran – Iraq – Russian Federation – Thailand- Turkey -Kuwait- Pakistan- Kazakhstan-The Philippines and Vietnam. After the adoption of its agenda, H.E. General Nipat Thonglek MP from Thailand chaired the meeting. Afghanistan was elected as the Vice Chairman and H.E. Dr. Ali Khorram, APA Deputy Secretary-General assisted the Chair.

The Chairman opened the meeting by appreciating the professional arrangements and excellent hospitality by Grand National Assembly of Turkey. As for item 4 of the Agenda, the meeting took note with appreciation the background briefing presented by the APA Deputy Secretary-General on the subject.

On the consideration of the situation of women parliamentarians in Asia (item 5 of the Agenda), Dr. R. Kavachikhan, MP from Turkey and President of Turkish Group at IPU, presented a report on Empowering Women, as special guest. In her expose, she stressed on “Stem Education” and provided interesting and impressive data and statistics on the promotion of Women situation in Turkey in different fields. Women MP from Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, Pakistan, Iraq, Vietnam and Indonesia also took the floor and made remarks on the status of women in their societies and achievements reached in variety of social, entrepreneurial and other activities. MP from Iraq specifically referred to the deplorable status of women in war torn areas such as IZADI ethnic minority in Iraq. MP from Indonesia proposed that the Girls Interaction with Leaders be taken up in the next meeting of Standing Committee in Thailand. Dr. Khorram stated that references to UNSC resolution on situation of people in conflict zones are mentioned on APA resolutions as well. He also recommended Iranian MP to submit a report on the role of Sport activity in empowering women in the next meeting in Bangkok in 2019.

On item 6 of the Agenda, all resolutions considered by the Standing Committee in Cheshme, Turkey, were adopted and forwarded to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary for its final approval.

List of Resolutions are as follows:

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 Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption
5. Draft Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians
6. Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions
7. Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia
8. Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia
9. Draft Resolution on Humanitarian Aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, And Myanmar on The Verge of the Humanitarian Catastrophe
10. Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia (Deferred)

## **Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs and Working Group on Asian Parliament**

**(30 November 2018)**

The Standing Committee on Political Affairs held its meeting on 3p November 2018, in Istanbul – Turkey. APA Delegations from parliaments of Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Thailand and Turkey participated in this meeting. After adoption of the agenda, H.E. Senator Chhit, of Cambodia chaired the meeting. H.E. Kohkan, MP from Iran as Vice-Chair and H.E. Dr. Khorram, APA Deputy Secretary General assisted the chair.

Dr. Ali Khorram, in his opening remarks referred to the background of establishment of Working Group on Asian Parliament and stated that “Based on the consensus emerging from the interventions of the Member Parliaments in the Political Standing Committee and the draft resolution, which was proposed by the distinguished delegation of Pakistan in Gwadar, 30 October 2018, there was a request to form an open-ended working group to follow up and develop the idea of Asian Parliament.

Without any delay, APA Secretariat prepared a Questioner together with a comprehensive research, which was presented to the Plenary in 2014 under the title of “The Foundations of Asian Parliament” and sent through a correspondence dated 4 November 2018 to all Speakers of APA Parliaments. The Questioner is based on the legitimate questions, which were raised in different meetings including sub-regional meetings as well as communications of Member parliaments with the APA Secretariat. By raising such questions, it means we have already fulfilled general discussions on Asian Parliament and we want to consult with each other on specific concerns and issues of Member Parliaments to undertake a comprehensive study on the roadmap for creation of Asian parliament. In this communication, we have asked each Parliament to answer the questions and nominate one well-knowledgeable MP to permanently participate in the Working Group. Answers to those questions will be as the base for discussions and deliberations in the Working Group. So far, there is a proposal by some Members that the working Group discusses the possibility of a conference of Asian think tankers to give APA a real feeling of Asian Parliament.

This working group is under auspicious of Political Standing Committee but can hold its meetings together and/or separately from the Political Standing Committee if necessary.

The working group on Asian Parliament does the same job and has the same mandate as SCCAP had. It means we try to develop the idea of Asian Parliament in a meeting that every Member Parliament can participate by nomination of its well-knowledgeable representative.

We urge all Member Parliaments to respond to our communication in this respect as soon as possible. Whenever we receive an acceptable number of Member Parliaments responses, we inform them to hold the Working Group.

A deadline till 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2019 was proposed and agreed for providing answers to questions as well as nominating the permanent members of the Working Group.

Delegation of Thailand expresses her readiness to convene the first meeting of the Working Group on the sideline of the upcoming Standing Committee on Cultural Affairs in Bangkok, 2019.

Pakistan MP recommended that a reference to the principle approval of Working Group activity be mentioned in the Istanbul Declaration and that Pakistan offers to host that meeting in Islamabad.

APA deputy secretary general summed up the views as follows:

- All MPs should respond to the questionnaire as a base for discussions and deliberations and also nominate their representative.
- The first meeting of the Working Group will be held in Bangkok, 2019.
- APA Secretariat will function as the Secretariat of the Working Group, which is under supervision of Political Standing Committee.

Member parliaments concurred with the above conclusion.

On item 6 of the agenda, delegation of Pakistan made an editorial correction to the operative para 3 of the draft resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament” which was accepted by the house. Delegation of Indonesia proposed that the idea of “Political Party Cooperation” be added in that resolution. The chair requested her to provide it in a written form to be considered by the next meeting of Political Standing Committee.

All resolutions of the Standing Committee were adopted.

List of Resolutions are as the following:

1. Draft Resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament”
2. Draft Resolution on “Good Governance”
3. Draft Resolution on 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



## **Report of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning**

**30 November 2018**

The meeting of Standing Committee on Budget and Planning was participated by member parliaments from Azerbaijan- Cambodia – China – Indonesia - Iran – Iraq – India – Indonesia - Jordan- Kuwait – Lebanon- Pakistan - Palestine – Russia – Thailand- Vietnam and Turkey.

After adoption of Agenda, H.E. Mrs. TALEBANI from Iraq Parliament chaired the meeting. H.E. Senator CHHIT Kim from Cambodia was elected as Vice Chair. Mrs. TALEBANI in her opening statement thanked members of the committee for entrusting her and Iraqi Parliament and assured everyone that the next meeting of the Standing Committee will be held in Bagdad hopefully by April 2019. The exact date will be coordinated and announced by and through APA Secretariat.

On item 4 of the Agenda, Dr Khorram presented a report and said:

Upon the instruction of the Executive Council in Phnom Penh on 3 October 2017 (Resolution on Planning APA Budget, Item 8, APA/Res/2017/14), APA Secretary-General communicated with all APA Member Parliaments on 8 October 2017 and offered them three Models of Payment to choose one of them. The Models of Payment of Assessed Contribution are as follows:

- 1- The Model of Payment, which is applicable in the United Nations and Inter-Parliamentary Union systems and it is on the basis of GDP of each Member Parliament. This Model was adopted in APA in the 2014 Plenary together with Financial & Staff Regulations attached to its Resolution APA/Res/2014/09 dated 3 December 2014.
- 2- The Model of Payment based on Equality, which means all Member Parliaments pay equal amount of money regardless of the volume of their populations or GDP.
- 3- The Model of Payment based on mixture of GDP and Equality Models (mixture of Models 1 and 2). In this Model, every Member Parliament pays for example \$20,000.00 as the equal contribution and additional amount, if necessary, is payable based on Member's GDP.

Since October 2017, majority of active APA Member Parliaments have responded and more than 60% of them are in favor of GDP and less than 40% in favor of

Equality. In this case, it seems that the third Model means mixture of two Models of Equality and GDP can satisfy every Member Parliaments.

MPs deliberated on the report of the APA Secretariat on the Model of Payment.

Russian delegation indicated that “ We support the idea of contribution to the APA budget and we agree with any system bases on GDP, Population or Equal Payment. We start paying our contribution after transparent financial rules are in place”.

Delegation of Kuwait added that “ We have been discussing this issue for the past 3 years. Two years ago we agreed on Equal Payment in our meeting in UAE to the Equal Payment Model. To that amount we need to add Expert Expenses because sometimes we have to get expert opinion on some issues like Climate Change to educate ourselves in order to make correct decisions. We thank Iranian Parliament to have paid the Secretariat expenses throughout all these years”.

Cambodian delegation stated that since 12 years of APA existence no one has paid one dollar for its Secretariat operations. We thank the Iranian Parliament but APA now is strong enough to stand on its own feet. We support the payment for our contribution whichever model is decided upon.

Delegation of Pakistan added: We are willing to pay the amount of dollars 20000 as proposed by the Secretariat. Portfolio of Secretary General may be circulated among member countries as APA Charter opts for its rotation. It is damaging credibility of the Secretariat and is a burden on Iran as well.

Vietnam asked the Secretariat on the reasoning behind coming up with the contribution of Equal Payment of Dollars 20000. Dr. Khorram provided the relevant explanation.

Delegation of Turkey referred to the call of H.E. Yildirim, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly on the urgency of promoting the operational status of the APA and added that “ We must adopt and contribute to the Budget of APA as soon as possible...before start paying, we must finish all rules and be prepares for Bagdad meeting”.

Upon the request of the Chairperson, Dr Khorram offered some clarifications. He mentioned that Iranian Islamic Parliament has purchased a spacious building as a

permanent premise for APA secretariat and Headquarters' Agreement has been signed with Ministry of Foreign Affairs for enjoying the diplomatic privileges. This is the permanent part of the Islamic Parliament of Iran's support to APA. About Assessed Contribution, since 2012, the Islamic Parliament of Iran has continuously urged APA to share the responsibility and operating expenses of the APA Secretariat and at the same time open the way to recruit its international staff. Due to the fact that no agreement was reached on the Model of Payment, the Executive Council has adopted a resolution every year and asked the Islamic Parliament of Iran to extend its generosity on financial support for the Secretariat for another year. Dr Khorram called APA Member Parliaments to end this vicious circle by adopting the Model of Payment.

On Agenda item 5, the draft resolution on Planning APA Budget was adopted.

On Agenda item 6, the other matters, Dr. Khorram informed the member delegations that Union of Belarus and Russian Federation Parliaments have contacted APA Secretariat to establish organizational cooperation with APA. The Secretariat have offered three options in its correspondence to member parliaments:

- To adopt this Union as observer
- To ask them to meet with APA Secretary General and discuss the matter
- To stay silent on the issue.

Dr. Khorram requested member parliaments to respond to this query.

Delegation of Turkey also informed the participants of an Alliance of organization initiated long before between Turkey and Spain. The Chair requested Turkish delegation to send the information in a written form to be considered in our next meeting.

## **Report of the APA Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development**

**1 December 2018**

The Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development held its meeting on 1 December 2018 and adopted the agenda. The representatives of following Member Parliaments participated in the meeting:

Afghanistan – Azerbaijan – Cambodia – China – Cyprus – India – Indonesia – Iran – Iraq- Jordan – Kuwait – Pakistan – Palestine – Russian Federation – Thailand – Turkey – Vietnam.

H.E. Mr. LYASCHENKO MP of Russian Federation Duma chaired the meeting and H.E. Mr. AL-HADID MP from Jordan was elected as the vice-Chairperson of the meeting.

Under agenda item 3, Chairman of the meeting made the following remarks: it is indeed my pleasure to chair this meeting...we will review our resolutions and adopt them...Russia will hold the next standing committee meeting in northern region close to North Pole in summer 2019...as representative of Kuwait mentioned yesterday, we need to benefit from experts views to implement our ideas...we need to safeguard our economies from foreign interferences specially the western states which use sanctions and unilateral measures to damage us..I thank delegation of Pakistan to have responded to our Green Funding proposal which helped us a lot...we will send an explanatory note in this regard.

Under agenda item 4, Dr. Khorram informed the meeting about the 6 resolutions which have been considered and adopted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Council and asked to be re-adopted if there are no amendments. Those resolutions were adopted.

Under agenda item 6, Any Other Matters, H.E. TORNARITIS, MP from Cyprus presented a short review of the outcome of Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development held in Pissouri, Cyprus. He then referred to the opening statement of Honorable YILDIRIM, Speaker of Grand National Assembly of Turkey about the situation of Cyprus. MP from Cyprus added that: We are ready for a lasting solution of the problem in Cyprus..I wonder if Turkey is ready too.

Chairman of the meeting expresses his hope that a satisfactory solution to both

parties, through diplomatic channels would be reached.

Delegation of Turkey stated the following: We and Northern Cyprus are ready to reach a solution. Honorable YILDIRIM in his speech expressed his good wishes for the whole island and not just for the North part of it.

H.E. Mr. LYAZCHENKO, Chairman of Standing Committee informed the meeting that his delegation will soon draft a resolution on : “ Free Trade Space in Asia” with an objective of protecting our economies because WTO only protects the interests of USA and western states and is currently in a crisis stage.

Dr. Khorram, APA Deputy Secretary General, welcomed such initiative and requested the Russian delegation to provide an explanatory note in this regard to be circulated among member parliaments and called on them to be active in responding to this initiative. He also indicated that by next meeting of the Standing Committee in summer 2019, if there are no improvements with regard to the activities of Working Groups such as Energy Market, Water Resources, Green Energy etc, their missions will be terminated so we can focus on other issues.

Delegation of Pakistan spoke on the topic of Growth Prosperity, SDG etc and stressed that Members of Parliaments need to play more active role in implementing SDGs through adopting legislative strategies. He also mentioned that Pakistan is serious about SDGs and thus has allocated dollars 220 million for their implementation.

MP Mr. KOOHKAN of Iran in an statement referred to the need for APA to focus on non-sensitive areas of cooperation such as Trade, Tourism etc as a point of departure for Asian convergence. Such activities will counter the mal-intentions of unilateral measures, terrorism. Without expanding the positive regional interactions, it would be difficult to tackle terrorism and sanctions which are also a type of terrorism. The benefit of economic convergence is that it motivates member countries for political collaboration and cooperation which is instrumental in reaching our AP objectives.

Delegation of Pakistan presented a short statement on Sustainable Development and Climate Change.

Dr. KHORRAM in response to the question raised by Iranian delegation, requested them to provide the Secretariat with explanatory note and questions to

be answered by member countries on Water Resources, as is done by delegation of Russia on Green Funding.

List of Resolution are as the following:

1. Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth
2. Draft Resolution on The Role of APA Parliaments to Adopt Legislation in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
3. Draft Resolution on Integrated Energy Market in Asia,
4. Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues
5. Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication in Asia
6. Draft Resolution on Water & Sanitation in Asia for All

## **Closing Ceremony of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session**

In the afternoon of the December 1, 2018, H.E. Mrs. Asuman ERDOGAN, chairperson of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary and representative of APA President opened the last session of this Plenary. H.E. Dr. MAJIDI, APA Secretary General and his Deputy, Dr. KHORRAM, assisted her in conduct of the meeting. H.E. Mrs. N.SEDIQ, Senator of Pakistan took the position of Rapporteur and H.E. Mr. VINH, Senator of Vietnam functioned as Vice-Chair.

The following reports were presented and approved by delegations from member parliaments:

- Report of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary (by Senator Sediq of Pakistan, Rapporteur)
- Report of Political Standing Committee (by Senator Chhit KIM of Cambodia, Chairman)
- Report of Budget and Planning Standing Committee (by H.E. Mrs. TALEBANI MP from Iraq, Chairperson)
- Report of Social and Cultural Standing Committee (by General Nipat THONGLEK, MP from Thailand, Chairman)
- Report of Economic and Sustainable Development Standing Committee (by Dr. ALHADID, MP for Jordan, Vice-Chairman)

(Delegation of Iraq announced that they were present in the meeting of Political Standing Committee and thus “Iraq” should be included in the list of participants. Delegation of Indonesia requested the same for the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning).

Istanbul Declaration was presented by the delegation of Turkey.

Iranian delegation, addressing the above declaration, made a statement with regard to her national position of not recognizing the Israeli regime and requested the Secretary General to attach it to the report of the meeting.

Dr. KHORRAM made the following remarks:

- Due to the shortage of time for preparation of final report, one might notice few flaws, which will be corrected as soon as possible.
- Delegation of East Timor has submitted her request signed by two members of parliament to become full APA member. The Secretariat, based on the rules and regulations, has asked the written request to be signed by the Speaker of East Timor for complete adoption of Full Membership.
- On the proposal to join “Alliance”, we request delegation of Turkey to send us an explanatory note to be circulated among member Parliaments for further considerations and decision on applying for Membership.

- Thanks to you, APA Members and your active participation, we have conducted 3 full days of hectic assignments...my gratitude is extended to Turkish Secretariat and interpreters for their hard working...

APA Secretary General, Dr. MAJIDI in a closing remark stated that: We proved that Parliamentary Diplomacy can play a major role at regional and international level and APA has the capacity to achieve all its objectives.

H.E. Mrs. Asuman ERDOGAN, Chairperson of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary in her closing remarks while thanking all delegations for their sincere and constructive participations in all sessions, stressed that conflicts, depravation, radicalism etc can not immune us from Extremism...none of us will be safe while people on the other side of our borders live in poverty.

The meeting was closed at 19.00, after expressing word of thanks by Dr Al-Hadid, Head of Jordanian delegation on behalf of APA Member Parliaments towards the Host and APA Secretariat.





Asian Parliamentary Assembly

11<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session

**ISTANBUL DECLARATION**

(2 December 2018)

**We**, Members of Parliament from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Russian Federation, Thailand, Vietnam and hosting country Turkey gathered **in Istanbul** from 29 November to 2 December 2018, upon invitation of H.E. Binali YILDIRIM, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) President.

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

**Recognizing** the positive and important contribution of dialogue, cooperation and coordination among parliamentarians on contributing to solutions of complex and transboundary issues;

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

**Emphasizing** that violent extremism and terrorism should not be associated with any culture, civilization, religion or ethnicity and should be neither tolerated nor condoned. Calling upon member states as well as international community to support those countries suffering from large scale internal displacement caused by terrorism to ensure the return of families back home.

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

**Underscoring** the regional interconnectivity projects such as Belt and Road Initiative which will constitute yet another link binding the people of Asia for the benefit of all;<sup>1</sup>

**Mindful** of the fact that 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;

**Supporting** creation of free trading space in Asia and building of uniformed standards and norms to ensure a sustainable economic development of the Asian region;

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

**Acknowledging** the work done by the Special Committee for Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) under the umbrella of Standing Committee of Political Affairs towards creation of Asian Parliament; and in this context;

**Appreciating** the projects initiated by the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking Countries (Turkic Council) at the heart of Asia in different fields such as energy, transportation, communication and trade, and commends its positive role in deepening cooperation and enhancing peace and stability in Asia;

**Welcoming** the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments organized by Turkey, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Korea in Antalya under the theme of

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<sup>1</sup> India expressed its reservation and disassociation.

“Economic Cooperation, Environment and Sustainable Development in Eurasia” between October 8 and 11, 2018;<sup>2</sup>

**Recognizing** that Israel’s grave 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.

**DO HEREBY EXPRESS OUR COMMITMENT TO:**

**Reaffirm** our support for an independent, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine within the borders of 1967 with al Quds (Jerusalem) as its Capital; 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;

**Support** the right of Palestinians’ resistance against Israel in order to liberate their land to form their independent state of Palestine with al Quds as the capital;

**Welcome** the UN General Assembly Resolution dated 21 December 2017 inviting the Member States not to move their Embassies to al Quds (Jerusalem); call all members of the APA to act in line with the afore-mentioned resolution and urge the international community to revitalize the peace process based on established parameters and the Arab Peace Initiative, with a view to uphold the two-state solution\*;

**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;

**Urge** unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid to Yemen in light of the alarming deterioration of the humanitarian situation;

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<sup>2</sup> India expressed its reservation and disassociation.

\*Iran expressed its reservation and dissociation with this Paragraph

**Express** its strong condemnation for the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi and call for those responsible for this heinous crime to be identified and brought to justice; urge the relevant parties to take action to prevent the recurrence of such grave crimes;

**Reaffirm** the commitment of the APA Member Parliaments to continue taking necessary steps, including formation of Working Group, towards realizing the goal of the Asian Parliament;

**Welcome** the proposal of Turkey on APA's membership to the Group of Friends of the UN Alliance of Civilizations to contribute the efforts of providing lasting solutions to the rising trends of discrimination, xenophobia and extremism;

**Thank** Turkey for its warm, gracious and efficient hospitality in hosting the Eleventh Plenary Session in Istanbul. We look forward to Pakistan hosting the twelfth Plenary Session in 2019.

## **Annexes**



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**29 November – 2 December 2018**

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**APA/ Decision/2016/01**  
**28 November 2016**

**APA Decision**  
**on**  
**The Deliberations in Executive Councils & Plenary**

Any legal/technical comments or editorial corrections in the draft resolutions during Executive Council meetings or Plenary session are permitted and may be incorporated into the text, however, further substantial discussion on paragraphs should be forwarded to the relevant Standing Committees in the next year.





## Resolution on Asian Integrated Energy Market

APA/ Res/2018/01  
2 December 2018

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

**Recalling** APA Resolution on Integrated Energy Market in Asia (APA/Res/2017/01) adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary in Istanbul, Turkey, November 2017 and other relevant APA meetings.

**Welcoming** the Report of the Secretary-General on the Asian Integrated Energy Market (AIEM), and the meeting of the Energy Sub-Committee held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 27 July 2016;

**Considering** the role of energy market integration between West and East Asia in the future due to high rate of energy consumption in the East and South of Asia.

**Concerning** about the political crisis in the West Asia in recent years as a real obstacle for the realization of Asian Integrated Energy Market;

**Recognizing** that “Integrated Asian Energy Market” can help the Asian countries to maximize the interests of both producers and consumers and minimize the risks and costs of energy in Asia;

**Welcoming** the strong support of North-East, East and South-East Asia for “Integrated Asian Energy Market”;

**Emphasizing** the need to develop multilateral co-operation among Asian countries and the work of APA to develop an Integrated Energy Market in Asia as efforts to provide a sustainable, green and clean energy as they are crucial for the climate change mitigation and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;

**Welcoming** concrete actions under the Belt and Road Initiative<sup>1</sup> to promote cooperation in the connectivity of energy infrastructure, work in concert to ensure the security of oil and gas pipelines and other transport routes, build cross-border power supply networks and power-transmission routes, and cooperate in regional power grid upgrading and transformation;

**Reaffirming** the importance of adoption and implementation of environmentally sound energy policies and projects throughout Asia;

**Welcoming** the decreasing trend of energy intensity in the most regions of the world, particularly in Asia;

**Welcoming** the Asian governments’ commitments to reduce carbon emissions affecting global warming and environment;

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<sup>1</sup> Delegate of India dissociated himself from this expression

**Emphasizing** the importance of unimpeded flows of energy sources, technologies and capital, and acknowledging that clean and renewable energy needs to be affordable to all;

**Recognizing** that sustainable development, energy access, and energy security are critical to the shared prosperity and future of the region;

**Supporting** a wider use of Natural gas as an economically efficient and ecologically clean fuel to promote sustainable development as well as to reduce the greenhouse emissions in accordance with the Paris Agreement on the climate change;

**Stressing** on the commitment of APA members to cooperate and coordinate regionally and globally in the field of renewable energy, with the aim of joining up efforts, standards, norms, and objectives;

**Encouraging** parliaments to develop strategies that support and hold governments accountable in relation to sustainable development, and to expand in depending on clean, renewable energy, such as solar, hydropower, nuclear, and wind energies and to give priority to the utilization of water as a resource, when sufficient and applicable;

**Calling on** APA Member Countries to foster cooperation through joint research and other initiatives and transfer technology on clean renewable energy;

1. **Decide** to expand the mandate of the Advisory Group on Energy to link the demand and the supply for energy in Asia and to promote the sustainable use of energy, in line with the spirit enshrined in the UN Summit 2015 Declaration to secure our planet for present and future generations;
2. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments to expand bilateral and multilateral cooperation among Asian countries in the field of energy and its sustainability and to link such efforts with the existing international commitments such as the SDGs and the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC);
3. **Call up** APA Member States in South and West Asia to respond positively and urgently to the appeal of “Integrated Asian Energy Market” in North-East, East and South-East Asia;
4. **Urge** all Members of APA Parliaments to report to the Secretary-General on their national experiences in the field of increasing energy efficiency and their energy policies for the betterment of the information of the Advisory Group and to be forwarded to the Plenary;
5. **Request** the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development Affairs;



## Resolution on Environmental Issues

APA/ Res/2018/02  
2 December 2018

*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 8<sup>th</sup> 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;

**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 desertification 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 and technical assistance, from those states with high capabilities in the area of sustainable development to less developed states 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 environmentally sound technology 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 desertification;

**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;

**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 21th session of the Conference of the Parties of UNFCCC in December 2015;
2. **Invite** APA developed members to assess the loss and damages inflicted upon vulnerable developing countries in Asia due to climate change;
3. **Invite** also Members of APA parliaments to be mindful of the right to an ecologically-balanced environment;
4. **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;
5. **Call** upon all Member Parliaments to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of targeted development programs through coordination efforts, including by UNDP;
6. **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;
7. **Urge** APA Parliaments to support Sustainable Development Goals more actively with regard to environmental issues by adopting appropriate legislation;
8. **Call on** APA member countries to uphold rule of law on environmental issues and to share good practices on that matters;
9. **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;

10. **Invite** APA Member Parliaments to exchange experiences and best practices on environmental issues and provide, on a voluntary basis, 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;
11. **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 desertification;
12. **Call** on parliamentarians from APA to urge their respective governments to publish Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) after Paris Summit;
13. **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;
14. **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;
15. **Note** also that much greater emission reduction efforts will be required than those associated with the intended nationally determined contributions in order to hold the increase in the global average temperature to below 2° C above pre-industrial;
16. **Recommend** action be taken by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) within existing framework to assist the Asian region and especially its developing nations with mitigating the effects of climate change and protecting natural resources in order to ensure a healthy environment for future generations focused on aiding developing countries to promote mitigation, as appropriate and adapt to the increasing effects of climate change and the protection of natural resources;
17. **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);
18. **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;
19. **Request** developed APA Member Parliaments 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;
20. **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/ Res/2018/03  
2 December 2018

*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;

**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 their legislative and scrutiny roles aiming to enhance the role of the private sector and increasing its contribution to economic integration, in order to create the appropriate jobs and jobs opportunities;

**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 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;
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. **Stress** the importance to invest in human development and to provide sufficient public funding for education and health for everyone, without discrimination, to face the future global and Asian economic demands;
14. **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;
15. **Also request** the governments in respective Asian countries to promote the implementation of low carbon economy despite the global economy deceleration;
16. **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;
17. **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;
18. **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;
19. **Call Upon** APA member countries to facilitate investing their sovereign funds and encourage their private investors to invest more in Asia;
20. **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;
21. **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/ Res/2018/04  
2 December 2018

*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;

**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;

**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 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 generate poverty and crisis in that society and prevents the promotion of the goal of Poverty Eradication in the line of the realization of SDG's;

**Recognizing** that the SDGs balance all the three crucial sustainable and interdependent development dimensions: 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. **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;
4. **Urge** Member Parliaments to create awareness among general public about the importance of food and take possible steps to prevent its waste.
5. **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 and to provide better education for poor particularly for girls and g) improve disaster preparedness, disaster relief as well as post-disaster economic recovery;
6. **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;
7. **Invite** APA Member Parliaments to take appropriate legislative measures for poverty alleviation including providing financial assistance to domestic producers;
8. **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 social protection or safety nets;
9. **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;

10. **Urge** APA Member States to give significance to development of sustainable agriculture practices while making national policies, to achieve Sustainable Development Goals;
11. **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;
12. **Stressing** the significance of women participation and contribution in agriculture sector for improving productivity food security and eliminating poverty;
13. **Request** the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on their efforts to implement this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee in 2018.



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

APA/ Res/2018/05  
2 December 2018

*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 132<sup>nd</sup> Assembly, held in Hanoi, Vietnam, March 2015; and other relevant inter-parliamentary organizations resolutions;

**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. **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;

5. **Invite** APA members to involve all actors in sustainable development consideration to ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation process;
6. **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;
7. **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;
8. **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;
9. **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;
10. **Request** the Standing Committees of APA to deliberate in a comprehensive manner issues of SDGs which are relevant to the work of their committees;
11. **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;
12. **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;
13. **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;
14. **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;
15. **Call Upon** APA member states to strengthen regional economic cooperation and integration to enhance regional connectivity in supporting the implementation of the SDGs;
16. **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, inter governmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change



## Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All

APA/ Res/2018/06  
2 December 2018

*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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 management<sup>2</sup> 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 Parliaments on this resolution, to the next Standing Committee on Sustainable Development.

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<sup>2</sup> **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".



## **Resolutions of Standing Committee on** **Social and Cultural Affairs**

1. Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia
2. Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology
3. Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia
4. Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption
5. Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians
6. Resolution on Promoting Inter- Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions
7. Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia
8. Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia
9. Resolution on Humanitarian Aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Myanmar on the Verge of the Humanitarian Catastrophe
10. Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia (**Deferred**)



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

APA/ Res/2018/07  
2 December 2018

*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** the opportunities offered by globalization for greater interaction among cultures and civilizations, as well as challenges brought about by its trends to preserving and celebrating the rich intellectual and cultural diversity 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 by ISIS and other terrorist groups;

**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 the 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 terrorist organization in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan;
8. **Urge** Member Parliaments to consider ratifying the Convention for the Safeguarding of World Natural and Cultural Heritage and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
9. **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;

10. **Strongly Recommend** APA Member Parliaments to promote tourism in association with conservation and protection of cultural heritage;
11. **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;
12. **Condemn** all forms of contemptuous actions against religions, holy books, religious places and personalities and religious rituals;
13. **Reiterate** that during armed conflict, states should adopt measures to safeguard the cultural and historical 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;
14. **Reiterate** that Member Parliaments should adopt measures to safeguard and restore the cultural and historical 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;
15. **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;
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/ Res/2018/08  
2 December 2018

*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** WSIS<sup>3</sup> 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 70<sup>th</sup> 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;

**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;

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

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<sup>3</sup> World Summit on Information Society held under the aegis of UN and ITU in 2003 and 2005

**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 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 Tele-community 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. **Request** the 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/ Res/2018/09  
2 December 2018

*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;

**Taking** note of diversity of health equity status among countries in Asia;

**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;

**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;

**Recalling** the importance of placing equity and human 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 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 drug and substances abuse and low quality drugs;

**Expressing** concern about the existing socio-economic inequalities and their impact on the poor and marginalized 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 deprivation from fundamental human rights prospective to health, due to the inequalities in access and utilization of qualified health services.

1. **Welcome** the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/Rep/ 2014/02 dated 10 August, 2014;
2. **Underline** the 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;
3. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to incorporate the issue of Social Determinants of Health (SDH) more intensively in other APA themes and activities;
4. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to strengthen collaboration among themselves with a view to formulating a coherent approach with regard to social determinants of health in Asia, especially education, housing, and employment;
5. **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;
6. **Further 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 (SDH) among policy makers and related stake holders;
7. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt policies and measures to improve service provision, and health financing system including social protection system as well as health insurance plans for a more equitable resource distribution;
8. **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;
9. **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;

10. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to take necessary actions and to encourage their respective governments to ensure child nutrition needs with a focus on equity in order to create better a generation;
11. **Determine** to take active part on the discussion of 2030 development agenda by delivering Asian views in the international arena to drive the global agenda;
12. **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;
13. **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/ Res/2018/10  
2 December 2018

*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 UN 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 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;

**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 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 UN 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 Convention, 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. **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.

5. **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;
6. **Urges** 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;
7. **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;
8. **Request** also the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on implementation of this resolution.



## Resolution of APA Parliamentarians on Women

APA/ Res/2018/11  
2 December 2018

*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;

**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, any 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 include political, socio-economic and 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, including in situation of armed conflict areas;

**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;

**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. **Recommend** the inclusion of at least one woman parliamentarian in APA delegations;

4. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize the concerns of women, and to effectively implement the relevant targets of United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which promote gender equality and empowerment, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment, and building accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
5. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize that gender equality and empowerment of women must be established as a standing-alone goal and must be achieved simultaneously with *goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*;
6. **Determine** to enhance the activities of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarian through more effective exchange of views and close interaction;
7. **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;
8. **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;
9. **Express** 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 in danger of violence, killing, rape, and captivity;

Foot note: Indian delegation expresses reservation on operative para 9



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

APA/ Res/2018/12  
2 December 2018

*We the members of Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

**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,

**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 nations of the world;

**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;

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

- 1. Urge** all parliaments to support and spread the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill, as such mutual understanding constitutes important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;

2. **Maintain** that a regular dialogue between the parliaments of APA could become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international ongoing conflicts based on religious differences and discrepancies;
3. **Denounce** 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 terrorism, extremism and violence have no religion nor any borders, 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** parliaments of APA to exert their utmost effort for providing 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 Islam which hold no authentic reference to Islamic principles and no legitimacy among Muslims all around 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 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 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/ Res/2018/13  
2 December 2018

*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;

**Expressing** support for the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 prohibiting the smuggling of cultural items by terrorist groups, including from Iraq and Syria;

**Welcoming** the important and active role that the UN, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and FATF-style regional bodies 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 objects 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 International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage; Convention Concerning the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage, and Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
3. **Request** all APA Member Parliaments to consider and contribute to passing of a common legislation on protecting and safeguarding cultural objects and combating all forms and aspects of trafficking cultural property and related offences to be

enacted on the basis of the 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. **Suggest** establishment and strengthening of a proper system of management to protect immovable cultural heritage from theft and smuggling of cultural properties. There should be one or two specific Courts for all APA member Parliaments, to deal with such cases for early disposal;
6. **Request** the Secretary-general to follow up preparation of a common legislation on combating the smuggling of cultural item in Asia by APA Member Parliaments

## **Annex**

### **Principles for Drafting Common Legislation by Asian Parliaments Concerning the Smuggling of Cultural Items**

1. Lawful exchange of cultural and historical properties enriches cultural and social existence of nations; strengthens mutual respect and leads to amity and friendship among them;
2. Movable cultural heritage of every nation is considered as fundamental elements of culture and civilization of that nation, and an integral part of regional and human culture and civilization and thus necessitates regional cooperation to fight theft and smuggling of cultural property.
3. Protection and safeguarding of historical cultural properties from the perils of unlawful excavations, theft and smuggling, is inter alia the duty of the governments.
4. Clandestine excavations in archeological sites, theft, illicit import and export of cultural property constitutes as one of the main reasons for the cultural impoverishment of the countries of the origin of these objects.
5. Establishment and strengthening of a proper system of management to protect immovable cultural heritage and reinforce coordination and cooperation among concerned institutions for combating theft and smuggling of cultural property.
6. Documentation, preparation and completion of an inventory of national cultural property.
7. Proper supervision over archeological excavations, standardization of the means to protect cultural items at the site of discovery.
8. Taking educational steps to enhance public awareness on the necessity of protecting cultural objects.
9. Encouraging and developing the educational, scientific and technical institutions required for protecting cultural items, expanding museums, supporting cooperation and exchanging cultural objects among museums in Asian countries.
10. Issuing special permit for those cultural objects the export of which is authorized; and thwarting illicit import and export of cultural property with no permit, and return thereof to the country of origin.

11. Promoting international cooperation to combat smuggling of cultural items with the countries of origin on return of cultural property as well as extradition of those charged with theft and smuggling of cultural property.
12. Stress on the inalienable right of every country concerning classification and declaring as non-transferable certain cultural property and preventing entry into the national territory of those items.



## **Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia**

APA/ Res/2018/14  
2 December 2018

*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, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs in Asia;

**Emphasizing** that the danger of illicit drug trafficking is so pervasive that may undermine international peace, security, and stability and there is an urgent need to mobilize efforts of all countries to curb the production of opium and heroin in Afghanistan and to dismantle networks of illicit drug trafficking from that country;

**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 Afghanistan, and to intensify training programs for Afghan 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 Afghan law-enforcement agencies 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 Afghanistan in developing its economy and diversifying agriculture so as to reduce dependence on revenues from the illicit drugs trafficking, in line with the Lima Declaration and International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development (November 2012);

**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. **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;

5. **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;
6. **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;
7. **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 activity;
8. **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;
9. **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;
- ~~10.~~ **Encourage** networking of the relevant national agencies or organizations in Asia dealing with transnational crimes to further enhance information dissemination and intelligence exchange;
11. **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/ Res/2018/15  
2 December 2018

*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 escalating areas in the SAR, signed in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, on 4 May 2017;

**Recalling** UN Security Council resolutions 2139 and 2165;

**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;

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

**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 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 Humanitarian 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 of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their original places of residence in Syria and Iraq

\*Indian delegation expressed reservation on this paragraph.





## **Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia (Deferred)**

SC- Social/ Draft Res/2018/Def  
5 October, 2018

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 Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 97 on Migration for Employment, ILO Convention 143 on Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provision), established a broad legal framework for the protection of migrant workers;-(Russia)~~

**Taking note** of the importance of ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers;

**Acknowledging** the significance of ILO Conventions concerning the protection of the rights of migrant workers as well as UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime – 2000 in promoting human rights of Asian migrant workers without prejudice to their sex, race, language, religion, nationality, or ethnic origin;

**Noting** the adoption of ILO Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers at the 100th International Labour Organization (ILO) Conference in Geneva, 2011 as a global recognition on the existence 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 migrant workers and noting the legal and illegal status of different cases;

**Deeply concerned** with the precarious conditions faced by migrant workers such as human rights abuse, 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 sending and receiving countries;

**Emphasizing** that adaptation of labour 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 labour 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 human 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~~ **(is of critical importance for Asian countries)** toward a common vision for security and prosperity, which focused on the improvement of the quality of life of its people; **(Russia)**

**Concerned** with the mass 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;(India)~~

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, especially women and children;
3. **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;

4. **Emphasizing that the APA Member States should facilitate education, (~~Emphasizing that~~ Urge the APA Member States ~~should~~ to facilitate – India)(Encourage the APA Member States to consider facilitation of education – Russia) 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; (Viet Nam)**
5. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to ensure that their domestic laws shall be fair and just, equally applicable to both migrant workers and citizens who violate the laws;
6. **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;
7. **Encourage** the respective States of the APA Member Parliaments to consider bilateral, or regional agreements ~~including Mandatory Consular Notification Agreement~~ **providing mandatory consular notification obligation** 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; **(Russia)**
8. **Emphasize** the importance of involving civil society, non-government organizations, and increasing their opportunity for participation and interaction with stakeholders to develop better policies and supervise the implementation of regulations on migrant workers issues;
9. **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;
10. **Urge** the APA relevant member countries to promote fair and proper working conditions, proper minimum wages, and adequate access to decent living conditions for migrant workers.
11. **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.



## **Resolutions of Standing Committee on** **Political Affairs**

1. Resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament”
2. Resolution on “Good Governance”
3. Resolution on Rule of “Law and Judicial Empowerment”
4. Resolution on “Good Parliamentary Practices”
5. Resolution on Building Prosperity in Asia Through Friendship and Cooperation
6. Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia
7. Resolution on Asian Parliaments’ Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People



## Resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament”

APA/ Res/2018/16  
2 December 2018

**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 9<sup>th</sup> 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/ Res/2018/17  
2 December 2018

**We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,**

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

*Recalling*, UN Commission on Human Rights Resolution No.2005/68 of 20 April 2005, UN Human Rights Council Resolution No.7/11 of 27 March 2008 on “Good Governance for the Promotion of Human Rights” and as well as the “United Nations Millennium Declaration”;

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

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1969, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1976, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1976, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979, the Convention against Torture, 1987, the Convention on the Rights of Child, 1990, which provides every citizen, irrespective of gender, religion or race, a right to take part in the public affairs;

**Therefore,**

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, right to information, popular participation in government, and a vibrant civil society are the pillars of good governance;
- ~~3.~~ **Suggests** that Member Parliaments may provide indicators for good governance;
4. **Stresses** upon the Member Parliaments to identify gaps in governance which may lead to poverty, injustice and terrorism resulting in the weakening of democratic institutions;
5. **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/ Res/2018/18  
28 November 2018

**We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,**

*Recalling* the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which are indispensable foundations for a more peaceful, prosperous and a conflict free world;

*Recognizing* that the rule of law 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;

*Recommending all members States Reaffirming* the duty of all Member States to settle their international disputes through peaceful means, including, negotiation, dialogue, 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 are an essential prerequisite for the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

**Therefore,**

- 1. Stress** the importance of civilian capacity development through rule of law;
- 2. Stress** the importance of institutional strengthening by maintaining the rule of law;
- 3. Urge** Member Parliaments to ensure compliance with international humanitarian laws, as they are an indispensable prerequisite for improving the situation of victims of armed conflict, through enactment of appropriate legislation and development of oversight mechanisms;
- 4. Commit** to ensure that impunity is not tolerated for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity or for violations of international humanitarian law and gross violations of human rights law, based on the principles of international cooperation and non-interference of States in the internal affairs of other States, in accordance with international law;
- 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, violent and 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/ Res/2018/19  
2 December 2018

### **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;

*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;

Therefore,

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/ Res/2018/20  
2 December 2018**

*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 democracy and human rights 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 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;

*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. **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.
5. **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;
6. **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,
7. **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,
8. **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/ Res/2018/21  
2 December 2018

*We the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA),*

*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;

*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/ Res/2018/22  
2 December 2018

*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 (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 nation against Israeli occupation by its all means to liberate its land and establish an independent Palestinian State with al-Quds as its capital;

*Denouncing* the transfer of the American Embassy from Tel-Aviv to 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;

1. **Urge** all Members of the APA to support and treat the State of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations
2. **Denounce** all violations of international law which threaten international peace and security including all acts of terrorism and organized crimes; and violations of human rights committed by the Israeli occupying forces in Palestine.
3. **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 the International Parliamentary meeting in St. Petersburg; dismantle all illegal settlements as well as the entire separating wall and put an end to confiscating Palestinian lands.
4. **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.
5. **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;
6. **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;
7. **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;
8. **Condemn** the closure of the PLO diplomatic mission in Washington in retaliation for the membership of Palestine to the International Criminal Court;
9. **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;
10. Rejecting attempts practiced by the Zionist entity to change the historical, cultural and demographic characters of the occupied Palestinian land, especially the city of



Jerusalem in general and Al\_Aqsa mosque, in particular, also refuse the Knesset bill in attempt to divide Al\_Agsa mosque both in time and place,

11. **Reject** the unlawful resolutions adopted by the Israeli Knesset such as Judaization of the Jerusalem, the Citizenship Loyalty Law, denying the State of Palestine, the rights of Palestinian People in the occupied territories, the Jewish Nation-State Law and the deduction funds for Palestine State which violate Articles 89 and 98 of Geneva Convention;
12. **Reject and condemn** US decision to end its financial contribution to UNRWA.
13. **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.



# **Resolution of Standing Committee on Budget and Planning**

## 1. Resolution on Planning APA Budget



## Resolution on Planning APA Budget

APA/ Res/2018/23  
2 December 2018

*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 Staff and Financial Regulations*

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 earmarked contribution to the APA for the implementation of its resolutions;
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 2018,
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 7<sup>th</sup> Plenary on 10 December 2013.
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 the APA, suggest the Plenary and Executive Council of the APA for an immediate revisit of the Charter and the Rules of Procedures of the Plenary of the APA, 2007.
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 Staff and Financial Regulations.
  - 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 vide 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.

NO	Description	Expenses/year
1	Basic budget	\$ 623,412
2	Additional budget	\$ 259,200
3	Programs upon APA plenary approval	\$ 300,000
3	Emergency budget	\$ 30,000
Total		\$ <b>1,212,612</b>

Remarks:

- 1) This Draft Budget is modified based on the discussions and proposals of the Budget and Planning’s Standing Committee in Abu-Dhabi 22-23 May 2017.
- 2) **APA Budget will be valid and applied whenever the Member Parliaments pay their assessed contributions one year before.** For example, if the Member Parliaments pay their assessed contributions in 2019 then the proposed 2020 APA budget should be adopted in the 2019 Plenary and implement from the beginning of the year 2020. **Therefore, this APA Budget Estimate 2019 is a draft and is presented only for the MP information and consideration and not for the implementation.**
- 3) Around 50% of the proposed budget is required for operation cost of the APA secretariat. The Plenary will decide and instruct the APA Secretariat how to spend the other 50% of the proposed budget on yearly basis.
- 4) The draft of each year budget will be discussed in the Budget and Planning’s Standing Committee one year before and the result will be proposed to the plenary of the same year for adoption.
- 5) The monitoring and inspection system will be applied to the budget based on items 16 & 17 of the Financial & Staff Regulations, which was adopted in the Plenary of 2014.

## **The Construction of the Budget**

APA Budget is divided into three categories:

- 1- Basic Budget Items (%51) : a) Salaries (%44) b) Office expenses (%4)  
c) Operational expenses (%3)
- 2- Additional Budget Items (%46 upon approval of the Plenary) a) Programs  
–Implementation of operative paras of APA Resolutions (%25)  
b)Travels (%17) c) Receptions (%4)
- 3- Emergency Budget Item (%3 upon approval of the Plenary)

### **Basic Budget Items**

NO	Description	Expenses/year
1	Salaries (Table 1)	\$ 533,400
2	Office Expenses (Table 2)	\$ 54,000
3	Operational Expenses (Table 3)	\$ 36,012
Total		<b>\$ 623,412</b>

**Table 1- Salaries**

	Nature of expenses	Secretary General	DSG	ASG	Expert	Admin Staff	Support service	Total
	Number of Personnel	1	1	3	4	4	5	18
1	Salary	6500	5000	4000	2000	1000	600	
2	Benefits (heath care ...)	1000	700	500	300	200	150	
3	Monthly Payment	7500	5700	13500	9200	4800	3750	
4	Annual Payment	90000	68400	162000	110400	57600	45000	<b>533400</b>

**Table 2 - Office Expenses**

No	Nature of expenses	Per Year
1	Vehicles	30000
2	Office supplies	24000
Total		54000

**Table 3 - Operational expenses**

No	Nature of Expenses		Per Month	Per Year
1	Building Maintenance	Utilities(water- power- gas- telephone and fax)	1500	18000
		Repair and Renovation	1500	18000
2	APA Headquarters Rent(\$ 1/per month)			12
3	Secretary-General's Residence & other staff's housing allowance			-
Total				36012



## Additional Budget Items

1 - Programs : Implementation of operational paras of APA resolutions or organizing any meeting*		300,000	
2 - Travel Average Expenses** (36 / Persons / Trip/Year)	Round Trip Air Ticket (3 tickets/ month)	6000	72,000
	Hotel Fare (3 Persons / five nights/ \$250per night)	3750	45,000
	Meals (3 Persons /six days/ \$100per day)	1800	21,600
	Per diem (3 persons/\$350 per day)	6300	75,600
3- Receptions	3 Receptions for 50 guests (\$100 Per Person)		15,000
	One Reception for 200 guests (\$150 Per Person)		30,000
Total			559,200

\* The APA Plenary through the adoption of Resolutions has requested Secretary General to follow the instructions for further actions on the contents of Resolutions. Those actions vary from inviting different experts to APA meetings or to a project, arranging separate technical APA meetings, working groups, workshops or asking a center to do some researches on APA concerned matters. To implement this part of duties, APA Secretariat must have specific financial resources. Upon the allocation of the required budget, APA Secretariat will be

able to implement the pending mandates of operational paras of the adopted resolutions.

\*\* The Secretary-General and officials of APA shall participate in the General Assembly/Events of other international or regional parliamentary organizations such as IPU, IPI, PUIC, ICAPP, Arab Parliaments , OIC, IPA-CIS and ...

The Secretary-General and officials of APA regularly are visiting APA Member Parliaments to consult or discuss on important issues of the organization with the Speakers or other authorities of Member Parliaments

### **Emergency Budget Item**

Unforeseen Expenditures	30000
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