

From: APA <secretariat@asianparliament.org>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 1:59 2020 PM
To: APA
Subject: Final Report of First Virtual Meeting of APA
Attachments: Final Report VM Covid-19_2020_01.pdf

Dear Colleagues,

Kindly find attached the Final Report of the First Virtual Meeting of APA on Covid-19 for your consideration.

I would like to remind you that the deadline for sending amendments on Declaration to APA Secretariat is July 17, 2020.

Regards,
Kia T.

Amb. Kia TABATABAEE
APA Deputy Secretary General

With Compliments

Kia Tabatabaee

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Rep-VM Covid-19/2020/01
13 July, 2020

Final Report

The First Virtual Meeting of APA on COVID-19 Outbreak

**Ankara –Turkey
July 09, 2020**

The First Virtual Meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) on COVID-19 Outbreak was held on July 09, 2020 in Ankara, Turkey.

The Meeting was hosted by Grand National Assembly of Turkey and parliamentary delegations from following member countries participated online in the virtual Meeting: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Thailand, Turkey, UAE and Uzbekistan (Attachment I).

Inaugural Ceremony:

The pre-recorded video message of the following dignitaries were presented at the opening session:

- Hon. Mr. Mohammad Baqer QALIBAF, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
- Hon. Prof. Mustafa Şentop, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

1. Adoption of the Agenda:

The Member Parliaments unanimously adopted the Draft Agenda. Agenda and Program of Work are attached. (Attachment II).

2. Election of the Bureau:

H.E. Mrs. Asuman ERDOĞAN, Head of the Turkish APA Delegation was elected as chairperson of the meeting by acclamation.

3. Opening statement by Chairperson:

The chairperson presented her opening statement. (Attachment III)

4. Opening Remarks by the Secretary-General:

APA Secretary General made his opening remarks on major issues of the organization. (Attachment IV).

5. General Statements by Delegations:

The following member Parliaments made statements on Implication/Precautionary Measures of Covid-19 Outbreak, Modality of Future Virtual Meetings and Declaration:

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Thailand, Turkey, UAE and Uzbekistan.

On Covid-19: Delegations briefed the meeting on their national experience in grappling with this deadly Virus and offered statistics as well as important lessons they learned on how to fight against it in the future. Many appraised the sacrifices of their health workers and hospital staff. Participants also addressed the fate of the Vaccine and called on the international community to expedite the process of its testing and production. The economic impact of this pandemic along with the necessity of Asian solidarity were among the major items of the general statements.

On Modality of Future Virtual Meetings: Several delegations addressed this Agenda item in detail and offered their thoughts. The UAE delegation, specifically presented A Comprehensive Action Plan (Attachment V). The delegation of Kuwait stated that such Modality has to be dealt with within the context of a Draft Resolution which will be tabled by his delegation in near future. Secretariat called on interested delegations to forward their views on this important Agenda Item as soon as possible.

On Declaration: Few delegations have formulated their amendments to the Declaration and forwarded them to the Host country (i.e. Turkey, the author) prior to the meeting to be considered and incorporated into the Final text. The Secretariat announced that proposed amendments (received by the end of next week) will be compiled and inserted to the Draft Declaration and be put at the disposal of the Host country for further consideration. The Final text will be circulated by the Secretariat as soon as its availability.

Final Note:

The APA Secretary General, on behalf of participants and Secretariat, addressed the meeting and appreciated the initiative of hosting the First Virtual meeting by Grand National Assembly of Turkey. He highly valued the outcome of the meeting and thanked the participants for actively attending the important Agenda Items. He also called on Chairman of Standing Committees to be in close contact with APA Secretariat in preparing a Time-Plan for hosting future meetings.

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**ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)
THE FIRST VIRTUAL MEETING ON COVID-19 OUTBREAK
9 JULY 2020, ANKARA, TURKEY**



List of Participants

Country	No	Name	Position
Afghanistan	1	Hon. Mr. Kamal Safi	Member of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People) National Assembly
Azerbaijan	1	Ms. Ganira Pashaeva	Head of delegation
Bahrain	1	MP Ahmed Alsallom	Member of COR
	2	MP Dr. Mohamed Alkhozai	Member of Shura Council
	3	Mr. Mohamed Bin Daina	Staff members
	4	Mr. Husain Salman Maki	Staff members
Bangladesh	1	Dr. Ruhul Haque	MP, Chairman of the Standing Committee on the Ministry of Science and Technology, Former Minister, Ministry of Health, Bangladesh Government.
Cambodia	1	H.E. Mr. Suos Yara	Head of delegation
	2	H.E.Mr. Khieu Muth,	Member of Delegation
	3	H.E. Mr. Nguon Socheath,	Member of Delegation
China	1	Mr. Chen Fuli	Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress of China
Cyprus	1	Mr. Nicos Tornaritis	Head of delegation
	2	Ms. Loukia Mouyi	Secretary of the delegation
	3	Mr. Chrysanthos Kyprianou	Secretary of the delegation (traineeship)
	4	Ms. Anna Tzamantaki	Secretary of the delegation (traineeship)
Indonesia	1	Hon. Mr. Muhammad Farhan, MP	Member of the Committee for Inter Parliamentary Cooperation
	2	Mrs. Endah TD. Retnoastuti	Head Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation
	3	Mrs. Masyithoh Anissa Ramadhani	Expert Staff
	4	Mr. Mochamad Ilyas	Expert Staff
	5	Mrs. Yuliana Tansil	Interpreter
Iran	1	Mr. Malek Fazeli	Member of Parliament Member of Health and Medicare Committee
	2	Mr. ALI HAJIMOHAMMADI	Advisor
	3	Mr. REZA HASSANI	Advisor
Jordan	1	H.E.Mr. Naif Al-Hadid	member of the Jordanian Senate
Kuwait	1	Dr. Khalil Abul	Head of Delegation
Lao PDR	1	Honorable Mme. Phonephet BOUPHA	vice-chairperson of social and cultural committee of the National Assembly of Laos
	2	Dr. Bounlorm KEOBOUNHOM	Director General of Social Department, Social and Cultural Committee

Pakistan	1	Senator Nuzhat Sadiq	Head of Delegation
	2	Senator Muhammad Ali Khan Saif	Member
	3	Senator Zeeshan Khanzada	Member
Philippine	1	Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D	Head of Delegation
	2	Ms. Rajini Rye	
	3	Ms. Irish Montes	Adviser
	4	Mr. Erwin Lara	Delegation Secretary
	5	Ms. Sylvia Ongcuangco	Interpreter
Qatar	1	Mr. Rashid bin Hamad Al-Meadadi	Head of Delegation
Russia	1	Mr. Alexey Lyaschenko	Head of Delegation
Thailand	1	Hon. Mrs. Apiradi TANTRAPORN	- Senator -Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Commerce and Industry -Leader of the Thai Delegation to the APA
	2	Hon. Mr. Sarawut PHETPANOMPORN	- Member of the House of Representatives Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Delegate
	3	Hon. Mr. Issara SEREEWATTHANAWUT	- Member of the House of Representatives The Third Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Monetary Affairs, Finance, Financial Institutions, and Financial Market Delegate
	4	Hon Mr. Don HETRAKUL	- Member of the House of Representatives The Fifth Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Communications, Telecommunications and Digital Economy and Society Delegate
	5	Hon. Gen. Navin DAMRIGAN	- Senator The First Spokesman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Delegate
	6	Mr. Arpone NANDAKWANG	- Director of Association of Parliaments and Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments Division Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations Secretariat of the House of Representatives Secretary to the Delegation
	7	Mr. Kitti SAEREEPRAYOON	- Foreign Affairs Officer, Expert Level Association of Parliaments and Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments Division Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations Secretariat of the House of Representatives Assistant Secretary to the Delegation
	8	Ms. Wichayaporn PATADEE	- Foreign Affairs Officer, Practitioner Level Association of Parliaments and Association of Secretaries General

			of Parliaments Division Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations Secretariat of the House of Representatives Assistant Secretary to the Delegation
Turkey	1	Mrs. Asuman Erdoğan	Head of the Turkish APA Group
	2	Mrs. M. Pervin Tuba Durgut	Member of the Turkish APA Group
	3	Mr. Ramazan Can	Member of the Turkish APA Group
	4	Mr. Vecdi Gündoğdu	Member of the Turkish APA Group
	5	Mr. Gökmen Toplu	Deputy Director of the External Relations and Protocol Department of GNAT
	6	Mrs. F. Sirel Deliloğlu	Secretary of the Turkish APA Group, GNAT
	7	Mr. Murat Hastürk	Secretary of the Turkish APA Group, GNAT
UAE	1	H.E. Dherar Bel Houli Al Falasi	Head of delegation.
	2	H.E. Dr. Nedal Al Teneiji	Member of parliament
	3	H.E. Mohamed Eissa Al Kashef	Member of parliament
Uzbekistan	1	Mr. Ravshanbek Alimov	Chairman of committee on foreign relation of Senate
APA SECRETARIAT	1	Dr. Mohammad Reza MAJIDI	Secretary General
	2	Mr. Kia TABATABAEE	Deputy Secretary General
	3	Mr. Mehdi GHASHGHAVI	Executive Deputy of Secretariat
	4	Mr. Mehdi MOLLAHOSSEINI	Senior Expert
	5	Mr. Javad HASHEMI	Director of International Department
	6	Mr. Saeed Sohrabinia	Director of Information Technology



Asian Parliamentary Assembly

The First Virtual Meeting of APA on Covid-19 Outbreak

9 July 2020

Ankara, TURKEY

Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Opening Statement by Chairperson
3. Opening Remarks by Secretary General
4. General Statements by Delegations on:
 - Implication/Precautionary Measures of Covid-19 Outbreak
 - Modality of Future Virtual Meetings
 - Declaration



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The First Virtual Meeting on Covid-9 Outbreak

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

9 July 2020

Ankara, TURKEY

<p>07.00-7.20 (GMT)</p>	<p>Opening Ceremony: Video Messages of the Speaker of Parliaments: - H.E. Dr. Ghalibaf (Iran) - H.E. Prof. Mustafa ŞENTOP (Turkey) - - - -</p>
<p>7.20- 7.30 (GMT)</p>	<p>- Adoption of the Agenda - Opening Statement by the Chairperson: Mrs. Asuman ERDOĞAN, Head of the Turkish APA Group Remarks by the Secretary General: Dr.M.R. MAJIDI</p>
<p>07.30 10.00 (GMT)</p>	<p>General Statements on: 1. Implications/Precautionary measures of Covid-19 2. Modality of Future Virtual Meetings 3. Draft Declaration</p>
<p>End of Program</p>	

Distinguished Delegates,

Dear Friends,

I greet you all with utmost respect. It is a high privilege for me to be here with you today in this timely and important event, especially in this challenging time, when government authorities worldwide are under growing pressure due to the sudden outbreak of pandemic.

Esteemed Participants;

First of all, I would like to begin saying that global solidarity is the only way to respond to the COVID-19 global crisis as increasing effectiveness in combating the pandemic is only possible if countries support and help each other.

Low-income countries often lack the financial capacity to address the newly emerging needs. Besides, access to the medical equipment has been a challenge under the conditions of the pandemic, particularly for such countries.

I would like to mention Turkey's general approach to pandemic and share our experiences. Although some countries chose to implement full lockdowns, Turkey, in order to reduce the viral spread implemented

a different strategy, namely a “partial lockdown” which helped keep the economy functioning while still trying to contain the outbreak. As a result, Turkey’s healthcare system was never overwhelmed by COVID 19 patients. With this outcome, we can safely say, Turkey’s strategy worked. Also this strategy helped Turkey's economy to avoid the "devastating shutdowns" seen in US and most of Europe.

While unfortunately we have witnessed troubles with regard to access to vital health services in some countries, obtaining medical supplies and health infrastructure, thankfully Turkey provides free health services for its citizens who are infected or suspected of infection. Turkish Health Ministry immediately undertook necessary measures for easy access to health services.

We have followed developments both at national and global levels by establishing and routine meetings of the Scientific Board composed of the relevant scientists from our leading universities, and we have prepared recommendation reports for the relevant state bodies.

Even more important, unlike other countries, Turkey's mortality rate has been low compared to other countries due to Turkey's approach to fighting Covid-19 and country's large healthcare capacity. However, primary reason for the low-mortality rate centers around the strategy of

“contact tracing” instead of general testing or testing after clinical presentation.

We introduced certain limitations for our citizens older than 65 and under 18. This strategy stems from the fact that the citizens older than 65 are affected from the pandemic more and the citizens under 18 have a potential to spread the virus more. During this process, we met their needs at their homes without making concession to the principle of social state.

Supplying the field data with our strong health information system, we produced fast and effective solutions. Compared to other countries, one of the most important reasons of our low level of mortality is the strong health infrastructure that we have and our experienced and altruistic staff.

With a relatively large population of 83 million people, Turkey gives priority to her people’s needs, as every country will do. However, accumulating with a “just in case” approach is not concomitant to Turkey’s humanitarian diplomacy.

Considering the importance of the role of parliaments in order to find solutions within solidarity to the problems faced by countries, I find it

very important to speak of the role of Turkish Parliament during the crisis.

Turkish Parliament had nearly forty-five (45) day break during pandemic. However, we still managed to pass important and comprehensive bills in order to alleviate the effects of the coronavirus on economic and social life.

Subjects such as the prevention of extreme price increases, the postponement of loans for households and for businesses forced to suspend their operations constitute an important part of the passed bills.

We provide our workers with short-time working allowance for a period of three (3) months when they are underemployed or unable to work. Also, cash support of one thousand liras provided for a total four point four (4,4) million families with a low income.

Dear Colleagues,

The universal moral values of cooperation and solidarity require all the nations to be indiscriminate in their approach to international assistance, and to be more responsive to the calls from the more fragile groups under the current conditions.

Bearing this in mind, within the limits of our capacity Turkey has been doing her best to assist other countries. Our relevant governmental institutions such as Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) and AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Agency) have been implementing special aid programmes for vulnerable groups.

Turkey has extended her hand of solidarity to 135 countries. 121 countries have applied for donations, 23 countries have applied for financial assistance, while 93 requested permission for export/purchase of medical equipment. Out of 135, 112 countries have received donations, 6 countries have received in-cash support, while 61 of them have been issued permission for purchase or export of medical equipment.

Apart from individual countries, Turkey has met demands of 4 international organizations - United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNICEF, Patient Advocate Foundation (PAF), Caribbean Community (CARICOM) - partially or in full.

Turkey's assistance mostly consists of provision of in-kind medical equipment, particularly personal protective equipment. Nevertheless,

Turkey has also provided food to those countries which have faced problems of food security during the times of pandemic. In some developing countries Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) has organized mentoring programmes for the production of personal protective material, using local resources.

Distinguished members of Parliament,

We parliamentarians are the bridges between people. Therefore, most effective contribution parliaments can provide is to enable mutual empathy and understanding at the international level and promote a proper political environment for collaboration in the fight against the pandemic.

I would like to once again point out that, Turkey calls for a strong and dedicated international cooperation against this pandemic, believing that no country is immune from this threat but that we can overcome this challenge if we all cooperate in full solidarity.

So, on behalf of the Turkish Parliament and myself, I again thank you all for your attention, and send best wishes for a very successful meeting.

Attachment IV

Statement by H.E. Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)

At

The First Virtual Meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) on COVID-19 Outbreak

Ankara -Turkey- July 09, 2020

**Madame Chairperson,
Honorable Parliamentarians**

I am highly pleased to be able to talk to you once again since we met face to face last December on the occasion of the 12th plenary meeting held in Antalya, Turkey. Unfortunately, regular trend of holding APA meetings was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I also, deem it necessary to seize this great opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to APA President, Honorable Prof. Mustafa Sentop and Her Excellency Mrs. Asuman ERDOĞAN, the Head of the APA Turkish Delegation, who enthusiastically welcomed to host the first APA online meeting following the the APA Secretariat triggering an unexpected situation that calls for devising a new strategy consistent with the new emerging situation which may inevitably linger over the globe for the months or years to come.

Therefore, our meeting today, not to mention, is being held in a drastically different situation which stems from the health limitations associated with the COVID19 outbreak; a gloomy situation that has immensely changed our lifestyle across the globe, thanks to the new communication technologies that have facilitated our being together at different locations.

Madame Chairperson,

As you are well aware, this first APA virtual meeting has the following two agenda items:

1. To share experiences in fight against COVID-19 Pandemic and the degree of success of each member parliament to suppress spread of this dreadful virus as well as actions taken to bring back the economic activities to a normal condition. The outcome document of this APA online session will be a final declaration drafted by the host country based on the extracts from participants' perspectives.
2. To share participants' views on the modality for conducting APA future meetings on virtual basis as long as the COVID19 holds its tight grip on our Continent and other parts of the world.

As regards the first item, I would like to draw your kind attention to the activities of APA Secretariat, since emergence of the corona virus outbreak. During this period, the Secretariat has been in touch with the member parliaments to figure out the best practices, which can serve our purpose in the face of the unfolding situation.

In the telephone conversation I had with Mrs. Erdogan, on March 24, we discussed the new condition facing us and exchanged views on the arrangements that should be duly noted for APA future activities. We were both of the same idea to continue our work on virtual basis.

It was in the light of this telephone call that the novel COVID-19 was focused as a central issue for discussion in later steps. On 25th of March, I addressed a letter to the H.E. Speaker of Gran National Assembly of Turkey, the outcome was circulation of the APA President's letter among the Member Parliaments describing the new emerging situation as a sensitive period, inviting all the member parliaments for collective measures in the fight against this lethal threat.

In the process of our work, we also received proposals on the part of the APA Heads of Kuwait and Turkey and Azerbaijan suggesting to hold meeting through videoconferencing. Such measures calling to address the virus outbreak led to the receipt of reports from several APA member Parliaments who tried to share their experiences with us on containment of the coronavirus pandemic. In my video message of 10th June, I did my best to delineate the APA strategy in the face of this dreadful situation and the steps to be taken accordingly.

In the process of our follow-up actions, I held a video conference meeting with heads of parliamentary Groups of Turkey and Kuwait. At this tripartite meeting, it was resolved that APA should continue its work unceasingly and hold its meetings on virtual basis as the best sharing policy option beset by the members to cope with the challenges of COVID-19 Pandemic. Grand National Assembly of Turkey as APA President welcomed the idea to host the first such meeting. In fact, this tripartite online dialogue was a milestone achievement for our Organization, thanks to the welcome decision of Turkey accepting to hold the first virtual meeting of APA on COVID-19.

Now, I am really delighted to observe that the efforts has come into fruition and we have the privileges of being together at this first virtual meeting though from a distance.

The second item to be discussed at this meeting today relates to the modality for conducting the APA future meetings on virtual basis. This item of agenda seeks to share your valuable views in order to work out the most feasible framework for our future online meetings until such time when we would have returned to a normal condition. The Secretariat is well prepared to collect your views in this respect in order to provide the guideline needed for future activities.

No doubt, challenges emerged as the aftermath of COVID-19 calls for smart solutions. Under such circumstances, the key part of our today's policy in dealing with the assigned missions are to make use of online tools like video-conferencing in a bid to permit delegates to participate in proceedings without being physically present. Thus, there is no choice but to adapt ourselves to the current imposed situation and forge the consistent model of work accordingly.

As there is no specific timeframe ahead of us as to when the pandemic is fully eradicated, it is, therefore, imperative to introduce the modality for our future online meetings, more particularly for the meetings of Standing Committees in close cooperation with the Vice- Presidents.

For this purpose, I deem it necessary to refer you to the important hints brought up in my video message as an integral prerequisite aimed at re-engineering our future strategy for holding APA meetings.

In conclusion, I would like to add that the APA Secretariat is on full duty at all times to pursue the APA objectives under any circumstances and available to hold the meetings on regular basis in cooperation with all the vice-presidents when we have passed over this viral crisis.

Thank you for your attention

UAE Parliamentary Division is proposing a comprehensive action plan for the continuation of the virtual meetings of the APA Committees, with the plan including:

1. **First:** Identify the e-platform for holding the meetings of the APA, while ensuring that the approved programmes for remote meetings are evaluated, and that the systems are assessed in order to adopt the best standards for data protection and cybersecurity.
2. **Second:** Set a specific number of draft resolutions for discussion in each committee.
3. **Third:** Determine the timeframe for committee meetings while ensuring that the time difference between world countries is taken into account.
4. **Fourth:** Establish a specific mechanism for casting votes in the virtual meetings.
5. **Fifth:** Develop a specific mechanism for management of discussions.
6. **Sixth:** Develop a specific mechanism for asking for the floor and commenting in the virtual meetings.