The Standing Committee on Political Issues held its meeting on 28 November 2008 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

1. Honorable, Mr. Marzuki Darusman, Member of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia chaired the Standing Committee. Honorable, Mr. Zuhair Sanduka, Member of the Palestine National Council, was elected as the Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee. The Chair was assisted by APA Assistant Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Amir Zamaninia.

1. The list of documents before the Standing Committee included:

   a) EC1/2008/03: Pursuing Implementation of the Friendship Pact of Asia,
   b) EC1/2008/08: Enhancing Cooperation between Asian Parliamentary Assembly, Member Parliaments and Their Governments for Implementation of APA Decisions,
   c) EC1/2008/09: Seeking Observer Status at the OIC and PUIC,
   d) EC1/2008/10: Seeking Observer Status at the General Assembly of the United Nations,
   e) EC1/2008/11: Seeking Observer Status at the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Eurasian Economic Community,
   f) EC1/2008/12: Seeking Observer Status at the ASEAN,
   g) EC1/2008/13: Seeking Observer Status at the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
   h) EC2/2008/03: Provision of interpretation of APA debates into languages other than the APA official languages.

2. The Standing Committee agreed on the texts of the five Draft Resolutions on APA seeking Observer Status at the OIC, PUIC, General Assembly of the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Eurasian Economic Community, ASEAN and the Inter-Parliamentary Union and decided to recommend them to the Third Plenary for adoption.

* Re-issued for technical reason.

4. The Delegations of Indonesia and Cyprus each proposed a preambular paragraph and the Draft resolution as amended is issued under APA/Political/2008/01.

5. The Standing Committee considered Draft Resolution on Enhancing Cooperation between APA Member Parliaments and Their Governments for Implementation of APA Decisions and decided to recommend it to the Third Plenary for final adoption. The text of the Draft Resolution is issued under APA/Political/2008/02.

6. Delegates exchanged views about the importance of determining the venues and dates for convening the Sub-Committee on Declaration on Friendship and the ad-hoc Committee on Enhancing Cooperation between APA Member Parliaments and Their Governments for Implementation of APA Decisions. The Honorable delegate from Cyprus offered to host, subject to later confirmation, the Sub-Committee on Pursuing Implementation of the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia.