



APA/Social & Cultural-Rep/2008/04\*  
28 November 2008

**Report of the APA Standing Committee On**  
**Social & Cultural Issues**  
**Jakarta, 28 November 2008**

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

Honorable, Mr. Khalil Ebrahim Al Marzooq Member of Council of Representative of Bahrain chaired the meeting and Honorable, Mr. Chhit Kim Yeat from Cambodia was elected as the vice-chairperson of the Standing Committee. The Chair was assisted by APA Assistant Secretary-General, H.E. Dr. Ali Khoshroo.

1. The list of documents before the Standing Committee included:
  - a) EC1/2008/05: Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia,
  - b) EC1/2008/06: Combating Corruption in Asia,
  - c) EC1/2008/07: Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization in Asia,
  - d) EC1/2008/14: Achieving Health Equity,
2. The Standing Committee took note with appreciation of the Reports of the APA Secretary-General, which constituted the bases of deliberations in the sub-committees leading to the development of the draft resolutions above.
3. It was pointed out that the Sub-Committees on “Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia” met in Seoul, and both “Combating Corruption in Asia” and “Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization” met in Tehran in 2008. They considered the reports of the Secretary General and developed the Draft Resolutions before the Standing Committee. It was also stressed that the Sub-Committees considered it important to take advantage of Parliamentarian and experts to study the main ideas in the report of the Secretary-General, particularly the issues related to Asian Cultural Foundation, adoption of national anti-corruption strategy, and “Asian Virtual Parliament”. The Committee also put emphasis on Health equity, difficult working conditions of Asian migrant workers, and the need to

\* Re-issued for technical reason.



promote sanctity of family in modern time.

4. The Standing Committee considered the Draft Resolutions and significant exchanges of views took place on their various aspects. There was general agreement that parliamentary cooperation in social and cultural fields is vital to promote friendship and solidarity in Asia.
5. Many delegations including, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Philippines, China, and Cambodia proposed amendments or made observations that contributed to further enriching the Draft Resolutions under considerations.
6. The Standing Committee exchanged views on many elements and ideas in the draft resolutions above with a view to pursuing the objectives of Asian Parliamentary Assembly. The Standing Committee recommended the following draft resolutions to the Third APA Plenary for adoption. The Draft Resolution as amended is now issued under Documents:
  - a. APA/ Social and Cultural /2008/01, dated 28 November 2008.
  - b. APA/ Social and Cultural /2008/02, dated 28 November 2008.
  - c. APA/ Social and Cultural /2008/03, dated 28 November 2008.
  - d. APA/ Social and Cultural /2008/04, dated 28 November 2008.
7. The Honorable delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed its readiness to host the Sub-Committee on Achieving Health Equity in Tehran in 2009. Some other delegates asked for more time to consult with their parliaments to volunteer for hosting other Sub-Committees.