The Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs of Asian Parliamentary Assembly was held on 13-14 February 2019 in Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand. Parliamentary delegations from following member countries participated in the meeting:

Bahrain, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, UAE and Vietnam. (Attachment I).

Advisory council member of Qatar attended the meeting as observer.

Inaugural Ceremony:

After playing National Anthem of Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. Gen. Nipat Thonglek, Member of the Thai National Legislative Assembly and Chairperson of the Steering Committee on hosting the Meeting delivered his welcoming remarks. (Attachment II).

H.E. Mohammad Reza Majidi, APA Secretary General took the floor and delivered his remarks. (Attachment III).

The Representative of APA President, Mrs. Asuman Erdogan also addressed the audience. (Attachment IV).

Finally, H.E. Prof. Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, President of the Thai National Legislative Assembly presented his opening and welcoming remarks. (Attachments V)
1. Adoption of the Agenda:
The Draft Agenda of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs was adopted unanimously by the Member Parliaments. Agenda and Program of Work (Attachments VI).

2. Election of the Bureau:
The following members of the Bureau were unanimously elected:
H.E. Gen. Nipat Thonglek, member of the Thai National Legislative Assembly as chairperson,
H.E. Mrs. Asuman Erdogan head of parliamentary delegation of Turkey, as Vice-chair
H.E. Mr. Bukhchuluun, PUREVDORJ, head of parliamentary delegation of Mongolia, as Rapporteur.

3. Opening remarks by Chairperson:
The chairperson presented his opening remarks.

4. Report of Secretary-General:
APA Secretary-General Reported on implementation of the present Draft Resolutions and consideration of proposals to be presented by Member Parliaments. (Attachment VII).

5. The meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians:
Based on APA /Res/2014/16 to establish Special Committee of APA women parliamentarians under the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, the meeting was opened by H.E. Gen. Nipat Thonglek.
The following member parliaments spoke on the agenda item and presented their views: Thailand, Iran, Pakistan, Palestine, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan, Russia and Indonesia.

6. Consideration and discussion on New Draft Resolutions:
The Chairman informed the delegations that the following new draft resolutions are presented by the Thai delegation:

- Draft resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia,
- Draft resolution on Ageing Society in Asia.

He also stated that the delegation of Kuwait has offered the draft resolution on Building the Asian Individual. The title of this resolution was later changed to “Human Development in Asia” with the consent of the Kuwaiti delegation.
The Thai and Kuwait members of the parliaments presented the concepts behind each three resolutions. The Chairman asked the Committee to adopt these new draft resolutions in principal and defer its discussion to the future meeting. The Chairman stated that, as a standard procedure, the amendments by delegations who have not attended the meeting will not be discussed.

7. Consideration and recommendation of Draft Resolutions:
The following ten draft resolutions were discussed in detail, incorporating the amendments by member parliaments and were unanimously adopted:

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

The Committee requested the Secretariat to inform the member parliaments one and a half month prior to the date of the meeting for submission of their recommendations and amendments to the draft resolutions. The Secretariat is requested to incorporate the amendments and upload the final version of the draft resolutions within one week of the above-mentioned deadline.

On Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia, a few delegates disassociated themselves from the preamble paragraph 5.

A few delegations addressed the titles of the following draft resolutions and argued that their wordings should be amended. The representative of the Secretariat stated that such titles are endorsed by the APA General Assembly and any alteration has to be done through their consent.

- Draft resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of
Migrant Workers in Asia,
- Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions,
- Draft resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia.

The member of the delegation of Iraq informed the Committee of the readiness of the Iraqi parliament to host the upcoming meeting of the Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations during month of April 2019 in Baghdad, and invited APA member parliaments to attend this meeting.

The Head of Russian parliamentary delegation also expressed the readiness of the Russian Duma to host the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development during month of July 2019 in Moscow.
Attachment I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Parliaments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bahrain</strong></td>
<td>Member of Shura Council/Head of the Delegation</td>
<td>Member of Council of Representatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Mohamed Ali ALKHOZAI</td>
<td>Parliamentary Relations Development Specialist, Council of Representatives, Secretary to the Delegation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Hamad Ahmed ALKOOHEJ</td>
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<td>Mr. Mohamed Bin DAINA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bhutan</strong></td>
<td>Member of Parliament/Head of the Delegation</td>
<td>Member of Parliament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Lhatu NIL</td>
<td>Chief Information and Media Officer, Secretary to the Delegation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Choki GYELTSHEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Sonam LHAMO</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cambodia</strong></td>
<td>Vice-Chairman of Commission of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media of the National Assembly/Head of the Delegation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Suos YARA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Chan NARETH</td>
<td>Vice-Chairman of Commission on Planning, Investment, Agriculture, Rural Development, Environment and Water Resources of the Senate</td>
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<td>Mr. Nguon SOCHEATH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Hok BUNLY</td>
<td>Member of Commission of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media of the National Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Kim SOCHETRA</td>
<td>Deputy Director of International Relations Department</td>
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<td>Mr. Seng THY</td>
<td>Director of General Research Department</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>India</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Sudhi CHOUDHARY</td>
<td>First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of India in Bangkok Attaché</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Anil SINGH</td>
<td>Embassy of the Republic of India in Bangkok</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, 13-14 February 2019, Bangkok, Thailand
**Indonesia**

Mrs. Dwiria Latifa

Mr. Aryo Djohadikusumo

Mr. Heriyono Adi Anggoro

Mr. Wirawan Narendra Putro

Mrs. Kurosu Sachi

Mr. Abdullah Zulkifli

Mr. Dino Anggara

Mr. Sulaiman Narowi

**Iran**

Dr. Seyyedeh Fatemeh Zolghadr

Dr. Mohsen Koo Hkan

Dr. Hajar Chenarani Rizi

Mrs. Zahra Moradi

Mr. Reza Hassani

Ms. Panita Ranjar

Mr. Mohsen Mohammad

Mr. Ali Jamch Bozorg

**Iraq**

Mr. Malhan Al-Mgotar

Dr. Aiah Abbas

Mr. Mustafa Fadhil Abbas

Ms. Marwa Al-Hallaf

**Jordan**

Mr. Naif Al-Hadid

Mr. Khaleel Alfanatseh

Mr. Ahmad El Lozi

Mr. Usme MOheadat

Mr. Hazem Alazzam

Member of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of the House of Representatives/
Member of Parliament/Head of the Delegation

Member of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of the House of Representatives/
Member of Parliament

Advisor to the Delegation

Secretary to the Delegation

Accompanying person of Mr. Aryo Djohadikusumo

Counsellor

Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Bangkok

Third Secretary

Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Bangkok

Analyst

Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Bangkok

Member of Islamic Parliament of Iran/
Head of the Delegation

Member of Islamic Parliament of Iran

Member of Islamic Parliament of Iran

Expert

Secretary to the Delegation

Interpreter/Protocol

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bangkok

Third Secretary (Political)

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bangkok

Member of Parliament/Foreign Relations

Committee/Head of the Delegation

Member of Parliament,
Foreign Relations Committee

Secretary to the Delegation

Personal Secretary

Member of the Jordan Senate/
Head of the Delegation

Member of the Jordan Parliament

Member of the Jordan Parliament

Administrator

Secretary to the the Delegation

The Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs,
13-14 February 2019, Bangkok, Thailand
Kazakhstan
Mr. Alimzhан KURTADEV
Mr. Madi SHAKENOV
H.E. Ms. Raushan YESBULATOVA
Mr. Timur AKHMETZHANOV

Member of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan/Head of the Delegation
Official from the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Bangkok
Consul
Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Bangkok

Kiribati
Mr. Jeremia TABAI
Mr. Tiweta JOANE BEENA
Mrs. Maraba IOANE
Mr. George Ucantabo MACKENZIE

Member of Parliament/Head of the Delegation
Member of Parliament
Accompanying person of Mr. Tiweta IOANE
Parliamentary Counsel

Kuwait
Dr. Khalil ABUL
Mr. Ali ALDEQBASI
Mr. Abdulaziz NASRALLAH
Mr. Saud ALRAQUM
Mr. Abdullah ALJAMI
Mr. Abdullah TA A ALTURKI
Mr. Ahmad ALANEZI

Member of Parliament/Head of the Delegation
Member of Parliament
Secretary to the Delegation
Secretary to the Delegation
First Secretary
Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Bangkok
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Bangkok
Diplomatic Attaché
Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Bangkok

Lao PDR
Dr. Phonsaphet BOUPHA
Ms. Ketmany BANDASACK
Ms. Kaysonne KEOMANYKHONE

Vice-Chairperson of the Social and Cultural Affairs Committee/Head of the Delegation
Member of National Assembly of Lao PDR
Head of Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division
Secretary to the Delegation

Maldives
Mr. Ali HUSSAIN
Mr. Ahmed MARZOOG
Mr. Mohamed RASHEED
Mrs. Ashath FULHU

Member of Parliament/Head of the Delegation
Member of Parliament
Assistant Secretary General
Accompanying person of Mr. Ali HUSSAIN

Mongolia
Mr. Purevdorj BUKHCHULUUN
Mr. Tsolmon TSÉDEV
Mr. Tuvshinjargal ERDENE
Mr. Tugsbilguun TUMURKHULEG
Ms. Amuu ENKBOLD

Member of Parliament/Head of the Delegation
Secretary General
Head of Legal Affairs Department
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Embassy of Mongolia in Bangkok
Third Secretary
Embassy of Mongolia in Bangkok

The Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs,
13-14 February 2019, Bangkok, Thailand
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Positions/Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Mr. Sadiq NUZHAT</td>
<td>Senator/Head of the Delegation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Saim Muhammad ALI KHAN</td>
<td>Senator</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Usman Khan TARA KAI</td>
<td>Member National Assembly of Pakistan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Salman MUHAMMAD</td>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Iqbal Ahmad ULGHMANI</td>
<td>Joint Secretary, National Assembly of Pakistan</td>
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<td>Mr. Muhammad ANWAR</td>
<td>Officer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Aslam AHMAD</td>
<td>Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary</td>
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<td>Mr. Yasin Butt</td>
<td>Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Bangkok</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>Mr. Emam AL-KHATIB</td>
<td>PNC Member/Head of the Delegation</td>
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<td>Mr. Nayef MOHANNA</td>
<td>PNC Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Mr. Mikhail EMELIANOV</td>
<td>First Deputy Chairperson of the State Duma on State Building and Legislation/Head of the Delegation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mrs. Vera GANZIA</td>
<td>Member of the Committee of the State Duma on Budget and Taxes</td>
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<td>Mr. Valery STAVIZKY</td>
<td>Secretary to the Delegation</td>
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<td>Mr. Vinaly KISELEV</td>
<td>Interpreter</td>
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<td>Mr. Andrey MEDVEDEV</td>
<td>Interpreter</td>
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<td>Mr. Alexey SALNIKOV</td>
<td>Second Secretary</td>
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<td>Embassy of the Russian Federation in Bangkok</td>
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<td>Syria</td>
<td>Mr. Basil ESSA</td>
<td>Member of Parliament/</td>
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<td>Vice-Chair of Complaints and Oversight Committee/</td>
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<td>Head of the Delegation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Khaldoun AWIS</td>
<td>Member of Parliament/</td>
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<td>Vice-Chair of Local Administration and Urban Development Committee</td>
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<td>Mr. Iyas BASIA</td>
<td>Public Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Gen. Nipat THONGLEK</td>
<td>Member of National Legislative Assembly</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pol. Gen. Pichit KUANDACHAKUPT</td>
<td>Leader of the Delegation</td>
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<td>Mrs. Suwannee SIRIVEJCHAPUN</td>
<td>Member of National Legislative Assembly</td>
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<td>Mr. Vorapol SOCATIYANURAK</td>
<td>Delegate</td>
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<td>Acm. Chuchart BOONCHAI</td>
<td>Member of National Legislative Assembly</td>
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<td>Adm. Amorntep NA BANGCCHAN</td>
<td>Delegate</td>
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The Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs,
13-14 February 2019, Bangkok, Thailand
Gen. Veerun CHANTASATKOSOL  
Member of National Legislative Assembly  
Delegate

Mrs. Kanchana PATARACHOE  
Director-General Department of International Organizations  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Advisor to the Delegation

Ms. Usanee KANGWANJIT  
Deputy Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security  
Advisor to the Delegation

Mrs. Teppawan PORNAWALAI  
Deputy Director-General Department of Children and Youth  
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security  
Advisor to the Delegation

Mrs. Ramrungr WORAWAT  
Deputy Director – General of the Department of Older Persons  
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security  
Advisor to the Delegation

Ms. Pavana AUNKASITH  
Medical Doctor Expert Level, Ministry of Public Health  
Advisor to the Delegation

Mr. Thongtun PERMBOTASI  
Director, Division of National Strategy and Reform, Ministry of Public Health  
Advisor to the Delegation

Dr. Sutada MEKRUNGRUENGKUL  
Human Rights Expert to the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand  
Advisor to the Delegation

Prof. Dr. Surachart BAMRUNGSUK  
International Relations expert  
Advisor to the Delegation

Prof. Dr. Chaivat KAMCHOO  
International Relations expert  
Advisor to the Delegation

Dr. Nongrat ISSARO  
Plan and policy Analyst  
Advisor to the Delegation

Mr. Rusa SY KHANTANIT  
Foreign Relations Officer  
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 Thai Delegation

Mr. Paradorn ARAWAN  
Foreign Affairs Officer, AIPA Division, Bureau of Inter – Parliamentary Organizations  
Secretariat of the House of Representatives  
Assistant Secretary to the Thai Delegation

Miss Supisra KANKAEW  
Foreign Affairs Officer, Inter-Parliamentary Union Division  
Bureau of Inter – Parliamentary Organizations  
Secretariat of the House of Representatives  
Assistant Secretary to the Thai Delegation

The Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs,  
13-14 February 2019, Bangkok, Thailand
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Mrs. Asman ERDOĞAN</td>
<td>Member of Parliament/Head of the Delegation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mrs. Müşerref Pervin Tuba DURGUT</td>
<td>Member of Parliament</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Gökmen TOPLU</td>
<td>Deputy Director of External Relations and Protocol</td>
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<td>Mr. Murat HASTURK</td>
<td>Department of the Turkish Grand National Assembly</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mrs. Evren Dagdelen AKGUN</td>
<td>Senior Officer of External Relations and Protocol</td>
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<td>Mr. Tolga UNCU</td>
<td>Department of the Turkish Grand National Assembly</td>
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<td>Ms. Eda SARI</td>
<td>Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary</td>
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<td>Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Bangkok</td>
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<td>First Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission</td>
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<td>Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Bangkok</td>
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<td>Second Secretary</td>
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<td>Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Bangkok</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>Mr. Hamad Abdulla ALGHFELI</td>
<td>Member of Federal National Council/Head of the Delegation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ms. Azza Salim AL MALIK</td>
<td>Member of Federal National Council</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. Nedal Mohammed ALTENELII</td>
<td>Member of Federal National Council</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ms. Hind Ahmed AL SHAMSII</td>
<td>Executive Parliamentary Communication</td>
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<td>Mr. Bader Hamad ALMARRI</td>
<td>Protocol Executive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Mr. Huong TRIEU THE</td>
<td>Vice-Chairman of Culture, Education, Youth, Adolescents and Children Committee of Vietnam</td>
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<td>National Assembly/Head of the Delegation</td>
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<td>Standing Member of Foreign Affairs Committee of Vietnam</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Sy DINH CONG</td>
<td>Vietnam National Assembly</td>
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<td>Mr. Truc BA DINH</td>
<td>Secretary to the Delegation</td>
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<td>Observer Parliament</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>Mr. Mohamed Bin Ali S. AL MAADID</td>
<td>Member of Parliament</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Mohamed Mohiedin ELIMAMALI</td>
<td>Expert on Political Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>APA Secretariat</td>
<td>Dr. Mohammad Reza MAJIDI</td>
<td>APA Secretary General</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Amb. K.ia TABATAABEE</td>
<td>APA Deputy Secretary General</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Mehdi Molla HOSSEINI</td>
<td>Official</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Mehdi GHASHIGHAVI</td>
<td>Administrative Officer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13 February 2019 at 17.00 hrs.

The Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, 13-14 February 2019, Bangkok, Thailand.
Welcoming Remark

Your Excellency Prof. Pornpetch, President of the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand,

Excellencies,
Distinguished APA Members,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

A pleasant morning to you all!

On behalf of the Thai National Legislative Assembly (NLA) Delegation //as well as the Steering Committee on hosting the Meeting// of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs,
I am very pleased and honored to welcome all of you to the Standing Committee Meeting, hosted by the NLA in Bangkok, the capital city of Thailand.

It is much appreciated to see all friends and colleagues, participate in this Meeting to discuss all important issues on social and cultural affairs in Asia, comprising Cultural and Religious Affairs, Information Technology, Health Equity, Migrant Workers, Anti-Corruption, Women MPs, Illicit Drug, Humanitarian Aid, and other challenging issues.

In this Meeting, it should be expected to see more and more initiatives together with new ideas for APA affairs and for the people of Asia.
The Thai Delegation, for example, has proposed for consideration 2 new draft resolutions// related to Child and Youth Development and Ageing Society. Kuwait also propose a new one// related to Human Resources Development.

Consequently, I hope that all APA Delegations gathering here// will maximize this opportunity to discuss widely// all existing and new matters for the fruitful outcomes, achieving the Meeting’s objectives.

Distinguished APA Members,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Historically speaking, the Parliament of Thailand has been involving with the APA since it was once called the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace or AAPP. Thailand hosted the 6th General Assembly of the AAPP in Pattaya in 2005 before the AAPP transformed into the APA in a year later.

I would like to express my appreciation to the ever-host countries of APA meetings, namely Turkey, Cambodia, Cyprus, Pakistan, Bhutan and Iran.

Today, we are immensely proud to have the second chance to organize another significant meeting under the APA framework: the
Standing Committee Meeting on Social and Cultural Affairs.

It is my honor to express my appreciation to Honorable Dr. Majidi, Secretary-General of the APA and extend my deep gratitude to all member parliaments from 21 countries for trusting the NLA, Thailand to host this distinguished gathering.

As host parliament, we are so impressed that all of us will jointly accomplish this historical event.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As conflicts and exploitation have been existing in some societies in Asia,
I do expect that this Meeting// can make another step for all of us, as parliamentarians who represent people of the country, to discuss, to share the ideas towards common values and solutions// that could respond to all social and cultural challenges in a sustainable manner. With accumulated achievements, I would like to commend our APA// on its dynamics and progress, both in terms of good governance and strong commitment to working// for the benefit of peoples in Asia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now, I would like to officially welcome// all distinguished delegates and participants to the meeting.
I am grateful for your presence at this special event and do hope that you will actively contribute to this forum in order to achieve the creative goals of our esteemed organization.

Have a pleasant stay in Bangkok, Thailand!

I thank you.

----------------------------------------
Attachment III

Statement by H.E. Dr. Majidi, APA Secretary General at the Inaugural Ceremony of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

In the Name of Allah the Compassionate the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure and honor to address you at the meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs in historical and magnificent city of Bangkok, the capital of the Kingdom of Thailand.

It is incumbent upon me to express, on behalf of myself, staff of APA Secretariat as well as all participating delegations our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to H.E. Prof. Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, President of the Thai National Legislative Assembly and other high ranking officials of Government and Parliament of the Kingdom of Thailand who have graciously arranged for our meeting today and for few more days to come.

It is an honor and privilege for APA to have the Kingdom of Thailand as one of its dedicated and internationally well-established member of its community to preside over the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs for the next two years.

Mr. Chairman,

I am thoroughly confident that through your wisdom, commitments and professionalism, APA stands to benefit the most. We have come a long way and based on all the efforts of previous Chairmanships, specially
Turkey, Thailand is poised to steer the Standing Committee leadership in such an exemplary manner which will enable us to fulfill our duties and better serve up APA Community. We are obliged to extend our full support in any way possible to make this period a success as we did in previous occasions.

Mr. Chairman,

In this context, I wish to stress that APA Secretariat stands committed to the promotion and expansion of the objectives of our organization through full utilization of its human resources as well as its financial and otherwise capabilities and potentials and will do its utmost to make the incoming Chairmanship a success.

I wish you all a fruitful and constructive deliberation during the meeting of standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs in Bangkok.

Thank you very much for your attention.
Attachment IV

Dişleri Bakanlığı
Ocak 2019

APA TÜRK GRUBU BAŞKANI SAYIN ASUMAN ERDOĞAN’IN ASYA PARLAMENTER ASAMBLESİ (APA) SOSYAL KÜLTÜRSEL ALT KOMİTE TOPLANTISI AÇILISINDA YAPACAKLARI KONUŞMAYA KATKI

Distinguished Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a distinct pleasure to be here today at the Social and Cultural Sub-Committee meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. Allow me to begin my intervention by thanking the distinguished representatives of Thailand for hosting this well prepared event and for their warm hospitality.

Thailand is one of our important partners in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2018, we marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations. Despite the geographical distance between our countries, our relations have steadily developed in the last six decades. We would like to further enhance Turkey’s Sectoral Dialogue Partnership to ASEAN during Thailand’s ASEAN 2019 Chairmanship.

There are already mutual Parliamentary Friendship Groups in our respective Parliaments. We wish to develop the relations between our Parliaments after the upcoming elections in Thailand.

With a population of 70 million and annual foreign trade of 400 billion US Dollars, Thailand’s significance ascends both in regional and global scale.

Dear Guests,

Turkey describes her foreign policy as “enterprising and humanitarian”. We define our national interests in terms of stability and prosperity in our broad neighborhood and the world. To this end, we continue to take concrete initiatives to address threats and challenges at their roots.

We believe that effective multilateralism is key to addressing numerous global problems today. Fight against terrorism and violent extremism, prevention of illegal migration, eradication of poverty, addressing the root causes of humanitarian crises and climate change all require collective efforts which can be achieved through effective multilateralism.

1/2
We take active roles in a range of international and regional platforms. We are convinced that institutions that are “fit for purpose” and making global governance more effective constitute useful tools to address urgent needs of the international community.

Our outreach and partnership policies towards Africa, the Asia-Pacific and Latin America-Carribean have been working well and creating mutual bonds and benefits.

We have also set in motion a series of trilateral/quadrilateral mechanisms to bolster the principle of regional ownership, from the Balkans and Southern Caucasus to Central Asia and Afghanistan.

Efforts towards prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts rank high among our priorities. In this respect, Turkey is co-chairing three distinct mediation-focused initiatives at the UN, the OSCE and OIC. For the first time in OIC history, we launched mediation conferences and convened a permanent Contact Group at the OIC. Also, Turkey, together with Finland, as Co-Chairs at the Group of Friends of Mediation, has been active at the UN to increase awareness about mediation. Turkey is the only country that co-chairs such groups at the UN, the OSCE and OIC.

Alliance of Civilizations initiative was launched in 2005 by the Turkey and Spain and subsequently endorsed by the Secretary General of the United Nations. The main purpose of the Alliance is to provide lasting solutions to the dangerously rising trends of hatred, discrimination, xenophobia and extremism. The process for APA’s membership to the Group of Friends of the UN Alliance of Civilizations is still underway.

With the effective humanitarian diplomacy it conducts, Turkey is determined to continue extending a helping hand to those in need. According to the current data, the Republic of Turkey ranks as the biggest donor, in other words “the most generous” country worldwide with its 8 billion USD humanitarian assistance in 2017 in terms of the ratio of humanitarian assistance compared to the gross national income.

Turkey will continue to be an enterprising partner in strengthening the reflex of effective multilateralism throughout the world.

Thank you for your attention.
Attachment V

Opening Remark

by H.E. Prof. Pornpetch Wichitcholchai,
President of the National Legislative Assembly
of the Kingdom of Thailand
at the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Standing Committee
Meeting on Social and Cultural Affairs
on Wednesday, 13th February 2019
Bangkok, Thailand

Excellencies,
Distinguished APA Members,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome all of you to the
Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Standing Committee Meeting
on Social and Cultural Affairs, in Bangkok. It is inspiring to have
the Delegates from the APA Member Parliaments gather here to
discuss the important issues regarding social and cultural
affairs in Asia, such as Cultural Diversity and Heritage,
Rights of Migrant Workers, Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony
among Religions, APA Parliamentarians on Women, and
Humanitarian Aid on the Verge of Humanitarian Catastrophe.

/It is show that we,...
It is shown that we, the APA Delegations, participating in this Standing Committee Meeting, have firmly committed to such important issues.

I would like to refer to the Meeting held in the Kingdom of Cambodia in 2005, the Thai Delegation suggested that there should have been at least one woman parliamentarian participating in the Meeting to promote gender equality and women’s rights. Then, such an initiative was adopted by the Meeting and has been asserted in the Resolution on the APA Parliamentarians on Women. To this respect, I would like to urge the APA Delegations for more initiatives contributed to the APA businesses.

Accordingly, the new draft Resolutions have been proposed by the Thai Delegation – Resolution on the Promotion on Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia and Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia. I hope that the APA Delegations will take this opportunity to participate in the said matters for magnificent outcomes and I wish everyone success in fulfilling the Meeting’s objectives. With a strong interest, I will follow up enthusiastically on the deliberation of the Meeting.

/Distinguished APA Members,....
Distinguished APA Members,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me return to historical background, Thailand had the honor of being the host country, at Pattaya City in 2005, for the Sixth General Assembly of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace or AAPP. A year later in Tehran, the AAPP had been constructively and completely transformed into the esteemed Organization – the Asian Parliamentary Assembly or APA. Looking back to over the past decade, I would like to congratulate the APA on progressive management, in terms of constructive work of the Committee Meetings and significant increase in the APA membership. For the years to come, I wish the APA Members could further continue their implementation for the greater benefit of the people in Asia.

With the rapid change in the APA’s dynamic and the new level of complexity in parliamentary practices and legislature’s decision, the APA systematically provides an excellent platform for discussing the present and future issues regarding social and cultural affairs within the APA’s context. Based on this scenario, the APA Members can connect new dots among the given resolutions. This is to show that the challenge is not to opt out but to find the right balance in leveraging the common advantages that allow APA Members or the APA itself to create sustainable values, in contributing to the achievement of inclusive development, and in the process to help build a better world.

/ Ladies and Gentlemen...
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Without sound preparation, success is just another word. To this respect, I would like to thank General Nipat Thonglek, Leader of the Thai National Legislative Assembly Delegation// and Chairperson of the Steering Committee// on hosting the Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, for magnificent preparation of this important event// and his great contribution to the APA throughout the years. Also, my appreciation goes to the Secretariat of the House of Representatives// for their tireless effort and hard work, and all concerned Thai authorities// for strong support and facilitation, in hosting this meeting.

Once again, Welcome! I hope that all of you// will much enjoy the excursion program after the Meeting. Meanwhile, I do hope that each of you// has a pleasant stay and a wonderful moment// in the Lands of Smiles, and safely return to your Home with good memory. Lastly, I strongly hope that// this Meeting will inspire the APA Members// to keep up intrinsic values and continue to perform such important tasks// for the benefit of our peoples.

Thank you for your attention.

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APA Standing Committee Meeting on Social and Cultural Affairs

12 – 15 February 2019
Bangkok – Kingdom of Thailand

Draft Agenda

1- Adoption of the Agenda
2- Election of the Bureau
3- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
4- Report of APA Secretary General
5- The Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians
6- Consideration and discussion on new Draft Resolutions:
   - Draft Resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia,
   - Draft Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia,
   - Draft Resolution on Building the Asian Individual
7- Consideration and recommendation of following Draft Resolutions:
   - Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia,
   - Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology,
   - Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia,
   - Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia,
   - Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption
   - Draft Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians,
   - Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions,
   - Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia,
   - Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia,
   - Draft Resolution on Humanitarian Aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Myanmar on the Verge of the Humanitarian Catastrophe
8- Any other matters.

As of 8 February 2019
The Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
12 - 15 February 2019
Amari Watergate Bangkok Hotel
Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand

Working Program

Tuesday, 12 February 2019
All Day
- Arrival of Delegates (Proceed to Amari Watergate Bangkok Hotel)
18:00 hrs
- Reception Dinner hosted by H.E. Prof. Pompech Wichitcholchai, President of the Thai National Legislative Assembly
  Venue: The Garden on the 8th floor
  Dress: Smart Casual

Wednesday, 13 February 2019
06:30 – 08:30 hrs
- Breakfast

08:30 – 08:45 hrs
- Participants start gathering before the start of the Opening Ceremony
  Venue: Watergate Ballroom A - B

08:45 – 09:00 hrs
- Opening VDO Presentation

08:45 – 09:00 hrs
- Courtesy Call on H.E. Prof. Pompech Wichitcholchai, President of the Thai National Legislative Assembly by Heads of APA Member Delegations
  Venue: Banglampong room, 6th floor

09:00 – 09:45 hrs
Inaugural Ceremony
  Venue: Watergate Ballroom A - B
  - National Anthem of the Kingdom of Thailand
  - Welcome Remarks by Hon. Gen. Nipat Thonglek, Member of the Thai National Legislative Assembly and Chairperson of the Steering Committee on hosting the Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
  - Remarks by Mr. Mohammad Reza Majidi, APA Secretary General
  - Remarks by Mrs. Asman Erdogan, Representative of APA President
  - Opening Remarks by H.E. Prof. Pompech Wichitcholchai, President of the Thai National Legislative Assembly
  - Traditional Thai Drum Show (Klong Sabadchali)

09:45 – 10:30 hrs
Photo Session and Coffee Break

  Group 1
  President of the Thai National Legislative Assembly
  Representative of APA President
  Heads of APA Member Delegations
  APA Secretary General

  Group 2
  President of Thai National Legislative Assembly
  All Delegates
10:30 – 11:00 hrs  Meeting of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs  
Venue: Watergate Ballroom A - B, 6th floor  
- Adoption of the Agenda  
- Election of the Bureau (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur)  
- Opening Remarks by Chairperson, Hon. Gen. Nipat Thonglek, Member of the Thai National Legislative Assembly  
- Presentation of APA Secretary General’s Report on implementation of the present Draft Resolutions and consideration of any proposals to be presented by Member Parliaments

11:00 – 11:30 hrs  Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians  
Venue: Watergate Ballroom A - B, 6th floor

11:30 – 12:00 hrs  Meeting of APA Standing Committee (continued)  
Venue: Watergate Ballroom A - B, 6th floor  
- Consideration and discussion on New Draft Resolutions

12:00 – 13:00 hrs  Lunch  
Amaya Food Gallery, 4th floor

13:00 – 15:00 hrs  Meeting of APA Standing Committee (continued)  
Venue: Watergate Ballroom A - B, 6th floor

15:00 – 15:30 hrs  - Coffee Break

15:30 – 18:00 hrs  Meeting of APA Standing Committee (continued)  
Venue: Watergate Ballroom A - B, 6th floor

19:00 hrs  - Dinner  
Venue: Amaya Food Gallery, 4th floor

Thursday, 14 February 2019

06:30 – 08.30 hrs  - Breakfast

09:00 – 10:00 hrs  Meeting of APA Standing Committee (continued)  
Venue: Watergate Ballroom A - B, 6th floor  
- Adoption of the final report of the Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs  
- Closing Remarks by Chairperson, Hon. Gen. Nipat Thonglek, Member of the Thai National Legislative Assembly and Chairperson of the Steering Committee on hosting the Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

10:00 – 10:30 hrs  - Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:00 hrs  Meeting of Working Group on Asian Parliament  
Venue: Watergate Ballroom A - B, 6th floor

12:00 – 13:00 hrs  Lunch  
Venue: Amaya Food Gallery, 4th floor

13:00 hrs  - Depart for excursion  
Dress: Smart Casual

13:30 hrs  - Visit Rattanakosin Exhibition Hall
15:45 hrs  - Visit the Grand Palace and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha
16:45 hrs  - Depart for Royal Thai Navy Convention Hall
17:30 – 19:30 hrs  - Dinner on the cruise along the Chao Phraya River
19:45 hrs  - Depart for Amari Watergate Bangkok Hotel
20:30 hrs  - Arrive at Amari Watergate Bangkok Hotel

**Friday, 15 February 2019**

**All Day**  Departure of Delegates
Attachment VII

ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
12-15 February 2019
Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand

APA Secretary General’s Report

Honorable Speaker of Parliament of the Kingdom of Thailand
Honorable Speakers of Parliament members of APA,
Distinguished members of APA,
Excellencies, Colleagues,

It is great honor and privilege for me to speak to you as Secretary General of APA presenting a brief report on the status of our Standing Committee on Social and Cultural affairs in this historic and lovely city of Bangkok, capital of friendly country of Thailand.

At the same time, and before addressing you on the topics at our hand, I should take this opportunity to express on behalf of myself and colleagues of secretariat, my warmest and deepest appreciation to members of Thai parliament as well as state officials and all others who took the burden of hosting our meeting and providing us with unique hospitality.

Excellencies,

Based on the result of our last Standing Committee meeting in Izmir, Turkey, there are ten draft resolutions and two new draft resolutions by the Kingdom of Thailand and one by State of Kuwait before you to be considered, discussed and finalized.

The scope of these resolutions covers the following areas:

1. Measures to promote cultural diversity and protect cultural heritage
2. Integration through ICT
3. Collaboration on health equity
4. Rights of migrant workers

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5. Parliamentarians against corruption
6. Women parliamentarians
7. Dialogue and harmony among world religions
8. Combating smuggling of cultural items
9. Combating illicit drug trafficking
10. Humanitarian aids to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar

Two new draft resolution presented by the host are Draft Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia and Draft Resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia. The topic of the new draft resolution submitted by Kuwait is Building the Asian Individual.

All these resolutions address main issues, challenges and concerns of our Asian societies and thus are considered of utmost importance to each and all of us. Therefore, I propose to you to focus on the contents and ideas being put forward by these resolutions and do your best to enrich them substantially.

On the other hand, one might venture to state that there are other topics and areas of importance through which APA is called for cooperation and thus merits the attention of us all. In our meeting in the Kingdom of Bhutan, I took the liberty of naming a few for your kind consideration. I would like to remind you some of those areas.

1- Social inclusion and education of people with disabilities:
More than one billion people around the world, of whom nearly 93 million are children, live with some form of disability. Societies’ misperception of different forms and types of disability and the limited capacity of social actors to accommodate special needs often place people on the margin. Persons with disabilities experience inequalities in their daily lives, and have fewer opportunities to access a quality education that takes place in an inclusive environment.
As UN supports various international Human Rights Treaties and Conventions that uphold the right to education of all persons through a rights-based approach, APA needs to promote inclusive education policies, programs and practices to ensure equal education opportunities for persons with disabilities.

2. Tourism

Tourism attracts and invites numerous visitors across the world to come and visit a country. Tourism is also a wonderful method for cultural exchanges. It also helps in the economic progress of a country and generates new jobs. Therefore, every country should encourage tourism as much as possible because expansion of Tourism encourages societal progress, aids and encourages infrastructure development and is a continual source of income for public and private sectors. It is recommended to study the ways and means of expansion of Tourism in Asia and facilitation of tourism in APA member countries by adopting appropriate legislation.

3. Synergy among parliament libraries

Nowadays, it is necessary to converge libraries and research centers to empower and promote information synergy among all nations. This atmosphere of cooperation will specifically re-enforce the future research and study potentials. Thus it is recommended that modalities and procedures are considered and adopted to support it.

4. Cooperation among Asian parliaments on cultural heritage

Considering the rich cultural heritage of eastern and western civilizations in the Asian continent, common heritage of all Asian countries and the inevitability of cooperation among governments and parliaments on safeguarding these heritage and especially referring to the relevant cultural conventions of UNESCO, it is highly recommended to consider proposals on enhancing the effective cooperation among Asian Parliaments in this regard.

5. Silk Road project

In the 21st century, many countries are engaged in the Silk Road project and recently the “One Belt-One Road” project has also been initiated in this framework. This project is an example of globalization in the modern world
but is mostly focusing on closer collaboration and partnership on connecting various countries. Considering the historical role of the Silk Road in the cultural and economic relations among Asian nations, it is recommended to initiate preliminary studies to provide practical proposals on encouraging dialogue and cooperation among Asian Parliaments to support this initiative and provide new opportunities and impetus for Asian cooperation.

The APA secretariat is willing and ready to launch its activities in this regard and provide you with expert reports as food for thoughts, hoping that the voice of our organization could be heard across the world.

I would like to once again register my warm appreciation to the Parliament and Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for their kind hospitality and wish you success in your deliberations.

Thank you for your attention.