



**Report of the Sub-Committee on
Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity
21-22 August 2008, Seoul**

1. The Sub-Committee on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity held its meeting on 21-22 October 2008 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Delegates from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Korea (Republic of), Kuwait, Jordan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syria participated in the meeting.
2. The list of documents before the Sub-Committee included:
 - 2.1. APA Resolution on Cultural Diversity, APA/Res/2007/02
 - 2.2. APA Plan of Action on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity, APA/Res/2007/02/Annex
 - 2.3. Report of the Secretary-General to the Sub-Committee, SG/2008/07, dated 5 August 2008.
3. The meeting began by a welcoming address by Honorable KO Heung Kil, the Chairman Designate of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Culture, Sport, Tourism, Broadcasting and Communications. Assistant Secretary-General, Ambassador Amir H. Zamaninia made an opening Statement. H. E. Mr. Kim, Jang-Sul, the Vice-Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea made a congratulatory remark and expressed support for the work of the APA, particularly those about promoting cultural diversity.
4. Honorable Sunggon Kim, member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea was elected as the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee. Honorable Waleed Al-Tabatabaei, member of National Assembly of Kuwait was elected as the Vice-Chairperson. Honorable Eleni Theocharous-Kariolou, Member of the House of Representatives of Cyprus was elected as the Rapporteur of the Sub-Committee.
5. The elected Chairman, Honorable Sunggon Kim made an opening statement. Assistant Secretary-General Amir Zamaninia made an oral presentation of the report of the Secretary-General. On behalf of the host



country, Dr. Choung Kap Young, Senior Researcher at Korean Culture and Tourism Institute made a statement and focused on ideas presented in the Secretary-General and shed further lights and details on various sections of the Report. The Chairman invited statement from delegates and general debate then ensued.

6. The delegates welcomed the Report of the Secretary-General and underlined the importance and relevance of various sections of the Report. Enhancing cooperation with international organizations dealing with the question of culture, combating smuggling of cultural items and working together to retrieve smuggled cultural items no matter how long they have been in the wrong hands, facilitating consular services within Asia, promoting respect for sub-cultures including the cultures of minorities and immigrants, ... were among issues in the report of the Secretary-General that received amplifications by delegates in the general debate.
7. Delegates proposed that due to the importance of promotion of respect for cultural diversity, the outcome resolution of the Sub-Committee, when finally adopted, be forwarded to the United Nations Secretary-General.
8. Many delegates stressed the importance of a balanced and multi-cultural education in promoting protection and respect for cultural diversity. The role of media and broadcasting in public education about cultural diversity was underlined by many delegates. In this respect it was proposed by some delegates to promote networking among professional media, broadcasting and movie industries in Asia.
9. The Sub-Committee recommends the following draft resolution to the First meeting of the Executive Council in 2008, to be forwarded to the APA Plenary for consideration and adoption.



Draft Resolution

on

Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution, APA/Res/2007/02, by which the text of the Plan of Action on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia was adopted and a Sub-Committee was established to consider how best to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of that Plan of Action;

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity, SG/Rep/2008/03, dated 2 August, 2008, submitted to the meeting of the Sub-Committee held in Seoul on 21-22 August, 2008;

Recognizing the significant role of parliaments both in strengthening national cultural policies and in harmonizing Asian approach for promoting cultural diversity;

Expressing concern about negative impact of globalization on cultural identities of Asian societies;

Stressing the importance of a balanced and multicultural education, particularly from early childhood, on cultural and religious diversity;

Expressing determination to facilitate integration in Asia through respecting cultural diversity and promoting common cultural understanding;



1. Decide to promote respect for cultural diversity by exchanging relevant information, best practices and joint programs in Asia, including through identification of focal points in the executive branch of each Member Parliament and defining a networking scheme among them.
2. Express determination to rely on the spiritual heritage of Asian civilizations to further contribute to the global vision to counter the negative impact of globalization on cultural diversity.
3. Underline the importance of strengthening coordination between APA and international and regional organizations such as UNESCO, ISESCO and relevant NGOs active in this field, to both exchange experience and provide technical support for the implementation of APA Plan of Action on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity.
4. Decide to hold two regional workshops in 2009 in... and ... to study the most appropriate relationship between economic development and culture, and to accord priority to this subject in the 2009 meeting of the Sub-Committee.
5. Decide to promote interfaith dialogue among Asian religions including through greater participation of Member Parliaments in the meetings of “Asian Conference of Religions for Peace.”
6. Express concern about smuggling of cultural items, particularly those that are in areas under foreign occupation.
7. Resolve to develop and promote adoption of a common legislation among Member Parliaments to combat smuggling of cultural items in Asia, and in this respect, request the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments and prepare a draft common legislation to combat smuggling of cultural items in Asia and submit a report



thereon to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

8. Express determination to encourage relevant government agencies to facilitate consular services for citizens of Asian countries to allow for greater people-to-people interaction.
9. Decide to establish an award to be presented annually to an Asian artist; author, poet, film maker, painter, etc, who best conveys the APA message of Asian cooperation and integration, and in this context, request the Secretary-General to report on the relevant procedure and criteria for establishment of such award to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.
10. Welcome a report to be prepared by the Secretary-General on usefulness and efficiency of establishing an Asian Cultural Foundation (ACF) as a non-governmental organization to strengthen coordination of cultural activities at the continent level, and request the Secretary-General to take into account the Asian and international organizations that already exist and deal with the issue of cultural diversity.
11. 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 Sub-Committee in 2009, which will be held in a volunteer country or in the country of the APA President.



10. The sub-Committee expressed appreciation to the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, particularly to Honorable Sunggon Kim, member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea for his leadership and stewardship of the deliberation in the Sub-Committee and for the hospitality offered to all participants.



Annex I

List of Participants

**in the First Meeting of the
Sub-Committee on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia**

21-22 August, 2008

Seoul, Republic of Korea

(in alphabetical order)

Parliaments	Delegates	Companions
1. Afghanistan	- Hon. Ms. Shukria Paikan Ahmadi (Member of Lower House) - Hon. Niamatullah Miakhail (Member of Lower House)	
2. Bahrain	- Hon. Dalal Alzayed (Member of Shura Council) - Hon. Sami Qambar (Member of Council of Representatives)	- Ms. Fatema Alzayed (Media Specialist)
3. Cyprus	- Hon. Mrs. Eleni Theocharous- Kariolou (Member of House of Representatives)	
4. Iran	- Hon. Seyedreza Akrami (Member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly)	



5. Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Hashem Shboul (Member of House of Representatives) - Hon. Kaled Al Bakkar (Member of House of Representatives) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Theyab Al-Daihane (Administrator)
6. Korea (Republic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. HWANG Jin Ha (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. KIM Choon Jin (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. JUNG Jang Seon (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. LEE Ke Jin (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. KIM Sung Gon (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. KO Heung Kil (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. LEE Kyeong Jae (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. PARK Sang Don (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. SHIN Sang Jin (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. SONG Young Gil (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. KIM Eul Dong (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. SON Beom Gyu (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. KIM Sung Soon (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. PARK Sun Sook (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. SHIN Nakyun (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. JEONG Ha Kyun (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. PARK Jin (Member of National Assembly) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. CHOUNG Kap Young (Senior Researcher of Korean Culture and Tourism Institute)



7. Kuwait	- Hon. Waleed Al-Tabtabae (Member of National Assembly)	- Mr. Hazem Hawamdeh (Inter-Parliamentary Relation Development Director)
8. Syria	- Hon. Serri Haddad (Member of People's Assembly) - Hon. Samir Hassoun (Member of People's Assembly)	
APA Secretariat	- H.E. Ambassador Amir Hossein Zamaninia (APA Assistant Secretary General)	
Cambodia (Observer)	- Mr. CHEAM Lamatin (Minister- Counsellor of Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Seoul)	

* Please report any error in the above list to the APA Secretariat at:

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