



**Report of the Meeting
of the
Sub-Committee on the Friendship Pact of Asia**

**23-24 June 2008
Manama, Bahrain**

1. The Sub-Committee on the Friendship Pact of Asia held its meeting on 23-24 June 2008 in Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain. APA Delegations from Bahrain, Bangladesh, Islamic Republic of Iran, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Kuwait, State of Palestine, the Russian Federation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic participated in this meeting. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.
2. The Honorable, Dr. Salah Ali Abdul Rahman, the Second Deputy to the Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Bahrain, was elected as the Chairperson; the Honorable, Mr. Zuhair Sanduka, member of the Parliament of the State of Palestine was elected as the Vice-Chairperson and the Honorable, Mr. Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui, the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh was elected as the Rapporteur of the Sub-Committee.
3. The list of documents before the Sub-Committee included:
 - APA/Res/2007/06, dated 19 November 2007, Resolution on the Friendship Pact in Asia;
 - APA/Res/2007/06/Annex, dated 19 November 2007, the Text of the Friendship Pact in Asia;
 - SG/Rep/2008/04, dated 3 June 2008, The Report of the Secretary-General on the Friendship Pact in Asia to the Sub-Committee.
4. The Preliminary Report of the Secretary-General to the Sub-Committee on the Friendship Pact in Asia contained in document SG/Rep/2008/04 had been forwarded to all APA Member Parliaments on 3 June 2008 and has been available on the website of the APA Secretariat ever since.



5. The Sub-Committee welcomed the Report of the Secretary-General, SG/Rep/2008/04 on the Friendship Pact in Asia, and expressed appreciation for the manner in which it was submitted to the Sub-Committee for its consideration.
6. The Sub-Committee exchanged views on many elements and ideas in the Report of the Secretary-General with a view to pursuing the objectives of the Friendship Pact of Asia. The Sub-Committee took note of the suggestions for further progress as set forth in the section IV of the Report of the Secretary-General. Most delegations expressed support for the third approach suggested by the Secretary-General at this stage, with the intention to further build on it gradually for engagement of the governments, parliamentary friendship groups, non-governmental organizations, and the members of the civil society in phases.
7. Most delegations expressed support for strengthening efforts for implementation of the Friendship Pact of Asia and stressed the need to further explore ways to draw interests from, and engagement of, the governments to the work of the APA.
8. The Sub-Committee expressed appreciation to the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain, particularly H.E. Mr. Khalifa Bin Ahmed Al-Dahrani, the Speaker of the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain for his excellent leadership and organization of the meeting, and for the hospitality offered to all participants.
9. The Sub-Committee also expressed appreciation to H.E Mr. Ali Bin Saleh Al-Saleh, the Speaker of the Shura Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain.
10. The Sub-Committee recommended the following draft resolution to the first APA Executive Council meeting of 2008, to be forwarded to the APA Plenary for consideration of the Political Committee:



Draft Resolution

on

Pursuing Implementation of the Friendship Pact of Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the Resolution on the Friendship Pact in Asia, APA/Res/2007/06, dated 19 November 2007 and the Annex thereof;

Welcoming the Report of the Secretary-General on the Friendship Pact in Asia, contained in document SG/Rep/2008/04, dated 23 June 2008, to the Sub-Committee meeting on the Friendship Pact of Asia held in Manama on 23-24 June 2008;

Taking note of the deliberations of the APA Sub-Committee on the Friendship Pact of Asia, expressing support for Paragraph 3 of Section IV of the Report of the Secretary-General which underlines a prominent role for parliaments and entails a gradual approach to progress in implementation of the Friendship Pact of Asia;

Underscoring the enduring elements of peace and friendship in Asia in various arenas such as trade, environment, energy, culture and development;

Encouraging amity and friendly relations among Asian Nations and States based on sovereign equality, territorial integrity, the right of nations to self-determination, and good neighborly relations;

Resolving to promote the spirit of friendship throughout Asia in the interest of all peoples in Asia and beyond;

Inviting the respective governments of the APA Member Parliaments to reinforce the efforts of the APA for promotion of amity and friendship in Asia;

Decide to adopt “The Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia,” annexed to this resolution, which substantively corresponds to the “Friendship Pact in Asia” contained in document APA/Res/2007/06/Annex, dated 17 November 2007, with certain adjustments in wording;

Resolve to take appropriate measures for adoption of the “Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia” by our national Parliaments in accordance with our respective domestic laws and procedures;



Express determination to promote public awareness about the “Declaration” through the media, hearings from, and briefings by, executive officials, members of civil societies and non-governmental organizations;

Recommend that Member Parliaments take appropriate measures, in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Rule 46 of the APA Rules of Procedure, with due regard to their own domestic laws and practices, to engage their respective Governments in promoting the “Declaration” with a view to consider arranging a Joint APA Governments Meeting, when appropriate, and in support of the parliamentary initiative on the “Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia”;

Request the Secretary-General to pursue the process of adoption of the “Declaration” by Member Parliaments, and seek their views on measures they have taken to implement this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee on the “Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia” to be held in a volunteer country or in the country of the President of the APA in 2009.