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## **Report of the APA Eleventh Plenary Session**

*“Promoting Economic Prosperity in Asia”*

29 November – 2 December 2018  
Istanbul, Republic of Turkey

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECOND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING.....	2
INAUGURAL SESSION.....	5
PLENARY SESSION .....	8
Report of the Meeting of the APA Women Parliamentarians and the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.....	11
Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs and Working Group on Asian Parliament.....	13
Report of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning .....	16
Report of the APA Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development.....	19
Closing Ceremony of the 11 <sup>th</sup> Plenary Session.....	22
ISTANBUL DECLARATION.....	24
Annexes .....	28

## SECOND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

- 1) The Second Executive Council meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 29 November 2018.
- 2) APA parliamentary delegations from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Russia, , Thailand, Turkey, UAE and Vietnam participated in this meeting.
- 3) At the beginning, the Agenda of the Meeting was adopted. H.E. Mrs. Asuman Erdogan, Representative of APA President elected as the Chairperson by acclamation based on APA customary precedent, Cambodia as Vice-Chair and Pakistan as Rapporteur were also elected by acclamation.
- 4) The APA Secretariat delivered the Report of the First Executive Council and informed the Member Parliaments that in the First Executive Council, 6 Resolutions of Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development and 9 Resolutions of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs were adopted. Therefore, in the Second Executive Council, we have to adopt 9 Resolutions of political Standing Committee and one Resolution on Budget & Planning Standing Committee.
- 5) H.E. Dr. Majidi, Secretary General of APA expressed that a glance through provisions of resolutions formulated in the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development is a testament to the fact that APA has been vigilant and alerted through all its years of activities over the vital and important issues such as: The environment, Implementation of UN-SDGs, Water resource management, Eradication of Poverty, Energy Resources, Integration of Asia's Energy Market etc. These and many other topics are high on our countries agendas and the fact that we are dealing with them on constant basis indicates the contribution parliamentary economic diplomacy can have in supporting such measures.
- 6) In the context of item 5 of Agenda, Dr. Khorram presented the Report of Budget and Planning Standing Committee. In the first part, he mentioned that due to political fluctuations in Iraq and the postponement of the election, this parliament was not able to hold the Budget & Planning

Standing Committee in 2018 but would like to fulfill its commitment in 2019. Dr Khorram recommended that we respect the desire of Parliament of Iraq and at the same time, we have two alternatives as Chairperson for the Standing Committee, namely, Cambodia and Pakistan.

- 7) Dr Khorram said APA Secretariat has received several amendments from Russian delegation on the documents of this Standing Committee like Staff Regulations, Charter and Rules of Procedure. Such amendments should be firstly discussed and deliberated in the Standing Committee then the outcome as usual comes to the Executive Council.
- 8) With regard to Draft Resolution of Standing Committee on Budget and Planning, Dr Khorram said, as mentioned above, the Standing Committee was not held in 2018 so the draft Resolution has not been changed and the text is the same as the draft Resolution of 2017 Plenary although items 5, 7 and 8 of this Resolution have been implemented.
- 9) The third part of Deputy Secretary-General's Report was about the Model of Payment. He mentioned that upon the instruction of the Executive Council in Phnom Penh dated 3 October 2017 (Resolution on Planning APA Budget, Item 8, APA/Res/2017/14), APA Secretary-General communicated with all APA Member Parliaments on 8 October 2017 and offered them three Models of Payment to choose one of them. The Models of Payment for Assessed Contribution were based on GDP, on Equality and Mixture of both. Dr Khorram elaborated that since October 2017, majority of active APA Member Parliaments have responded and more than 60% of them are in favor of GDP Model and less than 40% in favor of Equality Model. In this case, it seems that the third Model means mixture of two Models of Equality and GDP can satisfy every Member Parliaments. He asked the Chairperson to adopt this proposal as the decision.
- 10) The fourth part of Dr Khorram's Report was about the APA Budget Estimate for 2019 and mentioned that upon the instruction of items 5 and 7 of the Resolution on Planning APA Budget, APA Secretariat has provided the draft Budget of 2019 based on the draft Budget for 2018, which was adopted in the 10th Plenary. This Budget will be realized whenever all APA Member Parliaments pay their Assessed Contributions. He suggested approving this draft Budget as usual.

- 11) The delegation of Pakistan supported the payment of equal amount of \$20,000 by member Parliaments (as recommended by SG report) to the APA budget and added that it can be lessened provided that the Plenary permission is obtained. The same delegation requested its position as Chairman of Political Standing Committee be relinquished.
- 12) Russian Member of Parliament stated that his Parliament would support any Model of Payment and requested his amendments be considered in the Standing Committee prior to that.
- 13) Madam Asuman Erdogan, the Chairperson of the Executive Council asked for the adoption of the Resolutions of two Standing Committees and the Budget Estimate for 2019. Member Parliaments adopted them unanimously.
- 14) On item 7 of the Agenda, Dr Khorram informed the Executive Council about Vice Presidents of APA in 2019 as follows:
  1. H. E. General Nipat Thonglek, MP from Thailand as Vice President and Chairman of Social and Cultural Standing Committee.
  2. H. E. Senator Chhit Kim Yeat from Cambodia as Vice President and Chairman of Political Standing Committee (Parliament of Iran as alternative).
  3. H.E. Mr. Alexey Lyaschenko, Member of Russian Duma as Vice President and Chairman of Economic & Sustainable Development Standing Committee.
  4. H.E. Ms Talebani, Member of Parliament of Iraq as Vice President and Chairman of Budget and Planning Standing Committee (Parliaments of Cambodia and Pakistan as Alternatives).
- 15) With regard to item 8 of the Agenda, Dr Khorram reconfirmed the Senate of Pakistan as the next APA President for 2020-2021.
- 16) The Draft Agenda of the 11th APA Plenary Session was presented and without any change adopted.
- 17) The Second Executive Council meeting concluded its work after fully addressing all Agenda items and adopting its Resolutions.

## INAUGURAL SESSION

The 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly was inaugurated by playing National Anthem of Republic of Turkey.

Delegations Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Russia, , Thailand, Turkey, UAE and Vietnam as full Members and East Timor, Oman, Samoa, Arab Parliamentary Union and PUIC as Observers participated in this meeting.

APA Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Mohamad Reza Majidi, in his opening remarks stated that: ... I wish also to embark upon the main theme of the conference as it is decided to be: “Promoting Economic Prosperity in Asia”. A glance through provisions of resolutions formulated in the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development is a testament to the fact that APA has been vigilant and alerted through all its years of activities over the vital and important issues such as: The environment, Implementation of UN-SDGs, Water resource management, Eradication of Poverty, Energy Resources, Integration of Asia’s Energy Market etc. These and many other topics are high on our countries agendas and the fact that we are dealing with them on constant basis indicates the contribution parliamentary economic diplomacy can have in supporting such measures.

I am confident that through your substantial deliberations addressing the main theme of the conference which is the common concerns of people in Asia, many challenges and obstacles will be raised and solutions will be offered. What remains as an important lesson to be taken on route to our native land is that elements uniting us are much more than those dividing us, thus collective action based on common principles and noble objectives would be the only option if we are to prosper socially and economically in the long run.

H.E. Mr. SAIF, Senator from Senate of Pakistan, on behalf of Chairman Senate, Honorable SANJRANI, stated that: As per the main theme of this assembly, our GWADAR meeting proved path-defining because it crystalized the possibilities of economic cooperation which lies at the very core of modern bilateral and international relations discourse.

In the present age of globalization, the key to economic prosperity and progress in Asia lies in multilateral Intra and inter-regional connectivity. Chairman Senate

of Pakistan has conveyed that APA will have to intensify multilateral cooperation by developing a realistic strategic paradigm for the region.

H.E. Mr. SAMAY, Senator, Secretary of the Upper House of Afghanistan in his statement referred to the 40 years old conflict in his country. He indicated that Parliaments should be in center of collaborations and called on APA to render its political as well as economic support to fight against poverty, insecurity and corruption.

Honorable Dr. Ali LARIJANI, Speaker of the Iranian Islamic Assembly during his opening remarks stated that: the international scene has become more transparent than the past...Asian bloc should shape its own channels of transactions so a country like US does not rudely withdraw from Paris Climate Change Agreement, abandons the regulations of global trade, pulls put of nuclear deal which was endorsed by UNSC etc. The requirement of maintaining Asian identity is first coming to this understanding that we are in the same boat in this sea of international remissness. Creation of phony conflicts and driving a wedge among Asian countries is the subterfuge employed by those powers who would not wish to see Asia ia gaining its real position on the path of progress.

Honorable Binali YILDIRIM, Speaker of Grand National Assembly of Turkey in his opening statement mentioned that:

Economy withers where security is but a shadow. Not to mention welfare.

We must crate solutions to now-global problems that we are facing.

Which brings us to fight against terrorism as a threat to entire humanity.

We must wage this fight against terrorism, and all together so, regardless of religion, tongue, belief, but also, never parsing good terrorists and the bad.

It is not only us, nor our neighbors but many countries of the world are face to face with the terrorist threat.

This terrorist organization -FETÖ- is not a threat only to Turkey but also to those countries into which their assets have infiltrated .

Each country that provides a theater for FETÖ activities must look and learn from Turkey's experience.

Terrorist organizations and the problem erupting from them, namely Foreign Terrorist Fighters, is an unfathomable danger both for Europe and Asia.

The Syrian crisis, after 8 years, has now evolved into a regional security concern. Turkey strives to eradicate this problem -strives on the field as well as in political processes.

As APA parliaments, we should make it our dream; our dream to make Asia a magnet destination... and to do so, we need one another. But why we need to achieve this? We need to achieve this to leave no one out or behind in Asia.

These meetings that we hold are the outcome of our sincerity in looking for common solutions to common problems.

This Executive Council meeting here today is but a step towards those sincere aspirations.

We will exchange views and ideas for the better of Asia and to bring about peace and welfare to Asia and it is my hope and expectation that this event will culminate in tangible, practical, beneficial outcomes for the immediate future.

I extend to you my gratitude for your participation and wish you a fruitful one.



## PLENARY SESSION

On the morning of November 30th, 2018 the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session was opened.

After the adoption of Agenda, Members of the Bureau were elected. H.E. Mrs. Asuman Erdogan, representative of APA President as Chairperson; H.E. Mr. Binh of Vietnam as Vice-chair and H.E. Mrs. N. Sediq, Senator from Pakistan as rapporteur of the meeting.

Senator N. Sediq of Pakistan Senate presented the report of the Second Executive Council to the Plenary. (Annex IX).

The general debate of the Plenary Session on the topic of “Promoting Economic prosperity in Asia” started by Member Parliaments.

H.E. Mr. BINH, MP of Vietnam: the fourth industrial revolution is changing our societies thus in order to make APA an effective organization, the following issues are proposes: To strengthen organizational structure- To reform the Agenda- To strengthen relationship with APA governments- To enhance exchanges among APA at all levels in all forms to contribute to improving relations and deepen friendship among people.

H.E. Mr. LYASCHENKO, MP of Russian Federation: the serious threats is international terrorism...ISIS is back into their territories...it is necessary to have a reserved attitude towards the concept of “countering violent extremism” actively promoted by the west. I believe that it provide “levers” for interfering in internal affairs of states, destabilizing “undesirable regimes”...building an adequate, modern, reliable and open architecture of equal and indivisible security is possible only through collective efforts.

H.E. Mr. GUANGYA MP of China: We believe in,1- maintenance of peace and tranquility- ensuring equality and mutual respect- abide by U.N. Charter principles-resolving peaceful resolution of disputes 2- promote development and prosperity in Asia- Free trade and cooperation- inclusiveness, interconnected and motivated society- increase openness and coordination for our economic strategy 3- consolidate Asia strategy and partnership, shared benefit of development 4- mutual learning among different civilizations.

H.E. Mr. THONGLEK, MP of Thailand: promoting policies that encourage entrepreneurship and job creation are key to SDGs, as they are effective measures

to eradicate forced labor, slavery and human trafficking. With these targets in mind, the goal is to achieve full and productive employment, and decent work for all women and men by 2030.

H.E. Mr. Kumar JHA, MP of India: the economic prosperity will effectively fulfill the other development needs of people of Asia. Equal access to educational opportunities, health services and access to other basic requirements of electricity, water resources and sanitation would be an automatic realization. We believe that the role of APA is certainly going to be central in our overall efforts in this direction.

H.E. Mr. NGUON NHEL, first V.P. of the National Assembly of Cambodia: though we have seen impressive growth reduction across our region, inequality is on the rise and the benefits of the growth are not equally shared and even increasingly going to the top. To achieve sustainable and inclusive economic prosperity, we should: Maintain peace and Security- Support rule-based international system- Urge advance economies to share their best practices- To promote free trade and investment- To strengthen and support SME enterprises.

H.E. Mrs. CORTUNA, MP of Philippines: to accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region are needed through joint endeavors in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community.

H.E. Mr. ADIANTO MP of Indonesia: Economic growth should benefit all levels of society. In this sense, parliament is central in the efforts to promote policies that can lead to the prosperity of its citizens. The south south cooperation as well as global partnership including transfer of technology will boost the development in each country.

The following observer states/international organizations addressed the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary session:

- H.E. Mr. M.K.NIASS, Secretary General of Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States.

During the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary session, the following parliamentary delegations took the floor and presented their views on the theme of the meeting:

Vietnam, Russia, China, Lebanon, Thailand, India, Cambodia, Philippines, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine.

## **Report of the Meeting of the APA Women Parliamentarians and the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs**

**(30 November 2018)**

The APA Women Parliamentarians meeting and Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held its meeting on 30 November 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey with participation by representatives from Afghanistan – Cambodia – Indonesia – Iran – Iraq – Russian Federation – Thailand- Turkey -Kuwait- Pakistan- Kazakhstan-The Philippines and Vietnam. After the adoption of its agenda, H.E. General Nipat Thonglek MP from Thailand chaired the meeting. Afghanistan was elected as the Vice Chairman and H.E. Dr. Ali Khorram, APA Deputy Secretary-General assisted the Chair.

The Chairman opened the meeting by appreciating the professional arrangements and excellent hospitality by Grand National Assembly of Turkey. As for item 4 of the Agenda, the meeting took note with appreciation the background briefing presented by the APA Deputy Secretary-General on the subject.

On the consideration of the situation of women parliamentarians in Asia (item 5 of the Agenda), Dr. R. Kavachikhan, MP from Turkey and President of Turkish Group at IPU, presented a report on Empowering Women, as special guest. In her expose, she stressed on “Stem Education” and provided interesting and impressive data and statistics on the promotion of Women situation in Turkey in different fields. Women MP from Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, Pakistan, Iraq, Vietnam and Indonesia also took the floor and made remarks on the status of women in their societies and achievements reached in variety of social, entrepreneurial and other activities. MP from Iraq specifically referred to the deplorable status of women in war torn areas such as IZADI ethnic minority in Iraq. MP from Indonesia proposed that the Girls Interaction with Leaders be taken up in the next meeting of Standing Committee in Thailand. Dr. Khorram stated that references to UNSC resolution on situation of people in conflict zones are mentioned on APA resolutions as well. He also recommended Iranian MP to submit a report on the role of Sport activity in empowering women in the next meeting in Bangkok in 2019.

On item 6 of the Agenda, all resolutions considered by the Standing Committee in Cheshme, Turkey, were adopted and forwarded to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary for its final approval.

List of Resolutions are as follows:

1. Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia
2. Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology
3. Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia
4. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption
5. Draft Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians
6. Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions
7. Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia
8. Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia
9. Draft Resolution on Humanitarian Aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, And Myanmar on The Verge of the Humanitarian Catastrophe

## **Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs and Working Group on Asian Parliament**

**(30 November 2018)**

The Standing Committee on Political Affairs held its meeting on 3p November 2018, in Istanbul – Turkey. APA Delegations from parliaments of Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Thailand and Turkey participated in this meeting. After adoption of the agenda, H.E. Senator Chhit, of Cambodia chaired the meeting. H.E. Kohkan, MP from Iran as Vice-Chair and H.E. Dr. Khorram, APA Deputy Secretary General assisted the chair.

Dr. Ali Khorram, in his opening remarks referred to the background of establishment of Working Group on Asian Parliament and stated that “Based on the consensus emerging from the interventions of the Member Parliaments in the Political Standing Committee and the draft resolution, which was proposed by the distinguished delegation of Pakistan in Gwadar, 30 October 2018, there was a request to form an open-ended working group to follow up and develop the idea of Asian Parliament.

Without any delay, APA Secretariat prepared a Questioner together with a comprehensive research, which was presented to the Plenary in 2014 under the title of “The Foundations of Asian Parliament” and sent through a correspondence dated 4 November 2018 to all Speakers of APA Parliaments. The Questioner is based on the legitimate questions, which were raised in different meetings including sub-regional meetings as well as communications of Member parliaments with the APA Secretariat. By raising such questions, it means we have already fulfilled general discussions on Asian Parliament and we want to consult with each other on specific concerns and issues of Member Parliaments to undertake a comprehensive study on the roadmap for creation of Asian parliament. In this communication, we have asked each Parliament to answer the questions and nominate one well-knowledgeable MP to permanently participate in the Working Group. Answers to those questions will be as the base for discussions and deliberations in the Working Group. So far, there is a proposal by some Members that the working Group discusses the possibility of a conference of Asian think tankers to give APA a real feeling of Asian Parliament.

This working group is under auspicious of Political Standing Committee but can hold its meetings together and/or separately from the Political Standing Committee if necessary.

The working group on Asian Parliament does the same job and has the same mandate as SCCAP had. It means we try to develop the idea of Asian Parliament in a meeting that every Member Parliament can participate by nomination of its well-knowledgeable representative.

We urge all Member Parliaments to respond to our communication in this respect as soon as possible. Whenever we receive an acceptable number of Member Parliaments responses, we inform them to hold the Working Group.

A deadline till 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2019 was proposed and agreed for providing answers to questions as well as nominating the permanent members of the Working Group.

Delegation of Thailand expresses her readiness to convene the first meeting of the Working Group on the sideline of the upcoming Standing Committee on Cultural Affairs in Bangkok, 2019.

Pakistan MP recommended that a reference to the principle approval of Working Group activity be mentioned in the Istanbul Declaration and that Pakistan offers to host that meeting in Islamabad.

APA deputy secretary general summed up the views as follows:

- All MPs should respond to the questionnaire as a base for discussions and deliberations and also nominate their representative.
- The first meeting of the Working Group will be held in Bangkok, 2019.
- APA Secretariat will function as the Secretariat of the Working Group, which is under supervision of Political Standing Committee.

Member parliaments concurred with the above conclusion.

On item 6 of the agenda, delegation of Pakistan made an editorial correction to the operative para 3 of the draft resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament” which was accepted by the house. Delegation of Indonesia proposed that the idea of “Political Party Cooperation” be added in that resolution. The chair requested her to provide it in a written form to be considered by the next meeting of Political Standing Committee.

All resolutions of the Standing Committee were adopted.

List of Resolutions are as the following:

1. Draft Resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament”
2. Draft Resolution on “Good Governance”
3. Draft Resolution on Rule of “Law and Judicial Empowerment”
4. Draft Resolution on “Good Parliamentary Practices”
5. Draft Resolution on Building Prosperity in Asia Through Friendship and Cooperation
6. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia
7. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments’ Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People



## **Report of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning**

**30 November 2018**

The meeting of Standing Committee on Budget and Planning was participated by member parliaments from Azerbaijan- Cambodia – China – Indonesia - Iran – Iraq – India – Indonesia - Jordan- Kuwait – Lebanon- Pakistan - Palestine – Russia – Thailand- Vietnam and Turkey.

After adoption of Agenda, H.E. Mrs. TALEBANI from Iraq Parliament chaired the meeting. H.E. Senator CHHIT Kim from Cambodia was elected as Vice Chair. Mrs. TALEBANI in her opening statement thanked members of the committee for entrusting her and Iraqi Parliament and assured everyone that the next meeting of the Standing Committee will be held in Bagdad hopefully by April 2019. The exact date will be coordinated and announced by and through APA Secretariat.

On item 4 of the Agenda, Dr Khorram presented a report and said:

Upon the instruction of the Executive Council in Phnom Penh on 3 October 2017 (Resolution on Planning APA Budget, Item 8, APA/Res/2017/14), APA Secretary-General communicated with all APA Member Parliaments on 8 October 2017 and offered them three Models of Payment to choose one of them. The Models of Payment of Assessed Contribution are as follows:

- 1- The Model of Payment, which is applicable in the United Nations and Inter-Parliamentary Union systems and it is on the basis of GDP of each Member Parliament. This Model was adopted in APA in the 2014 Plenary together with Financial & Staff Regulations attached to its Resolution APA/Res/2014/09 dated 3 December 2014.
- 2- The Model of Payment based on Equality, which means all Member Parliaments pay equal amount of money regardless of the volume of their populations or GDP.
- 3- The Model of Payment based on mixture of GDP and Equality Models (mixture of Models 1 and 2). In this Model, every Member Parliament pays for example \$20,000.00 as the equal contribution and additional amount, if necessary, is payable based on Member's GDP.

Since October 2017, majority of active APA Member Parliaments have responded and more than 60% of them are in favor of GDP and less than 40% in favor of

Equality. In this case, it seems that the third Model means mixture of two Models of Equality and GDP can satisfy every Member Parliaments.

MPs deliberated on the report of the APA Secretariat on the Model of Payment.

Russian delegation indicated that “ We support the idea of contribution to the APA budget and we agree with any system bases on GDP, Population or Equal Payment. We start paying our contribution after transparent financial rules are in place”.

Delegation of Kuwait added that “ We have been discussing this issue for the past 3 years. Two years ago we agreed on Equal Payment in our meeting in UAE to the Equal Payment Model. To that amount we need to add Expert Expenses because sometimes we have to get expert opinion on some issues like Climate Change to educate ourselves in order to make correct decisions. We thank Iranian Parliament to have paid the Secretariat expenses throughout all these years”.

Cambodian delegation stated that since 12 years of APA existence no one has paid one dollar for its Secretariat operations. We thank the Iranian Parliament but APA now is strong enough to stand on its own feet. We support the payment for our contribution whichever model is decided upon.

Delegation of Pakistan added: We are willing to pay the amount of dollars 20000 as proposed by the Secretariat. Portfolio of Secretary General may be circulated among member countries as APA Charter opts for its rotation. It is damaging credibility of the Secretariat and is a burden on Iran as well.

Vietnam asked the Secretariat on the reasoning behind coming up with the contribution of Equal Payment of Dollars 20000. Dr. Khorram provided the relevant explanation.

Delegation of Turkey referred to the call of H.E. Yildirim, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly on the urgency of promoting the operational status of the APA and added that “ We must adopt and contribute to the Budget of APA as soon as possible...before start paying, we must finish all rules and be prepares for Bagdad meeting”.

Upon the request of the Chairperson, Dr Khorram offered some clarifications. He mentioned that Iranian Islamic Parliament has purchased a spacious building as a

permanent premise for APA secretariat and Headquarters' Agreement has been signed with Ministry of Foreign Affairs for enjoying the diplomatic privileges. This is the permanent part of the Islamic Parliament of Iran's support to APA. About Assessed Contribution, since 2012, the Islamic Parliament of Iran has continuously urged APA to share the responsibility and operating expenses of the APA Secretariat and at the same time open the way to recruit its international staff. Due to the fact that no agreement was reached on the Model of Payment, the Executive Council has adopted a resolution every year and asked the Islamic Parliament of Iran to extend its generosity on financial support for the Secretariat for another year. Dr Khorram called APA Member Parliaments to end this vicious circle by adopting the Model of Payment.

On Agenda item 5, the draft resolution on Planning APA Budget was adopted.

On Agenda item 6, the other matters, Dr. Khorram informed the member delegations that Union of Belarus and Russian Federation Parliaments have contacted APA Secretariat to establish organizational cooperation with APA. The Secretariat have offered three options in its correspondence to member parliaments:

- To adopt this Union as observer
- To ask them to meet with APA Secretary General and discuss the matter
- To stay silent on the issue.

Dr. Khorram requested member parliaments to respond to this query.

Delegation of Turkey also informed the participants of an Alliance of organization initiated long before between Turkey and Spain. The Chair requested Turkish delegation to send the information in a written form to be considered in our next meeting.

## **Report of the APA Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development**

**1 December 2018**

The Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development held its meeting on 1 December 2018 and adopted the agenda. The representatives of following Member Parliaments participated in the meeting:

Afghanistan – Azerbaijan – Cambodia – China – Cyprus – India – Indonesia – Iran – Iraq- Jordan – Kuwait – Pakistan – Palestine – Russian Federation – Thailand – Turkey – Vietnam.

H.E. Mr. LYASCHENKO MP of Russian Federation Duma chaired the meeting and H.E. Mr. AL-HADID MP from Jordan was elected as the vice-Chairperson of the meeting.

Under agenda item 3, Chairman of the meeting made the following remarks: it is indeed my pleasure to chair this meeting...we will review our resolutions and adopt them...Russia will hold the next standing committee meeting in northern region close to North Pole in summer 2019...as representative of Kuwait mentioned yesterday, we need to benefit from experts views to implement our ideas...we need to safeguard our economies from foreign interferences specially the western states which use sanctions and unilateral measures to damage us..I thank delegation of Pakistan to have responded to our Green Funding proposal which helped us a lot...we will send an explanatory note in this regard.

Under agenda item 4, Dr. Khorram informed the meeting about the 6 resolutions which have been considered and adopted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Council and asked to be re-adopted if there are no amendments. Those resolutions were adopted.

Under agenda item 6, Any Other Matters, H.E. TORNARITIS, MP from Cyprus presented a short review of the outcome of Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development held in Pissouri, Cyprus. He then referred to the opening statement of Honorable YILDIRIM, Speaker of Grand National Assembly of Turkey about the situation of Cyprus. MP from Cyprus added that: We are ready for a lasting solution of the problem in Cyprus..I wonder if Turkey is ready too.

Chairman of the meeting expresses his hope that a satisfactory solution to both

parties, through diplomatic channels would be reached.

Delegation of Turkey stated the following: We and Northern Cyprus are ready to reach a solution. Honorable YILDIRIM in his speech expressed his good wishes for the whole island and not just for the North part of it.

H.E. Mr. LYAZCHENKO, Chairman of Standing Committee informed the meeting that his delegation will soon draft a resolution on : “ Free Trade Space in Asia” with an objective of protecting our economies because WTO only protects the interests of USA and western states and is currently in a crisis stage.

Dr. Khorram, APA Deputy Secretary General, welcomed such initiative and requested the Russian delegation to provide an explanatory note in this regard to be circulated among member parliaments and called on them to be active in responding to this initiative. He also indicated that by next meeting of the Standing Committee in summer 2019, if there are no improvements with regard to the activities of Working Groups such as Energy Market, Water Resources, Green Energy etc, their missions will be terminated so we can focus on other issues.

Delegation of Pakistan spoke on the topic of Growth Prosperity, SDG etc and stressed that Members of Parliaments need to play more active role in implementing SDGs through adopting legislative strategies. He also mentioned that Pakistan is serious about SDGs and thus has allocated dollars 220 million for their implementation.

MP Mr. KOOHKAN of Iran in an statement referred to the need for APA to focus on non-sensitive areas of cooperation such as Trade, Tourism etc as a point of departure for Asian convergence. Such activities will counter the mal-intentions of unilateral measures, terrorism. Without expanding the positive regional interactions, it would be difficult to tackle terrorism and sanctions which are also a type of terrorism. The benefit of economic convergence is that it motivates member countries for political collaboration and cooperation which is instrumental in reaching our AP objectives.

Delegation of Pakistan presented a short statement on Sustainable Development and Climate Change.

Dr. KHORRAM in response to the question raised by Iranian delegation, requested them to provide the Secretariat with explanatory note and questions to

be answered by member countries on Water Resources, as is done by delegation of Russia on Green Funding.

List of Resolution are as the following:

1. Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth
2. Draft Resolution on The Role of APA Parliaments to Adopt Legislation in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
3. Draft Resolution on Integrated Energy Market in Asia,
4. Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues
5. Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication in Asia
6. Draft Resolution on Water & Sanitation in Asia for All

## **Closing Ceremony of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session**

In the afternoon of the December 1, 2018, H.E. Mrs. Asuman ERDOGAN, chairperson of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary and representative of APA President opened the last session of this Plenary. H.E. Dr. MAJIDI, APA Secretary General and his Deputy, Dr. KHORRAM, assisted her in conduct of the meeting. H.E. Mrs. N.SEDIQ, Senator of Pakistan took the position of Rapporteur and H.E. Mr. VINH, Senator of Vietnam functioned as Vice-Chair.

The following reports were presented and approved by delegations from member parliaments:

- Report of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary (by Senator Sediq of Pakistan, Rapporteur)
- Report of Political Standing Committee (by Senator Chhit KIM of Cambodia, Chairman)
- Report of Budget and Planning Standing Committee (by H.E. Mrs. TALEBANI MP from Iraq, Chairperson)
- Report of Social and Cultural Standing Committee (by General Nipat THONGLEK, MP from Thailand, Chairman)
- Report of Economic and Sustainable Development Standing Committee (by Dr. ALHADID, MP for Jordan, Vice-Chairman)

(Delegation of Iraq announced that they were present in the meeting of Political Standing Committee and thus “Iraq” should be included in the list of participants. Delegation of Indonesia requested the same for the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning).

Istanbul Declaration was presented by the delegation of Turkey.

Iranian delegation, addressing the above declaration, made a statement with regard to her national position of not recognizing the Israeli regime and requested the Secretary General to attach it to the report of the meeting.

Dr. KHORRAM made the following remarks:

- Due to the shortage of time for preparation of final report, one might notice few flaws, which will be corrected as soon as possible.
- Delegation of East Timor has submitted her request signed by two members of parliament to become full APA member. The Secretariat, based on the rules and regulations, has asked the written request to be signed by the Speaker of East Timor for complete adoption of Full Membership.
- On the proposal to join “Alliance”, we request delegation of Turkey to send us an explanatory note to be circulated among member Parliaments for further considerations and decision on applying for Membership.

- Thanks to you, APA Members and your active participation, we have conducted 3 full days of hectic assignments...my gratitude is extended to Turkish Secretariat and interpreters for their hard working...

APA Secretary General, Dr. MAJIDI in a closing remark stated that: We proved that Parliamentary Diplomacy can play a major role at regional and international level and APA has the capacity to achieve all its objectives.

H.E. Mrs. Asuman ERDOGAN, Chairperson of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plenary in her closing remarks while thanking all delegations for their sincere and constructive participations in all sessions, stressed that conflicts, depravation, radicalism etc can not immune us from Extremism...none of us will be safe while people on the other side of our borders live in poverty.

The meeting was closed at 19.00, after expressing word of thanks by Dr Al-Hadid, Head of Jordanian delegation on behalf of APA Member Parliaments towards the Host and APA Secretariat.





Asian Parliamentary Assembly

11<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session

**ISTANBUL DECLARATION**

(2 December 2018)

**We**, Members of Parliament from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Russian Federation, Thailand, Vietnam and hosting country Turkey gathered **in Istanbul** from 29 November to 2 December 2018, upon invitation of H.E. Binali YILDIRIM, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) President.

**Representing** the nations in Asia having deep rooted bonds of history, culture, economy, politics and civilizations which gain strength from respecting their rich diversities;

**Recognizing** the positive and important contribution of dialogue, cooperation and coordination among parliamentarians on contributing to solutions of complex and transboundary issues;

**Concerned** by the ongoing challenges and conflicts in parts of Asia, particularly the menace of extremism, the threat of terrorism and the suffering of people, which particularly affected women and children;

**Emphasizing** that violent extremism and terrorism should not be associated with any culture, civilization, religion or ethnicity and should be neither tolerated nor condoned. Calling upon member states as well as international community to support those countries suffering from large scale internal displacement caused by terrorism to ensure the return of families back home.

**Stressing** the importance of maintaining peace, security, stability and development through mutual understanding, dialogue, cooperation and solidarity;

**Underscoring** the regional interconnectivity projects such as Belt and Road Initiative which will constitute yet another link binding the people of Asia for the benefit of all;<sup>1</sup>

**Mindful** of the fact that establishment of a true economic convergence among the Asian nations will enhance interconnectivity among our countries and will result in improvement of our overall economic and social welfare;

**Supporting** creation of free trading space in Asia and building of uniformed standards and norms to ensure a sustainable economic development of the Asian region;

**Reaffirming** the negative and unacceptable impacts of unilateral sanctions in pursuit of political gains on economic growth and trade expansion in the APA Geography.

**Acknowledging** the work done by the Special Committee for Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) under the umbrella of Standing Committee of Political Affairs towards creation of Asian Parliament; and in this context;

**Appreciating** the projects initiated by the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking Countries (Turkic Council) at the heart of Asia in different fields such as energy, transportation, communication and trade, and commends its positive role in deepening cooperation and enhancing peace and stability in Asia;

**Welcoming** the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments organized by Turkey, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Korea in Antalya under the theme of

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<sup>1</sup> India expressed its reservation and disassociation.

“Economic Cooperation, Environment and Sustainable Development in Eurasia” between October 8 and 11, 2018;<sup>2</sup>

**Recognizing** that Israel’s grave violations of international humanitarian law and of the human rights of Palestinian people undermine international efforts towards achieving a just and lasting peace in the region.

**DO HEREBY EXPRESS OUR COMMITMENT TO:**

**Reaffirm** our support for an independent, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine within the borders of 1967 with al Quds (Jerusalem) as its Capital; condemn the illegal settlement activities, demolitions and other grave violations of international law and human rights by the Israeli occupation forces; recognize the importance of al Quds (Jerusalem) for all three monotheistic religions and reject any attempt to alter its legal status and historical character;

**Support** the right of Palestinians’ resistance against Israel in order to liberate their land to form their independent state of Palestine with al Quds as the capital;

**Welcome** the UN General Assembly Resolution dated 21 December 2017 inviting the Member States not to move their Embassies to al Quds (Jerusalem); call all members of the APA to act in line with the afore-mentioned resolution and urge the international community to revitalize the peace process based on established parameters and the Arab Peace Initiative, with a view to uphold the two-state solution\*;

**Call upon** the Government of Myanmar and Bangladesh to actively coordinate the returning of the Rohingya refugees to Rakhine and live there with safety and human dignity; encourage the Government of Myanmar to find long-term solutions to Rohingya crisis and continue implementing recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission within the framework of reasonable timetable; urge the international community to maintain and increase humanitarian assistance to Rohingya refugees;

**Urge** unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid to Yemen in light of the alarming deterioration of the humanitarian situation;

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<sup>2</sup> India expressed its reservation and disassociation.

\*Iran expressed its reservation and dissociation with this Paragraph

**Express** its strong condemnation for the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi and call for those responsible for this heinous crime to be identified and brought to justice; urge the relevant parties to take action to prevent the recurrence of such grave crimes;

**Reaffirm** the commitment of the APA Member Parliaments to continue taking necessary steps, including formation of Working Group, towards realizing the goal of the Asian Parliament;

**Welcome** the proposal of Turkey on APA's membership to the Group of Friends of the UN Alliance of Civilizations to contribute the efforts of providing lasting solutions to the rising trends of discrimination, xenophobia and extremism;

**Thank** Turkey for its warm, gracious and efficient hospitality in hosting the Eleventh Plenary Session in Istanbul. We look forward to Pakistan hosting the twelfth Plenary Session in 2019.

## **Annexes**