



Final Report

First Executive Council Meeting

25-28 October 2019
Rize, Republic of Turkey

EC1/Rep/2019/06
30 October 2019

The First Executive Council meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held on 25-28 October 2019 in Rize, Republic of Turkey. Parliamentary delegations from following member countries participated in the meeting:

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia and Turkey. Shura Council of Qatar and National Parliament of Timor-Leste as Observers. ([Attachment I](#))

Inaugural Ceremony:

The following dignitaries presented their statements and remarks at the opening session:

H.E. Mr Rahmi METIN, Mayor of Rize

H.E. Dr Mohammad Reza MAJIDI, APA Secretary General ([Attachment II](#))

H.E. Mrs. Asuman ERDOGAN, Head of Turkish Delegation ([Attachment III](#))

H.E. Mr Kemal CEBER, Governor of Rize.

The chairperson informed the meeting of the request for full membership of Qatar and Timor-Leste which were adopted by acclamation. H.E. Ahmed Bin Abdullah AL MAHMOUD, Speaker of QATAR Shura Council addressed the Executive Council and presented his statement appreciating the support of member parliaments for full membership of Qatar. ([Attachment IV](#))

Timor-Leste representative Mrs. Maria Terezinha da Silva VIEGAS also took the floor and appreciated the support of APA member parliaments for the full membership of her National Parliament.

1. Adoption of the Agenda:

Delegations expressed their views on the necessity of changing the order of Agenda items to address the important issues as priority. Thus, this report is prepared according to the order of items discussed during the meeting.

The Member Parliaments adopted the Draft Agenda with its new order. Agenda and Program of Work are attached. ([Attachment V](#))

2. Election of the Bureau:

The following members of the Bureau were elected by acclamation:

Chairperson: H.E. Mrs Asuman ERDOGAN, Head of the Turkish APA Delegation.

Vice Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Mohammad Nadir Nil BALOOCH, Head of Delegation of Afghanistan

Rapporteur: H.E. Mr. Nayef AL-HADID, Head of Delegation of Jordan.

3. Nomination of the APA President and Vice Presidents for 2020-21:

The official letter signed by Speaker of Iraqi Council of Representatives nominating Iraq to become APA President for period of 2020-21 was circulated to all member parliaments by Secretariat prior to the Executive Council meeting.

An extensive exchange of views took place on this topic. Some delegations were in favour of Presidency of Iraq as a sole candidate and principle of rotation, whereas others stressed that due to the fact that APA faces many challenges in coming years, we should request Turkey, the current President, to continue its Presidency.

The chair concluded that since more time is needed to come to a consensus on this issue, Turkey accepts the request to host the 12th APA Plenary meeting in the month of December 2019.

On the issue of Vice-Presidents for 2020-21, the member of Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Ahmed Sabah Salman Alsallom announced the willingness of his parliament to host the next Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Developments as Vice-President of APA. The meeting welcomed this offer and called on all member parliaments to come forward and chair other Standing Committees.

4. Nomination of APA President for 2022-23:

The chair informed the meeting that this item will be on the Agenda of the 12th Plenary and will be discussed there.

5. Considerations of Establishing Cooperation with Other Organizations:

On This Agenda item the membership of APA to the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UN AOC) was adopted. The Secretariat was requested to follow up the procedure for membership.

6. The Establishment of Working Group on Statutory Documents (proposed by Russia):

The delegation of Russian Federation through a letter addressed to the APA President had requested the inclusion of the above Agenda item. The purpose of this Working Group is to update the Statutory Documents of APA in order to turn its work into a more orderly and effective system. Member Parliaments debated on the essence of this Working Group and agreed on the following criteria:

- Kuwait as chairman will host the first meeting in January 2020
- Members: Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Russia, Cambodia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Palestine
- Formal nature and independent of other Standing Committees
- Mandated by Executive Council
- Legal, Technical and non-political nature
- Two meetings in one year
- Secretariat to inform those not represented in First Ex-Council meeting

- Quorum is reached with 7 countries
- 7 Plus: Other interested countries may attend the WG
- Countries should submit their written amendments in advance
- Members should consult experts in drafting legal issues
- APA Secretariat will prepare and submit the report to Executive Council

The agenda item concerning amendments to APA Basic Documents proposed by Russian Federation will be discussed at this Working Group.

7. Report of Secretary-General:

In this report the following topics were covered:

- The works of the APA Standing Committees and Working Groups under the leadership of APA President and Vice Presidents in 2019.
- The request of parliaments of Qatar and Timor-Leste for APA membership.
- The establishment of cooperation with United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.
- Russian Federation amendments to APA Basic Documents
- Nomination of APA President and Vice Presidents for 2020-21.
- On the main activities of the Permanent Secretariat during the Presidency of Turkey, SG appealed to the delegations to allocate budget before adopting any resolution with financial implication. ([Attachment VI](#))

8. Consideration and discussion on Draft Resolutions:

- **Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs**

The chairperson opened this agenda item by introducing draft resolutions adopted by Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs. She mentioned that out of 13 resolutions in this committee there were 3 new resolutions tabled by Thailand (Quality Child and Aging Society) and Kuwait (Human Development). These resolutions will be addressed during the next Standing Committee meeting.

On Resolution concerning “Rights of Migrant Workers ” several delegations expressed their strong position against the Form and Content of this resolution and requested its deletion from list of resolutions of this Standing Committee due to its adverse effects on security of some states. Others argued that we might change the title of this resolution to “Migrant/Foreign or Expatriate Workers”. After a substantive exchange of views on the topic of resolution and its different

terminologies, the meeting decided to defer consideration of the said resolution to the next Standing Committee.

- **Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development:**

The chairperson informed the meeting about the seven draft resolutions in this committee and added that the Draft Resolution on Asian Integrated Energy Market was reproduced by Kuwait delegation as a merged document for future considerations in this Standing Committee.

She also stated that the Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All is deferred to the next Standing Committee.

- **Standing Committee on political Affairs:**

There are nine resolutions on the agenda of this Committee. Resolution on Towards an Asian Parliament is deferred to the next Standing Committee for further consideration.

Iran has tabled a new resolution on Enhancing Cooperation among the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to Protect and Promote Multilateralism.

On resolution concerning Unwavering Support for Palestinian People, delegation of Palestine informed the meeting of the latest atrocities of Israel in the occupied territories and requested the meeting to incorporate its amendments to the draft resolution due to the urgency of the matter. On this exceptional case, the meeting decided to adopt the resolution with the new changes and expressed full support for the cause of Palestinian people.

- **Standing Committee on Budget and Planning:**

The Chairperson referred to the successful meeting of this Standing Committee in Baghdad and stated that the only resolution on the Agenda of this Committee which is titled “Resolution on Planning APA Budget” was adopted by consensus.

(Before addressing the next Agenda Item, delegation of Pakistan requested for the floor and presented a statement on Kashmir Black Day. ([Attachment VII](#)).

9. Adoption of the Final Report:

The present report was adopted by the member parliaments attending the First Executive Council meeting in Rize, Turkey on 27th October 2019.

10. Any other matter:

Member Parliaments attending the First Executive Council meeting expressed their sincere appreciation to all Government, Parliament and local officials for their untiring efforts in hosting the meeting in Rize, Turkey.

Attachment I

List of Participants

AFGHANISTAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

1. Amir Mohammad YAR Deputy Speaker of the Parl, Head of Del.
2. Abdul Wali NEIAZI Member of Parliament
3. Zeiarmal SULTANI Staff

AFGHANISTAN SENATE

1. Mohammad Nadir Nil BALOOCH Head of Del, Member of Parliament
2. Mohammad Akbar Nil STANIKZAI Member of Parliament
3. Abdul Jalil Nil TIMOR Staff
4. Zadran Rahim KHAN

AZERBAIJAN

1. İlham MAMMADOV Head of Del, Member of Parliament
2. Tural SHIRIN Staff

BAHRAIN

1. Ahmad Sabah ALSALLOOM Head of Del. Member of Parliament
2. Abul Hasan ABUL Member of Parliament
3. Mohamed Rashed BIN DAINA Staff

BANGLADESH

1. Mohammad SHAHIDUZZAMAN Member of Parliament
2. Sk Monirul ISLAM Staff
3. Md ARIF Staff

BHUTAN

1. Wangchuk NAMGYEL Speaker of the Bhutan Parliament
2. Sangay DORJI Member of Parliament

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| 3. Kinley WANGCHUK | Member of Parliament |
| 4. Samdrup R. WANGCHUK | Member of Parliament |
| 5. Kanjur WANGMO | Staff |

PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL

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|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Omar Ahmad HAMAYEL | Head of Del., Member of Parliament |
| 2. Abdalnasser H. ALARAJ | Staff |

IRAQ

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Mrs. Aliah FALIH OWAID | Head of Del. Member of Parliament |
| 2. Rami Jabbar AL-SUKAINI | Member of Parliament |
| 3. Mustafa Fahdil ABBAS | Staff |
| 4. Marwah Abbas AL-HALLAF | Staff |

IRAN

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| 1. Mrs. Seyedeh Fatemeh ZOLGHADR | Head of Delegation, Member of Parliament |
| 2. Jalil RAHIMIJAHANABADI | Member of Parliament |
| 3. Ali KAZEMI BABAHEIDARI | Member of Parliament |
| 4. Mohsen KOOHKAN RIZI | Member of Parliament |
| 5. Mahmoud JAWADI | Staff |
| 6. Ali HAJIMOHAMMADI | Staff |
| 7. Reza HASSANI | Staff |
| 8. Assadollah ESHRAG JAHROMI | Staff |

CAMBODIA

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Yara SUOS | Head of Delegation, Member of Parliament |
| 2. Chhit KIM YEAT | Head of Delegation, Member of Parliament |
| 3. Socheath NGUON | Member of Parliament |
| 4. Hok BUNLY | Staff |

QATAR

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| 1. Ahmed Abdulla Zaid Al-MAHMOUD | Speaker of the Qatar Shura Council |
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| 2. Ali Abdullateef Al-Misnad AL-MOHANNADI | Member of Parliament |
| 3. Nasser Sultan AL-HAMIDI | Member of Parliament |
| 4. Ahmed Khalifa AL-RUMAIHI | Member of Parliament |
| 5. Alfateh Bin Rasheed ABDULRAHMAN | Undersecretary of Law |
| 6. Abdulrahman AL-QADI | Staff |
| 7. Nouredine BOUCHKOUJ | Staff |
| 8. Fahad Abdulaziz BOZOWIR | Staff |
| 9. Mohammed Al-FADALAH | Staff |
| 10. Ahmad ASHKARARI | Staff |
| 11. Abdulla M. AL-EMADI | Staff |
| 12. Yousef Ahmed AL-SEYID | Staff |
| 13. Mesfer AL-SHAHWANI | Staff |
| 14. Mohammed Jabr HARMI | Staff |

KAZAKHSTAN PARLIAMENT

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|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Nurlan DULATBEKOV | Member of Parliament |
|----------------------|----------------------|

KAZAKHSTAN SENATE

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|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Ryskali ABDIKEROV | Member of Parliament |
| 2. Mrs. Assel ORALBAYEVA | Staff |

KUWAIT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Mohammad ALDALLAL | Head of Del., Member of Parliament |
| 2. Khalil ABUL | Member of Parliament |
| 3. Alhumaidi ALSUBAIE | Member of Parliament |
| 4. Abdulaziz NASRALLAH | Staff |
| 5. Saud ALRAQAM | Staff |

PAKISTAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Attah ULLAH | Member of Parliament |
| 2. Naveed AMIR | Member of Parliament |
| 3. Muhammad Iqbal QAMAR | Staff |

PAKISTAN SENATE

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|------------------------|---------|
| 1. Hidayat ULLAH | Senator |
| 2. Dr.Sikandar MANDHRO | Senator |
| 3. Manzoor AHMED | Senator |
| 4. Zeezhan QAMAR | Staff |

RUSSIAN STATE DUMA

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|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Alexey LYASCHENKO | Head of Del., Member of Parliament |
| 2. Mrs. Priz EKATERINA | Staff |
| 3. Mrs.Yulia GUZKOVA | Staff |

JORDAN

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| 1. Naif AL-HADID | Senator |
| 2. Nabil ALHISAH | Staff |

TIMOR LESTE

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| 1. Mrs.Maria Terezinha da Silva VIEGAS | Head of Delegation |
| 2. Mauricio BORGES | Staff |
| 3. Lopes Mariano SABINO | Staff |

TURKEY

- | | |
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| 1. Mrs.Asuman ERDOĞAN | Chairman of the APA Turkish Delegation,
Member of Parliament |
| 2. Mrs.Müşerref Pervin Tuba DURGUT
Turkish | Member of Parliament, Member of the
APA Group |
| 3. Vecdi GÜNDOĞDU
Turkish | Member of Parliament, Member of the
APA Group |
| 4. Şeyhmus DİNÇEL | Member of Parliament |
| 5. Ravza Kavakçı KAN | Chairman of the IPU Turkish Delegation,
Member of Parliament |
| 6. Gökmen TOPLU | Deputy Head of the External Relations and
Protocol Department of the GNAT |

APA SECRETARIAT GENERAL

Mohammad Reza MAJIDI

Secretary General

Kia TABATABAEE

Deputy Secretary General

Mehdi GHASHGHAVI

Executive Deputy of Secretariat

Mehdi MOLLAHOSSEINI

Senior Expert

Attachment II



Opening Remarks
by His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi
Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
At the First Executive Council
October 25-28, 2019
Rize – Republic of Turkey

In the Name of God

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honor for me to have the privileges of addressing the august Meeting of APA First Executive Council. In my capacity as the APA Secretary General, it is also a great opportunity for me to sincerely welcome you, the honorable guests of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey to the magnificent city of Rize.

On behalf of all the participating delegations, my colleagues and myself in APA Permanent Secretariat, allow me once again to express my heartfelt gratitude to the state officials and H.E. Mustafa SENTAP, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey for their kind invitation to this meeting, most particularly H.E. Mrs. Asuman ERDOĞAN, Head of APA Turkish delegation, H.E. Mr. Kemal ÇEBER, Governor of Rize and H.E. Mr. Rahmi METİN, Mayor of Rize, their excellent organization and generous hospitality of this beautiful city.

It is also an honor and privilege for the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to have the Grand National Assembly of Turkey; the APA President and one of the most devoted and active members of its community as the host of the First Executive Council meeting in 2019.

During the past two years, APA, under the auspices of its President from Grand National Assembly of Turkey and the Vice-Presidents from different member parliaments has wholeheartedly spared no efforts to uphold its Asian solidarity through deliberation of various issues raised in the four Standing Committees. Against this backdrop, we succeeded to move toward further realization of parliamentary democracy, as part of our mission, with reliance on our collective endeavors and coherence to tackle political, economic and cultural challenges facing our world today.

My colleagues and I at the APA Secretariat will do our unsparing efforts to pursue the APA objectives under the auspices of the APA President and cooperation of other members. Considering the role of parliamentary diplomacy in international relations, our Organization can share its vital part in pursuing the common objectives sought by Asian Parliaments, nations and governments within the vast continent of Asia.

For promoting the standing of our Organization, We are ready to welcome any comments and suggestions raised by the members for placing in the agenda of various APA Meetings. At the same time,I call on all members to help us in this respect with their active and effective contribution in the relevant APA sessions.

The heavy agenda we have to cover at this important meeting requires our collective contribution under your wise and sagacious leadership in order to achieve the objectives envisaged in APA Charter.

Madam Chair,

I hope the APA finds the opportunity to take greater stride for realization of its lofty objectives in 2020 with stronger cooperation and synergy of all its members.

In conclusion, I am confident that fruitful contributions all the participating members in the course of our two-day session will make this meeting a success.

Thank you for your attention

Attachment III

APA TURKISH GROUP CHAIRMAN MS. ASUMAN ERDOĞAN'S
SPEECH NOTE THAT THE ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
(APA) WILL BE ATTENDED AT THE OPENING OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING

**Distinguished Speakers, Deputy Speakers of the Parliaments, APA Secretary General,
Members of the Parliaments, Governor and Mayor of Rize,**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

-It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all to the First Executive Council Meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

-As the chairperson of the Turkish delegation for the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, I would also like to express my sincere pleasure for hosting the First Executive Council Meeting in Rize.

-The venue of our meeting, distinguished city of Rize of the Black Sea with its green nature reflects harmony and peace, as the parliamentary diplomacy does in today's world.

-We are living in a politically and economically fragile geography at a time when the world is undergoing radical changes.

-Hence, the frequency of conflicts around the world has been showing an upward trend once again.

-In these circumstances that directly affect us, it is not an option for us to watch the developments from the outside.

-In this regard, we would like to emphasize that we see the APA as an extremely important platform of parliamentary diplomacy.

-As APA, it is our main objective to strengthen interparliamentary cooperation in the areas of peace, welfare, economic and social relations in the Asian region. In this respect, we have big responsibilities.

-Within this framework, as the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA), we assumed the Presidency of APA by hosting two General Assemblies in 2017-2018. In this process, as the TGNA, we paid utmost attention to contribute to the institutional development of the APA and to strengthen our inter-parliamentary relations.

Dear Guests,

- Being at the crossroads of a wide geographic area, Turkey has the distinction of being a country which is simultaneously European, Balkan, Caucasian, Black Sea, Mediterranean and Middle Eastern. As such, it has been an integral part of the Asian continent historically, economically, socially and culturally.

- In this extensive geography, Turkey's unique geostrategic location renders her the role of a bridge bringing together different cultures and civilizations throughout centuries. The historic, cultural, economical and social ties with the peoples of Asia helps Turkey to develop its bilateral relations with the regional countries on a solid basis. Turkey also utilizes international regional platforms to enhance her relations with the region.

- Turkey being an integral part of Asia which witnesses an ongoing and comprehensive transformation, decided to adopt a new approach, broadly titled "Asia Anew"(Yeniden Asya)

-With this new initiative, we aim to explore the new opportunities presented by changing times and to create new areas of cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit and regional stability, with friends and partners in Asia who share our perspective, naturally taking into account the existing sub-regional cultural and economic differences.

Distinguished Parliamentarians,

At this point of my speech, I would like to touch upon Operation Peace Spring.

The whole world is witnessing the dispute and the endless war in Syria. Such conflict in Syria has created a breeding ground for various terrorist organizations, posing a wide range of threats to the region and beyond. Turkey's national security has remained under the direct and imminent threat of terrorist organizations operating in Syria, among which DEASH and PKK's Syria affiliate PYD/YPG come at the forefront.

In particular, PYD/YPG terrorist organization has continued to find breeding ground in northeast Syria and has become a serious threat for the regional and international security, as well as the territorial integrity of Syria.

The Turkish Government has spared no effort to help remedy the situation in Syria, in accordance with all the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, particularly by fighting against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We also held negotiations with our Allies, primarily with the United States, on establishing a safe zone free from terrorists in northeast Syria along the Turkey-Syria border to address our legitimate security concerns.

Unfortunately, negotiations did not produce any results. We were compelled to initiate Operation Peace Spring on 9 October 2019, in line with the right of self-defense as outlined in Article 51 of the UN Charter.

I would like to underline that the operation targeted only terrorists and their hideouts, shelters, emplacements, weapons, vehicles and equipment. All precautions were taken to avoid collateral damage to civilian population and infrastructure.

Following negotiations at the highest level with the US on 17 October and Russia on 22 October, the two global powers acknowledged legitimacy of Operation Peace Spring and accepted to work with Turkey to end the PYD/YPG threat along its Syria border.

Turkey's Operation Peace Spring and diplomatic efforts have prevented the establishment of a terror state in northern Syria. We will preserve the status quo established by Operation Peace Spring and work towards ensuring security and stabilization in the operation area.

By creating a safe zone free from terror, this operation will provide valuable support to efforts aimed at facilitating safe and voluntary returns of displaced Syrians to their homes of origin or other places of their choice in Syria in line with international law and in coordination with relevant UN agencies.

Esteemed Parliamentarians,

-I would like to thank you once again for your valuable presence in the First Executive Council Meeting of the APA and wish you all a fruitful meeting. I hope you enjoy your time in Rize.

Thank you.

Attachment IV

كلمة

سعادة السيد / أحمد بن عبد الله بن زيد آل محمود

رئيس مجلس الشورى في دولة قطر

في

الاجتماع الأول

للمجلس التنفيذي للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية

ريز - جمهورية تركيا

٢٥ - ٢٨ أكتوبر ٢٠١٨

معالي رئيس برلمان بوتان المحترم
سعادة الدكتور/ محمد رضا ماجدي ، الأمين العام للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية،
سعادة السيدة/ سومان اردوغان ، نائبة البرلمان رئيسة وفد تركيا في الجمعية
البرلمانية الآسيوية،
سعادة رئيس بلدية ريزا
سعادة محافظ بلدية ريزا
أصحاب المعالي والسعادة رؤساء البرلمانات والوفود،
الحضور الكرام،
السلام عليكم ورحمة الله،،،

يسعدنا أن نشارك في اجتماع المجلس التنفيذي للجمعية
البرلمانية الآسيوية وأن أخطبكم باسمي وباسم أعضاء مجلس
الشورى في دولة قطر ، المشارك في هذا الاجتماع، وأن نعبر
عن شكرنا لجمهورية تركيا الشقيقة ، رئيساً وبرلماناً وشعباً ،
ولأخينا معالي السيد / مصطفى شنتوب ، رئيس الجمعية
البرلمانية الآسيوية ورئيس الجمعية الوطنية الكبرى في
جمهورية تركيا الشقيقة على الدعوة الكريمة وعلى حسن
الوفادة والاستقبال وجودة الإعداد والتنظيم لأعمال إجتماعنا
هذا. مقدرين لجمهورية تركيا الشقيقة دورها في دعم الجمعية
البرلمانية الآسيوية لتحقيق أهدافها في ترسيخ الأمن والاستقرار
في المنطقة والقارة الآسيوية ونتفهم ما اتخذته من خطوات
مؤخراً للحفاظ على أمنها واستقرارها وتأكيدا على سلامة
واستقلال الأراضي السورية .

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،،، الاخوة والأخوات،،،

نلتقي اليوم في مدينة ريزا السياحية الجميلة مدينة الشاي المميز ونحن من هذا المكان نتقدم بخالص الشكر والتقدير لفخامة الرئيس المحترم رجب طيب اردوغان رئيس الجمهورية التركية الشقيقة . نلتقي في الاجتماع الأول للمجلس التنفيذي للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية، هذه المنظومة البرلمانية التي تمثل ثاني أكبر تجمع برلماني بعد الإتحاد البرلماني الدولي، للنظر في العديد من مشاريع القرارات المقترحة في المجالات الاجتماعية والثقافية، والمجال السياسي وفي المجال الاقتصادي والتنمية المستدامة، وفي الشؤون السياسية وحول التخطيط والميزانية، وهي قرارات تهدف لتعزيز ودعم التعاون بين دول المنطقة وترسيخ التنمية المستدامة في آسيا.

وأود في هذه الكلمة التي أخطبكم فيها لأول مرة أن أعرب عن شكرنا لرئاسة وأمانة الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية ولجميع الأعضاء الحضور الذين رحبوا بمنح العضوية الكاملة لمجلس الشورى في دولة قطر في الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية، وعن اعتزازنا بالانضمام لهذه المنظومة البرلمانية لما لهذه المنظومة من أهمية برلمانية تعكس صوت شعوب المنطقة، وللأهداف السامية والطموحة التي تعمل المنظمة من أجل تحقيقها ولا أدل على ذلك من العديد من مشاريع القرارات المعروضة اليوم امام

هذا الاجتماع، إذ تشمل القرارات كافة القضايا التي تهم المنطقة، وسيكون لها حتماً أثرها الفاعل في تعزيز التعاون بين دولها وفي نهضة شعوب المنطقة، واسترداد حقوق شعوبها، وعلى رأسهم الشعب الفلسطيني، وحقوق الشعوب التي في حاجة للدعم المعنوي والسياسي والمادي في المنطقة.

الإخوة والأخوات ،،،

إن دولة قطر حريصة على دعم العمل المشترك داخل المنظمات الدولية والإقليمية التي انضمت إليها، كما أنها ملتزمة بالعمل من أجل تحقيق التكامل بين دول قارتنا وذلك بتوسيع التعاون بينها وتعزيزه وإقامة الشراكات مع المنظمات والاتحادات والتكتلات الإقليمية الأخرى خدمة لمصالح دول المنطقة وتماشياً مع أهداف رؤية قطر الوطنية ٢٠٣٠م.

ونأمل من خلال انضمامنا للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية أن ندفع بالعمل المشترك نحو تحقيق غايات الجمعية، آمليين أن تكفل جهودنا بالتوفيق في دعم القضايا العادلة في المنطقة وعلى رأسها القضية الجوهرية التي ما زالت قائمة منذ عقود كثيرة بلا حل، وهي القضية الفلسطينية. فما زلنا نعاني ومنذ ما يربو على السبعين عاماً من تداعيات وأثار الاحتلال والعدوان الذي قام به الكيان الإسرائيلي منذ انشائه، وعدم انصياعه للقرارات

(٤)

الدولية ورفضه لحل الدولتين وإقامة دولة فلسطين على حدود الرابع من يونيو عام ١٩٦٧ وعاصمتها القدس الشرقية، مما أدى إلى عدم الاستقرار في المنطقة وتوالي الحروب وزعزعة أمن دول الجوار واحتلال أراضيها مما يشكل تهديداً للأمن والسلم الدوليين .

وفي الختام أرجو لهذا الاجتماع التوفيق في الخروج بقرارات تؤكد على ضرورة علاج القضايا العاجلة، وفي إرساء مبادئ التعاون المثمر الذي يفضي للتكامل في شتى المجالات التي تعود بالنفع العميم على شعوب المنطقة، وأن يكون هدفنا جميعا هو العمل من أجل تحقيق الأمن والسلام والرخاء لدولنا وشعوبنا ولشعوب العالم قاطبة .

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله،،،

Attachment V



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

1st Executive Council Meeting
25-28 October 2019
Rize, Turkey



Draft Agenda

- Adoption of the Agenda
- Election of the Bureau
- Consideration of request for new membership to APA - Membership of the State of Qatar to the APA
- Consideration of request for new membership to APA - Membership of the State of Timor Leste to the APA
- Remarks by the Chairman
- Report of the APA Secretary-General
- Consideration of the Draft Resolutions proposed by Standing Committees on:
 - **Social and Cultural Affairs:**
 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 Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia
 5. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption
 6. Draft Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians
 7. Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter- Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions
 8. Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia
 9. Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia
 10. Draft Resolution on Humanitarian Aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Myanmar on the Verge of the Humanitarian Catastrophe
 11. Draft Resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia
 12. Draft Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia
 13. Draft Resolution on Human Development in Asia
 - **Economic and Sustainable Development:**

1. Draft Resolution on Asian Integrated Energy Market (Merged)
2. Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues
3. Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth
4. Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication
5. Draft Resolution on The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
6. Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All (Deferred)
7. Draft Resolution on Adopting a Road Map Providing for Measures to Stimulate Green Finance

– **Political Affairs:**

1. Draft Resolution on Towards an Asian Parliament (Deferred)
2. Draft Resolution on Good Governance
3. Draft Resolution on the 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
8. Draft Resolution on Harmonious Development through Democracy
9. Draft Resolution on Enhancing Cooperation among the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to Protect and Promote Multilateralism

– **Budget and Planning:**

1. Draft Resolution on Planning APA Budget

- Consideration of Establishing Cooperation with other Organizations
 - APA's Membership to the Alliance of Civilizations
- Consideration of amendments to APA Basic Documents by Russian Federation:
 - Financial Regulations
 - Charter
 - Rules of Procedure
- The Establishment of Working Group on Statutory Documents (proposed by Russia)
- Nomination of APA President and Vice Presidents for 2020-2021
- Nomination of APA President for 2022-2023
- Adoption of the Final Report
- Any other matter: Date of 12th Plenary.
- Closing



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

THE FIRST EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

25-28 October 2019

Ramada Plaza
Rize, TURKEY

FRIDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2019	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Delegates arrive at Trabzon Airport ➤ Transfer from Trabzon Airport to Rize (about 72 km) ➤ Delegates proceed to check in at Ramada Plaza ➤ Registration of Delegates at Ramada Plaza Lobby Level(Registration Desk)
19.00	<p>Welcome Reception Hosted by H.E. Mrs. Asuman ERDOĞAN, Head of Turkish Delegation of APA</p> <p><i>Venue: Ramada Plaza</i></p> <p>Dress Code: Smart Casual</p>
SATURDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2019	
07.00-08.45	<p>Breakfast</p> <p><i>Venue: Main Restaurant 2nd Floor</i></p>
08.45-10.45	<p>INAUGURAL CEREMONIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Anthem - Address by Mr Rahmi METİN, Mayor of Rize - Address by H.E. Dr Mohammad Reza MAJIDI, APA Secretary General - Address by H.E. Mrs. Asuman ERDOĞAN, Head of Turkish Delegation of APA - Address by Mr. Kemal ÇEBER, Governor of Rize -Address by Amir Mohammad YAR, Deputy Speaker of Afghanistan National Parliament-Wolesi Jirga -Address by H.E. Wangchuk NAMGYEL, Speaker of the Parliament of Bhutan -Address by H.E. Ahmed Bin Abdullah AL MAHMOUD, Speaker of Qatar Shura Council <p>EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Adoption of the Agenda -Election of the Bureau - Consideration of request for new membership to APA - Membership of the State of Qatar to the APA - Consideration of request for new membership to APA - Membership of the State of Timor Leste to the APA <p>Family Photo</p> <p><i>Venue: Auditorium Hall 2nd Floor</i></p>
10.45-11.00	<p><i>Tea Break</i></p>

11.00-11.30	EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING (CONTINUED) - Remarks by the Chairperson of the Executive Council - Report of the APA Secretary General - Consideration of the Draft Resolutions Proposed by the Standing Committees <i>Venue: Conference Hall 2nd Floor</i>
11.30-12.30	- Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs <i>Venue: Conference Hall 2nd Floor</i>
12.30-14.00	Lunch <i>Venue: Main Restaurant 2nd Floor</i>
14.00-15.00	- Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development <i>Venue: Conference Hall 2nd Floor</i>
15.00-16.00	- Standing Committee on Political Affairs <i>Venue: Conference Hall 2nd Floor</i>
16.15-16.30	<i>Tea Break</i>
16.30-17.30	- Standing Committee on Budget and Planning <i>Venue: Conference Hall 2nd Floor</i>
17.30-18.00	- Consideration of Establishing Cooperation with other Organizations – APA’s Membership to the Alliance of Civilizations <i>Venue : Conference Hall 2nd Floor</i>
.....	Visit to Natural and Historical Sites of Black Sea Region (Depending on the completion of meetings)
20.00	Dinner hosted by Mr Rahmi METİN, Mayor of Rize <i>Venue: Dağmaran Restaurant</i> Dress Code: Smart Casual
SUNDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2019	
07.00 - 09.00	Breakfast <i>Venue: Main Restaurant 2nd Floor</i>
	EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING (Continued)

09.00 – 11.00	- Consideration of amendments to APA Basic Documents - By Russian Federation <i>Venue: Conference Hall 2nd Floor</i>
11.00 - 11.15	<i>Tea Break</i>
11.15 – 12.30	EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING (Continued) - Consideration of amendments to APA Basic Documents - By Russian Federation <i>Venue : Conference Hall 2nd Floor</i>
12.30-13.30	Lunch <i>Venue: Main Restaurant 2nd Floor</i>
13:30 – 14:30	EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING (Continued) – Consideration of amendments to APA Basic Documents - By Russian Federation – Establishment of Working Group on Statutory Documents (proposed by Russia) – Nomination of APA President and Vice Presidents for 2020-2021 – Nomination of APA President for 2022-2023
14:30 – 15:30	Break, preparation of Final Report
15:30 - 16:00	– Adoption of the Final Report – Any other matter: Date of 12th Plenary – Closing <i>Venue: Conference Hall 2nd Floor</i>
.....	Visit to Natural and Historical Sites of Black Sea Region (Depending on the completion of the meeting)
19.30-21.00	Dinner Hosted by Kemal ÇEBER, Governor of Rize <i>Venue: Yakamoz Restaurant</i> Dress Code: Smart Casual
MONDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2019	
	Breakfast

07.00-09.00	<i>Venue:</i> Main Restaurant 2nd Floor
09.15	Departure for Social Program
.....	Visit to Natural and Historical Sites of Black Sea Region
.....	Lunch hosted by Head and Members of Commodity Exchange <i>Venue:</i>(tbc)
.....	Visit to Natural and Historical Sites of Black Sea Region
.....	Arrival to Ramada Plaza Hotel
19.00-21.00	<i>Free Dinner</i> <i>Venue:</i> Main Restaurant 2nd Floor Dress Code: Casual
TUESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2019	
06:30-08:30	Breakfast <i>Venue:</i> Main Restaurant 2nd Floor
	Departure of Delegates
End of Program	

Attachment VI



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

First Executive Council Meeting

25- 28 October 2019

Rize, Turkey

Report of the APA Secretary General

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegate,
Dear Colleagues,

I have the pleasure to address this important meeting as Secretary General of the APA, presenting a report on the latest activities and outcomes of the APA Standing Committee meetings during the year 2019, to the first APA Executive Council Meeting.

Before I begin, allow me to once again take this opportunity to express, on behalf of myself and my colleagues in the APA Permanent Secretariat, my deepest appreciation to the state officials and most particularly to H.E. Mustafa SENTAP, the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey for the kind invitation and also to H.E. Mrs. Asuman ERDOĞAN Chairperson of the 1st Executive Council Meeting and H.E. Mr. Kemal ÇEBER, Governor of Rize, who took the burden of hosting our meeting through excellent organization and unique

hospitality at the magnificent and historic city of Rize the capital of Rize Province of Turkey.

Madam Chairperson,

In year 2019, under the presidency of the Republic of Turkey and leadership of four APA vice presidents, namely: the Kingdom of Thailand, the Russian Federation, Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq, we have been able to fulfil our job and successfully hold following Standing Committees:

1-The meeting of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs was held in Bangkok from 12 to 15 February with the participation of 21 member parliaments. The standing Committee adopted 13 draft resolutions. Ten draft resolutions out of 13 were discussed and adopted by the Committee and three new draft resolutions presented by Thailand and Kuwait, were adopted by the Committee in principal and deferred its discussion to the future meeting.

In Bangkok, after the closing session of Standing Committee the first Working Group on AP was also held with participation of all interested APA members. The meeting was chaired by Iran as the Chairman of Standing Committee on Political Affairs.

2- The Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development was held from 18 to 21 April, in Nareyan-Mar with participation of 19 member parliaments.

In this Committee, we have seven draft resolutions. Five resolutions were discussed and adopted by the committee. Kuwait was tasked to merge one resolution and consideration of the draft resolution “Water and Sanitation in Asia for All” was deferred to the next standing Committee meeting.

Three Working groups on Green Finance, on Energy Market and on Water Crisis were also held their meetings in Nareyan-Mar.

3- The meeting of Standing Committee on Political Affairs was held in Isfahan, from 25-28 June 2019 with participation of 16 member parliaments. At this

Committee, we have nine draft resolution. Seven draft resolution, were discussed and adopted by consensus and a new draft resolution was introduced by Iranian delegation. This draft resolution was welcomed by member parliaments and the chair stated that amendments to this resolution will be considered during next meeting. On draft resolution, “Towards an Asian Parliament” delegation of Pakistan introduced his amendments and several delegations debated different aspects of Asian Parliament. The chairperson concluded that what emerges from expressed views is that we need AP but there are divergent of views, which need more time to focus on, during future meetings.

In Isfahan, we had the Second Session of the Working Group on Asian Parliament. At the meeting of WG on AP, the chair and several delegation presented their remarks. The chair concluded that the WG-AP under auspicious of Standing Committee on Political Affairs with APA Secretariat functioning as its Secretariat and it is important to reach a consensus on the roadmap for the AP. 4- *The Standing Committee on Budget and Planning* was held on 3-5 September in Baghdad, Republic of Iraq. Parliamentary delegations from 16 members participated in the meeting. In this Committee, we have the draft Resolution on Planning APA Budget. At the meeting, I as Secretary-General briefed the Standing Committee on the latest decisions and developments regarding the issues of planning budget of the APA Permanent Secretariat, under supervision of this Committee. I stated even if all active member parliaments pay their contribution based on the current adopted model of payment, the Secretariat hardly could survive. Therefore, I appealed to all delegation to choose a pragmatic and constructive approach in this regard.

Madam Chairperson,

On agenda item, *Consideration of request for new membership to APA*, we considered with honor and pleasure the Membership of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar to APA. The Shura Council of the State of Qatar in 2018 formally requested the membership of APA. As you are aware, the Shura Council of Qatar is one of the most active observer members of APA and participated in several APA meetings. Therefore, it is great pleasure for me today to be witness of your support to the membership of the Shura Council of Qatar as a new Member of APA

On this agenda item, we also have the request of the National Parliament of Timor-Leste for the full membership of APA and it is an honor and pleasure for me that the National Parliament of Timor-Leste gained your full support as a new APA member Parliament.

On consideration of establishing cooperation with other organizations, we have the APA's membership to the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. Turkey during the 11th Plenary in 2018 in Istanbul raised the issue and gained the support of the participating delegations. The UN Alliance of Civilizations is an initiative that seeks to galvanize international action through the forging of international, intercultural and interreligious dialogue and cooperation and places a particular emphasis on defusing tensions between the western and Islamic worlds. On our side, it is very important for APA to intensify its cooperation with institutions such as UN Alliance of Civilizations to be more visible at international arena.

Consideration of amendments to APA Basic Documents, the Financial Regulations, Charter and the Rules of Procedure by Russian Federation is in the agenda of the Executive Council meeting. Amending statutory and basic documents of an international organization such as APA, due to the complex and delicate legal aspects of the issue, is very important and therefore, I as Secretary General request all delegations to get involved in this process with full respect and compliance to the APA Rules of Procedures of 2008.

Madam Chairperson,

Before I raise the issue of *nomination of APA President and Vice Presidents for 2020-21*, let me once again appreciate the generosity and commitments of APA president and vice presidents in 2019 and briefly touch very important issue of the APA presidency. From 2007 up to 2019, APA had six presidents from Iran, Indonesia, Syria, Pakistan, Cambodia and Turkey. During these years, we had 17 countries who generously accepted the vice presidency of APA and hosted APA meetings from Indonesia, Iran, Turkey, Jordan, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Bahrain, Cyprus, Palau, Bhutan, Thailand, UAE, Syria, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and Iraq. At present, It is expected that other APA member parliaments in particular members who were not in a position to preside over APA or to host Standing Committee meetings, to come forward and announce their candidacy for the post of President and Vice Presidents of the APA for 2020-21. As I already

inform you so far, Secretariat got a letter from Council of Representative of Iraq, nominating Iraq to become APA President for the period of 2020-2021. I expect you all to once again show your exemplary APA solidarity in this regard in way that we could continue our job without any postponement in 2020.

As for the presidency

In Conclusion, Madam Chair, I would like to briefly report to you *the main activities of the Permanent Secretariat during the Presidency of Turkey*. Based on Article 13 of the Charter, Permanent Secretariat has three Major terms of reference, maintaining communication with members and preparing for the sessions of the Assembly, following up the implementation of the decisions of the Assembly and protecting the documents of the APA. As regards maintaining communication with members and preparing for the sessions of the Assembly and protecting the documents of the APA, I should say the Secretariat has done its job properly and efficiently and my today's report to the Executive Council regarding the activities of the four Standing Committees and Working Groups during the year 2019 is self-evident. As regards the following up the implementation of the decisions of the Assembly, I should say, as matter of fact, Secretariat was not in a potion to fulfill its duty due to an obvious reason. In 14 resolutions, APA requested Secretary General to implement the resolutions without allocating financial resources for the implementation of such resolutions. Therefore, I appeal to you before adopting any resolution with financial implication, allocate required funds for the implementation of such resolution.

Thank you very much

Attachment VII



KASHMIR BLACK DAY

Statement



- **Madam Chairperson;**
- **Excellences, Dignitaries,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Pakistan would like to inform that today on 27th October, Pakistan is observing Kashmir Black Day internationally to show our solidarity with our Kashmiri brethren across the world.

It was 72 years back on 27th October 1947 when India airlifted its forces in the Jammu and Kashmir Valley citing the so called instrument of accession and started the forceful occupation of the land. The occupation continues till today.

While the Indian brutalities in the Occupied Kashmir were continuing, Indian Government on 5th August 2019 took illegal steps and changed the special status of Jammu & Kashmir. These steps are aimed at changing demography and changing Indian occupation into colonization.

Since 5th August, Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir has been turned into an open prison. The entire region is under lockdown. Kashmiris are facing continuous curfew, grave human rights violations, massacre, torture, arrests and restrictions on the freedoms of expression, opinion, peaceful assembly and association.

With people's access to food and daily amenities rapidly declining and hospitals running short of essential medicines, the Held Valley faces a humanitarian crisis.

I take this opportunity to strongly urge the international community in general, and APA Member parliaments and governments in particular to take immediate diplomatic steps to impress upon Indian government to lift curfew and stop its reign of terror and death in the Occupied Valley.

The worst human rights and humanitarian situation in Occupied Kashmir, since imposition of curfew on August 5, 2019, requires your urgent attention and support. This is not a bilateral or territorial dispute, but that of human rights.

The Kashmiris deserve respect, right to life, liberty and security. International community should also take immediate steps for providing humanitarian assistance to the Kashmiris.

I re-iterate and reaffirm Pakistan's support for Kashmir cause. By highlighting human rights violations in the Indian Occupied Kashmir, we aim to send out a

loud and clear message to the world that Pakistan stands united and firm for the safety, wellbeing and rights of Kashmiris.

Indian brutalities in Occupied Kashmir has put on stake the destiny, future and the lives of over 13 million people who have been turned into hostages. Schools have been closed down and people are not even free to go to their mosques.

For seventy-two years, the people of Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir have struggled for their right to self-determination in the face of overwhelming oppression and gross violations of their human rights by over 800 thousand Indian occupation forces.

The brave and courageous people of Indian occupied Kashmir deserve the support of the world before it is too late.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Our message to the Kashmiri people is that you are not alone;

You will never be alone;

We are with you; and we will continue to do whatever we can to ensure that your plight and sufferings come to an end soon.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The reports and recommendations by the UN Human Rights Council, Amnesty International and other international forums demanded to investigate human rights abuses by Indian occupation forces and called for urgent humanitarian relief for the Kashmiris. India must adhere to this international call and put an end to its atrocities in the held valley.

I take this opportunity to strongly urge the Indian Government to allow access to human rights organizations, media and UN Peace Observers in the Occupied Valley. India must also take prompt steps to implement recommendations of Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reports and UN Security Council resolutions.

Last but not the least, I reiterate that Pakistan will not concede its moral, political and diplomatic support until the Kashmiris realize their legitimate right to self-determination and plebiscite under UN auspices.

Thank you!



List of the Draft Resolutions adopted by the First Executive Council

27 October 2019

Rize, Turkey



List of the Draft Resolutions adopted by the First Executive Council
27 October 2019
Rize, Turkey

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Social and Cultural Affairs



Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia

EC1/SC- Social/ Draft Res/2019/01
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions, APA/Res/2013/05; APA/Res/2010/05; APA/Res/2009/05; APA/Res/2008/17; and APA/Res/2007/02; on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia;

Considering the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, 1954, and its protocols;

Recognizing the significant role of parliaments both in safeguarding their respective national cultural heritage and in harmonizing Asian approach in respect of cultural diversity;

Emphasizing that cultural diversity is dependent on protection of cultural heritage, and the existence of common grounds among Asian ancient civilizations provide solid grounds for co-existence and co-operation among nations in the region;

Re-affirming that cultural heritage is a fundamental component of the cultural identity of a people and their social cohesion, and its disrespect, damage or destruction may have adverse consequences for human dignity and human rights; particularly the rights of marginalized communities;

Recognizing that tolerance is one of the fundamental values of humanity, which entails promotion of cultural diversity, culture of peace, and dialogue among civilizations;

Recognizing the increasing importance of culture, as an integral part of development plans of all nations in Asia and beyond;

Promoting greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures and religions by means of concrete projects in the priority areas of youth, education, and media, in collaboration with governments, international and regional organizations, in line with the outcome of the first World Cultural Forum, in Bali, Indonesia in November 2013 and document entitled “Bali Declaration on the Alliance of Civilizations”, held in Bali, Indonesia, in 29 and 30 August 2014;

Reiterating that multicultural dynamism in Asia provides as an indispensable asset for making a strong Asian community based on mutual respect and recognition of all Asian cultures and civilizations;

Acknowledging that Cultural heritage has always been considered as an important resource for tourism, an indispensable element for many travel tours;

Noting the exploitation of cultural heritage in tourism activities should not make any negative consequences on the local culture and environment;

Noting that globalization creates opportunities for greater interaction among cultures and civilizations while bringing about challenges in preserving and celebrating the rich intellectual and cultural diversity in Asia

Noting that the establishment of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) under the framework of the International Conference of the Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) shall serve as an important platform for culture of peace, sustainable development, human connectivity and innovation at the Siem Reap Declaration;

Recalling the UNESCO convention on Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, 1970 to protect the cultural heritage in Asia;

Considering the smuggling of cultural objects from Asia a threat to the richness of Asian cultural heritage, and underline the important role of parliaments to both raise public awareness about this challenge and to strengthen, where necessary;

Deploring the un-repairable damage brought to cultural and religious heritage by terrorism and organized crimes, especially damages to all religious and historical sites and holy shrines by indiscriminate bombing and shelling in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan;

Condemning Israeli attacks on the Al-Aqsa mosque and the excavation and infringements on all Islamic and Christian holy sites in the 1961 occupied Palestinian territories and refuse Israel's failure to comply with UNESCO resolutions concerning East Jerusalem;

Expressing grave concerns regarding theft, damage, or destruction to any place of worship of any religion, cultural, religious, or historical heritage in Asia;

1. **Determine** to encourage and promote further intercultural dialogue and inter-religious exchanges throughout Asia;
2. **Resolve** to appreciate and promote the benefits of diversity and good governance among Asian nations, and encourage values such as justice, human rights, non-discrimination, democracy and respect within and among communities and nations;
3. **Reject** all manifestations of discrimination that are based on racism, xenophobia and all other related forms of intolerance;
4. **Remain Committed** to the protection of the rights of all communities, where applicable, so as to ensure the fulfillment of community rights
5. **Urge** relevant governmental agencies to further facilitate consular services as appropriate for citizens of Asian countries to allow for greater people-to-people interaction;

6. **Acknowledge** that illegal import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property and artifacts is responsible for the impoverishment of the cultural identity of the countries of origin of such property;
7. **Decide** to remain cognizant of damages to religious holy places and historical sites by ISIS and other terrorist organizations in our home continent;
8. **Resolve** to cooperate to prevent illegal import, export or transfer of cultural property and artifacts among Asian countries and beyond;
9. **Urge** Member Parliaments to consider ratifying the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
10. **Call Upon** all Member Parliaments to promote tolerance and empathy among Asian nations with a view to diminish distrust, misunderstanding, and conflict among religious communities;
11. **Strongly Recommend** APA Member Parliaments to promote tourism in association with conservation and protection of cultural heritage;
12. **Reiterate** that during armed conflict, states should adopt measures to safeguard the cultural and natural heritage of a nation in conformity with international law and the principles and objectives of international agreements and UNESCO recommendations concerning the protection of such heritage during hostilities;
13. **Reiterate** that Member Parliaments should adopt measures to safeguard and restore the cultural and natural heritage of nations in conformity with International law and the principles of objectives of international agreements and UNESCO recommendations concerning the protection of such heritage during hostilities, including those caused by conflicts and violent extremism;
14. **Request** the APA Secretary General to uphold cooperation between APA and international and regional organizations such as UNESCO, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), ISESCO and relevant Asian NGOs active in promoting cultural diversity and dialogue among civilizations;
15. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to support establishing an award to be presented annually to outstanding Asian artists; authors, poets, film makers, painters, etc. who best convey the APA's commitment to cultural diversity in Asia;
16. **Request** the APA Secretary General to work with the Universities and research institutions in the Asian region to do researches and studies on the identification and promotion of common cultural aspects of the Asian countries.



Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology

EC1/SC- Social/ Draft Res/2019/02
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Reaffirming that right to access to information is an integral part of the fundamental right of freedom of expression, as recognized by Resolution 59 of the UN General Assembly adopted in 1946, as well as by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966);

Recalling para.5 of article 3 of the Charter of the APA;

Recalling WSIS¹ outcomes of 2003, 2005 held under UN aegis to build a people centered, inclusive and development oriented information society and UN resolution 125 of the UN General Assembly adopted in its 70th session in 2016 on High level review of WSIS+10 on global ICTs development and measures to facilitate accomplishment of SDGs;

Recalling APA Resolution, APA/ Res/ 2014/11, and APA/Res/2014/13;

Underlining that Asian integration can be achieved through further dialogue, interaction, and communication among Asian people, parliamentarians, government officials, academic and educational institutions, and media for the promotion of peace, liberty, equality, human rights, and welfare in Asia;

Concerned with negative impact of globalization on widening the gap between the rich and poor in Asia, and the further marginalization of developing countries in the world;

Recognizing the fact that today Asia encompasses the biggest market in the world, the highest number of population; the largest amount of foreign currency reserves; and dynamic economic growth;

Re-affirming the deep-rooted ties of history, geography, economics, culture, and civilization that bind Asian peoples together and the common interests pointing to the need for further cooperation;

¹ World Summit on Information Society held under the aegis of UN and ITU in 2003 and 2005

Emphasizing the principle of free flow of information, on privacy protection, equitable access to communication, and access to new technologies at the national, regional and global levels;

Deeply concerned by the proliferation of fake and fabricated news, misinformation and disinformation as the negative result of development in digital technology which can generate sentiments, hostility and disintegration among community;

Underlining the fundamental role of information and communication technology as an indispensable factor in all areas of national; regional, and global development;

Stressing the view that global networking provides opportunities for APA Member Parliaments to share experiences and engage in fruitful dialogue on significant issues in Asia and facilitates further cooperation and coordination, on the way of Asian integration process;

Underlining that the Asian Virtual Parliament will pave the way for sharing information, harmonizing legislation and raising people's awareness about the activities of the legislative body and ensure a more profound feedback between society, power and individuals, and thus contribute to strengthening peace in Asia;

Emphasizing that, the role of parties, civil society, non- governmental organizations (NGOs) and other democratic structures in public sphere, provide opportunities in Asian countries for exchange of views, interactions and synergy to promote regional and global cooperation in order to reinforce the long term process for Asian Integration;

1. **Call upon** and emphasis APA Member Parliaments to volunteer for providing knowledge and know-how, technical assistance, financial support, human resources; and other form of assistance in creating a "Virtual Asian Parliament" based on the report by the APA Secretary General on the subject matter in order to enhance collaboration and interaction among parliaments and parliamentarians in Asia and as a prelude to establishing a model of Asian Parliament;
2. **Determine** all the modern and traditional ways to help complete the plan to promote, publicize and disseminate information amongst citizens within the APA region; including the use of social media;
3. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to support vocational and knowledge-based education in Asia in order to enhance people's life-skills and competitiveness in coping with the challenges of globalization;
4. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to share best practices and exchange experiences with a view to inspiring a common approach toward Asian integration through holding special workshops and forums among Asian Member Parliaments;
5. **Call upon** the UN and its specialized agencies affiliated organizations, particularly ITU, the UN Specialized agency in ICTs, to support the Members of this Assembly

through collaboration in the development of digital connectivity and services in the region in partnership with regional organizations in particular Asia Pacific Telecommunity in bridging the digital divide and UNESCO, to support the Members of this Assembly to surmount the hurdles, identified by research centers, think tanks and intellectuals, hampering circulation of ideas through available means for free flow of communication and information;

6. **Exhort** APA Member Parliamentarians to collaborate and take necessary measures to promote the development of ICT infrastructure through enabling policies, capacity building, building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, inter alia;
7. **Also Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to promote parliamentary action to address the proliferation of fake and fabricated news, misinformation and disinformation caused by the digitalization of information, including but not limited to, information awareness, fact-checking collaboration and the establishment of complaint procedure mechanism, where necessary, without limiting the Asian Citizen's fundamental rights to know and freedom to access information as well as freedom of expression;
8. **Request** the APA Secretary-General to seek possible technical and financial assistance from Member Parliaments and other institutions to facilitate the implementation of this resolution and prepare a report with comprehensive approach to accelerate the process of Asian Integration.



Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia

EC1/SC- Social/ Draft Res/2019/03
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions, APA/Res/2013/07; APA/Res/2010/02; and APA/Res/2009/06;

Recalling the advises in the report of the Secretary-General on Achieving Health Equity in Asia, SG/Rep/2011/02 Dated 22 August 2011, submitted to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 13-14 September, 2011;

Welcoming the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/Rep/2014/02 dated 10 August, 2014;

Underlining the WHO report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health for addressing the impact of socio-economic inequalities on health at global, regional and national levels;

Recalling Alma Ata Declaration adopted on 6-12 September 1978 defined differences in health as a common concern of all countries and invited all to work on the fullest attainment of health for all and to reduce the gap between health status, and Astana Declaration adopted on 25-26 October 2018 reaffirming the commitments expressed in Alma Ata Declaration;

Taking note of difference of health equity status among countries in Asia;

Welcoming the Sustainable Development Goals adopted on 25 September 2015 and reaffirming its pivotal role in enhancement of the health equity;

Welcoming the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, adopted on 19 September 2011, reaffirming the political will to effectively implement the commitments contained therein and referring to the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

Recalling United Nation General Assembly resolution 66/288 on “The future we want”, which recognized health as a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development;

Recalling the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health endorsed by the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly in resolution WHA65.8 in May 2012;

Welcoming United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/138 proclaiming 12 December as International Universal Health Coverage Day and calling upon APA Member Parliaments to benefit from this day to raise awareness and promote Universal Health Coverage in their policies;

Appreciating United Nations' decision to hold a high level meeting on Universal Health Coverage during its 74th General Assembly which will take place in September 2019;

Recognizing that access to medicines is one of the fundamental elements in achieving progressively the full realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

Recalling the importance of placing equity and people-centered policies in the core of health agenda and noting central role of enabling Universal Health Coverage to provide equitable access to quality health services without financial hardship and access to quality affordable medicine and medical technologies;

Recognizing that health inequities arise from social determinants of health, that is, the societal conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age and gender that these determinants include experiences in their early years, education, economic status, employment and decent work, housing and environment, and effective systems of preventing and treating ill health;

Emphasizing the need to comprehensively deal with social and health related problems emanating from illegal drugs, psychotropic, alcohol and tobacco products, and promote policies to prevent and control their use, abuse and addiction;

Expressing concern about the existing socio-economic inequalities and their impact on the poor, marginalized and vulnerable groups, as well as the remote geographical areas and underserved urban areas;

Expressing concern on deteriorating health effects of wars and armed conflicts by hindering provision and quality of health service and causing depravation from fundamental human rights prospective to health, due to the inequalities in access and utilization of qualified health services;

Stressing the view that global net-working provides opportunities for Member Parliaments to engage in fruitful dialogue and exchange of best practices on health equity;

Reaffirming the significant role of parliaments both in advocating and promoting national policies and legislative measures for achieving health equity;

Having in mind that access to basic health services and medicine is a universally accepted norm arising from fundamental elements of human rights;

1. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to incorporate Social Determinants of Health (SDH) more intensively in other APA themes and activities;
2. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to strengthen collaboration with a view to formulating a coherent approach with regard to social determinants of health in Asia, especially education, housing, and employment;
3. **Invite** the APA Member Parliaments to promote health equity in Asia through sharing experiences and best practices on identifying vulnerability and inequity and actively advocate the inclusion of social determinants of health in national policies and programs;
4. **Invite** APA member Parliaments to develop a cross-sectoral collaboration for the advancement of health equity in Asia through comprehensive training and study exchanges on social determination of health among policy makers and related stake holders;
5. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt policies and measures to improve service provision, primary care and health financing system including social protection system as well as health insurance plans for a more equitable resource distribution;
6. **Call on** Member Parliaments of APA to encourage their respective governments in order to establish networking among major governmental and non-governmental institutions dealing with health issues in Asia, and expand cooperation with academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups and the media with adequate safeguard in order to identify the main social determinants of health;
7. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to take action in their countries to increase health literacy and awareness;
8. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to persuade their respective governments to create and implement more sharpened and targeted policies, activities, and programs to ensure a success in the achievement of SDGs including universal health coverage with regard to health policies; and promoting access to quality, efficacious, safe and affordable medicines and medical technologies;
9. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to take necessary actions and to encourage their respective governments to ensure child nutrition needs and to tackle malnutrition with a focus on equity for a healthier generation;

10. **Determine** to accelerate the achievement of SDG 2030 health targets and to take active part on the discussion of 2030 development agenda by delivering Asian views in the international arena to drive the global agenda;
11. **Encourage** the APA Member Parliaments to actively participate in the process of arriving at common objectives which could form the basis of national legislations promoting health equity in Asia, with due attention to equitable social protection policies for health care, long term disability, and protection during unemployment and old age, as appropriate in the national context and priorities;
12. **Call upon** the international community to continue support and assist developing countries in Asia and avoid all politically motivated measures aimed at hampering their access in this regard;
13. **Invite** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt relevant legislation to support universal access of all population in Asia to basic health services and pharmaceutical products;
14. **Request** Member Parliaments to inform the Secretary-General on the progress made on the implementation of this resolution in their respective countries in order to share them with all Member Parliaments.



Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia

EC1/SC- Social/ Draft Res/2019/04
27 October 2019

Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly representing signatory states who are parties to the relevant international conventions and agreements;

Acknowledging that the development of migrant workers and the protection of their rights are in line with the principles of human rights and contribute to the development and promotion of friendly relations among countries;

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international instruments to which the States members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly are parties;

Noting that the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 97 concerning Migration for Employment, ILO Convention 143 concerning Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provision), established a broad legal framework for the protection of migrant workers if applicable;

Taking note of the importance of the 2016 New York Declaration on Refugee and Migrants and ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers²;

Acknowledging the significance of ILO Conventions concerning the protection of the rights of migrant workers as well as United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and Protocols Thereto ‘Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children’ and ‘Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air in promoting human rights of Asian migrant workers without prejudice to their sex, race, language, religion, nationality, or ethnic origin;

² Adopted with reservations from Thailand.

Noting the adoption of ILO Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers at the 100th International Labor Organization (ILO) Conference in Geneva, 2011 as a global recognition of the rights of domestic workers where many of them are migrants;

Underlining the importance of establishing a national legal framework as well as a broad legal framework for the protection of the rights of migrant workers and noting the legal and illegal status of different cases;

Deeply concerned with the precarious conditions faced by migrant workers such as violating of their human rights including through harassment and violence, discrimination, low pay and low status jobs, unpaid jobs, and overwork;

Underlining the challenges that women migrant workers are facing such as forced confinement, low pay, non-payment, excessive working hours, physically strenuous activities and sexual harassment and abuse, human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and prostitution;

Recognizing that unsettled status of immigrants prevents the establishment of conditions for full scale and comprehensive protection of their right by governments of the countries of destination or transit;

Emphasizing that adaptation of labor immigrants to local conditions and working activity in destination states as well as integration into recipient society are important factors which contribute to effective exercise of the rights of labor immigrants;

Acknowledging the contribution of migrant workers to the society and economy of both receiving and sending states and their input to the development and prosperity of the region;

Bearing in mind the importance of friendly relationships and cooperation among governments, parliaments and the peoples of Asia in solving the problems relating to Asian migrant workers; and in particular, providing repatriation assistance services such as coordination with families, airport assistance, domestic transport, temporary shelter, medical and rehabilitation services;

Recognizing the significant role of parliaments both in strengthening social and human rights policies, and in harmonizing an Asian approach on protecting the rights of migrant workers in Asia;

Confirming that providing adequate measures on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers in Asia is part of a shared responsibility among Asian Countries toward a common vision for security and prosperity, which focused on the improvement of the quality of life of its people;

Concerned with the exodus of people who have tried to flee from their homelands in Asia to some European countries, due to lack or deficiency of security, food, health service, accommodation, employment and so forth; many of whom are young migrant workers;

Noting with great concern that ethnic and other forms of intolerance are the major causes of forced migration;

1. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to consider accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families to stress Asian commitment on the protection of the rights of migrant workers and humanitarian issues in Asia;
2. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to enhance and harmonize their actions towards a better protection of migrant workers' rights, especially the cases of women and children;
3. **Also Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to urge their respective Government to integrate visions, principles, objectives and commitments enshrined under the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration adopted at the UN Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration held in Morocco, December 2018 into their migrant-related national policies;
4. **Request** APA sending countries to provide migrant workers with adequate skills and knowledge in order to be able to fulfill their task and understand the culture, prevailing laws and regulation in the receiving countries;
5. **Emphasizing** that Urge the APA Member States should to facilitate vocational training for migrant labor forces so that those migrant workers can integrate into the receiving country, ensuring their life and contributing to socio-economic development, stability and security in every country;
6. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to ensure that, in case of violation of domestic laws, such laws should be applied in a fair and just manner to both migrant workers and citizens;
7. **Encourage** the promotion of bilateral and regional cooperation among countries in all areas and issues of migrant workers to maximize the potential benefits and minimize the negative impacts of migration;
8. **Encourage** the respective States of the APA Member Parliaments to consider bilateral, or regional agreements including Mandatory Consular Notification Agreement under the spirit of Vienna Convention on Consular Relations; whereby the sending countries are well informed on the legal problems faced by their migrant workers;
9. **Emphasize** the importance of involving United Nations system, international organizations, civil society, and non-government organizations, and increasing participation and interaction with all stakeholders to enable government to develop

better policies and supervise the implementation of regulations on migrant workers issues;

10. **Recommend** APA Member Parliaments to provide adequate information on regulation, legislation and policies related to migrant workers in their respective countries, and to share information and best practices as well as opportunities and challenges encountered by Asian countries in relation to the protection and promotion of migrant workers' rights and welfare;
11. **Urge** the APA relevant member countries to promote fair and proper working conditions, proper minimum wages, and adequate access to decent living conditions and health for migrant workers;
12. **Request** the Secretary-General to coordinate with APA Member Parliaments on the progress to implement this resolution and submit a report thereon to the meeting of the Standing committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption

EC1/SC- Social/ Draft Res/2019/05
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2013/09, December 2013; APA/Res/2010/01; APA/Res/2009/03; APA/Res/2008/18; as well as the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05/Annex;

Taking note of the importance of the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted by the General Assembly on October 31, 2003 and other anti-corruption conventions and relevant binding legal instruments;

Recognizing that fighting corruption at all levels and in all its forms is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication and sustainable development;

Bearing in mind that corruption is a transnational phenomenon, that prevention and eradication of corruption is a responsibility of all States and that they must cooperate with one another;

Reaffirming the importance of respect for human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and democracy in the fight against corruption;

Recognizing the important role of parliaments to promote transparency, participation, accountability and integrity as some of the principles of anti-corruption strategy;

Acknowledging that the fight against all forms of corruption requires comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach including anti-corruption frameworks and strong institutions at all levels;

Expressing concern about the laundering and transfer of stolen assets and proceeds of corruption, and stressing the need to address this concern in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

1. **Condemn** corruption at all levels and in all its forms, including bribery; money laundering; and abuse of power;
2. **Express** determination to prevent and combat corrupt practices in all forms and collaborate on facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to their

legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

3. **Welcome** the significant number of Member States that have already ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and in this regard urges all APA Member Parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption as a matter of priority, and urges all States Parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures ensuring its full and effective implementation;
4. **Resolve** to promote exchange of good practices and experiences regarding the role of Parliaments in preventing and countering corruption, including by raising awareness among public, reviewing and strengthening anti-corruption legislation, exercising parliamentary oversight, fostering a culture of transparency and accountability, promoting rule of law and strengthening institutions at national level;
5. **Invite** the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to consider holding thematic discussion on strengthening the role of national parliaments in fighting corruption, including promoting the implementation of this Convention;
6. **Decide** to set up a working group under the auspices of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs to further consider the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05/ Annex with a view to taking effective measures for enhancing synergy and interactions among Asian Parliamentarians in fighting corruption;
7. **Consider** to improve and expand working relations with important Asian organizations such as ARPAC, SEAPAC, SAPAC, and GOPAC Chapter in order to enhance synergy and areas for cooperation and joint initiatives;
8. **Urge** States Parties to United Nations Convention against Corruption that have not already done so to designate a central authority that shall have the responsibility and power to receive requests for mutual legal assistance and either to execute them or to transmit them to the competent authorities for execution;
9. **Request** the Secretary-General to prepare in consultation with interested APA Delegations, particularly APA delegates with interest and experience in anti-corruption efforts, the required draft documents for consideration by the working group set up in this respect;
10. **Request** also the APA Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on implementation of this resolution.



Draft Resolution of APA Women Parliamentarians

EC1/SC- Social/ Draft Res/2019/06
27 October 2019

We, members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the APA Plenary Resolution (APA/Res/2010/06, 30 November, 2010) on the establishment of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians and the APA Resolution on Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians (APA/Res/2014/16) superseding the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians, as well as other relevant resolutions;

Mindful of the fact that despite all efforts made for the promotion of women's rights, gender inequality and injustice still persists between women and men both in the extent of power at decision-making and in mechanisms to promote the advancement of women;

Aware of the importance of promoting the participation of women in scientific, social, political, cultural and economic affairs, and peace dialogue;

Reaffirming that inclusion of women in positions of power and elected bodies, and also their involvement in the decision making process, strengthens the development of democratic principles in public life and increases the economic development;

Noting that the main obstacles women face in entering Parliaments in Asia including political, socio-economic, cultural prejudices;

Mindful of the necessity to put on the agenda of APA meetings matters of importance to women such as combating violence against women, empowerment of women in society, participation of women in political and economic life, and prevention of all kinds of harassments, sexual violence against women and girls, trafficking, and other types of exploitation including in situation of armed conflict areas;

Considering women's issues, including women's empowerment, combating violence and discrimination against them and engaging women in political, economic and social aspects of life;

Stressing our resolve to participate and contribute actively in the deliberation of issues relating to women's rights, women's empowerment and women's representatives participation in APA meetings;

Noting that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) established a broad legal framework for the protection of women and girls;

Underlining the need to facilitate networking between women parliamentarians of Asia;

1. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to ensure the inclusion and effective participation of women in social, cultural, economic, political, and sustainable development affairs in Asia, at national, regional, and international levels as appropriate;
2. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to adopt legislative regulations to facilitate women's representations in Asian Parliaments;
3. **Encourage** APA Women Parliamentarians to lead by example and place the interest of women at the heart of policy and decision making as an endeavor to engage more women into politics;
4. **Recommend** the importance of information and awareness campaigns to promote the integration of women into political participation and decision – making with a view to reaching national and international parliamentary institutions;
5. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize the concerns of women, and to effectively implement the relevant provisions of United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which promote gender equality and empowerment of women with respect for national and cultural particularities of the Member States;
6. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize that gender equality and empowerment of women as a stand-alone goal with clear targets and indications that must be achieved through implementation of goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with respect to national and cultural particularities of the Member States; with goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); with respect for national and cultural particularities of the Member States;
7. **Determine** to enhance the activities of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarian through more effective exchange of views and close interaction;
8. **Request** the Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians to expand the scope of its activities under the auspices of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs and to take appropriate measures to facilitate networking among women parliamentarians in Asia;
9. **Request** the APA Secretariat to assign one part of the website of the Assembly to facilitate networking among women parliamentarians of Asia covering updated information on the activities of the APA Women Parliamentarians;

10. **Express** grave concern at the dire situation of millions of women in all war-torn and conflict-ridden areas such as Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Myanmar, and Afghanistan who are inevitably in danger of and impacted by mortality and morbidity of themselves and their family members particularly their children, violence, discrimination, insecurity, poverty, hunger and so forth;
11. **Express** support of APA Member Parliaments in advancing women, peace and security agenda, particularly by enhancing women's role in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace operations.



Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions

EC1/SC- Social/ Draft Res/2019/07
27 October 2019

We, the members of Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recognizing the valuable role of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in working towards a more peaceful, more socially inclusive world, by promoting greater understanding, tolerance and respect among civilizations, cultures and beliefs;

Recalling with appreciation various global, regional and sub-regional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony including the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/65/PV.34, and also resolution 57/6 of 4 November 2002 concerning the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, the International Conference on Environment, Peace and the Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures, held in Tehran on 9 and 10 May 2005, the Asia- Europe Meeting Interfaith Dialogue on the theme "Building Interfaith Harmony within the International Community", held in Bali, on 21 and 22 July 2005, the High Level Conference on International and Inter-Religious Dialogue, held in Saint Petersburg, Russia on 3 and 4 July 2014, and the seventh global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 26 and 27 April 2016, the VI Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, held in Astana on 10-11 October 2018;

Mindful of the fact that, Inter-Faith harmony between the different religions of the world in general and Asia, in particular, is of utmost importance for the survival of mankind and the promotion of the culture of peace, security and tolerance;

Recognizing the essential role of dialogue among different faiths and religions in enhancing mutual collaboration, harmony and cooperation among their followers;

Expressing the need to explore ways and means to intensify Inter-Faith Harmony and resultant cooperation to strengthen the international peace and security to make the world a better place to live;

Acknowledging that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding;

1. **Decide** to apply for Asian Parliamentary Assembly's membership to the Group of Friends of the UN Alliance of Civilizations as proposed by Turkey during the 11th

General Assembly with a view to contribute the efforts of providing lasting solutions to the rising trends of discrimination, xenophobia and extremism;

2. **Maintain** that a regular dialogue between the APA Member Parliaments become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international ongoing conflicts based on religious differences and discrepancies;
3. **Denounce** the negative stereotyping of any religious, national or ethnic group and condemn any intentional and unintentional activity that leads towards the division between the followers of different faiths;
4. **Urge** all Member Parliaments to harmonize their efforts in promulgating laws and legislations in Asia for improved standards of cooperation between the nations to enhance the patience for the religious beliefs of others;
5. **Declare** that extremism and terrorism can not be attributed or accredited to any religion or nationality as these are common enemy of all humanity;
6. **Consider** any form of xenophobia based on belief, faith or ethnic adherence contrary to the merits of inter-faith dialogue has no place in the community of civilized nations;
7. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to consider to provide a respective national legal instrument, with aim of creating a conducive atmosphere for inter-faith dialogue and cooperation as well harmony among world religions;
8. **Deplore**, in the strongest terms, all atrocities and acts of violence, committed by extremist and terrorist groups under the guise of religions which hold no authentic reference to religious principles and legitimacy in the world, and call upon all states to refrain from providing any support to such groups;
9. **Condemn** the misuse and distortion of religious beliefs, by extremist groups and their followers, which inflame intra-faith as well as inter-faith hatred and hold them accountable for instigation of ill-judgment, violence, and brutality against other faithful people;
10. **Call upon** the international community to be cognizant of humanitarian situations in Asia;
11. **Urge** all APA Member Parliaments to intensify their efforts in utilizing parliamentary diplomacy for the development of international and regional frameworks to promote best practices which leads towards the inter faith harmony and collaboration;

12. **Request** the APA Secretary-General to seek the views as well as measures taken by APA Member Parliaments to implement this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia

EC1/SC- Social/ Draft Res/2019/08
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA/Resolution/2013/05 of 9 December 2013 on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia;

Recalling the relevant provisions where applicable on the protection of cultural heritage including the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its related protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (1972), the New Delhi UNESCO Recommendation of 1956 concerning excavations undertaken in occupied territories, the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls at the request of Jordan on the World Heritage List (1981) and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (1982) and related recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO, (UNESCO, the World Heritage Committee, Decision: 42 COM 7A.21, Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan, C 148 rev);

Underlining the obligation for all States Parties to urgently implement the provisions in paragraphs 15 to 17 of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 (2015), in reference to the cultural heritage at risk in Iraq and Syria;

Taking into account the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 (2017) which aims at mainstreaming the protection of cultural heritage at the global level;

Recalling the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 14 May 1954 and its Protocols of 14 May 1954 and 26 March 1999, and the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property of 14 November 1970;

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/180 of 19 December 2011 on “Strengthening Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses to Protect Cultural Property, especially with regard to its Trafficking”, in which the Assembly urged Member States and relevant institutions, as appropriate, to reinforce and fully implement mechanisms to strengthen international cooperation, including mutual legal assistance, in order to combat all forms and

aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, such as the theft, looting, damage, removal, pillage and destruction of cultural property, and to facilitate the recovery and return of stolen and looted cultural property, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions 68/186 of 18 December 2013 on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking 69/196 of 18 December 2014, entitled “International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences ,” and 70/76 of 9 December 2015 on return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin;

Welcoming the important and active role that the UN and other relevant agencies play in countering money laundering and terrorist financing linked to trade in smuggled artifacts, in particular, in Asia;

Expressing deep concern about the growing problem of smuggling of cultural items in Asia;

Affirming the important role of parliaments prevailing upon the governments to develop a national strategy including a legal framework to combat smuggling of cultural items;

Considering the smuggling of cultural property from Asia a threat to the richness of Asian cultural heritage;

Recognizing the role of parliaments to enhance public awareness about the threat to national identity and heritage of states from which cultural items are smuggled abroad;

Recognizing also the need to enhance national capacities, including parliamentary capacity to reinforce national strategy to combat smuggling of cultural items;

1. **Urge** all APA Member Parliaments to utilize their legislative role to prevent and punish the smuggling of cultural objects in Asia and facilitate concerted efforts to return the stolen items back to their original locations without any cost to the original owner country;
2. **Call on** all APA member parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954), UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), and the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage; (2003);
3. **Request** all APA Member Parliaments to strengthen their national legislation on protecting cultural properties and combatting all forms of smuggling in cultural property and related offences to be enacted on the basis of the common principles prepared by APA Secretariat and annexed to this resolution, and in accordance with their own internal legislative procedures;

4. **Recommend** the formation of a separate Corps Unit from APA Member Parliaments to protect and safeguard historical cultural properties from the perils of unlawful excavations, theft and smuggling;
5. **Express** support for the further strengthening of the system of management to protect movable cultural heritage from theft and smuggling of cultural properties;
6. **Request** the Secretary General to provide assistance to APA Member States who are in need of revising their legislation;
 - A separate Corps Unit should be formed from Group of all APA Member Parliaments to protect and safeguard historical cultural properties from the perils of clandestine excavation, theft and smuggling.



Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia

EC1/SC- Social/ Draft Res/2019/09
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the report of the Standing Committee meeting on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 13-14 September 2011;

Mindful of the fact that illicit drug trafficking and its negative impact on health, safety, public order, governance, economic development and social health constitutes a prime concern in Asia and deserves a comprehensive consideration by the APA;

Stressing the need to continue to take concentrated measures within the framework of the Paris Pact in order to strengthen cross-border cooperation and information exchanged with a view to countering illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs in Asia;

Emphasizing that the danger of illicit drug trafficking is pervasive so there is an urgent need to mobilize efforts of all countries to curb the production of opium and heroin in the Asian continent and to dismantle networks of illicit drug trafficking from all over Asia;

Acknowledging that the States most affected by the transit of drugs, especially the developing countries among them, have made important contributions to and sacrifices in countering illicit drug trafficking and preventing illicitly trafficked substances from region and markets;

Emphasizing afresh the continuing need to provide concrete, sufficient and sustainable technical and capacity-building support to the States most affected by the transit of drugs, especially the developing countries among them, in their efforts to curb illicit drug trafficking and deal with associated challenges;

Recognizing that production and illicit trafficking of narcotics drugs might be utilized for financing of other organized crimes, including terrorism;

Expressing the need to explore ways and means to intensify regional coordination among legislators to combat drug trafficking and make anti-drug policies a priority in programs of co-operation with, and of assistance to, the Asian countries which are affected by illicit drug trafficking;

Recognizing the interconnected challenges facing Asian countries, including continued illegal cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs that pose a serious threat to the region;

Expressing the need to increase international and regional support for the capacity building of law-enforcement agencies in the areas most affected by the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs in Asia, and to intensify training programs for their law-enforcement staff;

Further recognizing the importance of “Alternative Development” program as an approach to reducing the cultivation of plants containing drug substances through rural development measures that has been strongly endorsed by UN Commission on Narcotic Drug;

Stressing the need to enhance joint operations with the relevant law-enforcement agencies of APA Member Parliaments focusing on clandestine heroin-producing laboratories and organized criminal groups involved in the illicit drugs trade, emphasizing the urgent need to increase efforts by the relevant UN Stakeholders aimed at integrated rural development, building infrastructure and supporting farmers engaged in alternative production;

Recognizing the need for more cooperation and intelligence sharing with a result-oriented approach between the law enforcement agencies of the Member States in and including customs and border authorities in order to better tackle smuggling of narcotics and psychotropic substances within the region and beyond;

Supporting regional and international efforts to improve law enforcement in combating the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and curtailing drug related financial activities;

Emphasizing the need to assist countries most affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops in developing its economy and diversifying agriculture so as to reduce people’s dependence on revenues from the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops and trafficking, of narcotic drugs, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and in line with national legislation;

Reaffirming that Alternative Development is crucial, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, that it is an effective measure and one of the key components of policies and programs to counter illicit drug production and other drug-related crime challenges, and stressing that the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Stressing the need to share best practices and take adequate measures in preventing, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts;

Expressing the need for more active and efficient international cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking in Asia;

Attaching great importance to the efforts made by international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN), office of drugs and crimes (UNODC) and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) to combat the threats of international terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activity;

1. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to coordinate among themselves to review relevant legislation to address different aspects of combating illicit drug trafficking by harmonizing laws and making minimum punishment stronger;
2. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to adopt laws on extradition of convicted persons on terrorism and illicit drug trafficking to their countries of origin for fair trial based on national legislations;
3. **Stress** the need to exchange information and best practices within APA Member Parliaments on combating illicit drug trafficking;
4. **Remain vigilant** to the new modes of operations through the digital world and also the availability of the new substances of drug which are not yet listed in the respective national illicit drug lists and call for strong cooperation between APA Member Countries on these issues;
5. **Reiterate** the need to coordinate and improve law enforcement activities to combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and curtailing the flow of illicit drug more effectively;
6. **Encourage** the APA Member Parliaments to consider adopting relevant legislation regulations to strengthen international cooperation to support comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, as an essential elements of successful crop control strategies, especially in areas affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of crops, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and Member Parliaments with extensive relevant expertise to continue to share best practices, upon request;
7. **Underline** the importance of effectively using international financial assistance for the creation of alternative economic opportunities in order to ensure a sustainable anti-drug policy;
8. **Call upon** APA Asian Parliaments to enable civil society as an effective partner of parliaments and to enhance the role of mass media in combating drug trafficking in Asia;
9. **Encourage** all APA Member Parliaments to support their respective governments in order to coordinate with international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN) to combat the threats of international terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activities;

10. **Urge** that a regular dialogue on supporting joint actions of Asian governments against abovementioned threats within APA could become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in the region;
11. **Express** our commitment to encourage and enhance cooperation with all relevant states and international and regional organizations, on matters of common interest in the spirit of this resolution on rendering assistance to combat illicit drug trafficking;
12. **Encourage** networking of the relevant national agencies or organizations in Asia dealing with transnational crimes to further enhance information dissemination and intelligence exchange;
13. **Request** the APA Secretary General to seek the views of all Member Parliaments on ways and means for effective implementation of this resolution.



Draft Resolution on Humanitarian Aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar on the Verge of the Humanitarian Catastrophe

EC1/SC- Social/ Draft Res/2019/10
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Welcoming the establishment of ceasefire regime in SAR ON 30 December 2016 and the Memorandum on the de-escalating zones in the SAR, signed in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, on 4 May 2017;

Recalling UN Security Council resolutions 2139 and 2165;

Appreciating the renewal of UN Security Council Resolution 2165 on 13 December 2018 and the ability to enable cross border assistance in Syria;

Being concerned about the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar and about deprivations inflicted upon the internally displaced persons and refugees or any other affected in those countries;

Welcoming the achievements of the Astana format since January 2017, in particular, the progress made in reducing violence across the Syrian Arab Republic and contributing to peace, security and stability in the country;

Reaffirming their determination to continue joint efforts aimed at protecting civilians and improving their humanitarian situation via facilitating rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to the nations of Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Myanmar;

Acknowledging that the international organizations, including parliamentary ones and NGOs and individual countries shall support delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians trapped in a humanitarian crisis across the globe;

Welcoming all measures taken by APA Members Parliaments' governments to assist Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni and Myanmar refugees including, inter alia, through providing them with humanitarian aids, safe border crossing and temporary settlement;

Welcoming APA countries who have announced opening their international borders to refugees;

Call upon APA member-states to:

1. **Deliver** humanitarian support to Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni and Myanmar civilians across conflict lines and border crossings both multilaterally and bilaterally in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 46/182;
2. **Support** efforts of countries that host refugees and provide humanitarian aid and recommend to take every effort to facilitate aid delivery in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar;
3. **Encourage** all relevant parties to further allow UN humanitarian agencies and their partners to utilize routes across conflict lines and border crossings in Syria in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 46/182 and UN Security Council resolutions 2139 and 2165;
4. **Provide** assistance to Iraq, Syrian, Yemeni, Gaza and Myanmar internally displaced persons and refugees, deprived of basic needs and desperate in search of shelter;
5. **Stress** that humanitarian aid delivery in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar should be carried on in accordance with International Law and National Legislations of these States and condemn any attempt to violate those laws;
6. **Assist** in creating conditions for the safe and voluntary return as well as their unconditional repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their original places of residence in Syria and Iraq, Myanmar and Yemen;
7. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to closely monitor the safe, voluntary and unconditional repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons in order to ensure the sustainability of the process and the safety of the refugees.



Draft Resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia

EC1/SC- Social/ Draft Res/2019/11
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling UN General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, during which the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognized children and youth as agents of change;

Recognizing the role of parliaments in promoting the human rights and empowerment of children and youth in Asia;

Stressing the commitment of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 4, 5, 8, 16, as the basis for building sustainable and inclusive societies in Asia;

Recognizing that the cooperation between APA Member Parliaments can be instrumental in promoting quality child and youth development in the region;

Reaffirming that the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development, provide the framework for actions concerning children; to ensure children are protected in their rights;

1. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to recognize the importance of the quality child and youth development and to consider, with participation of children and youth, the provision of quality social welfare, including access to health care, quality education and training and other services to empower children and youth as productive members of society;
2. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to take appropriate measures to enhance cooperation among Member Parliaments to promote quality child and youth development, care and assistance, as well as to protect all children and youth from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination;
3. **Also encourage** APA Member Parliaments to strengthen and, where necessary, enact or amend legislations to ensure that all children and youth are protected against all forms of violence, as well as to improve child and youth development schemes;

4. **Request** the APA Secretary-General to submit, in collaboration with APA Member Parliaments, a report to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs Parliaments on the implementation of this resolution.



Draft Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia

EC1/SC- Social/ Draft Res/2019/12
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2017/12 Resolution on The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and resolution 2017/17 on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia;

Recalling UN General Assembly resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and subsequent resolutions on the Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing;

Welcoming UN General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, in which the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and stressing the need to ensure that issues of relevance to older persons are taken into account in its implementation in order to ensure that no one is left behind, including older persons;

Recognizing that the ageing population in many countries in Asia is rapidly growing whereas the fertility rates in those respective countries are significantly declining;

Acknowledging that the older persons in Asia are expected to account for over 17 percent by 2030, due to higher life expectancy;

Concerned that misconception and prejudice remains a challenge to opportunity for and engagement of older persons in some countries, taking into account the unique culture of respect towards older persons in Asia;

Mindful that public adaptation and preparedness through a life-course, multifaceted approach are keys to help society effectively respond to the burdens as commonly regarded in aged society;

Acknowledging that older persons have made significant contribution to national social and economic gains and, therefore, enactment of innovative legislation should be encouraged to remove barriers in realizing full potential of older persons;

1. **Calls upon** APA Member Parliaments to consider developing and adopting legislations on social protection, health-care services, and employment opportunities for older persons, as well as exploring innovative legislations such as phased-retirement, job sharing and part-time works;
2. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to monitor the implementation of their respective governments' ageing policies and to accord priority to the availability of

evidence-based, accurate, reliable and up-to-date data and information in order to ensure effective, efficient and sustainable implementation;

3. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to exercise its constituent authority to maximize opportunities for older persons, including through promoting flexible work and alternative employability arrangements, such as voluntarily flexible jobs;
4. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to work with their relevant constituencies and community-based mechanisms to promote an enabling volunteer environment for older persons, taking into account different social contexts and norms.



Draft Resolution on “Human Development in Asia”

EC1/SC- Social/ Draft Res/2019/13
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling our commitment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for the years 2015-2030, which includes poverty eradication and focuses on providing good health, welfare, appropriate education and work, and economy growth;

Reaffirming on APA Goals to harness cooperation to use enormous human and natural resources, and to ensure the interests of all member states;

Reminding parliament members of APA to take collective procedures for supporting governments and other active parties in the region, and to promote the exchange of opinions and expertise with parliaments from other regions, in the context of poverty eradication and promoting equality;

Recognizing that human development is an extensive and accumulative process that, does not only it care for the financial and economic aspects, but it also covers social, cultural, health, and political aspects, as its ultimate goal is human;

Affirming on the need to train Asian manpower and human resources to realize one of the most important feature of economic globalization by enhancing their competitive capabilities in the world market while utilizing the dynamics of globalization in which the balance of economic power keeps changing;

Therefore, we the APA Members,

1. **Suggest** creating a technical and professional training center under the umbrella of the APA to provide joint efforts to push sustainable development forward.
2. **Encourage** setting a unified criterion for national capacity building.
3. **Promote** coordination based on professional standards that are set by professionals in the work market.
4. **Urge** rich countries in Asia to support the proposed training center project and encourage their parliaments to take steps towards the realization of this goal in compliance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Economic and Sustainable Development



Draft Resolution on the Establishment of an Asian Energy Market

EC1/SC-Economic/Draft Res/2019/01
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations' 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders in September 2015 for a more prosperous future, and that is through the promotion of prosperity, increase of social welfare, and protection of the planet

Calling upon Asian parliaments to fulfill their commitments on reducing the effects of climate change, to adopt effective policies to improve the use of natural resources in Asia and to promote economic growth.

Suggesting the establishment of clean energy markets that will enable Asian countries make optimal utilization of their natural resources and export the surplus to other Asian countries.

Stressing on the importance of protecting and developing this important sector which plays an integral role in the prosperity of Asian societies,

Believing that an Asian Energy Market will contribute in creating energy production projects, in particular renewable energy projects, which will provide for investment partnership opportunities for the establishment of alternative energy projects between the public and private sector, and among countries of the Asian continent.

Aiming to realize four of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) 2030 by the use of green energy instead of traditional energy sources, achieve economic growth, and reduce poverty through job creation and the creation of partnerships among Asian countries,

Supporting the reduction in the use of fossil fuels as they produce the highest greenhouse emissions, and the creation of competitive markets for sustainable energy,

Stressing the importance of joint efforts by Asian countries to provide energy at reasonable prices for the Asian energy market,

Accordingly, we members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

1. **Call for** the liberation of production and service in the energy sector in Asia, in order to support the international measures for combating climate change, and to move forward in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations for the year 2030.
2. **Encourage** cooperation among Asian countries to achieve the SDG's by establishing a Joint Energy Market, and coordinate between the government and private sectors

in a bid to create partnerships that may become means for the promotion of economic prosperity in Asia.

3. **Support** the comprehensive green and blue development for sustainable development, and promote the investment in infrastructure and the use of technology that helps in improving alternative energy resources and reduce climate change,
4. **Keen** to establish a specialized platform to facilitate the creation of an energy market in Asia, and encourage innovation in the field of alternative energy,
5. **Call also** for emphasizing the importance of renewable energy in achieving sustainable development and the protection of environment by the use of environment-friendly substances for future generations.
6. **Welcome** the assistance provided for the least developed Asian countries in the use of alternative energy, and the assistance in the optimal utilization of their natural resources, in order to improve their economy and create a sustainable work environment.
7. **Urge** member parliaments on the importance of legislation and enactment of laws of renewable energy to activate the role of Asian parliaments in the future of renewable energy.



Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues

EC1/SC-Economic/Draft Res/2019/02
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change, and Planting Billions of Trees Throughout Asia (APA/Res/2015/07) adopted at the 8th APA Plenary in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 2015, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other relevant APA resolutions;

Welcoming the Report of the Secretary-General on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia, contained in document SG/Rep/2016/03-2 dated 20 July 2016;

Adhering to the important role of environment in the sustainable development and meeting needs of increasing world population particularly countries of Asia which are facing dire consequences of climate change;

Recognizing the need to pursue the sustainable development namely the economic growth, social development and environmental protection in a balanced and mutually supportive manner;

Highlighting the link between sustainable development and other relevant ongoing processes such as that the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UN Convention Biological Diversity (UNCBD), UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development among others is linked with global sustainable development agenda;

Emphasizing the natural capital such as forests, biodiversity, freshwater, and coastal and marine ecosystems as being essential to making “green economies” a reality; and we shall maintain and protect these capitals from any threats that might harm it or any of its elements;

Recognizing that climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet and thus requires the widest possible cooperation by all countries, and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the mitigation efforts including through enhanced adaptation measures as well as accelerating provision of Means of Implementation (MOI);

Underlining the necessity of a comprehensive and long-term strategy to combat drought, forest fire, air pollution, desertification land degradation and marine life deterioration, thus improving the living conditions of the people living in arid, semi-arid and coastal areas;

Recognizing the significance of exchanging information on environmental issues among Asian countries and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in particular scientific, capacity building and technical assistance, from those states with high capabilities in the area of sustainable development to less developed countries in Asia;

Recognizing the urgent need to enhance the provision of finance, technology and capacity-building support by developed country Parties, in a predictable manner, to enable enhanced pre-2020 action by developing country Parties;

Concerned about the negative environmental impact of unbridled energy consumption on a global scale and particularly in Asia;

Encouraging Asian parliaments of the countries which supported the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to speed up their acceptance of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, in order to provide further momentum for global climate action for the years leading up to 2020;

Calling up on developed countries and international institutions to assist Asian developing countries, in their efforts to deal with negative consequences of environmental degradation effectively and *reiterating* the importance of devising a proper mechanism for technology transfer and financing from developed to developing countries;

Emphasizing that substantive involvement of APA in the latest state of affairs as regards the ongoing negotiations within the context of UNFCCC, exchange of views among Member Parliaments and striving for bringing as much coordination and collaboration as possible in relevant negotiating for a view to serving and improving the common regional interest of Asia is a compelling imperative;

Acknowledging the role of civil society, NGOs, policy think tanks, business and academia in the protection of environment through their inputs to the environmental policy formulation as well as implementation at the local, national and regional levels;

Emphasizing the importance of cooperation among Member Parliaments with regard to efforts to combat drought, desertification, land degradation, forest fire, air pollution, and non-biodegradable marine debris.

Recognizing the success by Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in raising global awareness and international collaboration in the economic and environmental fields and the promotion of transparency;

Recalling the role of United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in strengthening and building national capacity to promote sustainable management of the environment and in the implementation of programs that take into account environmental considerations;

Agreeing to uphold and promote regional and international cooperation in order to mobilize stronger and more ambitious climate action by all Parties and non-Party stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, cities and other sub-national authorities, local communities and indigenous peoples, as applicable;

Stressing that all parties as well as all the stakeholders, including the business sectors have responsibility to preserve and conserve environment and that any ecological and environmental damage should be held responsible, according to the prevailing laws and regulations;

Stressing the central role of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in providing for collective international response to the challenge of the global climate change;

1. **Welcome** the adoption of Paris Agreement at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties of UNFCCC in December 2015;

Also welcome the adoption of the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP) at the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in December 2018 for operationalization of the Paris Agreement, 2015.

2. **Invite** Members of APA parliaments to be mindful of the right to an ecologically-balanced environment;
3. **Urge** Member Parliaments to modify, or enact, laws according to their respective needs to enforce strict protection of natural habitats and environment, as well as people, threatened by environmental deterioration;
4. **Call** upon all Member Parliaments to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of targeted development programs through coordination efforts, including by UNDP;
5. **Call** upon APA Member countries to take more concrete steps for public awareness concerning environmental protection and facilitating implementation of a global-scale system of interconnected collective and national efforts to mitigate negative anthropogenic impact on climate with a view to achieve sustainable development;
6. **Urge** APA Parliaments to support Sustainable Development Goals more actively with regard to environmental issues by adopting appropriate legislation;
7. **Call on** APA member countries to uphold rule of law on environmental issues and to share good practices on that matters;

8. **Invite** the APA Member Parliaments to proceed with legislation and other legal actions deemed appropriate and instrumental in encouraging the governments to formulate and implement legislations, policies and measures with regard to the following:
- Integrating climate policies in broader development policies with a view to making implementation and overcoming barriers easier;
 - Financing and encouraging R&D for low carbon or cleaner technologies with a view to stimulating technological advances, reduce costs, and enable progress toward stabilization;
 - Legalizing the necessity of observing the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) as a step towards bringing a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development namely: economic growth, social development and environmental protection;
 - Encouraging the maximum possible interaction, coordination, integrity and solidarity among Asian delegations involved in climate change negotiations with a view to providing for a collective wisdom by Asia as their common interests which in turn shall strengthen Asian regionalism and contribute to the cause of an Asian integration;
 - Interacting with and make collective attempts with other Asian States Parties for pushing the environmental priorities and urgencies of Asia within the agenda of financial and technological mechanisms of environment related instruments such as Global Environmental Facility(GEF), those operating within UNEP and the established technological and financial mechanisms in Durban in 2011;
9. **Invite** APA Member Parliaments to exchange experiences and best practices on environmental issues and provide, the data and information concerning issues related to sustainable development, climate change and other environment related major issues to the Secretariat to be compiled in a data base for the reference and use by all Member Parliaments;
10. **Invite** also APA Member Parliaments, who are in a position to do so, to provide material and technical support to APA members in their efforts to combat climate change and drought, desertification, land degradation forest fire, and air pollution;
11. **Call** on parliamentarians from APA to urge their respective governments to implement projects and programmes in line with their contribution/commitments as mentioned in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); in line with the Paris Agreement as appropriate; and intensifying qualitative environmental

campaigns with the development of preventive and remedial environmental plans .

12. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to support the objectives of the Paris Agreement on mitigation, adaptation, finance support, technology transfer and capacity building, early complete the system of law and policy in line with international commitment in response to climate change as appropriate;
13. **Note** with concern that the estimated aggregate greenhouse gas emission levels in 2025 and 2030 resulting from the intended nationally determined contributions do not fall within least-cost 2°C scenarios;
14. **Recommend** action be taken by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) within existing framework to assist the Asian region and especially its developing nations on the basis of equity with mitigating the effects of climate change and protecting natural resources in order to ensure a healthy environment for future generations to promote mitigation, as appropriate and adapt to the increasing effects of climate change and the protection of natural resources;
15. **Call** upon APA to expand partnerships with countries and partners outside the region, particularly the European Union, to exchange information on climate change, and natural disaster, mobilized financial resources to invest in project related to clean and energy saving technologies, and establish a research center in Asia to provide aid to the developing Asian countries in support for national policy programs with regards to sustainable Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
16. **Recommend** APA Members to deliberate the mechanism for an Asia wide response in times of natural disasters and calamities to provide timely aid and rescue to those in need of help;
17. **Request** APA Member Parliaments in a position to do so to offer advice and support to the other members on how to acquire and effectively utilize the tools to combat economic shocks resulting from climate change, such as damage to property and infrastructure, lost productivity, mass migration, and coping costs through the preparation of sustainable policies pertaining to disaster preparation programs with special attention given to the needs of the rural population; rain water harvesting; green roofs; river embankment strengthening; food silos; early warning systems; and information and communication technology to facilitate information sharing;
18. **Request** the Secretary General to seek the views of APA Member Parliaments on the implementation of the present resolution and report there on to the next session of the Standing-Committee in 2018;



Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth

EC1/SC-Economic/Draft Res/2019/03
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA resolution on the ramification of International Financial Crisis for the Economies of Countries of APA Member Parliaments, APA/Res/2015/13 and other relevant APA resolutions;

Expressing concern with the repercussions of the sovereign defaults and financial markets volatility to the economic growth in APA countries;

Expressing concern about the adverse impact of the continuing fragility of the global economy, the slow pace of the restoration of global growth and trade, increasing protectionism and inward-looking policies, with increasing systemic risks that threaten financial stability, including in developing countries.

Noting that a social order based on justice and egalitarianism is of critical importance to accelerate social and economic progress everywhere, help in achieving international peace and harmony;

Appreciating the measures that have already been taken by Asian Parliaments and their governments to contain the negative impacts of economic crisis in their economies, and expect them to take further steps to stimulate their respective economies;

Noting that the economic growth in Asian Economies has not been shared equally in the society whereby the Gini Coefficient, as reported by the Asian Development Bank, had grown significantly over the last decades and that regional cooperation which have already existed in Asia could serve as a platform for enhancing cooperation among sub regional economic organization that would improve welfare for all in Asia;

Noting that peace and stability in the region is an important contributor to economic growth and that occupation, violence and political instability act as inhibitors for economic development and that maintaining regional collaboration on political stability is crucial;

Recognizing also the necessity to effectively reform the current global financial architecture so as to achieve a more balanced world economic and financial order;

Encouraging parliaments to adopt policies through the enact of law and legislations their legislative and scrutiny roles aiming to enhance the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the role of the private sector and increasing its contribution to economic integration, in order to create the appropriate jobs and jobs opportunities to achieve a comprehensive economic development on human and financial levels in Asia;

Emphasizing that the international financial system should bolster sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, sustainable development and job creation, promote financial inclusion and support efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and hunger, in particular in developing countries, while allowing for the coherent mobilization of all sources of financing for development.

Emphasizing parliaments on the role of the private sector by influencing national expenditure policies through the roles of parliaments, particularly with regard to discussions and approval of budgets and final accounts, as well as the adoption of investment laws and the provision of incentives and guarantees for private sector growth;

1. **Call** upon Asian governments to take new policy approaches to develop a more comprehensive and innovative growth strategies needed to sustain a more resilient, balanced, sustainable and inclusive economic growth that is necessary means to create decent jobs and reduce inequalities to promote the formation of a regional SME's network;
2. **Stress** upon Member Parliaments to remove all obstacles to socio-economic progress and all forms of discriminations,
3. **Call upon** APA Parliaments to ensure by all means respect for the dignity and value of all human beings and ensure adherence to human rights and social justice by legislative and oversight means, ensuring equality of opportunity for all;
4. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to work on an informal debate at APA platform on the potential benefits of social justice in their respective countries and promote greater cooperation for equitable economic development in Asia;
5. **Call upon** APA member parliaments to support the development of Asian-led multilateral bank and its capacity to promote equitable economic growth, improve national and trans-boundary connectivity and to seek possible establishment of a regional stabilization fund in times of economic crisis;
6. **Encourage** APA member governments to create a protocol to enhance resilience to economic crisis which regulates the allocation for some budget reserves for economic crisis mitigation;

7. **Also encourage** governments in Asia to promote cross-border private investments while ensuring an institutional capacity and prudent regulatory frame work to enable countries to absorb large capital flows, while at the same time using bilateral swap arrangement to promote the role of local currency in financing cross-border trade;
8. **Urge** Parliamentarians of Member Legislatures to promote social justice and development in their respective policies as a common interest of all nations of Asia by encouraging, promoting and endorsing national and regional efforts (and execute developmental plans and strategies) to raise the living standards of peoples;
9. **Recommend** APA member parliaments to promote the adoption of Basel III to improve supervision on financial sector governance; and to fill any financial gap in case of any monetary crises.
10. **Encourage** parliaments in APA member countries to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development and focus on policies that alleviate poverty, including improving access to health, education, capital, employment and social protection to help close income inequalities;
11. **Call** on APA member parliaments to consider reviewing their respective legislations, where appropriate, to give more support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by giving access to low interest credit loan and to provide capacity building and regional networking to integrate SMEs into regional and global value chains;
12. **Encourage** parliaments to support financial inclusion for the poor and other vulnerable segments of society in each respective country and to share best practices of financial inclusion in the region;
13. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to support the conduct of comprehensive studies, with regional and global coordination regarding weak community groups, in the support of the need for the financial integration of the underprivileged.
14. **Stress** the importance to invest in human development (and activate the concept of partnership among member states in) and to provide sufficient public funding for education and health for everyone, without discrimination, to face the future global and Asian economic demands;
15. **Stress** the critical importance of a stable, inclusive and enabling global economic environment for the advancement of sustainable development, for the reliable and effective financing of development and for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, mobilizing public and private, as well as domestic and international resources.
16. **Request** the governments in respective countries to channel more funds in joint research and development (R&D) activities as a means to spur innovation and

viable economic growth strategies to sustain a more resilient economic growth;

17. **Also request** the governments in respective Asian countries to promote the implementation of low carbon economy despite the global economy deceleration;
18. **Call upon** the APA Member Parliaments to continuously promote the need for reform in global financial institutions and architecture, financial technology regulation, with the view for a balanced world economic and financial order;
19. **Call Upon** APA member countries to strive to create an enabling institutional and business environment that can promote financial stability, financial inclusion, and efficient mobilization and utilization of the available resources;
20. **Recommend** to establish a Technical Working Group so as to study the terminology issues related to green funding, classification of relevant financial instruments, methodology for standardizing such instruments and their subsequent certification;
21. **Call Upon** APA member countries to facilitate investing their sovereign funds and encourage their private investors to invest more in Asia and to create an appropriate and attractive environment for Asian investment.
22. **Express Concern very strongly** to the use of sanctions or any mechanisms of financial and economic pressure on APA Member States applied for political purposes;
23. **Request** the Secretary General to seek the views of APA Member Parliaments on the implementation of the present resolution and report there on to the next session of the Standing-Committee in 2018;



Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication

EC1/SC-Economic/Draft Res/2019/04
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution on Alleviating Poverty in Asia (APA/Res/2015/08) adopted at the 8th APA Plenary in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 2015 and other relevant APA resolutions;

Underlining the significance of the role of Parliaments both in advocating and oversight of achievements of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially on Poverty Eradication;

Welcoming the High-level Plenary meeting of the U.N. General-Assembly on the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015 and its outcome; entitled as “Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development”, in particular referring to goal 2 of sustainable development to eradicate hunger, enhance food security and improve nutrition by promoting sustainable agriculture

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized in the poverty eradication; articulating that SDGs are interconnected and the role of economic growth is fundamental to poverty eradication, so much as investing in health and education;

Welcoming bilateral, triangular, regional and multilateral cooperation to eradicate poverty, create jobs, address the consequences of international financial crises, promote sustainable development, and advance market-based industrial transformation and economic diversification;

Underlining the fact that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an ethical, social, political, environmental and economic imperative of all humankind, and in this regard recognizing that there is a need to better understand and address the multidimensional nature of development and poverty in a multifaceted and integrated approach.

Emphasizing that the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development depends crucially on the transformation of rural areas, where most of the poor and hungry live.

Recalling that nearly 80 per cent of the extreme poor live in rural areas and work in agriculture, and that devoting resources to the development of rural areas and sustainable agriculture and supporting smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, is key to ending poverty in all its

forms and dimensions, by, inter alia, improving the welfare of farmers.

Stressing at the same time the need for enhanced international cooperation on poverty eradication, and the obligation of developed countries to provide financial, technical and capacity building assistance along with support in the form of trade, investment and technological transfer to developing countries;

Noting that poverty alleviation is important to combat international terrorism, abuse of women & children and drug trafficking, arms smuggling, human trafficking, sea piracy and transnational crimes;

Acknowledging that any constraint on the political and economic development of any country would undermine the effort to poverty eradication and hamper the realization of other SDG's;

Recognizing that the SDGs balance all the three crucial dimensions of sustainable development the economic, the social and the environmental;

Reaffirming that poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and its alleviation and, eventually, its eradication, is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development;

Supporting also a publicity campaign to raise awareness in the society about SDG utilizing the potentials of mass media;

Emphasizing that achieving food security requires efforts and coordination at both national and international level;

Recognizing the important role of agriculture in meeting needs of increasing world population, underlining that sustainable agriculture practices and rural development are key approaches to increase food security;

We therefore,

1. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to work closely with their governments in the formulation and implementation of the measures which are outlined in the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development;
2. **Determine** to be more ambitious in our efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, ensure food security, access to healthcare and education;
3. **Develop** a developmental strategic vision in cooperation with Member Parliaments and their governments regarding poverty eradication, provided that developed vision shall contain plans with measurable and assessable indicators.

4. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to redouble their efforts in supporting activities of poverty eradication and encourage their respective governments to facilitate the implementation of effective policies to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
5. **Urge** Member Parliaments to create awareness among general public about the importance of sustainable food consumption and production and take possible steps to ensure it and harness all parliamentary efforts to enact laws that work for the interest of food security.
6. **Invite** Member Parliaments to adopt necessary legislation to
 - a) improve labor market regulations,
 - b) support the informal sector and offering increased security to it,
 - c) establish legal savings and loan associations that can help to reduce the reliance on moneylenders,
 - d) promote modern agriculture which contributes essentially to reduction of poverty in urban and rural areas,
 - e) empower the poor to improve their living conditions and participate in decision-making which affects their lives,
 - f) help to upgrade the infrastructure and services in areas where the poor live and work with emphasis on creating better opportunities for the poor especially girls, which will contribute to increased female labor force participation.
 - g) improve disaster preparedness, disaster relief as well as post-disaster economic recovery;
7. **Stress** the necessity to adopt strategies to improve lift quality, offer higher levels of welfare, by developing necessary policies and laws to force establishments to comply with environmental regulations; to support the development of local technology, research and innovation, taking into consideration the obligations highlighted by the 21st Century Agenda, the Global Summit on SDGs, and UN Environment Program.
8. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to support investment in climate resilient agriculture and to adopt a unified approach to combat hunger by promoting public and private investments, increased access to inputs, lands and technologies;
9. **Invite** APA Member Parliaments to take appropriate legislative measures for poverty alleviation including providing social safety nets to the poor and the vulnerable;
10. **Recommend** Member Parliaments to support and strengthen the capacities of government and communities to prepare for and respond to acute hunger arising from disasters through community based on adaptation;

11. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to take joint action to organize aid campaigns, on a voluntary basis upon the request of a Member Parliament, for assistance in the context of alleviating poverty including to enhance domestic production of food by participating in agricultural technologies and training programs;
12. **Urge** APA Member States to give significance to development of sustainable agriculture practices while making national policies, to achieve Sustainable Development Goals;
13. **Call** for increased cooperation between developed and developing member countries for improving food security by means of bilateral, regional and multilateral information sharing, especially in an area of sustainable agricultural technology;
14. **Stress** the significance of women participation and contribution in agriculture sector for improving productivity food security and eliminating poverty;
15. **Stress** the need to enhance and expand access by developing countries to appropriate technologies that are pro-poor and raise productivity, and underlines the need for measures to increase investment in agriculture, including modern technologies, as well as in natural resources management and capacity-building of the developing countries.
16. **Stress** that the achievement of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty also hinge on the ability and readiness of countries to effectively mobilize domestic resources, attract foreign direct investment, fulfil official development assistance commitments and use official development assistance effectively, and facilitate the transfer of technology to developing countries, on mutually agreed terms;
17. **Request** the Secretary General to request in his turn the Member Parliaments to offer their views regarding the efforts exerted for the implementation of this Resolution, and submit their reports before the next meeting of the Permanent Committee 2019.



Draft Resolution on “The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”

EC1/SC-Economic/Draft Res/2019/05
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Acknowledging the outcome document of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda entitled “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,” adopted in September 2015;

Referring to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Hanoi Declaration on The Sustainable Development Goals: Turning Words into Action, adopted at its 132nd Assembly, held in Hanoi, Vietnam, March 2015; and other relevant inter-parliamentary organizations resolutions;

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business.

Being convinced that the SDGs are integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable, upholding the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, taking into account different national capacities, levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities;

Underlining that strong political will and leadership of the parliaments and governments are essential for the achievement of the SDGs,

Emphasizing the need for a consensus between governments, parliaments and the people to recognize the importance of the development particularly in the areas of health, education, housing, food security, nutrition and environmental sustainability;

Noting the significant progress made by countries in strengthening their public-private partnership readiness and institutional capacities through legislation and establishment of public-private partnership units in relevant government departments;

Welcoming the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals Commission in some Asian parliaments as the best practices to pursue the objectives of the SDGs at national level;

1. **Endorse** the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the outcome document of the UN Summit which adopted the SDGs as the new development frame work for 2015- 2030. The list of the SDGs is annexed;
2. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to uphold Parliamentary Diplomacy as an instrument to improve the implementation of SDG's in general and APA priorities including environmental protection, poverty eradication, protection of the safety of energy market in Asia, economic growth of APA Member States and preventing of Water crisis in particular;
3. **Invite** APA Members States to review and assess opportunities and legislative gaps to engage the private sector to invest in infrastructure on a sustainable basis ;
4. **Call upon** Member Parliaments to develop strategies in support of government efforts regarding SDGs, and how to expand the use of clean and renewable energy such as solar, hydro and wind energy;
5. **Decide** to be actively involved in the integration of SDGs into national development programs and the formulation of national policies to support the mainstreaming and implementation of SDGs;
6. **Invite** APA members to involve all actors in sustainable development consideration to ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation process;
7. **Urge** the Asian Parliaments to contribute to the national efforts towards achieving the SDGs including through the establishment of the appropriate mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda at national level;
8. **Recommend** to Asian Parliaments and Governments to consider establishing an Asian information center in order to provide independent, scientific and reliable data and analytical information in reference to sustainable development indicators;
9. **Call upon** APA Members to provide adequate budgetary resources and adopt legislations which are relevant to support and monitor the successful implementation of the SDGs;
10. **Resolve** to strengthen the role of national parliaments in the advocacy of SDGs so that people understand that the SDGs are relevant to their lives;
11. **Request** the Standing Committees of APA to deliberate in a comprehensive manner issues of SDGs which are relevant to the work of their committees;
12. **Recognize** Parliaments role in the private sector, by promoting national expenditure policies, through parliament's regulatory roles, particularly regarding

the discussion and adoption of budgets and final accounts, and for the endorsement of investment laws, supply of sufficient incentives and securities for private sector growth.

13. **Stress** the importance to develop data and indicators to setup a proper follow-up mechanism on the implementation of SDGs and the need to strengthen statistical capacities of all countries to support the progress;
14. **Call upon** parliaments to contribution, through its roles, to highlight the priority to the enhancement of sustainable agriculture as food security, will constitute the most insisting problem of future sustainable development objectives;
15. **Urge** Asian governments to engage in bilateral, regional or multilateral partnerships in order to build infrastructures and sustainable development projects, using governmental and sovereign funds;
16. **Circulate and exchange** the experiences, procedures and measures that represent successful models in the field of sustainable development among all members of the association in order to benefit, replicate, build upon and be guided by them;
17. **Call Upon** APA member states to strengthen regional economic cooperation and integration to enhance regional connectivity in supporting the implementation of the SDGs;
18. **Request** all APA Member Parliaments to report their achievements in the implementation of the SDGs to the APA Secretariat in order to provide information for further discussion in the next Economic and Sustainable Development Standing Committee.

Sustainable Development Goals

- Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms every where
- Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promotes sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10 Reduce in equality within and among countries
- Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
- Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institution sat all levels
- Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

*acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change



Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All

EC1/SC-Economic/Draft Res/2019/06
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recognizing the outcome document of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda entitled “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,” adopted in September 2015;

Recalling United Nations’ General Assembly resolution (A/RES/72/178) adopted on December 2017, which formally recognized safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as human rights and UN Human Rights Council resolution (A/HRC/RES/18/1) adopted on the 28 September 2011, recognizing that the right to safe drinking water and sanitation are part of the right to an adequate standard of living;

Welcoming the SDG goal 6 on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, including universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, for all, adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene ,sustainable water resources management and wastewater treatment;

Noting with interest relevant commitments and initiatives promoting the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, including the Abuja Declaration, adopted at the first Africa-South America Summit, in 2006, the Delhi Declaration, adopted at the third South Asian Conference on Sanitation, in 2008, the Sharm el-Sheikh Final Document, adopted at the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, in 2009, and the Colombo Declaration, adopted at the fourth South Asian Conference on Sanitation, in 2011;

Deeply concerned that approximately one billion people across Asia could face severe water shortage by 2050;

Stress upon the need for APA member parliaments to advise their Governments to focus in national policies on water and sanitation issues and contribute towards international efforts in resolving these issues;

1. **Welcome** the inclusion of water and sanitation in Post-2015 Development Agenda and the acceptance of human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council;
2. **Consider** the role of Parliamentarian critical in the implementation of human

rights approach to safe water and sanitation in Asia, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures in the implementation of their human rights obligations;

3. **Reaffirm** that APA Member States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full realization of SDGs including Goal 6, and must take steps, nationally and through international assistance and cooperation, especially fund mobilization and technical, to the sanitation by all appropriate means;
4. **Request** Member Parliaments to urge their respective governments to cooperate with their regions where applicable to discuss the water scarcity challenge all over Asian countries and to study in depth the causes of the water scarcity and to provide appropriate solutions and strategies to overcome this challenge; comply with international rules and agreements of countries that have common resources and common shore line ;
5. **Request** the APA Member States to ensure financing according to the available resources for the provision of safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, and to develop indicators and data collection mechanisms to monitor progress and to identify shortcomings;
6. **Encourage** to integrate sustainable water resource use plan to national development programs and management for reducing widespread scarcity and pollution of freshwater resources in many regions and give priority to the fulfillment of basic needs and safeguarding of ecosystems in developing and using water resources;
7. **Urge** APA Parliamentarians to vigorously engage with their governments' executives on building inclusive frameworks between States for reduction of climate change impacts. These climate change impacts have severe consequences in the shape of water scarcity and flooding;
8. **Ask** APA Members to support advance technology transfers from developed countries to the developing countries of Asia and sharing of good practices for efficient allocation of water;
9. **Underline** the important role of the international cooperation provided by the United Nations, international development partners, as well as by donor agencies, in the achievement of the SDGs, and urges development partners to harmonize their strategies with the national initiatives and plans of APA Members related to safe drinking water and sanitation;
10. **Adopt** awareness programs by Member States parliaments to inform their citizens about the problem of water scarcity in order to reduce their wastefulness, prevent pollution or waste, and limit their use to the necessary human needs

11. **Propose to establish** an open ended group in the context of this Resolution to discuss continuously the different dimensions of Water Crisis in Asia and use the Parliamentary Diplomacy among APA States in this region to properly address the disastrous life of the peoples of this region and protect the safety of the environment;
12. **Request** the Secretary-General to report, the achievement of APA Member Parliaments on this resolution, to the next Standing Committee on Sustainable Development.



Draft Resolution on Adopting a Road Map Providing for Measures to Stimulate Green Finance

EC1/SC-Economic/Draft Res/2019/07
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the decisions taken by the Working Group on Green Finance (19 April 2019, Naryan-Mar Russia), Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development (26 June 2018, Pissouri, Cyprus), as well as the final results of development and consideration of a Road Map providing for measures to stimulate Green Finance that is prepared in pursuit of implementing the mentioned decisions,

Recommend

1. To approve and adopt for implementation a Road Map providing for measures to stimulate Green Finance within the APA member-countries contour.
2. To establish the **Asian Climate Financial Initiative (ACFI)**, an international information and methodology center, in order to build and further the process of information and methodological support for developing the Green Finance system within the APA member-countries contour and to arrange the works on verification, certification and introduction of a combined register of the Green Finance instruments.
3. To establish the APA Supervisory Board to involve organization's members for coordinating and monitoring the **ACFI** activity and strategic development.

Call on the APA member-parliaments and governments to contribute to engaging in the joint work within the **Asian Climate Financial Initiative** the national agencies working in the field of Green Finance and central banks, ministries of ecology and other government institutions jointly with professional community empowered with the matters of Green Finance.

Political Affairs



Draft Resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament”

EC1/SC-Political/Draft Res/2019/01
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the document titled “Foundations of an Asian Parliament” prepared by the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Permanent Secretariat in May, 2014;

Further recalling the Lahore Declaration adopted on 3rd Dec, 2014 by APA Plenary that established the Special Committee on the Creation of the Asian Parliament (SCCAP), to consult with Member Parliaments in order to formulate a road map for Asian Parliament, reflecting the emergence of the Asian Century;

Emphasizing that the creation of an Asian Parliament is a long term objective, various aspects of which need to be explored as stipulated in the report of APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs held on 2 June 2016 in Jordan;

Welcoming the decision made in the meeting of the SCCAP convened in Jordan in June 2016 and approved by the 9th APA Plenary meeting in 2016, that the SCCAP will function under the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs;

Recalling the discussion of the SCCAP meeting held on 29 November 2016, Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia;

Therefore,

1. **Reiterate** our resolve to continue efforts and support the fulfilment of SCCAP’s objectives;
2. **Support** the step by step and inclusive efforts of the SCCAP in promoting cooperation through consultation with Member Parliaments on common issues such as environment, poverty alleviation, trade and regional connectivity amongst others;
3. **Support** the creation of Working Group in the APA for providing input to the APA Secretariat. The Working Group for the purpose of the Asian Parliaments shall submit their input through the APA secretariat which will place a report containing proposals to the Standing Committee on Political Affairs before every plenary;



Draft Resolution on Good Governance

EC1/SC-Political/Draft Res/2019/02
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Realizing that good governance is inextricably linked to sustainable development, *which* leads to stability and prosperity;

Taking in to account all characteristic of Good Governance and their effects on achievement of SDGs and prosperity of human being;

Recognizing the importance of good governance in the achievement of SDGs as one of means to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies;

1. **Reiterate** that good governance is a key to achieving inclusive economic, social and institutional development;
2. **Recognizes** that transparency in all its forms and manifestations, free, responsible media, popular participation in government, and a vibrant civil society are the pillars of good governance;
3. **Stresses** upon the Member Parliaments to identify gaps in governance which may lead to poverty, injustice and inequality;
4. **Calls upon** Member Parliaments to ensure as appropriate enhanced participation of women, youth and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in the national political process;



Draft Resolution on the Rule of Law and Judicial Empowerment

EC1/SC-Political/Draft Res/2019/03
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Reaffirms the universal realization of the right of peoples under colonial, foreign and alien dominations, to self-determination is a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights;

Recalling the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including those of sovereign equality and independence of all States, which are indispensable foundations for a more peaceful, prosperous and a conflict free world;

Recognizing that the rule of law at national and international levels is essential for all states equally, and respect for and promotion of the rule of law and justice are the guiding principles for every state;

Further recognizing that all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, have a right to be accorded equal protection of the law and to be treated in accordance with the law, without any discrimination;

Reaffirming the duty of all Member States to settle their international disputes through peaceful means, including, negotiation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and judicial settlement;

Further reaffirming that the rule of law is essential for independence of judiciary and the protection of human rights can be realized through the empowerment of the judiciary;

Convinced that the rule of law and sustainable development are inextricably linked and mutually reinforcing and contribute to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Supporting the principles of sovereign equality of states, non-intervention in the internal or external affairs of states and condemning as a violation of this principle any interference by states in the internal affairs of other states with the aim of forging change of legitimate governments;

Stressing that the key role in maintaining of the rule of law belongs to states and those international efforts to strengthen the rule of law should complement national efforts, but not substitute them;

1. **Stress** the importance of capacity development through rule of law;
2. **Emphasize** the importance of institutional strengthening by maintaining the rule of law;
3. **Stress** also the necessity for strengthening the international judicial cooperation among judicial authorities of all Member States.
4. **Urge** Member Parliaments to ensure compliance with internationally agreed human rights and humanitarian laws.
5. **Encourage** the promotion of a system of justice which incorporates the full range of judicial measures to ensure accountability, justice, provide remedies to victims, reconciliation, and establish independent oversight;
6. **Reiterate** our strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism, extremism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to the rule of Law; and
7. **Emphasize** the importance of our continued efforts for promotion of the rule of law in all its aspects, and to take steps to strengthen the rule of law for realization of peace and security, human rights and development.



Draft Resolution on Good Parliamentary Practices

EC1/SC-Political/Draft Res/2019/04
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Noting the ever increasing and assertive role of parliaments in public affairs and in the promotion of democratization for ensuring good governance;

Taking into account the fact that 181 states have adopted parliamentary systems for managing their national affairs;

Taking into account the cultural diversity, role of minorities, diversity of religions, faith and ethnics in all societies of Asia.

Noting the cardinal role that parliaments play in a democratic polity and in addressing issues of public importance;

Recognizing that parliaments must be truly representative, transparent, accessible, accountable and effective in its functions;

1. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to adopt transparent modes of public communications, through ensuring access to their administrative system and to develop their own websites and broadcasting channels;
2. Further **urge** APA Member Parliaments to devise effective outreach mechanisms for engagement with public, including, civil society, with a view to ensure their meaningful contribution in the legislative processes;
3. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to adopt measures for ensuring public confidence in the integrity of parliamentarians, through enforceable codes of conduct and transparency in managing the affairs of political parties and their funding;
4. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to streamline their legislative process by encouraging public hearing in respective constituencies;
5. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to ensure their effective participation at regional and international forums with a view to promote transnational collaboration amongst Member Parliaments, and to devise a strategy towards this end by the APA;

6. **Also call upon** APA Member Parliaments to ensure their oversight of the executive, particularly, in the formulation of international policy, and to make recommendations to their respective governments towards a peaceful settlement of international disputes;
7. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to adopt positive measures for ensuring a meaningful participation of women, minorities and marginalized communities in their working;
8. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to promote inter-parliamentary cooperation through formation of friendship groups and working groups on issues of common interest;
9. **Further Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to encourage developing democracies through sharing their experiences and best parliamentary practices and provide technical and other required support with a view to facilitate their process of democratization.



Draft Resolution on Building Prosperity in Asia through Friendship and Cooperation

EC1/SC-Political/Draft Res/2019/05
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling relevant APA resolutions on Advancing the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2015/01—11 December 2015); Resolution on Measures and Methods of Materialization of Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2014/01— 3 December 2014); Resolution on Consolidation of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2013/01-- 9 December 2013); Resolution on Reinforcing the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2010/09—30 November 2010); Resolution on Pursuing Implementation of the Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2008/09, 29 November 2008) and Resolution on the Friendship Pact in Asia; (APA/Res/2007/06, dated 19 November 2007); Text of the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2007/06/Annex, 19 November 2007);

Relying on deep-rooted ties of history, geography, culture, economy, politics, and civilization which bind Asian nations together;

Recognizing the amity and the friendly relations among the Asian Nations, Parliaments, and States as an indispensable asset which need to be further strengthened by all kinds of inter-governmental; inter-parliamentary as well as inter-national interaction and cooperation;

Deploring the current widespread war and violence in West Asia which undermine peace and security and entail massive killing and indiscriminate targeting of innocent people;

Offering in Good Faith all our capacities and capabilities in parliamentary diplomacy for mediation, reconciliation, and supporting dialogue with a view to promoting friendship and cooperation and contribute to peaceful resolution of conflicts in Asia;

Emphasizing the fundamental role of the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, the territorial integrity of States, the non-use of force or of the threat of use of force in international relations and non-interference in internal affairs of States in the promotion of friendship and cooperation in Asia and calling upon all Member Parliaments and their respective Governments to ensure equal and non-discriminatory access of their citizens to civil political, economic, social and cultural rights;

Reiterating the importance of the Declaration on the Principles of Friendly Relations in Asia as a proper framework for promoting peace and prosperity in Asia;

Encourage all member states to enhance public relations among nations of different countries in order to better understand of each other and to strengthen the friendly relations among nations;

Encouraging further expansion of friendly relations including cultural, diplomatic, scientific, and commercial relations among all Asian States and further interaction among Asian Parliaments and Nations in pursuance of the purposes of the Declaration;

1. Call upon all Member States to focus on exchanging cultural experiences and deepening social communication through holding forums and events under the umbrella of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, for the positive objectives that benefit the Member States;
2. **Urge** collective and concerted efforts by all Asian States whose parliaments are APA Members to provide humanitarian assistance of all kinds to the vulnerable people in war- torn countries;
3. **Call Upon** all Asian States to direct their diplomatic efforts at reducing political tensions and utilize all ways and means within their power to avoid and de-escalate controversies which have potential to undermine principles of friendship and cooperation in Asia;
4. **Welcome** the initiative of the Inter-Parliamentary Union supported by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 72/278 to organize a world conference on interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue with the participation of Heads of State, parliaments and world religions.
5. **Urge** Asian Parliaments to disseminate information about the APA Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia by all available means including parliamentary and state publications, parliamentary friendship groups, public programs, etc.
6. **Decide** that every Member Parliament would motivate public and private media networks, websites and the like at local and national levels to engage in promoting and spreading the word about the content, importance and positive results of the adoption and implementation of the APA Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia;
7. **Encourage** Asian academic institutions, think-tanks and research centers, universities and educational institutions, as well as professional associations throughout Asia to take part in promoting and adhering to the tenets and guidelines enshrined in the APA Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia,

8. **Call upon** all APA Member Parliaments to inform the APA Secretariat of measures they have taken in promoting the APA Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia,
9. **Request** the Secretary-General to continue his consultations and coordination with the APA Member Parliaments as well as interested Asian organizations and academic institutions for promoting further activities and joint initiatives pertaining to Friendship and Cooperation in Asia.



Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia

EC1/SC-Political/Draft Res/2019/06
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA resolutions on Mobilizing Interactions Between APA and Asian Governments (APA/Res/2015/02—11 December 2015); Engaging APA with Asian Governments and Inter-Governmental Organizations (APA/Res/2014/02); Asian Parliaments and Governments: Together for Solidarity and Prosperity in Asia (APA/Res/2013/02 –9 December 2013); Measures for Enhancing Cooperation Between APA and Asian Governments (APA/Res/2010/11, 30 November 2010) and resolution on Enhancing Cooperation Between Asian Parliamentary Assembly Member Parliaments and Their Governments for Implementation of APA Decisions (APA/Res/2008/10, 29 November 2008);

Emphasizing the need to foster closer coordination and cooperation between APA and Governments of APA Member Parliaments;

Taking note of the necessity of smooth cooperation and coordination between Parliaments and Governments in order to pass relevant enactments;

Encouraging Member Parliaments to consider endorsing and adopting common legislations on issues of mutual interest to both APA and Asian Governments;

1. **Urge** all Member Parliaments to inform relevant high-ranking officials of their respective governments of the great potentials, activities, and achievements of the APA as the largest inter-parliamentary organization in Asia and report thereon to the Secretariat for circulation;
2. **Decide** to form APA parliamentary groups comprising nominated delegates from volunteer Member Parliaments under the supervision of the APA Vice-President for Political Affairs and in full coordination with the APA Secretariat, to hold contacts and meetings with relevant inter-parliamentary and inter-governmental organizations, with a view to converging points of view and considering possible joint initiatives pertaining to regional and global issues, including the creation of an Asian Parliament;
3. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to seek the views of their respective Governments on the subject of Asian Parliament and to contribute to the work of the APA Special Committee on the Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) by providing their points of views and analyses of the subject matter;

4. **Request** APA Member Parliaments to identify and describe their priority desirable topics for receiving training, as well their capabilities to offer training and best practices, and share them with other Parliaments through the APA Secretariat, in order to organize training programs on exchanging best practices and learning from each other;
5. **Request** the Vice-President for Political Affairs to report to the Executive Council and the Plenary Sessions on his/her activities pertaining to the formation of working groups from interested Member Parliaments to focus on the implementation of APA decisions on political affairs;
6. **Request** the Secretary-General to expand the scope of its contacts and communications with inter-governmental as well as inter-parliamentary organizations who work on issues relevant to the items on the APA agenda in order to facilitate further interaction and joint efforts on common grounds with a view to enhancing cooperation between Asian Parliaments and Governments and report thereon to the next session of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs and the Executive Council.



Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People

EC1/SC-Political/Draft Res/2019/07
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions on Supporting Palestinian State and Protecting Rights of Palestinian People, (APA/Res/2013/03, 9 December 2013); Violations of International Humanitarian Law in the Palestine and the War Crimes Committed By the Zionist Regime in Gaza (APA/Res/2009/01, 8 December 2009); and Humanitarian Crisis in Palestine Particularly in the Gaza Strip (APA/Res/2008/08, 29 November 2008); and the catastrophic humanitarian impact of the aggressive war on the Gaza Strip in July 2014.

Also recalling the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, including resolutions 242 (1967), 252 (1968), 267 (1969), 298 (1971), 446 (1979), 465, 474, 478 (1980), 468 (1980) and 1322 (2000), 2334 (2016), and resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and other relevant international documents.

Inspired by the Principles and objectives enshrined in the APA Charter and the relevant APA resolutions;

Committed to contribute to the promotion of peace and security at regional and global levels on the basis of justice and the rule of law;

Affirming the responsibility of the international community to support implementation of resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations Security Council; the UN General Assembly; the Human Rights Council; and the APA pertinent to the situation in Palestine, particularly in Al-Quds;

Supporting the struggle of Palestinian people against Israeli occupation by its all means to liberate its land and establish an independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds city as its capital;

Denouncing the transfer of the American Embassy from Tel-Aviv to the occupied city of Jerusalem in disregard of the principles and rules of international legitimacy and UNSC Resolutions;

Expressing serious concerns on Israel's lack of commitment to abide by resolutions and recommendations of the UN Security Council, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council,

the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the APA regarding the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly in Al-Quds;

Reaffirming the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Palestinian territories, including Al-Quds;

Recognizing that Israel's severe 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;

Affirming that the road to peace, stability and prosperity in the Middle East comes first by ending the Israeli occupation of Palestine in implementation of the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy, and not to replace the political solution with economic solution through economic conferences aimed at legitimizing the Palestinian lands occupation and coexistence, and prolongs the occupation tenure.

Emphasizing that the practice of worship, prayers and all Islamic religious rituals in Al-Aqsa Mosque is a natural and guaranteed right for only Muslims. The Israeli occupation has no right to intimidate and prevent them from carrying out their duties, while Israeli occupation allows settlers and extremists to break into the sanctity of Islamic sacred places, especially Al-Aqsa Mosque.

1. **Urge** all Members of the APA to support and treat the State of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations.
2. **Reject** and strongly condemn the statements made by the Israeli Prime Minister on 10th of September 2019, in which he announced his intention to annex the entire Palestinian Jordan Valley, the northern Dead Sea and settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, in a massive and flagrant violation of the rules of international law and the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and its resolutions, particularly Security Council resolution 2334 for 2016. We call upon the United Nations to defend its resolutions that end the Israeli occupation and enable the Palestinian people to self-determination on their land.
3. **Affirm** our adherence to the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy as the sole reference to the resolution of the Palestinian issue, and we confirm our absolute rejection of all plans and deals of the so-called "American Deal of the Century" and conferences that do not abide by those resolutions. We affirm that there is no peace, no security or stability in the Middle East without ending the Israeli occupation, and establishing of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital on the borders of 4th of June 1967, and the resolution of the refugees issue in accordance with Resolution 194.

4. **Condemn** all violations of international law that threaten international peace and security, including all acts of terrorism and organized crime, and human rights violations by Israeli occupying forces and settlers in Palestine, and call for international protection of the Palestinian people in accordance with General Assembly resolution A / Es-10 / L. 23 of 11 June 2018, and the relevant Geneva Conventions.
5. **Encourage** all members of the international community to take up with the pressure on Israel to immediately release all the Palestinian prisoners including the Members of the Palestinian Parliament and condemns the Israeli Knesset's failure to respond to the fact-finding and investigation committees established by the Inter-Parliamentary Union on prisoners in Israeli jails as evident in to International Parliamentary meetings in St. Petersburg and Geneva in March 2018, and dismantle all illegal settlements as well as the entire separating wall and put an end to confiscating Palestinian lands.
6. **Declare** all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, including expropriation of land and properties which tend to change the legal status of Jerusalem as invalid and bearing no legal effect on their original status.
7. **Condemn** Israel's continuation of building settlements defying applicable international law particularly Security Council resolution 2334 of December 2016; disregarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian People including their right to resist and protest against foreign occupation of their lands; and hampering international efforts towards achieving a just and lasting peace in the region;
8. **Express** grave concerns on the suppression and injustice, as well as continuing violence practiced against the Palestinian people, particularly women and children, in the occupied Palestinian territories under the Israeli occupation including East Jerusalem, and in the Syrian Golan occupied by Israel;
9. **Call Upon** all members of the APA and the United Nations as well as all regional and international organizations concerned, particularly the United Nations Security Council and the International Criminal Court to address, under the UN Charter and the Rome Statute, the crimes against humanity and the war crimes committed by Israel in Palestine which threaten the international peace and security;
10. **Condemn** the closure of the PLO diplomatic mission in Washington in retaliation for the membership of Palestine to the International Criminal Court;
11. **Praise** the decision taken by the European Union not to purchase any products produced in the settlements based in the occupied territories and call on states of the APA Member Parliaments to act in a similar way and affirm the full support for international boycott movement against Israeli occupation;

12. **Reject** the occupation policies and measures contrary to international law and the international legitimacy resolutions practiced by the Zionist entity to change the historical, cultural, religious and demographic features of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially the city of Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian sanctities in general, and Al-Aqsa Mosque in particular, and also reject the Knesset law aimed at splitting the Al-Aqsa Mosque temporally and spatially; This constitutes a blatant attack on the freedom of worship and the practice of religious rites, as stipulated in human rights charters, and the First Geneva Protocol of 1977, Article 53 of which prohibits hostilities directed against places of worship.
13. **Reject** the illegal decisions taken by the Israeli Knesset, such as the Judaization of Jerusalem, the Law of Loyalty to Citizenship, the Denial of the Palestinian State and the rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories, the Law of Jewish Nationalism, and / withholding the Financing of the State of Palestine, and the theft of clearing funds that belong to the State of Palestine under the pretext of Palestinian caring for the families of the martyrs and wounded and the families of prisoners and detainees, who are victims of the occupation, in violation of Articles 89 and 98 of the Geneva Convention.
14. **Reject** and condemn the US Administration's decision to suspend its financial contributions to UNRWA, and all attempts, resolutions and alternatives that affect the status and role of UNRWA established by UN Resolution 302 of 1949. We call on all countries in the world, especially the members of this Assembly, to support and protect UNRWA's budget so that it can fulfill its obligations to about 6 million Palestinian refugees until their case is resolved in accordance with UN Resolution 194.
15. **Call upon** the international community to fulfill its pledges to rebuild infrastructure and rehabilitate people in Gaza, which have been destroyed by Israeli forces, and to support the Palestinian economy in the occupied Palestine.
16. **Call upon** countries that have established embassies, offices or diplomatic missions in occupied Jerusalem, to draw back the decisions in compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions referred to in the preamble to the resolution, in particular resolution 478 of August 1980, and UN General Assembly Resolution: A / ES-10 / L. 22 of December 2017, which considered the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital as null and void, and calling on all APA member states to refrain from establishing diplomatic missions in occupied Jerusalem.
17. **Affirm** that development, investment and improvement of the standard of living are rights denied to the Palestinian people for 52 years now, due to the continuation of the Israeli occupation. It's a must first to end the occupation, in order to liberate the Palestinian economy, and enable the Palestinian people to control their natural

resources and economic wealth, and invest to live a decent life away from blackmail and bargaining.



Draft Resolution on Harmonious Development through Democracy

EC1/SC-Political/Draft Res/2019/08
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, which reaffirms the dignity and worth of human beings, in the equal rights of nations large and small and the principle of the sovereign equality of the UN Members;

Recalling also the United Nations Member commitment stipulated in the UN Charter to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all people;

Reiterating that democracy, dignity of human beings, rule of law and justice are universal, interconnected, mutually reinforcing and crucial for development;

Recognizing that the eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and in this regard, stressing on the importance of an enabling environment based on principals of democracy for the promotion of higher living standards, decent employment, and conditions for economic and social progress and development;

Mindful of the need for leading role of Parliaments towards the full realization of SDGs;

1. **Acknowledge** the core role of Parliaments in the socio-economic development by involving the will of the people through transparent, accessible, accountable and effective institutions at all levels;
2. **Consider** democracy, transparency and accountability among the important means to sustainably end poverty, promote shared prosperity and the basic social and economic needs;
3. **Commit** to remove and eradicate all obstacles in the administration of socio-economic polices and all forms of discriminations, including, but not limited to race, color, creed, cast, sex, language, religion, nationality, and ethnicity;

4. **Recognize** the need for active engagement with civil society organization and youth at all tiers of governance to ensure equitable development;
5. **Urge** that APA Members Parliaments shall continue to encourage sustainable human development through social security programs for marginalized segments of the society;
6. **Acknowledge** that regional disparities in economic development are amongst the leading causes of marginalization of efficacy and efficiency of democratic setups. Requiring affirmative actions to bring equitable and judicious development across the region;
7. **Emphasize** to improve regional and inter-regional connectivity to promote socio-economic development of the people of Asia and
8. **Urge** APA Members to generate an informed debate and share experiences at APA platform on the democratic process leading to development.



Draft Resolution on Enhancing Cooperation among the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to Protect and Promote Multilateralism

EC1/SC-Political/Draft Res/2019/09
27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the relevant principles set forth in the Charter of the Assembly and the Charter of the United Nations;

Mindful of the existence of mutual interests and common problems among the Member Parliaments and *convinced* of the need to further strengthen the existing cooperation;

Recognizing the serious danger and threats posed by the actions and measures which seek to undermine international law and international legal instruments;

Recalling paragraph 4 of the report of Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled “Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization” contained in document A/72/1 wherein it states that “now more than ever, multilateral action is needed to find effective solutions to this mix of challenges”. *Sharing* his concern expressed in paragraph 140 of the same report that “multilateralism is being questioned at a time when we most need coherent global responses to these interconnected events”;

Underscoring the need to strengthen cooperation between APA and other regional and international inter-parliamentary organizations and forums on matters related to Asia;

Expressing opposition to all unilateral coercive measures, with certain destructive effects on the foundation of multilateralism, including those measures used as tools for imposition of unjust political or economic and financial pressure against any country;

Continuing to maintain, strengthen and manifest the unity and solidarity among the members of APA, particularly with those whose nations are suffering from the negative consequences of unilateral coercive measures at political, cultural and economic levels;

Reaffirming that each State has full sovereignty over the totality of its wealth, natural resources and economic activity, exercising it freely;

Gravely concerned that the use of unilateral coercive economic measures adversely affects the economies and the development efforts of all nations, and have a serious general negative impact on international economic cooperation and on worldwide efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory and open multilateral trading system;

Determined, for the sake of peace and stability and promoting friendly and mutually beneficial relations among all nations in the world through, including, contribution to international cooperation aimed at strengthening multilateralism and curbing the negative effects of unilateralism, we, the Member Parliaments of APA, *agree* to undertake the following measures, among others;

1. **Reaffirm** our commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and universally recognized norms and principles of international law and the objectives and principles enshrined in the Charter of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly;
2. **Reaffirm** our commitment to effective multilateralism with the United Nations at its center;
3. **Assert** on behalf of the parliamentary community of Asia to work in line with the expectation that the world will become more committed to promote multilateralism in all aspects of world affairs;
4. **Call upon** all Parliamentarians in Asia to redouble their efforts at all possible levels to adopt measures aimed at preventing and curbing the negative effects of illegal unilateral measures undermining free, open and transparent relations among members of the Asian community;
5. **Welcome** all initiatives of the Member Parliaments to promote and strengthen cooperation in various fields including economy, finance, transport and trade within the geography of APA at bilateral and multilateral levels;
6. **Reaffirm** the willingness of the Asian parliamentarians to closely cooperate and collaborate with other branches of their respective governments in formulating proper and effective national plans to help promote multilateral cooperation in all spheres of regional and international relations;
7. **Reject** unilateral coercive measures with all their extraterritorial effects as tools for political and economic pressure against any country in particular against developing countries. *Underscore* the need for all states to avoid politicization of the UN Security Council sanctions regime, particularly with those Member States whose nations are suffering from negative consequences of unilateral coercive measures at political, cultural and economic levels;
8. **Urge** all Member Parliaments to facilitate the adoption of urgent and effective measures to impede the use of unilateral coercive measures against any country that are inconsistent with the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system. *Request* States applying these measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately;

9. **Reiterate** unwavering support to JCPOA, which remains a significant achievement of multilateral diplomacy endorsed unanimously by the UN Security Council through Resolution 2231 dated 2015 and underscore that JCPOA proved to be effective and has no alternative and welcome the full implementation by Iran of its nuclear-related commitments, as repeatedly confirmed by the IAEA, and call upon all other parties to fulfill in total their own obligations stemming from JCPOA and the UNSCR 2231 so that overarching goals which induced the conclusion of the accord are achieved in due course and in a timely fashion;
10. **Reaffirm** sovereign right of our people to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain all economic goods required to ensure an acceptable standard of living and a sustainable development for them, and *emphasizes* that no undue restrictive measure should be taken against any country in this regard;
11. **Emphasize** that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development and stress that no illegal restrictive measures should be taken against any Member State in this regard. *Reiterate* that food and basic goods should not be used as an instrument for unilateral political and economic pressure. *Stress* the importance of international cooperation and solidarity, especially within the framework of APA, to prevent such unilateral coercive measures that affect the trade related to food and basic goods and would endanger food security impacting specially groups in vulnerable situations;
12. **Request** the Secretary-General to submit a report to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs containing initiatives, including those introduced by the Member Parliaments, to promote the role of parliamentarians, especially within the framework of APA, in furthering multilateralism.

Budget and Planning



Draft Resolution on Planning APA Budget

EC1/SC-Budget and Planning /Draft Res/2019/01

27 October 2019

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA/Res/2008/04 and APA/ Res/2014/09 and other relevant APA documents;

Determined to enhance the efficiency and organizational capacity of the APA to achieve its goals and objectives enshrined in its Charter;

Underscoring the importance of participation by all Member Parliaments in sharing the financial needs of the APA and its Secretariat;

Emphasizing the principles of transparency, accountability, and efficient management of financial resources in APA budgeting and spending;

We, the participants of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning;

1. **Request** all APA Member Parliaments to take required measures, according to their respective internal budget planning procedures, to secure budgetary resources required for the payment of their contribution;
2. **Encourage** willing APA Member Parliaments, to make voluntary financial contributions over and above the assessed contribution to the APA budget and decisions;
3. **Appreciate** the provision of financial and logistical support to the APA Secretariat by the Islamic Parliament of Iran since 2007, and request the generous continuation of its supports pending the full implementation of Financial Regulations and until the regular payments of assessed contributions by all Member Parliaments are securely made; tentatively for APA budget of 2020;
4. **Acknowledge** the generosity of the APA President and Vice-Presidents in contributing to the APA expenses by hosting the events and complying with the APA Decision on Modalities for Effective Organization of the APA Meetings

adopted by the 7th Plenary on 10 December 2013 through supporting APA Secretariat expenses;

5. **Request** the Secretary General to prepare the APA Annual Budget draft based on the (Program & Performance Budget model), that requires programs, projects and expenses estimation based on the Assembly objectives, and on the policies and plans approved by the standing committee, and then to be presented to the Executive Council of the APA for final approval by the Plenary Session.
6. **Consider** the consequential bearing and impact of the APA Staff Regulations and the APA Financial Regulations on the Charter of APA, suggest the Plenary and Executive Council of APA for an immediate revisit of Charter and Rules of Procedure and consider proposed amendments to the Charter, Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations during Executive Council meeting for adoption in the 12th Plenary session in 2019.
7. Allocate the APA Budget financial funds through the following three Items, the Secretary General shall specify the principles, objectives & rules for the Budget preparation and present it to the Standing Committee on budget and planning;
 - I. Operational and Strategic Budget Item: expenses allocated initially upon the Budget approval and attestation.
 - II. Additional Budget Item: amounts decided to be added to cover APA new projects and programs.
 - III. Emergency Budget Item: which shall be decided via a decision to be taken by the Executive Council to cover emergency events or incidents.
8. **Request** the Executive Council to direct the General Secretariat to communicate with all members to give their approval on their commitment to the contribution to the Asian Parliamentary Assembly budget. In addition, each parliament should state their choice on how the Asian Parliamentary Assembly should calculate the contribution; either by contributing equally or based on the percentage of the GDP.
9. **Recommend** to exempt Palestine from the assessed contribution until the end of occupation, and the establishment of its independent state.