



Rep-VM Covid-19/2020/01
13 July, 2020

Final Report

The First Virtual Meeting of APA on COVID-19 Outbreak

**Ankara –Turkey
July 09, 2020**

The First Virtual Meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) on COVID-19 Outbreak was held on July 09, 2020 in Ankara, Turkey.

The Meeting was hosted by Grand National Assembly of Turkey and parliamentary delegations from following member countries participated online in the virtual Meeting:

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Thailand, Turkey, UAE and Uzbekistan (Attachment I).

Inaugural Ceremony:

The pre-recorded video message of the following dignitaries were presented at the opening session:

-Hon. Mr. Mohammad Baqer QALIBAF, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran

-Hon. Prof. Mustafa Şentop, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

1. Adoption of the Agenda:

The Member Parliaments unanimously adopted the Draft Agenda. Agenda and Program of Work are attached. (Attachment II).

2. Election of the Bureau:

H.E. Mrs. Asuman ERDOĞAN, Head of the Turkish APA Delegation was elected as chairperson of the meeting by acclamation.

3. Opening statement by Chairperson:

The chairperson presented her opening statement. (Attachment III)

4. Opening Remarks by the Secretary-General:

APA Secretary General made his opening remarks on major issues of the organization. (Attachment IV).

5. General Statements by Delegations:

The following member Parliaments made statements on Implication/Precautionary Measures of Covid-19 Outbreak, Modality of Future Virtual Meetings and Declaration:

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Thailand, Turkey, UAE and Uzbekistan.

On Covid-19: Delegations briefed the meeting on their national experience in grappling with this deadly Virus and offered statistics as well as important lessons they learned on how to fight against it in the future. Many appraised the sacrifices of their health workers and hospital staff. Participants also addressed the fate of the Vaccine and called on the international community to expedite the process of its testing and production. The economic impact of this pandemic along with the necessity of Asian solidarity were among the major items of the general statements.

On Modality of Future Virtual Meetings: Several delegations addressed this Agenda item in detail and offered their thoughts. The UAE delegation, specifically presented A Comprehensive Action Plan (Attachment V). The delegation of Kuwait stated that such Modality has to be dealt with within the context of a Draft Resolution which will be tabled by his delegation in near future. Secretariat called on interested delegations to forward their views on this important Agenda Item as soon as possible.

On Declaration: Few delegations have formulated their amendments to the Declaration and forwarded them to the Host country (i.e. Turkey, the author) prior to the meeting to be considered and incorporated into the Final text. The Secretariat announced that proposed amendments (received by the end of next week) will be compiled and inserted to the Draft Declaration and be put at the disposal of the Host country for further consideration. The Final text will be circulated by the Secretariat as soon as its availability. (Attachment VI)

Final Note:

The APA Secretary General, on behalf of participants and Secretariat, addressed the meeting and appreciated the initiative of hosting the First Virtual meeting by Grand National Assembly of Turkey. He highly valued the outcome of the meeting and thanked the participants for actively attending the important Agenda Items. He also called on Chairman of Standing Committees to be in close contact with APA Secretariat in preparing a Time-Plan for hosting future meetings.

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**ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)
THE FIRST VIRTUAL MEETING ON COVID-19 OUTBREAK
9 JULY 2020, ANKARA, TURKEY**



List of Participants

Country	No	Name	Position
Afghanistan	1	Hon. Mr. Kamal Safi	Member of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People) National Assembly
Azerbaijan	1	Ms. Ganira Pashaeva	Head of delegation
Bahrain	1	MP Ahmed Alsallom	Member of COR
	2	MP Dr. Mohamed Alkhozai	Member of Shura Council
	3	Mr. Mohamed Bin Daina	Staff members
	4	Mr. Husain Salman Maki	Staff members
Bangladesh	1	Dr. Ruhul Haque	MP, Chairman of the Standing Committee on the Ministry of Science and Technology, Former Minister, Ministry of Health, Bangladesh Government.
Cambodia	1	H.E. Mr. Suos Yara	Head of delegation
	2	H.E.Mr. Khieu Muth,	Member of Delegation
	3	H.E. Mr. Nguon Socheath,	Member of Delegation
China	1	Mr. Chen Fuli	Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress of China
Cyprus	1	Mr. Nicos Tornaritis	Head of delegation
	2	Ms. Loukia Mouyi	Secretary of the delegation
	3	Mr. Chrysanthos Kyprianou	Secretary of the delegation (traineeship)
	4	Ms. Anna Tzamantaki	Secretary of the delegation (traineeship)
Indonesia	1	Hon. Mr. Muhammad Farhan, MP	Member of the Committee for Inter Parliamentary Cooperation
	2	Mrs. Endah TD. Retnoastuti	Head Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation
	3	Mrs. Masyithoh Anissa Ramadhani	Expert Staff
	4	Mr. Mochamad Ilyas	Expert Staff
	5	Mrs. Yuliana Tansil	Interpreter
Iran	1	Mr. Malek Fazeli	Member of Parliament Member of Health and Medicare Committee
	2	Mr. ALI HAJIMOHAMMADI	Advisor
	3	Mr. REZA HASSANI	Advisor
Jordan	1	H.E.Mr. Naif Al-Hadid	member of the Jordanian Senate
Kuwait	1	Dr. Khalil Abul	Head of Delegation
Lao PDR	1	Honorable Mme. Phonephet BOUPHA	vice-chairperson of social and cultural committee of the National Assembly of Laos
	2	Dr. Bounlorm KEOBOUNHOM	Director General of Social Department, Social and Cultural Committee

Pakistan	1	Senator Nuzhat Sadiq	Head of Delegation
	2	Senator Muhammad Ali Khan Saif	Member
	3	Senator Zeeshan Khanzada	Member
Philippine	1	Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D	Head of Delegation
	2	Ms. Rajini Rye	
	3	Ms. Irish Montes	Adviser
	4	Mr. Erwin Lara	Delegation Secretary
	5	Ms. Sylvia Ongcuangco	Interpreter
Qatar	1	Mr. Rashid bin Hamad Al-Meadadi	Head of Delegation
Russia	1	Mr. Alexey Lyaschenko	Head of Delegation
Thailand	1	Hon. Mrs. Apiradi TANTRAPORN	- Senator -Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Commerce and Industry -Leader of the Thai Delegation to the APA
	2	Hon. Mr. Sarawut PHETPANOMPORN	- Member of the House of Representatives Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Delegate
	3	Hon. Mr. Issara SEREEWATTHANAWUT	- Member of the House of Representatives The Third Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Monetary Affairs, Finance, Financial Institutions, and Financial Market Delegate
	4	Hon Mr. Don HETRAKUL	- Member of the House of Representatives The Fifth Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Communications, Telecommunications and Digital Economy and Society Delegate
	5	Hon. Gen. Navin DAMRIGAN	- Senator The First Spokesman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Delegate
	6	Mr. Arpone NANDAKWANG	- Director of Association of Parliaments and Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments Division Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations Secretariat of the House of Representatives Secretary to the Delegation
	7	Mr. Kitti SAEREEPRAYOON	- Foreign Affairs Officer, Expert Level Association of Parliaments and Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments Division Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations Secretariat of the House of Representatives Assistant Secretary to the Delegation
	8	Ms. Wichayaporn PATADEE	- Foreign Affairs Officer, Practitioner Level Association of Parliaments and Association of Secretaries General

			of Parliaments Division Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations Secretariat of the House of Representatives Assistant Secretary to the Delegation
Turkey	1	Mrs. Asuman Erdoğan	Head of the Turkish APA Group
	2	Mrs. M. Pervin Tuba Durgut	Member of the Turkish APA Group
	3	Mr. Ramazan Can	Member of the Turkish APA Group
	4	Mr. Vecdi Gündoğdu	Member of the Turkish APA Group
	5	Mr. Gökmen Toplu	Deputy Director of the External Relations and Protocol Department of GNAT
	6	Mrs. F. Sirel Deliloğlu	Secretary of the Turkish APA Group, GNAT
	7	Mr. Murat Hastürk	Secretary of the Turkish APA Group, GNAT
UAE	1	H.E. Dherar Bel Houli Al Falasi	Head of delegation.
	2	H.E. Dr. Nedal Al Teneiji	Member of parliament
	3	H.E. Mohamed Eissa Al Kashef	Member of parliament
Uzbekistan	1	Mr. Ravshanbek Alimov	Chairman of committee on foreign relation of Senate
APA SECRETARIAT	1	Dr. Mohammad Reza MAJIDI	Secretary General
	2	Mr. Kia TABATABAEE	Deputy Secretary General
	3	Mr. Mehdi GHASHGHAVI	Executive Deputy of Secretariat
	4	Mr. Mehdi MOLLAHOSSEINI	Senior Expert
	5	Mr. Javad HASHEMI	Director of International Department
	6	Mr. Saeed Sohrabinia	Director of Information Technology



Asian Parliamentary Assembly

The First Virtual Meeting of APA on Covid-19 Outbreak

9 July 2020

Ankara, TURKEY

Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Opening Statement by Chairperson
3. Opening Remarks by Secretary General
4. General Statements by Delegations on:
 - Implication/Precautionary Measures of Covid-19 Outbreak
 - Modality of Future Virtual Meetings
 - Declaration



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The First Virtual Meeting on Covid-9 Outbreak

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

9 July 2020

Ankara, TURKEY

<p>07.00-7.20 (GMT)</p>	<p>Opening Ceremony: Video Messages of the Speaker of Parliaments: - H.E. Dr. Ghalibaf (Iran) - H.E. Prof. Mustafa ŞENTOP (Turkey) - - - -</p>
<p>7.20- 7.30 (GMT)</p>	<p>- Adoption of the Agenda - Opening Statement by the Chairperson: Mrs. Asuman ERDOĞAN, Head of the Turkish APA Group Remarks by the Secretary General: Dr.M.R. MAJIDI</p>
<p>07.30 10.00 (GMT)</p>	<p>General Statements on: 1. Implications/Precautionary measures of Covid-19 2. Modality of Future Virtual Meetings 3. Draft Declaration</p>
<p>End of Program</p>	

Distinguished Delegates,

Dear Friends,

I greet you all with utmost respect. It is a high privilege for me to be here with you today in this timely and important event, especially in this challenging time, when government authorities worldwide are under growing pressure due to the sudden outbreak of pandemic.

Esteemed Participants;

First of all, I would like to begin saying that global solidarity is the only way to respond to the COVID-19 global crisis as increasing effectiveness in combating the pandemic is only possible if countries support and help each other.

Low-income countries often lack the financial capacity to address the newly emerging needs. Besides, access to the medical equipment has been a challenge under the conditions of the pandemic, particularly for such countries.

I would like to mention Turkey's general approach to pandemic and share our experiences. Although some countries chose to implement full lockdowns, Turkey, in order to reduce the viral spread implemented

a different strategy, namely a “partial lockdown” which helped keep the economy functioning while still trying to contain the outbreak. As a result, Turkey’s healthcare system was never overwhelmed by COVID 19 patients. With this outcome, we can safely say, Turkey’s strategy worked. Also this strategy helped Turkey's economy to avoid the "devastating shutdowns" seen in US and most of Europe.

While unfortunately we have witnessed troubles with regard to access to vital health services in some countries, obtaining medical supplies and health infrastructure, thankfully Turkey provides free health services for its citizens who are infected or suspected of infection. Turkish Health Ministry immediately undertook necessary measures for easy access to health services.

We have followed developments both at national and global levels by establishing and routine meetings of the Scientific Board composed of the relevant scientists from our leading universities, and we have prepared recommendation reports for the relevant state bodies.

Even more important, unlike other countries, Turkey's mortality rate has been low compared to other countries due to Turkey's approach to fighting Covid-19 and country's large healthcare capacity. However, primary reason for the low-mortality rate centers around the strategy of

“contact tracing” instead of general testing or testing after clinical presentation.

We introduced certain limitations for our citizens older than 65 and under 18. This strategy stems from the fact that the citizens older than 65 are affected from the pandemic more and the citizens under 18 have a potential to spread the virus more. During this process, we met their needs at their homes without making concession to the principle of social state.

Supplying the field data with our strong health information system, we produced fast and effective solutions. Compared to other countries, one of the most important reasons of our low level of mortality is the strong health infrastructure that we have and our experienced and altruistic staff.

With a relatively large population of 83 million people, Turkey gives priority to her people’s needs, as every country will do. However, accumulating with a “just in case” approach is not concomitant to Turkey’s humanitarian diplomacy.

Considering the importance of the role of parliaments in order to find solutions within solidarity to the problems faced by countries, I find it

very important to speak of the role of Turkish Parliament during the crisis.

Turkish Parliament had nearly forty-five (45) day break during pandemic. However, we still managed to pass important and comprehensive bills in order to alleviate the effects of the coronavirus on economic and social life.

Subjects such as the prevention of extreme price increases, the postponement of loans for households and for businesses forced to suspend their operations constitute an important part of the passed bills.

We provide our workers with short-time working allowance for a period of three (3) months when they are underemployed or unable to work. Also, cash support of one thousand liras provided for a total four point four (4,4) million families with a low income.

Dear Colleagues,

The universal moral values of cooperation and solidarity require all the nations to be indiscriminate in their approach to international assistance, and to be more responsive to the calls from the more fragile groups under the current conditions.

Bearing this in mind, within the limits of our capacity Turkey has been doing her best to assist other countries. Our relevant governmental institutions such as Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) and AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Agency) have been implementing special aid programmes for vulnerable groups.

Turkey has extended her hand of solidarity to 135 countries. 121 countries have applied for donations, 23 countries have applied for financial assistance, while 93 requested permission for export/purchase of medical equipment. Out of 135, 112 countries have received donations, 6 countries have received in-cash support, while 61 of them have been issued permission for purchase or export of medical equipment.

Apart from individual countries, Turkey has met demands of 4 international organizations - United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNICEF, Patient Advocate Foundation (PAF), Caribbean Community (CARICOM) - partially or in full.

Turkey's assistance mostly consists of provision of in-kind medical equipment, particularly personal protective equipment. Nevertheless,

Turkey has also provided food to those countries which have faced problems of food security during the times of pandemic. In some developing countries Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) has organized mentoring programmes for the production of personal protective material, using local resources.

Distinguished members of Parliament,

We parliamentarians are the bridges between people. Therefore, most effective contribution parliaments can provide is to enable mutual empathy and understanding at the international level and promote a proper political environment for collaboration in the fight against the pandemic.

I would like to once again point out that, Turkey calls for a strong and dedicated international cooperation against this pandemic, believing that no country is immune from this threat but that we can overcome this challenge if we all cooperate in full solidarity.

So, on behalf of the Turkish Parliament and myself, I again thank you all for your attention, and send best wishes for a very successful meeting.

Attachment IV

Statement by H.E. Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)

At

The First Virtual Meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) on COVID-19 Outbreak

Ankara -Turkey- July 09, 2020

**Madame Chairperson,
Honorable Parliamentarians**

I am highly pleased to be able to talk to you once again since we met face to face last December on the occasion of the 12th plenary meeting held in Antalya, Turkey. Unfortunately, regular trend of holding APA meetings was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I also, deem it necessary to seize this great opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to APA President, Honorable Prof. Mustafa Sentop and Her Excellency Mrs. Asuman ERDOĞAN, the Head of the APA Turkish Delegation, who enthusiastically welcomed to host the first APA online meeting following the the APA Secretariat triggering an unexpected situation that calls for devising a new strategy consistent with the new emerging situation which may inevitably linger over the globe for the months or years to come.

Therefore, our meeting today, not to mention, is being held in a drastically different situation which stems from the health limitations associated with the COVID19 outbreak; a gloomy situation that has immensely changed our lifestyle across the globe, thanks to the new communication technologies that have facilitated our being together at different locations.

Madame Chairperson,

As you are well aware, this first APA virtual meeting has the following two agenda items:

1. To share experiences in fight against COVID-19 Pandemic and the degree of success of each member parliament to suppress spread of this dreadful virus as well as actions taken to bring back the economic activities to a normal condition. The outcome document of this APA online session will be a final declaration drafted by the host country based on the extracts from participants' perspectives.
2. To share participants' views on the modality for conducting APA future meetings on virtual basis as long as the COVID19 holds its tight grip on our Continent and other parts of the world.

As regards the first item, I would like to draw your kind attention to the activities of APA Secretariat, since emergence of the corona virus outbreak. During this period, the Secretariat has been in touch with the member parliaments to figure out the best practices, which can serve our purpose in the face of the unfolding situation.

In the telephone conversation I had with Mrs. Erdogan, on March 24, we discussed the new condition facing us and exchanged views on the arrangements that should be duly noted for APA future activities. We were both of the same idea to continue our work on virtual basis.

It was in the light of this telephone call that the novel COVID-19 was focused as a central issue for discussion in later steps. On 25th of March, I addressed a letter to the H.E. Speaker of Gran National Assembly of Turkey, the outcome was circulation of the APA President's letter among the Member Parliaments describing the new emerging situation as a sensitive period, inviting all the member parliaments for collective measures in the fight against this lethal threat.

In the process of our work, we also received proposals on the part of the APA Heads of Kuwait and Turkey and Azerbaijan suggesting to hold meeting through videoconferencing. Such measures calling to address the virus outbreak led to the receipt of reports from several APA member Parliaments who tried to share their experiences with us on containment of the coronavirus pandemic. In my video message of 10th June, I did my best to delineate the APA strategy in the face of this dreadful situation and the steps to be taken accordingly.

In the process of our follow-up actions, I held a video conference meeting with heads of parliamentary Groups of Turkey and Kuwait. At this tripartite meeting, it was resolved that APA should continue its work unceasingly and hold its meetings on virtual basis as the best sharing policy option beset by the members to cope with the challenges of COVID-19 Pandemic. Grand National Assembly of Turkey as APA President welcomed the idea to host the first such meeting. In fact, this tripartite online dialogue was a milestone achievement for our Organization, thanks to the welcome decision of Turkey accepting to hold the first virtual meeting of APA on COVID-19.

Now, I am really delighted to observe that the efforts has come into fruition and we have the privileges of being together at this first virtual meeting though from a distance.

The second item to be discussed at this meeting today relates to the modality for conducting the APA future meetings on virtual basis. This item of agenda seeks to share your valuable views in order to work out the most feasible framework for our future online meetings until such time when we would have returned to a normal condition. The Secretariat is well prepared to collect your views in this respect in order to provide the guideline needed for future activities.

No doubt, challenges emerged as the aftermath of COVID-19 calls for smart solutions. Under such circumstances, the key part of our today's policy in dealing with the assigned missions are to make use of online tools like video-conferencing in a bid to permit delegates to participate in proceedings without being physically present. Thus, there is no choice but to adapt ourselves to the current imposed situation and forge the consistent model of work accordingly.

As there is no specific timeframe ahead of us as to when the pandemic is fully eradicated, it is, therefore, imperative to introduce the modality for our future online meetings, more particularly for the meetings of Standing Committees in close cooperation with the Vice- Presidents.

For this purpose, I deem it necessary to refer you to the important hints brought up in my video message as an integral prerequisite aimed at re-engineering our future strategy for holding APA meetings.

In conclusion, I would like to add that the APA Secretariat is on full duty at all times to pursue the APA objectives under any circumstances and available to hold the meetings on regular basis in cooperation with all the vice-presidents when we have passed over this viral crisis.

Thank you for your attention

UAE Parliamentary Division is proposing a comprehensive action plan for the continuation of the virtual meetings of the APA Committees, with the plan including:

1. **First:** Identify the e-platform for holding the meetings of the APA, while ensuring that the approved programmes for remote meetings are evaluated, and that the systems are assessed in order to adopt the best standards for data protection and cybersecurity.
2. **Second:** Set a specific number of draft resolutions for discussion in each committee.
3. **Third:** Determine the timeframe for committee meetings while ensuring that the time difference between world countries is taken into account.
4. **Fourth:** Establish a specific mechanism for casting votes in the virtual meetings.
5. **Fifth:** Develop a specific mechanism for management of discussions.
6. **Sixth:** Develop a specific mechanism for asking for the floor and commenting in the virtual meetings.



**First Virtual Meeting of
Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) on
COVID-19 Outbreak
9 July 2020**



Declaration

***on the implications of COVID-19 pandemic in public health,
economics, and other fields on the Asian continent***

Welcoming the initiative of Grand National Assembly of Turkey, as current APA President, to host the First Virtual meeting of APA through Video-Conferencing on 9 July 2020;

Deeply concerned that COVID-19 pandemic is one of the greatest challenges humanity has ever faced, that it threatens the common well-being and health of all humanity, no country is immune from its consequences;

Mindful that COVID-19 pandemic has hampered the achievements of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in all countries and presents both an enormous challenge and tremendous opportunities for reaching all of the SDGs;

Emphasizing that the crisis has revealed that not one single state is capable of coping with the pandemic solely on its own, and the fight with this pandemic can only be won through robust international cooperation;

Fully aware of the existing gaps in international system that has been revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the urgent need for a coherent and well-coordinated international response to the pandemic;

Emphasizing the need for effective multilateralism and a holistic approach by the international community in order to deal with the challenges and implications of the pandemic and to enhance resilience to cope with future public health emergencies and other natural disasters;

Reminding that the global community should be on full alert on the recent Israeli planned annexation of West Bank while the world has been exhausted due to the COVID-19 outbreak;

Recognizing the significant role of parliaments and parliamentarians to oversee the government's measures in handling COVID-19 pandemic, evaluate and swiftly pass the emergency legislation to approve national funds to meet the needs of the populations they serve, especially the most vulnerable ones during pandemic;

Recalling the increasing concerns regarding the adverse impacts of the application of unilateral coercive measures (UCMs) on the individuals' enjoyment of adequate standards of living and

highest attainable standards of health which also impedes the global solidarity to fight against COVID-19;

Keeping in mind that the COVID-19 pandemic has created massive social and economic disruptions around the world, including Asia;

Taking into account the potential of the countries of Asia with their vast human resources and considerable dynamism, believing that they should take the lead in international/regional efforts, likewise, the embodiment of the democratic will of the peoples of Asia, Asian Parliamentary Assembly should be at the heart of all efforts for fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic by fostering cooperation and preparedness;

Noting that the COVID-19 pandemic is a human tragedy and a global health crisis, which poses major risks for the regional and world economies, and that the global fight against COVID-19 pandemic could only be successful if it is carried out on the basis of international cooperation, solidarity and inclusiveness;

Underscoring the significance of parliamentary diplomacy as a framework to further collaborate, exchange views, perspectives, and best practices among parliamentarians, as well as to address both the global health and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic;

Strengthening the commitment of Asian Parliaments to ensure a strong response through closer cooperation and enhanced coordination taking into account that global cooperation is necessary to mitigate the unprecedented disruptions of the pandemic on the global economy, trade, investment and travel;

Reaffirming our commitment to work with all countries to coordinate on public health, travel, trade, economic and financial measures in order to minimize disruptions and recover stronger and better by reinforcing global links and the multilateral system, and in support of sustainable development;

Underlining that while the economic consequences of the pandemic are being addressed, the immediate priority should be ensuring the smooth flow of essential goods, including food, medicines, and medical and other essential supplies associated with combating the current pandemic;

Emphasizing the role of global supply chains, especially the need to strengthen these as pillars for global economic recovery and to address their vulnerabilities that were revealed in the course of the pandemic;

Recognizing the role of the digital sector in the midst of the pandemic, and the opportunities for growth in a post-pandemic world economy through this sector;

Convincing that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are vital as the guiding frameworks for our long-term recovery efforts from COVID-19 pandemic as it can help us respond to the wide-ranging impacts of COVID-19 covering the health crisis, economic crisis, and humanitarian crisis at the same time;

Recognizing that the tourism sector is among those affected most severely by the pandemic, with travel and tourism businesses brought to a halt, leading to high unemployment and

furlough rates, adversely affecting the livelihood of many communities, and increased incidence of poverty;

Fully believing that the economy must be made to work for all to overcome inequality, achieve inclusive economic growth and social justice;

Encouraging the efforts at the international level to enhance the voice of emerging economies and developing countries in global decision-making, and to find sustainable and innovative solutions for heavily indebted countries;

Supporting cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit and shared development through global and regional economic initiatives;

Being Fully aware that the increase of infectious medical waste during COVID-19 pandemic possesses a danger to our health and potentially contaminates the environment and escalates the spread of other diseases in the future; thus it is critical to consider the proper and safe medical waste management;

Emphasizing that global crises like the pandemic require global response, close cooperation and increased coordination, and international organizations should be equipped to deliver this response, therefore a review of international organizations should be considered with that perspective;

Reaffirming the fundamental role of the United Nations (UN) system in coordinating the global response and providing adequate support to Member States to control and contain the spread of COVID-19 and in supporting Member States, and in this regard **acknowledge** the key leadership role played by World Health Organization (WHO);

Welcoming the UN General Assembly resolution entitled “Global Solidarity to Fight COVID-19” approved on April 2, 2020 which emphasizes on the political message about the importance of unity, solidarity, and international cooperation in the efforts to mitigate COVID-19’s global pandemic;

Welcoming the “COVID-19 Response” resolution adopted at 73rd World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) in May 18, 2020 which reaffirms global commitment for the intensification of efforts to control the pandemic, and for equitable access to and fair distribution of all essential health technologies and products to combat the virus;

Calling for intensified international cooperation to contain, mitigate and defeat the pandemic, by scientific collaboration in the development of vaccines and making them accessible to Member States at reasonable cost, exchanging information, scientific knowledge and best practices and by applying the relevant guidelines recommended by WHO;

Drawing attention to the fact that no country is safe until every country is safe against this global pandemic, and international cooperation and solidarity for the sake of humanity requires provision of essential food, medicines and medical equipment to the countries most in need;

Expressing our appreciation to those countries with the capacity and will to provide assistance such as medical equipment to other countries and encouraging all countries to extend assistance to one another;

Recognizing the importance of preserving the international supply of chains of goods and services, including essential food and critical goods such as medicines and medical equipment, reminding that border restrictions against the pandemic should not hinder the transport and delivery of goods and services that are important for the well-being of populations and health of economies;

Strengthening supply chains through international collaboration, information sharing, utilization of existing trade facilitation platforms with a view to optimizing these, promotion of the use of science and technology as well as advancements within the digital economy, and through implementation of measures aimed at restoring investor confidence;

Expressing our commitment to restart international tourism and travel by implementing policies that will restore confidence in the tourism sector, taking into account the joint recommendations issued by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the WHO on 26 February 2020, and enhancing our cooperation on safely reopening the tourism sector across Asia;

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affects social groups in the most vulnerable situations with repercussions on health and development gains, urging the relevant parties of the international community to put social inclusion at the forefront of the efforts against the pandemic;

Underscoring that the availability of a vaccine to humanity as a whole and its production in adequate quantities for all are as critical as its development, and that vaccine should be available as global public goods which must be accessible to all, it is important to supply the vaccine to the entire world population including vulnerable communities and countries, where the pandemic poses greater risks, and ensuring that the available vaccines are safe, efficacious, accessible and affordable;

Calling upon all Asian Parliamentary Members to condemn UCMs imposed by any third State against any other nation, which may have adverse and serious effects on the access of all individuals to medicine, pharmaceutical supplies and a number of other needs that are vital for health and well-being in this complicated situations;

Calling on the countries with adequate capacity to provide assistance to others to give priority to the most affected, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Island States (SIDS), and Middle-Income Countries (MICs) with regards to financial and medical assistance in light of the current health and socio-economic crisis emanating from the COVID-19 pandemic;

Recognizing that the poorest and the most vulnerable, including refugees, face the greatest danger against this outbreak, calling on the international community to extend its humanitarian and financial support to vulnerable and marginalized groups as well as the host-countries and to act in line with the principle of “leaving no one behind” as indicated in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development while implementing measures against the pandemic, further drawing the attention of the international community to the needs of women and girls, elderly, children and persons with disabilities;

Reaffirming our commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and acknowledge the key leadership role of WHO and the fundamental role of the United Nations

system UN's role and responsibility in formulating and implementing effective multilateral responses to COVID-19;

Welcoming the initiatives of the UN Secretary General as well as express our support to the efforts within the UN General Assembly;

Underlining the historic opportunity that the 75th anniversary of the UN presents in emphasizing the importance of effective multilateralism and a rules-based international system that remains open, inclusive, transparent, and fit for purpose to improve global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response capacity;

Resolving to overcome economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic in the Asian region and continuing to work on the implementation of the APA resolution on the approval of the roadmap for providing incentive measures for green financing, expressing willingness to hold a meeting of the green finance working group by the end of September 2020 with the participation of representatives of governments, development institutions of interested states and financial market regulators to develop further decisions;

Expressing the need to draft a joint parliamentary strategy for the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, which includes the development of effective action plans, policies and implementation mechanisms to address the repercussions of the Coronavirus outbreak, provided that such plans cover the economic, social and service sectors most affected by the crisis in our countries, and to develop future approaches to economic and development prospects;

Believing that Asian parliaments must have clear vision of action in conducting the necessary communication with international institutions and major powers to ensure that future Covid-19 vaccines reach all countries, and to ensure global health security and counter any selective policies in the distribution of these vaccines in the future;

Stressing the need to hold virtual workshops and seminars to exchange experiences among parliaments of Asian countries, to benefit from the experiences of parliaments in enacting legislations and plans, and benefit from the efforts and experiences of countries in the face of economic, social, health, and other areas, through virtual meetings and seminars;