



**RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS, AND
DOCUMENTS**

OF THE

SECOND SESSION OF THE PLENARY

OF THE

**ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
(APA)**

TEHRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

19-20 NOVEMBER 2007



Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)

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Foreword by the Secretary-General

In the Name of God

***Net Working* Vs. *Not Working* Towards an Integrated Asia**

Regionalism gained increasing significance following the end of World War II. Regional and global treaties and arrangements to enhance cooperation and integration began to emerge in the post-war years, picking up greater momentum with the increasing forces of globalization in the last two decades.

Regional integration is a process in which governments establish or join a regional or global arrangement in order to enhance cooperation and diminish regional tensions. Experience demonstrates that regional integrations have, by and large, entailed greater focus on the following issues:

- Removing barriers to free trade at regional levels;
- Facilitating free movement of individuals, work force, commodities, and capitals;
- Lessening the likelihood of the outbreak of armed conflicts (for instance, through measures that build confidence and security); and,
- Developing coordinated regional views on policy issues of common concern, such as those concerning the environment.

The developing states favor such regional cooperation for the following reasons:

- Liberalization and expansion of markets and the opportunity to manufacture more products with less cost, securing work force and capital and consequently increasing employment and national income;
- Easier access to the markets in the South as compared to the multitude of barriers to gain access to the markets of the North;
- Specialization of export in developing countries through South-South cooperation;
- Increasing export capacities to counter the challenges of globalization and enhance the bargaining power in multilateral trade negotiations;
- Facilitate the exchange of technology, knowledge and technical experiences among developing countries;
- Increased regional trade;
- Developing the grounds for the expansion of the private sector;
- Expanding the infrastructures and formulating appropriate plans to support economic growth and regional integration;
- Developing strong state institutions in line with good governance;

- Alleviation of social isolation and strengthening all-inclusive civil society;
- Assisting in promotion of peace and security in the region;
- Strengthening regional environmental programs; and
- Expansion and promotion of regional interactions with other regions of the world.

Integration and Asia

Parallel to the expansion of regional cooperation in different parts of the world, Asia, particularly its eastern region, has also experienced such growing cooperation. With a population of more than 4 billion people, Asia is the biggest and the most populated continent in the world. Rich history, ancient civilizations, vast natural resources, major and fast growing world economies have doubled the significance of this continent. From an economic viewpoint, Asia ranks third after North America and Europe in terms of Gross National Product. Asia has 40 percent of the overall world trade at its disposal.

Southeastern and Eastern parts of the continent enjoy a good standing in industrial production. The existence of strategic natural resources, such as oil and gas, in the western part of the continent has created a specific and prominent status for Asia. Asia with 56 countries enjoys abundant common grounds for mutual collaborations. In addition to bilateral relations, Asian countries cooperate with each other in various other groupings such as ASEAN, SAARC, ESCAP, ECO, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), the Shanghai Organization, and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council.

Asia also encounters serious challenges. Chronic poverty in many countries of the continent, where 700 million people live in poverty and nearly half of the continent's population earn less than two dollars per day, has created an unfavorable condition in Asia. The developmental disparity in Asia and the growing gap between Asian countries are among other serious challenges in the continent. Potential border, territorial and ethnic disputes, the likely crisis spots and the danger of their escalation or spread to other regions should not be overlooked. To overcome the problems and challenges that Asia faces, it is imperative to further develop and expand cooperation and integration in the continent. The presence and participation of all Asian countries, large and small, in the process of promoting cooperation at the continental level would promote the sense of being a stake holder and prepare the necessary grounds for effectively dealing with such challenges.

Energy and Asia

Data and statistics indicate that Asia enjoys a special position in the supply of the world's energy. While 70 percent of the world's oil reserves are located in Asia, a considerable share of energy supply and demand in the current situation, and a large share of consumption growth in future will also belong to this continent. West Asia holds the largest energy reserves of the world, and the countries in East Asia are the major consumers of energy with the highest growth rate. Obviously, establishing regional cooperative relationship between these two groups, which ultimately leads to a harmonized cooperation and integration on a wider scale throughout the Asian continent, would generate great benefits for all Asian countries.

The challenges of guaranteeing energy security in both supply and demand sectors, the emphasis on the stability of the energy market in a sustainable way and in an environment-friendly manner are among the most important issues in the politics and foreign trade of large economies. Compared to other continents, Asia will face a greater challenge because of the growing increase in its energy consumption and the geographical location of its energy resources. Big consumers are likely to follow three distinctively different strategies to guarantee for themselves energy security for the foreseeable future. These include: bilateral agreement between the supplier and the consumer, collective regional cooperation, and resort to the use, or threat of the use, of force to exert control over energy resources.

Currently, there is a focus on relating East Asia to the Pacific region economically. Such focus seems missing to promote energy cooperation between East and West of Asia. Greater economic

cooperation between East Asia and the Pacific, and the partnership that should naturally be promoted between East and West of Asia as the major global consumer and producer of energy respectively, ought to become mutually inclusive and reinforcing.

The supply and demand of energy in the future are greatly influenced by the extent of investment and use of modern technologies in the field. These issues may be addressed through bilateral and regional cooperation that include Asian financial and investment markets. In light of the increasing energy consumption by 2030 and the fact that fossil fuel remains the most important source for supply of energy, reducing environmental pollution in Asian countries will likely become a greater challenge. This challenge can only be dealt with, or perhaps even turned into an opportunity, through close and focused regional cooperation.

Although energy intensity is lowest in Japan, it is relatively very high in most of other Asian countries. Waste of energy cannot and shall not be allowed to continue. Countries with high economic growth rates must pioneer collective and cooperative measures to reduce energy intensity at the continental level. The solution must be sought through a strategic scheme of comprehensive and continent-wide cooperation in:

- Optimizing the trend of energy supply and consumption,
- Upgrading the technology, equipment and skills used in various stages of energy production, storage, transportation and consumption,
- Reducing energy subsidies, and
- Public education and influencing change in certain cultural, economic and political patterns of life in Asia.

The paucity of accurate data and statistics concerning the energy balance sheets of Asian countries, lack of information especially in the consuming terminals of Asian countries, as well as the absence of a proper and reliably effective system and mechanism for provision, collection, collation and analysis of data are among the critical challenges which Asian countries face for energy planning.

Networking and complimenting one another in Asia is the only way to work in this globalized age of rapid change. In the context of energy, such networking can begin by encouraging Asian corporations to deal with Asia-wide issues of upstream and downstream oil and gas industries and with global trade of energy. These corporations may also address broader issues of exchange of energy, capital and technology specific to Asia.

Delegates of Asian Parliaments, as representatives of the parliamentary democracy, are well placed to rise above local and national politics and develop the courage, the foresight and the vision to promote such networking in different fields within Asia as a whole. In this context, a closer cooperation between Asian governments and parliaments is the key to success for Asian integration. APA intends to take the necessary measures to foster this trend and increasingly charter the territory for greater integration in Asia.

Emergence of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly

In 1999, the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) was established through the initiative of the Speakers of the Parliaments of several Asian countries. In 2006, when its 7th Plenary meeting was held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and upon a proposal by several APA delegates, including those of Iran's Islamic Consultative Assembly, the AAPP was transformed into the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), as the Parliament of Asian Parliaments. The objective of establishing the APA is to bring about greater integration in Asia and move towards creating the Asian Union. Some 40 Asian parliaments became members of the APA and approved its Charter in principle. According to this Charter, Member Parliaments are to be represented by between 2 to 7 delegates, proportionate to their population and elected by the Member Parliaments.

In the first Session of the APA Plenary, the Speaker of the Parliament of Islamic Republic of Iran

was elected as the President of the APA for a two-year term. He was tasked to set up a temporary Secretariat for a period of two years and establish working groups in order to prepare Plans of Actions for each of the following issues and present them for approval to the next meeting of the plenary:

- Alleviating poverty in Asia,
- Combating corruption in Asia,
- Friendship Pact of Asia,
- Asian Monetary Fund,
- Establishing an integrated energy market in Asia,
- Cultural diversity in Asia, and
- Opportunities and challenges of globalization in Asia.

The APA Secretariat accomplished its tasks successfully and all seven Plans of Action were considered and adopted in the Second Plenary Session of the APA, which was held in Tehran in 2007.

The following pages include the full text of the Charter as finalized in the Second Plenary Session, the APA Rules of Procedure of the Plenary as adopted, as well as all resolutions and decisions adopted by the Plenary relative to various plans of action.

In the same session, the Delegates designated Tehran as the Headquarters of APA Permanent Secretariat and appointed me to lead the Permanent Secretariat as the APA Secretary-General for a four-year term.

In this meeting, the Secretary-General was asked to set up a Sub-Committee for each of the above mentioned Plans of Action, composed of Delegates from at least seven Member Parliaments to consider a report to be prepared by the Secretary-General on the most efficient manner in which the Plans of Action could be implemented. The report of the Secretary-General should include all information and analysis necessary for consideration by the Sub-Committee which would report to the Executive Council of the APA. In April 2008, when this book is going for publication, The Secretariat is in the process of preparing some and finalizing some of these reports.

I have a personal conviction to the objectives of the APA, and as the Secretary-General, I feel privileged to share the dream and not cease to try to make it happen.

M. H. Nejad-Hosseinian



Complete List of Resolutions, Decisions, and Documents of the Second Session of the APA Plenary

**Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
19-20 November 2007**

Title	Doc. No.
Statement of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Plenary	APA/2007/13
Statement of the Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Plenary	APA/2007/14
Charter of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly	APA/2007/10
Decision on APA Rules of Procedure	APA/Dec/2007/02
Rules of Procedure of the Plenary of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly	APA/2007/09
Resolution on Peace and Security	APA/P. Security Com/2007/01
Resolution on Political Issues	APA/Political Com/Res/2007/01
Resolution on Friendship Pact of Asia	APA/Res/2007/06
Friendship Pact of Asia	APA/Res/2007/06/Annex
Resolution on Economic and Sustainable Development	APA/Economic Com/2007/01
Resolution on Alleviating Poverty in Asia	APA/Res/2007/04
Plan of Action on Alleviating Poverty in Asia	APA/Res/2007/04/Annex
Decision on Asian Monetary Fund	APA/Dec/2007/01
Working Paper on A "Structured Mechanism" to Identify the Most Promising Areas of Economic Cooperation Throughout Asia	APA/Dec/2007/01/Annex
Resolution on Energy	APA/Energy Com/2007/01
Resolution on the Asian Integrated Energy Market	APA/Res/2007/08
Plan of Action on Promotion of Asian Integrated Energy Market	APA/Res/2007/08/Annex
Resolution on Social and Cultural Issues	APA/Social & Cultural Com/2007/01
Resolution on Cultural Diversity	APA/Res/2007/02
Plan of Action on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia	APA/Res/2007/02/Annex
Resolution on the Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization in Asia	APA/Res/2007/03
Plan of Action on Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization in Asia	APA/Res/2007/03/Annex
Resolution on Combating Corruption	APA/Res/2007/05
Plan of Action on Combating Corruption	APA/Res/2007/05/Annex
Tehran Declaration 2007	APA/2007/12
List of Participants in the Second Session of the Plenary of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly	APA/2007/11

Statement by

**H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**Before
The Second Session of the Plenary of the Asian Parliamentary
Assembly (APA)**

**Tehran
19 November 2007**

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

“Praise to the Almighty, the creator of the two worlds, and greetings to our master Mohammad (PBUH), his pure descendent and to all Divine prophets and messengers.”

“Oh God, hasten the arrival of Imam and grant him good health and victory and make us his followers and those who attest to his rightfulness.”

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates of Asian Parliaments,

At the beginning, I would like to sincerely thank you all; the distinguished guests who have come to the Islamic Republic of Iran from all over the vast continent of Asia. I pray to the Almighty for the success and satisfactory outcome of your consultations and negotiations.

Geographical borders are no hindrance to friendships and fraternities between countries. All of us are both hosts and guests of the great continent of Asia and Iran is home to all of you and all Asians. Welcome home.

Distinguished Participants,

The Almighty God created the world based on justice. Islam teaches us that the heavens and the earth are erected on the basis of justice:

“The Almighty God created the heavens and established the balance to differentiate between truth and falsehood in order for the people not to violate the criteria of truth and falsehood.”
Addressing His Messenger, the Almighty God also states:

“Tell them that my Lord ordered me to establish justice.”

More essential and more important is the fact that all Divine orders and all prophets intended to invite and encourage the mankind to establish justice.

The vast continent of Asia is the cradle of human civilizations. The Divine prophets have generally arisen in Asia. Great reformers leading human beings to righteous path like Buddha and Confucius have been born in this continent.

All of them have put emphasis on justice and protection of human rights. Some of them have even extended application of justice to not only human beings but also to other creatures

including animals, plants and objects and have ordered human beings not to hurt animals, or cut plants or destroy the nature unduly.

In some of these schools and in the prayers to the Almighty, even animals, plants, stars and sun are prayed for. This is indicative of the maximum softness and beauty of the human spirit as well as purity of hearts, benevolence, caring, kindness, love, and perfection of the human soul.

Thus, both in the Eastern philosophy with respect to the creation of the world and in the teachings of the Divine prophets and great reformers, justice is the primary factor and the key element for the endurance of the Lord's creation. Pondering deeply, we would realize that justice is the key to all goodness and virtues.

Knowledge is one of the main ideals of human beings who constantly avoid ignorance and seek awareness and wisdom. In societies where justice is in place, the opportunity for education and research is available to all. In such societies, everybody irrespective of being poor or rich, black or white, residents of urban or rural areas, living in remote places or in city centers, belonging to this or that tribes, sects or races, all enjoy equal opportunities in terms of education and research.

Of other needs of the humankind is to love and to be loved. Every individual human being is interested in having friendly and brotherly relations with others and loves kindness, compassion and affection.

Principally, the spirit of compassion, love and affection among human beings will have the chance to grow and develop in the warm family environment. In the east, relations among peoples are usually warmer and more sincere as they are brought up in closer and enduring families. They all respect their parents and show affection to their siblings and relatives. In Asia, family environments are sacred and respectful.

The spirit of compassion develops in societies wherein people feel their rights are not violated; employers do not disregard the rights of employees and laborers; governments respect the rights of their peoples and do not violate their legal rights or trespass their privacies; peoples are not overcharged in markets while economic institutes and banks conduct fair financial activities; legislations are fair and stipulate laws in favor of their peoples and based on justice; judges and courts deal with legal cases based on justice; all are treated equally in the face of law; public revenues earned from taxes and other sources are spent on an equal basis throughout the country; and finally health, education, employment, social security, medical insurance and other social services are provided for every one throughout the country. All these are served as examples of social justice.

In societies where people do not experience discrimination or inequality, there would be no place for hatred, enmity or discord while administration of justice would bring about tranquility and affection.

Among other needs of every individual in every society is to enjoy human dignity and honor. It is in the light of justice that human talents prosper, human worth and stature recognized and consequently human dignity and honor are respected and protected. In an atmosphere filled with friendship and justice nobody is or feels humiliated. In fact, honor and dignity are the fruits of justice while discrimination, disrespecting the rights of others and injustice are the root causes of poverty, hunger and homelessness in many cases. By removing injustice, poverty, and hunger, the increasing gap between the poor and rich countries would be eliminated.

Dear Friends,

The most important and bitter consequence of injustice is war and aggression. The first and foremost casualty of every aggression would be justice. There will be no reason for aggression if human rights, territorial integrity and national rights of all states as well as their vital, economic and financial resources are respected.

In all wars, at least one of the belligerent parties is the aggressor. Nowadays, certain bullying powers, under the pretext of avoiding wars and the so-called preemptive strikes, invade territories

of others, massacre hundreds of thousands of people and displace millions of others. They destroy infrastructures, establishments, roads, buildings and resources of a country without feeling obliged to be accountable to anybody.

Today we are witness to the fact that the old wounds of the World War II have yet to be healed. As an example, one can refer to the Zionists' aggression within the Palestinian territories that has been going on for more than 60 years. It is obvious that peace will not return to the Palestinian territories as long as justice does not prevail there.

Once justice is re-established and prevails, all displaced Palestinians will return to their homeland. Once justice is re-established and prevails, the occupiers and aggressors will abandon the Palestinian territories and a state will be set up in the Palestinian territories by all the Palestinian people.

Once justice is re-established and prevails, the oppressed Iraqi nation will experience the sweet taste of justice and full national sovereignty.

Once justice is re-established, genuine peace and stability will spread throughout the region. This has always been underlined by our great men and attested by the human history, that peace cannot be established through injustice and that the basis for a durable peace is justice.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

Unfortunately, the current trends in international relations are not based on justice. On the contrary, it is based on force, bullying attitudes and discrimination. Once the current trends are based upon justice, oppression and tyranny would be contained, rights would be protected and warmongers as well as those who intend to violate and exploit other nations' resources, rights and territories would be isolated, no bullying state would threaten others by nuclear weapons, while nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction would be removed and their threatening specter would disappear.

It may be pointed out that certain international organizations have been formed and do operate within such unjust trends. That is why they are unable to solve today's problems of the world. One such example is the United Nations Security Council the status of which has nowadays come under scrutiny and criticism in the United Nations General Assembly. In conditions that two or three bullying powers with prerogatives are permanent members of the Council, how can one expect strengthening of peace and stability in the world and protection of the rights of nations.

Distinguished Participants,

Last year, I forwarded a number of proposals some of which were included in the agenda of your meeting. I express my gratitude to you for that matter. Now, while I would like to put emphasis on my previous proposals, I also wish to forward two new proposals.

The first proposal is about development of scientific and technical cooperation. Acquisition of science and knowledge is the main cause and wish of all human beings while they are the key factors for growth and development that know no limit or boundary. Since the outset of history, it has been in the light of knowledge and science that human beings have been able to take long strides towards perfection and enlightenment.

Today, too, the entire humanity is in pressing need for knowledge and science. Knowledge, with its extended spheres of philosophical, material and spiritual dimensions is the fruition of human efforts, a divinely essence and a heavenly light that belongs to the entire humanity.

Asian civilizations have been the source of knowledge and the light of urbanity and faith throughout the world. Today, no country or nation should be deprived of the opportunity to benefit from sciences or material and spiritual knowledge or modern technologies, and they cannot be monopolized.

Each Asian country is a treasure of science and knowledge and all of them combined are the

great capital of the human society. It is through promotion and strengthening of interaction among scientific, research, artistic and literary centers that we can facilitate access to just and fair opportunities for all researchers, professors and students. The inhuman monopoly of and domination over science and technology, exercised by certain bullying powers, must be lifted.

In this context, I would like to propose the establishment of an Asian scientific, research and technological institute which shall be responsible for identifying technological, research and scientific capacities of Asian countries as well as collecting and disseminating information in this respect. The institute shall also initiate seminars, establish inter-governmental joint research centers of the Asian continent in proportion to the capabilities of the member countries.

My second proposal relates to joint efforts for the establishment of justice in the world. Showing compassion, kindness and love is the historical cause of all human beings and is the fruit of the tree of justice.

If the span of justice is limited to national borders, then friendship and kindness will remain within the same boundaries but if the span of justice extends to the whole region and the globe, then all the lofty goals and ideals of humanity will be materialized in a world filled with peace and friendship.

Dear Friends,

Today, more than ever before, humanity is thirsty of justice. The responsibility of the statesmen, scientists, men of literature and culture as well as representatives of Asian nations is to be the banner holders of justice at national as well as global levels. The main root of justice lies in the heart and will of human beings while all centers of human civilization are inspired by justice seekers and great reformers.

Every corner of this vast continent is the birth place of those who have been calling for justice and purity. Asia is home to all prophets and Divine men whose calls for justice have spread from the east to the west of the globe.

Today, you as representatives of Asian nations have inherited the banner of justice that was once carried by the forerunners of fairness and compassion during the course of past centuries.

Thus, I would like to request the distinguished chairman and representatives to address more closely the subject of justice in any way deemed appropriate in your deliberations and explore the ways and means for its materialization at varied national and regional domains as well as in global relations and international organizations and specifically launch concerted efforts to reform the structure of the UN Security Council.

Asia should remain as the banner holder of justice throughout the world and should keep it hoisted until justice is fully established.

We are certain that all human ideals will ultimately be materialized while honesty, spiritual purity, love and affection, respect for human rights and justice will prevail.

The virtuous people will rule over the world and humanity will experience the sweet taste of justice and love under the auspices of the rule of the Man of Perfection and the Promised Savoir. Let us undertake our deserved share in the materialization of that absolute beauty.

In conclusion, once again I wish to thank you all dear guests for coming to your second home. I also thank Mr. President, Members of the Panel, the Secretariat and all those who assisted in holding such a magnificent session and pray to the Almighty for its success.

**Statement by
Dr. Gholamali Haddad Adel
Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of
Islamic Republic of Iran
Before
The Second Session of the Plenary of the Asian Parliamentary
Assembly (APA)**

Tehran
19 November 2007

Excellencies,
Distinguished Presidents and Deputies of Asian Parliaments,
Distinguished Guests,

I am pleased that the Second Session of the APA Plenary is being held in Tehran and I am glad to have the opportunity to once again see the joyful and decisive faces of my colleagues from Member Parliaments. Last year, the APA adopted very significant and constructive decisions and accomplished valuable achievements. Changing *the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace* into the *Asian Parliamentary Assembly* was not just an official and symbolic move. Rather, it was a decisive step toward a bright future. I hope the overall efforts that have been carried out during the last year for materialization of the decisions of the APA and development of its activities would have brought satisfaction to you all.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

The growth and dynamism, in the same way as wickedness and corruption, of human beings in both individual and social arena depend on human thoughts and ideas. The evolutionary progress of human history and civilization cannot be considered as anything but the outcome of the process of changing conceptual ideas into objective realities. To grow and develop, the human mind, which is the key to the superiority of humankind to other creatures, should be exposed to human reason and nature as well as Divine revelation. Otherwise, it would either remain infertile or gives birth to corruption. On the other hand, a sound mind would bring happiness and prosperity to the world while a corrupt one would drag the world into destruction. From a historical perspective, whenever human mind incorporated into innate values and spiritual ideals, then peace, wellbeing and security were achieved. Instead, war, corruption and insecurity emerged whenever human mind was in disagreement with them.

In an era not long ago, the world with a solid structure, had been divided into two politico-military poles, while every cultural diversity or identity difference out of the two poles, were either suppressed or ignored through imposition of security policies. Patterns of collective identities, integration and unity were merely based on bullying ideology. There was little chance for growth and development of human ideas in the hard pressed space between the two camps of capitalism and communism and within the narrow gap between greed in capitalism and rigid class ideas while humanity of mankind had limited prospect to thrive.

Such constricted and infertile atmosphere has now diminished. However, contrary to what certain western politicians suggest, the cold war ended not because capitalism and liberalism were victorious or superior, but it came about due to the fact that imposed ideas were already degenerated and that ideals that were contradictory from within and irreconcilable with the environment from outside, had already been defeated. This is a logical account not specific to the cold war era. If we accept that human field of action and historical evolution are the translation of thoughts and ideas, then by the rule of reason, nature and revelation, one should look for the key to success and steadiness of thoughts in solidity of inner logic and its compatibility with the

outside environment.

Based on this, it could be said that policies and ideas like preemptive war or military occupation, imposing democracy to bring about freedom, and combating against terror through terrorism are doomed to fail not only during the cold war era but also in today's changing world. Who cannot recognize the contradiction between the principles and policies of spreading democracy through military occupation and annihilation of the identity of a nation? How can world public opinion be justified by the incongruity of a unilateral warring effort as well as creating and continuing insecurity with peace-seeking claims and combating against terrorism? Which wise and conscious individual would be able to accept the assertions of curbing the spread of weapons of mass destruction at the same time that such weapons are produced and stockpiled while they have been used before against defenseless people? This is exactly what I referred to as inner contradiction and outer incompatibility, which has spread shadow over the mind and act of certain world powers. What is now going on in Afghanistan, Iraq and other places in the name of democracy and liberation through implementation of imposed policies of occupation and suppression, is in fact the continuation of the obsolete thoughts and ideas of the cold war era that is once again challenging peace and security of human society.

Yet, the generative cycle of idea and practice is constantly working toward changing and transforming the world. A magnificent phenomenon of our time is the speed in altering conceptual ideas into objective realities that has become possible through employment of modern technology and communication development. Men and women who enjoy great thoughts and significant ideas for progress, well being and prosperity of human society, can nowadays be hopeful of materializing their ideals much faster than in the past. The idea of integration in Asia is essential and valuable. So far, such an idea has left behind some stages of conceptual and intellectual processing and practically led to formation of organizations and trade unions in significant fields of media, academy, economy, trade, funds, tourism, sport, and art across Asia and also to certain institutional cooperation in large-scale political, security, cultural and trade areas in some parts of the continent.

The processing of such ideas and executive activities has led to the promotion of the status and position of the Asian continent in the arena of international relations and world affairs. The West's imperialistic view of Asia and center-periphery dialogue, an intellectual pattern long dominated international relations, had ranked the continent as a peripheral and even sub-peripheral region. From this perspective, Asia's cultural identity and civilization heritage were not taken into account. Rather, the continent was considered as the scene for political and imperialistic competitions of central powers. The change in the bi-polar paradigm of the cold war and the emergence of efficient regionalism within the heart of globalization paradigm introduce a chance for Asia to look at its own identity and civilization heritage and also attribute a new role and rank to itself in new global trends.

In this new perspective, one should re-study and scrutinize historical, cultural, economic and political elements, and through reliance on common backgrounds among the regional nations and states and successful experiences in cooperation, open new horizons in conceptual and functional arena for integration in Asia. Integration in Asia is a conscious process that, while recognizing differences and disparities, makes effort through relying on commonalities, mutual needs and common challenges, brings closer together the constituent parts more than ever before and removes obstacles in cooperation.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

I believe Asia has many potential capacities for integration and cooperation. The Asian continent, geographically is the biggest, historically is the oldest, and in terms of human asset is the most populous, from religious and cultural viewpoint, the most varied and in terms of energy and other natural resources the richest continent of the world. Huge capacities lie beyond its vast geographical territories and old history, within the heart of its vast population and varied nations, and in its material and spiritual resources that determine the future world outlook. We live in a world where its constituent parts are increasingly interdependent on and in relation with each other. The global-encompassing spectrum of economy, politics, culture, security, technology,

living environment, public opinion and mass media, as well as their individual and combinational functioning, have formed global agenda in such a way that progress would be unlikely in these arenas without a global view and all-encompassing interaction. From whatever perspective we look at the world and global trends, we notice that the status and rank of Asia is distinguished and prominent. In fact, Asia as a pole with influence on political, economic, trade and cultural equations throughout the world is by itself a unique parameter in the global trends.

From an integration perspective in Asia, the role of people and civil institutions is very essential and significant. I believe popular institutions such as Asian Parliamentary Assembly with reliance on its two distinctive characteristics, i.e., belonging to the people and relying on votes of people, as well as having legislatures while respecting the law, can play very effective role in the development of fundamental relations between Asian nations and states. Based on the same principle, Asian governments have a heavy responsibility and duty toward protecting such effective institutions in cultural integration and bringing nations in Asia closer to each other.

As one of the most significant institutions in Asia, the Assembly has so far been able to play a progressive role in fortifying the Asian integration. In addition to diversified political, economic and cultural subjects that have been discussed during the annual sessions, courageous and innovative ideas like *Friendship Pact in Asia*, *Integrated Energy Market in Asia*, and *Asian Monetary Fund* are essential projects, the materialization of which would be considered as significant steps toward realizing integration in Asia.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Consultative Assembly in particular, positively views integration in Asia which theoretically is based on science, thought and reason and practically relies on efforts toward growth, development, well-being and salvation of the peoples in the region. The Islamic Republic of Iran, alongside other influential countries in Asia, is undertaking an active role in numerous Asian institutions and organizations in varied cultural, economic, trade, political and energy fields. The more such efforts and cooperation are being promoted, the more they lead to further consolidation of ties and stabilization of peace, security and welfare in Asia. The Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran, as a founding member of APA, has constantly made efforts, and will continue to do so, toward strengthening and intensifying efforts carried out by such distinguished international institution.

As the president of APA, I welcome the idea of formation of a permanent and active secretariat for the Assembly with the aim to stabilize its activities, bring more efficiency and follow up its decisions more seriously. I believe that the Assembly should strive to expand the executive sphere of its decisions and guidelines through promotion and deepening of ties with state institutions throughout Asia. It is also indispensable for it to further interact with similar institutions in other parts of the world and assume new strategies to further expand cooperation with them in order to win a more effective role in the international arena.

Thank you.



Charter

of the

Asian Parliamentary Assembly

(APA)

The Charter was adopted, in principle, at the First Session of the APA Plenary in November 2006. Amendments were elaborated in the meeting of the Executive Council, 17-18 November 2007, Tehran, and recommended to the 2nd plenary of the APA. The 2nd Plenary of the APA, 19-20 November 2007, Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, adopted its Charter as herewith annexed on this Monday, 19th of November 2007.

Charter of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)

Preamble

Convinced that the pursuit of peace based upon justice and international cooperation is vital for the preservation of human society and civilization;

Reaffirming the devotion of Asian countries to the spiritual and moral values which are the common heritage of their peoples and the true source of individual freedom, political liberty and the rule of law, principles which form the basis of all genuine democracy;

Believing that, for the maintenance and further realization of these ideals and in the interests of economic and social progress, there is a need for a closer unity among Asian Countries;

Responding to this need and the expressed aspirations of their peoples in this regard, it is necessary forthwith to create an Assembly which will bring together Asian countries into closer association with a view to their eventual integration into an Asian parliamentary union;

We, therefore, the present members of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP), see the need for the transformation of AAPP to Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) and do hereby declare, on behalf of parliaments we represent, the following:

General Rules

Article 1: Establishment of APA

The Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) is hereby transformed into the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), hereafter called "the Assembly". The Charter of the AAPP is accordingly replaced by this Charter.

Article 2: Principles of Establishment of APA

All Member Parliaments,

Emphasizing on the equality of all members;

Recognizing the national authority, sovereignty, peaceful coexistence and non-interference in their internal affairs;

Believing in friendship and peaceful settlement of conflicts;

Encouraging and promoting human rights and opposing terrorism and recognizing the rights and freedom of nations;

Emphasizing on the necessity of full-fledged cooperation with regard to sustainable development and protection of the environment;

Trying to create common organizations aimed at providing infrastructures and encouraging economic development through taking advantage of regional commonalities;

Believing in the benefits of harmonizing laws and legal practices from among the members of the Assembly, taking into consideration the diversities of Asian cultural, political and economic experiences, with the view to achieving common legislations;

Express their willingness to establish the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

Article 3: Objectives of the Establishment of APA

The Objectives of the APA are as follows:

1. Promoting freedom, social justice, peace, security and friendship to meet the objectives of the Assembly;
2. Sharing access to up-to-date knowledge in various areas and promoting such knowledge among the members in order to promote the progress and equality of its members;
3. Exploiting cooperatively vast human and natural resources and securing the interests of all members and recognizing their permanent authority on their natural resources;
4. Providing welfare facilities for the health and nutrition of its members' population; and
5. Contributing to integration among the Asian nations in order to utilize the potentialities of the region.

Article 4: Membership of the APA

Membership of the APA is open to National Parliaments of the Sovereign States of Asia.

National Parliaments of the Sovereign States of Asia may at any time submit their application for joining the APA. The application will be circulated to the Member Parliaments and shall be approved by 2/3 majority of the Assembly.

Basic Organs and Structure

Article 5: Basic Organs of the APA

The APA shall be composed of the Plenary, the Executive Council, Bureau of the Assembly, the Committees as may be established, and the Secretariat.

The Plenary

Article 6: Members and Observers of the Plenary

As the most important organ, the Plenary shall be composed of appointed delegates of the Member Parliaments, who are elected by their respective national parliaments for a two-year term of office.

Other Asian Parliaments, regional and international organizations may attend the Sessions of the Plenary of the APA as Observers upon approval by the Executive Council.

Article 7: Authority of the Plenary

The Plenary may approve decisions, resolutions and declarations or submit reports on general policies of the APA and on other subjects related to its activities.

Article 8: Number of Votes

Each Member Parliament enjoys voting rights corresponding to the number of its delegates in the Plenary. Each Member Parliament has two delegates plus additional delegates determined as follows:

- Countries with population between 1 million up to 50 millions will have two additional delegates,
- Countries with population between 50 and 200 millions will have three additional delegates,
- Countries with population between 200 and 500 millions will have four additional delegates, and
- Countries with population over 500 millions will have five additional delegates.

Article 9: Sessions of the Plenary

The Plenary shall hold at least one annual ordinary session. In case of emergency, and upon request of any of the Member Parliaments and approval of majority of Member Parliaments, an extraordinary session shall be held.

Article 10: Executive Council

Executive Council shall be composed of one APA delegate from each Member Parliament.

Executive Council shall meet at least twice a year: once, immediately before the meeting of the Plenary, and the other normally about three months prior to the meeting of the Plenary at the previous host country.

Article 11: Bureau of the Assembly

The Assembly shall have a President, four Vice-Presidents, and one Rapporteur, taking into consideration equitable regional distributions.¹

The President of the Assembly shall be elected from amongst the presidents or speakers of the Member Parliaments for a one or two-year term of office, depending on the decision of the host parliament, by the majority vote of the delegates of the Member Parliaments. The President shall be eligible for one consecutive reelection.

The President shall be elected during the first meeting of each term of office for the upcoming period.

Article 12: Legal Entity

The Asian Parliamentary Assembly is a legal entity represented by its President.

Article 13: Voting

All decisions of the Assembly shall require a majority vote of the delegates of the Member Parliaments present and voting, unless the Plenary decides by simple majority of the delegates that on a specific subject a higher majority is required.

1 - With due regard to a balance in regional representation, Asia is grouped into the following five sub-regions:
a) West Asia: Bahrain, Cyprus, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, ...
b) Southeast Asia: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, ...
c) South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, ...
d) East Asia and the Pacific: China, Fiji, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kiribati, Mongolia, Palau, Republic of Korea, Tonga, ...
e) Central Asia and the CIS: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, ...

Secretariat

Article 14: Provisional Secretariat

The venue of the Secretariat shall be in the country of the elected president of the Assembly.

The host country shall be responsible for providing the required facilities for the Secretariat and convening of the sessions of the Assembly.

Article 15: Permanent Secretariat

Major terms of reference of the Secretariat are as follows:

- 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.

Article 16: Establishment of the Specialized Commissions

The Assembly may create special commissions to deal with any subject of interest.

Article 17: Rules of Procedure of the Assembly

The Assembly shall adopt its rules of procedure which have to be in accordance with the Charter.

Official Languages

Article 18: APA Official and Working Languages

The official languages of the APA are Arabic and English and its working language is English.

Amendment

Article 19: Amendment of the Charter

Amendments of this Charter shall require the approval of at least 2/3 of the Member Parliaments present and voting in the Plenary.



APA/Dec/2007/02
19 November 2007

Decision on APA Rules of Procedure

Expressing appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing a Draft Rules of Procedure for the APA, and *noting with appreciation* that it has been considered and amended in the Executive Council in September 2007, the APA Delegates participating in the Second Session of the Plenary of the APA, herewith *decide*, under Article 17 of the APA Charter, to adopt its Rules of Procedure as herewith annexed.



Rules of Procedure

of the

Plenary

of the

Asian Parliamentary Assembly

(APA)

Adopted at the 2nd Session of the Plenary of the APA (19-20 November 2007, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran) on this Monday, 19th of November 2007.

**RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE PLENARY OF THE
ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)**

- I. Composition
- II. Session
- III. Presidency, Bureau
- IV. Standing Committees
- V. Agenda, Resolutions, Debates
- VI. Amendments
- VII. Speaking Order, Procedural Motions
- VIII. Quorum, Consensus, Voting
- IX. Permanent and Provisional Secretariats
- X. Close of the Plenary
- XI. Adoption and Amendments of the Rules

I. Composition

RULE 1

1. The Plenary shall be composed of sitting Members of Parliaments in Asia¹ designated by Member Parliaments of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, hereinafter called APA, as APA delegates for a two-year term of office in conformity with Article 6 of the Charter.
2. Each Member Parliament is entitled to designate between two to seven APA delegates in accordance with Article 8 of the Charter.
3. Member Parliaments shall submit the names and contact information of their APA delegates to the Secretary-General in writing as soon as possible, but not later than one month prior to the commencement of the Plenary.
4. Before completion of a two-year office as an APA delegate, if the term of office as a member of his/her national parliament is over, or if he/she is unable, at the discretion of national parliament, to fulfill his/her obligation as a member of national parliament, or if he/she passes away, the parliament in question shall designate another delegate to APA for two years and notifies the Secretary-General accordingly.

RULE 2

1. Observer Parliaments of the APA may attend the open sessions of the Plenary and its committees as observers, and may only speak on the invitation of the President. They cannot vote or present candidates for elective office.
2. Representatives of regional or international organizations or Inter-Parliamentary Unions may be invited, in capacity of observers, to attend the open sessions of the Plenary upon recommendation of the bureau of the previous Plenary and acknowledgment of the Plenary in which they intend to attend.
3. Application for membership or for observer status shall be submitted in writing to the President and shall be considered at the next meeting of the "Executive Council" which shall make a recommendation to the APA Plenary for a decision. Such application shall be adopted by majority vote of delegates present and voting in accordance with Rule 34 of this Rules of Procedure.

RULE 3

APA Member Parliaments may designate former parliamentarians as well as representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations, scholars, scientists and prominent figures as honorary members of their own delegations.

II. Sessions

RULE 4

The Plenary shall be held annually (Article 9 of the Charter). The Plenary shall meet for two consecutive years in the country which has the presidency of the APA (Article 11 of the Charter).

Note: In case a host Parliament is not prepared to convene the meetings of the Executive

¹ The term "Asia" in these Rules and in the APA Charter shall include the sovereign states belonging to the Asia and Pacific Group in accordance with the practice of the United Nations, as well as sovereign states parts of which are in Asia.

Council and the Plenary for two consecutive years, the presidency and the hosting of those meetings may, with the concurrence of the majority of Member Parliaments, be entrusted to another Member Parliament.

RULE 5

After consultation with Member Parliaments, the President shall inform them about the date of each Plenary at least three months before the Plenary meets.

RULE 6

The venue and date of the Plenary may change, in certain cases, upon proposal of the Bureau in consultation with the host Parliament, and concurrence of the majority of Member Parliaments to be determined in accordance with Rule 10(2).

RULE 7

1. Executive Council shall be composed of one APA delegate from each Member Parliament.
2. Executive Council shall meet at least twice a year: once, immediately before the meeting of the Plenary, and the other normally about three months prior to the meeting of the Plenary.
3. The meetings of the Executive Council referred to in Paragraphs 1 and 2 above shall:
 - Guide the work of the Secretariat to facilitate the smooth and efficient conducting of the meeting of the plenary;
 - Consider the reports and documents developed by the Secretariat and making appropriate recommendation to the Plenary for a decision;
 - Consider draft resolutions and making appropriate recommendations to the Plenary for a decision;
 - Consider the proposal for the establishment of a new Standing Committee or of a Sub-Committee, commission or Subsidiary Organ;
 - Consider the application for new members or observers and making appropriate recommendations to the Plenary for a decision;
 - Consider the Secretariat proposal for the provisional Draft Agenda of the Plenary and recommending a Draft Agenda to the Plenary;
 - Consider the APA budget and its finances and making appropriate recommendation to the Plenary for a decision; and
 - Recommend the APA Secretary-General for approval by the Plenary.
4. The decision making in the Executive Council shall be, to the extent possible, by consensus. Otherwise, the Executive Council makes decision by the majority vote of the Member Parliaments present and voting. Special cases requiring two third majorities shall be determined by the majority vote of Parliaments present and voting.
5. Each Member Parliament shall have one vote in the Executive Council.
6. Quorum for convening the Plenary and for adopting a resolution outlined in Rules 32 and 33 of this Rules of Procedure shall also apply to the meetings of the Executive Council.

RULE 8

The convocation of each Plenary shall be sent to all Member Parliaments, Observers and other

invitees, at least one month before the commencement of the Plenary.

RULE 9

The Member Parliament hosting the Plenary shall be responsible for providing all necessary facilities for the Plenary. Other Member Parliaments may offer to bear part of the expenses in organizing a Plenary Session.

RULE 10

1. Any Member of the APA may request the convening of an extra-ordinary Plenary. The Member Parliament that hosted the previous Plenary shall convene the extra-ordinary Plenary if the request is supported by the majority of Member Parliaments (Article 9 of the Charter). The extra-ordinary Plenary may be hosted by a different Parliament if such request is agreed to by the President of APA who hosted the previous Plenary and by the majority of Member Parliaments.
2. Support for convening of the extra-ordinary Plenary and, where appropriate for its venue, is determined on the basis of no-objection of the majority of the Member Parliaments in response to a written notice from the Secretariat to all Member Parliaments seeking their views on the subject(s) by a certain date. Unless more than half the numbers of Member Parliaments object, in writing to the Secretariat, to the convening of the extra-ordinary Plenary or to its venue, it will be regarded that the majority of Member Parliaments have supported the convening of the extra-ordinary Plenary.

III. Presidency

RULE 11

1. The President of the Assembly shall be elected from amongst the Presidents/Speakers of the Member Parliaments for two years, by acclamation or by the majority vote of the delegates present and voting, at the beginning of the first meeting of the Plenary.
2. The outgoing President or, in his/her absence, the head of the delegation of the outgoing President, shall open the inaugural Session, pending the election of the new President.
3. The Plenary shall also elect four Vice-Presidents (Article 11 of the Charter) from among the heads of delegations as well as a Rapporteur from among delegates, bearing in mind equitable geographical distribution.

RULE 12

The President of the Assembly shall preside over the extra-ordinary Plenary Session(s) during his/her term of office.

RULE 13

1. The Bureau of the Assembly shall be composed of the President of the Assembly, the four Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur, who shall be elected for a two-year term on the basis of equitable geographical distribution.
2. The Bureau of the Assembly, which shall be assisted by the Secretary-General, shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the effective organization and normal functioning of the plenary proceedings, in accordance with the Charter and the Rules of Procedure.

RULE 14

1. The President shall open, suspend and close the sittings, direct the work of the Plenary,

ensure respect for the Rules, call upon speakers, put questions to vote, announce the results of the voting and declare the Plenary closed. The President's decisions in these matters shall be final.

2. The President shall decide on APA matters not covered by these Rules, after having the advice of the Bureau.

IV. Standing Committees, Sub-Committees, Commissions and Subsidiary Bodies

RULE 15

1. In addition to the five Standing Committees; Political, Peace and Security, Social and Cultural, Economic and Sustainable Development, and Energy, the Plenary may set up other Standing Committees, Sub-Committees, Commissions and Subsidiary Bodies as it deems necessary to deal with any subject of interests and to examine the issues on its agenda. These bodies shall submit their reports and recommendations to the Plenary for its consideration and decision.
2. Upon suggestion of the Bureau or at least 10 Member Parliaments, establishment of other Standing Committees or of Sub-Committees, Commissions or Subsidiary Organs shall be put on the agenda of the Executive Council. The recommendation of the Executive Council on this issue is approved by the majority vote of the delegates present and voting in the Plenary.
3. The inter-sessional meetings of the Sub-Committees, Commissions and Subsidiary Organs shall be convened by the Member Parliament hosting the previous Plenary, unless following mutual agreement of the President and the Permanent Secretariat, they may be hosted by another Member Parliament.
4. Number of membership of each Sub-Committee, Commission and Subsidiary body, taking into account the equitable geographical distribution, and the duration and number of their inter-sessional meetings shall be approved by the Plenary.

V. Agenda, Resolutions, Debates

RULE 16

1. On the recommendation of the Secretary-General, the Executive Council shall draw up a Draft Agenda, which includes a general debate, to be circulated to Member Parliaments and Observers for approval of the Plenary.
2. The Draft Agenda shall be circulated to all Member Parliaments by the Secretariat at least two months before the opening of the Plenary.
3. The Plenary may alter or approve the proposed Draft Agenda at the beginning of its first meeting.
4. The extra-ordinary Plenary can only consider the item(s) for which it is convened.

RULE 17

1. Member Parliaments may submit to the Secretariat, proposals to include supplementary item(s) in the provisional agenda of the Plenary, not later than two months before the Plenary convenes. An explanatory note and a draft resolution should be attached to such proposals.
2. A request for inclusion of a supplementary item received by the Secretariat at least 30 days before the opening of the Plenary or a request for inclusion of an emergency supplementary

item relating to an event of particular importance occurring during the 30 days preceding the opening of the Plenary in order to be taken into consideration, must receive the approval of two-third majority of Member Parliaments present and voting in the Executive Council which convenes immediately before the Plenary.

RULE 18

Before taking a decision on a request for the inclusion of a supplementary or an emergency item referred to in Rule 17 above, the Executive Council and the Plenary shall hear a brief explanatory statement from the sponsor and a statement from one speaker holding a contrary opinion, neither may enter into the substance of the matter.

RULE 19

1. Any delegate may submit a motion or a draft resolution on any subject included in the agenda.
2. Draft resolution(s) relating to the items in the agenda shall, as a general rule, be deposited with the Secretariat at least 24 hours before the opening of the last plenary sitting allocated for the discussion of that item.

RULE 20

1. The procedure for submission of draft resolution on supplementary or emergency items shall be determined by the Plenary upon the recommendations of the Bureau.
2. The supplementary or emergency items may be referred by the Plenary to an *ad hoc* Committee, which shall debate it and prepare a report and/or a draft resolution for consideration by the Plenary.

RULE 21

1. The Plenary shall start by holding a general debate during which delegates may address the political, security, economic, social and cultural issues based on the Principles and Objectives of the establishment of the APA in its Charter (Articles 2 and 3 of the Charter).
2. The Plenary shall promote friendly and constructive dialogue. To this end, bilateral contentious issues shall be excluded.

VI. Amendments

RULE 22

1. Any delegate may submit amendment(s) to a motion, or a draft resolution, as well as to sub-amendments.
2. Amendments shall be submitted in writing. Amendments and sub-amendments may be submitted until the Plenary adopts the texts to which they relate.

RULE 23

1. Amendments and sub-amendments shall relate to the text. They may call for an addition, a deletion or an alteration with regard to the initial draft, without changing its scope or nature. The President of the Plenary shall determine whether or not amendments and sub-amendments, which are to be voted on in the plenary sitting, are in order.
2. Amendments and sub-amendments shall be voted before the text to which they relate.

RULE 24

1. If two or more amendments apply to the same words in a draft resolution, that which is furthest from the text under consideration shall have priority over the others and shall be put to the vote first. The president's decision regarding the priority of the amendments shall be final.
2. If two or more amendments are mutually exclusive, the adoption of the first shall involve the rejection of the other amendment or amendments bearing on the same words.

RULE 25

The only speakers on an amendment or sub-amendment shall be the sponsor and one delegate holding a contrary opinion, unless the President decides that two would speak in favor and two against the amendment or sub-amendment.

VII. Speaking Order, Procedural Motions

RULE 26

1. No delegate may speak without permission of the President.
2. Delegates shall, as a general rule, speak in the order in which they have asked for the floor.
3. Speakers may only be interrupted by other Delegates on a point of order. They may, with the President's permission yield the floor to other Delegate(s) raising a point of order to seek clarification.
4. The President shall rule immediately, without debate, on all points of order.

RULE 27

1. No more than two representatives of each delegation may speak in the General Debate. Unless the Bureau decides otherwise, every delegation shall be entitled to 10 minutes speaking time in the General Debate. When two speakers from the same delegation are registered for this debate, they shall share the speaking time in the most appropriate way.
2. With a view to ensuring the smooth running of the debates, the Bureau may alter the above speaking time to suit the circumstances.
3. Notwithstanding the provision of paragraph 1 above, the President may, at the end of the corresponding sitting, give the floor, for three minutes, to a delegate wishing to exercise his/her right of reply.

RULE 28

The President shall call a speaker to order when the latter does not keep to the subject under discussion or prejudice the debate by using abusive language or raising divisive issues. The President may, if necessary, withdraw permission to speak and may have the objectionable words omitted from the record.

RULE 29

The President shall deal immediately with any incident, which may arise during the meeting and, if necessary, taking necessary measure required to restore the smooth working of the Plenary.

RULE 30

1. Priority to speak shall be given to delegates wishing to propose:
 - a) Adjournment of the debate sine die,
 - b) Adjournment of the debate,
 - c) Closure of the list of speakers,
 - d) Closure or adjournment of the meeting, and
 - e) Any other motion concerning the conduct of the meeting.
2. These procedural motions shall have priority over the substantive questions; debate on the latter shall be suspended while the formers are being considered.
3. The mover shall make a brief presentation of the motion without entering into the substance of the question under debate.
4. In the debate of procedural motions, only the mover of the proposal and one delegate holding a contrary opinion shall be heard after which the Plenary shall decide.

RULE 31

Debates of the Plenary shall be public. They shall be held in private only if the Plenary so decides by a two-thirds majority of delegates present and voting.

VIII. Quorum-majorities-voting

RULE 32

1. The Plenary shall only convene if at least half of its Member Parliaments are represented.
2. The quorum shall be established on the basis of number of delegations represented at the first plenary meeting. This quorum shall be announced by the Secretariat at that time.

RULE 33

1. All resolutions and decisions of the Plenary shall be adopted, to the extent possible, by consensus. Otherwise, they shall be adopted by majority vote of delegates present and voting (Article 13 of the Charter), except where a higher majority is expressly required.
2. Further to cases provided in this Rule, the Plenary may decide, by majority vote of delegates present and voting, that on a specific subject a higher majority is required (Article 13 of the Charter).

RULE 34

1. Each delegation has voting rights corresponding to the number of its delegates to the plenary; one vote for each of its delegates (Article 8 of the Charter).
2. Only delegates present in person shall have the right to vote.
3. The President/Speaker of a Member Parliament leading the delegation to a Plenary shall be entitled to one vote in addition to the votes which that Member Parliament already enjoys under Paragraph 1 above.

RULE 35

A table giving the number of votes to which each Member of the Plenary is entitled shall be distributed at the opening of the Plenary.

RULE 36

1. The Plenary shall normally vote by show of hands or standing. However, if the President deems it necessary or a delegate so requests a vote by roll call, electronic devise or secret ballot maybe taken.
2. In counting the number of votes by “delegates present and voting”, only the affirmative and negative votes shall be counted as voting.
3. If the votes are equally divided, the proposal under consideration shall be considered as rejected.

RULE 37

1. Where consensus is not reached, the Plenary shall vote on the texts of the decisions or resolutions submitted by the Standing Committees, without holding a debate on their substance.
2. No debate may be opened nor vote taken on a question which the Plenary has considered and on which it has taken a decision. In exceptional cases, the Plenary may decide, by a two-third majority of the delegates present and voting, to re-open the debate and reconsider a decision already taken.

RULE 38

1. Any delegate may request that part, or each paragraph, of a text submitted to the Plenary is put to the vote separately.
2. If any objection is raised, the request for division shall be voted upon without debate.

RULE 39

1. Nobody may interrupt a voting process once it has commenced, except to obtain clarification as to the manner in which the voting is being conducted.
2. Delegates who wish to explain their vote briefly may be authorized to do so by the President, after voting has taken place.
3. No explanation of vote shall be admissible on amendments and procedural motions.

IX. Permanent and Provisional Secretariats

RULE 40

The Headquarters of the APA Permanent Secretariat shall be at Tehran. The Plenary shall decide on the relevant budgetary and personnel issues for the Permanent Secretariat by the year 2011.

RULE 41

The President of the APA shall organize a Provisional Secretariat in the host country to convene the Executive Council and the Plenary.

RULE 42

1. The Permanent Secretariat, headed by a Secretary-General shall assist the President and the Provisional Secretariat in directing the work of the Executive Council and the Plenary.

2. The Secretary-General or his representative may at any time, at the request of the President, submit to the plenary advice on any question which the meeting has under consideration.

RULE 43

1. The Permanent Secretariat shall receive all documents, reports and draft resolutions and distribute them, together with the summary records of the sittings in the working language of the APA and in Arabic.
2. The Permanent Secretariat of the Plenary shall ensure the adequacy of the technical facilities for simultaneous English and Arabic translation and for delegates wishing to speak in their own language and provide their own simultaneous English interpreters.
3. The Provisional Secretariat shall ensure, in coordination with the Permanent Secretariat, that adequate facilities for the convenience of the Delegates and smooth fulfillment of their obligations are available in the Host Country.

RULE 44

1. The Permanent Secretariat of the APA shall preserve the documents of the Executive Council and the Plenary in its archives. The Permanent Secretariat shall follow up on the implementation of the decisions of the plenary and, in general, carry out all the tasks, which the Plenary may think fit to entrust to it. (Article 15 of the Charter)
2. The Permanent Secretariat shall publish documents of the Plenary and distribute them among Member Parliaments and Observers.

RULE 45

Upon recommendation of the Executive Council and approval of the Plenary, the Secretary-General shall be elected for a four-year term from among prominent figures in various sub-regions of Asia.

X. Closing of the Plenary

RULE 46

1. At the close of each Plenary, the President shall enumerate the principal resolutions and decisions adopted.
2. Delegations shall inform their respective parliaments and governments of the resolutions, decisions and recommendations adopted by the Plenary with a view to obtaining the most active possible support for the implementation of these resolutions and decisions.

XI. Adoption and Amendment of the Rules

RULE 47

1. The Plenary shall adopt its Rules of Procedure by a majority vote of the delegates present and voting in accordance with Rule 33 of this Rules of Procedure.
2. Proposals for amending the Rules of Procedure of the APA Plenary shall be formulated in writing with an explanatory note and sent to the Secretariat of the APA at least three months before the plenary meets. The Secretariat shall communicate such proposals immediately to all Member Parliaments. It shall also, if necessary, communicate to Member Parliaments any proposals for sub-amendments at least one month before the meeting of the Plenary.

3. Consideration of any request to amend the Rules of Procedure shall be included automatically in the agenda of the Executive Council and the Plenary.
4. Proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure are adopted by the two-third majority vote of Member Parliaments present and voting in the Executive Council. The recommendation of the Executive Council to the Plenary on the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure is adopted by majority vote of delegates present and voting in the Plenary.



APA/P. Security Com/2007/01
20 November 2007

Resolution on Peace and Security

Promoting Peace, Stability and Security in Asia, and in Particular Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Peaceful use of Nuclear Energy

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Reaffirm the importance of the maintenance of peace and security and promotion of confidence, cooperation and solidarity among the States in Asia.

Express our concern over the misuse of veto power by certain permanent members of the UN Security Council and stressed that the reform of the United Nations is an essential need in order to meet the challenges around the world.

Stress that multilateralism and multilateral processes are essential tools in addressing the common threats and challenges, and rejected the interventionist tendencies as a real threat to the world community and any unilateral pre-emptive action in international relations as a clear violation of the UN Charter and the principles of international law.

Reject any attempt to misinterpret the provisions of the UN Charter, in contradiction to the principles of international law concerning the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of States, non-use or threat of use of force in international relations, peaceful settlement of disputes and non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

Reaffirm the inalienable right of all states to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without any discrimination and in conformity with their respective legal obligations and stressed that nothing should be interpreted in a way as inhibiting or restricting this right of states to develop atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

Recognize the International Atomic Energy Agency as the sole competent authority for verification of the respective safeguards obligations of the Member States, and emphasized that all issues on the IAEA safeguards and verification, including those of Iran, should be resolved within the framework of the Agency, and be based on technical and legal grounds. Therefore, we expressed our strong conviction that the only way to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue is the continuation of negotiations without any preconditions and enhancing cooperation with the involvement of all relevant parties with the view to facilitating Agency's work on resolving the few remaining issues. In this context, we support the recent IAEA Director-General's report in which it is stated "the Agency has been able to verify the non-diversion of declared nuclear material in Iran" and emphasized on the continuation of the cooperation with the Agency.

Express conviction about the necessity of developing effective measures to ensure the security of Non-Nuclear Weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and stressed that the total elimination of nuclear weapons in accordance with provisions of the NPT is the only absolute guarantee against the use of such weapons.

Consider the establishment of a Zone free from Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East

as a positive step towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament.

Condemn the rejection of Israeli regime to join the NPT and the IAEA Safeguards and considered its nuclear weapon program as a serious threat to the peace and stability of the region. We urged the International community to put pressure against Israeli regime to accede to the NPT without delay and place promptly all its nuclear facilities under the IAEA comprehensive Safeguards.

Reiterate our strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms including Israel's state terrorism, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. We expressed concern about the selective approaches to the issue of terrorism and stressed the need to consider this issue in a comprehensive manner.

Call for enhanced cooperation between Asian countries in combating international terrorism. Such cooperation could include exchange of data, and training to enhance professionalism among counter terrorism officers, information exchanges and practical cooperation, in a manner not to contradict with human rights, between law enforcement agencies to update the legal provisions in the area of counter terrorism.

Encourage Asian States to enter into bilateral and multilateral agreements and/or conclude arrangements aimed at specifically fostering cooperation and intelligence sharing in combating non-traditional threats such as terrorism, and countering transnational organized crimes, including drug trafficking.

Recognize the importance of addressing the root causes of international terrorism. Recognize the foreign occupation and inhuman behavior of occupying forces as the main source of threat to regional and international peace and security. Reiterate that the struggle of peoples living under the yoke of foreign occupation and colonialism to achieve national liberation and establish their right to self-determination does not, in any way, constitute an act of terrorism.

Strongly Condemn the crimes committed by the Israeli regime's occupying forces against the innocent people, women and children of Palestine. Demand also the release by Israeli regime without delay of thousands of Palestinians, including the speaker of the Palestine parliament and 40 Members of the Parliament who have been in the hands of Israeli regime for years.

Repeat our strong Condemnation of the aggression imposed by Israeli regime with the support of the United States against Lebanon and reaffirmed that the aggressor and its supporter have the responsibility for all the consequences of the aggression against Lebanon. Also, stressed the liberation of the occupied areas of Golan Heights and Lebanese Sheba Farms from the occupation of Zionist regime.

Urge Israeli regime to respect the ceasefire and stop aerial and land aggressions against the territory of the Lebanon in conformity with the international decisions.

Encourage the efforts for the reunification of the Korean Peninsula through the genuine aspiration and concerted efforts of the Korean People themselves in accordance with the North-South Joint Declaration, dated 15 June 2000.

Recommend to accord the Organization of the Islamic Conference the status of observer, taking into account that such action would serve the common concerns and interests.



APA/Political Com/Res/2007/01
20 November 2007

Resolution on Political issues

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

1. *Reaffirm* our crucial role as representatives of peoples and as a significant part and symbol of people's sovereignty to get actively involved in dealing with challenges and utilizing opportunities facing our great continent.
2. *Recognize* the deep-rooted ties of history, geography, culture and civilization which bind our people together.
3. *Are aware* of the key role Asia plays in shaping world future relying on its glorious past, great human and natural resources and technological achievements.
4. *Emphasize* the importance of regional arrangements for consolidation of ties among Asian countries and stress the need for the representatives of Asian nations to interact regularly.
5. *Encourage* and promote dialogue and interaction among Asian cultures and civilizations while respecting cultural diversity and fostering tolerance throughout the continent.
6. *Commit ourselves* to promote peace and security at global, continental and regional levels on the basis of justice, mutual respect and the rule of law through expanding cooperation and interaction with all nations within and outside Asia.
7. *Stress* the importance of coordination among parliaments in political issues leading to more harmonized political cooperation in regional and international levels.
8. *Call for* a fair, comprehensive and acceptable solution for the Cyprus issue under the auspices of the United Nations.
9. *Express deep concern* over the deterioration of the political situation in parts of Asia, especially in the Middle East and particularly in Palestine, and Afghanistan.
10. *Note* the considerable changes in the dynamics of the international relations in recent history, believe that the need for a major reform in the structure of the United Nations and its organs, including the Security Council, is profoundly required in order to make the decision-making process in the UN system more representative.
11. *Strongly condemn* the threats by the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic and any other country in the world.
12. *Believe* that the expansion of the culture of unilateralism in International relations nurtures the challenges at global level and in Asia, leading to undermine the fundamental rights of nations including the right to self-determination.
13. *Express* our deep concern about the continuing resort to terrorism around the world and condemn in the strongest term all kinds of terrorist acts under any pretext, including state

terrorism, and the need to differentiate between terrorism and the right of peoples under occupation to resistance.

14. *Condemn* attempts to violate sovereignty and territorial integrity of Asian countries and interference in their internal affairs.
15. *Strongly reiterate* the need to respect fundamental Human Rights, promoting democratic institutions and full participation of the people in the decision making process in their respective countries.
16. *Reject* application of double standard in dealing with issues in international relations.
17. *Further reject* imposing unilateral sanctions against any state including countries of Asia under any pretext, which undermine the welfare of people and the principles of free trade.
18. *Call for* an end to occupation and presence by foreign forces in Palestine, and Afghanistan and any other country with a clear timetable for withdrawal and urge concerted efforts by members of international community to help rebuild these countries.
19. *Strongly condemn* atrocities by the Zionist Regime in occupied Palestinian territories, including the detention of the speaker and members of the Palestinian Parliament, target assassinations, collective punishment, building of settlements and the wall of apartheid, cutting off humanitarian aids and the daily-need supplies of the people of Palestine and consider such atrocities as the most elaborate cases of state terrorism.
20. *Call upon* international community to help achieve a just settlement for the Palestinian issue in which the rights and dignity of the Palestinians are duly acquired, the return of all refugees secured and the occupation of the Zionist Regime in Palestine, Lebanon and Syria is for ever ended.
21. *Express deep concern* about the continued interference by the United States, the Zionist regime and any other external force in the internal affairs of Lebanon, especially the continued military maneuvering and the violation of its air space and sovereignty and fully support the election of a new president for Lebanon by national consensus.
22. *Call upon* international community to take urgent measures for the relief of the humanitarian crisis imposed on Gaza by the Israeli policy.
23. *Reiterate* the need for Asian countries to fight more vigorously against corruption, human trafficking, drug trafficking, money laundering and organized crime in order to attain a more stabilized political situation in their countries.
24. *Emphasize* that the founding of international relations on the basis of justice remains a high priority agenda; and in this respect welcome, with great interest, the remarks by His Excellency Mr. Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and decide to form a working group in order to explore ways and means of fostering justice in international relations at national, regional and global levels.
25. *Decide* to further discuss the modalities of efficient cooperation and coordination between the APA and respective governments. In this respect, we ask the Secretary-General of the APA to pursue the formation of an *ad hoc* Committee and prepare all documents required for its work. The *ad hoc* Committee shall hold at least one meeting before the next session of the General Assembly and submit its final report to it.
26. *Decide* to establish a Sub-Committee under the APA Political Committee composed of delegations from Bahrain, the Philippines, Thailand, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, Iraq, Oman, Indonesia and Pakistan to meet at least once a year prior to the APA Executive Council session at a time coordinated with the Secretariat, to consider the best strategies leading to the signing, ratifying and acceding to the Friendship Pact of Asia.



APA/Res/2007/06
19 November 2007

Resolution on Friendship Pact of Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Cognizant of the deep-rooted ties of history, geography, culture, and civilization which bind our peoples together;

Conscience of the common challenges and opportunities facing the people of Asia as well as their mutual interests pointing to the need for further collaboration;

Being Aware of the crucial role Asia plays in shaping the world future by reliance on its great human and natural resources, as well as its technological advancements;

Emphasizing the importance of regional arrangements for consolidation of ties among Asian countries in all fields;

Encouraging various methods of dialogue and peaceful interactions among Asian cultures and civilizations fostering cultural diversity and tolerance throughout the Asian continent;

Recognizing the constructive role of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in paving the way for and strengthening the amity and friendly relations among the people of Asia with reliance on commonalities of the Asian States in all areas;

Convinced that effective structures for cooperation among Asian countries could augment the benefits of globalization and diminish its harmful effects in Asia,

Committed to promote peace and security, at global as well as continental levels, on the basis of justice and the rule of law through expanding cooperation with all peace-loving nations within and outside Asia;

1. *Decide* to establish a Sub-Committee under the APA Political Committee composed of delegates from at least (7) Member Parliaments to meet at least once a year prior to the APA Executive Council session and consider the best strategies leading to the signing, ratifying, and acceding to Friendship Pact of Asia as annexed to this resolution by Asian States and to pursue the objectives delineated therein.
2. *Request* the APA Secretary-General to prepare a report for consideration by the Sub-Committee and to service its meetings. The Sub-Committee shall hold two meetings per year in a volunteer country or in the country of the president of the APA and submit its report to the APA Executive Council for its consideration and recommendation to the APA Plenary.

THE FRIENDSHIP PACT OF ASIA

CHAPTER I PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES

Article 1

The term "Contracting Parties" under this Pact hereby refers to the Governments of the Asian States.

Article 2

The purposes of this Pact consist of the following:

- a) Promoting permanent peace, enduring friendship and constructive cooperation among States and peoples of Asia;
- b) Strengthening friendly relations among Asian States on the basis of equality and mutual respect;
- c) Facilitating further advancement and sustainable development of all Asian States in economic, social, scientific and technological fields; and
- d) Exploring potential capabilities of all Asian States for expanding collaboration in all areas of common interests;

Article 3

To achieve the aforementioned purposes, the Contracting Parties shall be guided by the following fundamental principles:

- a) Mutual respect to independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of all states on the basis of non-interference in others internal affairs;
- b) The right to self-determination of all Nations under foreign occupation;
- c) Respect for fundamental human rights and human dignity;
- d) Renunciation of the threat or use of force and the utilization of peaceful means in international relations; and
- e) Cooperation on the basis of the rule of law.

CHAPTER II FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION

Article 4

In pursuance of the purposes of this Pact, the Contracting Parties shall endeavor to develop and strengthen their traditional, cultural, economic and historical ties of friendship. In this respect, they shall move to expand their diplomatic and commercial relations and facilitate communication and interaction among their peoples.

Article 5

Consistent with the provisions of the Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the Contracting Parties shall undertake mutual confidence-building measures through appropriate regional arrangements in order to promote peace and stability throughout Asia and in the World.

Article 6

The Contracting Parties shall enhance collaboration within the United Nations to promote the role of Asia in the world community.

Article 7

The Contracting Parties shall uphold cooperation with APA and Parliaments in Asia, in fulfilling and achieving the purposes and principles of this Pact, and the ultimate goal of establishing an Asian Parliament.

Article 8

The Contracting Parties shall collaborate for the acceleration of the economic growth in Asia. To this end, they shall promote greater utilization of their capabilities in research and development, exchange of information, transfer of technology and foreign investment towards a viable and sustainable growth.

Article 9

The Contracting Parties shall intensify their concerted efforts in combating illiteracy, poverty, and environmental degradation. For this purpose, they shall adopt appropriate strategies at continental and regional levels for the mutual benefit of all Asian countries.

Article 10

To promote and consolidate peace in Asia, the Contracting Parties shall encourage inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue among Asian civilizations.

Article 11

To strengthen their economic and commercial relations, the Contracting Parties shall undertake appropriate measures to create an integrated energy market in Asia.

Article 12

The Contracting Parties shall provide for the exchange of information and experiences pertinent to reducing damages and alleviating the trauma inflicted by natural disasters.

Article 13

The Contracting Parties shall collaborate in eradicating all roots of terrorism and other organized crimes in order to make a strong and secure community of nations in Asia.

Article 14

The Contracting Parties shall intensify their efforts through bilateral and multilateral modalities in combating all sorts of illegal trafficking including the illegal trafficking of human beings, goods, weapons, and drugs.

Article 15

Denouncing all sorts of aggression and foreign occupation, the Contracting Parties shall refrain from any activity in their territories that would constitute a threat or use of force against the security, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of other Parties.

Article 16

The Contracting Parties shall maintain regular contacts and consultations with one another on international and regional matters in order to harmonize their views, actions and policies.

CHAPTER III PROCEDURES

Article 17

The signatory States shall ratify this Pact in accordance with their own constitutional procedures.

Article 18

This Pact shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of the twenty first instrument of ratification with a Government of the signatory State which will be designated as the Depository of this Pact and the instruments of ratification or accession.

Article 19

The Pact shall remain open to accession by all Asian States.

Article 20

Any modification or amendments to this Pact shall be agreed upon by the Contracting Parties and formalized in accordance with the rules of procedure of the APA.

Article 21

Any Contracting Party may withdraw from this Pact upon giving a ninety days written notification to the Depository. The Depository shall inform the other Contracting Parties within thirty days from the date of receipt of the notification.

Article 22

This Pact is drawn up in the English language. Any divergent interpretation of the text shall be settled amicably through negotiation.



APA/Economic Com/2007/01
20 November 2007

Resolution on Economic and Sustainable Development

We, the members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Being aware of the pivotal role of Asia in shaping the world's economic architecture, considering its immense human, natural and technological resources;

Also being aware of the indisputable importance of transit and transport in promoting economic progress and cooperation among Asian countries;

Recognizing the responsibility of developed countries and international institutions towards global development and special needs of Asian countries in their strive towards achieving economic growth and sustainable development;

Acknowledging the importance of the South–South Cooperation (SSC) specially among the Asian developing countries as a crucial means to boost and expand economic cooperation to help these countries to achieve MDGs and considering such cooperation as a supplement to the North–South Cooperation;

Emphasizing the need for achieving the targets defined by Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Bearing in mind that there is no “One size fits for all policy” for the economic growth and sustainable development of the Asian countries;

Being deeply concerned with severe economic and social burden that poverty, unemployment, human trafficking, narcotic drugs, natural disasters and foreign debt pose to the peoples of Asia;

1. *Urge* Member Parliaments to propose to their respective governments to expedite their efforts in making suitable policy at the national, sub regional, regional and continental levels to achieve MDGs specially through partnership for development among the Asian countries.
2. *Call on* Member Parliaments to collectively support South–South Cooperation, specially through the Triangular cooperation initiative, considering the different levels of economic development of the Asian countries that can be leveraged as a window of opportunity for expanding such economic cooperation.
3. *Recall* the need for the creation of the mechanism by the APA to exchange information and best leveraged the experiences through the good or the best practices of the Asian countries to further address the current economic and developmental challenges posed by the globalization process.
4. *Welcome* regional and international initiatives to preserve sound global environment for future generations, and urges Member Parliaments to observe environmental issues in their review

of economic development plans.

5. *Emphasize* the need for access of all Asian countries to advanced technologies and know-how including nano, bio, agricultural, medical, nuclear, information and space sciences and technologies, while firmly opposing monopoly of any technology and restrictions to the information access.
6. *Recall* the huge economic potentials of the region, and encourages the creation of Asian integrated markets in appropriate fields such as energy including nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and other new technologies, contributing the sustainable development of Asian countries.
7. *Recognize* cultural diversity in the Asian region as a genuine asset for its economic growth, and that there is a real need for expansion of tourism in the region which, in addition to economic advantages, would create closer link between Asian people and more understanding among each other.
8. *Encourage* Member Parliaments to promote investment and trade cooperation through bilateral or multilateral trade agreements, and incorporate MDGs in the trade cooperation as well as pave the way for the establishment of an Asian common market.
9. *Stress* the importance of SMEs, trade, services, insurance and investment flows as the engines of economic growth throughout Asia, and urge all Member Parliaments to accelerate ratification of those national, sub regional, regional and international trade and investment agreements.
10. *Reject* firmly the application of politically driven coercive economic measures and sanctions. The imposition of such measures not only has adverse impacts on the well-being and daily lives of ordinary people, but also contradicts the main principles of multilateral trading system and WTO rules.
11. *Stress* the importance of strengthening and attaining the universality of the World Trade Organization and, in this context, call for accelerating the accession process without political impediments and in an expeditious and transparent manner where all developing countries applying to the World Trade Organization would benefit from a balanced and fair advantage.
12. *Take note* of the ongoing reform of the United Nations System in the economic and sustainable development fields. The outcome of the reform should lead to a more meaningful participation of all Member States of the United Nations in its decision making processes in economic matters. Its result should also respond to the vital needs of the developing countries and place economic development objectives at the center of the United Nations agenda.
13. *Remind* Member Parliaments to promote the development of a swift response and a regional cooperation and early warning system to reduce the tragic consequences of natural disasters which affect the lives and livelihoods of many Asians every year. Encourage the establishment of a regional center for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management to be taken into consideration.
14. *Call on* Member Parliaments to initiate exchange of information and joint action among their law enforcement authorities against human and narcotic drugs trafficking.
15. *Urge* Member Parliaments to give due consideration and to prepare reports on the implementation of the present resolution, and ensure that APA Secretary-General establishes a follow up mechanism for their implementation.
16. *Establish* a Sub-Committee of Alleviating Poverty in Asia under the Standing Committee of Economic and Sustainable Development of APA composed of delegates from the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran and ..., to meet at least once a year prior to APA Executive Council session and consider how best to facilitate the implementation of the Provisions of the Plan of Action on Alleviating poverty in Asia and this Sub-Committee will

also make a feasibility study on Anti Poverty Fund; nomination of volunteer Member Parliaments to this Sub-Committee as well as the date and venue (the host country) will be coordinated through the Member Parliaments by the Secretariat.

17. *Encourage* Member Parliaments to see to it that their governments provide, under APA Decision on Asian Monetary Fund contained in APA/Dec/2007/01, consultation and guidance, through a National Project Officer, to the Secretariat for preparation of a report on a "Structured Mechanism" to identify the most promising areas of economic cooperation throughout Asia.
18. *Establish* a Sub-Committee of Environmental and Global Warming under the Standing Committee of Economic and Sustainable Development of APA to call a special meeting in the Republic of Korea in 2008 to deal with Environmental issues as well as Global warming, planting of billions of trees throughout Asia and submit its report, including its Plans of Action to the APA Plenary. The date for the meeting of this Sub-Committee will be coordinated through the Secretariat by the Republic of Korea; final confirmation of hosting this Sub-Committee will be conveyed to Member Parliaments through the Secretariat by the Republic of Korea.



APA/Res/2007/04
19 November 2007

Resolution on Alleviating Poverty in Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recognizing the importance of formulating policies and strategies to alleviate poverty in Asia at regional and continental levels;

Considering the vital role of Asia in the advancement of the world economy and reducing poverty in Asia in the last 10 years;

Emphasizing that eradication of poverty is a global issue and therefore relies on coordination and cooperation between international and national anti-poverty programs in each Asian countries;

1. Adopt the Plan of Action on Alleviating poverty in Asia as annexed to this Resolution.
2. Decide to establish a Sub-Committee under the Standing Committee of Economic and Sustainable Development of APA, composed of delegates from at least (7) Member Parliaments, to meet at least once a year prior to the APA Executive Council session and consider how best to facilitate the implementation of provisions of the Plan of Action on Alleviating Poverty in Asia.
3. Request the APA Secretary-General to prepare a report for consideration of the Sub-Committee and to service the meeting(s).
4. Decide that the meeting of the Sub-Committee will take place in a volunteer country or in the country of the president of the APA.
5. Request the Sub-Committee to submit its report to the Standing Committee for its consideration and forwarding its recommendations to the Executive Council.

Plan of Action on Alleviating Poverty in Asia

Recalling article 9 of the APA Tehran Declaration (2006) concerning “the adoption of a decision to set up a working group in the Islamic Republic of Iran to study and draw up a plan of action for ... proposing mechanism for the eradication of poverty by 2015 as set by the United Nations”;

Inspired by the Charter of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) to strengthen Asian economy through cooperation and integration;

Supporting the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), particularly the first goal i.e. reducing, by half, the portion of people living on less than a dollar a day by 2015;

Emphasizing that poverty alleviation is an imperative for the economic and social development of Asian countries;

Affirming that durable international peace and security cannot be achieved without a successful and comprehensive program for poverty alleviation;

Cognizant of the fact that Asia has played a great role in the advancement of the world economy and has achieved some success in poverty reduction in the last 10 years;

Concerned that despite the increasing economic growth in Asia in recent years, still about two-thirds of world poor population live in this continent; mostly suffer from malnutrition, lack of access to clean water and sanitation, and unemployment;

Acknowledging that economic growth in many Asian countries has led to poverty reduction, but the increasing gap between urban and rural areas indicates that such growth has little impact on living conditions of the most poor people in the rural areas;

Paying due attention to the situation of the people living in the margins of cities and those in rural areas as the most vulnerable segments of society;

Emphasizing the need to facilitate active engagement of marginalized people in economic activities;

Affirming that poverty is a complicated and multidimensional challenge with internal and external aspects that necessitates an international and concerted cooperation to alleviate poverty;

Underlining that poverty is a global problem and its solution relies on coordination between international and national anti-poverty programs in each Asian country;

To formulate policies and strategies to alleviate poverty in Asia, at both regional and continental levels, we, the members of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), approve the establishment of a “Commission” within APA structure to facilitate the following mandates:

1. To adopt joint appropriate policies and programs for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), particularly with regard to poverty alleviation and combating hunger;
2. To encourage all Asian countries to adopt and implement a comprehensive national strategy to reduce poverty with due attention to sufficient budget allocation in human resources development and social safety nets for poor populations;

3. To mobilize participation of public and private institutions such as corporations, non-governmental organizations, financial institutions and prominent figures in anti-poverty programs by promoting partnership programs through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) mechanism;
4. To share best practices regarding poverty alleviation and greater capacity-building for economic development in Asian countries;
5. To take measures to advance economic growth with greater focus on labor intensive projects in order to provide poor workers greater access to job and income;
6. To adopt policies and measures to attract foreign and domestic investments in job creation;
7. To provide technological and financial aid for rural development, expansion of Small and Medium size Enterprises (SMEs) in the areas of rural industries and handicrafts in less developed areas;
8. To invest in infrastructure and big construction projects such as railroads, dams and highways which create jobs and thereby help improve the living conditions of the poor peoples;
9. To share experiences in granting credits including micro credits for job creation and poverty reduction;
10. To share experiences and information in the field of education and training for skill development to promote self employment in deprived areas;
11. To take necessary measures for the safety and security of labor and capital in order to encourage entrepreneurship and job creation policies;
12. To adopt common policies for the movement of labor within Asia, with the goal of facilitating the movement of skilled and unskilled workers in a legal and transparent way by establishing a networking mechanism for exchange of information on labor movements;
13. To urge cooperation between the host and the source countries of migrant workers towards improving their standards of living, rendering their movement easier, and protecting them from possible maltreatment and unwarranted working conditions;
14. To increase public participation in services such as transportation, post and communications;
15. To adopt effective and transparent legal systems, to combat corruption, and to facilitate investment in human resources and infrastructure for more job creation in less developed areas;
16. To adopt decentralized policies for delegating administrative and financial powers to local authorities in order to secure effective participation of the whole population in development activities;
17. To enhance the roles, accountability and management capacity of local bodies in human resources allocation and program implementations in favor of the poor;
18. To encourage both public and private sectors to invest in education and health in rural areas;
19. To share experiences in the field of agriculture on areas such as irrigation systems, seed improvement and plant diseases;

20. To adopt appropriate policies for easy access to clean drinking water and health services for improvement of quality of life in rural areas;
21. To expand social security networks for improving living conditions of vulnerable groups particularly the elderly, disabled and female-headed households;
22. To share experiences in the fields of reproductive health, family planning, child mortality and maternal health, giving due considerations to religious and cultural differences;
23. To adopt common policies for combating infectious diseases and preventing contagious and fatal diseases such as HIV/AIDS, bird flu, etc.;
24. To pay serious attention to foreign debt problems of some Asian countries by adopting appropriate measures to reduce debt in long term;
25. To facilitate and promote tourism among Asian countries, by utilizing educational and dissemination of information networks particularly at public level;
26. To attract investment to develop necessary infrastructure for tourism, especially in lesser known areas in order to create jobs for poor people;
27. To pay serious attention to eradicate basic poverty problems, especially the accessibility to government services for the poor, land right problems and household debt problems;
28. To formulate policies and measures for taking care of the poor living in vulnerable areas, especially those in natural disaster-affected and violence-related areas; and
29. To support the participation of community and local people in managing natural resources in their own areas.



APA/Dec/2007/01
19 November 2007

Decision On the Asian Monetary Fund

The APA delegates participating in the Second Session of the Plenary of the APA take note of the working paper by the Secretariat on a “Structured Mechanism” to identify the most promising areas of economic cooperation throughout Asia, and herewith request the Secretary-General to continue to study the mission, objectives and framework of such “Structured mechanism”, taking into consideration the views of Member Parliaments and their experts. In this context, the APA delegates call on all APA Member Parliaments to see to it that their governments appoint a National Project Officer to coordinate activities within each country, act as a focal point and provide insight to the Secretariat.

**Working Paper by the Secretariat
On
A “Structured Mechanism” to Identify the Most Promising Areas
of Economic Cooperation Throughout Asia**

**As Called For by Document: EC/2007/07 Dated 11 September,
2007 About the Asian Monetary Fund**

1. The Executive Council of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in its meeting held in Tehran on 9-11 September 2007, considering the complexity of the issue of establishment of Asian Monetary Fund and the necessity to prepare the ground for such institution and to promote economic cooperation among all Asian countries resolved that a "Structured Mechanism" is necessary to identify the most promising areas of cooperation throughout Asia. For the said purpose the Secretariat was requested to study the mission, objectives and framework of such "Structured Mechanism" in the form of a working paper.
2. The recognition of the complex and multi-faceted issue of economic cooperation among Asian countries emanates mainly from the fact that Asia is a vast continent housing billions of people with diverse historical, cultural, social and economic backgrounds. In spite of this great diversity of the Asian nations, the common denominator in this region is their tremendous enthusiasm and efforts they have put to foster the pace of their economic development for improvement of the standards of living and welfare of their people. These efforts, though diverse in approach and method, in recognition by each government of the geopolitical advantages and capabilities of their respective countries have yet not been helped, to the extent which seems possible by a trans-continental inward-looking approach to recognize and exploit the natural, technological and human endowments of the countries throughout the region to add to the overall pace of economic advancement through much closer and expansive cooperation.
3. The creation, up to now, of a number of sub-regional economic groupings like ECO, GCC, SAARC and ASEAN which are all assisting to a remarkable extent, their member states to have a common understanding of the existing potentials within their regions and to join forces to make use of these potentials for enhancement of their growth must be viewed as first, though momentous and valuable, steps towards recognition and realization of regional cooperation potentials.
4. In view of the above, the mission of a "Structured Mechanism" shall, first and foremost, be to identify, on a step by step basis, the potentials and obstacles not only for expansion of economic cooperation among all regional states but also to find out what could be the best possible road to converge valuable activities of the existing groupings in order to move towards a cooperative arrangement with the largest possible coverage of the whole continent.
5. To accomplish the said mission, very gradual steps should be taken towards the final objective of establishment of a permanent central organization with as large membership of Asian countries as possible, adapting positive and constructive strategies of similar organizations of groupings in other regions while trying to avoid their damaging mistakes. Such organization not only shall continue to carry the mission of identification of regional potentials but shall also act as the central body to discuss, monitor and supervise the implementation of the actual policies to materialize cooperative arrangements among the member states, but also make the necessary investigations and research, and put forth rules

to expand such arrangements.

6. The Secretariat is very much aware of the necessity of the gradual approach, as emphasized by the Executive Council, in moving towards formation of a "structure" to carry out the said mission in order to reach the above mentioned final objective. In view of this, the Secretariat does not wish to propose creation of any separately structured entity to embark upon the tasks referred to in the report of the last meeting of the Council. Instead what seems to be feasible and practical as well as cost-effective at this juncture is to avoid rigidly structured mechanisms and make use, as much as possible, of the existing resources and institutions available at present, to the members of our Assembly.
7. With such strategy in mind the Secretariat shall, with the blessing of the Assembly, commence preliminary studies for identification of possible potentials in limited number of areas which, at first, seem to offer more accessible possibilities for creation of much needed synergy in the inter-regional economic relationships. These areas shall cover trade, investment, energy as well as monetary cooperation among regional states. The Secretariat shall, for this purpose, make use of all resources available to it including, but not limited to, the knowledge and experience of the specialized agencies and organizations of all member states. Such task could, of course, not be achieved without practical and ready-to-use assistance of the professionals of the said specialized agencies. To this end, the Secretariat wishes to call upon the members of our Assembly to make all the necessary arrangements for asking their governments to issue the necessary directives to their specialized agencies and research institutions to extend their valuable assistance to the Secretariat. To make the communications and contacts between the Secretariat and such institutions and their professional staffs as time-saving as possible there is a need to have an appropriate official of each member state's government to be appointed as the National Project Officer (NPO) to coordinate activities, within each member states and act as the contact person with the Secretariat. In the course of its studies the Secretariat shall need to have meetings with professionals from the agencies of the member states to exchange views with them and make much-needed use of their knowledge and insights to adjust and improve the outcomes of the deliberations of the Secretariat. For this purpose and for the purpose of saving valuable time of the professionals, much use shall be made of the possibilities of virtual meeting technologies but the Secretariat expect to have the understanding of the member government to make such professionals available as the need arises for orientational and strategic meetings.
8. The outcome of the Secretariat's studies and investigations with the help of member countries' specialized agencies shall be periodically reported to the Executive Council in order to receive comments and guidelines of the Council for continuation of the deliberations and studies to be submitted, at an appropriate stage, to the President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly for discussion by the members.



APA/Energy Com/2007/01
20 November 2007

Resolution on Energy

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 32 of the APA Tehran Declaration (2006) concerning "the establishment of Asian integrated markets in fields such as energy, nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and new technologies, which contribute to sustainable economic growth,"

Bearing in Mind paragraph 9 of the APA Tehran Declaration (2006) which maintains "to set up a working group in the Islamic Republic of Iran to study and draw up a plan of action for the promotion of cooperation in the energy sector and the idea of forming an integrated energy market in Asia with the aim of ensuring the sustainability and predictability of energy supply and demand market,"

Recalling further the Plan of Action on the Asian Integrated Energy Market which was adopted by the APA Plenary in resolution number APA/Res/2007/08, dated 19 November 2007,

Recognizing the constructive efforts made by the APA Secretary-General, His Excellency, Dr. Nejad-Hosseini and the expert group for drawing up the draft Plan of Action concerning the Asian integrated energy market,

1. *Identify* the following volunteer Member Parliaments as the members of the Sub-Committee on the Asian Integrated Energy Market: Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Russia, Kuwait. Other Member Parliaments who would wish to become members to the Sub-Committee may indicate their willingness through the APA Secretariat.
2. *Decide* that the Sub-Committee on the Asian Integrated Energy Market shall hold its first meeting tentatively in the Parliament of Russia (subject to later confirmation) in the first week of May, 2008, for consideration of Secretary-General report on the subject matter.
3. *Request* the Secretariat to set up an expert group for providing technical consultation on the framework and modalities of the integrated energy market in Asia prior to or during the meetings of the Sub-Committee on the subject matter.
4. *Urge* the APA Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments to adopt strategies leading to the establishment of an organization by participation of Asian Governments to pursue the objectives delineated in the Plan of Action annexed to APA resolution number APA/Res/2007/08, dated 19 November 2007.



APA/Res./2007/08
19 November 2007

Resolution on the Asian Integrated Energy Market

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recognizing the importance of the maintenance of stability of energy market at regional and global levels;

Considering the vital role of Asia in the world's energy supply and demand;

Emphasizing that international cooperation on ensuring the energy supply and demand is critical to the sustainable development and environmental protection of both energy producing and energy consuming countries in Asia;

1. *Adopt* the Plan of Action on the promotion of an integrated energy market in Asia as annexed to this Resolution.
2. *Decide* to establish a Sub-Committee under the APA Energy Committee composed of delegates from at least (7) volunteer Member Parliaments to meet at least once a year prior to the APA Executive Council session and consider the best strategies leading to the establishment of an organization by participation of Asian Governments to pursue the objectives delineated in the annexed Plan of Action.
3. *Request* the APA Secretary-General to prepare a report for consideration by the Sub-Committee and to service its meetings. The Sub-Committee shall hold two meetings per year in a volunteer country or in the country of the president of the APA and submit its report to the APA Executive Council for its consideration and recommendation to the APA Plenary.

Plan of Action on Promotion of Asian Integrated Energy Market

Recalling paragraph 9 of the APA Tehran Declaration (2006) concerning "the adoption of a decision to set up a working group in the Islamic Republic of Iran to study and draw up a plan of action for the promotion of cooperation in the energy sector and the idea of forming an integrated energy market in Asia with the aim of ensuring the sustainability and predictability of energy supply and demand market";

Emphasizing that ensuring a sustainable and predictable supply and demand of energy is a critical factor in maintaining the stability of energy market at the global level,

Knowing that by virtue of its possession of the greatest energy resources in the world and its major share of the global energy supply and demand, Asia will continue to play a decisive role in the world's energy security;

Reaffirming that sustainable development of both energy producing and energy consuming Asian countries depends heavily on ensuring energy supply and demand as well as optimizing its consumption;

Being aware of the fact that owing to its high economic growth, Asia shall face increasing rate of energy consumption in the coming years;

Recognizing that ensuring energy supply by the energy producing countries in Asia would require new investments and technologies;

Conceding that optimization of energy consumption, prevention of environmental degradation; access to comprehensive statistics and information networks related to the supply and demand of energy throughout Asia, as well as new investments and technologies in various sources of energy are the main challenges encountering Asian countries;

Acknowledging that the inception of a secure and integrated energy market in Asia and transforming current challenges into opportunities would require all-encompassing regional cooperation of all energy producing and consuming countries in collaboration with international organizations and regional institutions;

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recommend the establishment of a 'body' by the Asian States in order to promote regional cooperation in various fields of energy in the interest of all Asian nations. The principle objectives of this body shall comprise the following:

1. Contribute to the stability of world energy market by trying to balance the supply and demand in the Asian energy market;
2. Create financial, capital and insurance markets in Asia through mechanisms such as establishing banks for further promotion of investment in energy supply and demands and provision of finance, financial guarantees and insurance;
3. Minimize political, technical, and bureaucratic impediments encountering investment in energy related fields in Asia at regional and international levels;

4. Promote trade in products, equipments, technologies, and services related to various fields of energy;
5. Encourage Asian energy producing and energy consuming countries to undertake joint projects in exploration, extraction, production, refining, transit, transportation, and marketing of oil and gas and other forms of energy;
6. Establish an Asian integrated research network and a statistics center focusing on energy related research and information to facilitate joint projects and exchange of information as well as academic cooperation;
7. Support public and private sectors investment in upstream and downstream industries of oil and gas by fostering Asian transnational corporations;
8. Reduce energy intensity as well as optimize energy consumption by enhancing existing facilities and utilizing new technologies in order to upgrade current consumption throughout Asia;
9. Encourage member countries to further utilize clean and environment-friendly technologies in managing their fossil energy resources and to employ renewable energies such as bio-fuel for diminishing environmental damages;
10. Promote investment in utilizing the most reasonable, economical, and optimized transit and transportation routes of energy in Asia;
11. Facilitate energy exchange and swap in Asia aiming at the reduction of energy costs.



APA/Social & Cultural Com/2007/01
20 November 2007

Resolution on Social and Cultural Issues

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the Charter of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), and based on the decision of Tehran declaration;

Taking note of the ongoing new efforts by the Asian Parliamentary Assembly for the promotion of social and cultural issues;

Inspired by the Tehran Declaration (2006) and Program of Action on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity adopted by the Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity, which was held on 3-4 September 2007 in the Islamic Republic of Iran;

Recalling all previous resolutions of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly adopted by its first session on women, children and youth;

Recognizing the fact that Asia has played and is developing a great role in respecting human dignity and promoting social, cultural and religious aspects of the human beings;

Reaffirming that dissemination of information and knowledge by regional institutions and news agencies is a source of mutual enrichment for cultural life and promotion of understanding, and lead to solidarity, friendship and good neighborly relations among Asian nations;

Renewing their commitment to promote and protect cultural identity which is a defining characteristic of humanity and forms a common heritage of human kind;

Affirming that cultural diversity is a cherished asset for the enrichment of Asian art and architecture, and should be valued, enjoyed, genuinely accepted and embraced as a permanent feature, which enriches their societies;

Realizing that globalization is not merely an economic process, but that it also has social and cultural dimensions, which have an impact on society and culture;

Recognizing that corruption is a serious threat to the culture of any nation and can destroy the efficient functioning of any society;

Recalling the role of women in the political, cultural and social development and the need for utilization of women's capabilities in the development of their societies;

Acknowledging the fundamental role those women, youth and children play in promoting respect for cultural diversity;

Stressing that children should be protected from all types of abuses including physical, mental,

social and labor, and be freed from poverty, disease and famine;

Emphasizing the importance of the family unit in the preservation of social stability and the need for the establishment of a balanced role for women in the family and society;

Taking note of the fact that senior citizens are entitled to the rights of basic livelihoods and health care services and each State should make efforts to ensure that they are not marginalized from their own society so that they can live the rest of their lives with dignity;

Reaffirming that basic rights of the migrant workers in Asia should be respected in the country of destination;

Supporting the initiatives of member states on the intercultural programs and inter-faith dialogue in order to promote the common understanding of various cultures and religions in the region;

Calling on national parliaments of APA members to seek ways to engage their public and civil societies with the work of the APA;

1. *Promote* formulation of policies and strategies to protect cultural diversity and facilitate the mandates stipulated in the Plan of Action for Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia.
2. *Decide* to establish a Working Group of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to consider the draft document on the rights and duties of Asian Women.
3. *Decide* also to set up three Sub-Committees under the Social and Cultural Committee of APA composed of delegations from at least 7 Member Parliaments to meet at least once a year prior to the APA Executive Council session to facilitate the implementation of Plan of Action on Cultural Diversity, and to examine ways and means to protect Asian culture and heritage from the negative aspects of globalization, as well as to adopt a holistic approach to combating corruption.
4. *Request* the APA Secretary-General to prepare reports for consideration of the Working Group and the Sub-Committees and to facilitate their meetings.
5. *Convene* the meetings of the Sub-Committees in a volunteer country or in the country of the President of APA.
6. *Expect* the Sub-Committees to submit their reports to the Standing Committee for its consideration and forwarding its recommendations to the next session of the Plenary of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.
7. *Consider* establishing an Asian news agency in order to open further new information fields and horizons to serve the Asian member states.
8. *Underline* the importance of organizing inter-faith dialogue in order to deepen our spiritual heritage and reinforce understanding among different Asian religions and cultures.
9. The Social and Cultural Committee welcomes the proposal by the Mayor of Tehran to host a meeting in 2008 of the mayors of the capitals of APA Member Parliaments to explore the idea of public participation in promoting the vision of greater integration in Asia.



APA/Res/2007/02
19 November 2007

Resolution on Cultural Diversity

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recognizing the importance of formulating policies and strategies to protect and respect cultural diversity at both regional and continental levels;

Considering the vital role of Asia in world cultural interactions and the fact that Asia has been the cradle of the great religions, ancient civilizations and cultures;

1. *Adopt* the Plan of Action on Cultural Diversity in Asia as annexed to this Resolution.
2. *Decide* to establish a Sub-Committee under the Cultural and Social Committee of APA composed of delegates from at least (7) Member Parliaments, to meet at least once a year prior to the APA Executive Council session and consider how best to facilitate the implementation of provisions of the Plan of Action on Cultural Diversity in Asia.
3. *Request* the APA Secretary-General to prepare a report for consideration of the Sub-Committee and to facilitate its meetings.
4. *Decide* that the meeting of the Sub-Committee will take place in a volunteer country or in the country of the president of the APA.
5. *Request* the Sub-Committee to submit its report to the Standing Committee for its consideration and forwarding recommendations to the next session of the APA Plenary.

Plan of Action on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia

Cognizant of the fact that Asia has been the cradle of the great religions, ancient civilizations and cultures;

Inspired by the Charter of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) and based on the decision of Tehran Declaration (2006);

Emphasizing that cultural diversity, as an inevitable reality, relating to the past, and the future of human civilizations should be preserved and appreciated by communities and individuals;

Emphasizing that humanity enjoys a unified and essential nature, and cultural diversity helps to bring about creativity, innovation and sustainable development;

Being aware that cultural diversity as well as lingual plurality while reflecting different aspects of human life in Asia, it facilitates the enrichment of each culture and provides the ground for constructive interactions among them;

Considering that long-lasting peace depends on respect for cultural and value systems of different communities and recognizing that each human being should enjoy prosperity within a specific culture;

Affirming that cultural rights is an integral part of citizenship as well as human rights, with due consideration to national, historical and cultural characteristics of each Asian nations;

Encouraging dialogue and understanding among cultures and religions to fostering Asian common values and enhancing cooperation, aimed at promotion of peace and friendship as well as the prevention of war, violence and discrimination;

Conscious of the fact that globalization has brought challenges in regard to cultural identities;

Reaffirming that in the new world situation cultural diversity continues to illustrate the strength of Asia;

To formulate policies and strategies to protect and respect cultural diversity at both regional and continental levels, we, the members of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), approve the establishment of a Sub-Committee within the APA to facilitate the following mandates:

1. To enhance the role of Asia as the ancient cultural continent with great spiritual and material capacities in order to facilitate cooperation and integration among Asian nations;
2. To facilitate exchanges and interactions in art and cultural fields such as music, literature, sport and film industry for promotion of cooperation and understanding;
3. To invite countries to cooperate in formulating their school curricula that helps promote national and cultural identities. Students should be encouraged to respect cultural diversity and to learn other cultures and languages;
4. To promote educational and cultural exchanges such as cooperation among ministries of education including cooperation on accreditation among universities and other educational institutions granting scholarships, comparative studies, and establishment of cultural "chairs" in universities, in order to remove misperceptions and enhance solidarity among

cultures;

5. To encourage educational institutions to disseminate non biased and accurate information in regard to different religions to promote constructive and respectful interactions among them;
6. To formulate common cultural policies through mass media such as production of documentaries, movies and books focusing on cultural diversity;
7. To provide venues for promoting knowledge and understanding among cultures in Asia and fostering inter-faith dialogue and dialogue among cultures and civilizations in order to consolidate peace and friendship;
8. To facilitate an Asian cross cultural program through easy and rapid access to internet for general public in such a way that exchange of ideas and views can easily be achieved;
9. To assist in organizing conferences, seminars and workshops, with participation of different groups and strata such as intellectuals and scholars to enhance dialogue and understanding;
10. To encourage media, research and educational institutions as well as non governmental organizations (NGO) to support dialogue among cultures and to protect different cultural identities;
11. To build up a joint action plan to utilize information technology to protect and promote cultural, national and ethnic identities of Asian nations in order to address the challenges of globalization;
12. To develop necessary mechanism for utilizing variety of cultural capacities in economic development;
13. To help expand tourism in Asia in order to attain non-biased objective knowledge of different life-styles and constructive interaction among Asian countries;
14. To formulate cultural policies for protecting and introducing Asian cultural heritage and increase cooperation to combat smuggling and illicit traffic of cultural items;
15. To encourage big economic institutions to respect cultural diversity and allocate a percentage of their income for promotion of cultural identities;
16. To set up channels for utilizing the capacities of specialized international organizations such as UNESCO and ISESCO to introduce Asian culture in world community;
17. To help countries to prepare annual report concerning the implementation of this plan of action and to review current challenges and possible opportunities.



APA/Res/2007/03
19 November 2007

Resolution on the Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization in Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recognizing the importance of formulating policies and strategies to manage the impact of globalization at regional and continental levels;

Considering the vital role of Asia in the advancement of the world's economic, social and cultural transformation as well as environmental conservation and protection;

Emphasizing that international cooperation is a significant imperative in dealing with negative and positive impact of globalization among Asian countries;

1. *Adopt* the Plan of Action on Globalization as annexed to this Resolution.
2. *Decide* to establish a Sub-Committee under the Social and Cultural Committee of APA composed of delegates from at least (7) Member Parliaments to meet at least once a year prior to the APA Executive Council session and consider how best to facilitate the implementation of Provisions of the Plan of Action about Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization in Asia.
3. *Request* the APA Secretary-General to prepare a report for consideration of the Sub-Committee and to facilitate the meeting(s).
4. *Decide* that the meeting of the Sub-Committee will take place in a volunteer country or in the country of the president of the APA.
5. *Request* the Sub-Committee to submit its report with its recommendations to the Standing Committee for its considerations the result of which will be forwarded to the Plenary.

Plan of Action on Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization in Asia

Cognizant of the fact that Asia has played a great role in the advancement of the world economic, social and cultural transformation;

Inspired by the Charter of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) and based on the decision of Tehran Declaration (2006);

Recognizing that globalization, at both national and international levels, should be guided by the fundamental principles that underpin human society, such as equality, participation, accountability, non-discrimination, respect for diversity and international cooperation and solidarity;

Emphasizing that globalization should be based on human dignity, equality in human relations, common prosperity and peace among nations;

Acknowledging that globalization in a balanced way could uphold the standard of living and foster innovation, economic growth, managerial and technological skills;

Emphasizing that globalization has had significant impact on Asia with deep challenges and opportunities on its economy, society and culture;

Affirming that globalization could provide increasing opportunities for Asian countries in transfer of technology and particularly in information technology;

Noting that the population of Asia can become a significant asset for world economy, if sufficient investment is made in human resources development and economic infrastructure;

Expressing concern at the widening gap between the developed and developing countries and marginalization of some developing countries that adversely affect the full enjoyment of economic and social rights of Asian people;

Underlining that the deep gap between the rich and the poor that increasingly divides human society poses a major threat to global prosperity, security and stability;

Warning of the vulnerability of developing countries to face international economic fluctuations;

BEING concerned that globalization neglects sustainable development, environment, poverty alleviation and economic disparity;

Being worried about increasing influence of transnational economic organizations and corporations that, in some cases, dilute the sovereignty of states;

Concerned about the fact that globalization has brought challenges in regard to cultural identities and has increasingly undermined the original and traditional values and cultures of Asian communities;

To formulate policies and strategies to manage globalization impact, at both regional and continental levels, we, the members of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), approve the establishment of a "commission" within APA to facilitate the following mandates:

1. To adopt appropriate policies such as transparency, accountability, and predictability in order to participate effectively in the framing of the rules governing global organizations;
2. To remove structural obstacles such as weak legal systems, corruption, and inadequate investment in human resources and infrastructure for economic integration in Asia as well as more effective role in the world economy;
3. To concentrate efforts for staying competitive at the international level, especially by developing technology and human resources;
4. To create warning systems which alert us to dangers of crisis in economy and monetary system before their occurrence;
5. To improve the existing international arrangements to facilitate the developmental and environmental roles of foreign investors;
6. To cooperate for improving the quality of goods in Asian countries, which conforms with international standards and facilitates fair trade;
7. To exchange experience and information in the field of export promotion, services and goods in which countries have a comparative advantage;
8. To share experiences among Asian countries regarding privatization and the operating sphere of the private sector;
9. To adopt common policies in line with facilitating trade of goods and services and preventing smuggling in Asia;
10. To transfer new and significant technologies, while attracting more intra-continental investment for creating technology centers in Asia;
11. To adopt common policies for improving domestic companies and industries to prevent them from closing down in the face of increased competition in the global markets by creating greater market access for Asian countries;
12. To invest in the development of a multimodal transportation network which will allow easy and inexpensive access to local and international markets;
13. To adopt common policies for the movement of labor within Asia, with the goal of facilitating the movement of skilled workers in a legal and transparent way and investing in labor intensive sectors with due regard for the real needs of each country;
14. To share best practices regarding medium and small enterprises and cooperatives for greater capacity-building for economic development in Asian countries;
15. To adopt common cultural programs to protect cultural diversity and prevent the marginalization of local cultures;
16. To facilitate the exchange of cultural goods and services such as handicrafts, books, films, and other visual and audio products by utilizing information technology;
17. To promote regional cooperation for expanding tourism, by utilizing educational and information dissemination networks particularly at public level;
18. To establish a comprehensive and up-to-date databank on tourism in Asia, with the aim of better understanding one another and respecting cultural diversity;
19. To attract investment to develop necessary infrastructure for tourism, especially in lesser known areas and providing consultation services.



APA/Res/2007/05
19 November 2007

Resolution on Combating Corruption

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recognizing the importance of cooperation at national, regional, and international levels in combating corruption;

Underlining the growing need for good governance and transparency as well as best practices on combating corruption in Asia;

Realizing that the enactment of appropriate legislations, effective oversight, accountability and financial control in a transparent manner are the significant roles that Parliaments in Asia should undertake in order to reduce and eventually eliminate corruption;

1. *Adopt* the Plan of Action on Combating Corruption as annexed to this Resolution.
2. *Decide* to establish a Sub-Committee under the APA Social and Cultural Committee composed of delegates from at least (7) volunteer Member Parliaments to meet at least once a year prior to the APA Executive Council session and consider how best to facilitate the implementation of provisions of the adopted Plan of Action on Combating Corruption.
3. *Decide* also that the Sub-Committee shall hold its meeting(s) in a volunteer country or in the country of the president of the APA and submit its reports to the APA Executive Council for its consideration and recommendations to the APA Plenary.
4. *Request* the APA Secretary-General to prepare a report for consideration of the Sub-Committee and to service its meetings.

Plan of Action on Combating Corruption

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 9 of the APA Tehran Declaration (2006) concerning the adoption of a decision to set up a working group in the Islamic Republic of Iran to study and draw up a plan of action on, *inter alia*, "taking measures to combat corruption through education, information and promotion of good governance";

Recognizing that corruption is a predicament that seriously undermines the rule of law, curbs economic growth, and damages public trust and human rights, thus further widens the gap between the poor and the rich;

Being aware of the fact that corruption is not merely a national problem thus combating it would require not only national resolve but also a solid cooperation at regional and international levels;

Underlining the need for mutual assistance, exchange of information, and sharing experiences and best practices on combating corruption among Member Parliaments of the APA,

Realizing the significant role that parliaments should play in enhancing integrity of the administration of governance and in reducing and eventually eliminating corruption through enactment of appropriate legislations, effective oversight, representation and accountability, and financial control in a transparent manner;

Urging the governments of Member Parliaments to ensure the necessary cooperation with their respective parliaments and fulfill their commitments in fighting corruption;

Calling upon all Asian states to further enforce the enacted laws on combating corruption and to promote good governance and transparency in their activities;

Adopt the following "Plan of Action for Combating Corruption" and establish a consultative Sub-Committee under the APA Social and Economic Committee to supervise its implementation and prepare an annual report of the progress made in this respect.

Legislative Actions

1. Encourage the adoption of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and development of necessary mechanisms for monitoring its effective implementation by members of APA;
2. Support the legislation of comprehensive and effective laws compatible with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and harmonization of existing laws on combating corruption;
3. Advance the legislation of laws for promoting transparency and accountability at all levels covering public and private sectors;
4. Further support the legislation of necessary laws for enhancing the integrity of Legislature, Executive and Judiciary powers, including the adoption of a set of criteria and condition for the formation, structures, processes and functioning of these powers by APA Member Parliaments;

5. Reinforce the legislation of the necessary laws to criminalize all kinds of bribery, embezzlement, money-laundering, and misappropriation or diversion of public funds and properties;
6. Enhance the legislation of necessary laws to support and protect those who expose corruption or bear witness in this regard to encourage the culture of reporting corruption;
7. Exchange information and share experiences among Member Parliaments related to the effective legislation on combating corruption;

Parliamentary Oversight

8. Increase the capacity and effectiveness of the parliaments in Asian States as an oversight body to combat corruption;
9. Create an oversight mechanism to assure compatibility of the legislations and effective implementation of anti-corruption laws in all Member Parliaments with the provisions of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption;
10. Make sure that those entrusted to implement anti-corruption laws have the integrity and capacity required to fulfill their obligations;
11. Ensure the transparency of fundraising by political parties and groups for their election campaigns;
12. Expand cooperation and coordination among APA Member Parliaments and other supervisory bodies dealing with combating corruption;

Dissemination of Information, Accountability and Transparency

13. Disseminate information and knowledge regarding anti-corruption activities among APA Member Parliaments;
14. Exchange information and experience with Member Parliaments concerning the best practices in combating various types of corruption;
15. Promote transparency on the processes of legislation, parliamentary oversight, representation and accountability, and financial controls;
16. Encourage APA Member Parliaments to meticulously consider and fill out the "sample self-review worksheet," attached to this Plan of Action to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices;
17. Create necessary grounds for the institutions of civil society including the media, trade unions and NGOs to promote and practice anti-corruption activities;
18. Release public reports on the results of anti-corruption activities;
19. Prepare the suitable grounds for imparting necessary information and education to the public in order to enhance their awareness and promote people's participation in campaign against corruption;
20. Ensure the freedom of expression, particularly the freedom of the press, in order to enhance dissemination of information and sharing best practices on combating corruption;

21. Promote effective cooperation among Member Parliaments in research fields relevant to fighting corruption.

Financial Control

22. Ensure that the budget is spent within the framework of plans approved by parliaments;
23. Establish parliamentary mechanisms for enforcing public accountability and financial control of the manners in which governments earn income and spend budget;
24. Enhance the exchange of information and experience related to effective financial control among Member Parliaments in order to ensure effective campaign against corruption.

Sample Worksheet For Self-Review

		Fully Materialized	Considerably materialized	Little progress	No measure taken yet
A	Legislation				
1	Encouraging the study and ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption				
2	Approval of effective, comprehensive and transparent laws in accordance with the UN Convention and revision of the existing anti-corruption laws to make them compatible with the convention				
3	Approval of the necessary laws to criminalize money laundering and to dispense the income so earned consistent with the UN Convention				
4	Approval of the necessary laws for protection of those who expose or bear witness to corruption in order to encourage the culture of reporting corruption				
B	Parliamentary Oversight				
1	Supervision over the executive in order to assure effective implementation of anti-corruption laws				
2	Supervision over proper implementation of the anti-corruption laws in the non-governmental sectors				
3	Expansion of cooperation and coordination between the Parliament and other supervisory bodies				
4	Exchange of information between the Member Parliaments about their successful monitoring experiences in their <u>fight</u> against corruption				

C	Parliamentary Representation				
1	Imparting the necessary education to the representatives regarding campaign against corruption and contents of the UN Convention				
2	Reporting to the public periodically on the outcomes of anti-corruption activities				
3	Protection of the victims of corruption to receive a fair hearing and a just compensation				
D	Financial Control				
1	Periodic and timely reporting on the implementation of the national budget and real performance of the executive bodies				
2	Providing for the financial needs of the judiciary, particularly the judges to prevent any forms of corruption				
3	Ensuring the legitimacy of the income and properties of officials of the three branches of the government				
4	Exchange of information and experience among Member Parliaments in the field of effective financial control aiming at <u>fighting</u> corruption				



Tehran Declaration, 2007

Second Session of the Plenary of the
Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
19-20 November 2007

1. We, the representatives of Member Parliaments from Asian countries met in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran from 19 to 20 November 2007 for the Second Session of the Plenary of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), at the kind invitation of His Excellency, Dr. Haddad Adel, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the President of the APA, hereby adopt the following declaration:
2. *Strongly believe* that APA will help us realize the objectives of its establishment i.e. the promotion of freedom, justice and the spread of knowledge in order to further strengthen progress and prosperity of its members; making better use of the region's vast human and natural resources while advancing the interests of the member states and their peoples through cooperation.
3. *Appreciate* the reports and documents prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the APA Member Parliaments which were discussed and further elaborated in the Executive Council meetings (9-11 September 2007 and 17-18 November 2007) and finally adopted in this session of the Plenary of the APA as follows:
 - Charter of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly contained in document APA/2007/10
 - Rules of the Procedures for the Plenary of the APA contained in document APA/2007/09
 - Plan of Action on Cultural Diversity contained in document APA/Res/2007/02/Annex
 - Plan of Action on Globalization contained in document APA/Res/2007/03/Annex
 - Plan of Action on Alleviating Poverty contained in document APA/Res/2007/04/Annex
 - Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in document APA/Res/2007/05/Annex
 - The Friendship Pact in Asia contained in document APA/Res/2007/06/Annex
 - APA decision on Asian Monetary Fund contained in document APA/Dec/2007/01 and its Annex
4. *Welcome* the deliberations of the five Standing Committees which has resulted in five resolutions adopted by the Assembly. These resolutions cover important issues facing Asia today and are summarized as follows:

I. POLITICAL ISSUES

5. *Call for* enhanced cooperation between Asian countries in combating international terrorism. Such cooperation could include exchange of data, and training to enhance the professionalism among counter terrorism officers, information exchanges and practical cooperation, in a manner not to contradict with human rights, between law enforcement agencies, to update the legal provisions in the area of counter terrorism.
6. *Recognize* the importance of addressing the root causes of international terrorism. Recognize the foreign occupation and inhuman behaviors of occupying forces as the main source of threat to regional and international peace and security. Reiterate that the struggle of peoples living under the yoke of foreign occupation and colonialism to achieve national liberation and establish their right to self-determination does not, in any way, constitute an act of terrorism.
7. *Strongly condemn* the crimes committed by the Israeli regime's occupying forces against the innocent people, women and children of the Palestine. Demand also the release by Israeli regime, without delay, of thousands of the Palestinians, including the speaker of the Palestine parliament and 40 Members of the Parliament who have been in the hands of Israeli regime for years.

8. *Repeat* our strong condemnation of the aggression imposed by Israeli regime with the support of the United States against Lebanon and reaffirmed that the aggressor and its supporter have the responsibility for all the consequences of the aggression against Lebanon. Also, stressed the liberation of the occupied areas of Golan Heights and Lebanese Sheba Farms from the occupation of Zionist regime.
9. *Urge* Israeli regime to respect the ceasefire and stop aerial and land aggressions against the territory of the Lebanon in conformity with the international decisions.
10. *Commit* ourselves to promote peace and security both at global, continental and regional levels on the basis of justice, mutual respect and the rule of law through expanding cooperation and interaction with all nations within and outside Asia.
11. *Express* deep concern over the deterioration of the political situation in parts of Asia, especially in the Middle East and particularly in Palestine, and Afghanistan.
12. *Note* the considerable changes in the dynamics of the international relations in recent history, believe that the need for a major reform in the structure of the United Nations and its organs, including the Security Council, is profoundly required in order to make the decision-making process in the UN system more representative.
13. *Believe* that the expansion of the culture of unilateralism in International relations nurtures the challenges at global level and in Asia, leading to undermine the fundamental rights of nations including the right to self-determination.
14. *Express* our deep concern about continuing resort to terrorism around the world and condemn, in the strongest term, all kinds of terrorist acts under any pretext, including state terrorism, and about the need to differentiate between terrorism and the right of peoples under occupation to resistance.
15. *Condemn* attempts to violate sovereignty and territorial integrity of Asian countries and interference in their internal affairs.
16. *Reject* application of double standard in dealing with issues in international relations.
17. *Further reject* imposing unilateral sanctions against any state including countries of Asia under any pretext, undermining the welfare of people and the principles of free trade.
18. *Call for* an end to occupation and presence by foreign forces in Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan and any other country with a clear timetable for withdrawal and urge concerted efforts by members of international community to help rebuild these countries.
19. *Call upon* international community to help achieve a just settlement for the Palestinian issue in which the rights and dignity of the Palestinians are duly acquired, the return of all refugees secured and the occupation of the Zionist Regime in Palestine, Lebanon and Syria is for ever ended.
20. *Call upon* International community to take urgent measures for the relief of the humanitarian crisis imposed on Gaza by the Israeli policy.
21. Express deep concern about continued interference by the United States, the Zionist Regime and any other external force in the internal affairs of Lebanon, especially the continued military maneuvering and the violation of its air space and sovereignty by the Zionist Regime, and fully support the election of a new President for Lebanon by national consensus.
22. *Strongly condemn* the use, or threat of use, of force by the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syrian Arab Republic and any other country in the world.
23. *Emphasize* that the founding of international relations on the basis of justice remains a high priority agenda; and in this respect welcome, with great interest, the remarks by His

Excellency Dr. Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and decide to form a working group in order to explore ways and means of fostering justice in international relations at national, regional and global levels.

24. *Decide* to further discuss the modalities of efficient cooperation and coordination between the APA and respective governments. In this respect, we ask the Secretary-General of the APA to pursue the formation of an *ad hoc* Committee and prepare all documents required for its work. The *ad hoc* Committee shall hold at least one meeting before the next session of the Plenary and submit its final report to it.

II. ECONOMIC ISSUES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

25. *Call on* Member Parliaments to collectively support South–South Cooperation specially through the Triangular cooperation initiative, considering the different levels of economic development of the Asian countries that can be exploited as a window of opportunity for expanding such economic cooperation.
26. *Recall* the need for the creation of the mechanism by the APA to exchange information and best exploit the experiences through the good or the best practices of the Asian countries to further address the current economic and developmental challenges of the globalization process.
27. *Recall* the huge economic potentials of the region, and encourage the creation of Asian integrated markets in appropriate fields such as energy, nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and other new technologies, contributing to the sustainable development of Asian countries.
28. *Recognize* that the appealing cultural diversity in the Asian region is a genuine asset for its economic growth, and that there is a real need for expansion of tourism in the region which, in addition to economic advantages, would create closer link between Asian people and more understanding among each other.
29. *Stress* the importance of SMEs, trade, services, insurance and investment flows as the engines of economic growth throughout Asia, and urge all Member Parliaments to accelerate ratification of those national, sub regional, regional and international trade and investment agreements to this end.
30. *Encourage* Member Parliaments to promote investment and trade cooperation through bilateral or multilateral trade agreements, and incorporate MDGs in the trade cooperation as well as pave the way for the establishment of an Asian common market.
31. *Reject* firmly the application of coercive economic measures and sanctions. The imposition of such measures not only have adverse impacts on the well-being and daily lives of ordinary people, but also contradicts the main principles of multilateral trading system and WTO rules.
32. *Remind* Member Parliaments to promote the development of a swift response and regional cooperation on early warning system to reduce the tragic consequences of natural disasters which affect the lives and livelihoods of many Asians every year. Encourage the establishment of a regional center for information, communication and space technology–enabled disaster management to be taken into consideration.
33. *Welcome* regional and international initiatives to preserve sound global environment for future generations, and urge Member Parliaments to observe environmental issues in their review of economic development plans.

III. PEACE AND SECURITY

34. *Express* our concern over the misuse of veto power by certain permanent members of the UN Security Council and stress that the reform of the United Nations is an essential need in order to meet the challenges around the world.
35. *Reaffirm* the inalienable right of all states to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without any discrimination and in conformity with their respective legal obligations and stress that nothing should be interpreted in a way as inhibiting or restricting this right of states to develop atomic energy for peaceful purposes.
36. *Recognize* the International Atomic Energy Agency as the sole competent authority for verification of the respective safeguards obligations of the Member States, and emphasize that all issues on the IAEA safeguards and verification, including those of Iran, should be resolved within the framework of the Agency, and be based on technical and legal grounds. Therefore, we express our strong conviction that the only way to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue is the continuation of negotiations without any preconditions and enhancing cooperation with the involvement of all relevant parties with the view to facilitating Agency's work on resolving the few remaining issues. In this context, we support the recent IAEA Director-General's report in which it is stated "the Agency has been able to verify the non-diversion of declared nuclear material in Iran" and emphasize on the continuation of the cooperation with the Agency.
37. *Express* the conviction on the necessity of developing effective measures to ensure the security of Non-Nuclear Weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and stress that the total elimination of nuclear weapons in accordance with provisions of the NPT is the only absolute guarantee against the use of such weapons.
38. *Consider* the establishment of a Zone free from Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East as a positive step towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament.
39. *Condemn* the rejection of Israeli regime to join the NPT and the IAEA Safeguards and consider its nuclear weapon program as a serious threat to the peace and stability of the region. We urge the International community to put pressure against Israeli regime to accede to the NPT without delay and place promptly all its nuclear facilities under the IAEA comprehensive Safeguards.
40. *Reiterate* its strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms including Israel's state terrorism, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. We express concern about the selective approaches to the issue of terrorism and stress the need to consider this issue in a comprehensive manner.
41. *Encourage* the efforts for the reunification of the Korean Peninsula through the genuine aspiration and concerted efforts of the Korean People themselves in accordance with the North-South Joint Declaration, dated 15 June 2000.
42. *Recommend* to accord the Organization of the Islamic Conference the status of the observer taking into account that such action would serve common concerns and interests.

IV. Energy

43. *Encourage* Asian energy producing and energy consuming countries to undertake joint projects in exploration, extraction, production, refining, transit, transportation, and marketing of oil and gas and other forms of energy; minimize political, technical, and bureaucratic impediments encountering investment in energy related fields in Asia at regional and international levels; and contribute to the stability of world energy market by trying to balance the supply and demand in the Asian energy market.

44. *Recommend* the establishment of a 'body' by the Asian States in order to promote regional cooperation in various fields of energy in the interest of all Asian nations. The principle objectives of this body shall comprise the following:
45. *Create* financial, capital and insurance markets in Asia through mechanisms such as establishing banks for further promotion of investment in energy supply and demands and provision of finance, financial guarantees and insurance.
46. *Promote* trade in products, equipments, technologies, and services related to various fields of energy.
47. *Establish* an Asian integrated research network and a statistics center focusing on energy related research and information to facilitate joint projects and exchange of information as well as academic cooperation.
48. *Support* public and private sectors' investment in upstream and downstream industries of oil and gas by fostering Asian transnational corporations.
49. *Reduce* energy intensity and optimize energy consumption through enhancing existing facilities and utilizing new technologies in order to upgrade current standards throughout Asia.
50. *Encourage* member countries to further utilize clean and environment-friendly technologies in managing their fossil energy resources and to employ renewable energies such as bio-fuel for diminishing environmental damages.
51. *Promote* investment in utilizing the most reasonable, economical, and optimized transit and transportation routes of energy in Asia.
52. *Facilitate* energy exchange and swap in Asia to reduce energy costs.
53. *Urge* the APA Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments to adopt strategies leading to the establishment of an intergovernmental organization to pursue the objectives delineated in the Plan of Action annexed to APA resolution number APA/Res/2007/08, dated 19 November 2007.

V. Social and Cultural Issues

54. *Inspired* by the Tehran Declaration and Program of Action on Human rights and Cultural Diversity adopted by the Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity, which was held on 3-4 September 2007 in the Islamic Republic of Iran:
55. *Affirm* that cultural diversity is a cherished asset for the advancement and welfare of Asian states and should be valued, enjoyed, genuinely accepted and embraced as permanent feature which enriches our societies.
56. *Recall* the role of women in the political, cultural and social development and the need for utilization of women's capabilities in the development of our societies.
57. *Emphasize* the importance of the family unit in the preservation of social stability and the need for the establishment of a balanced role for women in the family and society.
58. *Decide* to formulate policies and strategies to protect cultural diversity and facilitate the mandates stipulated in the Plan of Action for Protecting and respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia.
59. *Establish* a Working Group of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to consider the draft document on the rights and duties of Asian Women.

60. *Set up* three Sub-Committees under the Social and Cultural Committee of APA, each composed of delegations from at least 7 Member Parliaments to meet at least once a year prior to the APA Executive Council session to facilitate the implementation of Plan of Action on Cultural Diversity, and to examine ways and means to protect Asian culture and heritage from the negative aspects of globalization, as well as to adopt a holistic approach to combating corruption.
61. *Consider* establishing an Asian news agency in order to open further new information fields and horizons to serve the Asian member states.
62. *Underline* the importance of organizing inter-faith dialogue in order to deepen regional solidarity and reinforce understanding among different Asian religions and cultures.
63. *Encourage* local governments, city councils and mayors from APA Member Parliaments to find ways to exchange information and experience on their activities in support of the work of the APA and welcome the proposal by the Mayor of Tehran to host a meeting in 2008 of the mayors of the capitals of APA Member Parliaments to explore the idea of public participation in promoting the vision of greater integration in Asia.

VI. General Issues

64. Upon suggestions of a number of delegates, the Second Session of the APA Plenary requested the President of the Assembly to forward a message of condolences to the Speakers of the Parliament of Bangladesh and Afghanistan, respectively for the loss of lives of several hundred people as the result of the cyclone in Bangladesh and the terrorist act in Afghanistan that killed nearly forty people including five members of the Parliament of Afghanistan.
65. Upon suggestions of a number of delegates, the Second Session of the APA Plenary requested the President to issue a statement about the arrest and incarceration of the speaker and a number of representatives of the Parliament of Palestine by the Zionist regime, condemning this act, and calling for their immediate release.

VII. Election of the APA Secretary-General

66. The Second Session of the APA Plenary elected, by acclamation, H.E. Dr. Mohammad Hadi Nejad Hosseinian, as the Secretary-General of the APA for a four-year term.

VIII. Acknowledgement of Appreciation

67. We express our gratitude to the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran for graciously hosting the Session in which the AAPP was transformed into APA (November 2006) as well as the Second Session of the Plenary of the APA. We acknowledge the great contribution of H.E. Mr. Haddad Adel, the First President of the APA in the promotion of the APA in so short a time since its inception, and therefore we hereby, invite him to take part, as a special guest, in the subsequent Sessions of the APA Plenary.
68. The Speaker of the Parliament of Indonesia will serve as the next President of the APA. The Parliament of Indonesia will host the 2008 Session of the APA Plenary and the Executive Council meeting.

List of Participants in the Second Session of the Plenary of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)

**Tehran
19-20 November, 2007**

Member/ Observer Parliament	Delegation
Afghanistan	Hon. Yunus Qanooni - Speaker of Parliament Hon. Haji Abduljabar - Member of Parliament Hon. Abdulali Mohamadi - Advisor Hon. Mohammad Zaman Hashemi – Director, International Relations
Azerbaijan	Hon. Valeh Ali Asgareov- First Deputy Speaker Hon. Ilgarar Farzalieov - Vice Chairman of International Relations of the Parliament
Bahrain	Hon. Dr. Salah Ali Abdul Rahman - Second Deputy Speaker Hon. Mohammed Jaffar Ali - Protocol Officer Hon. Khalil Ebrahim Al Marzooq - Member of Parliament Hon. Fuad Ahmed Al Hahjee - Member of Parliament
Bangladesh	Hon. Nur Uz Zaman - Additional Secretary Hon. Mr. Talha – Counsellor Hon. Mofazzal Hossain – Counsellor
China	Hon. Jie Peiding - Member of Parliament Hon. Chen Zhangliang - Member of Parliament Hon. Jiang Duan - From Parliament Hon. Ms. Wang Dong - From Parliament Hon. Ms. Shen Yinyin - Deputy Director-General of International Organization of MFA Hon. Ms. Wang Aihua - Protocol Officer Hon. Huang Han – Attaché, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hon. Yang Zhaohui - First Secretary Embassy in Tehran Hon. Li Ang – Attaché, Embassy in Tehran
Cyprus	Hon. Konstantinos Christoforou - Secretary-General of the House of Representative Hon. Dr. Eleni Theocharous - Member of Parliament Hon. Mrs. Gabrielle des Enffans d'Avernas - International Relations Officer
India	Hon. Manbir Sing - Ambassador to Tehran Hon. Vini Komar – Advisor, Embassy in Tehran Hon. Mr. Thomas - Second Deputy Speaker

Indonesia	Hon. Agung Laksono - Speaker of the House of Representative Hon. Silvia Laksono - Wife of the speaker Hon. Tata Zaenal Muttaqin - Member of Parliament Hon. Nazarudin Kiemas - Member of Parliament Hon. Abdilah Toha - Member of Parliament Hon. Hajrianto Thohari - Member of Parliament Hon. Ali mochtar Ngabalin - Member of Parliament Hon. Achmad Djuned - Assistant to Delegation Hon. Robert Juheng Purba - Secretary Hon. Salmat Widodo - Secretary Hon. Datu Putra Persada - Advisor Hemadi - Secretary and Assistant of Speaker Hon. Rusdi Rahim - ADC Speaker
Iran	Hon. Dr. Gholamali Hadad Adel – President of the APA and the Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Hon. Seyed Mohammad Hassan Aboutorabi Fard – First Deputy Speaker Hon. Allaedin Boroujerdi – Member of Parliament Hon. Dr. Emad Afrouq - Member of Parliament Hon. Dr. Elham Aminzadeh - Member of Parliament Hon. Hossein Sheikholeslam - Member of Parliament
Iraq	Hon. Al Mashahadani – Speaker of Parliament Hon. Jaber Habib - Member of Parliament Hon. Abdollah Heidari - Member of Parliament Hon. Hossein Aljabori - Member of Parliament Hon. Kheirollah Albahri - Member of Parliament Hon. Adnan Ghaem - Member of Parliament Hon. Abdolbaset Mahmoud - Member of Parliament Hon. Alaidin Hossain - Accompanying Person Hon. Manaf Almonaem – Secretary
Kazakhstan	Hon. Issakulov Yerzhan - Member of Parliament Hon. Akhmadiev Murat - Member of Parliament Hon. Momyshev Amangheldy - Member of Parliament Hon. Kadambayev Toktarbay - Member of Parliament Hon. Asgar Javtik – Officer
Kuwait	Hon. Nabieh Kharij - Member of Parliament Hon. Dr. Waleed Mosaeed Al-Tabtabaie - Member of Parliament Hon. Abdollah Akash Al-Abdoli - Member of Parliament Hon. Jamal Abdollah Al-Khamis - Chairman of International Relations Department Hon. Theyab Mohammad Al-Aldaihani – Staff
Laos	Hon. Dr. Kukeo Akhamountry - Vice Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee
Lebanon	Hon. Zeyn Al-Mosavi - Ambassador to Tehran Hon. Ali Al-Habab - First Secretary, Embassy in Tehran Hon. Ali Al-Hashemi – Advisor, Embassy in Tehran
Malaysia	Hon. Haji Fadilah Yusof - Member of Parliament Hon. Datuk Abdul Rahim Bakri - Member of Parliament Hon. Johari Jonid – Secretary
OIC	Hon. Zamel Saedi

Oman	Hon. Naser Bin Helal Al-Mamoli Deputy - Speaker of Parliament Hon. Soheil Bin Ahmad Bin Salem Jaboob - Member of Parliament Hon. Ebrahim Bin Bagher Bin Heydar Al-Ajami - Member of Parliament Hon. Amer Bin Ali Bin Abdollah Al-Shabibi - Member of Parliament Hon. Malek Bin Helal Bin Mohammad Al-Abri – Member of Parliament Hon. Helal Bin Saeed Al-Yahyaee - Member of Parliament
Pakistan	Hon. Mir Han Muhammad Khan Jamali - Deputy Speaker of Senate Hon. Akhundzada Attaullah Khan Malik - Research Officer Hon. Hashim Khan Karkar - Protocol Officer Hon. Rehmatullah Kakar - Member of Parliament Hon. Abdul Khaliq Pirzada - Member of Parliament Hon. Zaheer-ud Din Babar Awan - Member of Parliament
Palestine	Hon. Tisir Ghache - Deputy Speaker of Palestinian National Parliament Hon. Zahir Sandoghe - Member of Parliament Hon. Salah Al Zavavi - Member of Parliament
Philippine	Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr. – Speaker of Parliament Hon. Roque Ablan - Member of Parliament Hon. Ms. Maria Milagros Magsaysay - Member of Parliament Hon. Teodoro Locsin - Member of Parliament Hon. Edwin C. Uy - Member of Parliament Hon. Eduardo Zialcita - Member of Parliament Hon. Ma. Rachel J. Arenas - Member of Parliament Hon. Wahab M. Akbar - Member of Parliament Hon. Munir M. Arbison - Member of Parliament Hon. Lgnaclo T. Arroya - Member of Parliament Hon. Paul G. Schaefer – Advisor Hon. Rosario Amatong Buendia - Secretary Hon. Ms. Natalia Fernandez - Secretary Hon. Major Silvestre Rubite - Aide de camp of Speaker Hon. Bonifacio Nakpll - Technical Staff Hon. Carlos G. Gredonia – Cameraman
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Republic of Korea	Hon. Kim Sung Gen - Chairman of National Defense Committee Hon. Lee Sung Jae - Director, Asian Affairs Division Hon. Ms. Kim You Jeong - Protocol Officer & Interpreter Hon. Chung Eui-yong - Member of Parliament Hon. Choi Kwang Phil – Secretary

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Tajikistan	Hon. Abdollah Dolateov - Deputy Speaker Hon. Abdolsattar Rajabeov - Member of Parliament Hon. Mr.Rahimeov - Member of Parliament Hon. Sharif Tlebeov - Member of Parliament Hon. Anvar Issaev – Secretary
Thailand	Hon. Gen. Charan Kullavanijaya - First Deputy Speaker Hon. Parthoornporn Vajrasthira - Member of Parliament Hon. Pol.Gen.Soontorn Saikwan - Member of Parliament Hon. Air Chief Marshal Adirek Chamarathirong - Member of Parliament Hon. Kamtom Udomritthiruj - Member of Parliament Hon. Acting Captain Jit Siratranont - Member of Parliament Hon. Mrs. Manee Chaiteeranuwatsir - Member of Parliament Hon. Pakpoom Mingmitr - Foreign Relations Officer Hon. Miss. Neeranan Sungto - Foreign Relations Officer Hon. Mrs. Suthimam Saikwan - Accompanying Person of Hon. Saikwan Hon. Phicheth Kitisin - Advisor on Foreign Affairs Hon. Sampol Vanigbandhu - Deputy Secretary-General Hon. Miss. Supasinee Khamasundra - Advisor on Foreign Affairs Hon. Mrs. Samonrutai Aksornmat - Director of Association of Parliament Hon. Kriangsak Kittichaiseree – Director-General, International Organizations of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hon. Mrs. Prang Anussorn-Nitisara – Attaché, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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